

Have a Determined Heart

by Brian Hazelgren

A wise man once said, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step.” Knowing this to be true, today is the day to take that first step. If you already have taken that step then congratulations on your exciting journey ahead!

How many times have you wondered if you are taking the *right* first step? I have done this at times in my life, and it never fails, I always realize that if you are determined to take action, then at some point things, people, circumstances will be placed in your path to help you on your way, and ultimately help you reach your vision.

This article is about having vision, keeping that vision clear in your mind, and staying determined to reach it.

Sometimes we shuffle to the left, then to the right, we might even go backwards a few steps to find the right path. Criticism comes in to play, condemnation, and complaints from others soon creep in, but with a determined heart, these distractions will blow off with the wind! These things come in to our lives because lesser human beings will always criticize and complain, and may even try to thwart the good things that you are trying to achieve. Your job is to stay focused on your vision.

The power to control your course is actually up to you. Today is the day to take control and realize that there is one person who can change your direction in a positive way – and that person is YOU!

When you have passion for what you do, and you take action, then your vision will unfold right in front of you. People will follow your lead, and the world will be better off for the simple fact that you stayed focused on your vision.

Let me ask you a few questions: When you woke up this morning, how did you feel? Were you excited about the day in front of you, or did you wake up with the weight of the world on your shoulders – and just wanted to pull the covers over your head and stay in bed? Or, did you wake up with excitement and say to yourself: “Today is full of opportunity for growth and maybe even some positive change in my life!” When you have a vision of what you would like your day to be like, and act in a way that moves you forward, then the dark forest of doubt, and the slippery slope of self pity will be swept away. YOU have to be determined to push those negative thoughts away.

Fast Fact: There may be mountains or other obstacles in your path, but when you do everything in your power to move those mountains, and keep an eye on your vision, the journey will be much more rewarding.

Think of this like following someone else who is forward thinking. If they criticize others, have only negative things to say about pretty much everything, or waller in the quicksand of self pity...is that someone you would follow into battle? I hope your answer is “no” you would not, – rather you would choose to follow someone who is confident, and self-assure. You would choose to follow a leader who cares about you, and who is willing to fight for you and your team/family/friends. Well, guess what, if you choose to follow someone like that, then follow yourself – and YOU become that kind of leader!

There may be mountains or other obstacles in your path, but when you do everything in your power to move those mountains, and keep an eye on your vision, the journey will be much more rewarding. Your vision...your dreams are for you, and never apologize for your dreams. Never let them go – keep your hopes, passions, dreams, and your vision alive by taking action, with a determined heart to succeed.

Sometimes we don't have all the parts and pieces perfectly lined up or at our disposal, *but keep your focus and do not become deterred by these obstacles*. You may have to rely on others to help you accomplish your dreams, but that is perfectly ok. There may be incredible obstacles that are in your way, but there are always ways around those obstacles.

Have you ever seen the poster that shows a setting sun on the horizon, and placed in front of the setting sun are four large boulders in the ocean. The caption of the poster is *"When you take your eyes off the goal, all you see are the obstacles."* The primary point is that the obstacles of deep, cold waters; and large objects standing in the way, are usually what we humans focus on first, rather than seeing past those obstacles and focusing on the beauty of the setting sun.

The primary mission of companies today is to generate as much revenue as possible while controlling costs, which leads to more equity or profit. There are a myriad of obstacles introduced on a daily basis that threaten the primary vision of any institution, large or small. The distractions can and do become overwhelming and drain the energy, sometimes the life out of the organization and its members.

Too many distractions creep in and rob us of achieving our full potential. The poor economy... slow or no sales...the competition launching a new product...employee relations and human resource challenges...internal strife with managers...and a thousand other things. The key is to remain focused on who you are – and what you do best, and how your talents and skills are of value to your company – whether you are an employee, a leader, or an owner – you matter!

When you are truly committed to something, distractions can be managed and even ignored to bring about the completion of your task.

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