

Misinterpreted Motivation

“The bottom line of why I’m here, besides being a crazy mofo, is that -- I’m not here to motivate you, you don’t need that, obviously. Often that’s what people think I do, and it’s the furthest thing from it. What happens, though, is people say to me, “I don’t need any motivation.” But that’s not what I do. I’m the “why” guy. I want to know why you do what you do. What is your motive for action? What is it that drives you in your life today? Not 10 years ago. Are you running the same pattern? Because I believe that the invisible force of internal drive, activated, is the most important thing. I’m here because I believe emotion is the force of life. All of us here have great minds. Most of us here have great minds, right? We all know how to think. With our minds we can rationalize anything. We can make anything happen.”

Tony Robbins

Have More Fun

“If I could give my 21 year old self any advice it would be take as many bikini photos as you can now because your body is smokin’ hot. And it will not be this bangin’ after childbirth.”

But seriously, if I could give my 21 year old self the advice I’m giving you today and if I had a time machine, well first I would go back in time and invent the iPhone, cause I think I could make a ton of money. So if I must give any of you advice it would be Say Yes. Say Yes, And... and create your own destiny. So hold on to your old friends. Kiss your Mama. Admit what your dreams are. Don’t beat yourself up if you don’t know what you’re gonna do tomorrow. But work hard and don’t be lazy. And put away your damn phone once in a while. And be nice to jerks because we still don’t know the criteria for getting into heaven yet.”

--Maya Rudolph

THE ANSWERS IN THE MIRROR

“THE IDEA THAT GREAT PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE, WHATEVER LINE OF WORK YOU CHOOSE. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE CYNICS AND CRITICS ON THE SIDELINES TEARING PEOPLE DOWN, AND JUST AS HARMFUL ARE THOSE PEOPLE WITH GOOD INTENTIONS WHO MAKE NO CONTRIBUTION AT ALL. IN HIS LETTER FROM THE BIRMINGHAM JAIL, DR. KING WROTE THAT OUR SOCIETY NEEDED TO REPENT, NOT MERELY FOR THE HATEFUL WORDS OF THE BAD PEOPLE, BUT FOR THE APPALLING SILENCE OF THE GOOD PEOPLE. THE SIDELINES ARE NOT WHERE YOU WANT TO LIVE YOUR LIFE. THE WORLD NEEDS YOU IN THE ARENA. THERE ARE PROBLEMS THAT NEED TO BE SOLVED. INJUSTICES THAT NEED TO BE ENDED. PEOPLE THAT ARE STILL BEING PERSECUTED, DISEASES STILL IN NEED OF CURE. NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO NEXT, THE WORLD NEEDS YOUR ENERGY. YOUR PASSION. YOUR IMPATIENCE WITH PROGRESS. DON'T SHRINK FROM RISK. AND TUNE OUT THOSE CRITICS AND CYNICS. HISTORY RARELY YIELDS TO ONE PERSON, BUT THINK, AND NEVER FORGET, WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT DOES. THAT CAN BE YOU. THAT SHOULD BE YOU. THAT MUST BE YOU.”

--Tim Cook

MR. PRESIDENT

“*That’s who we are as Americans.*

We are rugged individuals.

We haven’t lost that pioneering spirit that brought many of our grandparents and great-grandparents to these plains.

We ask for nothing more than the chance to blaze our own trail. And yet each of us is only here because somebody, somewhere, helped us find our path. Which brings me to one last story. It’s a story about a boy who was born more than 100 years ago in Wallace, South Dakota, about 25 miles from here. His family didn’t have much. But they were able to give him an education because he was part of that first generation of Americans to grow up in a country that believed high school should be available for everybody. After high school, that boy went on to graduate college, and then he became a teacher, and then he became a mayor, and then he became a senator. At the time Lake Area was founded, Hubert Humphrey was Vice President of the United States. But he never once forgot what made his American story possible. “The road to freedom,” he said, “here and everywhere on Earth, begins in the classroom.” The road to freedom begins in the classroom. ”

Barack Obama

Faith In The Next Generation

So I hope you find the courage to decide for yourself what is right and what is wrong.

And then, please expect as much of the world around you.

Try to make the world good according to your standards.

It won't be easy.

Get ready for my generation to tell you everything that can't be done — like ending racial tension, or getting money out of politics, or lowering the world's carbon emissions.

And we should know they can't be done.

After all, we're the ones who didn't do them.

Your job, Pro Humanitate, is to prove us wrong.

Because if you don't prove us wrong, then forget everything I've been saying.

And instead, I'd like to leave you with a bit of wisdom I picked up from a documentary I saw this weekend: Mad Max: Fury Road.

All you young people really need to succeed in the future is a reliable source of fuel and a fanatical cadre of psychopathic motorcycle killers.

May you ride eternal, shiny and chrome.

Stephen Colbert