**Make 2014 Your Year!**
Let's make 2014 the year of you. The year you make the things happen that you've always wanted to but somehow they've eluded you. What does it take to make this year more successful than the past?

There are many reasons why one person seems to be more successful than another. In the book "The Prayer of Jabez", the author sets forth the notion that everyone is sent opportunities throughout their life but so many of those opportunities go unrealized. I agree - opportunities are abundant in everyone's life, but I believe these opportunities are often missed because of the absence of the right mindset. So, here are my three keys to turn your 2014 dreams into a reality.

RECOGNIZE
First, it's important to crystallize in your mind what it is that you *really* want. I emphasize "really" because if you would simply "like" something to happen, i.e., you would like to be an NSD, to be rich, to travel the world etc., but it's not *really* that important to you, it's not a burning desire, then the next two qualities will be unobtainable.

BE READY
Being in a state of "readiness" is the key. If you don't keep your "dream" fairly front and center you won't be able to recognize when a potential stepping-stone is placed before you. If you "float" rather than "focus", your ability to perceive something as a strategic opportunity is unclear. Most successful people are laser-focused. They don't miss a trick. Their goal is top-of-mind. They recognize and are "ready" to seize whatever potential opportunity comes their way

REACT
The final key to turning 2014 into the year of you is to *react*, to take action once you see an opportunity unfold before you. How many times have you seen someone you recognize but don't know well, know it might behoove you to say something, but you avoid it. How many times have you avoided a social situation, an opportunity to do something... to take a class, to relocate, to speak before a group of people... even friends, but you have shied away because it made you uncomfortable. If you believe that the opportunity before you could (even in the slightest way) [change your life](http://mashable.com/2014/01/02/mantras-networking/), force yourself to do it.

When you are presented with an opportunity, it's critical to react. Don't let it slip through your fingers. The worst-case scenario is that it doesn't work. The best case... you get closer to your goal. The potential upside is far greater than the downside... keep that in mind. Resist the temptation to rationalize in order to avoid being proactive. Yes, it might be a long shot in your mind, but you may be wrong. "Nothing ventured nothing gained." Experience is the origin of these proverbs. They are generally considered to be basic truths. Here's another one for you "God helps those who help themselves".

So, remember "Three R's" and make 2014 the YEAR OF YOU!