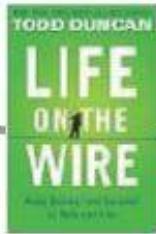


From the desk of

*Randy Schuster*



**KEEPING YOU AHEAD BY COORDINATING  
THE PIECES OF YOUR FINANCIAL PUZZLE**



## Life on the Wire

by Todd Duncan

### Are you a tight rope walker?

The Flying Wallendas are famed for their tightrope walking, having performed on a high wire for nearly a century. When questioned about maintaining balance on the tightrope, Tino Wallenda explains:

*"The reality is that you are never actually balanced; you are constantly making small adjustment – moving back and forth – and it's those constant movements that keep you on the wire. The truth is, if you stand still, you fall."*

In Todd Duncan's book, *Life on the Wire: Avoid Burnout and Succeed in Work and Life*, he explains that maintaining your balance between your professional and personal life is like walking a tightrope – while some may try to reach a steady state, the reality is that small, regular adjustments are necessary to keep the balance. Larger adjustments may be necessary as a result of changes in an individual's life-stage.

These constant adjustments are what he calls being "purposefully imbalanced". Duncan identifies ten tension points that affect our work/life balance which ultimately lead to making good decisions vs. managing decisions already made.

- First Tension Point: *I have to vs. I really want to*
- Second Tension Point: *Making money vs. Making memories*
- Third Tension Point: *Taking risks vs. Taking responsibility*
- Forth Tension Point: *Moving up vs. Moving on*
- Fifth Tension Point: *Being noticed vs. Being esteemed*
- Sixth Tension Point: *Growing professionally vs. Growing personally*
- Seventh Tension Point: *Helping yourself vs. Helping others*
- Eighth Tension Point: *Getting serious vs. Having fun*
- Ninth Tension Point: *Working hard vs. Staying healthy*
- Tenth Tension Point: *Making your mark vs. Leaving a legacy*



**Randy Schuster**

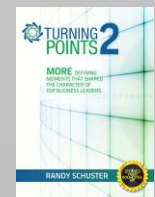
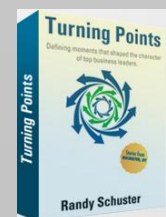
Centra Financial Group  
500 Linden Oaks  
Rochester, NY 14625

Phone: 585-899-1200

Fax: 585-899-1299

[www.coordinatedplan.com](http://www.coordinatedplan.com)

[Randy@coordinatedplan.com](mailto:Randy@coordinatedplan.com)



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In each of these ten tension points each individual must investigate their personal perception of success, value of recognition, feelings of passion, and desire to build a legacy. How clearly an individual can see the entirety of their spectrum of life choices can lead to the decisions that will best result in work/life harmony.

Duncan describes Perception as an area where individuals must take a fresh look at themselves. Often people fall into the trap of letting success or failure be determined by current culture rather than their own internal standards and values. When this occurs individuals may spend fruitless time trying to “keep up” with others rather than focusing on goals based on their values. This type of behavior also results in the “grass is always greener” syndrome, making individuals devalue their own situations.

*True work/life harmony comes when your perception takes a realistic look at the positives in your current situation, and can leverage past mistakes to invest in future endeavors.*

Another area to be explored is that of Recognition – specifically our need for recognition from others. The truth, as Duncan explains it, is that recognition is a fringe benefit of success, and not success itself and our need for recognition contributes to our endless accumulation of status symbols. Rather than recognition, the author offers respect as a greater accomplishment. Respect, like recognition, is a byproduct of our behavior. However, unlike recognition, respect is achieved as a result of our personal wholeness: a full life lived with integrity.

Passion, core talents and job fulfillment is another area Duncan examines. When your career matches your skills and fuels your passion, work no longer feels like drudgery. Ask yourself “Am I taking the path of least resistance and just holding down a job, or do you believe in what I am doing and receive joy from my work?”

In the same way that the best fun in life still requires some work so, too, should the best work in life include fun. Life is not a sprint, it is a marathon, and a break from the serious business of work will keep our legs “fresh” as we continue the run of life. Remember to have fun on purpose!

If you want to make your life matter, then you must invest yourself in work that will be legacy-leaving. Legacies are the accumulation of efforts and accomplishments we leave behind. Legacies are left behind by everyone – you must be intentional about which one you want to create. Doing something significant with our life takes time, resources and energy. Ask yourself if you are investing your time resources and energy in creating a legacy you will be proud of.

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