

Thinking VERSUS ACTING

Perhaps most of us know people who have big plans – to write a novel, to build a dream home, to go back to school to earn some desired degree, or maybe to learn to fly an airplane. But they never seem to get around to it.

And I'll admit – I've had some aspirations that I've never gotten started on.

German poet and novelist Johann Wolfgang von Goethe once said, "Thinking is easy, acting is difficult, and to put one's thoughts into action is the most difficult thing in the world."

Maybe that's why so few people follow through and act on their goals.

According to Gregg Harris, two-thirds of people surveyed (67 of 100) set goals for themselves. But of those 67, only 10 have made realistic plans to reach their goals. And out of those 10, only two follow through and actually make them happen.

The trick to acting on your goals is getting started. When it comes to writing these *Perspectives*, for example, I'm often tempted to wait until I am "inspired" about some subject before I begin. I've discovered, however, that the "inspiration" always seems to make itself known once I start putting words on paper.



President Franklin D. Roosevelt observed, "It is common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something."

That's good advice. You don't have to be perfect; you only need to make progress.

Or as the Chinese proverb advises, "Be not afraid of going slowly; be only afraid of standing still."

– Beecher Hunter