



Great Time of Year by Bill Bayer

Labor Day weekend marks many things. The beginning of Fall and the end of Summer. The start of football and the beginning of the end of baseball season. The first few days of crisp cool mornings and the first signs of color in the leaves.

It also means most kids are back at school and that most vacations are over. Summer schedules have ended, and the push for the rest of the year has begun. It is time for the productive rhythm of the next few months to kick in and drive us into the holiday season and the end of the year.

It also means that much of the way you will remember 2010 has already happened. Will you remember 2010 as a disappointing year, sort of like the depressing style of the 2010 St. Louis Cardinals? Or, will this be a year for you much like what the Cincinnati Reds are experiencing, with results far beyond your expectations and memories that you will cherish.

As I write this on Labor Day weekend, I am reminded that we are at the starting line for an effective end to the year. We can make choices and take actions that will make the year a positive memory. We can commit to well-directed and results-driven action that will enable us to feel good about 2010 when we look back next January.

So, as you read this, what are you going to do with the remainder of 2010? Are you going to make the last four months of 2010 meaningful or will the balance of the year fade into the background and cap a year of mediocrity?

Even if 2010 has been a difficult and frustrating year thus far, you have enough time to change the results for 2010.

Here are some suggestions to make the rest of the year valuable for you and your family:

1. Look back at the goals you set at the beginning of the year. Or, if you didn't set goals, take some time and make a list of accomplishments and memories from the year so far.
2. From a business and professional standpoint, have you accomplished what you hoped to this far in the year? Are you on track to meet your goals for the year? Or have you gotten pulled into meeting day-to-day obligations without knowing on a regular basis whether or not you are working on the right things?
3. What important things that you wanted to accomplish have not yet been done? Take some time to think about 3-5 things you could do for the rest of the year that would make your year a success. Consider both the professional and personal areas of your life.
 - a. What 2-3 things could you accomplish professionally that would make a significant difference in the results you will achieve for the year?
 - b. Similarly, what could you do in your personal life to make memories or impact your family in a significant way?
4. Write this list of goals down and commit yourself to review it each weekend for the rest of the year. By paying attention to these goals for the rest of the year, you will be amazed at what you can achieve and the memories you can create over the next four months.



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