

constructive CHOICES

The Choice Connection

Dear Jean,

CHOOSE TO... BE THE SUCCESS TODAY YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN BE TOMORROW

Choose to... be ready (*you have heard this one before*) plan with intention and purpose

Choose to... pray, meditate, prepare with heart and soul, proceed forward, keep it positive

Choose to... create the safe space, the fun space

Choose to... persist with patience

Choose to... understand it is personal and know when you are motivated

Choose to play! Know when you mark an achievement and acknowledge it as a success - no matter the size!

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Choose To Be The Success Today You Know You Can Be Tomorrow



When I sit down to write my newsletters, I start first with a choice of quotes as these seem to guide my thoughts as I write and share with all of you. These quotes come from a variety of books that sit in multiple bookcases in my office. Some of these books I have read from cover to cover, others are patiently waiting for me to pick it up and move it to my nightstand - a sure sign it is in the "Read Next" queue.

This month, I am choosing to share with you some thoughts around SUCCESS . Some of these thoughts comes from one of the many books I have never read from cover to cover, and one that

Constructive Choices, Inc.

Vol. 1, Issue 7, July 2007

- SUCCESS... Choosing To Be This Today -

Jean's Latest Choices



- Saying "YES" to some new projects - a move toward more work variety and flexibility
- Working on-site in an office a few days a week on a special project (*now there is a different feel when I have been working out of a home office for 8 years!*)
- Planning purposefully... preparing with prayer... proceeding positively
- Pursuing with persistence AND patience... playing on weekends for balance

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has served as a solid resource over the years. A few of these thoughts come from "Play to Win," a book I originally picked up because it spoke to choosing growth over fear.

I find it interesting that whenever I or others use the word, "success" in the course of a conversation, inevitably someone remarks that everyone has their own definition of this. That may be true and certainly not inappropriate. I find it even more interesting that as the conversation continues, often most at the table will begin to question each other as to each person's definition of success. In your and my lifetime, I am sure we have heard a quite few definitions and resonated with even less.

What is it that makes our definition of success so personal? I have observed and believe that it comes from our desire to live up to our own expectations and not those of others; we choose to set the criteria or standards for how we are in our world, and hopefully set the accompanying goals and desires to be within our reach.

If you agree with the notion that your definition of success is a personal choice, then I might ask you... will you really know when you have achieved a success? Have you set your standards or criteria to be realistic? Have you allowed yourself to celebrate and acknowledge the small and maybe infrequent wins along the way? I was reminded by my coach the other night that at the start of 2007, I very thoughtfully created an intention to prepare, focus, plan, pray, and continue to move forward at a steady pace. I remember telling her that something was changing - and I had to prepare for whatever it might be. And now, this month, it appears that events, very much opportunities, are being drawn into my life's plan. I never planned specifically for all that is happening and what truly speaks to a success in my life's work. I have found myself to be ready, prepared, living in a mode of patient persistence, and watching an alignment so that all will flow as it needs to. A success - maybe more than one - absolutely! And these will continue to be defined and refined in the weeks to come.

As some might believe, if success is getting what you want, and happiness is wanting what you have, ... then have you achieved the joyful blending of the two? And is there something beyond success? Yes, I do believe there is - a desire to have success with fulfillment. For me, this is the more important definition I can share with all of you about success ... it is that I have the time and the resources for a personal choice to give back to people and institutions that fostered my life of preparation, purpose, prayer, a positive "Can do" attitude, and a pace that marries patience and persistence.

I will take on the successes of today and this year and I most sincerely invite you to take on your success from today as well. Hugs and celebrations!

Quotable Quotes

"The secret of success in life, is to be ready for opportunity when it appears."
- Unknown

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Quotations

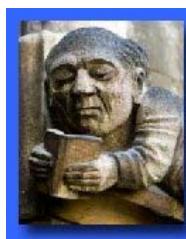
"Achievement seems to be connected with action. Successful men and women keep moving. They make mistakes, but they don't quit."

- Conrad Hilton

"Four steps to achievement: plan purposefully, prepare prayerfully, proceed positively, pursue persistently."

- William A. Ward

Jean's Recommended Reading Choices



1. "[Rise to Rebellion: A Novel of the American Revolution](#)"

Jeff Shaara

2. "[Play to Win!: Choosing Growth Over Fear in Work and Life](#)"

Larry Wilson and Hersch Wilson

3. "[Lessons for Success: Quotes to Inspire Your Personal Best](#)"

Lorraine A. DarConte



The "Table of Contents" from *Lessons for Success* speak to some guiding principles for strengthening your path to success.

- Hold Fast to Your Dreams
- Passion and Enthusiasm
- Doing Your Best
- Never Give Up
- Learning Throughout Life
- Standards of Excellence
- Be True to Yourself

The book's first quote: I always have to dream up there against the stars. If I don't dream, I'll make it, I won't even get close." - Henry J. Kaiser(founder, Kaiser Steel; 1882-1967) The book's last quote: The most important thing said to us are said by our inner selves." - Adelaide Bry (writer, 1920)

Administrivia

My Constructive Choices AUDIENCE:

* Professionals wanting to be at choice in their career and daily work

* New Managers (and aspiring leaders) transitioning to establish a leadership role in their communities

*Individuals wanting to sort through the choices, build a more fulfilling life, lift their voices, and

*Coaches who choose to step out, show up and say -

Yes, it IS all about YOU!

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