

Can't or Chose Not To?

Warning, my normal easy going demeanor is on vacation, and I'm going to rant and rave in this month's article. You've been warned, read on at your own risk

I'm sick and tired of hearing people say they "can't" do something instead of being honest and say they "chose to NOT" do something. I'm tired hearing people complain "I can't lose weight" or "I can't afford to take that class" or "I can't find time to volunteer." Baloney. Unless there's something medically stopping them, the people who say these things could do any of them, if they wanted to, they just CHOSE to not do these things. Are you one of them? If you don't admit it to the rest of us, at least be honest and admit it to yourself.

Confusing the word "can't" with "won't" is a serious mistake that many people make. Confusing these two words prevents people from accomplishing so much more and getting so much more out of life. If people like Edison and Gates kept saying "I can't . . . " we would still be reading by candlelight instead of reading my rants on a computer.

You don't have to believe me if you don't want to. Heck, I'm just a small business owner who sells gift baskets. However, when you read articles and books and listen to CDs by the world's greatest coaches they all offer the same message – Be honest with yourself, be positive, be the best you can be.

Jim Rohn, world class educator and motivator is credited with saying – "Rich people have big libraries. Poor people have big TVs." I happen to believe that the happiest people have both. I love watching the Steelers every Sunday on my 47 inch flat panel TV. It's a reward for all of the sacrifice and hard work I've expended to become a success. I also have several hundred books that I've purchased and read that have given me the knowledge and information to be successful enough to pay cash for that big screen TV.

Dan Kennedy, believed by many to be a marketing genius, has thousands of books in his library. He acknowledges that in his early years he found it less harmful to not afford a meal than to not afford information. Harry Houdini needed five full-size moving vans to move his library of magic, psychology, salesmanship and performance books to his new home. He didn't say "I can't afford . . . ," instead he made it happen.

While I don't have the number of books that Houdini and Kennedy have, I also have a library full of books. Just like Dan Kennedy and Harry Houdini, I didn't buy those books once I was successful, I bought those books when I couldn't afford them. I didn't say "I

can't afford to buy that book," instead I figured out how to make it happen. For those of you who know me, you know I am not a genius, but I'm honest and I believe that anyone can accomplish anything as long as they CHOOSE to.

If you have the will and the desire you CAN accomplish things like losing weight, like becoming better at your job, like finding time to make a difference and volunteer at a charity. If you don't confuse "can't" with "chose not to," if you are honest with yourself, if you truly want to, you can do the things that others mistakenly say they "can't" do. Don't be one of the masses, be responsible for yourself, stand out from the crowd, be a positive example and be honest with yourself.

OK, I'm done ranting now. Hopefully, my easy going demeanor will return from vacation in time for next month's article. Have a great August and make something positive happen because you "can."

-- Bruce H. Kubec