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The Gladiator Mentality

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Joshua 1:6-8 (NASB)

⁶Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. ⁸This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

Isaiah 42:1-7 (NASB)

¹"Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one *in whom* My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. ²"He will not cry out or raise *His voice*, Nor make His voice heard in the street. ³"A bruised reed He will not break And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴"He will not be disheartened or crushed until He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law."

Business By The Bible

While discussing Fundraising and other Strategic Goals with a client recently, it occurred to me that, due in large part to the many and varied blessings I've enjoyed over the years since I was a teenager, and also having been shaped and molded by what I consider a fair amount of life struggles, I have a somewhat unique (prayfully sanctified) perspective on many aspects of professional, as well as personal, growth and development. I really don't think *anything*, other than we ourselves perhaps, can stop us from accomplishing our destinies.

That attitude, though, has gotten me into some pretty deep waters with family, colleagues and friends. Many times it is extremely uncertain *how* we will overcome various trials, but nevertheless, in order to persevere, we have to put on, and keep putting on, the "Whole Armor". (Eph. 6: 10-18) Spiritual warfare is very real, and to go out into it unprepared is to insure one defeat after another. Conversely, equipping ourselves with the "Whole Armor" insures we will overcome *any* adversity and ultimately achieve.

We Are Meant To Be [More Than] Conquerors

So what's the difference between winning and losing, between success and failure? And what if you've never experienced progressively greater and greater victories, can you really believe it's out there for you? What's in your heart, what's in your spirit; what do you really believe? Is success an outward manifestation of what's on the inside of you, or do you believe that your success depends on circumstances, many of which are beyond your ability to navigate or control.

Are you determined to "*find ways to win*", even in the face of seemingly certain defeat? And how spiritually immovable are you really? What's the status of your foundation with the creator? Does your faith need work? Do you need more faith?

The Perspective of a Champion

We Really Can Do All Things

As long as we press-on, all-the-while putting Him first, we *will* win in all our endeavors, no matter the odds against us. Not everyone, however, seems to realize that "we [really] can do all things ..." (Phil. 4:13). How, sometimes I wonder, do we help people to see themselves for the potentially powerful and honorable people they really are, like the way He sees each and every one of us. How do we reverse centuries of self-limiting psychological programming? Can it even be accomplished in my lifetime?

The truth is, I am certain that it *can* be accomplished, and that it can be done quickly and effectively; and that it will spread like wildfire once we reach the "Tipping Point".

Go After It and Go All Out!

Don't wait for someone else to lead you, Take the lead! Plan out and continually study your objective(s), get serious about finding ways to accomplish your goals, and then *execute!* Do your part, call on your collaborative T.E.A.M. members to help, but don't wait for anyone to call on you. Go for it, whatever your goal(s), and go for it in a big way!

Stick To The Fight When You're Hardest Hit

It's When Things Seem Worse That You Must Not Quit

While I do not believe that our ultimate success is completely up to us, I do think we are the number two partner involved in achieving it, and that we ought, inasmuch as it depends on us, to position ourselves for maximum effectiveness in whatever our endeavors. That means hard work. And we *must* be brave and deliberate about it, taking risks and wasting no time. An excerpt from "Don't Quit"

"When things go wrong, as they sometimes will; When the road you're trudging seems *all* uphill; When the funds are low, and the debts are high; And you want to smile, but you have to sigh; When care is pressing you down a bit; Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns; As everyone of us sometimes learns; And many a failure turns about; When he might have won had he stuck it out; Don't give up though the pace seems slow; You may succeed with another blow.

Success is failure turned inside-out; The silver tint of the clouds of doubt; And you never can tell how close you are; It may be near when it seems so far; So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit: It's when things seem worse that you must not quit!

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

Jack Johnson

The Advocacy Foundation, Inc
Principal Advisor

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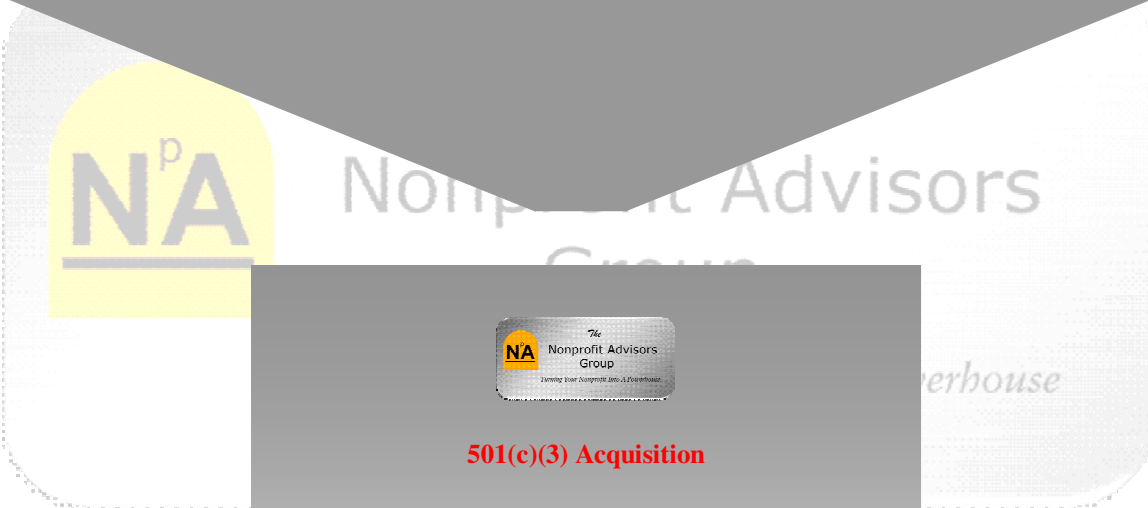
The Nonprofit Advisors Group

PO Box 143704, Fayetteville, GA 30214

John C (Jack) Johnson III

The Advocacy Foundation, Inc.
Principal Advisor





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