

Our New Year's Message: 2020

Lucky 2020

During forty-one years of consulting work, I have seen and experienced really good and truly tough things, both personally and professionally. Scar tissue notwithstanding, I have learned that any and all success is achieved through managing and growing yourself, always pushing back on the naysayers and knuckleballs of life. "Nothing personal," life says, from the lottery-like wins to the physical challenges of what may be termed "advanced maturity." Success has always boiled down to how you respond to the barriers, versus the issues themselves. Luck is generated by staying in the game, managing your reactions and creating circumstances that drive success.

In our complex world, success comes from focusing upon what is right, good and healthy, versus the negatives that blare at us from countless media sources. These downbeat messages are favored by the media because, in the "man bites dog" logic of their trade, negativity sells better than positivity. However, successful people do just the opposite: They know, honor and act upon their tremendous strengths. They focus upon growth opportunities for themselves and others.

To thrive and confound the purveyors of doom, we need to tote up our personal and professional skills and accomplishments. This includes knowing and respecting our strengths, while adding to them as serious serial learners and doers. Not only does this act as a counterforce to the negativity, but it is a more accurate way of defining our gifts and talents. It begins with asking yourself the following questions:

1. What are the things that I do best and which give me joy?
2. Given the above, what are my near-term aspirations? What do I need to do to achieve these goals?
3. What does the above say about my longer-term prospects and ability to grow? Do I need to revalue myself and my talents upward?
4. As part of this reevaluation, what am I going to do to help others grow?
5. If not today, then when will I take the healthy and productive actions needed to achieve these goals?

My wish for you is to focus upon your talents and accomplishments. This will enable you to act on your goals, helping yourself and others to grow, generate your own luck and achieve even greater success in Lucky 2020. Cheers!

George E. Gercken