

Drive

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Certain people throughout history have achieved things so great that their names are in history books. These people are often designated as driven. Drive is a quality that in its essence is action, and few things cannot be accomplished by those who have it.

Initiative, willpower, perseverance: these words describe aspects of a quintessential martial arts trait, drive. Drive is one of the most important characteristics of both the *jeja* and the *sabomnim* (martial arts student and instructor). But what is it? The definition of drive is a bit tricky, but it can be thought of as a desire to keep going and to not give up. It is the will to do your best at a given task. Gaining drive is not difficult, and it is key for success. Drive is also essential to character development. Without it, there is little ability to build and maintain connections or to develop confidence through accomplishments. However, Caution is required, for unless people are able to direct and control their drive, it can be dangerous to them and others. History shows us that when driven people go unchecked, the consequences of their actions can be devastating. When people demonstrate and control this trait and work with all their effort, it can catalyze successes in all areas of their life.

First, what is drive? Maybe the best way to describe drive is to explain how it reacts with both goals and struggles. Concerning goals, driven people seek to achieve them to the best of their ability. This means more than just accomplishing what they set out to do. It entails doing so without compromising their high-quality standards for the task. It means that driven people persist in working diligently all of the time instead of only really trying when they're being watched or when a deadline is nearing. Driven people even set extra challenges for themselves to make themselves better. They aren't content to do the average and they shun doing only the minimum. Those with drive stand out because they aren't even satisfied with doing good, because for them, being good isn't enough; they need to be better than their best.

Drive also shows its character when it becomes challenging to reach a certain goal. Difficulty causes discomfort, which many people often fear and despise, but this discomfort can become

the fire with which we are refined. A challenging exercise or circumstance forces us to grow much faster than a comfortable one does. Some people are blessed to enjoy challenge in itself, but most would rather take the easy path. With drive, we don't have to enjoy a challenging task, but we won't back down when the going gets tough, or when we can't see the light at the end of the tunnel. Similarly, drive intentionally perceives failure in a unique way. Failing is one of the hardest ways to learn a lesson but one of the most effective for driving a point home. And while the majority of people deem failure as final, a driven person can see it as just a point where a mistake is made or as just another step towards a final ambition. The difference between these two mindsets is key. Many people believe they can't accomplish their goal at all when they fall short of it, but this is rarely the case. If you take the time to understand why you did not initially succeed, you can then use that knowledge to get better and succeed the second time. Defeat has no shame unless you did not put forth all of your effort, and even then, it can be redeemed. Failure is a powerful weapon in the scabbard of the driven person. At times, the price for success is high and the road is marked with failures. Yet in these times, drive is the push that never quits; it always strives to meet and exceed the standard in whatever it does. Martial arts encompasses more than the physical, and drive applies to these other areas as well. Drive is excellent at building character components such as connection and confidence. When we make connections, it is easy to hurt others through our expectations and desires. In our relationships, it is necessary to have love, so we don't trample the wants and needs of others. When we do hurt others, it is important to be diligent in seeking a resolution to the conflict. Connecting to God also requires drive. Mark 12:30 says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." This fits

excellently with the definition of drive. We are called to make every effort to love God. Yet we are not able to love God without him enabling us to! In a great plot twist, God seeks us. He even sent his Son to bridge the gap caused by sin that lies between himself and us, drawing us to himself! This shows that God is driven to love us. So, another reason to develop drive is to become more like God.

Not only do connections require drive, but so does confidence. Drive is important to maintain connections, and it is even more important for confidence. To develop confidence, a person usually needs to develop successes. When you have drive and are willing to stick with something unto completion and to do it well, successes will rapidly pile up. Even small amounts of drive can help you gain confidence. Also, a driven person knows that most achievements are within their grasp, whether or not they decide to attain them. Finally, you can have confidence in your faith in God because he is driven to love us. Romans 8:38-39 declares that nothing can separate us from the love of God. That should give us more confidence than anything else.

Developing drive is very straightforward. There are two primary methods that can be used to develop drive. Repetition is one of these ways. Repeating a specific task over and over will build pathways in your brain that make the task both easier to do and more natural. So, if you want to be good at drive, start by constantly forcing yourself to do more than is required. When multiple methods to accomplish a workout exist, choose the most difficult one that you can manage. If you have to lower the difficulty, do so, but let it be a last resort. Don't be satisfied with being better than others. Strive to be better than yourself. Set a standard higher than you can achieve, so you are forced to get better. Repeat drive so it comes naturally.

The second way to become a more driven person does not require any physical exertion. This method to foster drive requires a person to change their mindset. Now, everyone sees the world around them through a spiritual and mental lens. By altering this lens, people may be able to see the world from a new perspective, even one in accordance with reality. Often, by changing our mindset, we can realize that difficulty is a part of life, which can help us to overcome it. We can recognize that discomfort is a way to make us better people and can benefit not only us, but those around us as well. Finally, we can become aware that life is short compared with eternity which can drive us to boldness. Becoming a driven person doesn't require a mystical formula and is well worth the boredom of repetitions and the awkwardness of changing your mindset.

When drive is being developed, there are two primary requirements that need to be met. Firstly, and most importantly, a person's drive must be directed. Take nuclear energy, comparable to drive it is both extremely powerful and potentially devastating. Atomic power can be used for destruction that is equal to millions of tons of TNT with many terrible long-term effects. Alternately, it can generate immense amounts of relatively clean electrical energy. The difference is direction. A reactor at a nuclear power plant must be constantly monitored and adjusted. So should drive. If we are driven but have no self-control or bad morals, then we are going to destroy our lives and the lives of those around us. If we don't understand our boundaries or values, how can we judge how and when to drive to a certain goal? We need to recognize for what we are striving, why we are seeking it, and how it fits with what we believe. Then we are better prepared to protect ourselves and others from uncontrolled drive.

Secondly, we should be able to apply drive to the correct degree and even stop it when we need. Reaching a goal is not worth trampling others, nor should it blot out all other responsibilities. If someone puts all of their effort into providing money for their family, they are in danger of losing the relationships with their family. And if duty is put off, and they aren't diligent, they are also risking their relationships. Circumstances change, and sometimes it is necessary to shelve an ambition. We should not be controlled by drive. A certain objective may be initially justified, but it may need to be adjusted before the end. Ending the ascent to a goal isn't quitting if the goal was unjustified or if the energy should be directed to an equal or better purpose. Real failure comes when fear or discomfort are our primary reasons for giving up.

In conclusion, drive is a powerful yet attainable trait that makes great successes achievable. It is one of the most powerful weapons in the inventory of any person. Drive is a quality that strives for perfection, knowing that perfection is unattainable but striving for it nonetheless. It must be disciplined, not having too much power, as in an obsession, nor too little. When it can be balanced and controlled, drive builds connections and develops confidence through successes. One of the differences that drive makes in a person's life is that it changes the way difficulty and failure are dealt with. So, develop your drive. It can be as simple as repetition or changing your mindset. Strive, learn, conquer!