

PERSISTENCE: The Power to Scale Any Mountain

In 1953, Sir Edmund Hillary, a beekeeper from New Zealand, became the first man, alongside his guide Tenzing Norgay, to summit Mount Everest. After two failed attempts and tremendous setbacks, he finally conquered the tallest mountain in the world and returned safely. What enabled him to achieve this historic feat wasn't just skill or opportunity—it was his vision and, more importantly, persistence.

Hillary's journey mirrors the mountains we all face in life. Whether it's building a business, improving your relationships, or chasing a long-held dream, the same principles apply. Persistence is what separates those who reach the summit from those who settle in the foothills. It is the defining quality of success.

What is Persistence?

Napoleon Hill, in *Think and Grow Rich*, described persistence as the quality to a person's character that carbon is to steel: the element that gives it strength and resilience. Without persistence, even the most talented or educated individuals falter in the face of challenges. Persistence is the mental muscle that enables you to keep going when circumstances get tough, rejection stings, or the mountain feels insurmountable. It is the quiet yet unshakable force behind every extraordinary achievement.

Hill wrote, *"There may be no heroic connotation to the word 'persistence,' but that quality is what solves the problems of the human race."*

The Stories of Persistent Visionaries

The lives of great achievers are case studies in persistence. Consider Ben Hogan, one of the greatest golfers of all time. Born into poverty, Hogan dreamed of golfing glory. Through relentless practice and effort, he rose to become a U.S. Open champion in 1948. But his story didn't stop there.

In 1949, Hogan survived a devastating car accident that nearly took his life and left doctors convinced he would never walk again, let alone play golf. Yet Hogan's persistence defied those predictions. He kept a set of golf clubs by his hospital bed, visualizing his return to the game. Within a year, he was not only walking but winning tournaments. Hogan's sheer will and persistence turned tragedy into triumph, earning him 54 victories after his accident. His story stands as living proof that persistence pays off.

Why People Stay in the Foothills

Not everyone chooses to climb the mountain. Many people remain in the foothills, convincing themselves that mediocrity is “good enough.” They rationalize their decisions with excuses: “I don’t need to go further,” or “This is as far as I was meant to go.” But in reality, these individuals have likely tried to climb before and given up when the climb got tough. Instead of scaling the mountain, they retreated to their comfort zones.

Bob Proctor, the great teacher of success principles, once said, *“Most people tiptoe through life, hoping to make it safely to death.”* This tendency to avoid discomfort, risk, or effort keeps people from realizing their potential. But as Proctor also taught, success is not reserved for the talented few—it is the result of consistent effort and unwavering persistence.

How to Cultivate Persistence

Persistence isn’t something you’re born with—it’s a skill, a habit, and a mindset you can develop. Neville Goddard, a master of manifesting one’s desires, taught that persistence begins with desire and vision. You must want something so deeply that it becomes a burning passion, a vision you can’t let go of. Here’s how you can strengthen your persistence:

1. Define What You Truly Want

The foundation of persistence is a compelling vision. What do you truly desire? Is it freedom? Impact? Financial independence? Create a clear, detailed picture of your goal. As Neville Goddard said, *“An assumption, though false, if persisted in, will harden into fact.”* Assume your goal is already yours, and persist until it becomes your reality.

2. Make a Decision and Commit

The moment you decide that nothing will stop you, persistence becomes inevitable. Your decision fuels your actions. Eckhart Tolle reminds us, *“Realize deeply that the present moment is all you ever have. Make the Now the primary focus of your life.”* Don’t wait for perfect circumstances—act now.

3. Visualize Success Daily

Visualization is a powerful tool to anchor your persistence. See yourself reaching the summit, enjoying the rewards of your effort. Ben Hogan kept his golf clubs in his hospital room as a constant reminder of his vision. You can do the same by creating daily rituals to connect with your goal.

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4. Turn Obstacles into Stepping Stones

Challenges are not barriers—they're part of the process. Hill emphasized that obstacles strengthen your character and test your commitment. Instead of fearing failure, embrace it as a teacher.

5. Surround Yourself with Positivity

The people around you influence your mindset. Build a circle of supportive individuals who encourage your persistence. Avoid the naysayers who settle for the foothills and try to pull you down.

The Power of Desire and Imagination

Persistence becomes automatic when your desire is strong enough. The key is to *fall in love* with your vision. Magnetize yourself to your dream so fully that giving up becomes unthinkable. As Napoleon Hill observed, *“When the dream is big enough, the facts don’t count.”*

Why Persistence Matters

The world rewards persistence, not just talent, intelligence, or skill. Calvin Coolidge put it best:

“Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful people with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.”

A Wake-Up Call

This is your wake-up call to develop persistence. Treat every challenge as part of the journey and every obstacle as a stepping stone. Persistence is not about avoiding difficulties but facing them head-on, knowing that the summit will be worth it.

Final Thoughts

What mountain are you climbing? Are you truly chasing what you want, or are you settling for the comfort of the foothills? Decide today to take your first step toward the summit. Build your persistence, and your vision will guide you through the climb.

As Helen Keller once said, *“The most pathetic person in the world is someone who has sight but no vision.”* Without vision, there is no persistence. And without persistence, the

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summit will always be out of reach. Start now. Persist. And watch as the mountain becomes yours.