

## Perseverance in Pursuing Dreams

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Have you ever had something that you really wanted to accomplish, but it seems like you're getting nowhere? This is when you need perseverance. In this essay I will show you what persevering can do for you and what neglecting perseverance will do.

“A river cuts through rock not because of its power, but because of its persistence.”

-Jim Watkins

Have you ever seen the Grand Canyon? It is this huge canyon with what seems like a tiny river at the bottom of it. This is a perfect example of perseverance. I know water can't think and doesn't have any emotions, but I'd say that maybe we need to be a little more like water: think a little less, know what needs to get done, and do it. Don't get bogged down in how tough it is or how boring it is, for after all, the dictionary defines perseverance as doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success. In the end, perseverance helps you achieve your dreams, yet a lack of it will destroy those dreams. In this essay, I will look at the effect that perseverance has on dreams, and what a lack of perseverance does.

To begin, we'll see how a lack of perseverance leads to the death of dreams. First of all, let's look at laziness. The Bible says in Proverbs 10:4, “Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth.” Being lazy might feel good for a while, but you won't have very many achievements. For example, in commercial fishing, if you have a lazy crew member you might end up breaking nets because there are too many fish in it that haven't been picked out and the current is too strong. If your nets break, not only are you in trouble with the captain, but you catch less fish and end up working a lot harder for longer repairing the nets. This attitude of laziness could cause strife amongst the crew and in the end will probably get that crew member a bad reputation for potential jobs in the future. If you are lazy in martial arts, there can be lots of negative consequences. Your techniques will suffer, your sparring will be bad because you didn't take the time to really work it with a partner, and your overall attendance will be terrible

because you didn't feel like coming to class. Not attending class leads to sloppy technique, poor memory, and you also lose the opportunity to get exercise and grow your character.

Along with laziness, living and acting in the moment can also keep you from achieving your dreams. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Knowing God has a plan for us isn't an excuse for not thinking about the decisions you make and how it affects your dreams or goals. Our culture today is a good example of what living and acting in the moment leads to. A lot of people don't feel like getting jobs because they don't have the drive to accomplish goals. This also leads to people not realizing there is a purpose in life beyond today, which makes them think they don't have value. According to Mental Health America, 1 in 10 youth in the USA suffer from depression. This mental state leads to not doing well in school, with work, at home, and in relationships. People who live and act in the moment sometimes don't even know they can accomplish anything, so they don't even have dreams. In martial arts, if you live in the moment, when something gets hard you will just quit because you can't see past it.

Another thing that can keep you from achieving your dreams is living in the past. The Apostle Paul says in Philippians 3:13-14, "Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." I don't think we should completely forget our previous mistakes, but we should learn from them and continue to persevere toward our goals. However, we should be like Paul in the sense of not getting bogged down by the past or being too afraid to act because you don't want to fail again. If you fail a test in Martial Arts and you're living in the past, then the next test you're going to

think, "I can't pass this test because I failed the last one." It's kind of like a domino effect that only gets worse.

Now that we have dwelt on the negative subjects and how your dreams die when you don't show perseverance, it's time to talk about the positives and how showing perseverance in pursuing your dreams can lead you to accomplishing those dreams and goals. Perseverance is an especially good trait for all of life. If you have perseverance, then you can accomplish almost anything that is physically possible. Succeeding in martial arts is a good example of this. I think the lack of perseverance is the reason most people drop out and why almost all people who do have perseverance go on to get their Black Belt. People that have true perseverance are less likely to give up due to pain or even things like writing essays or taking belt tests. For me, even this essay is an example of perseverance, because writing essays is very difficult for me. It's time consuming. My mom says I'm too analytical because I scrutinize it too much and don't just write freely. Plus, I dislike taking the time to write. Another thing I've had to persevere through is having to take breaks from martial arts and then coming back and trying to remember everything I had learned before my family and I left for commercial fishing. I have seen other people in martial arts not persevere because they have had other things come up in their lives that they felt are more important. Others have dropped out because working toward the next belt is hard. Some other real-life examples of persevering I have experienced have been things like working toward my pilot's license and even simple things like doing school and driving. I can remember a couple of times doing school when I wanted to go hit my head against a wall, but I kept doing it and pushed through.



A lot of things that you need perseverance for are things you strongly dislike but you need to accomplish so you can fulfill your goals. You must be able to work and push through during challenging times. Perseverance also helps with getting a job because you're more likely to get a good education and training if you stick with it. Perseverance is also key for having good and healthy relationships because you do your due diligence. It is often hard to take the time to find out what kind of person someone is, but if you don't you could end up in a bad relationship. When you do take time to find out who a person truly is, it helps you know if you want to invest in that relationship. If you decide to invest in a relationship, you will realize that relationships are where perseverance is truly beneficial as it takes time, energy, and sacrifice to build extraordinary relationships.

Throughout this essay we have looked at how a lack of perseverance leads to the death of dreams and goals. Laziness, living and acting in the moment, and not being able to let go of past mistakes all can stop you from achieving goals that make you happy. We've also looked at how showing perseverance can help you! When you follow through in your plans despite difficulty and setbacks, you can become successful in whatever you set out to do—things like school, martial arts, work and relationships.

In my own life I am still learning how to persevere in accomplishing my goals. It is not always easy but it's valuable to learn how to persevere through anything that happens. I have to say Martial Arts is one of the hardest things I have had to push through. But it also has been extremely beneficial in helping me realize what I am capable of. No matter what comes up in your own life, if you persevere you will be unstoppable.