



Neal Petersen

Neal Petersen has completed two amazing journeys in his life—a single-handed yacht race around the world (covering 27,000 miles during 9 months at sea) in a yacht he designed and built himself, and an even more arduous and eventful trip of overcoming poverty, a childhood physical disability, and racial prejudice during the Apartheid era in South Africa—just to make it to the start line! While sharing his riveting life story and philosophy, Neal's personal messages open the mind to "turn barriers into opportunities" and will resonate with almost every organization.

As an award-winning author, solo racing yachtsman, and global investor, Neal shares real-life examples of how he overcame insurmountable barriers by always turning "perceived" disadvantages into advantages—and then into opportunities. In his captivating and empowering "No Barriers, Only Solutions" keynote, Neal demonstrates how success is realized: through innovation, balancing risk against return, and being flexible enough to adapt to constantly shifting winds. Neal has challenged thousands to prevail against their own formidable barriers and setbacks and to turn those obstacles into treasures. Using his personal story as a guide, Neal lays out the importance of detailed planning, preparation, passion, and execution to clearly communicate vision and direction. Neal's keynote has "wowed" international audiences with his story and how it relates it to their challenges, often garnering a standing ovation.

In addition, Neal shares his insights in an engaging manner and with his broad perspective. He knows how to interact with different cultures and people from all over since he is both well-traveled and has lived in many parts of the world. Currently, Neal has homes in the U.S., Dominican Republic, and South Africa.

In these challenging times of uncertainty, feelings of fear and insecurity rise and many people feel like solo sailors, adrift and grasping for survival. Neal will help prepare audiences to tackle their barriers by providing hope, a change in attitude, and the vision to navigate the demanding times ahead.

Take-home values from Neal's keynote:

- The importance of building a solid support structure
- How to capitalize on ever-changing winds storms through innovation
- How to adapt to shifts in wind and stormy seas by knowing when to alter course/change
- How to leverage economic challenges to your advantage: Keep pumping, choose a winning course, and navigate to your advantage
- Attitude adjustment to refresh your vision: "There are No Barriers—Only Solutions!"
- With hope and planning, a dream can become a reality—anything is possible
- The application of knowledge is POWER
- Ego can destroy, but passion can build
- Life is about choice, and with choices come consequences—chose your course wisely