

Choices



Dear

Choices! I'm grateful this Thanksgiving for the inspiring choices I've observed and shared with clients, friends and family. The significant influence of choices *on others* is beyond measure and seems to happen more by default than by the design of those making the choices.

So, the power of choices — for each one of us [the “i” in the word “choices” as highlighted on the cover] — is the primary gift I want to celebrate this Thanksgiving.

What do I mean? Note the following demonstrations of *conscious choices*:

- A client who adjusted his communication style to substitute his usual aggressive self-agenda approach to one that respects the interest and expectations of the other members of his team.
- A client who accepts the reality that accountabilities change as one advances in an organization — from producing results to setting the stage for others to accomplish and develop. The mental shift required is challenging and uncomfortable but substantial in its importance.
- A client who is willing to identify and tap into his internal source of power in a self-discovery process in order to lead his organization more effectively. The tangibles are so much more quantitative and easy to measure than the intangibles, especially in terms of relationships!
- My daughters' decisions: Anne — to experience the solidity of roots by living in the New Orleans area near family; and, Debbie — to compete with her Ultimate Frisbee Team in the World Championships in Germany and win a gold medal.
- GE's Jack Welch's recent decision to extend his career in response to his new compelling initiative.

- The touching stories of the choices made by the 25 students (all women), in an accounting class, shared during my memorable return to my alma mater. Indeed, Southeastern (LA University) *means* business!
- A friend's decision to move into a supportive retirement community before needing to “retire”.

I believe that the very decision to make a choice releases a feeling of freedom as a result of having exercised our own power. Choices also seem to radiate multiple-to-magical forms of energy to inspire others.

As we all know, by contrast, there really is a cost when we choose not to choose!

In helping clients and friends develop their personal mission statements, this year I also formalized mine. I have clarified that as an executive coach I love to challenge and support, invite and influence leaders in growth-oriented choices that could advance their individual and organizational effectiveness.

These and many more examples I have encountered demonstrate the courage of conviction that can bridge us into the kind of clarity that can become an invitation to make a choice. May these considerations also inspire you and yours in making productive choices in the coming new year.

Happy Holidays,

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