

Your Talent and Your Attitude Will Take You to Great Heights

By John Madden

TALENT is the foundation of your achievements. We all have talents, and for the most part your talents are unique to you. No one can remove your talents, but if you don't use a talent, it becomes worthless as if it were removed. The same is true with your muscles, if you don't exercise them.

Some of us were born with a talent for music, others for fixing or assembling things with our mechanical leaning, others for remembering people names and minute details on many subjects, others for mathematical prowess, and yet others for entertaining other people through art, humor, or theatre.

Have you ever heard the expression, "He is so talented, but he won't even try", or "She is so wasted in that job with her great talents." So, don't blame a lack of talent for not being successful. Your talent is alive within you, and it's yours to do what you will with it.

Ask now, "Am I using the talents I have to the full?" "Am I using a major talent regularly – or just on rare occasions?" I, the author of this article, never really used one of my given talents to the full until I was fifty-four years old. That is why this job I do now as a professional speaker and trainer is without doubt the most enjoyable job I've ever had. What does that tell you? Well, simply that it's never too late to start doing what you love – using your untapped talent. Look at some of your former work colleagues who lost

a job from a lifetime career, only to be pushed headlong into something they put off doing for years because they were afraid it wouldn't work. We can afford to – and should - take risks when it's about taking advantage of a talent we were born with.

ATTITUDE is about how we choose to think - our way of looking at life and all it's challenges. Many consider it as seeing the glass half-full or half-empty. In America we say a person "has an attitude", if we consider them to be negative. All of us "have an attitude" from time to time, but for the most part we manage to hide it.

The great news about our attitude is that we can control it. There are times to be angry, disappointed, frustrated, or fed up with certain things in our business or in our life in general. But our attitude will determine if we are controlled by those events, or if we are in control. Attitude determines if you *respond* or *react* to life; it is a measure of whether you accept that which you cannot change and whether you change that which you can, instead of continually complaining and whining about the status quo. The doctor gave you some medicine, and when you returned a few days later, worried about the side effects of the medicine, the doctor said, "You have reacted to the medicine." Whereas if all was well, the doctor said, "You have responded to the medicine."

Successful people have an attitude of success; an anticipation of things going well despite the obstacles, a sense of excitement when embarking on a new venture or project that may have risk attached. All this because they are focused on the end result, the final goal, a vision of the difference this project will make in the lives of others and in their own lives. That's what drives them. Watch them and learn.

If you want to have a great attitude – and to be known for that, get involved in something that drives you, something that brings out the passion in you.

You'll find the secret in your *talents!*

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