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**“MAN UP, ALREADY!”**  
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**HOW TO LIVE AND LEAD AT HOME  
AND IN THE MARKETPLACE**

## Chapter 12

### The Power of Your Posse

*“You are the average of the five people you spend your time with” - Jim Rhon*

I truly thought this book was done and then realized, that if I don't put a chapter in here discussing the power of your posse, your circle, the people you spend the bulk of your time with, and the power of those associations, then all the things covered in this book might not happen because of self-sabotage. Your circle matters!

Who we spend our time with has so much influence on who we are, and how we show up in our lives. It's our Level of Awareness that dictates who we surround ourselves with, so we need to have a brief discussion regarding it, and what it actually means.

Our awareness is how we perceive the world around us. Let's say two people are sitting outside a Starbucks, having coffee, when all of a sudden there's an explosion in the parking lot. The explosion is what has happened. Each person's perception of what has happened, however, will be different. Why? Because we all perceive our reality in our own unique way. And that has everything to do with our level of awareness.

Before Donald Trump was President Trump, he was a business man. During his career, he had lost and remade billions of dollars. How is that possible when another person can lose \$100,000 dollars and never make it back? Because President Trump's mindset and level of awareness is operating on a higher plane, at a higher level. And because of this, he sees the world differently than someone else. He's able to process things differently and therefore react differently.

Thoughts are proven to be energy, and energy always seeks its equal vibration. So what we think about attracts the things that are vibrating at that same frequency. The most common example of this is when you buy a new car, or are thinking of one. You may have never seen this certain model out there before, but now? It's like they are everywhere! Recently, I've been toying with the idea of getting a Jeep. Now before I started to think on this, and then research them, I never really paid much attention to any Jeep around me. They just weren't in my reality. But now? I see them everywhere! Why? Because my brain is going to filter out the things that are either aiding in my survival or my goals. A Jeep just wasn't in either category. That's the power of thought.

Now think about your associations, your relationships. Look at the level of thought that the people you associate with most have. What are they thinking about? What are they talking about? Are they talking about good things or bad things? Are they positive or negative?

Are they gossiping or are they seeking to learn more? Are they praising and blessing or are they condescending or condemning? Our relationships are very, very important and our circle, the people around us, have a direct effect on us. We simply are the average level of their thought level. So it would be really important then to pay attention to who's in your circle.

There are so many great examples of the "Power of the Posse" throughout history. We study them, we examine them, and we celebrate them. So many of them have gone on to do incredible things that have grown our country.

A great Biblical example is again in the story of King David.

David, by now, has been king for some time, and has made some serious mistakes. His own son Absalom, having plotted against him, wants the throne and chases David and his men out of the kingdom and into the wilderness. Eventually, those loyal to David meet Absalom's army on the field of battle. Never losing love for his son, David directs his commander Joab to "*Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.*" Joab, greatly insulated by Absalom's rebellion, sees an opportunity to take out Absalom and strikes him through the heart, killing him. Overcome with grief, David locks himself away; hiding himself from his men and the people most loyal to him. What follows next is a powerful example of having the right people in your circle.

*Joab was told, "The king is weeping and mourning for Absalom." And for the whole army the victory that day was turned into mourning, because on that day the troops heard it said, "The king is grieving for his son." The men stole into the city that day as men who are ashamed when they flee from battle. The king covered his face and cried aloud, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!" Then Joab went into the house to the king and said, "Today you have humiliated all your men, who have just saved your life and the lives of your sons and daughters and the lives of your wives and concubines. You love those who hate you and hate those who love you. You have made it clear today that the commanders and their men mean nothing to you. I see that you would be pleased if Absalom were alive today and all of us were dead. Now go out and encourage your men. I swear by the Lord that if you don't go out, not a man will be left with you by nightfall. This will be worse for you than all the calamities that have come on you from your youth till now."*

Whenever I read this story, I'm amazed by the strength of Joab, and his willingness to say and do what was necessary to protect his friend. David needed somebody who understood him as a man, accepted him for who he was, and yet was man enough himself to tell him what was most important. David, in Joab, had a man in his inner circle that lived in integrity, authenticity, humility and morality. Joab had to do what he knew he needed to do. He had to do the right thing and he had to be transparent. He knew right from wrong and he stepped up to David saying, 'If you don't fix this, you're going to lose everything'. Joab was an important part of David's circle. So, again I ask you: Who's in your circle?

Back while I was still a teacher, I struck up a friendship with my dentist. As we hung out more and more, I began to see that he thought on a level far greater than my own level of thought. He processed his daily reality far differently than I did. My problems and

challenges were so much smaller than his. I understood as we got to know each other that I was going to have to change. There were things he knew, and things he had learned along the way, that I did not. I knew I had to level up.

Let's do a little exercise.

Who are the five closest people to you right now? Rate each person through the four pillars; Integrity, Humility, Authenticity, and Morality on a scale of one to five.

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Integrity 1 2 3 4 5	Integrity 1 2 3 4 5	Integrity 1 2 3 4 5	Integrity 1 2 3 4 5	Integrity 1 2 3 4 5
Humility 1 2 3 4 5	Humility 1 2 3 4 5	Humility 1 2 3 4 5	Humility 1 2 3 4 5	Humility 1 2 3 4 5
Authenticity 1 2 3 4 5	Authenticity 1 2 3 4 5	Authenticity 1 2 3 4 5	Authenticity 1 2 3 4 5	Authenticity 1 2 3 4 5
Morality 1 2 3 4 5	Morality 1 2 3 4 5	Morality 1 2 3 4 5	Morality 1 2 3 4 5	Morality 1 2 3 4 5

The goal of this exercise is to get your inner circle filled with people that score high in each category. Remember, it starts with intention.

You have to *Be* a person that scores high in each category, so you can *Do* what a person like that does, and then you will *Have* those around you that resonate at the same energy frequency. How would life be different if you leveled up your associations? I can only share with you from personal experience, that my life is much richer, deeper, and filled with more passion and joy because of it.

So if you want your circle to grow, if you want the people around you to grow, then it starts on the inside through personal development: reading books, listening to podcasts and audio books, and attending seminars. Did I do any of these things before realizing that I needed to level up? Nope! I joke that I used to read Stephen King and Star Wars books, and magazines like Modern Drummer, PC Gamer, and Sports Illustrated (at least one time a year). There's nothing wrong with any of those things, still if I wanted to grow my influence, grow my business, grow my income, and grow my influence in my family, church, and the circle around me, then I had to first start on the inside. I had to get better. We move from the inside to the outside: not the other way around.

When we change on the inside we raise our level of thought and then kick off a higher vibration. That vibration will now start to attract people that think the same way. You will soon start to notice how you will hear things differently and say things differently. You will start having conversations with new people that are attracted to your level of thought, thereby increasing your circle. Eventually, a Mastermind Group may develop.

Mastermind Groups are people that you associate with where the level of thought is collective. Everybody's thinking the same way and creating incredible things together. David had his *Mighty Men*. King Arthur had his *Knights of the Round Table*. Franklin Roosevelt had the *Brain Trust*. Andrew Carnegie had the *Steel Mill*. Henry Ford had *The Vagabonds*. And Jesus had the *Twelve Disciples*.

Your Posse, like everything in your life, is intentional. Life isn't something that just happens. It's created through intent. Pay attention to who you surround yourself with because your future depends on it! This is no joke. This is your great destiny. It's your life. God created you for a reason and a purpose. You can do it and the next best version of you is right around the corner!

Feel free to reach out to me. You can find me on most social media platforms at JPuritz or John C. Puritz. Let me know how I can support you.

You have what it takes.

You can be the man you were created to be, so please: for you, your family, your community, and the world - *Man Up Already!*