

3 Good Reasons

My Dad would allow me to do pretty much anything I asked to do **if** I was able to give him **3 GOOD REASONS** why. I don't believe he did this to frustrate me, although at times it did. I believe his point was to teach me how to measure the strength of my conviction. If I really wanted to do something, I had to think it through completely. I had to separate impulse from purpose. I had to determine the cost of my desire. I had to be willing and able to pay the cost .

There were many times he challenged me with his 3 Good Reasons strategy, and one time really stands out. When I was seven years old and still riding my brother's hand-me-down, one speed, Columbia bicycle, I began a campaign to get a 3-speed bike just "like all of the other kids in the neighborhood."

I can't recall if I ever made a request I made, based on the logic "every one else was doing it", that wasn't met with this response, "If everyone else jumped off the Empire State Building would you do it too?" While this was not an original phrase, it is one that most of the people who grew up in the Depression, like my Dad, learned from their parents. It was for them **Rule #1 in The Logic of Self-Determination**. Loosely translated it meant this, "**How are you ever going to amount to anything if you're going to waste all of your time trying to be like everybody else?**"

Pretty heady stuff from a generation where most had not been educated beyond high school. So, how did they get that way? I have a strange suspicion it happened by living life and taking chances. Not reckless chances, but chances that were based on **3**

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Good Reasons.

What could these 3 good reasons be? Well, let me explain them for you now.

Reason #1 is The Dream - it says I CAN BELIEVE IT

It is a powerful belief in something that without its existence you are in some way incomplete. This is where **passion** and **desire** can overcome adversity.

Reason #2 is The Vision - it says I CAN SEE IT

It's a case of Mind over Matter, because if you can hold on to the vision in your **mind**, then the doubt of others really doesn't **matter**.

Reason #3 is The Mission – it says I CAN DO IT:

This is an expression of confidence and self-image that declares **you will tenaciously pursue The Dream to its conclusion.**

Imagine the awesome power and clarity that you would enjoy if you could **apply these 3 Good Reasons to your goals.**

If you can't think of 3 Good Reasons for doing something, then perhaps you shouldn't do it at all. Having 3 Good Reasons will free you from being just "like all of the other kids in the neighborhood." You have the ability for free and independent thought and aspirations. Before you take action, think of 3 Good Reason and when you've got them, follow your journey through to its destination.

3 Good Reasons

**YOU CAN BELIEVE IT + YOU CAN SEE IT + YOU CAN DO IT =
3 GOOD REASONS**

You know, I eventually got the three-speed bike, but it wasn't until after I had taken apart the old Columbia, trying to find a way to make it faster. When I confronted my Dad with the recently reconstituted bike he just smiled and asked, "Give me 3 Good Reasons why you should have a three-speed bike?"

So I said, -"First, my bike doesn't have brakes anymore. Second, the handlebars spin all the way around and don't steer the bike. Third, I really thought I could take it apart, make it faster and put it together without all of these left over parts." My Dad was pretty mad at first, but I think he realized that I had learned several lessons far greater than the cost of a new bike. So when my birthday rolled around that summer we went shopping for a shiny, new, bright red, three-speed bike.

As I said, it always helps to have 3 Good Reasons for everything.

And that's The Don E. Smith Experience.