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Never Give Up

“Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.”

–Thomas Alva Edison

How badly do you truly want your dreams to come true? It’s a simple question. Are you willing to do what it takes to achieve all that you want? Ask yourself this over and over again. Most people quit whenever life gets difficult. It’s so much easier to quit than it is to work hard toward your goal. Look around. The world is filled with lots of people who have never fulfilled their dreams. We celebrate those few who did achieve their dreams because they weren’t willing to give up. Thomas Edison said that many of life’s failures consisted of people who did not realise how close they were to success when they gave up. That says it all!

My three-year-old son is learning to ride a bike. He has the training wheels, the flashy helmet, and the flames on the side of his bike. He does a great job riding around most of

Be a Good Human

our neighbourhood, but the last fifty yards to our house is uphill. This is where he chooses to give up. The minute it gets hard to pedal, he jumps off his bike and says, "I can't do it!" Then he'll dump his bike in the street and look pathetic or pout. I started teaching him to say that he is a Giaquinto and that Giaquintos never give up. This was a major battle for about a month. He would scream and cry. Quitting is so much easier. I tried to keep my cool (usually) and I just kept reminding him to never give up.

Then a funny thing happened one day. He was riding his bike around the neighbourhood and he got to that same hill that had given him so much trouble. He looked up at me and said, "Daddy, I'm a Giaquinto, and Giaquintos never give up!" He just kept saying "Never give up!" as he pedalled up that hill.

I cheered him on and chanted words of encouragement along with him. The look on his face when he finally reached the top was amazing. It was pure joy! He screamed, "I did it!" Of course, my wife and I made a very big deal out of this small victory. It was a huge lesson in our son's life (and in ours). That idea of never giving up has now transferred to other areas of his life. It's a great life lesson: If you want something bad enough, you never give up on it.

I read a story about Abraham Lincoln who is known to be one of the greatest presidents in America's history. He had a tough life. His journey to presidency had setback after setback. When you look at the amount of rejection he had in his life prior to becoming the sixteenth president, it is really amazing that he ever made it at all. What did he do that others didn't? He never gave up!

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Thomas Edison perfected the light bulb for home use. He worked on about 3,000 different versions of the light bulb before he found the one that would work best. Where would we be if he had given up? I might be sitting here writing this book by candlelight. Every setback got him closer to his goal. He kept trying about 10,000 different types of materials to find the ones that would work the best. Obviously, he found them! How often do you try before you decide to give up?

Focused persistence is what helps us to never give up on our dreams. If you want something bad enough, keep working towards it. You are the only person who really knows what you want out of life so never let anyone discourage you from chasing your dreams.

The obstacles in your way are just chances to see how badly you want your desire or goal. If you give up, you truly didn't want it bad enough. If you really want it, you will figure out a way to work through the problem or you will navigate your way around it. Good luck and remember that great people become great because in the face of adversity they choose to never give up!

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. Think about a dream that you have given up on. Be honest with yourself. How badly did you really want it? Reflect on why you didn't accomplish it. What could you have done differently? Take that experience and use it to motivate yourself towards your next goal.
2. Think about a current dream that you have for yourself. How badly do you really want it? What can you do to make that dream a reality? Write down the steps that you need to take to make it happen. Start from the beginning and write every little step that it will take to make it a reality. Picture every step along the way. Focus your energy towards that dream and do what it takes to achieve it. See yourself accomplishing it!



2

Be Kind

“Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”

—Mark Twain

It's a simple concept. Be kind to people. Be nice to people. How often have you heard 'Treat others the way you want to be treated?' It's the Golden Rule. Everyone knows it. Right? Wrong. It seems to me that it's difficult for a lot of people to practise the Golden Rule. Why is it so hard to be consistently kind to other people? I've thought a lot about this question for a long time. Being a teacher, I get to watch kids all day long learning to be good humans, but it's tough for most to be consistently kind to each other. I have a hypothesis about why being kind or nice is so difficult for so many people so often. I believe the reason is that most people don't understand the value in being nice to others. I'm going to show you some great reasons why you should be kind to other people as often as possible.