

PRINCIPLE-CENTERED LEADERSHIP: BE A “CAN-DO” PERSON!

Winners focus on what they can do not on what they cannot do! The next time you look at an unsatisfactory situation and think, “Why don’t they do something about this?” stop and consider: “Why don’t I do something about this? What can I do to bring about change?”

You are rich with potential! You may not discover that potential until you try to do things you’ve never done before. But inside each of you there are hidden sources of ability, power, strengths, and talents. Potential has to do with the person you can become not the person you are today. Potential has to do with all the things you can do but have not yet done.

Very often people do not try new things because they are afraid they are going to fail. If they fail, they might not feel good about themselves, and we all want to feel good about ourselves. Or if they fail, maybe other people will ridicule them or lose respect for their abilities. This can be a big problem. When someone is afraid to take a chance of failing, he also loses the chance of learning something new and feeling good about his success.

The fear of failure is like a big monster lurking in the corners of your mind. Think about all the things you might try if you knew you could not fail. You know you’d really like to do those things, but every time you think about trying you see that monster and he’s saying, “What if you can’t do it? What if you fall flat on your face, making a fool of yourself?”

It’s okay to fail. Every time we fail, we learn something. We learn to do something a little differently the next time we try. It takes courage to maintain a “can-do” attitude and persist, but in the process you are both learning and developing your character.

Thomas Edison, famous inventor of the electric light bulb, among other things, had a “can-do” attitude. On the day in which his one-thousandth attempt failed, Thomas Edison was asked by a reporter, “Mr. Edison, how does it feel to have failed so many times?” For a “can-do” person like Thomas Edison, he took the question in stride. He confidently replied, “Fail? I haven’t failed at all. I now know one thousand ways not to make an electric light bulb.”

In history, there are endless examples of people like Edison who knew they could accomplish great things with a “can-do” attitude.

A “can-do” attitude gives you the power to make choices, try new things, and strive to do and be the very best you can be. Ask yourself this question: “If there was no possibility I could fail, what would I attempt to achieve?”

The “can-do” person welcomes challenges as opportunities to be stretched and he accepts that he will encounter obstacles on the way to reaching his dreams and goals. The “can-do” person is not unduly discouraged by these obstacles. He looks at them squarely and determines to find a way over them, under them, around them, or through them. And if he can’t, he creates a new path.

It also helps to know what your strengths are, to know what you have to work with on your journey to achieving. This knowledge helps you to figure out where you fit into society and what you have to contribute. But when you are not using your strengths, you are less creative and productive and perhaps less pleasant to be around. You are out of sync with yourself.

Don't waste inordinate amounts of energy trying to do better what you don't do well. Capitalize on what you do well until you can do it excellently, until you can make an invaluable contribution that will add value to others and make their lives better. Whether you provide services or products, focus on making the best use of your strengths, gifts, talents, and abilities. When you put your energy into developing them, extraordinary room for growth exists.

Above all, be a "can-do" person. Find your special niche and give it all you've got. The world will be much richer because of you.

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