

# I Believe in You

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## 62 Amazing Years

Our 31-year-old grandson Tyler and I were consolidating the burn pile up on the hill in our backyard. Hayden, Tyler's wife of about 2 years, took off in our golf cart.



Rocking back and forth down the hill she hollered, "Where's the brakes?!" Tyler hollered back, "I Believe in You!" Tyler didn't say, "don't wreck it," "what's wrong with you," or even, "be careful!" He simply said with a sincere tone, "I Believe in You!" I laughed. His, "I Believe in You!" sounded so familiar. I heard it. I felt it. I knew it from my late wife Donna Lee for over 62 years.

When people asked, "What's the secret to your successful marriage?" I waited, I loved her answer, "Faith in the Lord from day one and respect. We respect each other." From our respect sprang caring, regard. We complimented each other daily. There was no criticism, no, "I told you so's," or "Did you do that again's?" The subtext, the frame of our life together was, "I Believe in You!"

I challenge Turbo Leadership Systems® classes to "get out of your comfort zone" (the only place growth occurs is out of our comfort zone). The



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UNcomfort zone was our constant abode.



I made big scary business decisions. A couple of weeks before our wedding, there was a phone call, an opportunity to work for Crescent Tool. I grabbed it. So, instead of living in the Eastern Michigan University apartment in our quiet, secure hometown with family and friends, it was off to Jamestown, New

York, then Anderson, IN. I left Donna Lee alone early on Monday morning, not to return until late Friday night. She missed me. She was alone in a strange city with very few friends, no text messages, no cell phones. Her response, "I Believe in You!"

Eighteen months later I quit this secure, salary plus commission, job to return to Ypsilanti, MI, and a draw against commission. Her response, "I Believe in You!" Next, a straight commission job with Word Records out of Waco, TX. I'll never forget watching her look through the mail, walk back up to the house, tears streaming down her face. No check had come to make our overdue house payment. Even then, her response was, "I Believe in You!"

Fast forward 20 years, 1981, I sold our extremely successful business to start all over again, "I Believe in You!" I worked on a book, spent money on consultants, and time away from Donna Lee and the boys. What a flop! Never published, it seemed like a complete waste. A few years later, when I began writing *Repeat Business: 6 Steps to Superior Customer Service*, her response, "I Believe in You!" Ten books later, I wanted to quit writing, she kept saying, "When will you write *Life Sentences?* I Believe in You!"



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*If you're  
not on  
the edge,  
you're  
taking up  
too much  
space.*

She never second guessed me, instead, "I Believe in You!" Never, "Look at the mess you've gotten us into this time!" Our life together was like a fairy tale, amazing, learning, growing, exploring.

On Tuesday, September 3, three days before she passed over to the other side, with our



boys, and daughters-in-law circling her bed, I said, "Now I see it. I really see it, what has been in plain sight. You, Donna Lee, have been the wind beneath my wings." I struggled to tell her I never could've had the career fulfillment, the adventurous journey if she hadn't been there always saying, "I Believe in You!"

I challenge you to see, appreciate, say early and often, how important your family and trusted friends' belief in you is. You'll know the adventure, joy, fulfillment, and intimacy that comes from growing together.

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**How To Thrive In 2025!**  
**Available until January 25, 2025.**  
**This program will Turbocharge your team to thrive in 2025. For pricing and availability, please call Larry Dennis @503-329-4519.**

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