
Navigating Change in Challenging Times

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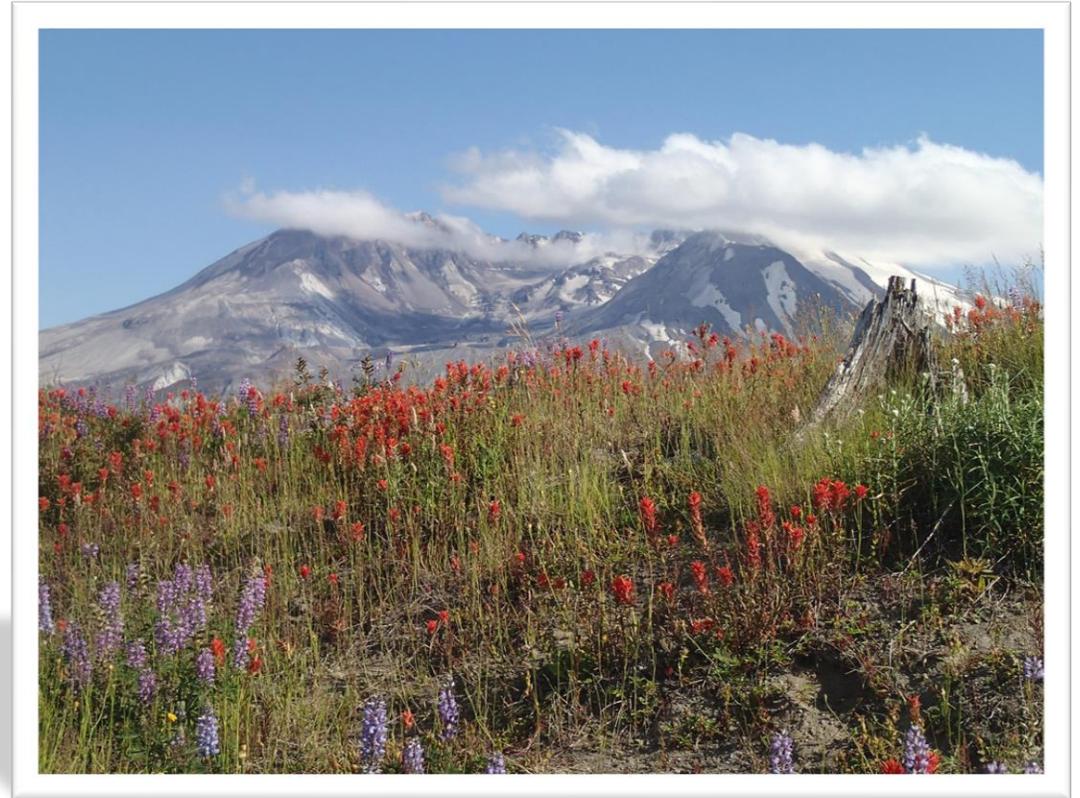


WASHINGTON STATE

Change

“The only lasting truth is Change.”

Octavia Butler, Science Fiction Author



What We Know About Change



- ❖ Unprecedented amount of change
- ❖ Decrease in sense of control
- ❖ Pressed out of our comfort zone
- ❖ Most often involves loss

What We Know About Change

- ❖ Responding to change and the adjustment period which follows varies for each individual
- ❖ Having a response to change is universal. You are not alone!
- ❖ Learning how to navigate your response to change is an **essential skill**



Changes In Your Life

Identify changes in your life:

- ❖ Personal
- ❖ Professional
- ❖ Community/World



External Versus Internal Change

External Changes:

- ❖ What's changing on the outside?
 - Physical distancing, working from home, new technology/software, changes in job duties, wearing a mask, etc.

Internal Changes:

- ❖ What's happening internally?
 - Psychological process occurring in response to the external change
 - Usually includes experiencing grief and loss as we internalize and come to terms with the change



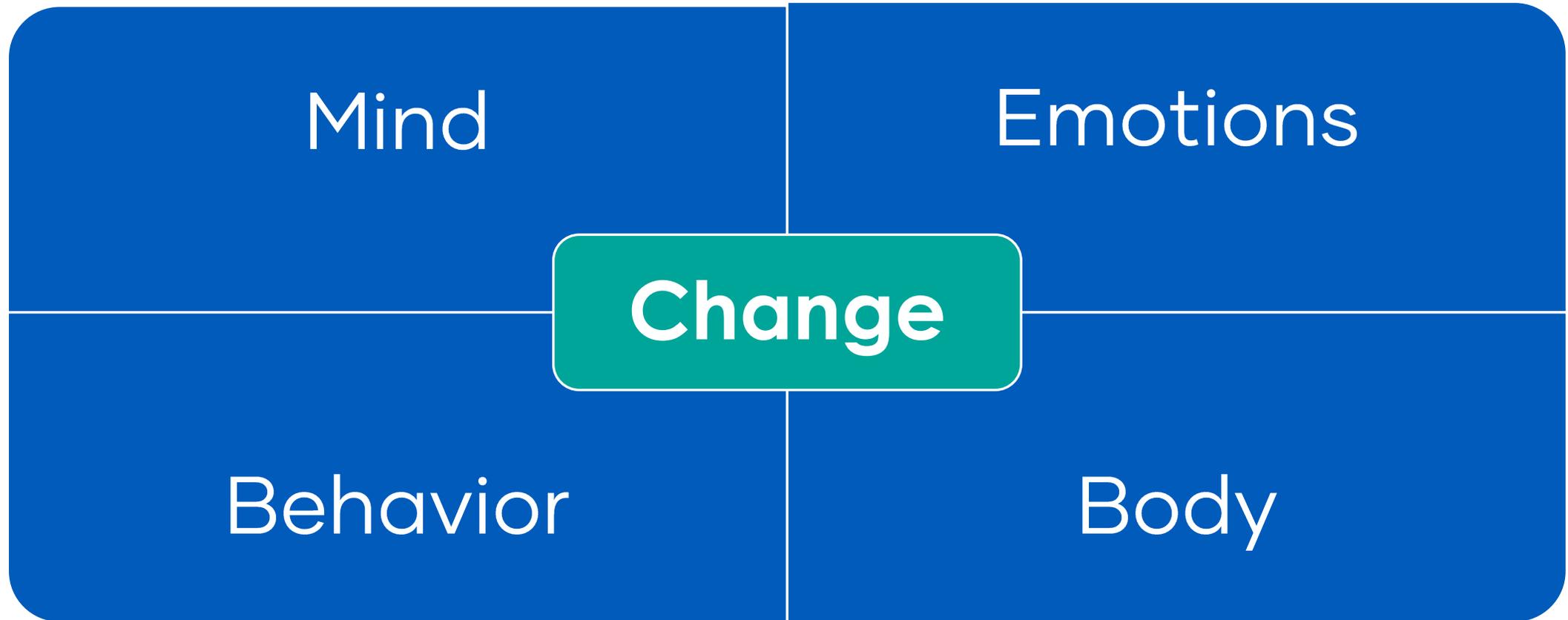
“It’s not so much that we’re afraid of change or so in love with the old ways, but it’s that place in between that we fear...It’s like being between trapezes. It’s Linus when his blanket is in the dryer. There’s nothing to hold on to.”
Marilyn Ferguson, Futurist

Transition Model

Endings	The Neutral Zone	Moving Forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Denial▪ Anxiety▪ Shock▪ Chaos	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uncertainty• Highs/lows• Instability• Curiosity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sense of purpose• Hope• Optimism• Clarity

Adapted from William Bridges' Transition Model

How Change Impacts Us?



Common Responses To Change

Mind:

Confusion, forgetfulness, difficulties with focus & concentration, disorganized, cycling thoughts, indecisive, disbelief, **bargaining**, loss of confidence, disorientation

Behaviors:

Accident prone, mistakes, unhealthy behaviors (over/under eating, alcohol, drugs), short temper, performance issues, isolating, gossip, relationship issues

Emotions:

Denial, **anger**, anxiety, sadness, fear, shock, grief, apprehension, irritability, impatience, confusion, disconnecting, vulnerable, agitated, withdrawn, tired, mood swings, hopelessness, **depression**, **acceptance**

Body:

Fatigue, insomnia, body aches, tense muscles, heart palpitations, digestive problems, grinding teeth, muscular twitches, headaches, shallow breathing

*Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, Psychiatrist (Death & Dying)

Navigating Change



Navigating Your Mind

Identify:

- What's staying the same?
- What are you losing?
- Ways to compensate for losses?
- What's in and out of your control?

Check your thought patterns:

- Practice flexible thinking
- Take a helicopter perspective
- Seek solutions



Navigating Your Heart

- Expect, name, and accept your response
- Express your feelings
- Stay connected
- Practice self-care



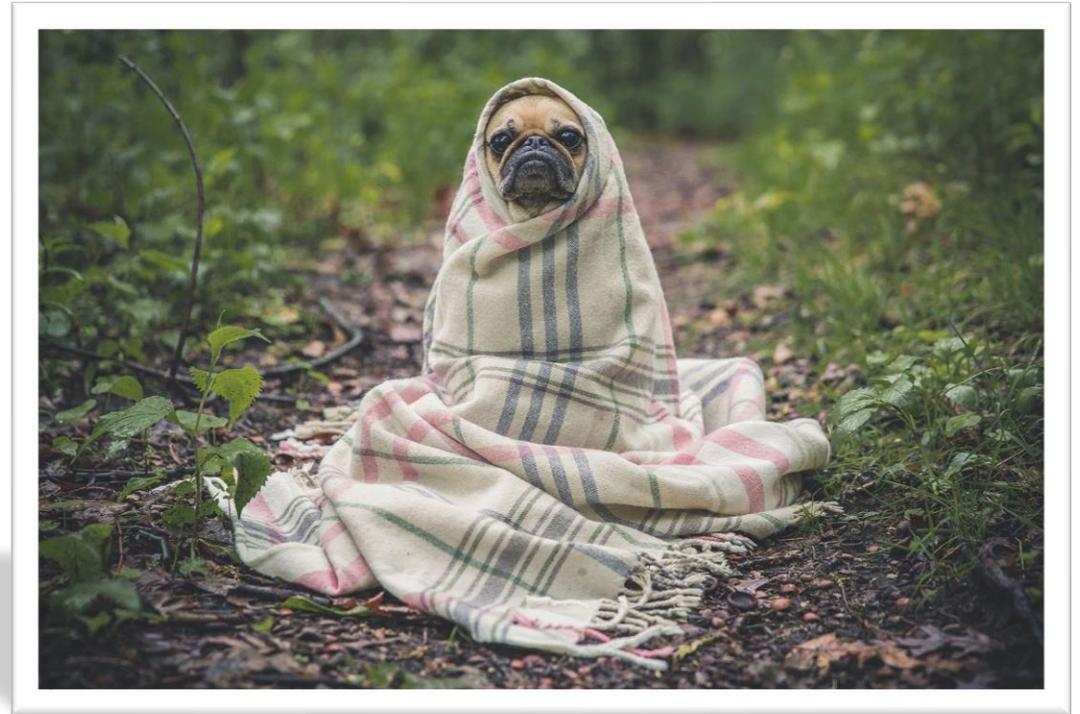
Navigating Behaviors

- Identify key priorities
- Minimize change
- Engage in healthy communication
- Notice if you are engaging in unhealthy behaviors



Navigating Your Body

- Practice self-care
- Continue with well checkups & medical appointments
- Engage in healthy habits
- Continue with or start routines



Small changes can make a big difference!

When To Ask For Help

Typical/Expected

- Denial (avoidance, confusion, elation, shock, fear)
- Anger (frustration, irritation, anxiety)
- Depression (overwhelm, helplessness, hostility)
- Bargaining (struggling to find meaning)
- Acceptance (exploring options, putting new plan in place, moving on)
- Other responses identified in Common Responses to Change activity.

Worthy of Attention

- Feeling significant distress
- Thoughts of harm to self or others
- Increase in alcohol and/or drug use
- Increase in sick time usage
- Decrease or increase in eating and/or sleeping
- Concerning physical symptoms
- Others are concerned about your well-being
- Typical and expected responses continue for more than several weeks and/or impacts quality of life

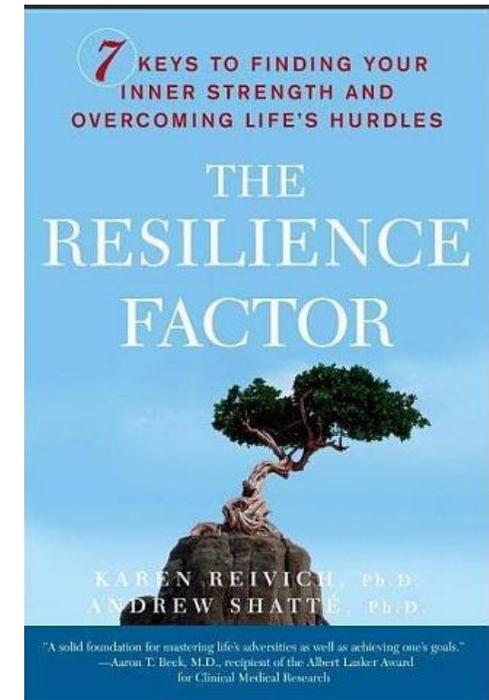
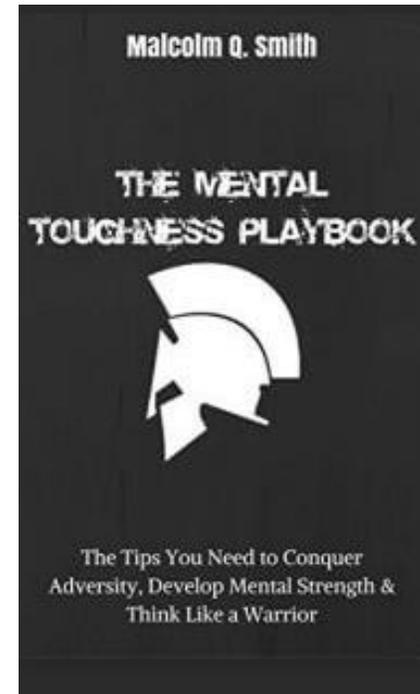
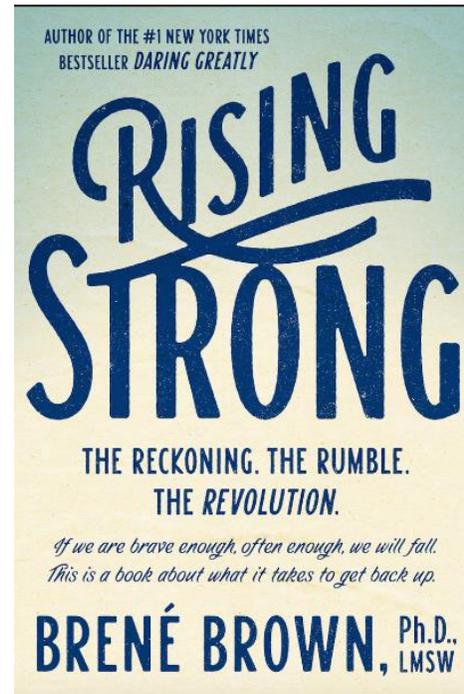
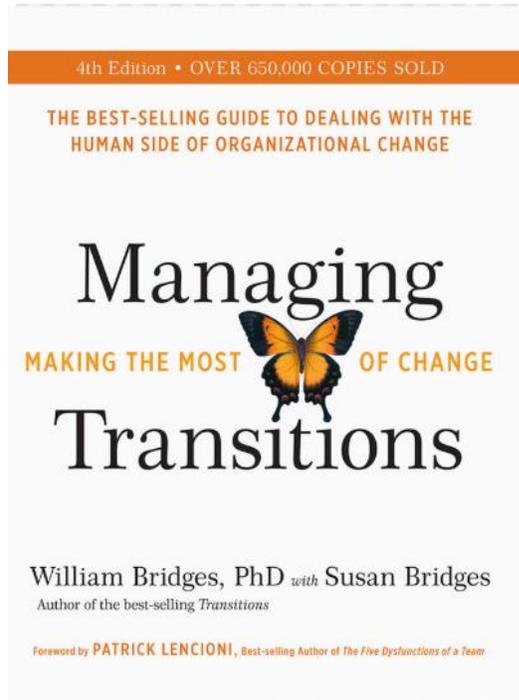
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Learning More About Navigating Change



Learning More About Navigating Change

Websites:

- [Results Washington](#)
- [William Bridges- Strategies for Managing Change](#)

Ted Talk Videos:

- [3 Ways to Measure Your Adaptability- and how to Improve it](#) by Natalie Fratto (6 mins.)
- [The Gift and Power of Emotional Courage](#) by Susan David (16 mins.)

References

- [20 Best Resilience Books for Creating Mental Toughness](#) by Erika Stoerkel
- [2015 Stress in America™](#) by American Psychological Association
- [Coping with Transitions in Life: A Life Effectiveness Guide](#) by Australian Institute of Professional Counselors
- *Managing Transitions: Making the Most of Change* by William Bridges
- *On Death and Dying* by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross
- [Resilience: A Strong Workforce Needs It](#) by Center for Workplace Mental Health