ACCELERATING EXECUTION | BGDG - E.05

A wise leader once said, “do everything you can to generate momentum. And once you’ve created it, do everything you can to sustain it”. It’s a principle that rings true in so many areas of life! But as Pete also said, many businesses find themselves in the “graveyard of planning and perfection” - drowning in a sea of good ideas but failing to execute on any of them. If there was a way to translate our plans into actions, produce clear and measurable results, and move from busyness to effectiveness…imagine the impact that could have!

The Paralysis of Perfectionism

Dr. Daryl Holmes shared with us that the antidote to “paralysis by analysis” is “production before perfection” - a willingness to get started even before we have the entire blueprint in view, or before we feel completely ready or equipped for the task at hand. Those of us with perfectionistic tendencies know all too well the feeling of being frozen in a state of inaction because we do not feel capable of delivering the kind of quality we expect of ourselves. While the desire to produce excellent work is commendable, when left unchecked it can lead us to producing nothing at all. As Brene Brown put it, “perfectionism is self-destructive simply because there is no such thing as perfect. Perfection is an unattainable goal.”

<u>Reflection Questions</u>

1. Do you find in yourself a tendency towards perfectionism? Where did this trait originate from? And in what ways has this trait been a barrier to expedient execution?
2. Can you think of a time when you took decisive action before you felt prepared, whether willingly or not? What was the outcome - was it better or worse than you expected?

Practice Makes Progress

Though it's important to pull the trigger before we have all our ducks in a row, we aren't advocating for shoddy or reckless work. Rather, we need to adopt an iterative approach to our work, being willing to constantly review, adjust and pivot as necessary - and doing so in an environment of consistent and bold action. By doing so, we set ourselves on a trajectory of growth. In many ways, it's the flip side of perfectionism. Julia Cameron said it this way: "Perfectionism doesn't believe in practice shots. It doesn't believe in improvement. Perfectionism has never heard that anything worth doing is worth doing badly - and that if we allow ourselves to do something badly we may in time become quite good at it."

<u>Reflection Questions</u>

1. Pete talked about the importance of implementing a system of tracking measurable tasks at regular intervals (daily, weekly, quarterly etc.) so that we can be masters of change rather than victims of circumstance. What frameworks do you currently have in place in order to facilitate this rhythm? Share with one another any tips, tricks and "best practices" in this area.
2. It is equally important to embed yourself in a structure of accountability whereby you are sharing and reporting on your execution strategies to trusted voices. Aside from those who are under formal obligations to report to (direct uplines, investors, board members etc.) are there other people whose authority you are willingly submitting yourselves under - friends, mentors, spiritual guides etc? Why have you chosen to position yourself under their leadership, and how has this benefited you thus far?

3. One of the best ways of combating perfectionistic procrastination is by understanding the stages of change and clearly seeing the “next step” that needs to be taken in the process. You may not be able to do it all, but you can certainly move towards the next stage of the journey. Think about one significant area of change that is taking place at the moment, whether in your work or your personal life. What stage do you find yourself in? What are some clear steps that you can take in order to move closer to the next stage?
    a. Precontemplation - resisting change
    b. Contemplation - recognising the necessity of change
    c. Preparing - about to change
    d. Action - engaging change
    e. Maintaining - ongoing change

Taking Bold Steps of Faith

Dr. Daryl Holmes reminded us that in life, we are not fully ready for most of the things that come our way. Whilst this may cause us worry or stress when thinking about the future, it's actually a source of profound encouragement and comfort when we reflect on the past and how we got to where we are today - we've all faced challenges that we could not foresee, and yet we survived them (and perhaps even grew through them) and have lived to tell the tale! We humans are resilient creatures, and manage to find ways of adapting to - and overcoming - unforeseen difficulties.

Armed with this truth, we can face the future with a sense of optimism and courage. And this applies even more so when you have a faith in something greater than yourself. Christians believe in a God who is both all-powerful and all-loving - and both of these things are crucial! If He is *all-powerful*, then there is nothing that catches Him off guard, and nothing that will intimidate Him. If He is *all-loving*, then we can be assured that He always has our best interests at heart, and will not abandon us in our time of greatest need.

Discussion Questions

1. Martin Luther King Jr. said: “faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase”. Walking in faith sometimes means doing things that don’t make sense, or doing things we don’t necessarily feel like doing. Trusting in God means that we can take steps knowing that He will direct our paths, as we continue to walk in step with Him. What are some “faith steps” that you may need to take in the near future, as you consider the short-term horizon of your business?
2. There is one well-known Bible verse that says “faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the *conviction* of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Take a moment to consider what some of the key “convictions” are that form the foundations of your actions, whether in business or in your personal life. In what ways do these help as a guide or filter to important decisions you may have to make, whether now or in the future?
3. While faith steps can be bold, daring and audacious, they can also look like steady, determined steps in the same direction. In one Bible passage (2 Corinthians 5:7) the phrase that’s used is “walking” by faith. Indeed, more often than not, faith isn’t a leap but a walk - taken step by step - consistent action informed by a clear goal. Are there steps that you are currently only taking occasionally, that you may need to take daily? What are some of the habits and rituals in your business that are unproductive and unfruitful, which need to be eradicated? Conversely, what are “High Leverage Activities” (HLAs) that need to be translated into micro-actions, which can be repeated on a regular basis?

“Life is full of choices…just make one, and do it.”

Dr. Daryl Holmes