



Resilience and Urgency

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Resilience is closely tied to our ability to notice a sense of urgency. An urgent state of mind can lead to messy outcomes. In a clear and healthy state of mind we can be decisive, fast-acting and address any situation that arises.

Over the years one very important principles lesson for me came from Dr. Bill Pettit. He and I were trying to plan something he would do in one of my school community projects. We were struggling with logistics and content details and trying to charge ahead.

Finally Bill said this was feeling *urgent*. He wisely pulled back and gently said he had learned not to proceed while something was feeling urgent. We simply stopped trying to figure it out and agreed to talk again some other day. Eventually we scheduled a powerful training day and many, many things have emerged for hundreds of people in that community with the help of several principles experts and local players.

For more than two decades in my work with so many different people in schools and communities it has been very important to remember Bill's advice. I expect we all, regardless of our life circumstances, professional roles, or personal lives, have had glimpses of this lesson.

It can be very hard to wait for the wisdom to come... the insight or common sense that reveals the good way forward. I think this lesson is as important in business as it is in politics or personal life. Can we wait for the mental mud to settle? Can we trust the unknown process of the principles at work within us enough that we don't feel a need to have an answer by 2 p.m. today delivered in a blue box?

Rarely does any one of us have the total answer—the perfect approach—for handling anything. Listening to ourselves and others with nothing on our minds, waiting for insights, trusting the process that *guides us home* are all so vital to good outcomes.

Sensing the discrete difference between insight and my personal impulse becomes an art. In my early days of learning the principles this was very confusing and difficult for me. Today it is a way of life. While I don't always sense urgency as early as I might, a track record of doing that successfully strengthens my ability to catch the impatience—the rush—earlier the next time.

In the end sensing urgency is another way of following Syd Bank's persistent advice to always look for the good feeling as our guide and stop trying to figure it out. That usually means waiting and eventually seeing a different form.

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