

CHAPTER 16: SOLUTION ORIENTED

Make a resolution to find the solution

“The majority see the obstacles; the few see the objectives; history records the successes of the latter, while oblivion is the reward of the former.” *Alfred A. Montapert*

John Walsh, the host of television’s America’s Most Wanted, and his wife lost their six-year-old son, Adam, when the child was abducted outside a Florida shopping mall. The Walshes focused on the future rather than on the tragic abduction. They established the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children as a clearinghouse for information on missing children. The practice of issuing a “Code Adam” alert in stores when a child is missing has been implemented in thirteen thousand stores across the nation. Thanks to the work of the Walshes, 48,000 missing children have been returned to their parents. No one would blame John Walsh if he had withdrawn from people after the death of his son. But because he was solution oriented, he overcame the difficulty.

Solution seeking people recognize:

1. **Problems Are a Matter of Perspective**-If you believe something is a problem, then it is. Obstacles, setbacks and failures are simply parts of life. The best thing you can do is to meet them with a solution-oriented mind-set.
2. **All Problems Are Solvable**-If you want to be solution oriented, then you must be willing to cultivate that attitude in yourself.
3. **Problems Either Stop Us or Stretch Us**-Depending on how you approach them, they’ll stop you from succeeding or stretch you so that you not only overcome them, but also become a better person in the process.

To make yourself a more solution-oriented team player.....

- *Refuse to give up until you find a solution.*
- *Refocus your thinking when you are fresh and clear thinking.*
- *Rethink your strategy with fresh ideas and approaches to the problem.*
- *Repeat the process when the next problem arises.*

Don’t find fault; find a remedy. -- Henry Ford

Whether I am creating something artistic or completing a project at work, my best work comes when I encounter obstacles and need to think out of the box. My work is rarely completed the way I first envision it. Rethinking an idea makes me be more creative, more open to ideas of others, and reveals flaws in a plan that I would have overlooked.

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