

Tom's Two Cents:



Self-Imposed Barriers

When I talk to companies about Innovation, initial protests (and some of the real concerns) often include:

1. We can't afford it. ("We've tried new things before and they didn't work as expected.")
2. We don't need it. ("Things are fine. Why change what's not broken.")
3. We can't do it. ("We're not smart enough to come up with any new ideas.")

To which I respond:

1. You choose not to afford it because you don't recognize that solid Innovation will pay for itself a hundredfold and more. You need to consider "How can I afford it" – that is thinking of an engaged mind.
2. You absolutely do need it because one of your competitors is going to figure out a better mousetrap and put you out of business while you're thinking nothing is broken.
3. You can do it because you and your team are smart, but maybe you haven't had sufficient guidance in this particular area to unlock your creative potential. Or, maybe you just aren't sure where to start.

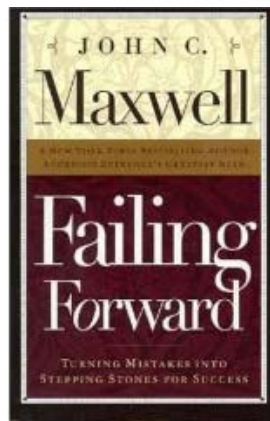
Once you have broken down the self-imposed barriers to Innovation, you begin to create the environment where creativity and Innovation can thrive.

"The only job where you start at the top is digging a hole"

-Anonymous

About Strategic Planet

Our Mission is Simple: we create wealth for our customers. Strategic Planet helps you achieve sensational success through the power of compelling design and innovation consulting. We teach and provide compelling principles, methods and systems focused on continual innovation and simplification to maximize your success.



Book Review:

Failing Forward

by John C. Maxwell

Review by Derek Walker, MBA

Traditionally, people have viewed failures and mistakes as terrible events in life. We've been taught to see misfortunes as nothing but setbacks and difficulties.

Maxwell presents a series of examples of people who've taken their failures, and used them to become strong inspiring people. Anything from business failure to life threatening accidents, which often destroy a person's faith and happiness, can lead people to greatness. Failures can be some of our greatest blessings in disguise.

Maxwell outlines these steps to failing forward:

1. Realize there is one major difference between average people and achieving people.
2. Learn a new definition of failure.
3. Remove the "you" from failure.
4. Take action and reduce your fear.
5. Change your response to failure by accepting responsibility.
6. Don't let the failure from outside get inside you.
7. Say good-bye to yesterday.
8. Change yourself, and your world changes.
9. Get over yourself and start giving yourself.
10. Find the benefit in every bad experience.
11. If at first you do succeed, try something harder.
12. Learn from a bad experience and make it a good experience.
13. Work on the weakness that weakens you.
14. Understand there's not much difference between failure and success.
15. Get up, get over it, get going.

Cool Website of the Month

<http://www.GetTheGlass.com>

Why it's cool:

This Web site is unique in that it takes the basic concept of teaching people about the importance of milk and portrays it in a remarkable way that's appealing and interesting to all ages of people.



The Causes and Cures of Procrastination

by David B. Bohl

Do you live by the old adage of putting off doing today what you can do tomorrow? Do you find yourself doing the easy things on your list first, and then running out of time and energy to do the tougher, and usually more important things? If so, you're part of a large segment of the population who suffer from procrastination. There is a cause and there are cures for this highly prevalent "disease."

Causes

1. You prefer to do the fun things first.
2. You're not organized and do things at random.
3. You don't know how to prioritize.
4. You don't have all the information.
5. You need help but either don't know who to ask or are reluctant to ask.
6. You REALLY don't want to do the thing you're putting off.
7. You're afraid of failure.
8. You believe the task is too difficult and you're overwhelmed.
9. You're never in the "mood" to tackle the project.
10. You say you'll do it, then break agreements with yourself.
11. You are a perfectionist.
12. You think you have to do it all yourself.
13. You're not honest about the consequences of not doing the task.

Cures

1. Create a fun reward after you complete a task that doesn't seem like fun.
2. Use a planner like Outlook or some sort of calendar system where you can look at all you have to do and figure out what to do when.
3. Read Stephen Covey's book *First Things First* and learn how to distinguish between urgent and important tasks.
4. Look on the Internet or ask someone who's done this before. All the information you need is most likely available somewhere.
5. Get over your fear of asking, and get the help you need.
6. Ultimately you have to decide if you REALLY want to do the thing you're putting off.
7. When you don't even attempt something, you've already failed. If you do it and you "fail," learn from the experience as to what to do differently next time.
8. Look for ways to break large tasks down into bite size pieces.
9. The right mood may never come; just decide if you really want to do this and get any help you need.
10. Find someone to be accountable to. We tend to keep our commitments to others more than to ourselves.
11. Get over it. The need to do it "right" is a myth. There are degrees of rightness and you will have to accept less than perfect to get anything done. How about excellence?
12. Delegate what you don't like to do or don't have the skills for. That's why there are experts out there. Do what you do best and delegate the rest.
13. Get clear about the consequences of not doing the task and determine whether it's worth letting go.

When procrastination starts becoming a big enough problem, you will do something about it. And remember there's lots of help available. Consider working with a life coach to get to the root of the problem and get ongoing support.

www.slowdownfast.com