

# The Best of Napoleon Hill: Creating the Power to Grow Important Lessons for Family Owned Businesses



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**G**rowth is necessary for success. Any business that doesn't grow – that remains stagnant – is destined to fail. The same holds true in life. If we don't grow in wisdom, understanding and compassion, then we fail to realize our full potential. No one is in control that fails to have a purpose or goal, a plan to reach that goal or to take action consistent with the plan. All three are essential to gaining mastery in business and life.

Author Napoleon Hill taught people of all walks of life how to grow and enjoy success in business and in life through the formation and power of Mastermind Alliances. The Mastermind Principle--two or more minds working together in the spirit of perfect harmony toward the attainment of a definite major purpose--is one of the most powerful principles of success. No one has ever attained outstanding success in anything without applying the Mastermind Principle.

Dr. Hill first wrote about the Mastermind Principle in 1928 in his series of books entitled *The Law of Success*. He stated that each member of the Mastermind Alliance needed to have the following characteristics:

- o Dependability
- o Ability
- o Loyalty
- o Willingness to Go the Extra Mile
- o Positive Mental Attitude
- o Applied Faith

Strive to create Mastermind Alliances that reflect these qualities and you will magnify the knowledge and talent available to you. A Mastermind Alliance allows you to use the full strength of the experience, training, knowledge and even the money of others as if it were your own. It gives you access to Infinite Intelligence and unlimited power.

The key to all Mastermind Alliances is the harmony of its members. Napoleon Hill considered harmony in human relationships so important that he included it as one of his 12 Riches of Life. Harmony is especially important in a family owned business where work and personal goals sometimes differ. For example, it's not uncommon in family owned businesses for the vision and passion of the founder(s) to be diluted in successive generations. Marriages and births also can impact the group dynamic. The same ties that bind a family together are often seen as a substitute for true commitment.

A periodic review of the strengths, attitudes and beliefs of the members of your Mastermind Alliance is a good practice. With family owned businesses, the assistance of an objective third party is usually beneficial to avoid conflicts arising from personal agendas. Aligning the power of your mind with the Law of Harmony and the Mastermind is essential for success. Do it and you'll create the power to grow in business and life.

