

Positively Speaking

By Mark Wilson

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The Tortoise & the Hare

We all know the story of the tortoise and the hare. In their great race, Mr. Hare started with a flash, and, noticing his huge lead, decided to stop for a moment and take a snooze.

Mr. Tortoise, on the other hand, plodded along slowly and steadily. At first, he was left in a cloud of dust, but he refused to quit. He kept going. After a while, he waddled right past the napping hare, and crossed the finish line. His persistence, not his swiftness, made him a winner!

Are you a tortoise or a hare? Do you finish what you start, or do you leave a trail of unfinished projects behind you? Sometimes, the people with the greatest talent lose life's race because they are undisciplined, and unwilling to go all the way to the finish line.

Oh yes, these folks have lots of great intentions, but little things just seem to crowd them out. Any expert in goal setting will tell you that to reach a big goal, you have to tackle it one step at a time. Achievement is not accomplished by a quick dash, but by a long distance run. Successful people are the ones who are willing to grit their teeth and keep going, regardless of the cost.

Cicero, the great Roman orator, practiced speaking before a friend or a critic every day for thirty years. His investments paid off. William Cullen Bryant rewrote the classic poem, "Thanatopsis", one hundred times. His investment paid off too!

Of the nearly 250 papers that Albert Einstein published in his lifetime, many were ignored and some were proven wrong. Did that stop him? No! He kept on working – kept on producing. His investment, as well, paid off.

What are your goals? What's keeping you from acting upon them now? What obstacles are you facing which must be overcome? Are you willing to keep going, even when things get tough?

Booker T. Washington stated, "Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."

II Timothy 4:7 says, "I have fought a good fight. I have finished the course. I have kept the faith." Are you able to honestly say these words?

Keep your eye on the goal. Don't give up. Keep on going, and soon you will cross the finish line.

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