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Perseverance by Faith

"He conquers who endures." — **Persius**

Perseverance is the key to success. There are many attributes which contribute to someone becoming more successful, but the virtue which separates the winners from the losers is perseverance. So, is perseverance a learned trait, or are we born with the bravado to become successful, to toughen up and stick it out until a winner is declared? Throughout our lives we will be tested. It is what we do when we are challenged that determines who we become. Whether it is a race for the presidency, a judo match, or that promotion that we worked so hard for, we must persevere to ensure our victory.

"The miracle or the power that elevates the few is to be found in their industry, application, and perseverance under the prompting of a brave determined spirit."

— **Mark Twain**

Perseverance is a trait that allows us to bear trials, to have the fortitude to persist no matter what obstacles we face in life. To draw upon that inner strength of faith in both, yourself and in God when others would have quit, determines who the true winners will be.

"For a righteous man falls seven times and rises again." — **Proverbs**

If you have not been through a trial in your life, then this message is not for you. I believe that God loves me very much because He never lets me get away with anything. He continuously puts me through trials to test me, to refine me, to purge me of the things that could drag me down when the true tests come. I have failed many times. What I have come to understand is that I am intended to live up to a higher standard. I have to succeed based upon doing the right thing, not just getting by. Some are called to a higher purpose, to a higher principle in this world. To those who reach out to capture their dreams, to make a difference in this world, I salute you. To live your dream is the most difficult task before each of us. We must persist on our course and although we might sacrifice a little in order to obtain our goals, the reward is for the individual who perseveres to the end.

"The secret to success is constancy to purpose." — **Benjamin Disraeli**

But can we do it alone? We need to have faith. We must have faith in ourselves. But there will be that time when we have almost failed, when we do not have another ounce of strength to muster, when we are knocked down for that ten count and the world is slipping away . . . this is when we have to draw upon our inner strength and the "higher" power to rescue us from the precipice. Every society from the beginning of time has written of this battle. This fine line between success and failure is evident in every culture and religion.

Japanese: Osu: to persevere under harsh conditions

Greek: Hupomeno: to endure adversities, persecutions or provocations with faith and patience

Muslim: Sabr: to be firm in the face of trials and tribulations

James 1:2-4 — *"Consider it pure joy when you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete not lacking anything."*

Wisdom demands that we must refrain from wasting our time in complaints, and take steps to banish despair and discouragement. Adopting the path of realism, we must continue our efforts. It is our unflagging efforts that inevitably lead us to our desired goals. One must have the faith of a tiny mustard seed, that when planted and watered it will grow to a fully mature tree that can withstand the weather, no matter what is brought against it.

To weather the storms of life we must have perseverance and faith in order to determine our true destiny and succeed.

We are made to persist, that is how we find out who we are." — **Tobias Wolff**