

## Don't let others steal your joy

Written by Penny Jones-Richardson  
Monday, 30 September 2013 13:57

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Have you ever let someone steal your joy?

Have you ever been so excited about something and as soon as you told someone about your dreams or plans, they said something negative and then down went your joy? Why do we allow people to do this to us? It is usually someone very close to us who we think should be as excited as we are. The problem with this is that we have to remember that just because we are excited about something, doesn't mean that they will be also.

I can remember telling a close friend about a business opportunity that I was thinking about pursuing. As soon as I told her all of the details, she said something negative. I was hurt because I wanted my friend to be as excited about this as I was. But that wasn't how it worked out. I eventually lost all of my excitement and moved on to something else. But looking back now I realize where I went wrong.

I should have never asked for her opinion. I should have told her my plan and just left it like that. Another mistake I made was expecting her to be as excited about this as I was. This was a dream that belonged to me, not anyone else. Expecting excitement from those who we share so

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much with would be nice, but sometimes it's not realistic. You can't expect someone to be as excited about your dreams. Remember this is *your* dream, not theirs. Don't get angry if they are not on the same page as you.

However, when you are really close to someone you do expect that person to share in your joy. But don't be angry if it doesn't turn out the way you want it to. Please understand that your dreams and plans for your greatness are about you. Just because someone is not as positive about your dreams doesn't mean they don't care about your dreams. It could just mean that they are not a dreamer.

Sometimes when people are not living by faith, it's hard for them to believe something unless they see it in front of them. Some dreams and goals are too huge for some people to even imagine they could achieve them. But don't let that stand in your way. Continue to dream big.

And as always remember, stay focused, stay determined and keep striving for *greatness*.

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