

IDEAS TO HELP PERSEVERE WHEN TIMES ARE DIFFICULT

- ❖ Think about and serve others
- ❖ Focus on the positive
- ❖ Reflect upon the example of others
- ❖ Be a doer even when you feel it is impossible or pointless (Don't sit around and wait for good things to happen)
- ❖ Allow others to help you and have a grateful heart, but don't let others completely take over tasks that you can and should do yourself.
- ❖ Establish a worthwhile long term goal¹ and focus on it and don't let short term setbacks and problems discourage you

EXAMPLES OF TENACITY

In 1962, four nervous young musicians played their first record audition for the executives of the Decca recording Company. The executives were not impressed. While turning down this group of musicians, one executive said, "We don't like their sound. Groups of guitars are on the way out." The group was called The Beatles.

In 1954, Jimmy Denny, manager of the Grand Ole Opry, fired a singer after one performance. He told him, "You ain't goin' nowhere son. You ought to go back to drivin' a truck." He went on to become the most popular singer in America: Elvis Presley.

When Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876, it did not ring off the hook with calls from potential backers. After making a demonstration call, President Rutherford Hayes said, "That's an amazing invention, but who would ever want to use one of them?"

When Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, he tried over 2000 experiments before he got it to work. A young reporter asked him how it felt to fail so many times. He said, "I never failed once. I invented the light bulb. It just happened to be a 2000-step process."

¹ "Tis known by the name of perseverance in a good cause, and obstinacy in a bad one." **Laurence Sterne**

In the 1940s, another young inventor named Chester Carlson took his idea to 20 corporations, including some of the biggest in the country. They all turned him down. In 1947 - after seven long years of rejections, he finally got a tiny company in Rochester, New York, the Haloid Company, to purchase the rights to his invention and process. Haloid became the 'Xerox Corporation' we know today.

She was the 20th of 22 children. She was born prematurely and her survival was doubtful. When she was 4 years old, she contacted double pneumonia and scarlet fever, which left her with a paralyzed left leg. At age 9, she removed the metal leg brace she had been dependent on and began to walk without it. By 13 she had developed a rhythmic walk, which doctors said was a miracle. That same year she decided to become a runner. She entered a race and came in last. For the next few years every race she entered, she came in last. Everyone told her to quit, but she kept on running. One day she actually won a race. And then another. From then on she won every race she entered. Eventually this little girl, who was told she would never walk again, went on to win three Olympic gold medals!!! She was Wilma Rudolph!!

QUOTES TO CONSIDER

"In the confrontation between the stream and the rock, the stream always wins- not through strength but by perseverance." **H. Jackson Brown**

"People of mediocre ability sometimes achieve outstanding success because they don't know when to quit. Most men succeed because they are determined to." **George E. Allen**

"It's not so important who starts the game but who finishes it." **John Wooden**

"Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no help at all." **Dale Carnegie**

"Consider the postage stamp; its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing until it gets there." **Josh Billings**

"Some men give up their designs when they have almost reached the goal; While others, on the contrary, obtain a victory by exerting, at the last moment, more vigorous efforts than ever before." **Herodotus**

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan, 'press on' has solved, and always will solve, the problems of the human race." **Calvin Coolidge**

"I do not think there is any other quality so essential to success of any kind as the quality of perseverance. It overcomes almost everything, even nature." **John D. Rockefeller**

"Success seems to be connected with action. Successful men keep moving. They make mistakes, but they don't quit." **Conrad Hilton**

"If I had to select one quality, one personal characteristic that I regard as being most highly correlated with success, whatever the field, I would pick the trait of persistence. Determination. The will to endure to the end, to get knocked down seventy times and get up off the floor saying. "Here comes number seventy-one!" **Richard M. Devos**

"Good ideas are not adopted automatically. They must be driven into practice with courageous patience." **Admiral Hyman Rickover**

"One of the commonest mistakes and one of the costliest is thinking that success is due to some genius, some magic - something or other which we do not possess. Success is generally due to holding on, and failure to letting go. You decide to learn a language, study music, take a course of reading, train yourself physically. Will it be success or failure? It depends upon how much pluck and perseverance that word "decide" contains. The decision that nothing can overrule, the grip that nothing can detach will bring success. Remember the Chinese proverb, "With time and patience, the mulberry leaf becomes satin." **Maltbie Davenport Babcock**

"Pay as little attention to discouragement as possible. Plough ahead as a steamer does, rough or smooth rain or shine. To carry your cargo and make your port is the point. " **Maltbie Davenport Babcock**

"A man of sense is never discouraged by difficulties; he redoubles his industry and his diligence, he perseveres, and infallibly prevails at last." **Lord Chesterfield**

"Sure I am of this, that you have only to endure to conquer. You have only to persevere to save yourselves." **Winston Churchill**

"It is not enough to begin; continuance is necessary. Mere enrollment will not make one a scholar; the pupil must continue in the school through the long course, until he masters every branch. Success depends upon staying power. The reason for failure in most cases is lack of perseverance." **Miller**

"Perseverance is a positive, active characteristic. It is not idly, passively waiting and hoping for some good thing to happen. It gives us hope by helping us realize that the righteous suffer no failure except in giving up and no longer trying. We must never give up, regardless of temptations, frustrations, disappointments, or discouragements." **Joseph P. Wirthlin**

"I learned about the strength you can get from a close family life. I learned to keep going, even in bad times. I learned not to despair, even when my world was falling apart. I learned that there are no free lunches. And I learned the value of hard work." **Lee lacocca**

"You don't become enormously successful without encountering and overcoming a number of extremely challenging problems." **Mark Victor Hansen**

"A leader, once convinced that a particular course of action is the right one, must....be undaunted when the going gets tough." **Ronald Reagan**

"Fight one more round. When your arms are so tired that you can hardly lift your hands to come on guard, fight one more round. When your nose is bleeding and your eyes are black and you are so tired that you wish your opponent would crack you one on the jaw and put you to sleep, fight one more round, remembering that the man who always fights one more round is never whipped." **James Corbett**

"Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish." **John Quincy Adams**

"I do not think there is any other quality so essential to success of any kind as the quality of perseverance. It overcomes almost everything, even nature." **John D. Rockefeller**

THE CHALLENGE

Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experiences of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved. You gain strength, experience and confidence by every experience where you really stop to look fear in the face You must do the thing you cannot do. And remember, the finest steel gets sent through the hottest furnace. A winner is not one who never fails, but one who NEVER QUILTS! In LIFE, remember that you pass this way only once! Let's live life to the fullest and give it our extreme best. **Unknown**