



PERSISTING

"Be like a postage stamp—stick to one thing until you get there."

Margaret Carty

Failed in business, 1831
Defeated for legislature, 1832
Again failed in business, 1833
Elected to legislature, 1834
Defeated for Speaker, 1838
Defeated for elector, 1840
Defeated for Congress, 1843
Elected to Congress, 1846
Defeated for Congress, 1848
Defeated for Senate, 1855
Defeated for vice-president, 1858
Defeated for Senate, 1858
Elected President of the United States, 1860

Abraham Lincoln

"Patience, persistence and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success."

Napolean Hill, author

"Every day you miss playing or practicing is one day longer it takes to be good."

Ben Hogan, Golfer

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 failures.

Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.

Calvin Coolidge

"Faith that the thing can be done is essential to any great achievement."

Thomas N. Carruther

"Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other thing."

Abraham Lincoln

"Tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope."

Romans

"Constant dripping hollows out a stone."

Lucretius

"All effort is in the last analysis sustained by faith that it is worth making."

Ordway Tweed

"When you have a great and difficult task, something perhaps almost impossible, if you only work a little at a time, everyday a little, suddenly the work will finish itself."

Isak Dinesen

"Age wrinkles the body. Quitting wrinkles the soul."

Douglas MacArthur

"I hated every minute of training, but I said, 'Don't quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life like a champion.'"

Muhammad Ali

"The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one comes from a strong will, and the other from a strong won't."

Henry Ward Beecher

"In the realm of ideas, everything depends on enthusiasm; in the real world, all rests on perseverance."

Goethe

"Courage and perseverance have a magical talisman, before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish into air."

John Quincy Adams

"To be able to concentrate for a considerable time is essential to difficult achievement."

Bertrand Russell

"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 70 times and get up off the floor saying, 'Here comes number 71!'"

Richard M. Devos

"Mastery is not something that strikes in an instant, like a thunderbolt, but gathering a power that moves steadily through time, like weather."

John W Gardner

"If the only tool you have is a hammer, you will treat the whole world as if it were a nail. "

Edward de Bono

"Flaming enthusiasm, backed up by horse sense and persistence, is the quality that most often makes for success."

Dale Carnegie

"Persistence is the twin sister of excellence.
One is a matter of quality; the other, a matter of time. "

Marabel Morgan

"Big shots are only little shots who keep shooting."

Christopher Morely

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

Dale Carnegie

"It takes a long time to become young."

Pablo Picasso

"When we accept tough jobs as a challenge to our ability and wade into them with joy and enthusiasm, miracles can happen."

Arland Gilbert

"It is a great nuisance that knowledge can be acquired only by hard work."

W. Somerset Maugham

"If I have the belief that I can do it, I shall surely acquire the capacity to do it even if I may not have it at the beginning."

Mahatma Gandhi

"It's never crowded along the extra mile."

Dr. Wayne Dyer

"It's hard to wring my hands when I am busy rolling up my sleeves."

Linda Geraci

"Those who succeed and do not push on to greater failure are the spiritual middle-classers."

Eugene O'Neill

"Life is often compared to a marathon, but I think it is more like being a sprinter; long stretches of hard work punctuated by brief moments in which we are given the opportunity to perform at our best."

Michael Johnson

"Winning isn't everything. *Wanting* to win is."

Catfish Hunter

"Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising which tempt you to believe that your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires courage."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

"When you get in a tight place and everything goes against you, till it seems as though you could not hold a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn."

Harriet Beecher Stowe

"Always continue the climb. It is possible for you to do whatever you choose if you first get to know who you are and are willing to work with a power that is greater than ourselves to do it."

Oprah Winfrey

"Nothing of worth or weight can be achieved with half a mind, with a faint heart, and with a lame endeavor."

Issac Barrow

"Failure is usually the line of least persistence."

Wilfred Beaver

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

Conrad Hilton

"Grant me the courage not to give up, even though I think it's hopeless."

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz

"It does not matter how slowly you go, so long as you do not stop."

Confucius

"Let me tell you the secret that has led me to my goal. My strength lies solely in my tenacity."

Louis Pasteur

"Studies indicate that the one quality all successful people have is persistence. They're willing to spend more time accomplishing a task and to persevere in the face of many difficult odds. There's a very positive relationship between people's ability to accomplish any task and the time they're willing to spend on it."

Joyce Brothers, Psychologist and Author

"I will persist until I succeed. Always will I take another step. If that is of no avail I will take another, and yet another. In truth, one step at a time is not too difficult... I know that small attempts, repeated, will complete any undertaking."

Og Mandino, Author

"By perseverance the snail reached the ark."

Charles H. Spurgeon

"Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted."

David Bly

"The man who removes a mountain begins by carrying away small stones."

Chinese proverb

"Grant me the courage not to give up, even though I think it's hopeless."

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz

"Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it."

Michael Jordan

"Being defeated is often a temporary condition. Giving up is what makes it permanent."

Marlene Savant

"I think there are two keys to being creatively productive. One is not being daunted by one's fear of failure. The second is sheer perseverance."

Mary-Claire King

"Fall seven times, stand up eight."

Japanese Proverb

"Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did."

Newt Gingrich

"It's always too soon to quit!"

Norman Vincent Peale

"The true art of memory is the art of attention."

Samuel Johnson

"Energy and persistence conquer all things."

Benjamin Franklin

"I think and think for months and years. Ninety-nine times the conclusion is false. The hundredth time I am right. "

Albert Einstein, Physicist and Teacher

"The great thing and the hard thing is to stick to things when you have outlived the first interest, and not yet got the second, which comes with a sort of mastery. "

Janet Erskine Stuart, Educator

"Great works are performed not by strength, but by perseverance."

Samuel Johnson

"Greatness comes with recognizing that your potential is limited only by how you choose, how you use your freedom, how resolute you are, how persistent you are - in short, by your attitude."

Peter Koestenbaum, Philosopher

"No matter how big and tough a problem may be, get rid of confusion by taking one little step towards solution. Do something. Then try again. At the worst, so long as you don't do it the same way twice, you will eventually use up all the wrong ways of doing it and thus the next try will be the right one."

George F. Nordenhold

"Either I will find a way, or I will make one."

Philip Sidney

"It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer."

Albert Einstein

"In the struggle between the stone and the water, in time, the water wins."

Chinese proverb

"Don't be discouraged. It's often the last key in the bunch that opens the lock."

Anon.

"Vitality shows in not only the ability to persist but the ability to start over."

F. Scott Fitzgerald

"When you have a great and difficult task, something perhaps almost impossible, if you only work a little at a time, every day a little, suddenly the work will finish itself."

Isak Dinesen (pseudonym for Karen Blixen), Danish Writer

"Strength does not come from winning. Your struggles develop your strengths. When you go through hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength."

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Actor

"The man who can drive himself further once the effort gets painful is the man who will win."

Roger Bannister

"To give yourself the best possible chance of playing to your potential, you must prepare for every eventuality. That means practice. "

Steve Ballesteros, Professional Golfer

"Let us then be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"If something is boring after two minutes, try it for four. If still boring, then eight. Then sixteen. Then thirty-two. Eventually one discovers that it is not boring at all."

John Cage

"Diligence is the mother of good luck."

Benjamin Franklin

" The greatest results in life are usually attained by simple means and the exercise of ordinary qualities. These may for the most part be summed up in these two - commonsense and perseverance."

Owen Feltham, Writer

"Character consists of what you do on the third and fourth tries."

James A. Michener

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence and determination."

Calvin Coolidge

"When the world says, 'Give up,' / Hope whispers, 'Try it one more time.'"

Anon.

"The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one comes from a strong will, and the other from a strong won't."

Henry Ward Beecher

"Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all."

Sam Ewing

"Let me tell you the secret that has led me to my goal. My strength lies solely in my tenacity."

Louis Pasteur

"That which we persist in doing becomes easier to do. Not that the nature of the thing has changed but the power to do it has changed."

Ralph Waldo Emerson, Author

"Failure is the condiment that gives success its flavor."

Truman Capote

"Persistence is what makes the impossible possible, the possible likely,

Robert Half, Executive

"Energy and persistence conquer all things."

Benjamin Franklin

"Failure is usually the line of least persistence."

Wilfred Beaver

"You don't win an Olympic gold medal with a few weeks of intensive training."

Seth Godin

"I found that I could find the energy... that I could find the determination to keep on going. I learned that your mind can amaze your body, if you just keep telling yourself, I can do it...I can do it...I can do it!"

Jon Erickson, scientist and author

"Effort only fully releases its reward after a person refuses to quit."

Napoleon Hill

"The great thing, and the hard thing, is to stick to things when you have outlived the first interest, and not yet got the second, which comes with a sort of mastery."

Janet Erskine Stuart

Source:

These quotes originally compiled by Emeritus Professor Art Costa.
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