



*David's Monthly
Inspirational Article*

The Game Of Life

In baseball the objective of the game is to hit the ball, run all the bases, and make it to home plate in order to score a run. The team with the most runs wins. A game consists of 9 innings, three batters per team per inning, and three swings per batter to accomplish the ultimate hit: a home run. The game is composed of your team, the opposing team, and an umpire who officiates and calls the outs.

For argument sake, imagine that your opponent is life, but the major difference in this game is: you are also the umpire. You are not just a batter, but you are the person who calls the outs too! That means, you can swing as many times as needed until you hit your home run! To die-hard baseball fans this might sound silly, but for personal development sake, it's **TOTALLY TRUE!** This is truly how the game of life is played, and the only way to call yourself out is to quit or give up!

All we have to do in order to win in life is to keep swinging, keep trying, keep pushing, keep believing, and keep learning. You obviously need to learn from each attempt, and stay focused on the goal and the process, but you can hit that home run and win IF you keep swinging.

“Many of life’s failures are men who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.” Thomas Edison (American Inventor 1847-1931)

Personal example: I am not where I want to be as a professional speaker and author. 2010 was an extremely hard year for me, and life was striking me out. I have felt like a hypocrite because I have not always been able to practice what I preach. I have allowed doubt and fear to dominate my mind and short-circuit my success and performance. I felt ashamed and unqualified to write the *Catalyst* or give anyone advice about anything. However...

My content and presentations are solid...world class even. That's not my ego talking, that statement is based on testimonials from participants of dozens of workshops I've produced around the country, and a comparison of my content against the top paid personal development professionals in my industry. My issues have been:

- poor discipline
- poor public relations, sales, and marketing
- poor execution

- poor consistency
- weak belief

So the lesson for me is not to doubt myself, but to identify where I need to get better, and get to work getting better! To regroup, reorganize, and keep swinging. The game is not over until I say it is, and I'm not quitting! What about you?

What resolutions did you set last year that you did not realize? What goal did you set that you did not achieve? Are you going to quit swinging? Are you going to quit playing the game of life?

Ask yourself: Today (even though I might not have achieved my goal yet) am I better or worse for making the attempt to improve my performance and achieve at a higher level? Did I get better as a person? Did I grow? Did I learn? Am I better prepared for the next attempt? In the game of life you must develop the courage and discipline to simply keep swinging...even when it seems like nothing is happening and you feel like you are wasting your time.

Always keep in mind the **Winning Edge Principle**: *“small changes in your effort, can equate to a huge difference in your results.”* Water can cut through stone, not by massive overwhelming force alone, but by consistent focused drops over time.

As a student athlete in college, in preparation to play a highly ranked team, my coach would say: *“It's gut check time!”* Do you have the intestinal fortitude to go out on the court and compete even when you feel that the odds are stacked against you? The good thing in my case, and yours, and the reason we can still be excited is: the opportunity to win is just as prominent today as it was last year or yesterday, it might not be the same opportunity, but as long as you were blessed to wake up this morning and have life, there is a new chance to win at the game of life.

Thank you for your readership and your patience.

To Your Success,
David

I'd like to know what you think. Please email me at dls@davidlarricksmith.com and tell me your thoughts about The Catalyst™ and this month's subject.

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book David for your next event, contact Michele I. Stoute, Business Manager: 214-315-7871, e-mail: miss@davidlarricksmith.com, or visit www.DavidLarrickSmith.com.

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