

What Is It?

Inspiration is:

- The trait that's considered a remarkable quality, the one that sets innovation—and thought-leaders—apart from others
- The trait that causes others to be attracted to them and enables that person to achieve remarkable outcomes... no matter the task
- The quality historically that has been labeled “charisma,” a Greek word meaning *gift*:
 - In ancient times, people believed this quality was a “divine gift” bestowed upon some and not others

From the Article “Everything Counts: The 6 Ways to Inspire & Motivate Top Performance” by Joseph Folkman, Forbes Online, May 20, 2013

How Do You *Inspire* Yourself & Others

...By looking at the parts of inspiration

- ✓ What is it?
- ✓ Where does it come from?
- ✓ Who has it?
- ✓ Why does it matter?
- ✓ How do I know if I am inspiring to others?
- ✓ How do I get some?
- ✓ What do we need next?
- ✓ How do we inspire today's students?

WHAT IS IT?

Understanding Inspiration

- It's something that – as a vision becomes clear—helps others to understand the larger purpose of mission
 - ✓ Works as a catalyst for change
 - ✓ Seldom comes from a single source
 - ✓ Invites others to employ various techniques
 - ✓ Empowers others to get it done!

Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others – Jonathan Swift

“If You Let Me” by NIKE



Inspiration: Where Does It Come From?

Much like snowflakes, inspiration looks different every time; it is neither delivered nor realized in the same way by every person

- Inspiration can be
 - ✓ **Internal**— a great idea that propels you or others to take a step that others have dared not take; the self-drive to do and be better
 - ✓ **External**—meaningful quotes, a rousing speech or a call to action that provokes a visceral reaction, driving you to react in positive ways to better affect your students, projects, social interactions, work product
 - ✓ **Innate** – a spark of passion, fueled by a desire; you just “know” what to do or say to lead in any given situation
 - ✓ **Or it can be *learned***—by studying situations and people you and others consider inspiring, adopting and implementing those techniques in your life – personal or professional

“I Can” by Nike



WHO HAS IT? INSPIRATION IS NOT ONE-STYLE-FITS-ALL

Consider these two disparate styles

Warren Buffet

- A highly inspirational leader whom people trust because of his expertise in the financial world
- If he buys railroads, railroad stocks go up
- If he sells, they go down
- Millions have purchased his books and attended his seminars
- He is a self-made billionaire many times over!



**Both are
optimistic!**

Oprah Winfrey

- Warm and inviting TV personality
- Recognized as being best interviewer world” many of her peers
- Inspires millions to purchase books, “Favorite Things,” and be their authentic selves;
- On January 26, 2016 she released a 15 second Twitter video citing her weight loss success using the Weight Watchers program
- Overnight Weight Watcher stock prices increased by 20% !
- This phenomenon coined the phrase “the Oprah Effect”



Overcome what others think you can do and
the sky is the limit!

#ALWAYS LIKE A GIRL



Why Does It Matter?

Inspiration is a powerful component of your repertoire as an educator, colleague and influencer.

- Works as a catalyst
- Seldom comes from “one thing”
- Allows you to employ various techniques
- Works best when there is an end/goal/purpose, i.e., student success
- Is highly contagious
- Gives you ‘role power’
- Is driven by human emotion and role models



What My Mom Does (At GE)



A wooden walkway with railings curves through a forest with vibrant autumn foliage. The sun is shining brightly through the trees on the right, creating a lens flare effect. The ground is covered in fallen leaves, and a body of water is visible in the background on the left.

We need to look
every day for
confirmation of
that connection
to *what truly
inspires us.*

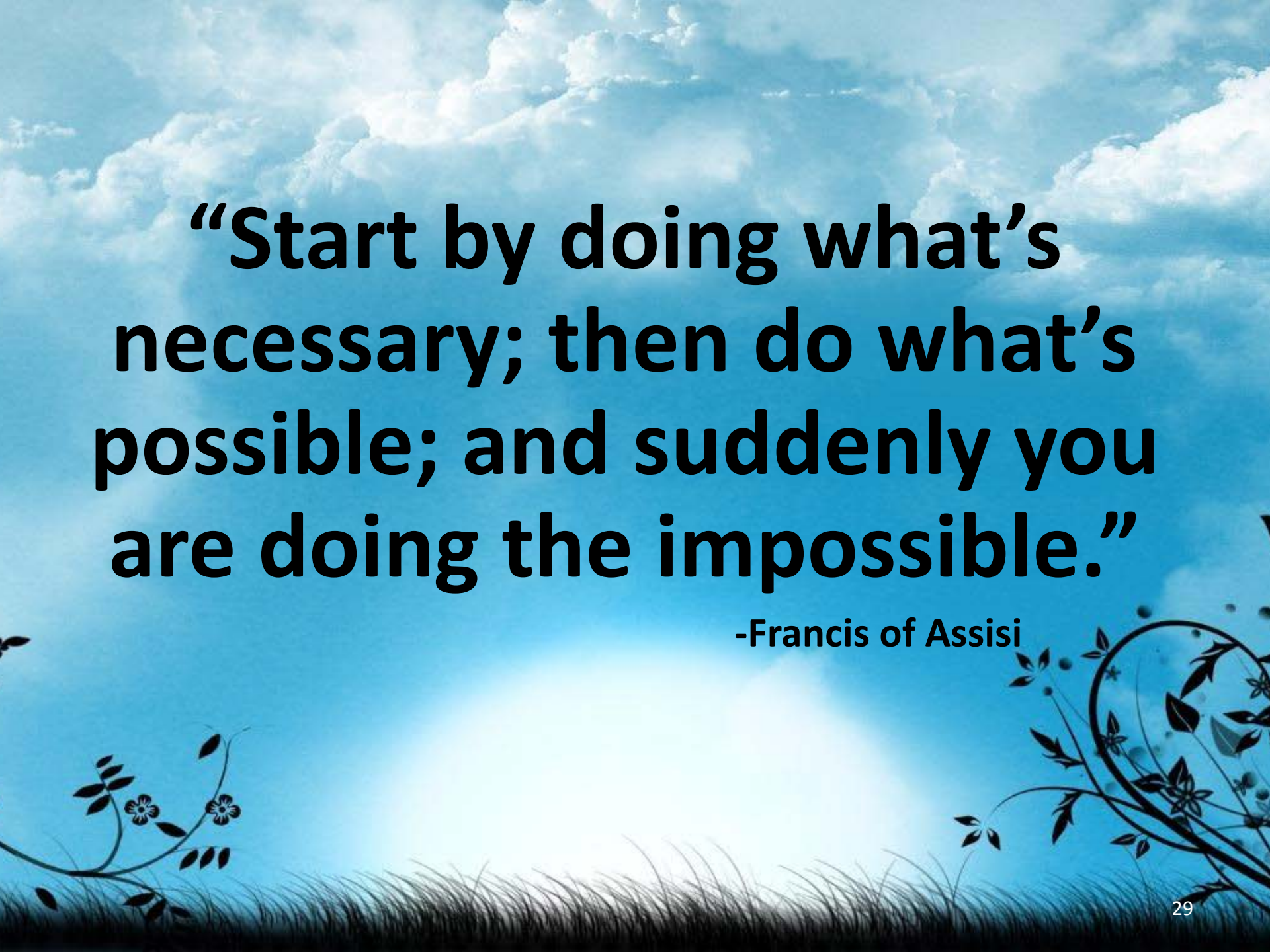


**How Do You Know If You
Are Inspiring Others?**

THE 6 APPROACHES TO BEING INSPIRING

You are:

1. **Visionary**- providing a clear picture of the future and being able to communicate that (Warren Buffet)
2. **Enhancing**-creating positive relationships by being a great listener and connecting emotionally with people (Oprah)
3. **Driver**-Displaying a focused pursuit to make the goals and complete things on time
4. **Principled**-providing a powerful role model of doing the right things in the right way
5. **Enthusiastic**-exuding passion and energy about the organization, its goals and the work itself
6. **Expert** -providing strong direction that comes from deep expertise



**“Start by doing what’s
necessary; then do what’s
possible; and suddenly you
are doing the impossible.”**

-Francis of Assisi



Courage – Nike