

7 Perspectives that You Cannot Afford to Leave Behind

Ten! Nine! Eight! The New Year's countdown continued as fireworks began to explode covering the dark night sky with beautiful displays of magnificent delight. Shouts of celebration and joy welcomed in the year 2021 and earnestly pushed away the year unmentionable.

Was this year really that terrible? While 2020 had its own unique challenges with far reaching effects due to the “great pause” in reaction to the pandemic, followed by the feeling that some child was finding joy in pushing the play and pause button every other week or two, it might be said that 2020 was not much different than any other – purely unpredictable, yet manageable.

No matter what your opinion, we all seemed to agree that 2021 could never be as bad as this last one. Perhaps that's why our well wishes for the new year found themselves often accompanied by hastened declarations of hope. It was as if we were attempting to add to our kites of hope a sturdy tail to assist the well wishes in catching a proper wind and soaring higher.

Many of us are old enough to remember at least a half a dozen predicted “end of the world” moments, such as Y2K. I want to remind us that we are the same people who survived bobbing for apples, running through mud puddles without shoes, and, heaven forbid, playing outside without parental supervision from morning to night.

With the year 2020 in our rearview mirror, it would be easy to cast it off and pretend as if it had never happened, but you and I cannot afford to run from 2020. It's time for us to make some extraordinary lemonade out of some enormous lemons.

With that in mind, I offer these seven perspectives that you can carry with you into 2021.

#1 – We can all be thankful that we made it this far. No matter where we might have imagined ourselves to be at the beginning of this past year, one thing is sure, we are not where we started. We are not yet finished, but we have all endured a long journey thus far. Every day that we open our eyes, we can carry with us a sober awareness of our own mortality and appreciate every person and moment that we are blessed to enjoy for that day. We can afford to take a moment at least once a day to be grateful. While we have the privilege to borrow breathe from heaven, let us be thankful.

#2 – WE can all create the incredible and implement the impossible. The “pedal to the metal” overdrive that was required to survive these last 9 months proved the benefit of creating and implementing. As a leader in your organization, you are called to creativity. Forced through pressure or guided by systematic design, innovation and creativity is a must in any business. Our ability to take the risks and

tweak things as we go, while banishing the perfection mind-set, has produced remarkable creations and innovations in business that otherwise may have never existed. Without a doubt, this year has turned your innovation and creativity inside-out, but it has been so worth it. Take that same energy into 2021 and look for more opportunities to create the incredible and implement the impossible.

#3 – WE can all bring value to our relationships. Business success and life fulfillment has always and will always be about relationships. One of my mentors once told me to live for those who will attend my funeral. At the time, I thought that was a morbid way to live life, but the longer I live the more it makes sense. I offer these addendums – discover your value and invest willingly without concern for “returns” and take your spot - assume your role and show up 100%. Every relationship that belongs to you and to which you belong is essential and most important. Thankfully, life sometimes slows us down so we can reflect on what really is essential and most important.

#4 – We can all be flexible amidst change. Successful and meaningful living requires flexibility. If you ever referred to someone as “stuck in their way”, you know what the opposite of this perspective looks like. Yet this is not about changing for change’s sake. This is all about adjusting or shifting strategies and actions to achieve the objective. “Semper-Gumby” is a philosophy that I personally embrace with my whole heart. It simply means “always flexible”. Two of my business associates make room for flexibility in their businesses by adopting similar approaches to this perspective. When arranging details or making agreements, one of my friends likes to underscore everything with this phrase, “subject to change”. The other friend trains his team with this, “The only thing that does not change around here is change itself. Stay flexible and ready.” Whatever you do – adopt some steady attitude that helps you remain flexible always.

In closing, I want to encourage you to create some of your own perspectives that you can carry with you into 2021 and beyond. As you work toward this, consider some of the following perspectives -

#5 – WE can all question the idea of “normal”. Is it reality? Is there really a constant “normal” in this world?

#6 – We can all build and develop amid of the mess. Consider the kitchen of any restaurant – cooks and dishwasher occupy the same kitchen.

#7 – WE can all use some good news. Do what you can to spread good news, especially at times when life’s circumstances do not make sense.

Like always, if I can help, please contact me by text at 707.953.6681 or by email at andy@andyspringerconsulting.com

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