



World Business Academy

VIEWPOINT

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REKINDLING THE HUMAN SPIRIT IN BUSINESS

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Editors Note: An Academy **Viewpoint** is an occasional piece written by a Member, Fellow or Academy guest. The following piece by Academy guests Gordon Davidson and Corinne McLaughlin was excerpted from **Spiritual Politics: Changing the World From the Inside Out** (Ballantine Books).

Spirituality and Politics

What We Each Can Do to Create a Better World

By Gordon Davidson and Corinne McLaughlin

I. INNER, SPIRITUAL WORK

- A. **Pray** – For our nation, for our leaders and our government, to heal the divisions which divide us and create a society that truly serves the good of the whole.
- B. **Meditate** – To create inner peace; to receive spiritual inspiration; to send positive, healing energy to world crises.
- C. **Invoke the soul of our nation** – Honestly assess national strengths and weaknesses, avoiding chauvinism, and visualize the nation's soul or higher qualities coming into greater expression, to create a more just and peaceful world for all people. (For the U.S., a key soul quality is loving, inclusive wisdom which serves the good of all people.)
- D. **Adopt a leader** – Choose a political leader who has potential for good, but who needs help, and follow his/her career; send your prayers and positive energy to help him/her align with his/her highest self.
- E. **Focus on the positive, rather than energize the negative** – Give attention, energy and support to “best practices” – innovative solutions that promote greater harmony, compassion and justice in the world.
- F. **Build new thought forms** – Understand the life cycle of ideas; listen inwardly to receive inspiration, and become a builder and promulgator of new ideas that further human evolution and provide effective solutions to social problems.
- G. **Use intuition and inner guidance** – To make decisions that will serve the good of all.
- H. **Practice forgiveness** – of both others and yourself – and see the highest in each person.
- I. **Watch or read the new with a new lens, reflecting on problems and crises from a spiritual perspective:**
 1. Examine the inner spiritual forces at work behind events – the deeper causes or karma of an event or crisis.
 2. Observe the spiritual lessons being learned by those involved and all of us:
 - understand the meaning of the crisis by identifying with the participants
 - develop compassion and love for all involved in the event or crisis
 - reflect on how the event or crisis serves a larger purpose in human evolution
 3. Note the “coincidence” of the timing of events and natural disasters with collective human thoughts and emotions.

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"The Academy is not just another association of business people to exchange information and foster collegiality. It is about investing ourselves in a task of historic proportions." **Willis Harman**

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II. OUTER, ACTIVE WORK

A. Transform conflict by listening more deeply to a group or person you disagree with:

1. Work to find higher common ground;
2. Refuse to become entrenched in a polarized position; but stand for principles;
3. Look for the grain of truth, the positive intent in your opponent's position;
4. Build a higher synthesis of the best of both sides of an issue: a left/right synthesis using the truth on both sides.
5. Use a whole systems approach – see how all issues are interconnected with other factors.

B. Promote a code of conduct for campaigns and for public life – Principles for political leaders to sign onto if they want our support.

C. Do one thing that symbolizes your commitment to creating a better world – Join or contribute money or time to an organization that is effectively creating solutions to social problems.

D. Focus on ethics and values in public debates on issues and in discussions with friends and colleagues.

E. Work with those individuals and organizations most open to the new ideas and ways of working; don't try to crack the hardest, most resistant cases, as life will eventually open them.

F. Create a "salon" – a citizen dialogue or study group in your home to study and discuss an issue, and then develop an action plan to address it.

G. Write letters to the editor of your paper and to your Congresspeople – comment on current problems and suggest solutions, or voice support or opposition to important legislation – your opinion is important.

H. Be sure to vote – Exercise the privilege and the responsibility of participating in a democracy – for as Jefferson said, "A people get the government they deserve."

I. Take action: speak up about injustice or declining morals, help the poor, protect the environment, etc.

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