

Practically applying the character quality of

determination

vs. Faintheartedness

"Purposing to accomplish right goals at the right time, regardless of the opposition."

By: John Leckenby

The Value Of Determination

Determination in both the individual and the group is one of the primary virtues that leads to the success of any endeavor.

Take away drive and determination, and you might as well pack up and go home, for faintheartedness never accomplished anything worthwhile.

Commitment
to Determination

- I will ignore distractions.
- I will not be discouraged by others.
- I will make sure my goals are right.
- I will face problems head-on.
- I will set goals.

Determination Overcomes

To complete a project to the best of our ability, we must be focused on that project. To be focused, you must be determined to ignore distractions. Distractions come in many forms. One of them is fear. A great example of someone whose determination won out over fear is the explorer Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton. On an expedition to Antarctica his ship, *Endurance*, became locked in an ice floe. He and his men were forced to evacuate the ship, which was being crushed by the ice and which eventually sank. There they were, a few dozen men in the middle of nowhere, without the transportation that got them there. If any situation ever called for blind fear, it was this one. But did Shackleton give way to faintheartedness? No, for he

was determined to get his men home safely. He knew the importance of staying focused. Thanks to his undying determination in the face of

danger and death, his men survived over ten months living on ice floes before finally being rescued. You can read the eyewitness account in the book *"Endurance."*

Balancing Determination

Determination shouldn't be overbearing, and it should not control you. It could become a bit of an aggressive monster if allowed to run about without being controlled. Determination should be used in a humble mindset so as not to override others.

Be Determined, Find Success

If you do not live a determined lifestyle, critics will probably discourage you. We need to learn the importance of accepting critique without becoming discouraged. Of course, there are times when a co-worker is having a bad day, and they just happen to vent their frustration by insulting your work. Under such circumstances, maintain your focus and a humble attitude, and learn what you can. But don't let their

criticism dampen your determination. By allowing yourself to doubt your ability, you will easily be discouraged, maybe even to the point of wanting to give up. Winston Churchill, a man who knew as much about determination as anyone who ever lived, said "Never, never give up." A determined spirit made this man a legend.

Projects in the workplace may not be of legendary proportions, but the overall rule remains: Determination is an important key to success.

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How DETERMINED are you?

- Do you have a positive expectancy of reaching your goals?
- Do you commit to reach a goal and overcome any obstacles you encounter along the way?
- Are you impacted by the negative attitudes and opinions of others?
- Do you bounce back quickly from temporary setbacks.
- Do you have a motivating purpose in life?
- Do you persevere on tasks that are more difficult than what you expected?