

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



418 How About a Personal Roadmap for You?

If I asked you what's on your personal roadmap, what would you say? Do you have a personal roadmap? I'm Jerry Roberts and today we'll talk about putting one together and what might show up on it. That's coming next on The Extra Point.

I first picked up on the concept of a personal roadmap several years back when I was buying software for my business. When I'd ask what the company's plans were for the app, they'd always refer me to a page on their website. This was the developmental direction they were headed in. They had short-term ideas on the features they were then working on, some for the next quarter, the next year, and so on. The more aggressive companies listed compelling long-term visions for their products.

A few years later the term "roadmap" started showing up in conversations about goals. Achieving "goals" is a good thing. Following a "roadmap" seems a bit more adventurous, doesn't it? In reality, the roadmap is a sequence of going from step to step, goal to goal, with a projected timeline laid down. To many people the act of putting a roadmap together seems to indicate a stronger commitment.

The added element for companies is that this set of goals — their roadmap — adds a very important dimension. It's published for everybody to see. That would include potential investors. For the software companies, if the roadmap isn't very attractive, people may not want to fund the next steps in their growth; and customers may not want to buy their app. As for individuals, many publish their goals in places like Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn, using that as an extra level of motivation.

Should you have a personal roadmap? Let me ask this, are you able to draw up a five-year plan for your career and your life? If so, I think a roadmap could work for you, and I'll give

you a few ideas on how to set it up. First, this advisory: you'll do well to check on your roadmap frequently so you don't take a wrong turn and end up far off the path to reaching your chosen destination. Of course, if that did happen, having a written roadmap would enable you to recover and get back on track.

1. Commit to frequent check-ins to track your progress. Do so at least monthly, weekly is better. Connecting our daily schedule and to-do list up to our roadmap adds another level of accountability to the process. These are personal 1-to-1 meetings with yourself. Or, maybe you'll share the information with your family.

2. Keep a running log of how you're doing. Every time you hold one of these meetings with yourself, look at the roadmap and see where you are. Did you check off a goal? How did you accomplish that? How do you feel about it? Now that you have, can you accelerate a little to get to the next spot on the map faster? If you didn't make progress, should you reevaluate this part of the map and go slower?

3. What are the next steps?

Earlier this year I began to create my personal roadmap and I've found it a little more fun than traditional goal setting. Give it a try, and see what you think. What's the first step from here for your journey? Do you have a vision for where the finish line is? Okay, now get started.

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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