

Creating Synergy

between the Nonprofit, Faith & Business Communities

The Collaborator

... from the desk of John C Johnson III

ACCELERATE YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1 Peter 5:1-5 (ESV) Mentorship and Descipleship

¹So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, [a] not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; [b] not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (Emphasis Added)

The skill set necessary to develop a funding and retirement initiative for some people comes quickly. For the vast majority of us, however, these skills take time to develop. There are usually no shortcuts, and no easy ways to train for the success this program will bring to those who master the discipline.

Most People Quit Much Too Soon Don't Be One of Them

Victories usually don't come all at once. Ultimate success in any endeavor generally arrives after a compilation of a series of much smaller periodic achievements over time, usually combined with a series of intermittent and untimely life-challenges. Most people, however, give-up long before reaching their success points. This, more than any other factor, is what seperates long-term achievers from the less fortunate.

The problem is that we live in a society where immediate gratification is expected, and where under-capitalization (people trying to acquire material gain quickly, rather than building-up to their desired status, combined with woefully unrealistic expectations) runs rampant.

Effort and Discipline Two Key Ingredients

Achieving success in any endeavor is really very simple, though not necessarily easy. Although the tasks involved may be simple, it usually takes enormous effort and discipline to carry them out consistently. It also takes time, but the time factor can be accelerated with the proper discipline and effort. Mentorship and Discipleship, when available, can further augment your success rate, but you must engage in the process. In fact, the extent to which you engage your mentors will ultimately prove to be the same extent to which you succeed.

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Malcolm Gladwell, author of "Outliers" and a host of additional books, argues that a minimum of 10,000 hours (roughly 5 years of full-time work) is necessary for the development of real expertise in most endeavors. Why not learn from those who've already put in the time and advance from their accomplishments.

Mentorship and Discipleship Can Shave Years Off Your Developmental Process

I am at a very strange point right now in my developmental process. I am frustrated beyond belief because my own progress seems to be taking much longer than I expected, and my family's needs are at an all-time high. Moreover, some of the people I've tried to work with and help with the program, seem to have turned out to be more self-serving, impatient and generally uncoachable than anything. They will not engage with or follow the very systems that have been designed and put into place to help facilitate and accelerate their progress and professional development. This makes no sense to me.

Despite my frustrations, however, I also realize that I have grown tremendously in my spititual, personal and professional maturity. Because of my trials, I have become far more patient, faith-filled, understanding, positive, and full of hope for the future than I have ever been. The trials are producing the fruits of the spirit in me that are contemplated in <u>Galatians 5: 22-23</u>. They will do the same for all of us.

I believe most people, around 90%, perhaps even more, would have "thrown-in the towel" long before reaching the point where I am now. Several things keep me moving forward however: (1) I've been down this proverbial road before, in sports, academics, in my personal life and in my career endeavors; (2) I believe we have the best team mentors on the planet with Team Liquid 24 (their experiences have prepared them to shepherd us through the toughest of challenges in developing this initiative); (3) I am thoroughly convinced that One24 is a divinely inspired and divinely supported initiative (there is much more going on within the program than financial gain, there is also enormous spiritual, personal, and organizational growth taking place for many of us all across the country); and (4) I believe, based on faith, as well as past experiences, this initiative will succeed beyond our greatest expectations if we do not give up.

Always feel welcome to contact me directly with any questions, comments, or great ideas!

Jack Johnson

7he Advocacy Foundation, Inc Managing Partner



"Walk by Faith/ Serve with Abandon/ Expect to WIN!"

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To Teach Individuals and Organizations to Work Synergistically, Rather Than Competitively, In Order To Create and Pursue High-Yielding Fundraising Alternatives;

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