

# Leading With An Open Mind

*Being an open minded leader isn't easy. But it's rewarding. Not only for the results you will achieve but also for the trust, respect and confidence you can build with your people.*

What kind of leader do you want to be? A know it all or an innovator? To innovate you need an open mind.

*Consider the following Leadership principles:*

## **Don't assume you have the answer**

While we continue to believe we have the answer to whatever problem confounds us, our minds are closed to other, better solutions.

## **There is always more than one solution**

As has been amply proven in the past, the more options or solutions we have to choose from, the better the quality and effectiveness of the solution we finally put into action.

The first line of the Tao states: The Tao that can be told is not the eternal Tao.

## **Experience isn't always better**

After a lifetime of experience it's easy to think we know what to do when problems arise. But, like the old supervisor who tells the young staffer: "I've got 20 years experience!" their actions beg the question: do they? Or do they have one year's experience 20 times over.

There's a big difference and the difference is whether they are open or closed to new ideas.

## **Avoid old patterns**

Keeping an open mind allows us to continually seek the best solution and when we do that we continue to grow as a leader.

You keep yourself confined to old patterns and consequences when you think "I Know!"

## **Leaders know less over time**

If you open your eyes and ears you'll hear from successful people that the older and wiser they get, the less they know.

The solution may well be in trying something you don't know, so keep an open mind to learn something new which may help you.

## **Seek advice from others**

One of the ways we demonstrate open-mindedness is to seek advice from others. From ancient times successful people have sought advice from valued counselors and advisors.

Kings and Queens, leaders and Generals have all recognized the benefit of seeking counsel from trusted advisors to help them make important decisions.

## **Why shouldn't we do the same as leaders?**