



**Perseverance.** “You never know what’s around the corner. It could be everything. Or it could be nothing. You keep putting one foot in front of the other, and then one day you look back and you’ve climbed a mountain.”

**Perseverance** is the character trait that allows us to **keep on keeping on**. It is an **inner strength** that helps us ignore or discount obstacles and keep striving towards our goals or along a chosen path. It is needed if we want to **overcome** setbacks, adversity, and criticism.

Perseverance has to be **learned** and **developed** by experience. It can be improved **incrementally** by persevering in tasks. If we have succeeded at persevering to accomplish a relatively simple goal, this will increase our ability to **persevere** at a higher level the next time we are called on to use it.

**Perseverance** is an important character trait for us to develop if we want to be successful in life. It means **determination** at working hard regardless of any odds or obstacles that may exist. (corona virus challenges). It is to be firm on getting something done and **not giving up**.

An example of **determination** (perseverance) in my life comes to mind. It was when I saw a musical **Annunciation** statue in a gift store. I loved the statue but did **not** want the music box. So, I found out the company that made it and called them. Unfortunately, they had just sold the last two they had. Not wanting to give up my quest, I asked for the name of the store, called them, found out they still had **one** left. They shipped it to me, and I now have it on my prayer table in my bedroom. Yes, **perseverance/determination** got me what I wanted.

In life, **sometimes** things go our way, but at other times we will falter or **fail** at completing a task or getting something that we want. However, by **persevering** and sticking to the task we often can **overcome** obstacles and be successful.

Another word for perseverance is “**stick-to-itiveness**.” Sticking with something until you complete it, not giving up when you become discouraged, not quitting when the road gets tough. People sometimes have a hard time with this one. They start out to take care of something, see something else that has to be done, stop and take care of that, which often leads to another task and then never get back to what they started out to do. Has this ever happened to you? Or, should I say, “How often has this happened to you”?

Throwing in the towel is never a good answer; however, persevering to the end usually reaps great rewards.

No matter what happens, no matter how far you seem to be away from where you want to be, never stop believing that you will somehow make it. Have an unrelenting belief that things will work out, that the long road has a purpose, that the things that you desire may not happen today, but they will happen. (Brad Gast)

A quote of F.D. Roosevelt: “When you come to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on. For example, if Thomas Edison, the American Inventor, who invented the electric light bulb, had given up the first time he failed; maybe this marvelous invention might not have been a possibility as early as 1879.

If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again...