

## Fishermen – Winners and Whiners

By Bernard Williams, Outdoor Writer

I sometime get overwhelmed with complainers. They're not satisfied with nothing and no one. I refuse to let them poison my thought process with their negativity. I like to keep company with positive thinkers. Winners as I call them, not the whiners. You just can't satisfy a whiner by any means. I've put together a few personality comparisons about what each one, winners and whiners. So if you get in that whiners rut, here's a few tips to overcome it, and get back on the winners team.

- **Winners are driven and ambitious; they refuse to take no for an answer.** Michael Jordan, one of the best basketball players of all time said, "I've missed 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've taken the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over in my life. And that is why I succeed".
- **Winners are always learning and looking for new ways to improve a technique.** They never feel they know enough and they truly understand that Knowledge really is Power.
- **Winners take a Positive Perspective towards fishing.** They look at the glass as half full. They're positive thinkers. "Watch your thoughts, they become words; Watch your words, they become actions; Watch your actions, they become habits; Watch your habits, they become character; Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny."
- **Winners are Humble.** They never let their ego get in the way. They are modest and confident.
- **Winners don't doubt their actions.** They are certain; they focus on what they are going to do next and "Pull the Trigger". They don't overthink themselves. They stand by their actions.
- **Winners Put the Past Behind Them.** They focus on solutions; how to solve a problem rather than the problem.
- **Winners Really Listen.** They pay attention to every little detail. They watch everything with concentration.
- **Winners are Organized.** Kevin Van Damn says, "I can put my hands on anything I need either in my truck or boat almost instantly. I don't waste time trying to find something I may need when I'm fishing."
- **Winners are never Whiners.** Whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger. How successful you are depends on how much s--- you're willing to put up with. You have to develop GRIT.
- **Winners take Responsibility, Whiners Play the Victim.** Winners say "If it's going to be, it's up to me". Whiners say, "What will be, will be." Whiners are afraid and this leads to fear, then to worry and worry is the enemy of winning. Winners don't worry. Fear causes you to believe that the worst will happen; winners have faith in positive outcomes. Whiners blame others for their circumstances.
- **Winners get Disappointed, Whiners get Discouraged** – We all face disappointment, winners encourage themselves, whiners discourage themselves until it become depression.
- **Winners can have What They Want, Whiners Want What They Cannot Have** – Winners are willing to pay the price to get what they want. Whiners want something for nothing. Winners know when to press on and when to let go. Winners let go and trust. Whiners let go and fear.

Whiners believe other people should provide for them. They feel that because others have more, they are entitled to some of it. They live in a constant quest for sympathy and self-pity.

- **Winners Get Criticized, Whiners are the Critics.** Whiners are critical because they're not willing to pay the price of success. Winners don't worry about what others think. They only care what they think of themselves. Winners have high self-esteem; they are not arrogant, conceited or cocky.
- **Winners Believe in Service.** Zig Ziglar once said, "If you help enough other people get what they want, you can have anything you want." Winners have an innate grasp of service and understand that when they serve others from the heart, they are doing things for the right reasons. Serving people from the head just so you can get what you want removes the joy of service—and the joy that comes from serving from the heart is worth more than anything you could possibly desire.
- **Winners Find A Way, Whiners Find an Excuse** - Henry Ford once said, "If you think you can or you think you can't, you're right." It's a deeper truth than most people realize. Whiners continue to find excuses for two reasons. First, because things get tough, and second, because they don't believe they can prevail. Whiners find either an excuse to keep doing what they're doing or they find an excuse to quit, and in both cases, their behavior is a reflection of their limiting beliefs.
- **Winners have Vision** - Helen Keller said, "The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision." Vision is internal, it's seeing through eyes of faith. Vision shows you the destination, not the detailed step of the journey. Whiners find an excuse because they don't learn the lessons of the journey. Some of the lessons come from teachers called failure, rejection, and loss.
- **Winners have Resolve** – Resolve is a promise to yourself that you will never give up. Resolve is determination; it is the power to persevere. Strengthen your resolve by taking responsibility, paying the prices.
- **Winners Brighten a Room by Entering, Whiners Brighten a Room by Leaving It** - Winners energize people. The excitement about who they are becoming and what they are doing in life makes their enthusiasm a tangible force—it feels good just to be in their presence. Whiners, on the other hand, can be emotional vampires, draining the energy from everyone around them. Winners attract other winners, while whiners cluster with whiners. It's essential to surround yourself with winners as much as possible. Winners will not spend much time with those who continue to complain. Whiners brighten a room by leaving because they take their complaining with them. Have you noticed that whiners will actually get into a competition to see whose life is worse? No wonder winners refuse to spend time with whiners.