

THE TRUE GIFT OF TIGER WOODS

by David Breslow

As a Performance Coach whose clients are athletes and corporate leaders I blend the insights, tools and key traits to coach clients toward success in many areas both on the job and off. This article addresses the truth for each of us whether an athlete or not. Performers of all levels are lifted to greater advancement in the presence of an effective coach. They understand this very clearly in the world of sports. Tiger needs a coach to excel. Michael Jordan needs a coach to excel. Why wouldn't you want to have a great coach in your corner? Sports can teach anyone the wonderful traits that help people reach for and live life on a different level. These traits are powerful avenues that open your mind and lift the spirit to the greatest heights. With this in mind, I offer the following on the True Gift Of Tiger Woods...

Every once in a while we are graced with the presence of someone special in our lives. This is a person who has the ability to draw our attention and move us dramatically by what they do and more often by who they are. Tiger Woods is such a person. He's not the first and he won't be the last but he is here now. Throughout history, certain individuals have profoundly touched the minds and hearts of others. Politicians, scientists, religious leaders, business people, athletes and others have influenced the way we think, how we act and what we do. Tiger Woods is such a person.

We know Tiger as a titanic ball striker, creative genius with the short game and laser like putter. We see Tiger breaking all sorts of records in the game of golf while outdistancing the best players on the planet in golf's most prestigious events. Yes, Tiger Woods is a gifted athlete. Yes, Tiger Woods has worked hard on his game and has dedicated his life to a successful career in golf. As much as we might marvel at his incredible golfing gifts and abilities I see him as something much broader than birdies, green jackets, grand slam events and million dollar paydays. Tiger's true gift to us and he is far grander.

Tiger Woods is yet another reminder that the spirit of a human being is truly unlimited. He is a reminder just as Lance Armstrong and Michael Jordan that talent is never the single most important ingredient in the achievement of a dream. Michael has often said that without his ability to tap into a place deep within himself his game would have never reached the pinnacle that it did. Without his ability to "go inside" and connect with the "truth" of who he was, he would not have tapped his greatness.

Tiger Woods is yet another reminder to us all, if we choose to look beyond the numbers that this greatness is available to every one of us. Tiger himself reveals this to us through his interviews after tour events. He often makes comments about his being "incredibly calm" and "very still and centered" standing over important putts or facing other key shots during a round. What he describes is available to everyone.

It's not just an ability to be focused. That doesn't begin to hit the nail on the head. It's the ability, through practice, to go within and connect with a place inside where there is no doubt, fear or confusion. This is where our true

greatness resides. This is the place where Tiger feels connected, calm and still. It is from this place that your best performances are literally “released”. There’s nothing to do but get out of the way and let it happen. This is the true gift that Tiger Woods brings if we choose to see it. This is the reminder that people like Tiger have always provided us with and what truly draws our attention.

We are moved to know more about them because they tap on the door that opens to the same truth that resides within us. They are living demonstrations of the awesome ability we all have to tap into our own true resources of strength to create our own experiences and outcomes. What we see in them may seem out of reach for us, but it’s not. Beyond the fame and fortune, they remind us that there IS a place within that awaits our attention. Tiger Woods is reminding us, if we choose to see it, that this place also exists within us too.

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