

LIVING FREE

TIPS AND TRICKS FOR LIVING OFF THE GRID



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By Michael Oconnor

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Introduction

We all know that it takes a certain type of person to want to leave the hustle and bustle of mainstream society behind and find a quiet, peaceful place to let all the stress pass us by. In fact, since you're reading this right now, I bet you're one of those people. Well, I'm here to tell you from experience that it's very possible, whether you're over your head in bills or not. Things can change, and you're obviously taking the first step.

Why are more people searching for a way out of mainstream society these days? I think it's because life has become so complicated. There are laws for everything you do. According to surveys, most people on average commit one or two felonies a day without even being aware of it. That's a scary thought. We have neighborhoods now with associations that dictate what, when and where you can place anything in your own yard that you pay for. We have law enforcement officers that are given illegal quotas for tickets they give out each month. Cameras are being placed all around us watching our every move with facial recognition software that logs everything you do. Where you go, and what you buy.

Our cellular phones track where we are. And make us available anytime day or night. No escape. We have schools that charge for education. We have careers that are repetitious and mind numbing. That of course, we need, in order to pay for the overpriced entertainment that we only need to help us escape the reality of the same job that pays for it. It's a bitter, harsh, reality that is closing in all around us more and more every day. More control, an extremely vicious cycle. All the while, we lose who we are. We become numb to our own emotions. We

become good working drones. And that is all, because we don't have the energy to become anything but. And this is all to pay for stuff that we don't really even need, to fill holes in ourselves with things that were constructed in China. It's sad, but true. The majority of us work just to fulfill the dreams of others. To inflate their wallets way beyond what is needed. Unless you're one of the few that is reading this and you are rich. But I think that most people are coming to a realization. That money buys comforts, not happiness.

Some of the richest people out there are the most miserable. So I guess it's pretty easy to see why more and more people want a simple life. To sustain themselves and have more time to follow their passions. Downsizing is the new upsizing! Life should mean happiness!

Welcome to my new book, I've been living off the grid for ten years now and I've got some very useful and practical tips and tricks to share with you. So, let's get started.

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Chapter 1: Buy With Cash or Don't Buy

Many of us out there fall in love with the idea of signing a piece of paper and taking home a brand new vehicle or boat, really anything for that matter. Unfortunately, most of us get caught up in the glitter of it all and forget how long and hard we'll actually have to pay for that brand new toy.

America is infatuated with credit. In fact, we've pretty much come to rely on it for survival. So we can maintain a phony sense of security. The fact is though, none of us own these things we spend the majority of our lives paying for. Not if you still owe even a dollar on the loan. The bank still owns the property. In fact, the banks own most of America's wealth now, through simple financial trickery. At the top of all of them, is the Federal Reserve. That is considered the big gun, which controls the inflation. It borrows money to all the other banks. Which can systematically figure out the average pay of the majority, and then have things priced just right so that you've got to take out a loan from them to buy practically anything nice.

They want to make sure you're going to be making payments on these things for a lot longer than they took to construct it. Actually, it makes sense that if the Federal Reserve is a private bank and not a bank for the people. They'd want to maximize profits. Of course! Have you ever noticed that things that were built a long time ago last much longer? In fact, some are still operational today. Basically, that is because things these days are built to break. It makes sense doesn't it? So that you have to go out and buy another, which maximizes profitability!

We assume that we are advancing technically in society with technology. But yet things don't last as long as they used to. That is no mistake. It has nothing to do with the complexities of the things we're making now. And people are too busy in their lives and numbed down to do anything about it, if they notice it in the first place. The things that are built with quality are so ridiculously over priced that they are out of reach for the majority of us.

Now, please don't start thinking that this is all very negative and it's only just making you feel depressed. Because that is going to change, things don't have to be that way. You don't have to be a part of that system. And that's exactly why I'm writing this book. Because I left it a long time ago, and I want others to feel and know the same things I've felt and known, from my experience. This is why I had to explain the banks briefly. Of course there is much more to it, but that is not what this book is about. It's just a good reason to show you how taking out loans eventually enslaves you. It binds you to that career or job with unequal pay.

However, if you live within your means and you only buy with cash. Then, at that very moment, you become the king. You make all the decisions. Because there is no debt looming around, threatening to take away the existence you've become accustomed too. The first step to freedom, to living free, is becoming the boss, the dictator of your own life. Not living to impress others by the things you own. Not living off a borrowed future.

Back in the "good ol days" when you needed a house, you would stake a claim and pay \$50 for your land. The community would come by and help you build your house. That would be it, the end of it. The only thing that would be required of you in the future is that you would help them as well when they needed a home. It made sense, an unspoken pact between moral peoples. Unfortunately, things don't work like that anymore. But, bartering is still very highly functional.

All of that was taken from us from these mighty bankers and their elite friends. Through trickery and deceit until all the corners were covered. All the avenues we had for freedom were pushed into making more money for them. So why would anyone want to feed this beast? They think they deserve to own

everything, they really do. But the fact is, every single resource on this Earth is here for everyone. We shouldn't have to pay for clean water, or the air we breathe, or the space we take up. I've driven thousands of miles and I know there is plenty of space for everyone. Rent, should not even be legal. We shouldn't have to pay them to simply just exist. It's our birthright. All this land cannot be owned, for the simple fact that it has been around long before us and will continue to exist long after we're part of it again. The only thing we can really take with us to the grave, is our experiences. And, that can be beautiful!

With all that being said, now, I can explain how important it is not to feed that beast with the only truly important thing that you own i.e.; your freedom. I simply cannot think of one thing that I've ever owned, needed or wanted so bad that it was worth signing up for that kind of systematic abuse. It is, it simply is abuse. Generations before us were simply able to buy homes for realistic prices that could be paid off very quickly and easily. But the price they ask for now, is simply ridiculous. It's even more ridiculous because we have machines now that can practically assemble these homes pre-fabricated, delivered and then simply put together by a group of men within a month or two. It simply does not make sense.

Just being a human being, born onto this Earth, you have the right to food, shelter and clothing, simple as that. I know that sounds farfetched, because it takes effort to grow and deliver all the food and supplies and such. But, it's true. The real culprit here is the inflation of the banks. Most of us are so used to "that's just the way it is" though that the thought never even comes to mind. Those things could be different. Things could simply be more than affordable, and built to last. That, thing's could be different. They're not though, for most, and as sad as that is, stewing on it and being stuck in it doesn't move us forward.

The only thing we have to do, is train ourselves to live by our own means. To be happy with waiting and saving up to buy those things we want. Things we find good deals on, with cash. And leave this immediate gratification frame of mind, brought on by credit, behind us. It simply does not work, and only feeds into a system that does not hold our best interests. We are all beautiful people, each in our own way and we deserve to live a more fulfilling life. So, always save up for

the things you want and buy them with cash. Never sign the papers! It's the first step, and the most important, to living freely by your own decisions and your own path. To be the boss of your time spent, away from the hustle and bustle of corporate slavery.

I hope that I've properly explained why the system of buying with cash is so important. This chapter had some negative things in it, yes. But it's simply the reality of the system we are living in these days. If it got through to you the way I hope it did, you may have gotten a little upset at the system. The way the system is here in America. But there are still freedoms that we can take advantage of. There are countries out there that don't have as many opportunities as we do. It's really just a matter of knowing what and how to do it. Training our brains to be happy, not by the things we own. But by our experiences, and the freedoms we give ourselves to do those things. Not worrying about what others think and buying things that are within our means. By truly loving ourselves, because we can't love anything else until we truly love ourselves first!

Chapter 2: How To Become Debt Free

Of course, some of you have already taken out loan upon loan and feel consumed by them. Selling those things just to give them their loan back though, can be quite healing. And then, turning around and saving up for something less flashy, more affordable, that you can purchase with cash and own outright. Finally letting go of all the things that don't truly matter, and living for yourself is intoxicating.

Let's jump right into it though. Of course, each and every person's situation is going to be different. But this can work for most situations. Becoming debt free can actually be quite easy if you pay for things with cash. But what if you're already neck high in debt and want to escape? I've been stuck in credit card debt many times before, back when I was still a working drone. Sometimes I would even use one credit card just to make a payment on the other one. It was a horrible cycle like being in quick sand. The more you struggled to get out, the further down you fell. And the reason I like the quick sand analogy is because it is so true. And, when I just gave up something magical happened.

I completely gave up; I was tired of all the crap. Nobody should have to work forty plus hours a week and not get ahead. Especially if you're not out there all the time living like a king, buying expensive stuff all the time. It wasn't the being able to pay my bills that got to me. It was looking forward to the future, and not seeing a change. The bills would always be looming there, as my life passed me by. As far as I'm concerned, the annual quick vacation would not be enough to

make me feel like I'm truly living a life. But, it was a day that I was stuck in miles of traffic that changed my life for good.

An hour had passed by and I had only moved a mile. My frustration was at its limit. I had been fighting the traffic every morning and every evening for as long as I could remember. I slowly started noticing the blank emotionless looks on the faces of my fellow commuters, also, trying to get home from a busy day at work. I didn't see the life in their eyes. Their faces showed the expressions that mirrored my own feelings. Then, I looked again to my right, and saw this place I had wanted to check out for the last two years, and never had the time or the determination to check it out. I simply passed by it day after day. When I realized that, I am sure that was the moment that I knew things had to change.

So, I did it. I completely stopped struggling. I literally just stopped paying all my bills. In fact when they would call me, I would laugh at them and tell them what I use their bills for. They had a special place in my bathroom. And it made me smile every time I walked by them. I truly let go, and I felt alive again.

I know, that sounds ridiculously irresponsible. But, the feeling I got wasn't worth any amount of money. My friends thought I was insane. I would tell them things like "Do you enjoy only living for the weekend?" or "I just want to see what 'they'll' do." Perhaps, I did lose my mind. But, to be honest, I felt like I was the only one that was sane. I let go. And I laughed hysterically whenever I would get another check and spend it all on what I wanted. I would drive and drive and drive getting lost in my vehicle with my tunes turned way up. And I felt like a million bucks. Better than I had ever felt in my entire life. But most importantly, my dreams started coming back to me. My artistic look at the world around me, colors, all seemed to mean new and exciting things. I took in a new breath of life. And, once again, I was alive.

Of course, there was a small hinting thought in the back of my mind that it would all catch up with me. That maybe I had been doing the wrong thing, but it felt far too good to let go of. And a funny thing happened. The collections companies that I had been ignoring gracefully started sending me deals. In fact, some of them would be downright threats. Still, I ignored them and laughed it all away.

Eventually though, I started taking a real good look at what they were sending me. To my amazement, they were getting very desperate. At that point, they just wanted to get what they could from me and close my file. So they would be asking me to pay 15% of what I owed. And if I did so, they said they would accept it as full payment and leave me alone. Which, they did.

Now, that is just my own experience, I'm not saying you should start using your bills as toilet paper, while madly laughing it all away. I'm just telling you what I did. And you're more than welcome to do whatever you feel is right. I'm not responsible for anything you do whatsoever.

What I don't think a lot of these collections agencies want you to know is that they need to take what is offered. If you send each and every one of them a letter saying that you're just going to stop paying and that you don't give a dam about your credit score. They'll definitely take it into consideration in my opinion, especially, if the letter has a check for \$100 in it. And you tell them, that they can either accept the \$100 as full payment for the let's say \$1,600 you owe and close the case. Or, they can receive nothing at all because you frankly don't give a dam anymore. In my opinion, it may be accepted.

This is of course completely up to your own digression. I of course, am not saying that you should lose your mind and simply just stop paying your bills. I'm just saying that I worked out deals with bill collectors that were insanely ridiculous. In fact, I think what I did would make an excellent and hilarious movie. Could you imagine a scene with a guy on his couch answering the phone and it's a bill collector? The bill collector says "Why have you not paid your bills? Can you make a payment today?" the guy responds in an "I don't care" tone of voice "Naw." The bill collector then says "Well sir, when do you think you can make a payment?" as the bill collector hears the man chomping away at potato chips and says "I don't know, probably never. You can send me some more toilet paper in the mail though!"

So, all I am saying is that there are options that the average person is not generally going to think of for becoming debt free. This option that I explained is

of course just comic relief and I don't suggest you just stop paying. But, I think you'd be surprised how much bill collectors will start negotiating with you, once they think that you literally don't even care anymore about the system that asks far too much, for the crumbs that they give out. I think in the end, becoming debt free is a mental decision. More than it is an actual physical monetary decision. So, my method is to see what kind of deals you can make with the places you owe money to. Also, sell the things that you truly don't even need and start becoming the boss of the things you own. Not a slave to inanimate objects.

Chapter 3: Psychological Preparedness for Living Off the Grid

There are some serious aspects to consider when you're thinking about living off the grid. One of the hardest aspects is going to be the huge change, which can be a mental game. But one of the biggest things that has helped me and many others is to remember why you wanted to live off grid in the first place, your initial reason, whatever that may be.

Remember, if you keep doing what you've always done, nothing changes. If you keep being what you've always been, again, nothing changes. Unless, you make it change. I suspect you're reason for wanting to live off the grid and be self sufficient may be one of the reasons I wanted to as well. It was that feeling you've got every morning while you're in the daily grind. It's that constant impending pressure to be somewhere, to be professional and repetitive once you're there. Which, always makes you live for something else besides your own gratification.

When 90% of your life is working for everyone else's lives, it's not really your life now is it? Those are very good points that will remind you that you didn't make a mistake. That you chose to live, and that's always a good thing. Among your own reasons of course. Our reasons guide everything we do, and if you prepare your mind properly, you can deal with a lot more than you'd think. As far as I'm concerned, the first few steps are the hardest. To break every rule you were

ever taught, such as, maintaining a career. But, if you think about it you're new career is life and security.

With the economy as unpredictable as it has been, taking steps towards living off the grid is the most responsible thing anyone can possibly do these days.

I remember when I first left society; it was so hard for me to deal with. Everything I had become accustomed to, had changed so dramatically. And then, from living in the woods, I went to living in a 97 ford econoline conversion van. I put solar panels on the roof, a twin size bed inside; all the comforts of home, in a very compact space. I made it into a stealth campervan so that I could blend in with other vehicles, yet nobody would know I was inside. That way, I could camp anywhere. I didn't want to travel and have to pay to stay everywhere, camping has become nearly as expensive as getting a motel room!

I loved the idea of traveling freely and my only expenses being food and gas. But I've got to say, mentally, the first two weeks was a bit ruff. I felt so detached. I was surrounded by people a lot of the time, but didn't communicate with them. I started asking myself if I'm crazy. If I had done the right thing, or if I just became infatuated with change. Second guessing yourself is pretty normal. But the one thing that always brought me back to confidence was that I remembered the reasons I did it in the first place.

Chapter 4: Mini Home, RV or Van

There are definitely options out there! That's the great aspect of the world we live in today! The best options for you however are going to be weighed out by your needs. So let's weigh what might be best for you!

If you've got a family, you can obviously rule out a van. Too small for a family, but you might still want to have the advantages of stealth camping. So that would rule out an RV. Let's face it, if you've got a family and you want to stay out on the road with them for quite a while then you're probably not going to be able to afford to park at RV parks and campgrounds. It's just too expensive.

But there's no reason that you can't have stealth, and the roomy convenience of an RV. You can buy a used school bus, and make it look the same on the outside as any normal operating bus. Let's say, put the logo of a sports team on the outside. Seeing school buses out on the open road is pretty normal these days because their teams sometimes need to travel. So, if you just tint the windows a very dark limo black, and then, black out the windows, at night people passing by you won't even be aware that there is anyone inside!

If I had a family, I know that I definitely would still want to pursue a traveling lifestyle. I've seen traveling families and I really admired their commitment to living outside of the traditional box. That being said, I cannot think of any reason whatsoever to buy an expensive RV that does not blend in. The added expense of paying camping fees and being noticed much more makes an RV in my opinion, a complete waste of money.

For just the average single person that wants a place to live and also have the freedom of travelling around. I recommend a van. There are many positive aspects of traveling around in a van. One good thing about a van is the fuel economy compared to an RV. Another is the stealth that makes you able to park and camp pretty much anywhere you want. A van can be carefully outfitted with all the comforts of home, in a much more compact way. With technology advancing as much as it has, living in a van has become pretty easy.

A mini house is also an option, and becoming very popular. If you have a small family this is definitely a good option. Even though your family is accustomed to larger living spaces, they could get used to it and actually learn to love it. Later on in this book, I am going to show you how you can acquire land very cheaply. The key is to not have to pay for your living area for 30 years. And the options exist. Especially if you easily build your own tiny home using the trees that are already on the plot of land that you purchase.

If you're not into the traveling thing and you'd much rather set up a good homestead, than a mini-home is probably the best option. The key is always the land. You want to find a piece of land that is not governed by corrupt building codes and other laws. You want to rule your own life, and sometimes you have to go far outside of the populated areas to enjoy those comforts. In fact, you'll likely always have to go outside of populated areas. The countryside is beautiful and much more private anyways, so why not right?

As far as building a mini-home goes though, there are instructions and ideas all over the internet. But, I think the best way of building a mini-home, is to build it on a trailer with wheels. That way, it's not classified as a permanent residence and your options to relocate are always there. The key to freedom always unlocks tie-downs. Meaning, if you practice keeping your options open, then the world becomes a much easier place to live in. Tying yourself up with mortgages, permanent homes and such, seriously cripples your ability to live on the fly, to live freely.

It is surprisingly cheap to build a miniature home on wheels. With a fully functional bathroom, shower, kitchen etc. In fact, you can build one for under \$2,000 if you buy supplies from the right places. You can probably even find a lot of stuff for free on craigslist! I once remodeled an old trailer home just from things I found for free on craigslist.

I think the main expense here in building a mini-home is going to be buying the land. But you can find really cheap land for \$5,000 or less on www.landbin.com, a great place to start. If you don't have \$7,000 to fork out for all that though, you can try building a mini-home and then move it to a place where you can live for free. There are places out there that you can occupy which cost no money whatsoever. In fact, none of us really own land anyways, we merely occupy it until we pass away. The land was there a long time before us, and will continue to exist a long time after us.

There are also other options for homes. You could buy an old airplane and turn the inside of it into a home. You can buy a storage container and convert it into a home as well. But those options don't usually allow you to roam freely. There is one more idea that I really like though, and that is, building a mini-home on top of a raft; a houseboat! That way you're still mobile! And also, there is no need to purchase land. Water is always free territory!

I've heard of military veterans that choose that option. They travel up and down the rivers following the warm seasons. That idea is actually a favorite of mine. Two holes can be placed at the bottom and you can pull up free food all the time as well! You also won't be harassed as easily with this option, for the simple reason that anyone whom wants to harass you will need a boat to get to you! There are no building codes on the water, you're free to build any type of contraption that you can make float and move. I think making a box out of clear plexi-glass and having it sit in the water under your boat would be a fun way to jump in and view the local aquatic life. The possibilities are so vast and exciting who knows what you could come up with.

No matter what you choose though, remember that the whole point of it all is to live freely. That means not taking out a loan for whatever you buy. If you can't buy it with cash, don't buy it!

Chapter 5: Where to Look For Cheap Land or Vehicle

There are always honey pools out there that people gravitate towards when they're looking to buy something with the least amount of money. You just have to know where to look. There are auctions, swap meets and the internet. I prefer the internet myself, and I'll explain why that is. But first, I want to talk about turning even bad things into something good. And in this case, I'll talk about one of the only two sure things of life i.e.; Death and Taxes.

Over time, I've heard of people losing their homes because they didn't pay their taxes on it and when the government wanted to take someone's property in my family worth \$60,000 for the \$47 left they had to pay. I was disgusted. The notice of foreclosure I held made me think. There's people out there that lose their homes for a few thousand dollars in back taxes, but how does the government get that money that they're owed?

If a homeowner owes back property taxes on a property, the county to which the property taxes are due has the right to foreclose on the property. In cases where a county now owns a foreclosed property, they typically auction the home for sale to acquire the property taxes that are due. For you, the interested home buyer, this means that you may be able to purchase the home by paying the back taxes that may be due on a property. In many cases, you may be able to purchase a home for only a few thousand dollars. We all know auctions can be difficult though, because the margins are so low. There are so many people out there that may place a bid, raising the price even higher for you!

I watch these auction shows on television, and there's it seems like packs of dogs fighting over meat sometimes, all scarring each other up trying to get the meat. This can be very discouraging thinking about wasting your time placing bids only to be raised so high that it's not even really a deal anymore. I'm going to cover that, but let's talk about how to do it in first place, first. Here are some instructions:

Determine the amount of the back taxes. Call the county tax collector's office where the property is located and ask about the amount owed from back taxes that are owed. If the home is up for auction, the auction list of properties also contains the answers, so look there.

Find out who owns the property. If the property has been foreclosed on by the mortgage lenders bank, then the bank may own the home. If the home did not have a mortgage, but only had a tax lien, then the county in which the property is located may own it. If the home is about to go into foreclosure because of back taxes owed, then the homeowner may still own the property. Find out who handles tax deeds or tax lien sales for the county. Contact the county clerk's office at the county courthouse. Ask which department handles tax deed or tax lien sales for back taxes that are owed. It's typically the IRS, the tax commissioner's office or the tax collector's office for the county.

Purchase the tax lien on the property. Counties sell tax liens in different ways, so find out what the process is for your county. Some auction off the homes on the steps of the county courthouse, so you have to bid on the tax lien this way. My favorite of all these ways though is this; some counties simply require you to show up at the tax lien sales office and pay the amount of back taxes due. That is what I recommend, because you don't have to deal with other people who will raise the price on you.

Obtain the title. Hire a real estate attorney to deal with the deed for the property. The real estate attorney can run a title search to make sure the title is free and clear of any other problems with mortgages or nuisances. You'll need a clear title if and when you sell the property. The real estate attorney also records the

deed with the county, showing that you are the registered owner of the property. Of course, that method is going to require that you're willing to relocate more than likely. It also requires the leg work and research on your part. That is where the internet comes in. It has become the best tool for mass truth and information at the same time. All the while, you can sit down with your computer, your cell phone and start making calls.

If you don't mind going the auction route and dealing with the wolves though, and, you're willing to relocate, that may be your ticket. Look for places that most people simply don't want to live, because chances are your competition won't be very high. Usually a remote county where not many people want to live, they will probably be happy to hand you the title simply by walking in and paying that back taxes that are owed, that way, they won't even have to bother with an auction that they are already probably aware, nobody may even show up for. If you're looking to leave society behind in the rearview mirror and just escape, this may be a good option for you.

Getting one over on the rest of society and using their own system against them by taking advantage of that idea, may or may not appeal to you. If it does, great! Look into it further and get it done! If you don't even want to deal with all of that though, still, there are yet more options.

There is cheap land you can find out there that is just for sale outright. Looking in remote locations and developing your own property out of the land is always the best bet, assuming that you're not super rich. And, chances are, you're not. Look on the internet for land because it's so vast and immediate. A good place to start and a favorite of mine is www.landbin.com. You can set your price limits and everything that way.

If you're looking for a vehicle however I recommend my own favorite. Utilizing craigslist, I use it for so many things it's become ridiculous. You have to know how and what to look for though, if you want to get a good deal. When searching for a vehicle, always search by owner. Dealers sell for a living, and a lot of them, not all, but some. Use tricks like putting saw dust in a transmission so that it shifts easier without slipping for a very short period of time, for test drives of

course. Dealers are also not very bendable when it comes to haggling for a lower price either. Simply because they've made this their career, they rely on the money they make to pay their bills.

Most owners are very likely to make a deal with you because they've already got their new vehicle/toy and simply want to be rid of their old stuff. Cash speaks, if you've got \$4,000 then look on craigslist for vehicles that are between \$4,500 and \$5,800 for example. Go and look at the vehicle and point out any flaws you find. Then, be careful not to low ball and upset them. For example, offer them \$3,500 cash. Not because you expect them to take it, although some might, but because you wish to haggle. You only have \$4,000 so this leaves you room to appear that you're trying to make a deal. Go up and make conversation, reminding them of the flaws and end up making a deal for 4k. Of course, this is just an example. There are many more variables to consider. Like, considering their tone of voice and willingness to sell over the phone before you even go over there to look at the vehicle. It's a good idea to just ask them outright if they're willing to haggle on the price as well.

Don't set yourself on one vehicle; make sure you look at a bunch before you buy. If you remember that cash is a very powerful tool, and you don't let it burn a hole in your pocket, you can find a very good deal.

Chapter 6: Solar Power

Solar power is getting huge, more and more people everyday are getting solar panels and getting off the power grid. Even entire countries are converting themselves to power from the sun. And it's a good idea, you buy them once, and you've got free power for usually 25 to 30 years! They pay for themselves within months, and you don't have to be concerned about blackouts anymore. It just makes sense in every aspect. Unfortunately, good ideas usually take a long time to become the "norm" for the masses. The more people that get involved and buy solar panels the cheaper they get. They have been getting cheaper every year since they were available for sale.

The hope for a "solar revolution" has been floating around for decades. The idea that one day we'll all use free electricity from the sun. This is a seductive promise, because on a bright, sunny day, the sun's rays give off approximately 1,000 watts of energy per square meter of the planet's surface. If we could collect all of that energy, we could easily power our homes and offices for free. And have a ton of electricity left over.

I bought a 70 watt 12 volt monocrystalline solar panel and also a 100 watt polycrystalline solar panel for the roof of my van, and then lived in my van for 6 months. I had more electricity than I could use day in and day out! And I love my electronics! I know most people are concerned about the reliability of solar panels because of night time and cloudy days. I've never had that problem though; the technology of solar panels is also getting better every year. I

remember when I was installing my 70 watt monocrystalline solar panel on the roof of my van in my garage. I did not expect to get shocked because there was no sun light in the garage. But I did, I had 400 watt light bulbs in my garage and I was hooking up the charge controller when I felt a huge shock, I jumped! I couldn't believe that solar panel even got electricity from my light bulbs! Of course, you can't produce any productive amount of electricity using light bulbs. But, it just shows you how efficient solar panels are getting. A lot of the time, my batteries would charge even on cloudy days, I wouldn't be pulling in as much amperage as I would on a sunny day but I was definitely pulling in power!

Let's just say you're sold on the solar power already though. What should you look for when shopping for a solar power system? A good price for solar panels these days is \$1 a watt. So for example a 100 watt solar panel should be \$100. There are better deals out there though if you search the internet. An excellent price for solar is \$0.62 per watt!

There are different types of solar panels though. There are 12 volt and 24 volt solar panels. I use the 12 volt solar panels. But I am sure the 24 volt system is more efficient, and more expensive.

Next, you'll need a solar charge controller. A charge controller, charge regulator or battery regulator limits the rate at which electric current is added to or drawn from electric batteries it prevents overcharging and may protect against overvoltage, which can reduce battery performance or lifespan, and may pose a safety risk. It may also prevent completely draining ("deep discharging") a battery, or perform controlled discharges, depending on the battery technology, to protect battery life. The terms "charge controller" or "charge regulator" may refer to either a stand-alone device, or to control circuitry integrated within a battery pack, battery-powered device, or battery recharger.

You've got to have a solar charge controller. And just like anything else, you get what you pay for. I definitely love to pinch my pennies. But, a solar charge controller is one thing you don't want to go cheap on. Good things to have on your charge controller are temperature sensors and also a digital display so that

you can see how much voltage that you currently have in your batteries, and also, how much you're pulling in from the sun. Now, if you only plan on buying a few solar panels and then being done with it, buy a solar charge controller that can handle the amperage of your solar panels on a good sunny day. Say you have a 70-100 watt solar panel; you'll need a 10amp solar charge controller. If you'll have 170 watts of power coming in, you'll need a 30 amp solar charge controller, and so on. If you plan on adding solar panels to your solar system down the road, buy a solar charge controller that can handle much more amps than your beginning system. And remember to get a 12 volt solar charge controller if you have 12 volt solar panels, and same with 24 volts.

Next, you'll need batteries. The most common type of battery used in a solar system is a lead-acid battery. They are generally used because they have a low initial cost and are readily available. These batteries must be deep-cycle batteries. If the battery is a shallow cycle or automotive type it will not function correctly in the system. The deep cycle batteries are designed to discharge and recharge or cycle day after day for years.

The next decision is whether the batteries are sealed or flooded. A sealed battery never needs water added nor does it need an equalization charge. The benefits of this battery are; the battery can be mounted in any position and are easy to transport. The one downside is that they need to be monitored closely as to not overcharge. A flooded battery also needs close attention. The water level needs to be checked often and filled. You will also need to perform an equalization charge, which is a long steady controlled overcharge. This removes sulfation from the battery plates. While this restores the battery's capacity, it can lessen the life of the batteries by warping the plates.

So you need to decide which battery fits your specific needs. As long as the battery is taken care of you can expect a long battery life using either battery type. Let's say you'll be putting your batteries in an RV or van though, you'll probably want a sealed battery so that you don't have to vent them. Unsealed lead-acid batteries give off a very flammable and poisonous gas. Gel batteries are very good for solar systems, but more expensive of course.

I cut corners and got two lead-acid flooded deep cycle batteries. They are the cheapest. Of course they give off the gases so I had to put them in a box and vent them. I will probably be switching to sealed 12v batteries though.

The benefit of having a digital display on your solar charge controller is that you'll know the percentage of power that you have. Here is a percentage of power for 12 volt batteries:

Voltage	State of Charge
12.6+	100%
12.5	99%
12.42	80%
12.32	70%
12.20	60%
12.06	50%
11.9	40%
The above percentages are in the Green Zone	
11.75	30%
11.58	20%
The above is the yellow zone	
11.31	10%
10.5	0%
Above is the RED ZONE	

You do not want to drain your batteries to the red zone! In fact, I wouldn't recommend letting your batteries below the 30% mark. It wears them out and their life greatly reduces.

Last major part you'll need is a dc to ac inverter. The batteries put out direct current aka; DC and things like your laptop usually use alternating current or AC. There are many different kinds and types of inverters that change the DC into AC. You'll want to figure out whether you'll need a pure sine wave converter or a modified converter. Modified inverters are cheaper. Most devices will work just fine without a pure sine wave inverter, but it is a good idea to think about the issue before making a purchase anyway. First, it's important to understand why the differences between pure sine wave inverters and modified sine wave inverters can cause problems. The two main issues at hand are efficiency and undesired interference from the additional harmonics present in a modified sine wave. That means that a pure sine wave inverter is good at two things: efficiently powering devices that use the alternating current input without rectifying it first, and powering devices like radios that can suffer from interference.

The most common, general-use inverters available are of the "Modified Sine Wave" variety, usually available at more moderate pricing compared to pure sine wave models. Modified Square Wave (or "Modified Sine Wave" and "Quasi Sine Wave") output inverters are designed to have somewhat better characteristics than Square Wave units, while still being relatively inexpensive. Although designed emulate a Pure Sine Wave output, Modified Square Wave inverters do not offer the same perfect electrical output. Pure or True Sine Wave inverters provide electrical power similar to the utility power you receive from the outlets in your home or office, which is highly reliable and does not produce electrical noise interference associated with the other types of inverters. With its "perfect" sine wave output, the power produced by the inverter fully assures that your sensitive loads will be correctly powered, with no interference. Some appliances which are likely to require Pure Sine Wave include computers, digital clocks, battery chargers, light dimmers, variable speed motors, and audio/visual equipment. If your application is an important video presentation at work, opera on your expensive sound system, surveillance video, a telecommunications application, any calibrated measuring equipment, or any other sensitive load, you must use a Pure Sine Wave inverter.

I bought a modified sine wave inverter and have been using it without any issues for seven months now, for my laptop, television etc. But that is completely up to your digression. One important factor you'll want to remember though is that

keeping it DC is much for efficient. So, where you can, always use DC. You lose more power when you invert the current into AC. There are dc chargers out there for sale for laptops and other products. So, if you want your system as efficient as possible, use DC when you can. There are also televisions out there now that can take DC and AC. That is definitely worth looking into!

Chapter 7: Where to Find Free Food

Now that looks exciting doesn't it? Many people in this tough economic society have a hard time making ends meet, let alone have barely enough money to feed themselves. Luckily there are ways to get food for free or almost free. If you think about it and do the legwork, there are plenty of places to get food for free. Fortunately, I've done most of the thinking and legwork for you. And, here are some ways of getting free food.

Forage. Look for wild growing foods. Nuts, fruits, and other plants can provide sustenance for free. Salads are probably the most nutritious meals you can eat. I've noticed huge differences in the way I feel and my health when I eat salads. But the salads don't have to be bought at the store! In fact, they are better when they aren't bought in the stores, soaked in insecticides and even genetically modified food. About eighty percent of the produce these days in the stores are genetically modified. Or they are soaked in pesticides.

Forage for a salad composed solely of greens foraged from around your house. You can make a "dandelion salad", but dandelion leaves are just one of the greens included. Foraging can also be a fun family activity. Just make sure you understand what is safe to eat, and what is not. Check locally to find out if wild

food tours are offered, or if there is a master gardener, agricultural extension or horticulturist on hand to help you identify edible plants. If foraging seems too risky, spend a few dollars for seeds and plant a garden. There is nothing more gratifying than eating a tomato that you grew yourself. People have forgotten the simple joys of life because everything has become so automated.

Fish. Give a man a fish, he can eat a meal. Teach a man to fish, he can eat a lifetime. I love fishing. And I love eating what I catch. It does cost something for a fishing license, I suppose, but it's not that much, and if you get a yearly license, it more than pays for itself. But there are still ways to fish for free. Check around in your state. Here in Minnesota, there are state parks that don't require a fishing license! Learn how to clean and prepare fish, and you can prepare a free meal easily. Something else that is related: Hunting. But the gear and the license cost more, and many people are not comfortable with this option. Although, if you think about it. All meats that you eat are from some animal. But when you kill it for its sustenance, at least you know that you killed it humanely and that you'll respect it, that it actually lived somewhere besides an assembly line of death.

Go to church. There is almost always free food when you go to an activity during the week. In fact, some churches have free meals for their community once a week. There is a church I've gone to for that and the meals were always great. But no matter where you live, there is likely a church event that you can attend, one that includes food.

Mystery shopping. There are advertisements all over the internet looking for them. Be a mystery shopper for a while, and sometimes you may be asked to try out a restaurant in town. That means a free meal. You may have to pay for the meal up front, but will be reimbursed the full cost and then paid for the report on the restaurant. Watch out for scams, however. Not all mystery shopping opportunities are legitimate.

Barter. Bartering is one of my favorites. Bartering is actually making a bit of a comeback right now as the recession deepens. There are even television shows of people doing it. If you have skills and knowledge that others can use, trade them for a free meal or for some kind of food.

Continental breakfast, I love this one, and can't believe I'm giving it away. Please don't over use this one or abuse it though be smart about it. Because it seems like people find something good, and then exploit it ridiculously and ruin it for everyone else. When you travel, check to see whether the hotels you're around offer a free continental breakfast. This usually includes cold cereal, bread products and juice. I've literally walked right in them in the morning and was quiet and pleasant, clean cut and just acted confident like I belonged there. I have never once been asked if I was actually a guest. Do NOT stuff your pockets with food and other such abuses though. Just eat a nice breakfast and depart. Just like camping, when you bring all your trash with you. It's considerate and it won't eventually lead to even more policies. I've seen people make toast and then forget about it. In fact, I have seen a lot of food wasted in these continental breakfasts. If you respect it though, it can be a good source of free food! I believe all human beings have the right to eat.

Become a freegan. You may have heard of freeganism. It's all about foraging for used, still in good condition items, from urban dumping grounds. It's extreme, and many people are uncomfortable with it. Perfectly good, or nearly perfectly good food is often tossed out from grocery stores and restaurants. I think you know where this is going. I would hang out at a friend's house a lot when I was young and his mom worked at a gas station. She would constantly bring home garbage bags full of expired sandwiches. Newly expired sandwiches like tuna fish sandwiches, egg salad sandwiches and the list goes on a mile. By policy, they had to take them off the shelves when they expired, but I'm telling you, they were still good! There's likely a bag of great sandwiches behind your local gas station as we speak, if your stomach can handle the idea that they were in the trash. Wrapped in plastic though! Nothing "gross" got to them.

College campus. Become friends with a worker there that prepares and sells the food. They are constantly throwing away food. Many campuses also have grills, cafes and catering services. Even working in a restaurant off-campus can lead to free food (this works even if you aren't in college).

Clubs. This is a funny one. Join a club, get free food. Blabber along with their club ideals. Many clubs include some money for food at events in their budgets.

Attend an “information” meeting, and you’ll most likely see some form of free food. And meet people as well.

Art openings and films. There are more benefits to these than just the food. Student art shows and film festivals are great places to get free food. Most of the time, a “reception” is held with food and beverage. You can go mingle a little and enjoy the arts.

All in all, there are many ways of getting free food. It’s really only about being inventive and getting rid of superficial pride that seems to be growing in society. Pride, that doesn’t really belong in society in the first place, because the only people that are really benefitting from this pride are the super rich. A lot of people that feel this pride, don’t even own anything that they are using ie; their cars, homes etc. The banks they got the loans from still own most of their things.

Chapter 8: Places You Can Live For Free

It's a growing realization that just being born, you have the right to occupy space. Unfortunately, all of the land is all bought up! There are people out there that own hundreds of thousands of unused acres. Yet, the majority of people these days have to "rent" space to occupy and live. Seems a bit unfair doesn't it? All the money and hard work spent paying for time, to occupy space. This world has been around millions of years. And will continue to be after we are long gone. We can't really own the land, we are all really just renting space. But, they are able to pass theirs down through their families. So that nobody else has chances at it, which is exactly what has happened!

No worries though, there are places that you can occupy for free out there. In fact, they are popping up all over the place. The most popular place however is located in southern California. Out in the Mojave Desert, a place called Slab City, located at 33°15'32"N 115°27'59"W, and considered the last free place in America. Only about 120 people live there year round because the temperatures in the summers get up to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This is too hot for all the "Snowbirds" that populate it, during the winter months.

During those winter months when the weather is regularly in the 70's and 80's the population springs up to a hefty 1,500 people. It brings business to the local town of Niland, which wouldn't survive without all the money brought it. Most of the population there lives off of retirement or disability payments. For the younger crowd, they usually survive off of making and selling trinkets or doing work for the Snowbirds. Contrary to what some people think however, whatever is illegal outside of Slab City, is still illegal inside of it.

Another place that has popped up is called “Shut Up and Grow It” Located at 8967 Galen Rd in Lafayette, TN, is a 21 and a half acre plot of consensus run, leaderless land dubbed "Shut Up and Grow It!" after the rainbow kitchen, Shut Up and Eat It.

Everyone is welcome as long as they're welcoming. Don't ask us if you can come; it's your land, too. Just show up. Their description of their place is this:

“The purpose of “The Land” is to be available as a space for families and people to work, prosper together in a flexible environment, engage in projects that include or coincide with sustainable organic farming methods, and most importantly, helping others. We wish to work with all like minded people in an atmosphere of equality which encourages environmental stewardship, low-impact living that is fun but also family friendly, and adheres to a positive ethic that acknowledges the value of our neighbors and our community as a whole.”

Taken from their website www.shutupandgrowit.org

It looks like a very inviting place to me. It is a beautiful piece of land in the north central part of Tennessee. Purchased in 2008, it still has a lot of growing to do! But the idea of people building communities like this is just so beautiful to me.

Another place is referred to as The Mesa. West of the city of Taos New Mexico, located between highways 64 and 285. It is 25 miles from the nearest town and probably one of the most infamous places you may hear about. Its exact location has to be found when there. About 400 residents occupy this 15 square mile area of unclaimed land and call it home. There are many types of people there, but mostly consists of military veterans, people with mental illnesses and others that roam around looking to be left alone outside of society. There was a great documentary made on it called “Off the Grid; Life on The Mesa” and it can be watched on YouTube. The other communities that are close by to it are called “Earthship Community” and “Tres Orejas”

There are communities like this popping up all over the place and becoming very popular. There are also places that you can camp for free though as well. You are allowed to camp in any national forest or grassland usually for 14 days. After the 14 days is exhausted, you can just move to another spot in the same national forest or grassland.

Chapter 9: How To Get a Free Home

Ever drive somewhere and pass a house that has been abandoned? In fact, there are enough abandoned houses in America that every single homeless person could be housed. These houses sit empty sometimes fifteen to twenty years! Some even longer! It's absolutely a disgrace that this is allowed when there are human beings that need shelter! Especially, in such a rich country. Now, this is going to sound crazy at first, but I assure you, after some explaining you'll understand why it's not crazy. Just, a little unorthodox. But you can own one of those abandoned homes literally free, by moving right in without asking anyone, legally! There is a law that will protect you called "Adverse Possession".

In fact, if the registered owner of a property challenges the ownership claim of someone who has lived there for some time, right under the registered owner's nose, the courts will rule with the "possessor" (resident) every time. If, of course, the "resident" follows some simple conditions that I'll talk about. First I'd like to say that most people would just call that "being a squatter". But the law has no such ridiculous name for it. They refer to you as an adverse possessor. You can't just move into anyone's house though when they go on vacation and then change the locks though.

The thought of all this may seem a bit larcenous, to just occupy a home of a tax paying citizen. But land that is not occupied, used, visited or even looked after by a neighbor is ridiculous in itself. We are facing a major housing crisis in this nation! And to deny people the ability to move into one of these beaten down homes with the windows all boarded up and to fix it up would not only help the neighbors but the crime rate as well! Because these homeless people are not

out there committing crimes to survive! They're energy has turned towards something good and constructive. Homes like that are all over in Detroit, along with plenty of other cities and neighborhoods. To deny a human being the right to occupy space unless they are part of the system is immoral and wrong. When someone wants to live in these unused homes and fix them up, the neighbors houses will also raise in value.

I'm not saying people should just move into a home of an absentee owner though. That may still go there from time to time. That would obviously be wrong. I'm talking about the homes that are left empty for a long time. Has this method actually worked for people in the past? Yes, in fact it has. It has worked many times, for many people. In 2007 a Boulder, Colorado couple let their land sit unused for well beyond the state's 18 year requirement. Their neighbor happened to be a judge, and the city's former mayor. But you don't need to be either one of those. Laid claim to the couple's property. The best part about it was, the courts ruled in the ex-mayor's favor.

Another example is of Kenneth Robinson lives in a \$330,000 home in an upscale neighborhood in Flower Mound, Texas. He didn't buy the home, but he lays claim to it and lives in it. He simply just moved in, after of course doing some research and determining that it was abandoned. Which is what has to be done, perhaps you've passed a house for years and never once seen anyone there or do any upkeep to it.

Most of us however think this is probably just too outlandish and you wouldn't want to live with a notion that the owner might one day break open the door. If you're desperate though and you need a home, this is definitely a way that you can over time, acquire a home for free. If you're willing to put in the research, and also follow the steps for whichever state it is you're residing in, you can take adverse possession. If that idea is just too outlandish for you, then you can always just find a very cheap house by paying the back owed taxes like I explained in chapter 5.

Chapter 10: What To Look For When Stealth Camping

This is probably my favorite option for living freely without the restraints of home ownership, careers and all the nonsense of today's society. Just the thought of being able to roam freely and wake up to a new horizon, in a new area everyday if you wish, is, intoxicating. Since most of the land is owned and there are loitering laws popping up left and right, stealth camping has become the way to travel cheaply. When you stealth camp, you don't have to pay for hotels, camping or state fees for camping. You can blend in anywhere and nobody knows you're even there. My choice for stealth camping is using a van that has windows but the windows are covered so no light can escape at night which would reveal that someone is inside. As long as nobody knows you're inside the vehicle, you can blend in anywhere that vehicles park 24 hours a day. Be it a street, a parking lot, wherever.

There are different types of stealth camping though. You don't have to be in a vehicle to stealth camp. You can stealth camp on foot as well. But that way, you have to stay out of sight. It may seem impossible to stealth camp on foot in urban areas, but it's not. There are still places that not many people look. For example, you can sleep on top of a flat roof. Or behind some fairly clean dumpsters. You just want to find an area that has little to no traffic at night. Where you can stay out of sight and sleep peacefully. In this chapter, I'm going to be covering what you would need to look out for when you're in a vehicle and stealth camping however. So sit back and let your imagination wander. Because the best of life is found while wandering!

Probably the most important thing you need to be sure of when stealth camping in a vehicle is not letting any inside light escape at night. That would give away

the idea that someone is probably in the vehicle sleeping or even doing something illegal to passerbys. The point of it all is to keep from being bothered, especially from the police. When you're choosing a place to park and stealth camp, don't pick an abandoned parking-lot or some empty street. You want to look for 24 hour areas like streets, some department stores parking lots, etc. Apartment complexes are great places to stealth camp, and also city streets that have houses. If you're looking on a city street with houses, look for partitions or bushes. Don't just park right in front of someone's house unless the street is intensely congested with vehicles. Instead, park between two houses on the street. That way, both neighbors will assume that your vehicle is there visiting someone else. Because you're a licensed driver, you probably already know not to park in front of fire hydrants, driveways, garbage pick-up areas and look for "No Parking" signs. But I thought I would even cover the basics.

When you're going to sleep in a parking lot, don't park at the far end away from people, alone in the dark. Don't park right up front either. Rather, park in an area with little traffic, but in a seemingly good area that would give the impression you might be inside shopping. Also, a good thing to look out for is "No Overnight Parking or Camping" signs that sadly, seem to be becoming more and more common. Another place you should never park over night is at a park. Most parks want you to leave when the sun goes down, and they are highly patrolled by police, sheriffs, park rangers, nosy people and the list goes on. It's fun to enjoy them during the day, but it's just asking for trouble to try and stay overnight.

Casino parking lots are highly patrolled as well, but if you park in the hotel parking area. You'll probably be fine. Most of all, when you're stealth-camping the idea is not to draw attention to yourself. Pick a spot at night if you're unsure whether or not you can park unnoticed. I wouldn't stay in any one spot consecutively over three days either. People will start to notice your vehicle has not moved. And once you're noticed and police question you, then you'll be on their radar and they will always see your vehicle around that city from that point on and you will probably be bothered a lot more. However, I once stayed at a truck stop for five days without moving an inch and I wasn't bothered. But, I wouldn't recommend it. Choose your spots wisely if you're going to push the limits. It's best to stay away from your stealth-camping spot during the days and return at night. Go park and hang out at a park or at your local gym during the days if you don't want to spend money. The best thing is, you're mobile!

Stealth camping is a beautiful and eye opening experience, but being aware of your surroundings is very important. With a little common sense and understanding of the things I explained, it will go smooth for you, as it has for so many others.

As stated in the constitution of these United States, we have the right to travel freely without delay or interruption. But stopping seems like it's another story, loitering laws and the traveling corporations have made it ridiculously expensive. Charging sixty dollars for a room with a bed for one night's stay is absolutely ridiculous.

Thank God for stealth camping!

Chapter 11: Insider Secrets to Living Free

More rules and regulations are popping up everyday all over the place unfortunately. Remember when you could drink alcohol on all the beaches, have a fire and even sleep there without interruption or harassment? Well, just like everything else, people did stupid things and ruined it for everyone else. Like leaving garbage, getting drunk then swimming and drowning. The list goes on but you get the idea. Rules and regulations made to protect us from ourselves, just like the seatbelt law. Someday, “they” may even restrict your calorie intake per month to protect you from obesity and use the cost of health care rising as the excuse. No matter, it’s a fact of life these days.

I don’t know about everyone else, but I grew up drinking tap water out of hoses and riding my bike around without a helmet, among many other things and I survived. I love people though! Because for every rule and restriction that is invented, there is and always will be people out there that find a good way around them! Like stealth camping! Traveling and living shouldn’t be so expensive. There is no reason whatsoever that people should be forced to be part of the collective conscience in order to survive. There are insider secrets and people using them to live freely the way they wish all around us. The biggest secret or key, and probably the most important thing that you need to know before you’re truly free, is to let go of all your pride. It’s a simple concept you’re probably already aware of, but not so easy. And having pride in things besides your work and family becomes like an extra weight you carry around for no particular reason.

When you really sit and think about it, pride is actually bad for you. How many times I wonder, have people lost out on meeting a new interesting person because they were too prideful to make the first move? Or, how many people out there are slaves to their debt because they tried living beyond their means just to keep up with others? There are many faults in pride, and living freely doesn't mix well with it. There are so many people out there wearing rags in beater cars that have had the most intensely beautiful lives.

Living freely is a frame of mind. It's not what tools people have in order to do it. All the tools you ever need were given to people when they were born. It's a simple decision away all the time, even now as you read these words. It has to be wanted more than anything else. Letting go, is the first step to truly finding all the things that really matter. Enough of that however, there is so much stress in the daily grind of today's society that people are starting to look for ways out. They feel a need to minimize their obligations and stresses. It's almost like we are going back to our roots, or caveman mentality to live more simply, instinctually. Seeking a stress free life is definitely a secret of living free.

Most people out there think things like "I'll be able to live freely, my own way after I get an RV, or this or that." Or "I'll be able to live freely after I pay off this card or the next bill. Then, surely, I'll be free." But they don't realize that the masses have been doing the very same thing for decades. A week turns into a month, which turns into a year and before they knew it, their whole lives passed by as they worked for the future! More bills will arrive, more obligations will rise. That is the nature that is the very fabric of today's complicated and overly stressful society. Nothing changes until we force it to change. Until we grab the big golden bull by the horns and yell "Listen up now! You're no longer in charge! I'm taking control of my own life! I don't want your empty things anymore with promising colorful labels! I'm going to throw away my pride; I'm going to leave my comfort zone! I'm going to get lost! And find myself, somewhere along the highways of letting go! I'm going to be living free!"

Thanks for reading all this, I hope you all picked up at least one thing from it! Life is an adventure! Happy trails!

