

## *When It's Time to Close the Door*

### Part Four

**Text: Proverbs 13:12**

**Intro:** We have spent the last few lessons discussing the need for something to end so that something good can come. This brings us to a very important question. How do you know if something is worth keeping and fixing or if that something should end? How do you know the difference? When does it make sense to have hope, and when does it not? These are the questions we are going to discuss in this lesson.

I. Proverbs 13:12.

- A. Proverbs 13:12 stated, *“Hope deferred makes the heart sick”* (NIV). Within this simple passage there is a tremendous leadership truth, namely, perceptions and attitudes effect work behavior. To truly grasp the full impact of this statement, it is necessary to break down the words within the passage.

**Definition of Words:**

**Hope-** refers to a confident expectation, anticipation, and passionate longing for some desired end.

**Defer-** is to give up one's previous position for another. For example: I will defer my judgment for yours.

**Heart-** The feelings and intellect. This is also a synonym for soul.

**Sick-** is in reference to the physical or symbolic attributes or functions that are impaired or begin to act in a contrarian way to the healthy functions of the body, emotions, or organization.

1. A simple formula that expresses the truth of this passage is: **LD=f(Hope <-> Deferment)**.
  - a. Basically this formula stated that a leader's disposition (LD or Heart) is a function (*f*) of his or her expectations and longings (Hope) as it relates to his or her impulse to abandon these desires (Deferment).
  - b. This is important because a person's disposition has a direct effect on that person's productivity, creativity, and performance.
  - c. This will also determine whether a person is willing to abandon an idea, business, or person.
2. Hope is not the same as wishful thinking.
  - a. Hope comes from real, objective reasons that the future is going to be different from the past.
  - b. Wishful thinking comes from your desires.

B. Diagnostics

1. Look at past performance. The past is the best predictor of the future.
2. Look at the reality and character of the person.
  - a. Things may have stalled out but if the right person is at the helm, you can still have hope.
  - b. Martians invade earth. They decide to have a tournament to determine earth's fate. However, the tournament is really a four-foot, downhill, right-breaking

putt on the fastest green that Augusta National has to offer. The humans have one chance to make the putt and they can pick anyone they want. Are you hopeful? Well it depends on who is making the putt. If it is Jim Carrey, or Oprah... not so much. However, if it is Jack Nicklaus in his prime, one of the best clutch putters in golf history, don't sell your property just yet.

- c. By the way, recommitment does not make a person who is unsuited for a particular position suited for it all of a sudden.
  - 1) Jim Carrey may make you laugh and if that were the contest, he would be the man.
  - 2) Jack Nicklaus however, knows how to putt.
3. Is there a proven change process?
  - a. Are they or is there a change process that you can verify that there is a sustained commitment to?
  - b. An Addict: Did they check into rehab, stay the entire time, go to two AA meetings a day for a few months, stays in constant touch with sponsor, goes to counseling, ect.
4. Additional Structure?
  - a. To break out of an old pattern often requires a new discipline to override our habits.
  - b. You cannot keep doing it the same way and expect a different result.
5. Admission of need? Does the person or organization see the need for change?
6. Where is the energy for change?
  - a. Where is the energy for change going to come from? Who is going to drive the change?
  - b. You need enough of a dose of energy to make it effective, and you need the right interval of time so the effects are not lost before the next bit of energy is injected.
  - c. Where will the energy be focused?