



BONNIE ST. JOHN
MULTIMEDAL PARALYMPIC SKIER / AUTHOR / BUSINESSWOMAN

We all stumble or fall, but Bonnie St. John's remarkable success in the face of physical adversity has taught her that the key to winning is not just bouncing back from obstacles, but doing so faster than your competition.

St. John's unique life experience has taken her to world-class levels in a wide variety of arenas: sports, academia, politics and business—despite a litany of potentially devastating obstacles. Growing up in a family of modest means, St. John had her right leg amputated at five years old. She used her imagination and determination to push past the limitations of discrimination, disability, and economic disadvantage and pursued a passion for competitive skiing, taking her all the way to the 1984 Paralympics in Innsbruck, Austria. Her subsequent silver and two bronze medals in downhill skiing made her the first African-American ever to win medals in a Winter Olympic event. President George W. Bush recently honored her at the White House for this historic achievement.

In 1993, St. John was appointed by the President of the United States to serve as a Director for the National Economic Council. Today, she travels the world as a highly sought after keynote speaker, presides over her own business, and hosts a web-based TV and radio show.

A best-selling author, St. John has published four books: *Succeeding Sane: Making Room For Joy In A Crazy World*; *Getting Ahead At Work Without Leaving Your Family Behind*; *Money: Fall Down, Get Up*; and the hugely successful *How Strong Women Pray*, which chronicles the inspirational journeys of 27 extraordinary women including Maya Angelou, Edie Falco, Kathie Lee Gifford, and Barbara Bush. Her fifth book, *Live Your Joy*, will be released in 2009.

Bonnie has appeared on countless TV and radio shows including *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *CBS Morning News*, CNN, *Montel Williams* and The Discovery Channel, as well as profiled in some of the nation's leading publications, including *The New York Times*, *People* magazine and *Essence* magazine. Recently, Starbucks featured a quote from her on millions of their coffee cups across the country. NBC Nightly News called Bonnie "One of the five most inspiring women in America."

TOPICS:

- Success In the Face of Adversity