



CEO Devotional – December 15, 2014

Written by Dr. Richard Blackaby, Blackaby Ministries International

Are You There Yet?

Some of history's most famous business leaders suffered grievous personal failings. Henry Ford lifted America out of the horse and buggy era and transformed industry through the development of the assembly line. But he also maintained a lengthy adulterous relationship, demoralized his only child, and endorsed anti-Semitism. Steve Jobs developed iconic products such as the I Pod, I Pad, and I Phone to make Apple the world's most valuable company. Yet he could be petty and abusive to employees. Being "Steved" meant being fired by Jobs, often in an arbitrary, dramatic fashion. Jeff Bezos built Amazon. Yet he could often be so demanding and abusive of employees that some claimed to suffer PTS after working with him. Bezos could be painfully blunt when unimpressed with a presentation. Some of his most notorious responses include: "Are you lazy or just incompetent? . . . Why are you ruining my life? . . . If I hear that idea again, I'm gonna have to kill myself. . . I'm sorry, did I take my stupid pills today?" Such behavior toward others would generally be intolerable, except that these tycoons achieved enormous success. Peter Drucker claimed people had not led unless they had produced results. These people produced. So, their flaws were overlooked, excused, or endured.

Christian businesspeople have a higher standard. Their Chairman of the Board mandated: *"Therefore, you are to be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect"* (Matt. 5:48). Talk about a BHAG! Few verses send readers scurrying to a Bible commentary or Greek lexicon any faster than this one! We all know the adage: "No one's perfect!" We quickly surmise that Jesus does not expect us to be perfect. There must be a simpler, more attainable, meaning. We comfort ourselves that the Greek word for "perfect" can also be translated "mature" or "complete." We assure ourselves that God must want us to gradually become more mature or complete, over time, perhaps by the time we arrive in heaven. But then we are reminded of Jesus' measuring stick: *"just as your Father in heaven is perfect."* Whether we are striving to be perfect, mature, or complete, it is to be just as God our Father.

God's blueprint for your life is Christ (Romans 8:29). There are no excuses for falling short of that breathtaking goal. It matters not how "successful" you are at business or how busy and demanding your schedule is. Until you have completely achieved God's intentions for your life, you have not arrived, and you should not be satisfied. So as you approach year-end, take a personal inventory. Are you "perfect" yet? Fully mature? Would God scribble "complete" across your character? If not, then prepare to enter 2015 with new resolve to let God do His finishing work in you. Keep striving for everything God intends. As *The Message* puts it: *In a word, what I'm saying is, GROW UP. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity.*