

SEVEN: THE PERSISTENT DECISION *I will persist without exception.*

Your success with the other six Decisions rests on your ability and willingness to embrace and master the **Persistent Decision**. To persist is to ultimately ensure success in your endeavors.

Reason can only be stretched so far, but faith has no limits. The only limit to my realization of tomorrow is the doubt to which I hold fast today. The **Persistent Decision** reveals a critical “twist” to the notion of persistence: “**Persisting “without exception”** is key to achieving extraordinary levels of success in any area of life. When we consistently make the **Persistent Decision**, our success is boundless.

Great leaders – great achievers – are rarely realistic by other people’s standards. Somehow these successful people are, often considered strange, but they pick their way through life ignoring or not hearing the negative expectations and emotions. Consequently they accomplish one great thing after another, never having heard what cannot be done. That is precisely why one should never tell a young person that something cannot be done. God may have been waiting for centuries for someone ignorant enough of the *impossible* to that very thing!

1. I will persist without exception

Knowing that I have already made changes in my life that will last forever, today I insert the final piece of the puzzle. I possess the greatest power ever bestowed upon mankind, the power of choice. Today, I choose to persist without exception.

I know the outcome I desire. I hold fast to my dreams. I stay the course. I do not quit. I will persist without exception. I will continue despite exhaustion. I acknowledge the fact that most people quit when exhaustion sets in. I am not “most people”. I am stronger than most people. Average people accept exhaustion as a matter of course. I do not. Average people compare themselves with other people. That is why they are average. I compare myself to my potential. I am not average. I see exhaustion as a precursor to victory. For me, faith will always be a sounder guide than reason because reason can only go so far—faith has no limits.

a) The habit of Quitting

It is easy to shrug off the Persistent Decision: You have heard it before – ‘but in my case – it isn’t –quite so - - -’. There are a lot of different versions of that statement.

How long must a child try to walk before he actually does so?

How long must I actually work to succeed before I actually do so?

A child would never ask the questions:

-How much longer? When can I quit? I think I tried enough? I am going to quit trying!

By persisting without exception, my outcome – my success – is assured.

Louis Pasteur - Perhaps you have heard of the Frenchman Louis Pasteur, who invented pasteurization of milk. He said: “*Let me tell you the secret that has led to my goal.*

My strength lies solely in my tenacity.”

Like in sports, you must know in the game of life, nothing is less important than the score at halftime.

The tragedy of life is not that man loses, but that he almost wins.

Life requires a commitment to persistence. Becoming a Force of Persistence means to conquer life.

Reason can only be stretched so far, but faith has no limits. The only limit to my realization of tomorrow is the doubt to which I hold fast today.

2. Faith or Fear -Your Inner Motivator

The doorway beyond Fear is to Persist.

All men are driven by faith or fear - one or the other, because both Faith and Fear are the same.

Faith or Fear is the expectation of an event that hasn't come to pass or the belief in something that cannot be seen or touched.

A man of fear lives always on the edge of insanity. A man of faith lives in perpetual reward. Fear is a poor foundation on which to build tomorrow.

Ralph Waldo Emerson – A British poet said, “Always do what you're afraid to do.”
Fear is a poor chisel with which to carve out tomorrow.

a) You Cannot Fail

Facing Fear is a struggle – Fear must be broken. Athletes reject pain, suffering and fear in order to conquer. An athlete does not enjoy the pain of training; an athlete enjoys the results of having trained. Hanging in there, staying the course, and waiting for the success to happen is your best strategy! Do you know you cannot fail at whatever you've chosen to do? The only way to fail is if you quit. Failure and success are totally in your hands!

You got to remember that one day, somebody's going to be right, and it's going to be really obvious to everybody who that will be. Let those words wash over you.

You have not failed until you quit. **You can persist without exception.**

b) Being a Person of Persistence

Certainly you and I both agree that success doesn't happen by accident. You must know what you want and what you're willing to give in order to get it.

TWO things will be required:

1st. a decision, and 2nd, consistent action and follow-through until you succeed.

What does follow-through mean?

It means continuous, tenacious action toward your goal – intended, planned, effective action. You won't get anywhere by waiting for God to give it to you.

Remember: He feeds the birds but does not throw the food into their nests!

Following through-intending success-means relentless commitment to achieving your outcomes through drastic action.

What I perceived as rejection or delays was really Divine orchestration for the right time.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow – a British writer said, “Perseverance is the great element of success. If you only knock long enough and loud enough at the gate, you are sure to wake up somebody.”

One or two actions typically won't give the success to which you're committed. Massive, consistent action is what's needed to give you success.

Constant detours do not bring a man into the presence of greatness. Detours do not build muscle. Detours do not provide life's lessons. Between you and anything significant will be giants in your path. Will you be a man of persistence? Will you make a commitment to persistence?

3. Strategic Planning: Moving Toward Your Goals

Our problems represent opportunities to enlarge our territory.

Remember the prayer of Jabez in Chron.

It explains that we must ask and seek to have our territories enlarged and expanded.

Will you allow your territory to be enlarged?

Persist without exception. From this day forward you will believe in the certainty of your future.

Fear has no place in your life. It's time to have faith! Believe in the future, and watch your future manifest.

a) Problems are your Opportunities

Embrace your world of Crisis!

Remember: you're not alone. We are all either in a crisis, coming out of a crisis, or headed for a crisis. It is just part of being on this planet.

If you're still breathing, your purpose on earth has not yet been fulfilled.

There is a reason why you are still with us.

Your work is not done!

You're only at halftime. It's time to take a breath, to get up, and get ready to go again.

Times of calamity and distress have always been the producers of the greatest men. The hardest steel is produced from the hottest fire; the brightest star shreds the darkest night.

Beware of the temptation to detour! Distractions are everywhere: children's work, rehab-centers, on and on. But only planting churches is expanding God's Kingdom!

b) Transforming Problems into opportunities

Problems are part of life. What are your three biggest problems right now?

List them in your notebook.

Then answer the following:

What makes them so big? Or why do you believe they are big?

What could be great about each of these problems?

List 5 reasons why each of these problems could be big.

List a few ideas for dealing with these problems right now.

List 3 creative solutions to handling these problems.

Next choose your biggest problem and the best solution you can implement immediately, and do it.

Remember, during times of trouble, we are not lacking money, time, a mentor, or a leader.

You are only lacking an idea. An idea backed by ceaseless persistence brings desired results.

Circumstances are rulers of the weak, but they are the weapons of the wise.

c) Persistently Building your Momentum

Building momentum toward your goals helps you more effectively live the Persistent Decision.

A solid strategy for results planning can expedite the realization of your goals:

1. What is a goal/result you really want to make happen?

Choose something you have wanted for a while, though it has been out of reach.

Really consider what you want and why you want it.

2. With your goal in mind, brainstorm ways to move toward it. Write down any actions – big or small – to help you achieve your goal.
3. Now take at least one action in the next 12 hours to bring you closer to living your dreams! Schedule time each day or each week to move closer to achieving your goals.

GOD PERSISTS WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

All prophecies relate to, prescribe, or promise God's persistence without exception.

Aren't you glad about Heaven's reality?

CONCLUDING THE SEVEN DECISIONS:

You are different from everyone else. On planet Earth, there has never been anyone like you, and there never will be again. Your spirit, your thoughts and feelings, your ability to reason—all of these things exist collectively only in you. Your eyes are incomparable—they are windows to a soul that is also uniquely yours. A single strand of your hair contains DNA that can only be traced to you. Of the multitudes who have come before you and the multitudes who may follow, not one of them duplicates the formula by which you are made. You are different from everyone else! You are special! You are chosen. The qualities, many of them rare, that make you one of a kind are no accident. I understand that a year from now, through the people with whom I associate, the books I have read, and the choices I have made, I can actually be a different person.

a) Identifying Your Drivers

Identify Your Drivers at the close of your exploration of **the Seven Decisions**. You've identified numerous areas for growth and even committed to some actions. Now, based on what you've learned about yourself thus far:

- a) Choose three specific decisions you have made in the course of working through these **Seven Decisions**.
- b) For each decision, write all the reasons why it is important— why it is a MUST.
- c) What will following through on this decision give you? How will your life change?

b) Eliminating Debilitating Beliefs

Eliminate your Debilitating Beliefs! Some of the greatest challenges to each of **the Seven Decisions** are our conscious and unconscious limiting beliefs. These limiting beliefs often translate into negative self-talk, such as, I can't do it, I'm not good enough, I'm not smart enough, or I can't make it work.

What are five limiting beliefs you have about yourself?

- a. Think back to the fears you defined in "*the Overcoming Fear*" exercise
- b. Behind every fear is at least one debilitating belief about yourself. Uncover your destructive beliefs and write them down.
- c. For each negative belief, determine its polar opposite.
- d. Write down a new, positively stated belief for each negative one.

c) Architecting a New Self –Image

1. For each negative belief, determine its polar opposite.
2. Write down a new, positively stated belief for each negative one

d) Your roles in Action

1. 30-Day Early-to-Rise Challenge

I present you with the "30-Day Early-to-Rise Challenge"—an activity that will change your life if you follow through with it. For thirty days, get up at least an hour before the rest of the house. (Go to bed earlier if you need to, but you'll probably find you don't need to.)

2. The Deathbed Exercise

Write a glowing, incredible eulogy you would like to have read aloud at your funeral. Here are some key questions to help: • What was your life's work about? • Who was affected as a result of your actions? • Who was made a better person because of you? • What were the three biggest events that happened because of you? • For what will you be remembered? •

How was the world different because of you? Write your eulogy in your journal; then type and print it. Carry it with you wherever you go.

1. Share your eulogy with the three most important people in your life. Ask them for their feedback and suggestions on what needs to happen for you to become the person in the eulogy. Practically speaking, to make your eulogy a reality, where do you begin?
2. Put your eulogy into a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation to help you visualize what you want to do. Your mind often thinks in pictures, and having a visual presentation of your eulogy will help you keep it in mind. This exercise will help you clarify what you want your life's accomplishments to be and help you build momentum to achieve it. Becoming a Person of Action You are a person of action.