

How Hope Impacts Your Thinking

John C. Maxwell, internationally recognized expert on leadership development and one of my favorite authors, writes about the considerable role that hope plays within each of us.

If there is hope in the future, he declares, there is power in the present. Read that statement again and think about it. Recognition of that truth is critical for any of us, but particularly for leaders.

The reason, Maxwell continued, is simple: Hope in the future has a dramatic impact on your thinking today. Your thinking today determines your performance today, and your performance today has a direct bearing on your future.

Dr. Tony Campolo – pastor, author, public speaker and professor emeritus of Eastern University in Pennsylvania – says that your past is important because it brought you to where you are, but as important as your past is, it is not nearly as important as the way you see your future.

He is saying, “I understand the problems of your past. I know that you were abused as a child, raised by alcoholic parents, suffered through bankruptcy, depression, and/or alcoholism. You’ve gone through one or more divorces. All of these things are traumatic events that affect the way you think and the way you act.”

In no way is Dr. Campolo denying any of the impact of your past, because many of those events are extremely significant. However, he is saying that despite all these things, the way you see your future is even more important.

The late John Johnson, publisher and owner of *Ebony* magazine and one of the 400 wealthiest men in America, said that “men and women are limited not by the place of their birth, not by the color of their skin, but by the size of their hope.”

Make friends with your past so you can focus on today, which will make your tomorrows even better.

And in the spiritual realm, the Apostle Paul addressed this subject:

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer (Romans 12:12 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter