

# The Courage to Persevere

I have sought the meaning of success and how it relates to our lives. We have interviewed hundreds of individuals and shared their success stories with our readers. Each person's answer as to what Success means to them differs from hero to entrepreneur, but one thing that is constant is that success is determined by not only the end result of their achievement, but the journey that brought them to realize their success.

Successful people decide what they wish for, choose what they are prepared to sacrifice for it, determine their plan of attack, and make it happen. When you feel that burning desire within to achieve your life-long goals and then do what is necessary to live your dreams—this is gratification; this is success. Success is not calculated by what you realize financially, but by the conflict you have encountered, and the courage with which you have persevered to overcome adversity.

***“Desire is the key to motivation, but it’s the determination and commitments to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal—a commitment to excellence—that will enable you to attain the success you seek.”***

Mario Andretti

We must constantly seek after our heart's desire holding tight to our dreams. We must have the vision to pursue our goals. To trust ourselves, to push to the extreme limits—that is the courage to succeed. We must force ourselves to think beyond our comfort zone. Greatness lies on the outskirts of security. Profound success requires profound risk. But, most people fear life more than death. And, when fear moves in, paralysis follows. Fear is the killer of dreams.

***“The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding go out to meet it.”***

Thucydides

The word that most strikes fear in the heart of our society is failure. We have become so success-oriented that we have very little tolerance for failure. What we fail

to see, is that our greatest hopes are often shattered to prepare us for better things. That which may present itself as failure is often the genesis of a greater success. Failure is often the defining moment in our lives that presents an opportunity for growth. We meet hardships as a trial of faith. By testing adversity we welcome the possibility of faith. We must make a united determination to persevere in the struggle, to always forge ahead with courage and the verve of faith to achieve our goals. Courage is not the lack of fear; it is the rout of it. Faith is the antidote for lack of courage and fear. The only cure for fear is faith—faith in the meaning and purpose of life.

***“You can conquer almost any fear if you will only make up your mind to do so. For remember, fear doesn’t exist anywhere except in the mind.”***

Dale Carnegie

We need to find ways and moments that give meaning and purpose to our existence—to be moved, drawn, and inspired. Living requires tremendous effort and since we are afforded such little time here on Earth, procrastinating with indecision is inexcusable. Take time to achieve your life's desires and once you have decided to engage life, do so with utmost haste.

***“You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand.”***

Woodrow Wilson

