



IMPACT!

Effecting Your Life... by *Adrian Nyhuis*

First Steps for Influence

I regularly write quotes on Facebook. They are not just vague time wasting comments, but comments that are intended to provoke thought and inspiration in people. One of the recent quotes was "You are very influential. You can influence yourself to succeed or fail." After writing that quote I got to thinking. How influential are we really. Who do we need to influence?

I read an article in a book by John Maxwell recently that I have listed below:

A Middle-Eastern mystic said, 'I was a revolutionary when I was young and all my prayer to God was: 'Lord, give me the energy to change the world.' As I approached middle age and realised that my life was half gone without changing a single soul, I changed my prayer to: 'Lord, give me the grace to change all those who come into contact with me, just my family a friends, and I shall be satisfied.' Now that I am an old man and my days are numbered, I have begun to see how foolish I have been. My one prayer now is: 'Lord, give me the grace to change myself.' If I had prayed this right from the start, I would not have wasted my life. (Maxwell 1993, p. 50)

I wonder - what is your prayer? Who do you want to change? Our natural tendency is to want to change everyone around us, and the last person we want to change is usually ourselves. Why is that? I would say it is because change can be painful, and it requires work and even discomfort. When someone goes on a diet, or goes to the gym, sacrifices need to be made and work needs to be done to bring about the change desired. However, once the change has been achieved, we acknowledge the sacrifice was worth it.

I'll reinforce the quote from earlier. "You are very influential. You can influence yourself to succeed or fail." Which direction will your change take...?

Previous Articles

Leadership Hypocrite

Are you a Hypocrite? Some would be horrified if they were called one, especially if they view themselves as being ones who "Practice what they preach"

Originally the word 'hypocrite' was a term used to describe an actor because they hid behind a mask

[Read the whole article...](#)

Dare to Dream

Did you know that it is good to dream? Not daydream about nothing, but dream about where you want to go with your life and what you want to do with it. The more you dream, the more it will inspire you, empower you, excite you and motivate you. George Bernard Shaw says, "You see things; and you say, 'Why?' But I dream things that never were; and I say, 'Why not?'"

[Read the whole article...](#)

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