

Leadership Link  
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Many years ago I would sit in the living room of our home during the holiday season at night. I found it peaceful and serene to stare at the Christmas tree sparkling with multi colored lights. I felt transparent like the icicles that hung as if they were real. The world looked bright and full of hope like the shiny delicate metal ornaments that dazzled as the lights reflected off of them. My trust in people was as pure as the white star topping the tree. My dreams grew upwards like the branches on the evergreen. With each branch I had a corresponding thought of what I wanted to do and be when I grew up. Outside the picture window was a string of the "old timey" big bulb lights. Mom and dad had placed each colored bulb strategically around the window and roof line just like they had strategically raised me with the values of this Season. They wrapped each gift with tenderness, love and a giving spirit knowing that I believed that Santa delivered all those toys! On the Eve I would go to sleep with excitement and curiosity, yet also with warmth, safety and peacefulness. And why? I knew I would arise to the dawn of Christmas Day and be captivated by wonder in the celebration -- the celebration of love.

To what am I alluding? Very simply, the wonder of this Season, the Spirit of the holiday Season: excitement, curiosity, peace, joy, love, giving, open arms, truth, glory, and the celebration of life. Gloria Estefan sings an insightful holiday song about desiring to experience Christmas through the eyes of her young toddler. The chorus says, "I want to see Christmas through your eyes. I want everything to be the way it used to be. Like being a child again and thinking the world was mine. I want to see Christmas through your eyes." Many of you, like me, wish we could get up each day see through the eyes of a young heart. Or perhaps, you may think it is unrealistic to believe that each day can be lived in the spirit of which many experience this holiday season. I know life can be tough and even disparaging at times. However there are wonderful, up lifting times in the adult world too. Therein lays the dilemma.

See, you and I have a choice. Do you live life seeing the harshness or looking to the Light? Do you allow yourself to be hopeless or be a dealer in hope? Is your life lived in pieces or in peace? Do you walk through life with wonder or simply wander? The end of the year is a time of reflection and growth through insight to your soul. As parents, siblings, teachers, friends, coworkers and community leaders, we are to lead others through encouragement, positive expectation, and deliberateness. What example are you setting? Take time this season to reflect on your vision, your direction, your legacy and how you will enlist others along the way.

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