



Developing the Mindset to Navigate Life's Turns



The Mindset of Receptiveness



Choosing the Belief of Possibilities

Life Imparts Lessons

You can tell a lot about a person by the way he or she handles a rainy day, the elderly, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights. One assurance we all have is that life comes with bumps. It requires alterations, compromises, strength, forgiveness, hopefulness, trust, love and patience. Fortunately, no matter what happens, how bad it seems today, life goes on, and tomorrow will offer a new start. Don't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands -- you need to be able to throw back sometimes. I have learned firsthand that every detour can teach you many lessons -- if you are open to all possibilities.

Being aware of all available options can improve your chances of making smart choices.

What other gems have I learned along the way?

- Making a *living* is not the same thing as making a *life*.
- An unwise choice can ruin your life.
- Life gives you second chances.
- Knowing your values helps you make choices consistent with what's important.
- Being aware of all available options can improve your chances of making smart choices.
- If you pursue happiness, it will elude you. If you focus on family, friends, the needs of others, work and doing your very best,

happiness will find you.

- Decisions made with an open heart are usually the right ones.
- Even when I'm in pain, I don't have to be one.

And, most significantly, I still have a lot to learn!

Life Builds Character

We don't really pay attention, do we? Seems like we're always trying to finish things as quickly as possible, robbing us of the childlike wonder of focusing in on smaller details and asking, "Why is that there?" One good way to counteract that behavior is to identify the negative consequences of your rush to get things done, then develop constructive habits that force you to slow down.

The journey is where our character, personality, passions and authentic self are revealed.

Imagine keeping your eyes closed for an entire trip. Unwittingly addicted to instant gratification, that is exactly what many of us do. We focus on the end result and the future, while overlooking the path we took to get there. "So," you might ask, "what about setting goals?" Outlining clearly defined objectives instills hope, fuels ambition and gives us a sense of accomplishment, of course. The journey, however, is where our character, personality, passions and authentic self are revealed -- where our innermost growth and strength are nurtured. Sadly, we have convinced ourselves that the finish line is king. The faster we can get there, the greater chance we have of avoiding pain, disappointment, mistakes and failure -- of *winning*, however we define that. Every challenge I have faced, though, has made me emotionally healthier and stronger, so I've learned to appreciate those unanticipated "character builders" along the way.

Life Delivers Clues

The most insightful thing that happened to me is when I gently let go of the idea that I needed to be in control and figure everything out. I taught myself to embrace the notion that my only requirements in certain situations were to observe and enjoy. That's quite a challenge for a control freak. I have exhausted a ton of energy, effort and intensity directing stuff that doesn't need it. For instance, at tailgate parties, I'd tend to organize the food items on the table, the placement of chairs, the position of the grill and, on occasion, even park neighboring cars to fit within the gamut of what I believed was most befitting the occasion. I'd spend more time directing and agonizing than participating. Instead of enjoying myself, I felt stress (self-imposed stress, at that). When I realized that some of the greatest joys could be had without me lifting a finger or speaking a word, I began to more fully appreciate my environment. The more I observed, the more I learned.

The more you observe, and the more accustomed you become to not trying to figure everything out, the more enjoyable life becomes.

When you look beyond your own agenda and start experiencing the magic of life, you actually see what is truly going on around you. You listen with awareness, watch with wonder and understand what is being communicated between words. You tune into opportunities and new levels of excitement. The more you observe, and the more accustomed you become to not trying to control everything, the more enjoyable life becomes. Thus, when unexpected detours arise, causing you to change course, you will be in a better frame of mind to react. Look back on your life. Didn't some of the greatest times you've had occur when you let go and just allowed things to happen? Isn't that what holidays are supposedly all about? All too often, we say, "Yeah, but there's so much to do!" Is that truly the case? Most likely, if you would cut back, ask for help, prioritize and let go, the ride would be more pleasurable. Observation allows you to distinguish between the *doing* and the *being* of life.

Life Provides Opportunities

After 20 children and 6 staff members were murdered in a Connecticut school, the entire nation was stunned. A lot of us focused on the tragedy and the questions surrounding it: What kind of person could do such a thing -- and why? How can we prevent it from happening again? How can we help the survivors? Amid the chaos and all the unanswered questions, an unlikely group moved in and offered assistance. From Chicago came dogs -- specially trained golden retrievers that offered nothing but affection. Dogs can't speak; they are simply present and attentive. Children traumatized by the violence opened up to them, expressing fears and emotions they had not spoken to any adult. As one dog trainer said, "The biggest part of their training is just learning to be still."

Too many times we miss an opportunity because we are broadcasting when we should be tuning in.

More often than not, we are inclined to discard new ideas or anything different -- which could explain why opportunities always look bigger going than coming. Instead of being receptive to a fresh approach, we cling to the old ways, then wonder why our frustrations mount. When you encounter a turn in the road that requires a change in your preset course, don't pigheadedly contest it. Embrace it.

Life doesn't come with guarantees or directions. What it offers are possibilities. Too many times we miss these opportunities because we're broadcasting when we should be tuning in. Just like the golden retrievers that were specifically trained for comforting silence, we need to be receptive when faced with a detour. Success author Napoleon Hill said, "Opportunity often comes disguised in the form of misfortune or temporary defeat." In this frenetic society of ours, slow down and tune in. This isn't a practice life -- it's the real deal. Give every detour its due. Rerouting isn't a bad thing when you're open to new possibilities and flexible enough to take advantage of the moment.

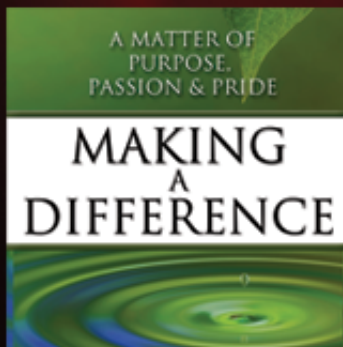
UP NEXT...

The Mindset of Resolution

Unearthing the Power of Determination

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

On December 2, 2014, Steve had the pleasure of delivering his *Making a Difference* keynote to the leadership team at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center.



"We recently had the opportunity to share an afternoon with Steve Gilliland, and it was truly a remarkable time for our leadership team. Our originally scheduled keynote experienced a medical emergency just 36 hours before our event. Without hesitation, Steve was out the door and on our doorstep less than 24 hours from when we contacted his office."

*Colleen L. Kannaday, FACHE, President,
Advocate BroMenn Medical Center*

CLICK **HERE** TO READ THE FULL TESTIMONIAL

Ovations...



Pioneer Trail Middle School

Steve Gilliland, Inc.
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Mocksville, NC 27028

Steve,

Thank you so much for presenting to our staff during our December professional development day. This was one of the most powerful events we have had for our staff...a great combination of laughter and tears as we wrapped up our first semester.

Steve, your approach to working with educators in this setting was incredible. Sharing your personal stories and experience with your family members made everyone feel like you were a part of our staff. Everyone was engaged in your presentation and hanging on every word and story. It is easy to see why you were selected as a member of the National Speakers Hall of Fame.

As I shared, your three books—*Enjoy the Ride*, *Making a Difference* and *Hide Your Goat*—have had a tremendous impact on my life, having read them after I heard you speak in June. Your *Making a Difference* presentation to our staff had the same effect. As you saw, individuals in the audience were laughing at one moment, and shedding tears at others. The way you bring the message “home” made the educators reflect on their purpose and allowed them to recall past and current students whose lives they have impacted. So many of them commented afterward how powerful your words were, and as one said with tears in his eyes, “Thank you for bringing Steve to us. So many of my past and current students’ faces came to me as he discussed ‘making a difference.’ I will never approach teaching as a job ever again...it is about the impact we have on the children.”

I have purchased your book *Making A Difference* for our staff. They will have a copy waiting for them when they return from winter break. It will have a positive impact on our second semester and the work we do each and every day with our students and families. Many of our staff also purchased your books, videos and DVDs after the event for themselves and as gifts for family members and friends. So your message will continue to be spread.

Again, thank you so much for the positive impact you had on our Pioneer Trail community. We will continue to Enjoy the Ride while Making A Difference along our journey.

Sincerely,

Mike Wolgast, Ed.D.
Principal



Interesting Fun Facts About Steve Gilliland



**There is a bobblehead
of Hall of Fame
Speaker Steve Gilliland**



**Steve and his wife Diane
have six (6) rescued cats
(Kramer, Margaret, Chivas,**

Keynote, Fife and Kozzie)

LOOKING AHEAD...

Steve's February 2015 Schedule

6	Las Vegas, NV
7	Columbia, SC
16	Mansfield, TX
16	Las Vegas, NV
17	Las Vegas, NV
20	Armstrong, BC (Canada)
21	Acme, MI
22	Acme, MI
24	Kiawah Island, SC
26	Las Vegas, NVS

Catch Steve Daily on
SiriusXM Radio's
Laugh USA &
Blue Collar Radio



**Steve Gilliland is now a part of the Social Media
Community. Follow him on...**





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