

The CHOICE Connection

Positive strategies. Practical solutions.

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CHOICES
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WHAT'S COMING IN 2012

The Choice Connection continues for another year, 2012. This year I will explore the following 4 themes - *Personal Success, Patterns of Success, Eliciting Greatness and Your Gifts to the World*. And to bring it full circle, this month in defining one man's personal success, I will share the greatest gift received from

Quotable Quotes

"If you aspire to be in the highest place, it is no disgrace to stop at the second, or even the third, place." ~ Marcus Tullius Cicero

"If you believe you can, you probably can. If you believe you won't, you most assuredly won't. Belief is the ignition switch that gets you off the launching pad." ~ Denis Waitley

"Success is easy after you believe. But first, you must believe." ~ Zig Ziglar

"People become really quite remarkable when they start thinking that they can do things. When they believe in themselves they have the first secret of success." ~ Norman Vincent Peale

"Our limitations and success will be based, most often, on our own expectations for ourselves. What the mind dwells upon, the body acts upon." ~ Denis Waitley

Dear Jean,

Personal Success ... In Memory Of My Dad ... His Greatest Gift

2012 - Happy New Year!

It is fitting that as this newsletter goes out on the 5th of January, that I speak to the topic of personal success. January 5th was my Dad's birthday and the topic of personal success was one of his favorite topics. My Dad passed away in 1993 and I still miss his wisdom and insights. What I consider to be the greatest gift given to me from my father was his simple phrase, "There is no such word as CAN'T."

I couldn't begin to tell you how many times I heard that phrase repeated when I was a



my Dad.

You are invited to offer any favorite quotes, resources, comments, or questions you would like to share in 2012. Just email a note with your share and when you would like to have it posted.

Here's to continued JOY in 2012 along with an abundance of opportunities!

PERSONAL SUCCESS - What it Takes ... The Top 5

1. Believe in Yourself
2. Practice the "Yes, I Can"
3. Learn from Your Mistakes
4. Pay attention to the small events - they are the sum of your life
5. Choose thoughtfully and intentionally

Quick Links

child and more as I matured into an adult - oh, so very irritating and annoying, being at the receiving end of that phrase. It was one of my Dad's favorite sayings. He must have said it a LOT because he heard the "I Can't" a LOT of times from me and my siblings. Somehow the "I Can't" seemed to be one of my favorite sayings and most often when it was something I couldn't believe I could do or didn't want to do. As my siblings and I got older, our comebacks became a bit more sophisticated. "Dad, you know the word, 'can't,' IS in the dictionary." His response, "It is NOT in MY dictionary." Then there is my favorite as we really began to think of all the things one can't do. So our very next mature response was, "Dad, man CAN'T fly in the air without wings." He did think a few seconds on that one and then smoothly came back with the reply, "Well, man just hasn't figured out how to do that yet - it doesn't mean it can't be done." At about that time, I think I gave up with the excuses. In my Dad's world, there really was no such word as 'can't' - he had defined the standards for his personal success and his gift to me was living this very real truth, his truth, every day.

My Dad was by no means a perfect human being, and there are stories we all tell in the family that we still shake our heads in disbelief. He fell and felt loss and then bounced right back up. He just never gave up. His gift of conviction and high standards set a path for me that has seldom wavered. Today, hearing the "I Can't" is almost like receiving a dare. I know there has to be a way, a solution, and then I am on a mission to find that better choice to figure out how it can work. More importantly, the cornerstone for me has become how strongly one believes in themselves, their choices and how persistent or intentional they become in their work or goals.

Finding quotes related to personal success has been one of the easier tasks for this newsletter topic as many have had a lot to say about success - what it is, how to achieve it, and even what to do with it. Of course, "success" has many definitions and for it to mean anything, a person has to give it their own individual focus. What success meant to my father is even a bit different than what it means to me and how it shows up in my life today. Regardless of our differing definitions, it still carries a personal belief rooted in the "Can Do." And tagged to this belief in my ability is the personal choice of how "I Can Do."

Personal success is not just one serving of success in our lives. It is usually a series of small events and sometimes seemingly unrelated. In the end, I believe, it is the sum total of our lives. It is a picture of how we show up every day, what we give attention to, what matters and how we stand up for ourselves and choose. And in the end, it describes how we lived and the gifts we chose to share. For you, will it be with grace, compassion, kindness, understanding, a sharing of wisdom, laughter, love?

As we begin 2012 ... consider the gift you have to give to your families, to those you work with, to the person you pass in the hall, on the street, in the store. If your goal or intention is to enrich the lives of others, then the stamp of success might just be the smile you pass along to one person each day. Because while your personal

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Choice Connection
Today!

success is 'personal' it will touch at least one person throughout your life. Your personal success is your gift to the world and a light along another's path to personal success.

Wishing you each the gift of "Yes, I Can,"

Jean



CHOOSE to...

... believe in you...say "I CAN" rather than "I Can't"...figure it out...stand true and stand tall...believe in the dream of tomorrows...and in strength you have today...persist...live your goals as a gift to others.

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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