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### **Four Phases Of Existence Part 3 - Overcoming Inertia** **By Mark Gorman**

By definition, inertia is: "The tendency of a body to resist acceleration; the tendency of a body at rest to remain at rest..."

I guess you could call it "laziness", but that wouldn't accurately apply to all uses of the word "inertia".

Actually, it isn't "inertia" that I want to discuss, but the act of "overcoming inertia".

My own somewhat oversimplified description of "overcoming inertia" is "START"!

Often, the most difficult step we take towards a goal, is the first step – which not only starts us on the journey toward achievement, but also, "frees" us from the "state of inertia", which seems to cast an almost "trance-like spell" over all of those who seem to feel more comfortable clinging to the familiarity of inactivity, than the adventure of what lies ahead, for those who dare take that first step toward achievement.

How sad, for those who allow the fear of the unknown to imprison them in a cell of "inertia"! For them, at least, the familiar face of "failure by default" seems more comforting than the mystery of what may lie ahead – the adventure of pursuing "what could be", if only they would take that all-important first step!

For the past few weeks, we've been studying the "Four Phases Of Existence":

1. SELF-DESTRUCTION
2. SURVIVAL
3. SUCCESS
4. SIGNIFICANCE

Actually, we've only studied the first of these, so far: "SELF-DESTRUCTION".

One of the main points I've stressed in regard to self-destruction is that this is not always caused by activity – by what we do. Often, self-destruction is the result of doing absolutely NOTHING – apathy – lethargy – inactivity.

In fact, I referred to James 4:17, which tells us that sin is not only what we DO, but also, it's what we don't do, that we really knew we should.

For those who may have missed those e-mails, you may access all of my previous Leadership Teaching E-mails at: <http://markgorman.com/teachingemails.htm>.

As we look to move from "SELF-DESTRUCTION" to "SURVIVAL", the first step is to MOVE – overcome inertia – do the right thing!

A friend, who worked for NASA, told me that the Saturn Rockets launched the spacecraft for the Lunar Landings, when we first landed on the moon. He said that, when the initial Saturn Rocket had used up 80% of its fuel, it was only 1 inch off the ground.

What does that tell us? First, it helps us understand that we use most of our energy to overcome inertia – just to get started.

Secondly, we see that only 20% of the fuel was needed to take that enormous rocket the distance from one inch above the ground, into outer space, beyond the gravitational pull of the earth's atmosphere.

You see, the hardest part really is the first step. Once you get started, a wonderful thing called "momentum" takes over. And, as we all know, it's much easier to "keep going" than it is to "get started".

So, if we are EVER to move from the First Phase Of Existence, "SELF-DESTRUCTION", to the Second Phase Of Existence, "SURVIVAL", we MUST TAKE THE FIRST STEP – overcome inertia – get started!!

There is always a certain amount of fear involved in any "first step", because we're moving into new, uncharted territory. We've never been there before. But after all, how many historical people do you know of, who are famous for only going where everyone else had gone, only doing what everyone else had done?

Do you want your tombstone to read, "He was the most cautious, boring, redundant person we've ever known"?

By definition, "ADVENTURE" requires a certain amount of mystery – the "unknown". Otherwise, there isn't really any excitement, if we only go where we already know what will happen – familiar territory.

Stop Selling Sugared Water \*

Who among us could live without computers? It seems they're everywhere - in our studies at home, on our desks at work, in the library, the bank and even the cafe. We get pleasure from them, we swear at them, we need them. But it's only a recent thing. Just 3 decades ago the Chairman of IBM declared there is a world market for only five computers. As recently as 1977 the President of Digital Equipment claimed there is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home! The revolution was brought to us in large part by Steven Jobs, the founder of Apple Computers.

Steve Jobs was just 21 when he and Steve Wozniak invented the Apple Computer. Until then computers were a monstrous mass of vacuum tubes which took whole rooms. Then the two Steves managed to take that mass of tubes and incorporate them inside a box small enough to sit on a desk.

Jobs and Wozniak offered their invention to Atari. They weren't interested in big bucks - all they wanted was a salary and the opportunity to continue their work. Atari knocked them back. They offered it to Hewlett-Packard, but Hewlett Packard knocked them back. It seemed Jobs and Wozniak alone could see the possibilities. So Jobs sold his Volkswagen. Wozniak sold his calculator, and with the \$1300 that gave them, they formed Apple Computers. The company was named Apple in memory of a happy summer Jobs had spent working in an apple orchard.

The rest is history. By all accounts Steve Jobs is a visionary, and spurred on by that vision, he built a successful computer company. But Jobs soon discovered that if his vision was to reach fruition, they needed greater management expertise.

So Jobs approached John Sculley, then President of PepsiCo. There was absolutely no reason why Sculley should leave a highly paid position in a world leading company to go work with a bunch of computer nerds in a fledgling industry. Not unsurprisingly, he turned Jobs down.

But Jobs wouldn't take no for an answer. He approached Sculley again. Again Sculley turned him down. In a last ditch effort Jobs passionately presented his visionary ideas to Sculley and he asked Sculley a question that forced him to accept. The question was this: "Do you want to spend the rest of your life selling sugared water or do you want a chance to change the world?"

"Do you want to spend the rest of your life selling sugared water or do you want a chance to change the world?" Indeed Jobs and Sculley did change the world.

\* Source: Scott Higgins. Information of Jobs and Sculley from "silicon-valley-story" and "ideafinder" websites.

Sometimes, all we need is a friend who loves us enough to give us a swift kick, and get us moving toward something meaningful – something significant – to make a difference.

So, I ask you, “Do you want to spend the rest of your life sitting in the same place, surrounded by monotony and predictability, or do you want to overcome inertia – to experience the “rush of adventure” as we chase our dreams and pursue our destiny – the amazing plans God has for us?”

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