

THE MOST IMPORTANT TRAIT OF AN ENTREPRENEUR

One Keeper said discipline and persistence. Another said self mastery and a steward's mindset. Still another said trust and dependence on God. While there are really no right or wrong answers since we all have different experiences and perspectives, para sa akin HUMILITY is the most important trait an entrepreneur should develop.

I remember when my boss, for the distributor of HP in the Philippines, retired, she told me, "You know Dong, every time we promoted you, we were so afraid that your promotion would destroy you because you were very arrogant." You see as a young man, I was taught to speak out my mind, to fight for my rights and to take control of my destiny. I thought then that this mindset would do me well. But looking back I realized now that I had missed out and wasted so many opportunities because I was then so proud.

In Bukidnon, I learned that humility is the absence of arrogance that comes when we realize that everything we have and everything we are comes from the Lord. Because of this, I have NO right to be proud of anything.

In my journey, God stripped me of everything I was proud of and humbled me through many painful experiences. And then He showed me that He will bless me when I acknowledge Him as the Owner of everything I have and the Lord over all the things I do. I learned too that the people I encounter, even those I do not like, and the problems I experience especially those that bring great pain, are all from the Lord. That He did not send them to hurt me but to grow me and to teach me that His ways will always be better than mine. Deuteronomy 8:2, explains this, "You shall remember all the ways which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not."

Do you like working with arrogant people? None of us do! But, why is humility the most important trait an entrepreneur should develop? It is because everything else mentioned above -- consistency, discipline, self mastery, dependence upon God will just follow naturally. Humility also brings a very important element that we need to succeed. 1 Peter 5:5 says, "Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Because business is extremely difficult to do, we would need the favor of men and the grace of God in order to prosper. And only humility can invite both of these into our lives. How I wish someone taught me this when I was younger!