



## Powerful Beyond Measure

**Our greatest fear is not that we are inadequate,  
but that we are powerful beyond measure.**

**– Marianne Williamson**

This quote is the opening of a beautiful writing, *Our Greatest Fear* by Marianne Williamson. Although she is known for her inspirational writings, I think she has given a gift to business leaders in these words. I find myself quoting it on a regular basis to leaders who find themselves on the cusp of needing to make major decisions but are afraid to take the leap. They are often frightened by knowing their decision is right and will make something happen they really want to accomplish. Believe it or not, I've discovered knowing you might be powerful beyond measure is as frightening as perceiving yourself as powerless in any given situation. What does being powerful beyond measure mean to the leaders I support?

It means having the influence, reputation, and authority to make decisions that transform a company and knowing you can make it happen. It means finding yourself in line to become the “first and/or only” to hold a significant leadership position, understanding future opportunities for others like you hinge on your success. It means giving yourself permission to leave a position that no longer makes your heart sing; stepping toward work you are truly passionate about, but may be risky to pursue. Being powerful beyond measure means developing a deep sense of knowing that at any moment you can take full charge and make your most high visions come true for the betterment of yourself, your company or community.

People who live in this concept of power have specific qualities and characteristics that fuel them. People who are powerful beyond measure are often humble. They don't need to be seen but are always noticed for demonstrating great leadership. People who are powerful beyond measure take calculated risks especially if risking leads to a greater common good. People who are powerful beyond measure fearlessly step into uncomfortable situations when there is something to gain. People who are powerful beyond measure are decisive, knowing who they are and exactly what they can accomplish. People who are powerful beyond measure exude calmness because they awake each day believing they already have all that is needed to be successful.

However, Williamson goes on to say, “Your playing small does not serve the world.” Playing small means settling for less than you or your team have the capacity to accomplish. Playing small means choosing to survive versus risking something in order to thrive. Playing small means choosing silence over entering into respectful heated debate about important workplace issues. Playing small means leading with ego versus considering the results of cooperation and collaboration. Playing small stifles creativity, innovation and opportunities for growth. Too many leaders are comfortable playing small and the results of this choice are evident everywhere we look. Failed community initiatives, dysfunctional government, ineffective teams, businesses going under, and leadership scandals across the country are the results of playing small we've all seen or experienced.

Thriving in the current business environment requires bold leadership. If ever there has been a time for leaders to adopt a powerful beyond measure point of view it is now. It is worth challenging our fears to identify new and innovative strategies for taking our businesses, organizations and communities to new levels of success even in the midst of these difficult and volatile times. Do not be afraid. Onward and Upward!