

New Man Story

Dr. David Cook — Did He Make the Putt?

David Cook is a renowned peak performance coach and author in the field of Sport and Performance Psychology. He has coached performers from the PGA, NBA, NFL, MLB, Olympics, and collegiate national championship ranks. His business clients have included many Fortune 500 companies.

In 2006 David released his best-selling novel, *Golf's Sacred Journey*. In 2011 the book was made into a major motion picture, *Seven Days in Utopia*, starring academy-award-winner Robert Duvall and Lucas Black. Here we discuss some of the key lessons presented in the book and film, as well as in David's new book—*Greatness*.

Those who have read David's now-classic book or watched the film will recall the painful meltdown that Luke, a struggling pro-golfer, experiences during a tournament in Texas. His rage over his poor performance, coupled with his caddie-father's overbearing pressure, are painful to watch. Luke storms off the course, "runs away" in his car, and ends up *literally* in a cow pasture ditch in the middle of nowhere—a fitting representation of where his life is. It's there that he meets Johnny Crawford (JC), the wise mentor who helps him put the emotional and mental pieces together, find his game and (most importantly) find the Lord.

While there are numerous mental-game and life-lessons explored and taught in this great story, the central one is that we need to bury the big lie that our acceptance, self-worth and value in life is dependent on our performance.

At the dramatic end of the film, Luke gets an invitation (with Johnny's help) to play in the Valero Open. In the final scene, he is one long putt away from winning the tournament against K.J. Choi. He strikes the putt and we watch it go toward the hole, but we don't get to see if it goes in. The question posed in the closing narration is: *I guess you're asking yourselves whether he made the putt? The better question is, does it really matter?*

There is a great deal wrapped up in that question: *Does it really matter?* Certainly, there are things that matter—especially things of family, loved ones and eternal consequence. A putt going in a hole (and a million other relatively small things we might tie to our value as a person) really doesn't matter in God's eyes...and His opinion of us is the only one that really does matter.

Those interested can rent *Seven Days in Utopia* for free on Amazon Prime from this link:

<https://www.amazon.com/Seven-Days-Utopia-Robert-Duvall/dp/B07ZDG7N2D>

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever had (or come close to having) a "meltdown" related to poor performance?
2. What is the source of our frustration and humiliation when we have a bad golf game or shot?
3. How does David describe "Greatness" in God's eyes?
4. What personal lesson(s) did you take away from this video?

Click on the link below for the 10 minute video

<https://vimeo.com/514676630>