

The Frog in the Rut

A fable tells how a frog once hopped into a deep rut on a country road, and though his friends tried desperately to help him out, they were unsuccessful and finally left him in deep despair.

The next day, one of these friends was hopping along when he met the frog who, the day before, had been hopelessly stuck in the rut of the road.

“I’m surprised to see you,” said the friendly frog. “I thought you were unable to get out of that rut.”

“I couldn’t get out,” said the other frog, “but a truck came along and I had to!”



That little story illustrates the fact that necessity often overcomes the impossible. All of us fall into ruts of adversity or restlessness from time to time, and we sometimes become prisoners of those ruts because we do not have the determination and faith to jump out. Yet when we have a compelling reason to do so, we actually are able to move quite well.

Determination, with faith, can overcome all obstacles and change the ruts of life’s highway into stepping stones that can lead us to the ultimate achievement.

In his book *Living above the Level of Mediocrity*, Charles Swindoll – pastor, author, educator and radio preacher in Plano, Texas – included a poem written by Calvin Coolidge. Here it is:

Press On

*Press on.
Nothing in the world
Can take the place of persistence.
Talent will not;
Nothing is more common
Than unsuccessful men
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 important.*

(more)

The question for each of us, then, is: How do we apply these two character traits to produce successful living ...

- In marriage and family life?
- In professional endeavors?
- In church involvement?
- In community contributions?
- In a spiritual walk?



No person embodied the characteristics of persistence and determination more than Paul the Apostle, who wrote 14 of the 27 books in the New Testament, and who endured trials of various sorts, persecution and death for his faith. In advice to the church at Corinth, he wrote:

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified (1 Corinthians 9:24-27 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter