

He Got Better, Not Bitter

Neal Jeffrey, former All-American quarterback at Baylor University and former quarterback for the San Diego Chargers in the National Football League, is one of the most sought-after speakers and Bible teachers in America. He travels the country speaking at churches, men's groups, sports events, corporate events, conferences and training seminars.

He is known as a dynamic communicator and entertainer who inspires audiences to go "higher, swifter, stronger" in the critical areas of life. As the quarterback who led the Baylor Bears to their first Southwest Conference championship in 50 years, Jeffrey brings a level of enthusiasm and passion to every presentation. He holds a bachelor's degree from Baylor and a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He is now in his 21st year as associate pastor of the Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas.



Author and motivational speaker Zig Ziglar, in his book, *Something to Smile About*, describes Jeffrey as "truly one of the most humorous, sincere and capable speakers I've ever heard. The interesting thing is that Neal is a stutterer.

However, he has chosen to make stuttering an asset, not a problem.

"Now think about what you just read," Ziglar adds. "A very successful quarterback and public speaker who stutters doesn't compute in the minds of most people. Neal Jeffrey has taken a negative and turned it into a positive. After speaking a few minutes, he tells audiences that in case they hadn't noticed, he stutters. Then with a big smile, he says, 'Sometimes I do get hung up a little bit. But don't worry. I guarantee something's coming.' The audience invariably responds enthusiastically."

Jeffrey is the classic example of an outstanding individual who chose to make an obstacle an asset, Ziglar said. "The obstacle has forced Neal to be more creative and to do more reading, research, and studying so he can most effectively turn that liability into an asset. Result: He got better, not bitter. He is better not in spite of his stutter, but because of his stutter. Neal has reached and is reaching goal after goal in all areas of his life."

All of us have liabilities that can hold us back or propel us forward. In most cases, the choice is ours.

The lesson for us: Recognize your obstacles, evaluate them, and find a way to turn them into assets.

– Beecher Hunter