



President's Reflections

by Dennis Doughty



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Preparation, Passion and Leadership

I went to bed Sunday night a bit early, convinced that Tom Brady, Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots had little chance to win the Super Bowl. But a nagging voice in my head encouraged me to turn on the game and I was able to witness an incredible comeback that was both inspiring and shrouded with “what ifs” when it comes to the Atlanta Falcons. But mostly, it was inspirational.

After the game, the Patriot players echoed the same comments, over and over. “We never lost our focus in the face of adversity. We knew what we had to do and that we had to take things a play at a time.” To the player...the comment was the same, “Persevere with our plan and everyone needed to play strong, together.” Negativity or self-doubt did not creep into their psyche. Giving up was not a word those players uttered despite being down 28-3. They believed in the preparation, hard work and in the strength of their team.

I’ve had opportunity to witness many incredible things in my life that are a testament to strong will and desire. I was excited to witness another such event on Sunday night. The power of positive thinking and a refusal to lose was the great lesson the Patriots gave us. That lesson, in my mind, reflects the great spirit of American will. We witnessed that “will and spirit” displayed in the “greatest generation” of the WWII era, and on a much smaller level this past Super Bowl reminds us of what strength there is in faith, hope and perseverance.

Some of my takeaways from the Super Bowl include:

Passion is the first step to achievement. *Your desire and commitment determines your ultimate destiny. The stronger your fire or will, the greater the desire...and, the greater is your potential.*

The incredible display of passion by Tom Brady and his teammates was on display for us to see.

Passion increases your willpower. *There is no substitute for passion. It is fuel for the will. If you want anything badly enough, you can find the power to achieve it. In the face of adversity, it is that “fuel” that carries us over and through the barriers. It allows the achievement to happen because that passion can be all encompassing.*

Passion changes you. *If you follow your passion...instead of others’ perceptions, you can’t help but become a more dedicated, productive person. In the end, your passion will have more influence than your personality. Football statistics dictated that a comeback was impossible for the Patriots since no one had ever come back from a ten point deficit in the Super Bowl. Yet, no one told the Patriots that the comeback was impossible.*

Passion makes the impossible possible. *Human beings are made so that whenever anything fires their soul, impossibilities vanish. A fire in the heart lifts everything in your life. A leader with great passion and few skills always outperforms a leader with great skills and no passion. We were able to witness a leader with great passion, great skills and incredible will on Sunday night.*

There is always a lesson to learn when we witness the events of life. The lessons can be very inspirational if we take time to really look at its source. Develop and allow yourself to operate with great passion and commitment in your daily life. That passion provides the “drive” that will get you through the very difficult times. The **will** and **commitment** that you have will be fueled by your passion to just “**get it done**”.