

A View From The Top



DEFINING SUCCESS

The heights by great men reached and kept
Were not attained by sudden flight,
But they, while their companions slept,
Were toiling upward in the night.

--Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

For many of us, **SUCCESS** oftentimes seems elusive.

Exactly what is success? It is defined as the achievement of something desired, planned or attempted. Thus, it may be short or long-term; it may be one act or a series of acts or one long continuing action or activity. Success can be setting a goal and then achieving it; or, it may be the activity put forth to achieve it.

The achievement itself may not be the most important thing for us individually. Rather, the process we go through to achieve the goal may mean the most to us. For example, we may define success as passing an exam or we may define it as living a good, healthy, purposeful life. The range of definitions for success is nearly infinite and is very personal to each of us in our view of the world.

For all of us, when we have achieved success in our lives whether in a single action or an ongoing activity, it's the preparation, tenacity and belief that we will achieve it that makes all of the difference. It's during those moments when we believe we'll just never get there that we must continue to forge forward or it will, indeed, elude us!

The following quotes from notable people can give each of us an opportunity to reflect on what success meant to these individuals at certain points in their lives and what it can mean for us now and in the future.

"The secret of success in life is for a man to be ready for his opportunity when it comes." --Benjamin Disraeli

"Success seems to be connected with action. Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes, but they don't quit." --Conrad Hilton

"To succeed... you need to find something to hold on to, something to motivate you, something to inspire you." --Tony Dorset

"It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed."
--Theodore Roosevelt

"The goal ever recedes from us. Salvation lies in the effort, not in the attainment. Full effort is full salvation." --M.H. Gandhi

"When you get right down to the root of the meaning of the word succeed, you find that it simply means to follow through." --F.W. Nichol

***To laugh often and much;
To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;
To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others;
To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition;
To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.
This is to have succeeded.***

--Bessie Stanley

Authored by:

Kathleen Frank, President

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