

Hooray for Clichés

Some people are quick to poke fun at clichés, or belittle them as if to deny any validity. But what is a cliché? It is a saying that has retained its truth through time. Mankind would lose much of its wisdom, built up patiently over the ages, if it ever lost its clichés.

Motivational speaker Zig Ziglar addressed this subject in his book, *Something Else to Smile About*. He listed some clichés that have earned their way in our language and lives:

- A lie may take care of the present, but it definitely has no future.
- Tact is the art of recognizing when to be big and when not to belittle.
- Whoever acquires knowledge but doesn't practice it is like the one who plows a field but doesn't sow it.
- You can't climb the ladder of success with cold feet.
- If you learn only methods, you'll be tied to your methods, but if you learn principles, you can devise your own methods. (That one was originated by Ralph Waldo Emerson.)
- Most of what happens to you happens because of you.
- Tact is the art of building a fire under people without making their blood boil.
- Imagination is the preview of life's coming attractions.
- You've got to believe before you can achieve.

No doubt you have heard most of these before, and have made some application to your life. As you see, clichés can be very instructive.

Do you have a favorite cliché not listed here – one that has been especially meaningful to you? Share it with us.

--Beecher Hunter