

Fourth Quarter Strategies – Saturday, May 7, 2016

The name John Wooden is synonymous with success. With ten NCAA Men's Basketball championships to his credit, one can easily see why his "Pyramid of Success" became a foundational teaching tool in sports and business. If we were to look at the tenets that make up his pyramid we'd see each of the building blocks working to complement each other in team building. The man is a legend and certainly a worthy person of get to know better. One of my favorite devotional books was written by Jay Carty and John Wooden in 2003. COACH WOODEN ONE-ON-ONE, has become more than a devotional resource for me over the years. It's become a wonderful reflection of this man whom I did not know, yet I feel that I've come to know him intimately by reviewing the conversations of Jay and Coach. And, our wonderful Father in Heaven is seen in each of the sixty topics presented in the book. Success is an elusive topic and what it really represents means something different to each of us. Let's take a hard look at success.

"Success is peace of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming." Those are the words of Coach Wooden. And since he's had more than his share of success, I believe we'll just settle on Coach's words for this discussion. What we won't find in Coach's quote is any mention of winning, gaining wealth or fame, attaining honors, or finishing with more wins than losses. He also places no time frame on achieving success. I believe Coach Wooden considered success to be a lifelong process. I'll have to ask him that question when I meet him in Heaven.

One of my favorite people in scripture is King David. Certainly David was not perfect but he was a man after God's own heart (See Paul's account in Acts 13:22 - NIV). King David then instructs his son King Solomon in the building of the temple in 1 Chronicles 22:13, "Then you will have success if you are careful to observe the decrees and laws that the Lord gave Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged." Perhaps what we are really seeking is the peace of mind that Coach talks about so lucidly. Inner peace is attainable and I gladly share that it's available to everyone, if we will only get out of the way and allow God to guide us in the life that lies ahead.

In dissecting Coach Wooden's and Jay Carty's devotional, I see that peace displayed again and again in the lives of both men. Perhaps this gained peace is the success that we all should strive to attain. It has nothing to do with wealth or status or anything tangible. It's that intangible factor that allows us to know that we are pleasing to our God and that He will one day tell us. "Welcome home my good and faithful servant!" If you are having trouble relating to this idea, I suggest you confront successful friends who seem to be content with their lives even though they may be facing obvious adversity. Hopefully they'll be able to share the Truth that can lead you to true success as well.

Here to serve,

Jim Langley, CLU

Passages to Ponder: Genesis 39:23; 1 Samuel 18:14; 1 Chronicles 22:11-13; Ecclesiastes 10:10; Joshua 1:6-9

© 2015, all rights reserved. Note: Jim Langley has been an agent with New York Life since 1983 and an active member of CBMC of Santa Barbara since 1987. These "Fourth Quarter Strategies" discussions are designed to "light a fire" under Christian business and professional men so we might be more effective in the marketplace for the sake of Christ, our Lord and Savior! Please visit our website @ <http://www.fourthquarterstrategies.com>.

Passages to Ponder: Genesis 39:23; 1 Samuel 18:14; 1 Chronicles 22:11-13; Ecclesiastes 10:10; Joshua 1:6-9

Genesis 39:23 New International Version (NIV)

²³The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

1 Samuel 18:14 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁴In everything he did he had great success, because the LORD was with him.

1 Chronicles 22:11-13 New International Version (NIV)

¹¹"Now, my son, the LORD be with you, and may you have success and build the house of the LORD your God, as he said you would. ¹²May the LORD give you discretion and understanding when he puts you in command over Israel, so that you may keep the law of the LORD your God. ¹³Then you will have success if you are careful to observe the decrees and laws that the LORD gave Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged.

Ecclesiastes 10:10 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰If the ax is dull
and its edge unsharpened,
more strength is needed,
but skill will bring success.

Joshua 1:6-9 New International Version (NIV)

⁶Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

⁷"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. ⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."