

Empowerment Chapter 9 (of 10)—The Mastermind

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As I drove up in front of Myron's house, I saw him on top of his roof. If this was someone else it may not have been such a peculiar sight, but Myron is almost one hundred years young as he likes to put it. With one eye on Myron I parked and got out of my car.

"Myron, what the hell are you doing up there?" I shouted.

"Oh, every so often my pine trees get the best of my gutters and I've got to clean them out. I'll be right down," he said without looking down. He took off his gloves and with the grace and speed of a much younger man he glided down the ladder and met me with a big grin.

My curiosity got the best of me and I had to ask him, "Myron, why is a man of your years and means cleaning his own gutters?"

He started to sigh patted me on my shoulder, "Because I can."

"What is that supposed to mean?" I expressed in amusement.

"*Because you can*, is the irrefutable reason why any one can accomplish anything they set their mind to... *because they can*. So just sit with that for a while and come in and have some tea."

I followed him into the house and as I took my usual place on the sofa, Myron disappeared into the kitchen and returned with a tray that contained our traditional pot of tea and two cups. He set it down and poured us each a cup. Handing me mine he said, "Today Robert, we're going to discuss a process for implementing what you have learned over the last nine weeks into your organization. Are you familiar with the concept of mastermind groups?"

"I've heard of them but I'm not exactly sure how they work."

"Well, mastermind groups have been around for a long time. Jesus and his apostles was said to be the first. But on a more contemporary note, in 1920, Andrew Carnegie, considered to be one of the richest men in the world, formed the Big 6, whose members included: William Wrigley Jr. of the Wrigley Chewing Gum empire, John R. Thompson the owner of a large restaurant chain, Albert Lasker, owner of the Lord & Thomas Ad Agency which was the largest advertising agency in the country, Jack McCullough, owner of Parmalee Express, the largest transfer company in the country and John Hertz and Bill Ritchie owners of the Yellow Cab Company. At the time, the estimated annual income of this group was \$25 million which equates to about \$269 million today.

"In 1772 the Leather Apron Club, nicknamed the Junto, was formed by Benjamin Franklin. Some of the things that came out of the Junto included, the first public library, the volunteer Fire Department, the first public hospital, paved streets and the founding of the University of Pennsylvania."

"That's pretty impressive," I said in awe.

"Napoleon Hill, one of the greatest motivators in the world believed that you could examine any outstanding success in business, finance, industry or any other profession and without fail find that behind their success is an individual who formed a mastermind group."

"I guess my company can use some mastermind groups."

"The power of the Mastermind groups is three-fold: 1. Everyone wants to be better than they are, 2. People have better ideas and more cour-

