

Leadership Link

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“If you can conceive it in your mind and believe it in your heart, you can achieve it in your life.” My dear friend, Willie Jolley, gave me this advice several years ago. I have found it to be true. Now don’t get me wrong, I cannot dream my way to being a professional singer or a concert pianist. After all, I have to have the talent to begin with. However, if there is a challenge I face or opportunity to seize, I need to put my mind, heart and will into it. So what does this mean?

The first part of this advice is “If you can conceive it in your mind...” There are three types of “mind matters” – knowledge, wisdom and creativity. What do you spend time learning? Do you engage in too much TV? Computer games? Nonsense books? Knowledge is turning over every month now. Every four months something you know will become obsolete. Wisdom is putting some of our knowledge to use within our convictions. And creativity? Well, we are losing it with each year we live. Coming out of high school, we have only 19% of our creativity left. After five years in a traditional office, I bet we have less than 5% left. No wonder we have a hard time being creative! Research ways to be creative and practice creativity. Continue to read and learn so that we will be ready to “conceive” ideas in our mind.

The second part is “believe it in your heart...” The heart is often said to be the origin of our thinking and feeling, our passion and our conviction, our values and our beliefs. I do not think that we can learn more or grow more in “believing.” I think the way we know or believe something is to trust our gut. Our intuition plays a large part in believing something. We need to listen to our intuitive side. Go when we know it is the right think. Stop when it is the wrong thing. We truly believe things when it is in line with our values and convictions.

The third part is “...you can achieve it in your life.” Some things happen naturally. We have to really work at others. What do you want to achieve in your life? What do you want to achieve for society? What do you want to achieve for your family? It needs to be something that we conceive in our minds and believe in our hearts. Then we are to put together a plan to make it happen. This is our will to achieve. We have to decide that a particular action or strategy is best for us and then act on it.

So what have you conceived and believed and are willing to achieve? Perhaps it is important for you to share the experiences of children with special needs. Perhaps it is time for you to step forward and lead an effort toward new funding through the legislature for children with disabilities. Perhaps it is time for us to take action instead of standing in inaction. Life is to be lived moving forward.

Joel Barker said, “Vision without action is a dream. Action without vision is simply passing the time. Action with vision is making a positive difference.”

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