

## **Perseverance (Press Forward)**

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For many people, there is no greater gulf than that between what they started out to achieve and what they finally settled for.

We all have dreams....but they have a way of vanishing, don't they? Negative thinking takes over, and we start to be satisfied just to get by. You know, success or failure all starts in the mind. The game of life can be lost before the starting whistle if you think of yourself as a loser. And many of us do. We've watched ourselves fall on our faces, start our favorite diet tomorrow, and then tomorrow again, and then tomorrow again. Our self-confidence gets dashed. We give in, throw in the towel. We shout "Uncle!" Oh, we may call our giving up on ourselves by different names....but it's giving up all the same.

Someone once pointed out that you can heat water to 211 degrees Fahrenheit, and all you've got is a lot of hot water. But just heat it one more degree...to the boiling point....and you've got steam.... steam that can move trains and ships, steam that produces power. It's all in one degree.

And anyone who has ever tried to start a car knows that the engine can be in perfect working order, the tank can be full of gasoline, the parts of the motor can be perfectly tuned and ready to roll, and still nothing can happen....if the battery doesn't lend a little spark to start the whole process going. Without that spark there is nothing but a lot of useless parts.

A degree. A spark. Wouldn't it be sad to fall short of your best expectations in life because you were missing some little thing? Some little thing like willpower? Or a little thing like perseverance? Or maybe a little thing like confidence?

Perseverance means to continue in a given course until we have reached a goal or objective, regardless of obstacles, opposition, and other counterinfluences. What is our course, what is our goal, and what are the obstacles and opposition that would hinder or divert us?

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 we suffer no failure except in giving up and no longer trying.

When some people have a difficult job to do, they give up some other things until that job is finished. Others just give up.

Genius is only the power of making continuous efforts. The line between failure and success is so fine that we scarcely know when we pass it; so fine that we are often on the line and do not know it. How many a man has thrown up his hands at a time when a little more effort, a little more patience would have achieved success? A little more persistence, a little more effort, and what seemed a hopeless failure may turn into a glorious success.....There is no defeat except within, no really insurmountable barrier save one's own inherent weakness of purpose.

To read 45 powerful stories of perseverance and triumph from people just like you....get a book called "Unstoppable" by Cynthia Kersey. "Unstoppable" is a must read for anyone who wants to live a life where you grow until you go." - Quincey Jones