

Deacon Jodi Moscona's
Monthly Memo On:
Ethics, Spirituality and Success

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WINNING EVEN WHEN IT'S NOT EXPECTED

It's election season and I guess I should be focusing on the Presidential Primaries. But I was more impressed with the results of the NFL playoffs Sunday than I was with the debates, the ads and especially the coverage of the primaries. There is a valuable lesson to be learned from the results this past Sunday. Additionally, I think that the candidates should take a long hard look at the results as should the voters and learn a lesson from them.

THE NEWS

Prior to the games on Sunday virtually every one of the commentators covering the game between the San Diego Chargers and the Indianapolis Colts picked the Colts. Few gave the Chargers a chance—except the Chargers that is. Later in the day as the game between the Dallas Cowboys and the New York Giants was about to begin, each of the sports reporters and commentators took a turn picking the Cowboys over the Giants. It seemed that the only ones that gave the Giants a chance were those wearing the red, white and blue of the New York Giants.

After the dust had settled in Indianapolis and Dallas, both home teams had been eliminated from the playoffs and the two huge underdogs had won. Congratulations to the New York Giants and the San Diego Chargers. But, how did they do it? The key to the answer is belief.

As most of you know, author and international professional speaker, Billy Arcement asked me to co-author his latest book. We have been working on the project for nearly a year and are in the final stages of editing and plan to send the final copy to our publisher in a week or so. Well, last week, Billy and I had a “discussion” regarding belief, faith and trust, a topic in our book. My point to Billy was that they are different but all equally important. And, they all work together.

I must admit that “FAITH” is one of my favorite topics. And Faith isn't just a religious thing. Let me illustrate with this story. A great high wire walker who walked across Niagara Falls and, when he was done, he asked his friend, “Do you think I can push a wheel barrel across the Falls?” His friend said “Yes, I believe you can.” Then the walker said, “Do you really believe?” Again the answer was “Yes.” He asked very emphatically a third time, “Do you really and truly believe that I can push this wheel barrel across the falls?” Once again the reply was “Yes, I have seen you do it many times.” So, the high wire walker said to his friend, “Then get in the wheel barrel and let's get across the Falls.” His friend looked at him and dropped his head. He believed, but he did not have faith. I have come to know that faith is an action word. It is putting our belief into action. So how does this fit into the results of the NFL playoffs?

ATTITUDE

How we act and how we perform is often said to depend on our self confidence. We are often encouraged to believe in ourselves. While this is crucially important in developing a positive attitude, what we do with that attitude is equally important. In the book of James in the Bible, we read that “Faith without works is dead”. Without action, faith isn’t faith at all, it is simply belief. What we saw in the games on Sunday was evidence of a bunch of guys putting their belief in each other into action. Boaz Rauchwerger, a speaker, trainer, consultant and author commenting on this very thing called it, “faking confidence until you have it”. I think this a good way to say that if you put action behind your belief in yourself, that confidence will soon follow.

I often tell people that it is not good enough to want something. You have to want it bad enough to put enough focus into it that it becomes emotional. All of the books that I have read that give insight into the ability to use one’s mind to imagine success include some sort of process to focus. It is the use of imagination that allows one to see the success despite what appears to be apparent. In other words, when everyone tells you that you have no chance to upset the World Champions, you use your imagination to see it otherwise. By focusing on that image of winning, belief turns into action and that action is manifested as faith. This builds confidence and it is confidence that produces results.

In the political world, what we see more and more is that politicians couch their messages in terms of what they believe people want to hear. There is no vision, no belief, no self confidence in one’s own ideas, and no real faith in this approach. Put your finger up to the wind; see which way it’s blowing and go that way seems to be the philosophy that’s followed. The contenders are promoting ideas they think will get them votes rather than ideas based on conviction. And that is why I enjoyed the football games so much more than the election coverage this past weekend.

THE SPIRITUAL

In my lectures, presentations and workshops, I often discuss the fact that we are not living in a vacuum. I believe that we were put on this earth to live together, to live in community. Note, I did not say “a community,” but “in community”. This is where I think Hillary went wrong when she said “It takes a village”. It is not the village or the community. It is the relationship of being in community where people are really looking out for one another that is the real environment in which we want to raise our kids. When we put our belief in ourselves into action, it ultimately affects others. In a team situation it can be a positive for our team mates, but in a political situation, it can have an even greater effect. If politicians would be more concerned with truth than with winning, we might really get to know what they believe and how they think. Instead we get thrown back at us what they think we want to hear. This to me evidences a spiritual void in the potential leaders of our Country. I hope and pray that someone steps forward with definite conviction and with a strong enough character to stand up for what is right and not what is convenient. I guess I am hoping for some candidates that are more like the members of the New York Giants and San Diego Charger football teams.

If we could all try to be a little more like the victors this weekend and start with a belief in ourselves, ignoring those that give us no chance, coupled with the determination to

focus on our goals, we could then devise a strategy for a successful 2008. As we move forward, let us see January as a time to move forward with a plan to put action behind our belief in ourselves, developing confidence in our plan and then, we can focus on just what reaching our goals will be like. I have goals for 2008. I hope and pray that you do too. If you don't, it is not too late to set some goals. Whatever your goals are, crystallize them visually in your mind with clear focus and let's move on into 2008 and win!

FINAL THOUGHTS

Last month, I wrote about my disappointment in Roger Clemens for using steroids. I found out later that Roger had vehemently denied the use of steroids. I don't know if he did or didn't, but what I do know is that it now doesn't matter. His reputation is ruined because just like I bought into the Mitchell Report, millions of others also did. Roger has been convicted in the court of public opinion.

I have a friend who was charged with a federal crime many years ago. He did not have the money to fight the U.S. Attorney, so he was convinced by an attorney to plead guilty to a conspiracy. He spent the next five years in an effort to find out what happened and to get to the truth. At the end of the process, we found out that the U.S. Attorney had lied to his attorney about certain testimony. It had been a case of malicious and false prosecution. He was allowed to withdraw his guilty plea and his record is now clean but his reputation was ruined. Because of that experience I find myself feeling sorry for Roger Clemens especially if he is able to prove that he did not use steroids.

No matter what happens with the NFL playoffs, the election and the steroid investigation, life will move on. We all are in charge of determining our own destiny. We do it by what we believe, how we act on our beliefs and the determination and commitment that we put behind our actions. It all starts with attitude. Let's begin 2008 with an attitude of gratitude for our blessings and focus on the glass being half full.

I wish you the best in 2008.

Peace and Grace.

Jodi

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