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Are you an Entrepreneur? The Leap of Faith

Last week's jobs data was dismal. [Unemployment](#) is up again, at 8.2%. With just 69,000 new jobs (the fewest in a year), May is the third consecutive month of disappointing results.

Is now the time to take the entrepreneurial leap? Boomers are entering the entrepreneurial ranks at such speed, many are calling entrepreneurship "the new mid-life crisis," according to fellow *Forbes* contributor [Marty Zwillling](#). Scores of the Gen-Y generation are becoming new business founders according to [USA Today](#). In 2012, 29% of entrepreneurs are 20-34. The urge starts early: the Kauffman Foundation says that 40% of people between the ages of 8-24 (yes, as young as 8 years old) say they would like to start a business; however there is a gap, [Kauffman](#) says, between aspirations and the ability and readiness to actually proceed.

I would hold that one of the key traits that could help these entrepreneurs to move forward is Faith.

The Leap of Faith

A common characteristic of successful entrepreneurs is a deeply held belief, call it faith, that they will achieve business utopia, no matter what the cost, energy, time or sacrifice. Faith is the foundational building block that allows, empowers and compels them to take the risk and to move forward with their dreams. This faith imbues a subtle trust and a feeling of confidence that they can be victorious. For dreamers who lack this strong inherent conviction, they quickly conclude entrepreneurship is not for them.



Becoming an entrepreneur requires a leap of faith

Rhonda Lauritzen, a thoughtful business builder, sums up this powerful

notion. "Our strong faith keeps us going when others might throw in the towel. And when I say faith, I am not referring so much to religion per se, but rather a deep seated belief that when we are fulfilling our purpose, things have a way of working out." She continues, "When times were challenging and there was little money to carry on, our faith gave us the determination, the persistence to overcome every obstacle. There were several occasions when it seemed the end had arrived, that we should give up and close the business. However, somehow, there was always this feeling of hope that there will be a solution, a miracle, and that if we kept trying we will survive and prosper."

What is faith? How do entrepreneurs possess it? What drives them to succeed? Let's begin with the meaning of faith that is centuries old. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Faith can be defined as something we hope to obtain; that we have confidence actual exists, even though we have not yet experienced it.

All the best entrepreneurs I know have faith. They, without a doubt, expect to start and grow a celebrated business, knowing they can do it, even though they have never done it before. They seem to possess an excitement, a power, an ability to exert a high level of energy to chase an objective. Their hope, based upon a belief that something they feel is true, gives them enormous confidence and stimulation to pursue their dreams.

These feelings of expectation appear within us when others who are knowledgeable share with us what they have seen, felt and encountered. An entrepreneur's expectations and hopes are born when he or she hears the stories of successful men and women who started and grew their flourishing enterprises. This seed of hope then sparks a desire within us to act, to move, to discover, to try. In other words, we leap forward, with great anticipation, not knowing exactly what will happen.

Think of a nurturing mother calling her sweet baby standing by a table to take her first free steps. It's an event never before experienced by the toddler. Why does the baby smile and step forward? Faith. Why does a farmer plant a seed for the first time, with the prospects he will enjoy the harvest? Faith. Why will potential business builders, follow their aspirations and take a chance to obtain the ultimate prize? Faith.

When I look back on my own entrepreneurial experiences, I note that my hope to build a business I could call my own began in my youth. I was fortunate to watch and learn from talented business leaders who planted in my heart a desire be an entrepreneur. I liked the idea of being my own boss, of not having to report to someone else. I could see value in providing employment for people and that I could be a leader in the community. I believed I could create wealth for myself and others. I could see that if I were to be successful there would be opportunities to help my fellow citizens through philanthropy. These outcomes were appealing, even compelling to me.

The seed of faith given to me by others grew within me. I knew there would be a time when I would act and follow my dreams to develop and run exceptional businesses. So, many years ago, never having started a business before, I took a leap of faith and began to experiment on ideas that I hoped would ultimately have commercial value. The first try was a success, and then there were four failures in a row. Five more start ups have followed which as of today are all thriving. I learned that faith inspires, yes, motivates us to act.

I also found that faith is just the first step in a long journey, not the final destination. There is much to be done between an epiphany and triumph.

High flying entrepreneurs have an abundance of faith. They believe they can succeed at any endeavor. Are you a business builder? Are you ready to take a leap of faith and launch your first business? Do you believe you can accomplish something you have never done before? If the answers are yes, my advice to you is start your journey now and be grateful for the spark that ignited your action to move forward.

Note: My newest eBook, Characteristics of an Entrepreneur, will be available on Amazon beginning next week. As June is Entrepreneur month, I'll be writing about each of the characteristics in that book over the coming several weeks. I look forward to your input and remarks.

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