

## **Being Your Own Boss**

By Darrell Morris

Are you in a job where promotions are few and far between? Do your limited job responsibilities mean that you aren't professionally growing anymore? Have you squeezed all you can out of Corporate America and need a new challenge? Has the thought of running your own business been on your mind for some time?

If you've answered yes to several of these questions, you may be ready to dip your toe into the big pond of entrepreneurship. However, before you plunge in, ask yourself if you really have what it takes? No, that's not intended to be a cliché, but an honest question. Not everyone is cut out to run their own business.

While you may have legitimate reasons for wanting to go into business for yourself, you may lack the skills and personal qualities that many entrepreneurs have that make them successful. Do you have:

**Leadership skills.** Business owners need to be both good managers and strong leaders. Can you deliver when your employees are looking to you to provide guidance and direction? If you are more comfortable with someone else telling you what needs to be done, entrepreneurship is not for you.

**Business Experience.** You do not have to be an expert in every area of business, but you do have to have some knowledge and business experience to start your own business in the field you want to enter. Some is better than none and more is even better in ensuring your long-term success. If you find yourself lacking, a few business classes at a local community college may be beneficial.

**Willingness to Sacrifice.** Being an entrepreneur means the days of putting in an eight hour day are a thing of the past. Most entrepreneurs will tell you they work 10, 12 even 14 hour days, seven days a week to get their business off the ground. Vacation...what's that? It's not an exaggeration but a reality that you will probably find yourself sacrificing personal time and finances to get your business off the ground? Are you willing to do that?

**Interpersonal Skills.** Entrepreneurs will find themselves working with a variety of people and personalities. Being able to deal effectively with each is paramount.

**Competitive Drive.** Chances are you'll have competitors, probably several. Are you willing to come out fighting and find ways to promote your services and products as being the best? Are you ready to go head-to-head with the competition and win?

**High Energy and Optimism.** Successful entrepreneurs typically are energetic, upbeat individuals that give 200 percent to everything they do. Does that describe you?

***Self Confident.*** You have to like and believe in what you are doing. If you don't, you don't stand a chance in convincing your clients to use your services and products. Figuring out if you have what it takes to be your own boss is not a complicated process, but it needs to be a truthful one. If you don't have the majority of these qualities, you may be happier finding a job employed by a company that meets your needs. If you do have these qualities, congratulations and welcome to entrepreneurship!

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