

## Betsy Myers: #1 Rated Keynoter at Blanchard Summit 2008

### Testimonials

#### 2008 Summit Attendees

*"Betsy Myers' presentation was tops!"*

*"I could have listened to Betsy Myers all day."*

*"I appreciated Betsy's inside view of leadership in the political arena."*

#### 2006 Summit Attendees

*"The entire trip was worth it just to hear Ken Blanchard and Betsy Myers speak."*

*"The leadership panel with Betsy Myers was exceptional."*

*"The keynote speakers were the highlight, especially Ken Blanchard, Elliott Masie, and Betsy Myers."*

"In 1996 Bill Clinton signed welfare legislation, and it was the third bill, he vetoed two, signed the third bill and it was utter pandemonium with the democratic constituents. Probably in the entire White House there were maybe five people that were OK with that bill being signed. It was a great example for me to see how people deal with conflict. We had two of our major advisors who quit and I'll never forget that morning as long as I live. In our White House staff meeting, Leon Panetta was our Chief of Staff, and he'd go through the daily news and say 'by the way, so and so, and so and so quit. OK next.' It was such an awakening to me because they, out of principle, quit. But guess what, life goes on. We have a government to run, we have a President to take care of, we've got work to do on this legislation, and I'm not saying don't quit on principle but just know the statement you're making may be not as appreciated as you thought it might be..."

Bode Miller, the Olympic skier, the United States had hoped for five gold medals, he won zero. I was so mad at him, like 'how could you let this slip through your fingers?' I spent a lot of time in New Hampshire, where he's from and there's a lot of talk about Bode Miller, but he made a comment that was so unbelievably true. Someone said, 'How could you not win a single medal? You trained your whole life' and he said, 'You know, to be honest, preparation and implementation are two very different things and it's true you can have all the degrees in the world, you can have all the money backing you, but it doesn't necessarily ensure that you can go in and implement change. Because that's what leadership is, it's about change..."

Character is who you are. What you stand for. Bill George wrote a great book, *True North*, where he interviewed 125 leaders about their story. He labeled leadership as authentic when personal values line up to support our judgment calls. It's the character, and it's who you are as a being. One of my favorite stories of a leader I have great respect for is Al Gore. I worked closely with Al Gore in my time at the White House. I spent the summer of 1996 two or three times a week with Al Gore because we believed that women were going to re-elect Bill Clinton and everybody was on board with it and I spent a lot of time with him, I have great respect for him. But when he ran for president in 2000, the American people weren't really sure who he was, and in one debate he was one way and maybe that didn't work, so in the next debate he was another way, and at the end of the day, that election went towards George W. Bush. I had lunch with Warren Bennis and Al Gore a couple years after he lost the election and he was still struggling to make sense of it all. And then, he stepped into the true being that he is, writing his book and doing the work of the environment that's his real passion, and in one year he won a Nobel peace prize, an Academy Award, and I always use that as an example because when we step into who we really are, great things happen..."

So often, we're being something we're not because we think we should. There was a man that worked for me at the Center for Public Leadership who was my budget person, he was fifty years old. He wasn't very good at it and he didn't really like it, but his mother told him when he was a little boy that he should get a trade. Learn how to be a CFO. Learn how to be an accountant because you'll always have a job, and there he was almost fifty years old in a career path that wasn't for him. Being who we really are authentically is when we shine. That is why I love the work that The Ken Blanchard Companies does because they are so authentic, so real, about making the world a better place by people being who they truly are..."



#### Ordering and Information

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