

TAYLOR'S TIPS for a more productive you...

Dear Friend,

Today, let's talk about a CHIP.

Nope, not "A Chip off the Old Block." Not even "Blue Chip" like in stocks. Or even "Chips 'n Dip," which I can always go for (especially ruffled potato chips with onion dip - yummy. Let's put that on the list as a Thanksgiving Day appetizer...oh, I'm getting off track, sorry).



Today, we're referring to something else. We're going to talk about having "A Chip on Your Shoulder."

This phrase, 'a chip on one's shoulder,' is reported as originating with the nineteenth century U.S. practice of spoiling for a fight by carrying a chip of wood on one's shoulder, daring others to knock it off.

I have to admit it doesn't happen often, but I had a BIG one on my shoulder early this month. A change had occurred at work and I was being thrust into something I didn't want to do. It involved revamping my schedule. It upset my routine. It put a crimp in my life.

I ended up carrying around the biggest chip you have ever seen. Then one day I realized -- who was getting hurt by this? And the answer was: ME! My attitude was terrible. My performance was sub-par. My happiness was gone. That chip weighed me down. I didn't like me and how I felt about myself and my attitude.

And that's when I did this:



I printed a little picture of a potato chip bag and drew a circle around it with a red pen. Then I cut it out and stuck it on my computer at the office.

Most people don't know what it means. They probably think I don't want to eat greasy potato chips (they're not really good for me--fine in moderation though). But it doesn't matter what others think of my little picture. To me, it means:

NO CHIPS.

No bad attitude. No sub-par performance. No more unhappiness.

It made all the difference in the world to let it go. To change how I thought about the issue. To resolve to be happy in spite of the changes that were occurring.

And you know what? It worked. No more chips for me! (Except for Thanksgiving - bring on the onion dip!)

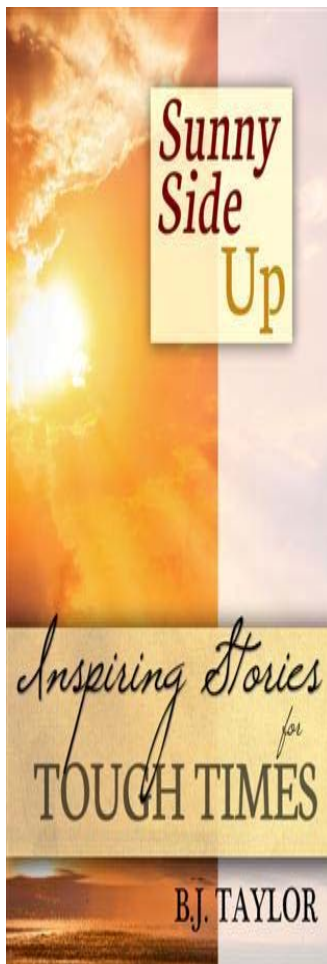
Happy writing and blessings on your work.

Follow your dreams...

B.J.

Ever need a pick-me-up? I've pulled together 18 inspirational stories into the first of three e-books filled with uplifting and encouraging narratives.

A lot of these stories come from interviews where I helped the person bring their experience to words. Some of the interviews were so emotional we cried, and I found myself incredibly moved by their strength in the face of adversity and challenge. Their courage amazed me so much I had to share with you. Although many of these narratives have been published in *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, *Cup of Comfort*, and the *Guideposts Miracles* series, they've never been gathered into a compilation like this.



Kindle: <http://amzn.to/oWyIIO>

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And if you don't have an e-reader, you can read e-books on your computer with Kindle for PC:
<http://amzn.to/dk8GIF>

Also still available:

"The Complete Guide to Writers Groups That Work"

Kindle <http://amzn.to/qDh28y>

Nook <http://bit.ly/qZTHIX>

In Print through Amazon: <http://amzn.to/n3wS5D>

If you read either book, could you do me a favor? Would you write a review on Amazon? That would be SO AWESOME. *And thank you!*

What's Happening...

26th Annual Southern California Writers' Conference (and Retreat) February 17-20, 2012.

Whether you're a writer just starting out, a writer unable to determine why your work's not working, a writer simply in search of some answers, a writer wanting feedback on what you've written, or just a writer who wants to hang with other writers, do yourself a favor and sign up.

Your words are worth it! www.WritersConference.com

Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference March 30 - April 3, 2012. It's not too far ahead to think about this conference and to begin to save so you can attend. Earlier this year I recommended pulling a sock out of a drawer and to begin stuffing it with \$20 bills. Have you done that yet? Treat yourself to this wonderful conference in the mountains near San Jose. You'll be glad you did. <http://mounthermon.org/adult/professionals/writers-conference>

Hope to see you there!

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