

The Dichotomy of Hope

Inspiring vs. Relying - by Sgt. Steve

Hopefully (pun intended), all of you see yourselves as leaders. When practicing the art of good leadership, you quickly become aware of the concept of hope. However, it is a dichotomy.

THE LEADER'S TOOL

Good leaders are dealers in hope. I'm not talking about fake bluster. I'm talking about inspiring an idea in others:
“Tomorrow will be better than today.”
People follow that person because they are leading in the right direction.

THE STRATEGY TRAP

Hope is incredibly useful, but it is also detrimental if you rely on it. **Hope is a feeling, not a strategy.** If you have a mission, you can't sit around hoping it works out. You must make moves.

I have a patch on the visor of my car. In big bold letters it states:

HOPE IS NOT A GOOD PLAN

Hope shifts responsibility from yourself to luck. Hope says *“My wishes somehow alter reality.”*

To resolve the dichotomy consider Hecato's words: "Cease to hope, and you will cease to fear."
Seneca followed up this thought with saying, "Fear follows hope."

In my studies, I have learned that there are 2 things that stop leaders from taking the correct actions:
Fear and Laziness.

THE ANTIDOTE: WELL-FOUNDED CONFIDENCE

Replace hope with a “well-founded confidence in yourself.” Do the work. Become the person best suited to handle the mission.

Don't hope for anything, work for everything. If you do this, the people you lead will develop confidence in you. Yes there is hope, but it is based in reality.

“Never let the future disturb you. You will meet it, if you have to, with the same weapons of reason which today arm you against the present.”

- Marcus Aurelius

**Amor Fati,
Sgt. Steve**