

Vision or Challenge?

Do you define your life by your challenges? Or your vision of what is possible?

Here's what Miami Heat coach Pat Riley said after his team's Game 6 victory over the Dallas Mavericks to win their first ever NBA Championship - when asked repeatedly whether he ever doubted he made the right decisions for the team...

"I am a true believer," he said. "I have no doubts, no fears. Only thing I think about is what it's going to take to win."

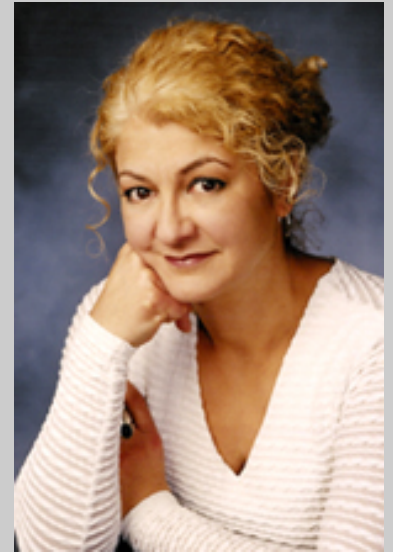
In fact, Pat Riley had promised a Miami Heat championship 11 years ago and Shaquille O'Neal guaranteed it two summers ago when he left the LA Lakers to join Dwyane Wade in Miami.

Pat and Shaq did have their disappointments, over the years, AND kept their faith. Pat Riley doesn't just talk the talk either. He walks the walk – he packed one suit, one shirt, and one tie for game 6 – that was it, claiming he never even CONSIDERED the possibility that Miami would not win. That's believing in possibility. And modeling the faith he wanted to inspire in his team.

So while Dallas fans worried about every perceived error by the officials, the Heat focused on fulfilling those promises from Riley and O'Neal.

And what about Heat team member Alonzo Mourning? Was he thinking about his kidney disease – or having to undergo a kidney transplant in 2003? I don't think so. Five blocked shots in one game? Unbelievable – considering what he's been through. And what an inspiration to us all.

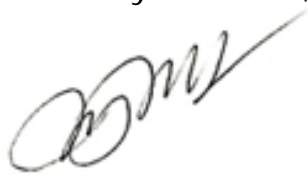
Oh this team didn't JUST have faith. They had the same blood, sweat and tears that goes with any "overnight" success. And they give us an incredible lesson too. SO much more is possible when you focus on achieving your vision, versus focusing on your challenges.



Maria van Hekken is a creative, innovative, supportive professional coach with over 20 years of distinguished service in management and administration. She heads Yes2Yes Creative Coaching and Consulting and has worked with corporations, non-profits, foundations, universities, government, and clients at the local and national levels. She has an established record of success in leadership and management positions developing programs, building partnerships, marketing institutions, and serving individuals. She received her coach training from the Georgetown University's Leadership Coaching Certificate Program.

We either have the life we want – or we have the challenges that keep us from having that life, don't we?

Achieve your vision,



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