



Utilize your gifts

Bởi:

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“In truth, everyone faces hardship and rejection and loss in their lives, even those who may appear to be blessed. There is another truth here: we are all blessed in some way. In a very real sense, all of us have a certain magic, a gift, a talent, or an ability that if developed and put to its highest use can help us overcome setbacks, defeats, and difficulties.”

Stedman Graham: *You Can Make It Happen*

Another personal story: for almost the entire 27 years that I was bound and determined to become the CEO of a big teaching hospital, I always had a side project that – though I never would have publicly admitted to the fact – I was more passionate about than I was my day job. In fact, looking back on it, I can see how these outside passions reflected a deep inner struggle between soul and ego. My ego desperately wanted to be a big shot CEO; my soul wanted to have work in which I felt as though I was making a bigger difference in the world, and also could have substantial control over how I chose to use my time.

These side ventures always shared several things in common: they were non-traditional, they were activist, initiative-focused on solving big problems, and they always involved a substantial degree of creative writing and public speaking. It was as if, even as I tried to suppress them in my quest to get a job that truth-be-told I was not called to do, these deeper gifts, talents, and abilities kept bubbling up to the surface. I was born to be a teacher and a writer, not an administrator.

Had I listened to what my soul was trying to tell me, I would have quit the hospital administration field much earlier and started Values Coach much sooner. Had I not been fired from my last “real” job I’m not sure when, or if, I would ever have found the courage to change paths and start the organization that is now Values Coach.

So we come back again to the central paradox: it is often only after your world has been turned upside down that you are finally able to acknowledge, embrace, and pursue your God-given gifts and become the person you are meant to be.