

Zoe: Nuts & Bolts – Do You Have the Will?
Zoe Traits Part 4: Standing on Empirical Truth!
Slide Notations

“The children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light...” Lk16.8

Children of this world... Know how to roll out of an unexpected shock... How to pave the way for the future... Know how to prepare to build... Know how to plan for a fight... More forward thinking than children of light!

So far... Talking about the three attributes of sustained success/Zoe! *Fanatical Discipline...* Nothing weird/just sold out/motivated! **“If we aren’t pursuing God passionately we can be carried away by anything. People without a mission are easily redirected and ruined!” *Empirical Foundations... Healthy Fear...***

Empirical Foundations! *The Word of God is Empire-ical, Imperial, Sovereign truth!* Can always count on it, build on it! Never be ashamed following His lead! When we say this, people automatically think of quoting chapter and verse... But it’s far more than that... It’s having the Word concepts as foundations... So that *“wit or witout”* verse you are on solid ground!

Social psychology research indicates that at times of uncertainty, most people look to other people— authority figures, peers, group norms—for their primary cues about how to proceed. Successful people, by contrast, do not look to conventional wisdom to set their course during times of uncertainty, nor do they primarily look to what other people do, or to what pundits and experts say they should do. They look primarily to empirical evidence.

“Make them whole, healthy and holy thru Your truth... Your word is truth!” John 17.17 **“Your word, oh Lord, is a lamp for my feet and a lighted pathway!” Psalm 119.105** **“Your commandments are a lamp and the law is my light and reproofs of instruction are the way of life!” Pr 6.23** **All Empirical Foundations!**

The word is Empire-ical truth! No bedrock without it! **Mt7.24** ***But empirical truth also includes things that are “proven!”*** **“I will not sit on a hot stove...” Pr6.27** **“You can’t be in two places at once...” Lk16.13** **“You can’t eat around someone’s spit in your soup...” 1C10.21**

Empirical Example: Amundsen! *Spent years building a foundation for his quest, training his body and learning as much as possible from practical experience about what actually worked.* He spent time with Eskimos. What better way to learn what worked in polar conditions *than to spend time with a people who have hundreds of years of accumulated experience in them?* He learned how they used dogs to pull sleds. He observed how they never hurried, moving slowly and steadily, avoiding excessive sweat that could turn to ice in sub-zero temperatures. *He adopted* their clothing, loose fitting (to help sweat evaporate) and protective. *He systematically practiced* Eskimo methods and trained himself for every conceivable situation he might encounter en route to the Pole. In planning for the South Pole expedition, Amundsen set up his base camp in a location no one else had seriously considered, a bold stroke that put him sixty miles closer to the South Pole from the get-go. *Everyone believed* McMurdo Sound was the best place to launch a bid for the Pole. It had been used by other explorers and had proven to be a stable place to build a base. But Amundsen saw another option, the Bay of Whales. Other expedition leaders believed the Bay of Whales to be unstable ice and thereby a foolhardy place to base operations. *Amundsen gathered source notes and journals from previous expeditions, dating back to Ross’s voyage in 1841. He pored over the details, immersing himself in the evidence, noting consistencies and discrepancies, and assessing all the options. He noticed something interesting, something missed by others* who simply accepted the conventional distrust of the Bay of Whales: a dome-like feature that’d remained in the same place for seven decades. Amundsen concluded that this particular part of the barrier was in fact a stable location. Wrote Huntford of this decision, “Amundsen was the first to draw the obvious conclusion *because he was the first to study the sources...*[He] was that rare

creature, an intellectual Polar explorer; with the capacity to examine evidence and make logical deductions.” He searched for empirical truth and it provided a sure footing for his adventure!

Empirical Example: Andy Grove! The CEO of Intel had a routine blood test that came back with a worrisome PSA number, indicating a possible tumor. The doctor suggested that Grove’s first step should be to visit the urologist. Most people would do exactly that, but that wasn’t his response. Instead, he began reading research articles written by medical scientists for medical scientists. What did the PSA test really indicate? How did the biochemistry work? What were the statistics of prostate cancer, and the pros and cons of treatment options? He also decided to “test the tests” to validate the data in his readings, sending blood samples to separate labs to calibrate the degree of lab variation in the test. Only after all this did Grove make an appointment with the urologist. But even then, Grove did not rely on his doctors to create a treatment plan. After an MRI and a bone scan, he embarked on a more extensive research regimen, going directly to original sources, culling through the primary data. He obtained all the articles cited in the bibliography of a prostate-cancer reference book, devoured those, then searched for scientific literature that had been published in the six to nine months after the publication of that book, and then obtained even more materials that’d been cited in those publications. Grove maintained an intense schedule by day and his research regimen by night. He learned through his research that there was a raging intellectual war over various cancer-treatments. Grove realized he ultimately had to draw his own decision trees; plug in his own probability equations; and come to his own data-driven, conclusions about his treatment plan. “As a patient whose life and well-being depended on a meeting of minds,” he later wrote in Fortune magazine, “I realized I would have to do some cross-disciplinary work on my own.” After electing to undergo a biopsy, which confirmed the presence of a moderately aggressive tumor, Grove questioned what he should do next. Cancer treatments usually involve some combination of slicing you up (surgery), frying you (radiation), or poisoning you (chemotherapy); and each option has its own side effects, consequences, and survival rates. Furthermore, each doctor tends to have a bias toward a particular treatment, influenced by that doctor’s own specialties (if you’re a hammer, everything you see looks like a nail). Grove found proponents of traditional surgery, cryosurgery, external radiation, seed therapy, high-dose-rate radiation, and combination therapies. The dominant conventional wisdom pointed to surgery, but Grove’s own direct engagement with the evidence led him to a different choice (a combination radiation therapy). In the end, Grove reflected, “I decided to bet on my own charts.” Now, you might be thinking, “My goodness, what an arrogant jerk! Who does he think he is to defy the whole medical establishment?” But think about it this way: Grove discovered that the medical establishment itself had great uncertainty and disagreement within its own ranks, a dynamic amplified by rapidly advancing technologies. Had Grove faced a broken arm, with no uncertainty about treatment and zero risk of death, he wouldn’t have spent *hundreds of hours* building charts of data. *But with significant uncertainty multiplied by significant consequences, Grove did what successful people do, he turned directly to empirical evidence.*

It’s your life, you have to give an account, make right decisions based on empirical truth!

This whole study is all about your life, making right decisions, and giving an account to the Lord! We’ve been offered the Zoe life of God based on our choice of His everlasting truth over everything else! And He will ask, “What did you do with what I gave you?”

“We sense a dangerous disease infecting our modern culture and eroding hope: that what happens to us matters more than what we do.”