

## Steve St. Pierre's One Minute Confidence ("C") Tip

**The C Tip** is an insight that will inspire, educate and/or make us think about our lives differently. Give yourself a gift of the next minute to enjoy this message. (If you get something out of it...share it by forwarding to someone you care about.)

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March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

*The Traveler's Gift: Seven Decisions that Determine Personal Success - The First Decision (part 1)*<sup>i</sup>

When life gets you down, it is easy to throw your arms up and ask, "Why me?" But perhaps the question you should be asking is, "Why *not* me?" Or so says the historical-fiction version of Harry Truman when he meets David Ponder, the protagonist of *The Traveler's Gift*.

Although David Ponder is quite literally thrown for a loop when he finds himself in 1945 having a heart-to-heart with Harry Truman, it does not take him too long to stop questioning and start listening to what the former president has to say. "We are all in situations of our choosing. Our thinking creates a pathway to success or failure," Truman tells him. Even though it may seem like the universe is conspiring against us, the fact is that every choice we have ever made has led us to that moment. If we renounce all responsibility for our present and all we can ask is "Why me?" then we limit the possibilities of our future.

David rails against this idea. He was fired because his company was bought out. He remained loyal for years beyond when he could have retired, and then suddenly he was fired. "It was not...my...fault!" he cries. But Truman is determined to teach David about the power of his choices and to change his thinking. He replies, "Your thinking dictates your decisions. Decisions are choices . . . Years ago, you began making the choices that led you to your present situation . . . The words *It's not my fault!* should never again come from your mouth. The words *It's not my fault!* have been symbolically written on the gravestones of unsuccessful people ever since Eve took her first bite of the apple."

**Next week: We outline the first decision of personal success: *the buck stops here*.**

Quote:

"The bad news is that the past was in your hands, but the good news is that the future, my friend, is also in your hands." – Harry Truman, *The Traveler's Gift*.

Confidently yours,

Steve

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**We help create confident futures!**

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<sup>i</sup> *The Traveler's Gift* is written by Andy Andrews, a best-selling novelist and speaker for many organizations. He has spoken for four different United States Presidents and appears on networks such as CNN, Fox News, and MSNBC. He is also the author of *New York Times* best-seller *The Noticer*, as well as *The Heart Mender*, *The Butterfly Effect*, and *The Boy Who Changed the World*. (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2002). Andy Andrews is not affiliated with LPL Financial.

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