



JIM HARSHAW JR.

Revealing Failure as the Path to Success

Success Through Failure Podcast

Action Plan Episode #183

Jim Harshaw Jr Solo- Defining Moments: Taking Action

We all have defining moments in our lives. Sometimes we expect them-- like getting married or winning a championship. Other times we don't-- like a death in the family or a surprise promotion.

Will you back down when yours arrives? Or will you face your fear? Take action? Speak up? Move on?

This episode on taking action is the second of a four-part series on defining moments. Find all the episodes at JimHarshawJr.com/DefiningMoments

Quotes

"My hope for you right now is that you have clearly defined goals and a plan to achieve them."

"When you think of these defining moments, a lot of times they come when you are stuck in a rut."

"You have to take action, you have to move forward despite your fear, or BECAUSE of your fear, in a lot of cases."

"Don't wait for motivation. Create the motivation by taking action."

About Going Through the Worst and Coming out Strong 13:29 -15:00

"As soon as I won the opportunity to do my TEDx talk and I was practicing for a month, I was invited to give a talk in front of about 100 people. They wanted to hear about my TEDx talk and experience so far. It was a great opportunity for me to practice in front of a smaller crowd before doing it in front of a larger crowd. I step up in front of this group and I have a complete meltdown in front of all these people. I'm embarrassed to say this but it's the truth. I totally lost my spot, lost my train of

thought, completely lost my place. My mind was just scrambled. It was like a panic. Somehow I pulled it together enough to kind of finish it out. It was horrible and embarrassing and humbling and humiliating. But I finished it. I thought to myself, how am I going to do this in front of a thousand people, live stream, around the world? I had no choice. I had committed. There was no turning back."

About Taking it One Step at A Time 17:10 - 17:55

"It was a defining moment in my life; I have a TEDx talk. How did that happen? It happened from fear, it happened from failure and it happened from taking action. I just took action. When I signed up for Toastmasters, did I know I was going to do a TEDx talk? No, of course not. You don't have to see the whole way down the trail. You can drive from New York City to Los Angeles at night, only seeing 200 feet in front of you with your headlights. You don't have to see the whole way there. You just have to see the next step. When you take that next step, you start seeing options. You can see further down the trail. That's what I did. I took action."

About Your First Step 19:20 - 19:30

"If you don't know that first step, I'm going to give it to you. Go talk to somebody who's done what you want to do. That's your first step. It's a conversation."

About Building Your Reputation by Taking Action 21:38 - 22:31

"Jon Gordon quit his job and started becoming a speaker and author. Some of his first books that he wrote, he would go to do book signings and book promotions and nobody would show up. He actually talked about this in the podcast where it was in Iowa and he had 20 people show up which was kind of a good turnout for him. But it turns out all those people thought he was Jeff Gordon, the NASCAR driver. But he took action, despite failures and setbacks. He had to put one foot in front of another. The Jon Gordon then is not the Jon Gordon we know now. He's a big name now."

Episodes Referred

Jon Gordon: <https://jimharshawjr.com/117/>

Mike Chandler: <https://jimharshawjr.com/99/>

Bill Burnett: <https://jimharshawjr.com/124/>

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