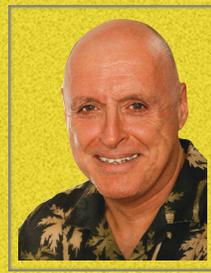


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



73 Where Do I Go From Here?

You know you want to get somewhere but you're not entirely sure where, or what to do when you figure that out. I'm Jerry Roberts and since I know you're thinking about that, I want to help, today on The Extra Point.

Alice said to the Cheshire Cat, "Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?"

"That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat.

"I don't much care where," said Alice.

"Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat.

Another way to say it is if you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there.

A lot of people live their lives like that. They don't make choices, they sort of let life happen and choose for them.

I prefer to be more proactive than that and if you feel the same way, this is for you.

Mark Twain once said the two most important days of your life are the day you're born and the day you find out why. Author and performance psychologist Jim Loehr says this: "We should add a third day to that — the day you intentionally decide to focus your energy and your life with that why."

Leadership expert Andy Stanley agrees and emphasizes that while being intentional is obviously important, the first key is to figure what to be intentional about. Get the direction figured out, then get on with it.

Both men say we should keep it simple, that it's a point A to point B thing. Once you know what you want you look around and figure where you are; how far away from your

eventual goal are you? That's point A. Then draw a straight line to where you want to be, and that's your point B.

This isn't advice solely for determining one's career. It can also be for short-term plans, adding a particular skill, maybe a project you want to take on.

When I say draw a straight line from point A to point B, that means get there in the shortest time possible.

"We face our greatest leadership challenge every morning in the mirror," says Stanley. He believes we can be difficult to lead because we've mastered the art of deceiving ourselves and justifying our poor decisions. "Direction determines destination," he says, "We all want to end up somewhere on purpose."

Once we figure out our direction, then we get intentional, making sure our behaviors, thoughts, work and relationships align to keep us on track. I must prioritize what I value most over what I may want right now. If we have failed in the past to reach the important goals we've set, it's almost certain that we've failed to align our life with what we've said we want, and made it a firm priority.

Figure out the direction you want. Get intentional about it. Draw the shortest line possible from point A to point B. Make your plan and prioritize your life to follow it. Let me know when you get there.

That's The Extra Point. Get out there and make something good happen today. For 93.3, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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