



Paul W. Powell

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GEORGE W. TRUETT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

A WORD FROM TRUETT

There are a lot of people in our churches today who have the attitude that they have arrived, when in reality, they are stopping traffic in the middle of the road.

Our attitude needs to be: "I have not arrived. I am not what I ought to be." Our prayer ought to be, "Help me to grow, help me to mature, keep challenging me with circumstances of life that make me better and more like you."

Several years ago, *Forbes* magazine carried an article by David Glass who was at that time a symbol of Wal-Mart. They asked him who he most admired in life, and he mentioned without hesitation, Sam Walton. He said, "I have never known a day in the life of Sam Walton to go by that he did not improve in some way." That's the way we ought to be as Christians. Always improving.

When Apple was a fledging computer company, Steven Jobs, the chairman, flew to New York City to meet with John Sculley, then president and chief executive office of Pepsi. Jobs wanted Sculley to move to California to head up Apple Computer. They would come to an agreement, and then Sculley would back out. As this went on and on, it became more and more frustrating.

Finally, Sculley called Jobs and said, "I've got a final proposition. Let's bring this thing to a close. I want a million dollars bonus, and a million dollars severance, and I want all that just to stay here in New York City and be a consultant." Jobs responded by saying something that Sculley said changed his life: "Sculley, I want to ask you something. Do you want to spend your life selling sugared water, or do you want to change the world?" Sculley said the question changed his perspective on life.

There's nothing wrong with selling sugared water if that's what you are supposed to do, but there is more to be done. There are more hills to be climbed, more kingdoms to be conquered. Can we change the world? You bet we can, and that is Christ's calling to us.

QUOTES

- "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort but where he stands at times of challenge and discovery." Martin Luther King, Jr.
- "The Lord didn't create anything without a purpose but mosquitoes come close." Anonymous.

A SERMON

Title	Magnetism and the Cross
Text	John 12:31-33
Author	Paul Powell
Introduction	There is a magnetism about the cross that cannot be explained apart from God. What gives the cross its appeal?
I	The cross has the magnetism of Love. There we see God's love in its purest and surest expression.
II	The cross has the magnetism of Forgiveness. This is one of life's greatest needs we all have. In Him there is cleansing and pardon.
III	The cross has the magnetism of Victory. The cross makes the defeat of Satan and the victory of God for time eternity.
Conclusion	Kara was 13-years-old when I buried her after a long and painful battle with cancer. On the fly leaf of her Bible she had written, "The way of the Cross may not be easy but it is the way home."

LEADERSHIP

Everybody faces times of discouragement. To be a good leader we must fight pessimism in ourselves and in those we lead. Joseph Sufferman reminds us, "The genius of success is seeing opportunity in every situation. Each problem has hidden in it an opportunity so powerful it literally dwarfs the problem. The greatest success stories were created by people who recognized a problem and turned it into an opportunity."

During the Augusta National Golf Club president's traditional interview of the Masters Tournament winner, a comment was made about this being one of the greatest days of Bernard Langer's life. While Langer admitted winning the Masters was important, what was really special to him was "winning it on the anniversary of the resurrection of my Lord." It reminds me of the comment of Tom Landry, the legendary Dallas Cowboys coach, made when he was asked how he was able to remain so calm on the field no matter what happened: "It's easy because I have my priorities in order. First comes my Lord, second comes my wife, then come my kids, and finally my job. If I lose on Sunday, I have a lot leftover."

Wise leaders have to keep both successes and failures in perspective.

ILLUSTRATION

We live in an impersonal world. In *Death of A Salesman*, son Biff dispels any idea that the Loman Family is special and declares, "Pop, I'm a dime a dozen and so are you!" An angry dad Willie retorts, "I'm not a dime a dozen. I'm Willie Loman, and you are Biff Loman!" (*The World is Flat* by Thomas Freedman)

FOR PASTORS

In case you missed it, a must-read for pastors by Dr. Oz (*Reader's Digest* May 2007, p. 65):

Here are the seven basic tactics I've developed for staying healthy, happy and close to my family – no matter how busy my life gets:

- 1 Learn something new or undertake a challenge every day. You want to kick back at night and know the day made a difference.
- 2 Fight stress by deep breathing. As you breathe in, push out your bellybutton so your lungs can fully expand. As you exhale, pull your bellybutton toward your spine.
- 3 Keep nuts by your side so you're never foraging for junk. I love hazelnuts, almonds and walnuts.
- 4 Never miss a chance to put the kids to bed. As they wind down, I hear their true voices. My bedtime stories craft mythical experiences that uphold our family's values and send them dreaming of a better world.
- 5 A busy surgeon needs sleep. I try to get to bed by 11 p.m. and wake up just before 6 a.m.
- 6 Super-short yoga at dawn loosens my back and energizes my spine. I love to do the sun salutation followed by the triangle pose.
- 7 Invent family games. We play ball tag: I kick a ball at the kids who must freeze if hit until another child tags them. If I can freeze all of them before they rescue one another, I win a kiss. The game forces them to strategize and builds team spirit.

REMEMBER

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