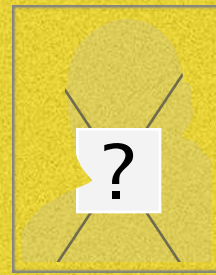


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



587 The Wisdom of Colin Powell

Gen. Colin Powell has jumped back into the news with criticism of President Trump. If you were a fan of the former secretary of state, you're in the right place at the right time. I'm Jerry Roberts and today, the wisdom of Colin Powell, on The Extra Point.

The words of Colin Powell today, for those who want to get further and do better, and want the same for their organization.

1. *"The commander in the field is always right and the rear echelon is wrong, unless proved otherwise."* I've often said the people closest to the action have a much clearer picture of what works and what doesn't, so we should listen to them.

2. *"Don't let your ego get too close to your position, so that if your position gets shot down, your ego doesn't go with it."* If we don't care who gets the credit for success, then we won't worry about who dropped the ball in our failure.

3. *"I was born in Harlem, raised in the South Bronx, went to public school, got out of public college, went into the Army, and then I just stuck with it."* He did his best. He focused, His efforts got noticed and he climbed the ranks. How many people have sacrificed wonderful careers because they couldn't stick with it?

4. *"Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers."* There is a premium on people who can get to the point quickly and clearly.

5. *"None of us can change our yesterdays but all of us can change our tomorrows."* Baseball player Yogi Berra once said, "It ain't over 'til it's over." Marry the two ideas and you've got a strategy for the rest of your life. It's never too late to be the person you were meant to be.

6. *"All work is honorable. Always do your best because someone is watching."* Some people would tell you that God is watching, and they're

right — He is. You know who else is watching? You are. If somebody urges you to cut corners or do something you know is wrong, because, "Hey, nobody will know." You'll know, and you'll never forget. Give your best because that's who you are.

7. *"You can't make someone else's choices. You shouldn't let someone else make yours."* Never mind the crowd. Be your own person, establish your own values and live up to them.

8. *"The greatest gifts my parents gave to me... were their unconditional love and a set of values."* What difference does it make if your kid has cool clothes, the latest phone, and you buy them a car — if you're not investing yourself in their life and make sure they have a firm foundation to grow on?

9. *"Every organization should tolerate rebels who tell the emperor he has no clothes."* Every leader should literally beg his/her team members to critique their performance. Why would you not want a steady stream of feedback? Drop your ego and ask people to tell you the truth.

10. "Optimism is a force multiplier." Enthusiasm creates more enthusiasm, and your organization starting buzzing with a can-do attitude. Never underestimate the power of raw optimism.

Colin Powell is now 83 and a lot of people think he would have made a great president. He definitely has given us words to think about.

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

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