

Yes, we are wired to believe whatever we perceive.

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So if you believe your community or workplace will never amount to anything, that's exactly what will happen. Or if we believe we work for the greatest organization on earth with a mission to make people's lives better then we will indeed find ourselves building such organizations and communities. It is physiological.

How do you remain positive and soar if you find yourself surrounded by people who gossip, create fear and ignore your idea because it was not theirs?

Martin Rutte, co-author of the bestselling *Chicken Soup for the Soul at Work*, has a few suggestions.

In a phone interview last year he told me he is participating in a movement he's calling the New Prosperity.

The movement recognizes not only the challenges we face, but also how they can force us to focus on what is really important: family, meaning and spirituality. With that shift can come new kinds of accomplishments and new kinds of success that are in line with our deeper values and a sustainable future.

"If we say 'We are in a recession and there is nothing I can do about it' and take on a negative attitude, then we are stuck in quicksand," notes Rutte. "But if we say, 'We're participating in a New Prosperity' and each of us commits to doing one thing today to manifest that prosperity, then things start to turn — and fast!"

He says the beginning gestures can be as simple as tipping the parking attendant a dollar or believing and supporting someone in their vision or dream. It can be contributing a penny a day to a charity so you keep the money flow moving.

Rutte believes in prosperity and its potential so profoundly that he is the founder and chairman of the board of the Centre for Spirituality and the Workplace at the Sobey School of Business at Saint Mary's University.

Years ago, Dale Carnegie wrote the bestseller *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, in which he promoted the Three Cs: Never complain, condemn or criticize. If we are to live in this new paradigm of which Mr. Rutte speaks, we too must focus on three new Cs for the workplace: take Control by instilling Confidence in those around us and showing Compassion.

It starts with you and we're starting it right now. Unleash the new prosperity and creativity in this region.

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