

Letting Go

One of the hardest tasks in business is letting go of an opportunity that you have convinced yourself has merit - even while the reality of a bad situation smacks you across the face daily. The initial potential you thought was there is hard to let go of, not only because it requires that you admit to yourself (and perhaps to others) that you suffered a horrible lapse in judgment, but also because you are never really fully prepared to abandon the hope you once had. In most cases this only serves to make a bad situation worse.

Usually, when you start having your doubts you are correct and you are seeing the writing on the wall. Pretending you don't see it, or that it spells something other than what your experience, common sense and business intuition is telling you, is simply turning a blind eye to the truth. And it will catch up to you. One day you will be forced to confront it, correct it, or abandon it, and when you have, you will know then that it was something you needed to do (and should have done) long ago.

The same rings true with business associates. Often we spot what we recognize as a character flaw or business skill deficit and yet we continue on hoping against our better judgment that the weakness we notice will some be neutralized by some unknown force or set of circumstances. Sometimes we are genuinely shocked when the proverbial shit hits the fan, innocently wondering how things went so wrong.

The signs are usually there to see. We just elect to ignore them. We see lies being told and convince ourselves they are unintentional errors. We see bullying going on and we rationalize the justice of it. We see irrational behavior and we find a way to understand. We proceed forward with an undefined butterfly in the belly because deep down, we know something is very wrong and we live under the shadow of the dreadful truth revealing itself.

The only response to the wrong situation or the wrong individual is to let go and walk away. The longer you take to separate yourself from the train wreck you see coming the closer you'll be to the debris when the collision occurs. Get up and go. You won't only be out of harm's way, you'll feel wonderfully liberated.