

No theme...just random thoughts for 10 weeks!

Week 7 – Maximize potential

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable.

Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

Philippians 4:8

Learning who one really is happens when we embrace the Christ nature, the image of God that all humans are. Discovering true spiritual potential allows people to discover and embrace divine faculties such as imagination, faith, love, wisdom, understanding, and strength to rise and flourish. Moreover, true inner potential is expressed in *thoughts, words, and actions*.

Since 2009, the phrase “Shark Tank” has provided an entirely new meaning from the shark tank my family and I visited at Sea World in Orlando Florida in the early 1970’s. Most of you are well aware of the TV reality show by that name and know it is designed to bolster entrepreneurship in America. The billionaire owner of the Dallas Mavericks is the only “shark” I really know anything about, but I do like basketball—so there you have it.

Rarely is “Shark Tank” live at the McIlvain residence. Rather, shows are recorded for the “fast forward” factor. Attention span is admittedly low while skimming for interesting new inventions. Perhaps it is due to a bit of a jealous nature, however, thinking about the dreamers turning ideas into multi-million dollar businesses causes interest to spiral upward.

Products first introduced on the show are assuredly products purchased for our home that I did not know were *thought* about, *talked* about and by *action*...invested in by a Shark. There are at least two products for certain that are actually memories from watching them on a recording. This is not a marketing piece, so don’t consider anything from this point forward to be an endorsement. The products are common enough that many of you will find them in your own home.

First, I buy “Scrub Daddy”. It was a dream of a business man turned inventor and is nothing more than a smiley face shaped sponge that cleans my pots and pans without leaving scratch marks. I’m a repeat buyer.

Secondly, I bought a “Squatty Potty”, a simple white plastic footstool that tucks under my toilet for necessary reasons. I don’t buy the same volume as the scrubbing tool—one is enough.

Here is a pop quiz for you. From the following list, which name or names do you *not* recognize?

Galileo, Leonardo da Vinci, Aaron Krause, Thomas Edison, Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, Louis Pasteur, Henry Ford, George Washington Carver, Bobby Edwards, Jacques Cousteau, and James Naismith.

For the sake of this TEDDY TALK, allow me to introduce two you are unlikely to know. Aaron Krause invented “Scrub Daddy”, and Bobby Edwards the “Squatty Potty.” The list of historically well-known life simplifying inventors is much longer. It is the list of the Aarons, Bobbys, and

our own friends, family, and people next door with visions and dreams that enhance our world and universe.

What dreams are you chasing? Visions and goals important to me are often neglected because of obligations or time constraints. Remember, there is no age limit on revisiting dreams that inspire and encourage. Anyone can stretch their visions in new ways and feel a new stirring within the mind and soul. For those reasons, I write blogs, lead Bible Studies, pray in worship services, and teach college students. From childhood, “Teacher Teddy” is my all-encompassing dream.

The Apostle and author, Paul, is clear in his letter to the church in Phillipi:

Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

I’m a believer in the power of writing your dreams as though they are accomplished. Review the words frequently and start the steps toward achieving whatever you set out to do.

Journal your dream, follow it, and add your name to the list of life changers in the pop quiz above. Then remind yourself daily that inner potential is expressed in *thoughts, words, and actions*. In other words: Dream it! Talk about it! and Take action on it!

Peace always,
Ted