



*Legacy Strategy* Inc.

*Helping People Make a Difference*

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## A New Year of Influence

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As we encroach upon the beginning of a new calendar year I am reminded that each of us are looking ahead to new opportunities of influence or we may be looking back on missed opportunities. Here at **Legacy** we believe that the decisions we make daily results in consequences that can last an eternity. Most of us certainly believe this, however, we get bogged down in the business of daily routines, the demands of the workplace, the kids, the uncertain economy, etc.

What is it that enables us to live differently than what the mundane responsibilities prompt within us? Judy Suiter, Author & President of **Competitive Edge, Inc.**, a Human Resources consulting company, tells those under her influence to *"Work like you don't need the money. Love like you've never been hurt. And dance like no one is watching!"* Embracing the power of our influence requires us to first commit to avoiding the mundane, status quo way of living. By breaking free of our standard involuntary tolerance of the many moments of the day, we will more fully embrace the experiences of life.

In the process of breaking free of mundane living, we can then fully see the power of our words to others. My pastor is frequently reminding us how we all need a word of encouragement and the affirmation of being told "a job well done" or "we appreciate you and all you do". We can have an everlasting influence on those around us if we can just stop the treadmill of activity in order to affirm those around us.

This should begin first with our family who is affected by our words more than anyone else. It is easy to exchange accolades with our co-workers, clients, customers, business associates, etc. It is much more meaningful to exchange them with our family. Some may say "But you don't know my family!" You are right. I don't know your family. However, I guarantee that they would feel a little more loved and attended to, if you stop long enough to find something that they are doing right and pay them a compliment.

If you choose to invest yourself in this way with those around you, you will likely see them change before your eyes, their hearts will melt maybe just a little and they will feel cared for. You will be blessed because you will see your legacy taking root and blossom into an influence that will outlast your presence here on earth. With such little effort, we all have the power to influence **someone**. Who could **you** influence today?

**"Above all, love each other deeply because love covers over a multitude of sins".**  
1st Peter 4:8 (NIV)

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