



LEADERSHIP GROWTH

There's more to life than playing the role of Elsa



The importance of personal leadership was instilled in me at the age of 17 with an astute reminder of what leadership is, what it is not, and why it is important.

Flashback to high school where I had a role in our school plays from freshman through junior year. In my senior year, our Drama Club chose a classic, *The Sound of Music*, for our spring play. Of course, with an attitude of entitlement, I had it all figured out. I would be cast in the role of Elsa, the baroness. After all, I had paid my dues.

Auditions took place and the results were posted. Reviewing the roster, I saw my name under the title of "Stage Manager." My thoughts? "Hmmm – they must have a great deal of faith in me to play Elsa and be the stage manager." As I kept reading, the list revealed that I had been chosen to be the Stage Manager!

What an insult!

Lessons learned? First and foremost, being back stage was just as important as on stage. Additionally, the evolution from on stage to off stage was enlightening with new competencies learned. Change is growth. The star of the show does not mean on stage – front and center. There are many stars behind the scenes! It's all about *LEADERSHIP GROWTH*.

GIFTS

Appreciate and use your talents, your gifts. Bring out the best in other people. There reaches a point when you "arrive," and spotlight can shift off you. While arriving, share the stage, there is plenty of room.

RESPECT

You must respect yourself before you can respect other people. The talent of others does not make you inadequate. Attract only the best people your way – people who are positive.

Do not let anyone rehash any negative moments or outcomes in your past. It is never too late to re-brand yourself. Keep your eyes open for people who are allies. Be an ally for others.

OPPORTUNITY

There will be times in your life when you get the "big breaks." As a leader, you will have the opportunity to create opportunities for others. This can be done through internships, board appointments and volunteer work. Empower people so they feel important. Assist them in understanding that their life has purpose and meaning.

WAKE UP!

Two questions –

1. When you wake up in the morning, are you excited and ready to go to work, or do you dread it?
2. When you are driving home from work, are you excited to go home?

Build your life around what you need to answer "yes" to these questions. Reframe your thinking – you "get to" go to work and you "get to" go home. Focus on the positive of both situations.

TRUTH

There is an expression, "*No tree has branches so foolish as to fight amongst themselves.*" Leadership is not about gossip, withholding information or internal ambushing. Once the word is out about your integrity, clients and employees will have a good word for you and will want to work with you.

HEART

Leaders put their hearts and their passion into their lives – at home, at work, in the board room and on the sports field. Developing leaders, whether they work directly with you or on the periphery, will assist your company with the retention of valued and motivated employees. These motivated employees will serve the customer. Elated customers will spread the word about you and the company you serve, impacting your profit and reputation.

As a leader, you have the opportunity for *GROWTH* every day. Reminder: There is more to life...than playing the role of Elsa!

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A lifelong learner, Gail believes that we all have the capability to be a leader in our own lives, influencing the lives of others to positive peak performance and success. Contact Gail at 401-640-4418 or gail@gailspeaks.com.