



latest word

issue 41

april 2015

Progress not Perfection

"Perfect is the enemy of done"

There's a classic interview question that asks "Tell me about your weaknesses", which most interviewees don't attempt to answer honestly but rather offer the response something like, "well if I have a weakness it's probably that I'm a bit of a perfectionist" and they don't honestly believe that it is a weakness but rather a clever answer to a tricky question. Secretly, they believe it's a badge of honour 😊.

Does perfection even exist, can't something always be 1% or even 0.1% better?

Does perfection in fact just set an expectation that's unrealistic and set us up for more failure than success?

How many songs, books, websites, business plans, lives even get left unfinished, unpublished, unseen because they haven't achieved that utopian level of *Perfection*?

How many things don't even get started because the *Perfect* conditions haven't transpired for things even to begin?

I'm all about excellence and striving for excellence but I'd argue that the idea

of "*Perfection*" has been responsible for more harm than good in your life and in your work.

There are classic books, songs, artworks and even businesses that their creators can see all the imperfections but would remain unfinished and unknown if they weren't allowed to exist in their imperfect state.

In this life, there's only one thing that exists, and can go unrefuted, and that's *Results* !!

It doesn't matter one jot, that you have something almost finished or almost perfect and, it doesn't matter what reasons you have as to why something isn't done. It's results, results, results results.



It's simply did you or didn't you?

Cudda, wudda,
shudda
blah, blah, blah,
blah, blah

Is it better to have something done, an outcome, even if it isn't perfect,

rather than no result because those perfect circumstances for action didn't arrive or you couldn't achieve the perfect outcome?

Choice: No result or imperfect result?

Isn't everything a work in progress really?
Continuously being refined and improved?
The Japanese have a word for this continuous improvement philosophy called "Kaizen", which means "Change for Better".

Isn't almost everything we do a journey towards but never reaching perfection?

What do you call that process of doing something, getting it half right or half wrong and doing it again better, and better again and better again? Oh yes, experience, which is built on a collection of imperfect performances.



From our very first steps where we wobble a foot or two before falling on our backside, only to get up again and again until we become "walkers". What do they say, you've got to learn to walk before you can run!!

Yet so often our expectation of perfection first time, stops us in our tracks.

Take something like speaking in public or sales, so often a less than perfect, or

even a poor performance can have us condemning ourselves to not or never being a good public speaker or salesperson.

That's crazy thinking, you're a *walker* aren't you? Well if you're prepared to fail, if you are prepared to forsake perfection for *continuous improvement*, then you can be, do and have more in your business and in your life.

So what am I saying?

- ◆ Get into *less than perfect*.
- ◆ Get into *fecking up and failing*.
- ◆ Get into *continuous improvement* of you, your health, career, finances, business & life.
- ◆ Get into *becoming experienced*.
- ◆ Get into *delivering results*.
- ◆ Get into *reality and imperfect circumstances, outcomes and resources*.
- ◆ Get into *Progress not Perfection*.

"To escape criticism, do nothing, say nothing, be nothing."

P.S. Please excuse any imperfections in this article 😊 Better done than perfect 😊



Last word

Thanks for taking the time to read our "latest word"

Feedback on our newsletters is always welcome and gratefully received. joe@fwf.ie.

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