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Confidence From a Dump Truck

As a teenager I proudly helped in the family business of demolition and salvage. Selling materials to customers was fun, cleaning nails out of 2X4's not so much. Then the job I feared and longed for was offered: drive a truck to a wrecking site, load up and go to the dump where I would lift the bed for emptying. What an exciting adventure. All went quite well supporting my feeling of being very grown up and responsible. The tricky part was backing up the truck so the tires were just on the edge of the dump. When the regular drivers missed this, one could hear my father raging. As I approached the edge too cautiously, I could see Dad in the rear view mirror waving impatiently to come on back. Fear gripped me. I stepped hard on the gas pedal and lunged back too far, resulting in one tire going over the edge. The wrath I had feared was well deserved.

Life holds precious lessons for us. Creating a world that works better includes learning lessons without doing it the hard way. We can learn so much from those retired ones struggling to make a life worth living on Social Security alone. We can learn from those who are exceptionally stressed with the burden of credit card balances gleaned from past lifestyle choices. We can learn from those graduates beginning life with immense debt, the importance of financially preparing for college costs.

Each of us has our own financial literacy stories, also rich with real world lessons: small amounts of tax deferred money compounding over time creates great wealth; utilizing debt only for things that appreciate in value, like real estate not vehicles; and being grounded in knowing Spirit is our Source.

By observing others and our own experiences with money we broaden the richness of our skills to make life work. Even though I made a mistake in backing up that truck, I still felt very proud. We can make those financial fauxpaxs with a lightness that comes from knowing we're always learning from our mistakes.



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