

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



517 The Alibis From “Old Man If”

People who do not succeed almost always share one distinguishing trait in common. They’ve got alibis to explain away their own lack of achievement. I’m Jerry Roberts and today, we’ll check those alibis, on The Extra Point.

If you’ve ever made it to the tail end of Napoleon Hill’s book, *Think and Grow Rich*, you’ve seen “The 57 Alibis from Old Man If.” It’s a classic within a classic and really covers most of the excuses we give for why we don’t get to where we say we want to go in life. We may not get all 57 in, but here goes:

IF I didn’t have a wife and family
IF I had enough “pull”
IF I had money
IF I had a good education
IF I could get a job
IF I had good health
IF I only had time
IF times were better
IF other people understood me
IF conditions around me were only different

IF I could live my life over again
IF I did not fear what “THEY” would say
IF I had been given a chance
IF I now had a chance
IF other people didn’t “have it in for me”
IF nothing happens to stop me
IF I were only younger
IF I could only do what I want
IF I had been born rich
IF I could meet “the right people”

IF I had the talent that some people have
IF I dared assert myself
IF I only had embraced past opportunities
IF people didn’t get on my nerves
IF I didn’t have children to look after
IF I could save some money
IF the boss only appreciated me
IF I only had somebody to help me
IF my family understood me
IF I lived in a big city

IF I could just get started
IF I were only free
IF I had the personality of some people
IF I were not so fat
IF my talents were known
IF I could just get a “break”
IF I could only get out of debt
IF I hadn’t failed
IF I only knew how
IF everybody didn’t oppose me

IF I didn’t have so many worries
IF I could marry the right person
IF people weren’t so dumb
IF my family were not so extravagant
IF I were sure of myself
IF luck were not against me
IF I had not been born under the wrong star
IF it were not true that “what is to be will be”
IF I did not have to work so hard
IF I hadn’t lost my money

IF I lived in a different neighborhood
IF I didn’t have a “past”
IF I only had a business of my own
IF other people would only listen to me

IF — and this is the greatest of them all — IF I had the courage to see myself as I really am, then I could make the changes needed to get my life moving in a better direction.

Forget the IF game. We have the power and ability to make positive changes right now. Don’t worry about what you feel you can’t do. Focus on what you can do. Then do it.

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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