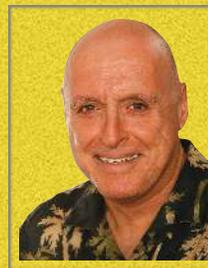


# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 170 Quit Listening to Those Voices

Let me ask you a personal question? Are you right now not as successful as you think you should be, or could be? Okay, now close your eyes and bring into focus the face of the person who is most responsible for where you are in your career, and life in general. I'm Jerry Roberts and today, you and I need to talk to that person on The Extra Point.

Sometimes people get to a place in life, stop and look around at their career, finances, responsibilities, prospects for the future, and say to themselves, "How the heck did I get here?"

"I was going to pitch for the Dodgers" ... "I was going to be a travel photographer" ... "I was going to build a big company and be a leader" ... "I was going to help people and change the world."

So what happened? We didn't have a real plan. Or, if we did, we jumped the tracks and veered off in another direction. We made choices that changed our lives.

Eventually, we settled in, raised families, and set new priorities. The dreams we had are distant memories. Once in a while we'll read something or hear a song that will slam time into reverse for a few minutes, and we'll think about who we were and what we wanted to be. Maybe for a few minutes we think it could still be possible — and then the little voices will start singing their familiar tunes.

- I have no time. I hear this so often and I've said it myself. I've worked 60-hour weeks, many times more, for four decades, have family responsibilities, and yet I've met people whose schedule made mine look like a day at the beach — and those people found the time to change their lives and recapture their dreams.

- I have no money. Today, access to a computer, a phone, and the Internet may be all you need

to get started.

- I'm too old. John Houseman started acting at age 71 and then won an Oscar. Nobody cares about how old you are these days. They care about how you think and what you can deliver.

- I'm an introvert. You're not alone. About half of people are. It can make you nervous and it can be a challenge, but countless people have overcome it and you can, too.

- I can't write well. Okay, neither can I. English teachers would put enough red on my stuff to make it look like a crime scene. We live in a time when people are more forgiving. If your words get the point across, they won't worry so much about grammar. Thank God.

- I'm overwhelmed. Tell me who isn't. How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time. Keep things simple and get started. When you can handle more, take on more.

- People don't like me. Then be more likeable.

- I'm afraid. We're all afraid. Some of us mask it in apparent cloaks of confidence, but we hear those voices, too.

Stop listening to them and just get to work on changing your life. Nobody says you have to neglect your family or end friendships. Know what you really want, plan, take baby steps at first if needed, and push yourself to where you know you need to be.

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

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