

LeaderImpact Podcast - Ep. 20 - Paul Henderson - Navigating through Leadership

Lisa Peters

Welcome to the LeaderImpact Podcast. We are a community of leaders with a network in over 350 cities from around the world dedicated to optimizing our personal, professional, and spiritual lives to have impact. This show is where we have a chance to listen and engage with leaders who are living this out. We love talking with leaders, so if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions to make this show even better please let us know. The best way to stay connected in Canada is through our newsletter at leaderimpact.ca or on social media @leaderimpact. And if you are listening from outside of Canada check out our website at leaderimpact.com.

I'm your host Lisa Peters and our guest today is Paul Henderson. Today you are going to meet not only a Canadian hockey legend but the man who started LeaderImpact in 1984. Paul Henderson, a former Canadian NHLer who played left wing for the Toronto Maple Leafs, Detroit Red Wings, and Atlanta Flames is best known for scoring the winning goal for Team Canada in the 1972 Summit Series against the former USSR.

Paul's many accolades include being a member of several sports halls of fame, honored with numerous awards including the Order of Canada, as well as Paul holds two honorary doctorates of divinity degrees as well as authored several books, including his own autobiography. And while Paul has achieved 50 years of name recognition for his hard work from a single moment in time, his life purpose was realized after his career on the ice. Despite the fame, he felt an emptiness. Something was missing. In this podcast, we are going to draw on Paul's experience to help leaders in the business world navigate through leadership in their personal, professional, and spiritual lives. Please welcome Paul Henderson to the LeaderImpact Podcast. Hello Paul. Thank you for joining us.

Paul Henderson

My pleasure.

Lisa Peters

I'm going to totally fan out here for a minute because I do have a son who plays hockey. So I was three years old in 1972. I didn't quite see the game, but I did my research and it amazes me that I watched you score the game-winning goal, so I watched that and thought that was it. But you were so big in that series. I watched you score the goal that tied game 3. You hit your head into the boards in game 5 most likely a concussion. You came back in game 5. I watched you score the game-winning goals in games 6 and 7 and of course 8. Did I get that right? Sounds about right?

Paul Henderson

Sounds pretty good.

Lisa Peters

With all of those games, that is truly a moment frozen in time and it is the goal of the century. It has been called “The Goal That United Canada”. I really am going to stop talking here, but I’m honored to have you here because this podcast launched on 50 years to the date you scored that goal. I’m fanning out!

My first question, because I know we have a lot of sports fans listening to this, is I want to talk to you about that last 50 seconds of game 8 in the 1972 Summit Series. I want to know, I want to hear it from you, the last 50 seconds.

Paul Henderson

Well, the game was tied, and there was going to be no overtime. And the Russians came down and told us in the third period that if the game ended up in a tie they were going to claim victory because they had scored one more goal than we had at this point. And I remember telling my wife after we lost the first game, that if we don’t win the last three games, we are going to be known as the biggest losers in the history of Canadian hockey. There was a little bit of pressure on us. So anyway, the game goes on and Bobby Clarke, Ronnie Ellis, and I, we were the only line that actually played all eight games and stayed together, we came off the ice with about a minute and a half left in the third period. And Harry Sinden sent out Esposito, Cournoyer, and Peter Mahovlich, and then for some reason he came down and said to us, If they come off, you guys are up. And so we are going back out if there is any time. Well we are sitting there and about 1 minute left in the game Lisa, I did something I never did before, and I never did it again. But something in me said We gotta win this game! I stood up and I started yelling at the left winger, Peter Mahovlich. And Frank, his brother, was sitting beside me and said, What are you doing? I just ignored him and I kept yelling. Peter comes off and I jump over the boards, and I yelled at Yvon Cournoyer. He had the puck on the far side, but he fired it across and it was too far in front of me. I fell into the boards. And I remember saying, I still have time. I went through the whole team in game 7. But just as I get in front of the net, Phil Esposito whacked it at Tretiak, and he should never have let a rebound out, but it came right to me, and actually, I panicked Oh my God! I tried to shoot it along the ice and he threw out his pad and he got it but it came back to me and I put it in the net and jumped into Cournoyer’s arms and I have been celebrating for 50 years.

Lisa Peters

50 years! So it’s funny you said that line was on and until that line was going to come off, you would jump on but you called Mahov... How do I say that?

Paul Henderson

Peter Mahavolich.

Lisa Peters

You called him off. Now, my son's a hockey player, but he was the assistant captain. You called the assistant captain off the ice. That is a code of hockey, isn't it?

Paul Henderson

(Laughing) Well nobody's ever... I never did it. I never heard anyone else say it. But when you look back over it, What were you thinking?! And then after, I thought when I took him off imagine if they would have come back down and scored a goal and we would have lost that series, I would be living in Siberia today, not Canada. There was a risk and reward.

Lisa Peters

There wouldn't be the goal of the century. Can you explain or even understand the impact you still have 50 years, from 50 years ago? It still has impact today. We are still talking about it, Paul.

Paul Henderson

And there has never been a day like that since. Canada is a hockey country. But the difference about this is, when (a team wins) the Stanley Cup, it's usually the city, and there's obviously fans across the country. But you see in '72 it was the whole country. We were Team Canada. The country shut down. It really did. And so there is hardly ever a day, Lisa, if I meet a person for the first time they will automatically tell me where they were, what they were doing, who they were with, and how they felt. And it was really neat yesterday, there was a launch of a new book and they asked me to come, and there were 10 Canadians that were in Russia with us at the game. So I got my picture taken with them yesterday. And I told them, without them, we never would have won the series. They got behind us like crazy.

So I have been doing this for 50 years, to understand it...The older I get I really believe God was involved because I wasn't that good, really. 7 goals and to score the winning goal in the last three games. You couldn't...No one would have ever written a plot like that and get anybody to believe it. But this one actually happened.

Lisa Peters

So I have heard you in other interviews, you call this the garbage goal. And it's right in front of the net. You are digging. I get it, but I don't get it. A goal is a goal. But I have here, garbage goals are invariably benefactors of linemates who are good playmakers. And I like that. And I believe it might have been Phil Esposito who said that. But that garbage goal! I'm not a hockey player, I'm a hockey mom. But you gotta work hard.

Paul Henderson

I scored 7 goals. 6 were really nice goals. Foster Hewitt, a hockey player really loves it...Henderson makes a wild stab for it and falls. I would sooner hear, Henderson makes an incredible move. It's in the top corner! Henderson scores! I would have much, much preferred that!

Lisa Peters

Nope. We just wanted a goal. We wanted a win.

Paul Henderson

Yeah, that's true. I'll take that. I'm not going to give it back.

Lisa Peters

So we are going to step back a few years now and I want to ask you about the people you surround yourself with because Paul Henderson is not made on his own. I'm sure there are a lot of people that you have surrounded yourself with that have allowed you to reach success. So was there a teacher, a coach, or multiple people who stepped up to encourage you or had an impact on your life towards being a professional hockey player?

Paul Henderson

Well, I gotta mention my father first. I was playing for the Hamilton Red Wings. And in my second year in 1962, we won the Memorial Cup. It was a great thrill, but I had met my future wife. We were going together. We grew up poor and I hated being poor. And so I talked with her and I said to her, Eleanor, I think I need to get an education. I'm going to have to put myself through university. And we talked about that. We knew we were going to get married. And so I phoned the Detroit Red Wings and told them I was not going to come back for my last year.

But I knew I was going to have to tell my father. And my father weighed 280 and he was an intimidating guy. And he had a pretty quick temper too. And I was actually a little worried about telling him this. So I went home, and Eleanor and I discussed it. She said she would get a job and we would do it. And so I told my dad what I was thinking of doing. And he surprised me. He looked at me and he said, Paul, he said, I'm not saying you are making a bad decision, but son, you have been telling me all your life that you are going to be an NHL hockey player. And he said, When you see the Toronto Maple Leafs skate out there on a Saturday night, you are going to say to yourself, I wonder if I could have made it. And son I think it will drive you crazy.

And so I went and I told Eleanor what my dad had said and she said the same thing, Paul, you told me since we started going out that I was going to marry an NHL hockey player, and I think your dad is right. And dad said, Why don't you go back, try your best and give it two years? If you can't make the NHL in two years you still have time to go get an education and get by. So that's what I did. I went back and I really got serious my last year. Led the league in goals and made the Detroit Red Wings the next year.

But those two people had the biggest impact on my life. In fact, the woman I married, I can tell you, Lisa, if I had the choice of all the women in the world, I could never have made a better choice. And she has probably taught me as much as anybody in the world. And we are so opposite. She would sooner lose a game, a card game, or anything to let the other people feel

good. You play tiddlywinks and I want to win, and I'm going to play to win! So she has taken a lot of rough corners off of my life but she is the heart and soul of the Henderson clan, and I am so thankful. I only have one fear in life, and that one fear is that she would die before me because she will make it a lot better without me than I will without her. So my dad and my wife are the two biggest influences on my life.

Lisa Peters

Wow. We really, everyone needs those and not everyone has a family that is their number one support, or partners. So just listening to you, I hope other people find those people, their people, to support them and go, You know what? You need to give it another try. You need to go back and just try. I hope everybody has that like you did because it is so important to surround yourself with the right people.

So we have heard who has been there for you, I want to ask you about when you scored that big goal, what happened to you personally, after scoring the big goal, and going back to hockey. Because I think, was it tough to think, Am I ever going to match that moment? I take this to everything. We do something big in life, and we're like, How am I going to match that? I have an event management company, and I plan a big event and I'm like, I gotta make it bigger next year. So to you, I ask, did you ever think, how am I ever going to match the game-winning goal?

Paul Henderson

I don't think I thought that way, but it was just too much too quick. Like overnight I became, sort of, this hero in Canada. And what really it affected was we were a very private family, mainly because my wife protected us that way. But we couldn't go anywhere. We couldn't do anything. Go to a restaurant, and even though we would be eating people would be so excited to come over and want a picture even though we were eating. It used to drive Eleanor crazy.

But even on the ice, when the game was tied or something like that, you could just feel...I would go on the ice and people would start cheering. And then I would try to do things that I shouldn't have tried to do. I tried to do too...Like going through the whole team was nothing I...The only time I ever did it was in the seventh game. So it was a very difficult time.

And the worst of all though was when I was a kid growing up, I didn't want to be poor, I didn't want to be ultra-rich or anything like that. I wanted to have enough money where you didn't have to bother about it. I wanted to have a great marriage and family, which I had, and I wanted to have a career in hockey. And Ronnie Ellis, Norm Ullman, and I were a line, and I was playing and the WHA (World Hockey Association) came along and even the future looked better in terms of financial security.

But I knew I wasn't happy. And I wasn't content. I would say to Eleanor, There is gotta be something missing. And she would say, Paul, we got a great marriage, a great family. Just relax and enjoy it the way I am. And I said, Sweetheart, I just have a sense that there is something

missing. And so it was a very difficult time, a really difficult time. And I was searching for answers and I didn't have many. I probably got too big for my shoes. A little arrogance, maybe a whole lot of arrogance seeped in, and I didn't like the person that I was becoming. I really, really didn't.

Lisa Peters

I think a lot of people find themselves in that, but they don't know what to do Paul. We don't know the next steps. We don't know who to reach out to. This is a LeaderImpact Podcast, we're here. We are here for the people who are seeking, but you started LeaderImpact so it wasn't around. So what did you do? You know that you are empty but what do you do?

Paul Henderson

Well, a guy knocked on my door. Mel Stevens from Teen Ranch. This was in January of '73. And he said I would like you to work at my hockey school. And I said, Yeah, I would do that, and what do you pay? And he said we don't have any money to pay. We are a Christian school and I would ask you to donate your time. Do you not know who you are talking to? And I used to make good money doing that. And we got into a conversation, and he says, Paul, I watch you on television all the time and he says you always look like you've got an edge to yourself. You look like you're not a very contented, happy person. They tell me you got a great marriage and you obviously got a great career and everything like that. But he said, You don't look like you're a very happy person in a lot of ways. And no one had ever said that to me. And I go, am I wearing a sign or something like that? And then he said to me Lisa, Paul, you can learn to live lightly and freely. And he said, Have you ever looked at the spiritual side of life? And I said I don't talk about politics. I don't talk about religion. It just gets into...My wife goes to church and probably believes, but I'm not into that.

But what he said to me, and when you talked to the guy he seemed a little different, I said, I tried to read the Bible, but I don't connect with it. I'm a lot better on the golf course, and if I go to church with my wife I'm really on the golf course anyway. So he said, Paul, I'll get you a modern translation and I'll meet with you. And you know Lisa, he met with me for the next two years trying to convince me that Jesus is who he said he was. And when you start out as a cynic it's very difficult and I didn't even think a Christian could play in the NHL. But on March 12, 1975, I gave my life to the Lord that day. And I said, Lord, there is a lot of things I don't understand about you but I really believe that you love me and I believe that you died for me. And I know I need forgiveness and I ask you to forgive me and wipe the slate clean. And help me to become the person you want me to be. And I said in the same thing, Don't you ever expect me to tell anybody about this because I'm going to be a secret service Christian.

And you know Lisa, we would go on the road, the only guy who knew I was looking at this was my best buddy Ronnie Ellis. But back then everybody read Playboy and I would go on the plane and I would take the Playboy and I would put my Bible inside the Playboy and I would lean against the window and everyone thought I was reading Playboy, which everybody did, and I was reading my Bible.

Incredible when I think back. But do you know what? I had been a Christian for about a month, and I knew the day that Penthouse was going to come, and I went down to the mailbox and I knew it was going to be there, I took it out, and you know Lisa, I said I shouldn't open this thing. I took it and I threw it in the garbage can. I went upstairs and I had a whole bunch of copies, threw them in the garbage can, and I knew that God was real. I just knew. Don't you ever do that again. And I can honestly say, I have never looked at one since and I never will.

And there were little things that would happen, Oh my gracious! Where did that come from? And I obviously knew it was the Lord.

Lisa Peters

So how long did it take for you to be a hidden Christian, hiding, to when you finally said I'm a follower? What was that time?

Paul Henderson

Well, it took me three days to tell Eleanor. Eleanor was a very private person. You go to church, but you don't get radical about this kind of stuff. And she knows I either do something or I don't do it. And I usually try to do it very well. And she was petrified that I would become one of these evangelical guys or something like that. I sat her down and I said, You know honey, we have been looking at this and three days ago I gave my life to the Lord. I became a Christian. And she said, Oh wonderful. And got up and walked out. That set me back a bit.

And it took me another few days and I sat down with Mel and I said, Mel, I have asked the Lord into my life. But it was really funny, he said to me, Paul, don't get on Eleanor's case. Just love her the way you have and don't try to push her or anything like that. And so, I'm a little aggressive Lisa, I got a Bible and put it on her pillow. Don't ever do that. But you know Lisa, after about two months, Eleanor came and she said, Something has happened. We used to go to bed and you tossed and turned, and I always went to sleep before you did. And you were so restless. You'd sit down to read, you had to do something else. There is something that has happened within you. And that opened her eyes and she started reading her Bible and Mel started helping her a bit. And a couple of months later she actually gave her life to the Lord too, and we have just gone from there.

Lisa Peters

That's a good story. And I think that's how it happens for a lot of people. Sometimes the partner will go in and they will just lightly lay the Bible on the pillow! (Laughing)

Paul Henderson

(Laughing) Don't Do that!

Lisa Peters

(Laughing) That's the aggressive style.

So do you reflect back on your life and feel that it was well planned and scoring that goal was just a springboard to the next phase of your life? Because that goal opened up a whole new life for you. Things changed for you. Do you see that?

Paul Henderson

Well, what happened, I jumped to the WHA and we went to Birmingham, Alabama in '76. And I was a new Christian and we went to this church and we put our three girls in a Christian school. And this businessman I got to know right off the bat. And he said he was starting a men's group with some guys that were new Christians and asked me if I would like to join it. And I said, Yeah I think I would. I would really like to grow.

And the guy was just a very, very intelligent man. Very successful businessman. And he said We're going to meet from 6:30 to 8 o'clock on Mondays. And I said, Gosh, that's our dinner hour. It's just not convenient. He said, No, it's in the morning. Are you kidding me? 6:30 in the morning? I'm a hockey player. I don't get out of bed until 9 o'clock. Honest to goodness.

But this guy intrigued me. It was about a 20 minutes, we built a home out in the country and it was about a 20-minute drive down to where he was. And I get in my car, I'm never doing this again. This is ridiculous. It's dark outside in the wintertime. For the next three years, I met with this guy and he became my mentor and he changed my life. He became one of the best friends I ever had and he modeled what it was to be a godly man, as a husband, as a father, as a businessman, and everything like that.

I was in there for three years and him and my pastor came to me and said we got some new guys that are joining the church and we would like you to disciple them. I can't do that! And sometimes you need somebody that's got more confidence in yourself than you'd have and they said, Paul, trust God and do it then. Gosh, within the first month, I loved it. The guys were coming. They were memorizing scripture and it was just terrific.

And then at the end of my hockey career, I went to seminary for a couple of years. And then I really felt God was saying to me that you go back to Canada and you reach out to the Paul Henderson's of the world. They're not going to go to church. They're successful. And you know their fears and everything like that. And so I came back here. And with three men in downtown Toronto, I started my first little group. And we met for three or four weeks and I said to these guys, Do you have any friends that are out to lunch spiritually? I don't want guys who are going to church. And the one fellow says, I got a neighbor, he was a very devote Christian this guy, but anyway he said, My neighbor, I just can't get him to... And I said, Well, why don't we just have a breakfast and invite some of your friends and I'll share my testimony and you tell them what you are getting out of this group. And we did that and we ended up with twelve people and that's where it started.

And then the next year I started one over in Hamilton. And my goal was to start, if I could get 25 groups going I would have a movement. And I knew it was all about, you gotta develop

leaders. And John Bradford instilled in me, You gotta have people that are deep. So I started looking at my guys I thought could be leaders and they were the guys I would spend time with. And that's where it started and now it's just taken off like crazy.

Now I ran a pretty good mom-and-pop shop until I got my cancer and I would think we are up to about 80 groups I think at that time. They told me I might have about 5 years to live so I knew I had to get some people in there to run this thing and I was hopefully going to stay around. And so we got some really sharp guys, entrepreneurs. And it would never have taken off the way it has if I hadn't stepped out of the way. And when I took over I said to them, Listen, I know how to lead, but I'm not sure I know how to follow. And so I'm not going to second guess you. I'm never going to offer you advice unless you ask me for it. But I will be here. I will help you out financially and I'll speak and do all those kinds of things. And it has been a terrific transition. And they know I've got their back. And I don't have to go to any more blasted meetings or strategy things. That's not my bag! (Laughing)

Lisa Peters

(Laughing) At 6:30 in the morning!

Paul Henderson

Well, I still do that. I still have my men's group. I'll never, ever give those up. In fact, we just started a new season this Tuesday of this week. And the highlight of my week is Tuesday mornings.

Lisa Peters

So do you do any book studies or do you study anything in particular or just get together?

Paul Henderson

No, we use the Bible. We usually do a book and then we go back to the Bible. And we will ask the guys, Is there a book you would like to read? But that is what I usually do. A book I highly recommend we just go into, I read this summer, *Live No Lies* by Mark Comer. He's a pastor out in Portland Live L-I-V-E No Lies. And he talks about we have three...the world, the flesh, and the devil. These are the enemies that we have that try and get us off track and everything like that. Very challenging book.

Well, you look up here. I used to read, when I first started the ministry, I used to read at least 30 books a year. Good Christian books. A lot on leadership and that. And John Bradford, the guy...Paul never quit learning. Put your foot on the gas. And actually, Lisa, when I had... we built a home down there and I had a lot of bookshelves I bought 300 books. My pastor, we had a library in the church, I got my pastor, I got commentaries, I bought 300 books because I got the money now. And I had all these spaces to put on. I bought 300 books in one day! And eventually, I read almost every one of them.

Lisa Peters

Wow! Our LeaderImpact, is just last week. We started with *Boundaries* by Dr. Henry Cloud.

Paul Henderson

Great author!

Lisa Peters

Yes! And there are so many good leadership books that we study and I'm sure you have a list of them, and other guests have listed them. They are really good and just how they relate to your spiritual side.

Now that we are talking about LeaderImpact, and if people didn't hear me in the beginning, you started one group when you left, when you sort of transitioned you said there were 80. We are in 350 cities now around the world.

Paul Henderson

No, we are in 921.

Lisa Peters

Sorry, what was that

Paul Henderson

We are in 921 cities and 77 countries.

Lisa Peters

Wow! Yeah! It's amazing what you started. So it is an honor to be here. I wanted to ask you, just for people listening, and they are thinking of themselves and why they would do this, but what would consider the benefits of joining a LeaderImpact group?

Paul Henderson

Well, one of the benefits is you gotta a bunch of peers that you can come and there's no such thing as a dumb question. And you think and you say them and in your life, you don't have to make mistakes. Other people in the group have probably made them and there is a lot of great advice.

I had one group and I had seven CEOs in there. Do you think there wasn't a bit of...and so iron sharpens iron too. But it is a very safe place and we don't push Jesus on you. You figure it out on your own and you got a place to ask the questions. And obviously, we give you good advice and good books to read. C.S. Lewis, I have read so much of his. And all kinds of different things. And so everybody is different and that's what makes a group work well because people bring a different perspective.

And the friendships. My closest friends today are guys who have come to know the Lord through the ministry, usually. So it's just a great place to meet some guys that a very, very intelligent and have been down the road and can give you good advice or somebody comes and says I think my kid may be on drugs. Well here's what you don't do, you understand what I mean? But obviously, we try to point them to Jesus. He is the one that calls them, I am the

light of the world whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life. I have never once, Lisa, regretted doing it God's way. And every time I have violated God's principles I have regretted it, 100% of the time.

God doesn't expect us to be perfect. He knows we are weak. But he says, I am there to forgive you. Just like I'm a parent. I had three daughters, and they were just great kids but they were not perfect. Now I've got grandchildren and they're perfect. It's unbelievable! All I've got to do is love 'em and spoil 'em. And that's the way God looks at me. I'm his child. I'm not perfect but he loves me. He's willing to die for me. And I don't beat myself up. When I do dumb things, I just take it back to the Lord. Lord, you know it's me. I know he is going to forgive me and you don't have to beat yourself up. He said I came that you would have life and have it abundantly. And Lisa, I refuse to have a bad day. Even with cancer. And when you are not afraid of dying, I know I have already started my eternal life. It is just a matter of leaving this life and going to heaven. And I pray every day, Lord, please take me home before my wife. That's my only fear.

Lisa Peters

I only have a few more questions left, but I want to ask you one just about influence in your leadership. So not everybody is going to score the "Goal of the Century" and not everybody is going to make the billion-dollar deal. So I want to talk to those people, or I want you to talk to them because they think they have to do that to have it all together. The big goal, you don't. So what advice would you give to people listening so that they can understand that you can be an influence at any level of leadership?

Paul Henderson

Well, God made us all different. And find out what your giftedness is. I like to be upfront. I like to speak. I like to lead. My wife Eleanor, she would sooner be in the kitchen cooking than being out front. That's just who she is. But I'll tell you what, she is every bit as much an influence as me because she is such a godly woman. And she's listening. She's taught me so much about listening.

So I would say to you, find out what you like doing. 1 Peter says As each one has received a special gift employed in serving others as a good steward of the manifold grace of God. In other words, He doesn't make junk. And so everybody's got a gift that they can use. Maybe it's cooking meals for somebody. And I guarantee, when you get to heaven, if there is a hall of fame, I doubt if I will be in it, but really think my wife will be. And you know, a lot of people are not upfront, just live godly lives.

And God says, this is what I command, Love me and love others. That's what he says. And so you do that with your neighbors or anything else like that but God wants you to enjoy life. He doesn't want you to be miserable and I gotta go and knock on doors. No, you don't! You find out what you love to do and you do what you love to do. When I found out that I loved leading groups and men and speaking...I should have taken a lot of lessons, but I'm such an idiot, I

didn't, but anyway. God loves every one of you. And he wants you to get to know him. And one of the best places to do it if you're not going to church at this time is to get into one of our groups. And there are men's groups, women's groups and now we've even got mixed groups for you.

Lisa Peters

We even have online groups. And what's great is you can join in from anywhere across...In particular my group, anywhere. Just Zoom in. That's what Zoom has taught us. And with Covid, that's the bonus is we really learn to connect, like we're connecting.

So I have two more questions, reflecting on the people you have a lasting impression on have you considered what your faith legacy will be when you leave this world?

Paul Henderson

I'm going to leave that up to other people. We are doing that Venture series last night and we've got the leaders in Mississauga there. And we were asked who are some of the influences. And two of the people in the group, they're leaders of groups, mentioned my name and the influence I have had on their lives. As soon as they started talking about that, Lord, don't let me get a big head here. You put me in a position.

While this is 15 years ago, I had a group of guys, I was having my devotions one morning and it was in Ephesians and it talks about patience, gentleness, and humility. My initials are PGH. Paul Garneth Henderson. And I knew God was talking to me that morning. Paul, you are not nearly as patient as you should be. You are not nearly as gentle as you should be because when I tune guys up they got...I told them, You come late and I'll break both your wrists. If you don't memorize scripture...but patience, gentleness, and humility. I had to learn how to spell humility. And I still have, one of the guys, he is now a judge, he was in that group, and every time we talk he prays for me patience, gentleness, humility. And Eleanor will tell you that I have made strides. I still have a long way to go but that is just what happens. God speaks to you at certain times and in different areas. And so there you go. And now I forget the question so I've got to shut up.

Lisa Peters

I love when you can see those moments where I call them God winks, where God winks at you, and patience, gentleness, humility, your initials. And you just kind of go, Really, is that what we're going to talk about? I do that all the time. Really?! Is that what! So I thank you for sharing that story because I thought I was the only one. But no! God has humor! (Laughing).

Paul Henderson

He made humans!

Lisa Peters

So my last question for you Paul, and I'm sad it has come to here, the end, but what brings you the greatest joy?

Paul Henderson

Probably my wife, my family, my grandchildren. We have been praying for probably 40 years. If we had one prayer answered, Lisa, and we prayed every day that we would be an unbroken line of descendants that would love Jesus. That's our prayer. That's the legacy that we would like to live. Eleanor and I would like to leave behind, and we are so fortunate at this point, and we have some young great-grandchildren, but they've all got good marriages, Christian wives. And so that gives me the greatest joy when I can look over... My grandchildren, we talk to them all the time and we pray for them. And it doesn't matter where we go we always pray before meals and they love praying. If I'm really hungry, I don't let them pray. I say the prayer (Laughing)

So that's the legacy that we would like to leave behind. And obviously, like I said, I've got so many people.

Eleanor has really struggled with Covid. She got it in April and she's got long Covid. And I guarantee you there's hundreds of people praying for her on a day-to-day basis. And everybody knows how fortunate I am to have married her. When you get to know us as a couple, I might be the face of it, but she's the heart and soul, and everybody knows it. And I am so proud of her.

Lisa Peters

So how is she doing now?

Paul Henderson

She's still struggling. She saw her doctor again. And she loses her voice and she coughs. She's still coughing and that kind of nonsense. And she's got an ENT guy, he wants to go down and take a look at her throat and he's going to do some more blood work and all that kind of stuff. And so her mother died of cancer and that kind of stuff, so I've always been a little of petrified of that. But again, Ok Lord.

And you know Lisa, I really believe, I'm not going to live one day longer or one day less than the Lord wants me to. When I look over my life there are so many times I could have died. Like I was born on a sleigh. And got the hospital and the nurse, I met her on her 90th birthday, You were blue. She said If it would have been another few minutes you never would have made it... born in a sleigh in the middle of a snowstorm. And when I got you there was straw all over you, blood all over you. And I know you because I gave you your first bath, son! I met her on her 90th birthday. Amazing!

Lisa Peters

I want to thank you for joining us. I do have one picture I'm hoping this... My son plays hockey, and this picture I'm going to show has been sitting in my inbox for probably six years. And it was number 19. And you were number 19 weren't you?

Paul Henderson

(Nodding head) 19. And do you know why I wear 19? It's my wife's birthday. March 19. And it's why I wore 19 all these years.

Lisa Peters

Ahh, that's a great story. I want to thank you for taking this time with us. And just congratulations on that goal 50 years ago, as of September 28. It changed your life and it moved you in a direction that has been a beautiful story. So thank you for sharing it with us and thank you for starting LeaderImpact. I wouldn't be here doing this show without you. Thank you.

Paul Henderson

Well, I get great satisfaction...I'll finish with this one. My grandson was 21. He was out in Victoria and his girlfriend, there was family out there, and they went to this party. And then he told somebody that I was his grandfather. He was your grandfather! I went to..., they were in Victoria. He said, My wife wanted me to go to counseling and that kind of stuff. And he said, I don't want to go, but then she said Paul Henderson and his wife are going to be speaking at this marriage conference. He said, I didn't (want to go), but I wanted to meet you! I went. You go home and tell your grandfather, he saved my marriage. It changed my whole life. So you go home and tell him. And that was like three weeks ago. My grandson comes home and tells me that. I love getting stories like that.

Lisa Peters

That makes your grandson pretty proud, but to hear the story, you've been a huge influence around the world. So thank you again.

Paul Henderson

You're welcome, Lisa. You did a great job. Thank you!

Lisa Peters

You're welcome. Well, this ends our podcast with Paul. And I want to thank him for joining us. If anyone wants to contact you, are you on social media at all?

Paul Henderson

No, I don't do social media, but you can get me through LeaderImpact. I'm there. I take everybody's phone calls.

Lisa Peters

Well, that's a great way to get people to LeaderImpact.ca and then just ask to speak to Paul.

Well, this ends our podcast and I want to thank Paul again for joining us. If you are part of LeaderImpact you can always discuss or share this podcast with your group. And if you are not yet in a LeaderImpact group we would love to have you. Check out groups available in Canada at leaderimpact.ca or if you are listening from anywhere else in the world check out

leaderimpact.com or get in touch with us by email info@leaderimpact.com and we will connect you. And if you like this podcast please consider giving us a five-star rating or a review, this will help other global leaders find our podcast. Thank you for engaging with us and remember, impact starts with you.