

Perseverance is the character trait of success.!

How many of us have fallen for the pitfall of searching for the Easy Way... you know I have learned the hard way that there is no such thing as the easy way... The only real things I can think of that is really easy is gaining weight and procrastination...but Don't you wish everything should be done the easy way with instant great results...like making easy money!...or every problem fixed quickly?

And I wish Santa Clause was real and you could just be Happy...without having to do the work to become happy... Don't you wish daydreaming about some accomplishment was the same thing as achieving it? How many of us have pretended that listening to constructive direction is the same as applying that direction, only to find out It's not. There is no easy way to do it but there is a right way. Cutting corners does not get you to the desired end you want but it will get you to an end...an end we don't desire... I have learned the hard way that there is no such thing as the easy way...

There is no easy way to do it but there is a right way. Cutting corners does not get you to the desired end you want but it will get you to an end...an end we don't desire...

beware of the quick fix; a noun ...an easy remedy or solution, especially a temporary one which fails to address underlying problems. an expedient, temporary solution, especially one that merely postpones having to cope with an overall problem.

Perseverance is the enemy of the easy way.. And the easy way is the enemy of Perseverance

Ever notice we don't drift into perseverance... it is not natural for us to drift into perseverance...we must use discipline and prioritize ourselves there...that is how we move into accomplishing the goals we want...

So ...We must learn to persevere the verb per·se·vere means To persist in, or remain constant to a purpose, idea, or task in the face of obstacles or discouragement.

first of all understand this..Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after another. ~Walter Elliott, *The Spiritual Life*

- **You know what that means? it means to do your daily what I need to do daily!! Even Jesus God in the flesh lived by this principle**

John 4:34 “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. NIV

- **You know what that means? His goal was to finish what he came to accomplish...How...eating food daily...**
- **that is also our plan...it is different than Jesus...but it is still about the Kingdom**
- **food is consumed daily ...it means to do daily what I need to do daily! obtaining enough nourishment each day to continue toward the goal.**
- **in fact it is what he taught his disciples to include in their prayers...**

Luke 11:3 Give us each day the food we need, NLT

- **food is consumed daily ...it means to do daily what I need to do daily!!**
- **Apparently that which is truly worthwhile is almost by definition something not obtained instantly, it is worth the while it takes to attain it.**
- **Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did. Or as the French proverb says... One may go a long way after one is tired.**
- **dont start down a path simply to move forward. do it to succeed**

Here is a saying you must repeat often when you get weary from moving forward toward any of goals. **"God did not bring me this far to only go this far! "**

When things get hard, we must double down and remind ourselves of how hard we have worked and how far we have come to get to where we are today.... we must keep going

- **The secret is to do some work every single day, and remember that even small wins can boost your life tremendously.**

Hebrews 6:¹¹ We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. ¹² We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. NIV

- **diligence...the thoroughness and attentiveness we start with toward a goal...must be maintained until the goal is reached!!...our tendency is to become lazy...**
- **in the context of this passage...it is about holding onto belief.. but the principle holds for all endeavors**
- **imitate those who have gone before and achieved...copy them!**
- **those who wait patiently/perservere will not be disappointed.**
- **these ancients were certain of God's promises... those who wait patiently/persevere will not be disappointed.**
- **Perseverance is gaining success a little at a time.... gaining knowledge over time...gaining wisdom over time...which by the way builds character and a good reputation.....**

Moses had to learn this lesson...God helping him to take over the land God promised the Israelites..

*EX 23: 27 "I will send my terror ahead of you and throw into confusion every nation you encounter. I will make all your enemies turn their backs and run. ²⁸ I will send the hornet ahead of you to drive the Hivites, Canaanites and Hittites out of your way. ²⁹ But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you. ³⁰ **Little by little** I will drive them out before you, until you **have increased enough** to take possession of the land.*

Success is incremental. Overnight success is seriously rare and usually not lasting. Most people take years, even decades, to build a great career. so you must count the cost

Luke 14 28 “But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? 29 Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you.NLT

• **Over time, you'll find yourself accomplishing bigger and bigger goals.**
1) perseverance is the long stretch between a noble start and real accomplishment

Hebrews 11:1-2 tells us

HEB 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for..NIV

- **We are in a long line of historical persevering saints whose confidence was in God’s plan for their lives...our work is to align ourselves with those who know how to persevere!! To Do what the ancients did and do what your contemporaries are doing...walking in faith!! hoping in something not yet realized...but confident it will happen!**
- **Now...is a present tense word...the time is now**
- **these ancients were certain of God’s word being true...even when there was no visible evidence of it yet in the natural...**
- **all the way up too and including not realizing it in their lifetime.. it is still true and will come to pass..**

Heb 11:39 These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, 40 since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

- **The present receiving of the promises means absolutely nothing in regards to it happening...we just do not see it yet!!!**
- **Their confidence and hope toward were rooted in God’s promises period...how when and where was left in his hands.**
- **So they persevered...many of them not knowing that the completion would include others many generations in the future... we were to be included in those promises!!**

- Apparently that which is truly worthwhile is almost by definition something not obtained instantly, In fact, most tools of instant gratification are destructive (drugs, alcohol, t.v., sex, crime.)

So Perseverance is necessary in the journey toward success: Moses had to learn this lesson...God helping him to take over the land God promised the Israelites..

*EX 23: 27 "I will send my terror ahead of you and throw into confusion every nation you encounter. I will make all your enemies turn their backs and run. ²⁸ I will send the hornet ahead of you to drive the Hivites, Canaanites and Hittites out of your way. ²⁹ But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you. ³⁰ Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you **have increased enough** to take possession of the land.*

2) perseverance requires self discipline... Overnight success is seriously rare.

*Hebrews 12:11 No **discipline** seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

- **perseverance ...Practice self discipline in all things, Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections, but instantly set about remedying them - every day begin the task anew. Saint Francis de Sales**
- **Most people take years, even decades, to build anything great.**
- **The secret is to work every single day, and remember that even small wins can boost your life tremendously.**
- **Over time, you'll find yourself reaching bigger and bigger goals.**

3) There are always imposing obstacles to any worthwhile goal!

In Matt chapter 15 After Jesus rebuked the religious establishment...for caring more about their religious traditions than God and people. So herJesus left the lake of Galilee he traveled north east about 40-50 miles to the region of Tyre...Gentile area...the area was strongly Pagan where he meets a woman whose daughter was possessed and she would not give...lets pick up the narrative

MT 15: 21 Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly."

The woman is desperate and comes to Jesus begging Him to drive the evil spirit out of her daughter.

The odds were stacked against her

- **First of all...she is a woman ...and according to Jewish rule...a teacher/rabbi was not even supposed to talk to a woman, other than a family member.**
- **Second...she was a Gentile pagan worshipping woman...despised by the Jews.. and they were prejudiced against the Jews...She is a Gentile woman born in a Gentile city and living in Gentile territory. She is in a desperate situation because her daughter is 'possessed' by an evil spirit.**
- **What does it look like for a little girl to be possessed by an evil spirit? Mark chapter 9 describes a boy who is possessed by an evil spirit. The evil spirit in his body would often try to throw him into the fire or the water in order to kill him. The boy could not speak because of the evil spirit. The evil spirit would seize him and throw him to the ground and the boy would foam at the mouth, gnash his teeth and become rigid. If this possession is anything like the boy in Mark 9 then this is not a good thing.**
- **Third she was from Tyre...the people of this city state have a long history of causing great trouble to the Israelites They are mention derogatorily by a number of the Prophets...**
- **Those are some overwhelming obstacles!! expect them**

she would not let these obstacles stop her..... and on top of it Jesus wont talk to her and his deciples want her to go away....

MT 15: 23 Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

She had a great problem... she had tried every means in her power and she believed Jesus could help...problem was he would not speak to her...and the apostles tried to chase her away

- You see when she first approached the Lord...she called him the Son of David.. The term Son of David refers to the Messiah...it was strictly a Jewish religious belief...
- she hopped on the wagon of referring to him as someone she was affiliated with...she didn't!...she tried to smooze him...the easy way! appeal to his pride!
- Jesus responded with silence to her pleas...
- The term Son of David refers to the Messiah...it was strictly a Jewish religious belief...
- She was neither ...Jew or Jewish believer...
- **She approached him as a member of his family....and she was not...it was in a sense arrogant...an assumption that they were somehow relationally tied**

MT 15:24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." ...

- When Jesus does speak ...he says he was not sent to help her...and he calls her a dog...**The dogs in this incident represent the gentiles. Dogs were considered 'unclean' animals and Jews would often refer to Gentiles in this derogatory way**
- He said First therefore there must be a second...second would be good!! and if I have to wait...I will wait!!
- well there might not be a quick fix...nor the fix in my timing...
- **You can't fly by the seat of your pants or your assumptions and hope to land on success. You need a process and a plan to get you there. Jesus gave her the way!**
- She had nothing going for her...she was not one of the children and therefore entitled to their bread...what they are entitled too..
- Kind of ruins the idea...the idea that Jesus owes anyone.... we sometimes have that Jesus just can't wait to help the way we want help... whenever we call...
- Also clarifies the idea that somehow Jesus owes you...or me or her...

**And her response to him...when he called her a dog... one of humility...
no defensiveness**

******4) Be Humble and Teachable or be resilient**

MT 15: 25 The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

- **She humbled herself...knelt before him and called Him Master...**
- **Straight to the point... No religious son of David stuff.**
- **But please master help me....**
- **When Jesus does speak listen!!**

Matt 15:26 He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

- **Mark gives us a bit more information:**

Mark 27 "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

MT 15:27 "Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

- **She did not let her pride get in the way of the mission ...nor her learning**
- **I will joyfully wait my turn to receive after the children any of the leftovers they drop from the table...I don't need to be first!**
- **Even a crumb of his bread was better than what she had...and more than enough for her daughter...**
- **She did not have the credentials of a child of the King ..but her response..even a pet dog is in the family and receives some food and is cared for...**
- **She appealed to His goodness...his Mercy...His compassion**
- **Even a little power from him...would be more than enough.**
- **I will receive whatever you give me.**

Many of life's failures occur with people who did not realize how close they were to success but pride took them out...Stay humble and teachable it is the path to the finish.....

******5) Obey and walk in Faith**

MT 15: 28 Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

- **Only twice in the Gospels...Jesus remarks that someone’s faith is great...both times they are Gentiles...both times he healed from afar...**
- **She went in obedience to his word..even though she had not seen any evidence, that her daughter was healed**
- **That is faith...and obedience...**
- **She went fully intending to see the word of the Lord fulfilled. And found it so..as the Gospel of Mark shares!!**

MK 7:30 She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

- **This lady searched and searched and she finally found.. they were both given a new life!! What Jesus did for them was more than they could have imagined!!**
- **and they were not even his family!**

we are members of god famly and therefor is for us...and want us to succeed ...and is committed to helping us...therefoer we must perservere!

Rom 8: 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. ³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Niv

- **Each one of us is on the next step of our personal development don't give up before reaching the goal...and know much learning and change must occur in the journey on the way to the destination...**
- **this lady would have never chosen the Jesus way...if she had not experienced the fruitlessness of all the other ways...it was part of her learning and humbling ...to bring her to the one who could do for her**

and her daughter which she could not do herself or by her means or by her timing!!

- **So expect obstacles...obey what you know...wait on God's timing...believe before you experience...trust the process...abandon the idea of the easy way and the quick fix...**

James 1:4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

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