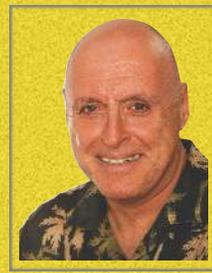


# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 628 More on Mediocrity: Procrastination

Today, we revisit the subject of mediocrity. Is there another viewpoint to consider? I'm Jerry Roberts and "average" jumps into the spotlight again, next on The Extra Point.

You may recall, in the recent past of The Extra Point, we spent a few days talking about mediocrity, another word for average. We're going to tie the conversation to the workplace in a moment, but for now let us agree — we all are in the mediocre boat for the several things in our lives that we don't do particularly well.

It's nothing to be ashamed of. Courtesy of an author named James Altucher, we'll now take a different look at the topic.

I'm mediocre at some things, and I'm not even that good at a few. General handyman stuff. Not good. I'm better than I used to be, but I'd rather pay someone to do a job in a half-hour that would take me all day and still might not be done right — and then I'd wind up having to call somebody anyway. Been there, done that.

Then there's gardening. My reputation precedes me in this area. Nobody will even sell me seeds anymore. "Look, it's the nature killer, hide everything, lock the doors." I just can't grow stuff. I've tried. Everything died.

I've had successes in life and business and failures, too. I've set goals and didn't get there. I've been close to the finish line and then watched years of effort get washed away in a storm of unexpected circumstances. It happens. I learned lessons the hard way, and I'm not alone.

Maybe you understand on a very personal level what I'm talking about. You may know that the only answer is to keep moving forward, and to be grateful for what we have. I think God rewards that.

One of the qualities we seem to have in common — speaking of us mediocre folks — is that we often procrastinate. Is that always bad?

According to Altucher, "Procrastination is your body telling you need to back off a bit and think more about what you are doing." Maybe.

If we hit a point in our work, whether we work for ourselves or someone else, sometimes we get to a place where we're not sure of the next move, or the data we're getting isn't clear. Or the next step requires a skill set that we don't have, and we'd be better off delegating the task to somebody else. You see, procrastination isn't always about being lazy or disconnected.

Entrepreneurs often make the mistake of trying to do almost everything, and stretch themselves too thin. It could be that money is tight, and they feel they can't afford to outsource a job. Or, doing it on their own would save time. I've said it on numerous occasions, you can't work *on* your business and grow it, if you're always working *in* your business.

Procrastination could also tell us we're tired and need a break. Or maybe we've lost confidence. Altucher says that procrastination may also mean we've got an unfortunate perfection complex, and back away when we see that a project is unlikely to meet our expectations.

Procrastination is complicated and I could continue, but I think we'll do it tomorrow... with part two of our revisit to mediocrity.

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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