

Bridges: Thoroughfares To The Future

Navigational Opportunities

Introduction

Life is a series of transitions. As leaders we are committed to making decisions that propel action. There are three *'bridges'* you'll need in your arsenal to win in life.

Bridges To Burn

Literally everything we participate in has an inevitable ending. A wrapping up, a slimming down, or occasionally an exiting. **We must become skilled at knowing when it's over!** In ending something, we create space for new opportunity to be birthed. Hoarders never end anything because *they might need that* and are weighed down by yesterday's accumulation. As a result, low value loyalties erode future possibilities.

Is there some opportunity you are still holding out for that has long since passed?
Do you have a relationship that is no longer optimal, and its season has ended?
Is there someone on your staff who hasn't carried their weight for years?
Are you waiting for someone to apologize who long ago let you down?
Are you exercising what you call hope when in fact it is simply wishing?
Has your career stalled and in need of a refresh?
Did you recently lose weight but are keeping your old clothes just in case?
Is there someone you are still relying on who simply cannot or will not be responsible?

These are some examples of bridges worth burning. Why? To free up bandwidth for an exciting tomorrow. If you never leave first base, you cannot score. Not to think so is naïve.

Why did it take a bankruptcy judge to shut down the Pontiac division of General Motors after they hadn't been profitable nine years in a row? Can you imagine the financial weight that was lifted when it was ceased? Why couldn't senior leaders pull the plug? Wishing?

Closing Story

Hioro Onoda fought in WWII from 1944 through 1974, even though it ended in 1945.

- Sent on reconnaissance mission to small Philippine island.
- Led a group of 3 soldiers.
- Was informed 30 times over the years that the war was over.
- Family members were flown in to personally tell him.
- Documents were consistently dropped.
- Messages were sent from Japan from people he knew.
- He refused to believe it and spent an additional 29 years fighting for nothing.
- All 3 of his men were killed during those years.
- It speaks to extreme loyalty but also to an ignoring of reality like General Motors.
- Again, you have to know when it's over. This is a vital skill to develop.

Incinerate the bridges that keep you stuck to past failures, self-doubt and the wrongs that have been done to you-
John Maxwell