



# 10 Principles for a Happy Life and Career

## Principle 9: Patience

By Michael A. Crawford, CPA

Mike Crawford, CPA, is the retired chairman of Crawford & Associates, P.C., an Oklahoma City-based CPA firm dedicated to state and local government accounting and consulting. Crawford is a past president of the Oklahoma Society of CPAs, an inductee into the Oklahoma Accounting Hall of Fame, the 2011 recipient of the OSCPA Public Service Award and is past vice chairman of the Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Council. Over the past 30 years, he has authored a number of professional guides, practice aids and articles on governmental accounting, auditing and ethics. Crawford is also the founder of *Living a Life Worth Living* ([www.livingalifeworthliving.com](http://www.livingalifeworthliving.com)), which provides free resources to encourage readers to achieve high morals and recognizes others who do the same.

*Editor's Note: Mike Crawford has, by even his own accounts, had a successful and happy career as a CPA in Oklahoma. He says there are 10 basic principles that have guided him through a joyful life and a fulfilling career. In this and future issues of CPAFOCUS, Crawford shares that idea and those principles.*

The two most powerful warriors are patience and time. -Leo Tolstoy

Some people incorrectly perceive patience as a sign of passive weakness or inaction in response to adverse circumstances. However, far from weakness, genuine patience requires inner strength to exercise restraint, forbearance and determination in the face of difficult situations or setbacks. I've often been accused of being too passive and not forceful enough. I believe that rather than being passive, I better handle difficult circumstances with patient forcefulness and a gentle temperament.

In his book, "Beyond Religion," the 14th Dalai Lama discusses the virtue of patience and offers some insight for dealing with life's setbacks. He advocates a "no need, no point" approach to minimize worrying. Under this approach, if a problem has a solution, then rather than feeling overwhelmed, we should simply work with determination to reach the solution. If we find the problem has no realistic solution, we gain nothing from excessive worrying and must carry on with our lives the best we can. Either way, nothing is gained through excessive worrying.

Experiencing our son's journey through higher education in pursuit of his career goals and first

full-time employment has been a good test of my wife's and my patience. In 2015, it began to pay dividends. After 13 years of higher education that includes a bachelor's degree, two master's degrees and a PhD, our son accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation at Pittsburg State University in Kansas. Also, in the fall of 2015, he proposed to our wonderful future daughter-in-law and has been busy planning their wedding for this November. We now see some light at the end of the grandchildren tunnel. While, at times, these past 13 years challenged our parental and financial patience, we never lost sight of the importance to long-term happiness in pursuing a career and future for which you are passionate. So, rather than living this period of time with anxiety over our only child's lengthy career path and undetermined family life, we chose to be supportive and patient while he resolutely pursued his goals and laid the foundation for his future. His mother and I are both thrilled and relieved. Additionally, we anticipate the joy of having a daughter-in-law and being loving grandparents.

Time heals and finds solutions to almost everything; give it time. 🙌