

THE STEPS OF SUCCESSFUL RISK TAKING

The HABITS of Success: Part 5

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"It's risky not to take chances. In a world that's changing really quickly, the only strategy that is guaranteed to fail is not taking risks." ~ Mark Zuckerberg

"Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most. And get rid of this "play-it-safe" who won't go out on a limb... To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away." (Matthew 25:28–29, The Message/NLT)

THE #1 INHIBITOR OF SUCCESS:

FEAR

How FEAR (False Evidence Appearing Real) Talks Us Out of Success

Paralysis of analysis = WHAT IF...?

Moses' arguments in Exodus 4:

- Incapacitated by my identity: "Who am I?"
- Crippled by the crowd: "What if they don't believe me?"
- Underestimate our potential: "What if I don't have what it takes?"
- Overestimating our obstacles: "I just can't."

THE STEPS OF SUCCESSFUL RISK TAKING

1. **MOTIVATION:** Clarify your CAUSE.

"...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31, NLT)

"Commit your actions to the LORD, and your plans will succeed." (Proverbs 16:3, NLT)

2. **EVALUATION:** Consider the COST?

"But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?" (Luke 14:28, NLT)

3. **INFORMATION:** Find the FACTS?

"What a shame—yes, how stupid!—to decide before knowing the facts!" (Proverbs 18:13, The Living Bible)

"The wise man looks ahead. The fool attempts to fool himself and won't face facts." (Proverbs 14:8, The Living Bible)

4. **PREPARATION:** Prepare a **PLAN**?

“We should make plans—counting on God to direct us.” (Proverbs 16:9, The Living Bible)

“Any enterprise is built by wise planning, becomes strong through common sense, and profits wonderfully by keeping abreast of the facts.” (Proverbs 24:3–4, The Living Bible)

a. **MENTORS**

“Get good advice and you will succeed; don’t go charging into battle without a plan.” (Proverbs 20:18, TEV)

b. **MODELS**

“...just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.” (Philippians 3:17, NIV)

c. Mindset: What could **GO WRONG**?

“A sensible man watches for problems ahead and prepares to meet them. The simpleton never looks and suffers the consequences.” (Proverbs 27:12, The Living Bible)

5. **DECLARATION:** **PUBLISH** my plans.

“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32, NIV)

“We can make our plans, but the final outcome is in God’s hands.” (Proverbs 16:1, The Living Bible)

6. **ACTIVATION:** Take small steps towards **A GREAT GOAL**.

“Then the Lord said to Moses, “Quit praying and get the people moving! Forward, march!” (Exodus 14:15, The Living Bible)

“But you, my son, have followed, step by step, my teaching and my manner of life, my resolution, my faith, patience, and spirit of love,” (2 Timothy 3:10, NEB)

7. **CELEBRATION:** Celebrate **PROGRESS** not perfection.

“But these things I plan won’t happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!” (Habakkuk 2:3, The Living Bible)

LAST THOUGHT:

**WHAT’S BEEN IN YOUR HEART TO DO
THAT YOU’VE BEEN AFRAID TO DO
THAT YOU KNOW YOU NEED TO DO?**