



He Is Risen. Hallelujah, Hallelujah

FOR THE TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADER: FAILING IS A PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

BY HUGH BALLOU

Failure is only the opportunity to begin again more intelligently.

~Henry Ford

In looking at expensive rings with various brilliant gems that sparkle in the light; one cannot look away. They sparkle because they are highly polished and engraved for excellence. Rocks cannot be polished without friction. I remembered that there were times in my life with friction. At the time, I did not appreciate the value of that friction to the ultimate value it created for me in my leadership skills.

People would say encouraging things to me to help me deal with the disappointment and to help me get refocused.

At the stress, I could not fully embrace those helpful comments. After that, the pressure is gone, and I am in a better place emotionally; it's easier to understand that I have grown in my skills. The experience is valuable looking in the rearview mirror.

For the Transformational Leader, the value of evaluation can be powerful in developing leadership skills. It is leadership skills training in real-time. Perspective provides the wisdom that we otherwise would not have. Failure is a welcome experience from the proper perspective.

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Guest Contributor

The Gift of the Blue Ribbon

by Lynn Sanders

Who I Am Makes A Difference®
www.blueribbons.org

Imagine you've got a magical blue ribbon in your hand. Its gold letters proclaim, "Who I Am Makes A Difference." You've learned how to honor people with this ribbon, cheering them on for their dreams. You speak from your heart, taking a minute to let others know why they make a difference to you.

The blue ribbon carries the gift of uniting people through the power of love. As a Global Blue Ribbon Ambassador, I've frequently used this blue ribbon to acknowledge people. It has the power to connect us deeply to one another in a minute or less.

Why is it so powerful?

Few people get honored for simply being who they are. We are so busy living in the bubble of our daily life that we don't step outside. We rarely appreciate others for doing their daily work. Few people stop and even look us in the eye, much less acknowledge our worth. Most of us never get a ribbon for ANYTHING in life!

When you reach out and honor someone, magical things happen. People cry, smile and laugh. I've heard, **"You made my day!"** **"No one has ever done that before."** **"You're giving me goosebumps."**

Blue Ribbons Worldwide has compiled research about the impact of the blue ribbon, and the results are life-changing.

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On the Lighter Side

Q: WHAT DO YOU CALL PIGS THAT KNOW KARATE?

A. Pork Chops

Q. WHEN A GENERAL IS PLANNING A WAR WHERE DOES HE PLACE HIS ARMIES?

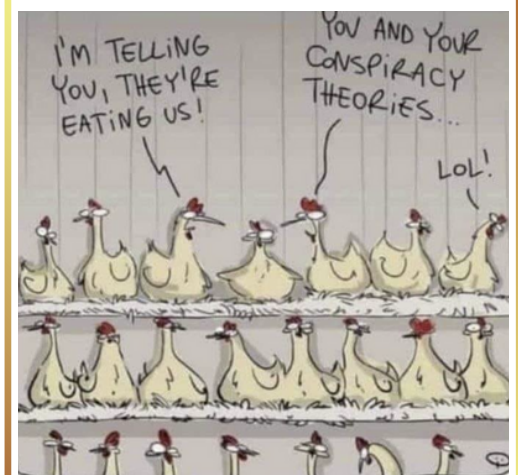
A: In his sleeves!

Q. WHY IS THE EASTER BUNNY SO LUCKY?

A. Because he has four Rabbit's Feet!

Q. WHAT DO YOU CALL AN EASTER BUNNY ON THE MONDAY FOLLOWING?

A. Eggs-hausted!



If, on looking inward, a man finds nothing at all,
that may only prove the accuracy
of his introspection;
for no man need expect to find the eternal in himself
if he is lost in the ephemeral and particular.

Will Durant

Visual Story of Civilization

Failing is the Pathway to Success

Henry Ford also said, "Obstacles are things you see when you take your eyes off your goals." The wisdom here is that having specific goals is vital for success. Your goals may be bold. That's good. It's better to have high ideals and fail than have mediocre goals and succeed. Aggressive goals stretch skills and empower personal growth. Skilled leaders can share stories of how those skills were strengthened over time. Usually, the journey to excellence is punctuated with challenges.

Welcome challenges as teachers. Embrace the teaching moments and look for the value those leadership teaching moments bring you. You and only you are in charge of your attitude. You will not grow without trials. Learn to discipline your disappointment. Keeping a positive mental attitude is one of the definitions of true wealth as listed by Napoleon Hill in his book Think and Grow Rich. The text is full of examples of great leaders who overcame what some would classify as insurmountable obstacles.

You are in charge of yourself. What attitude will you choose today?



Supercharge Your Success
Join the Community
<http://NonprofitCommunity.org>

- Learn
- Collaborate
- Network

We achieve more together



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Missed Any Episodes?

[HOW TO USE CHILDREN'S BOOKS TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR CHARITABLE CAUSES](#)

[HOW W-2 EMPLOYEES "DO WELL BY DOING GOOD"](#)

[HOW YOUR UNIQUE PERSONALITY DRIVES SUCCESS AND CREATES CONFLICT](#)

[FROM DATA AND TECHNOLOGY TO MISSION IMPACT](#)

The Nonprofit Exchange
<http://TheNonprofitExchange.org>

Leadership Tools & Strategies



Your words shine a light on their soul, and they feel valued. The Bible reminds us, “As you give, you shall receive.” That’s the spiritual gift behind the blue ribbon. The words “Who I Am Makes A Difference” carry loving energy that flows out and comes back to you. The loving connection envelopes both you and the recipient. It’s a heavenly experience. Honoring others gets habit-forming. I get a natural “high” using my ribbons to notice the good in others. Just as people need physical love, they silently cry out for spiritual love. We all need to hear the words on that ribbon. I feel gratified to see how a ribbon can make such an impact. Over this past year, I’ve honored close to 900 people. From my rabbi to the grocery clerk, teachers, students, waiters, good friends, business colleagues, relatives... there is no limit.



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THEM'S FIGHTIN' WORDS!

By Shannon Parish

Whenever you notice resistance to your exciting new idea, project, or mission, pay attention to the feedback you are getting. The art of listening well is not just about understanding what a person is saying; it is identifying their belief systems.

OPPOSING WORDS

Years ago, I had a groundbreaking revelation about belief systems. As a recently retired pastor's wife, I was attending an entrepreneurial event where I enjoyed fascinating conversations with people who thought very differently from me.

Much to my surprise, I learned more about my faith through people who thought very differently than myself and had very different beliefs. In addition, the culture in this particular organization was warm and welcoming, and I quickly embraced the lively and supportive conversations I could access there.

Once home, I found a very different response from a good friend when I attempted to have a conversation about what I'd learned.

When I made the mistake of beginning with, "This is what I learned from them (name of the group's belief system) that I wasn't receiving in our group (belief system)."



immediately she took offense at my comment, and what I wanted to share with her became hijacked with concerns over my becoming deceived or judging "our group" too harshly.

I never got to share the revelation I learned because I made the unfortunate mistake of naming two opposing belief systems in the same sentence.

Them's fightin' words!

It was vital for me to share what I had learned because I knew from previous conversations with her that she'd be excited and run with this information. But once I named the two opposing names, she was stuck at that wall and framed anything else I said from that point forward through the mindset of having to defend our faith.

As I noticed my wording and how it positioned me, I started noticing how similar conversations and messages went awry in the same manner.

OPPOSITION is the result when two opposing forces are identified to clarify an idea or event.

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I was gonna procrastinate, but I put it off



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This is really just a goofy way of saying, ***"don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today."***

If you are like most Americans, you don't look forward to taking on the tasks that must be done now. It's such a busy world it's quite easy to procrastinate. I'm the master at putting things off "until there's more time."

Therein lies the problem. Bare minimum when it suits you will never get you to your goal. And, more time will never manifest.

"You will never reach your destination if you stop and throw stones at every dog that barks."

- Winston Churchill

It's akin to multi-tasking, and most of us simply aren't any good at doing more than one thing at a time and doing it well.

To achieve the dreams you set for yourself when you started your business endeavor, you must have discipline and push yourself through the tough stuff and do what you'd rather not do, or what seems like too big a task at the moment.

It's true; Rome wasn't built in a day. But, someone worked every single day all day long every day (many someone's) until the task was completed.

It's the same with every task that comes before us. If you need to mow the lawn, then just get it done. You'll experience a sense of accomplishment at the end of your wining at every step across the lawn.

If that project at work continues to plague your conscience, by all means, buckle down, put your nose to the grind-stone and get it done.

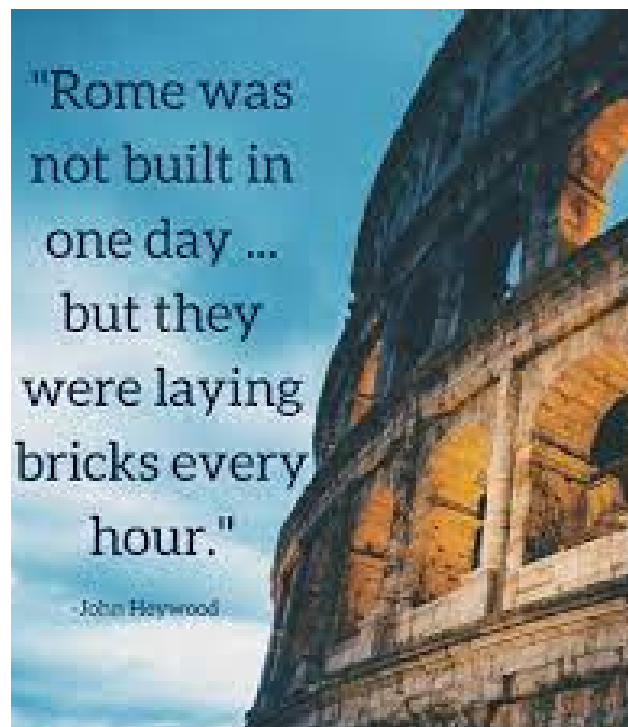
The boss (even if YOU'RE the boss) will never accept a lame excuse like ***"I moved over the weekend and cannot find my way to work-*** or something just as nonsensical.

Shiny Object Syndrome

You know what it is; getting distracted by the latest gizmo to make your life easier. Work harder, work better, yatta, yatta, yatta. Ooh, check out my knew whatsama-jigger. Ain't it cool?

No, it isn't cool unless it really does what it is purported to accomplish (and that is seldom the case).

So, forget all the excuses, buckle down, and just finish all you start. And start all you intend.





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Them's Fightin' Words

The names can be of individuals “Jill versus Jack,” “Right versus Left,” “Men versus Women,” etc. Anytime I used opposing words or unfamiliar words to address an unrelated idea or concept, it became fightin’ words.

Instead, highlighting the problem paves the way for presenting your solution or idea.

It is getting on the same page as quickly as possible with those we wish to help or serve. Gaining trust is a non-negotiable when presenting a solution that will require an open mind to receive it. Opposition is the last thing that opens ears or minds as the opposite happens.

EXAMPLE: Instead of saying, “Women get tired of trying to communicate with men when ...” Reframe the thought with something both sides can relate to, such as, “When communication fails because of ...” By repositioning the initial view, the listener is not taking sides but will relate to needing a solution for the problem which your idea or project solves.

Not understanding your words

A child understands on a certain level, and when we speak to that child, we most often will speak at a level this child will understand. The same is true with adults. But we don’t often recognize that because we are busy assuming that just because we know something, others will too.

A few years ago, eating “healthy” was considered a fad or something that only hippies do. So it was laughable when someone would say, “I don’t eat healthy because I’m allergic to that kind of food.”

Not only was that an illogical statement it also revealed a belief system and a bias. The belief was that healthy food tasted weird, and only hippies ate it.

As our knowledge of science and health advanced, I’ve encountered many people who are highly offended when I use certain words such as “frequency,” “vibration,” or even “Jesus.”

Depending on their belief systems and experiences, I will get one of three responses from them.

1. They resonate and immediately connect with my use of these words.
2. They immediately see these words as opposed to their beliefs and have a bias.
3. They are open-minded enough to be curious and may say, “Tell me more.”

When you see a negative response to your message or project, consider these two frameworks within your communication.

Know who you are speaking to and speak the language they are the most familiar with so that they can join you in your mission and vision.

Not everybody is your mission or will support you in your vision. Speaking clearly and listening deeply to what is said will help you find clarity, effectiveness, and joy in your efforts.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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focuses on helping heart-centered individuals to recover from hidden trauma. Visit her websites at <http://ShannonParish.com> or <http://LivingStonesCenter.org>. Email her at Shannon@ShannonParish.com

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

- Mahatma Gandhi

Hugh's Favorite Recipes: *Awesome Bleu Cheese Dressing*

RECIPE

Servings: 2

Prep Time: 10 Minutes

Total Time: 40 Minutes to a Day

INGREDIENTS

- 2 ½ Oz. Maytag Bleu Cheese
- 3 Tbs. Buttermilk
- 3 Tbs. Sour Cream
- 2 Tbs. Mayonnaise or Yoghurt
- 2 Tsp. White Rice Vinegar
- ½ Tsp. Sugar
- 1/8 Tsp. Garlic Powder
- Freshly Ground Salt & Pepper to taste
- 1 Glass Dry White Wine of Choice



DIRECTIONS

1. Pour yourself a glass of dry white wine to drink while preparing
2. Place the Maytag Bleu Cheese in a bowl with Buttermilk and mash with a fork
3. **Note:** There are NO substitutes for Maytag Bleu Cheese – it's key to the flavor
4. You can however substitute yogurt for mayonnaise for health reasons
5. Mash the cheese and buttermilk until it resembles large curd cottage cheese
6. Add the remaining ingredients and stir with the fork
7. Taste the mixture to see if you need to add sugar or salt and pepper
8. Place the dressing into the refrigerator for 30-minutes to a day for better flavor
9. Take the dressing out of the refrigerator with enough time to reach room temp.
10. Enjoy on a salad or pair with celery to enjoy buffalo wings
11. Save some pieces of cheese to add to your salad

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