THE LAST LECTURE PAPER

Randy Pausch was a pretty remarkable man. He made an inspiring speech knowing that he has terminal cancer. His attitude and outlook on life is contagious. There were so many things he said that made me look at not just the world, but life in a different way. The one about brick walls only being there to keep the ones that didn’t want it bad enough really resonated with me. I have hit those walls so many times in life and given up. After hearing his story I’m a little ashamed at how quick I have been to give up in the past. He somehow managed to shame and inspire me at the same time. It was hard not to get a little emotional when he had everyone sing happy birthday to his wife too. I couldn’t help but think about how hard what they are going through must be. I looked into it and saw that he died 10 months after he gave that speech. It makes me sad to think how hard that probably was for his family. At the same time it helped me see that my attitude dictates my quality of life. If they can be in a situation like that and still give inspiring speeches and love each other on stage in a room full of people then I feel like it is my responsibility to make lemonade out of any lemons that life throws at me. I definitely identified with the thing he said at the end something along the lines of doing the right thing in life and your dreams will come to you. I came to the conclusion a few years ago that the universe doesn’t owe me anything, but I owe the universe everything. I believe that if I try my best to act in the interest of the greater good rather than myself then the universe will bless me and things will work out exactly how they are supposed to. I feel like he was getting at something similar to that a couple of different time in his speech. It’s always helpful for me to see or hear something that reinforces that belief of mine. It was especially helpful to hear it from a man like Randy. I really appreciate this video and the effect it has had on my attitude.