

Wisdom for Wednesday

Positive messages for daily living. Pass on the good feeling – forward this to your clients so they can reap the benefits as well.

Overcoming Negativity ...

If you have a plan, an ambition, a dream, or just a good idea, don't let your own lack of confidence or other people talk you out of it. Don't listen to negativity (turn it into positive), don't accept can't, won't, shouldn't (or any other words that attempt to put you off). Who cares if the idea isn't new (perhaps you've found a different approach); it's been tried before (so you'll try again); you don't have the experience/knowhow/talent (so you'll acquire it); and "What makes you think YOU can do it?" Or of course the real challenges such as lack of tools, knowledge or simply finance.

Unless we are an Einstein or Beethoven or some type of child protégé we usually only discover our destiny after a series of disastrous attempts at things we are not suited for and don't enjoy. We arrive at what we **want** in life through trial and error and by painstakingly eliminating the things we **don't**. From that point true joy and fulfilment comes from being paid to do what you love to do. So isn't it worth having a go at something that really gets you excited and makes you want to leap out of bed in the morning!! And remember, if everyone who had a good idea or new concept listened to other people or gave up at the first attempt, we would be a much poorer world.

To put it into perspective I've collected a few anecdotes from famous people who absolutely refused to EVER give up and all shared a number of winning character traits such as: drive; determination; vision; passion; and hope.

Robert Kennedy: while he was Attorney General, set out to jail the crook who ran the Teamsters, Jimmy Hoffa. Driving home, after working on the case until 2am. he passed the Teamsters building and saw the light on in Hoffa's office. So, he turned around and drove back to work. There will always be people better and smarter than you - in order to achieve what you want you have to want it more and let nothing get in the way.

Napoleon Bonaparte: openly admitted: "A leader is a dealer in hope".

Barack Obama: in his keynote address "Do we participate in a politics of cynicism or a politics of hope?... I'm not talking about blind optimism here... No, I'm talking about something more substantial. It's the hope of slaves sitting around a fire singing freedom songs; the hope of immigrants setting out for distant shores; the hope of a young naval lieutenant bravely patrolling the Mekong Delta; the hope of a millworker's son who dares to defy the odds; the hope of a skinny kid with a funny name who believes that America has a place for him, too. Hope in the face of difficulty. Hope in the face of uncertainty. **The audacity of hope!**"

Abraham Lincoln: demonstrated that you should never, never, let pride stop you from trying. He would say (about his many political defeats) "Well, I feel just like the boy who stubbed his toe - too damned badly hurt to laugh and too damned proud to cry."

And the nay-sayers of old who are now held up as examples of short-sightedness:

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers." Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home." Ken Olson, Digital Equipment 1977

"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us." Western Union internal memo, 1876

"Everything that can be invented has been invented." Charles Duell, Commissioner, US office of Patents, 1899

Lynette Davies