

Strategic - What About the Roof?

Over the past seven years I have had the privilege of coaching an amazing leader who has held a number of strategic posts as a Command Chaplain in the United States Army. His last three posts were at the Pentagon, United States Forces Europe, and Special Operations Command. During each assignment, he was tasked with providing leadership training for chaplains, soldiers, and their families. During our times together we worked on unpacking his number one strengths – Strategic.

We both agreed that so often life is full of clutter and obstacles that make finding the best route difficult to find. This has been true of every arena Chaplain Dave encountered over the last 30 years – family, faith, and the military assignments in which God called him to. Each and every day he finds that his roles and responsibilities provide him the opportunity to help those he leads consider possibilities and evaluate alternative routes so the best isn't missed. As a follower of Christ, husband, father, chaplain, and counselor he is able to use his God-given talents to invite those under his sphere of influence & care to live every day in the reality of being fearfully and wonderfully made. This truly makes his heart beat fast!

Dave's Strategic strength allows him to see patterns where others simply see complexity. As he is mindful of these patterns, he envisions alternative scenarios, always asking, "What if this happened?" This recurring question helps him see, plan, and prepare for future situations. Dave brings creative anticipation, imagination, and persistence to the groups and projects he works on. Whether it is helping a fellow chaplain or coaching a couple, he loves seeing a way when others assume there is no way. During our conversations it has become obvious that Dave can eliminate distractions enabling others gain a clear understanding of what is happening and why it is happening. In fact, his teams learn to quickly identify problems and generate alternatives for solving them while determining the path that will work best and most efficiently.

I also have Strategic as my number one strength and reminded Dave that I start every week by reminding myself of the question, "What about the roof?" The story of the "Four Strategic Friends" in Mark 2 is

a marvelous biblical underpinning for the Strategic strength and my life personally. The narrative in Scripture records, “Because of the crowd, however, they could not get the man to him. So they made a hole in the roof right above the place where Jesus was.” These friends would not be denied. Faced with an obstacle they stepped back, gathered their thoughts, and – ‘the roof, what about the roof?’ Dave & I can just imagine that one if not all four of them suggested this alternative way to get the paralytic to Jesus. We love Jesus’ response – “Seeing how much faith they had . . .” Yes we love starting our week with “What about the roof?”

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Strategic | Activator | Futuristic | Achiever | Self-Assurance