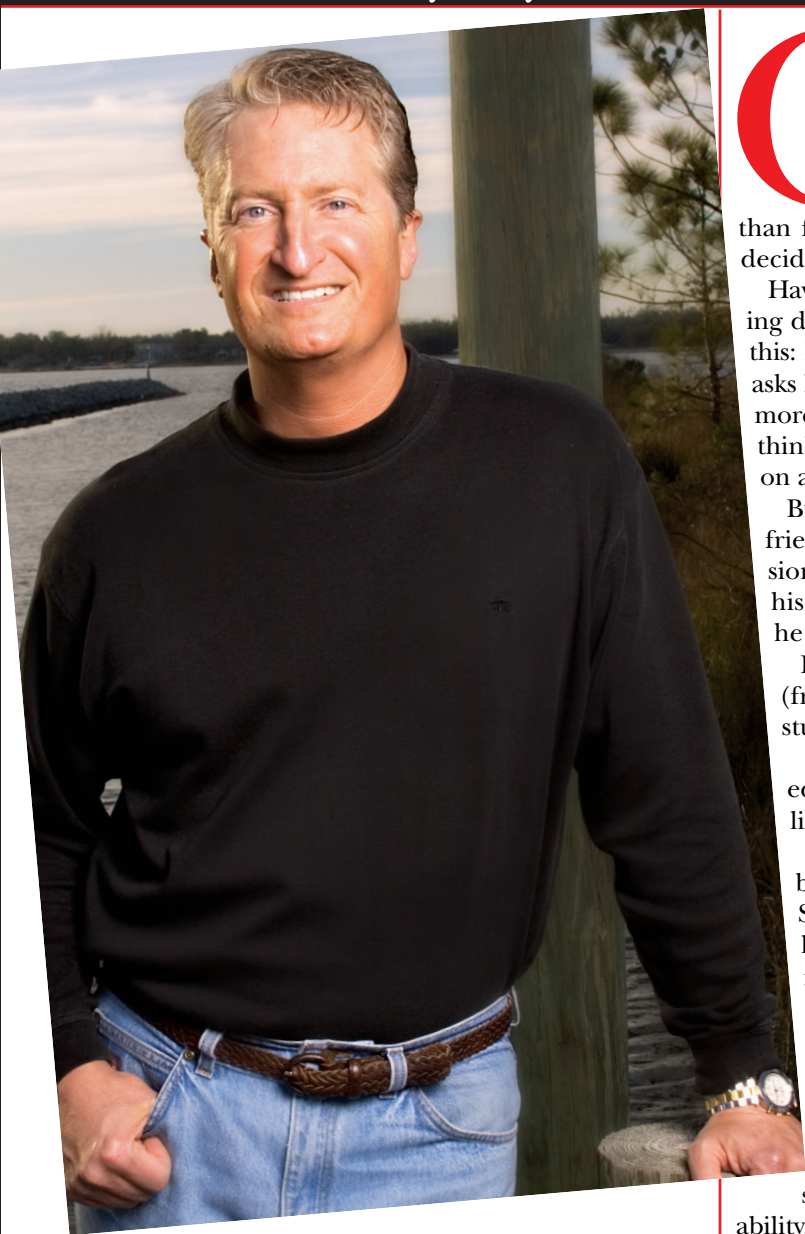


Having A Decided Heart

By: Andy Andrews; Photo By: Peter Nash



One of the least-known principles for success—perhaps the most crucial principle to your success in any endeavor—is this: You must have a decided heart. Why? More people fail at what they attempt because of an undecided heart than for any other reason! So repeat after me: “I have a decided heart!”

Have you ever seen someone with an undecided heart trying desperately to make a decision? It goes something like this: First he asks his friends: “Should I do this?” Then he asks his friends what their friends think. Then he’ll talk to more friends, telling them what his other friends’ friends think . . . “But what do you think?” he wants to know. And on and on it goes, until finally, a decision is made.

But he’s not satisfied. Now he wants to talk to his friends about whether he should have made this decision after all. Then he’ll talk to other people about what his friends thought of his decision. Before you know it, he takes back his decision.

But that’s still not the end. Now he wants to know (from friends—and friends of friends), “Should I have stuck with my decision?”

Yes, it seems ridiculous, maybe somewhat exaggerated, but we all know someone who conducts his or her life in at least a similar manner.

For the person with an undecided heart, life becomes a constant state of analysis. “Should I? Shouldn’t I? Why did I? What if I . . .” The undecided heart experiences the paralysis of analysis. He is chasing his tail, around and around and around . . . and going nowhere fast.

What is the purpose of analysis, anyway? It is not meant to be a continuous state: analyze, analyze, analyze . . . and then analyze some more. The very purpose of analysis is to come to a conclusion!!

It is impossible to make a correct decision every single time we make one. We are not created with that ability. None of us can see into the future. Remember, even

the Psychic Network went bankrupt! (They should have seen that coming, don't you think?) But we were made with the ability to not only make a decision but to go about the business of making it a right one. When you have a decided heart, you become a virtual force of nature. "This is something I will do. This is a project that will be completed. It will touch people's lives, it will change things, and it will make the world a better place."

When you go about your business with a decided heart, a spirit inside you is loosed that you've never felt before.

How does this happen? It's very simple, really. When you possess a decided heart, you don't spend your time and energy in analysis. You are free to actually go about the business of doing what you said you were going to do! What a liberating place to be!

One word of caution: Just because you have a decided

heart, doesn't mean you will be immune to the "slings and arrows" of our time. Just think big enough, and your critics will make themselves known. "You need to be more realistic," they'll say. Or, "Do you know what the chances are that you could ever . . .?" You get the idea.

What is your goal or dream? How big is it? Do you need critics to accomplish it? You can be sure that the size of your peanut gallery will be in proportion to the size of your vision. Will the criticism hurt? Probably. But can criticism overpower a decided heart? Never.

Several years ago, I was caught up in the process of finding a publisher for a manuscript I had written. This book, I felt, would touch many people around the globe. Yet after almost four years, fifty-one publishers had said no to *The Traveler's Gift* . . . and to me! But life's greatest rewards are on the other side of what seems impossible. I began telling myself, "Where there seems to be no way, I will always find a way. The power of a decided heart is found in never looking back."

Incidentally, the fifty-second publisher said yes to the book. Now, several years later, after spending months on the New York Times Best Seller List, *The Traveler's Gift* has been published in nearly twenty languages.

Determine to have a decided heart—right now! Successful people make their decisions quickly and change their minds slowly. Unsuccessful people make their decisions slowly and change their minds quickly.

So, which type of person are you? Not yesterday, not fifteen minutes ago, but what type of person are you now? The weakness of an undecided heart will dilute your strength and power. A decided heart, on the other hand, will move mountains.

Isn't it time for the mountains in your life to move? They will. Just remember: where there seems to be no way, you will always find a way. The life you choose will be yours—when your heart decides to make it so!

Andy Andrews will be hosting this year's ICM Awards, live from Nashville's Acuff Theatre on November 9. His audio books can be found at www.AndyAndrews.com and at most major book retail outlets.

