



## **Week 12 – Persistent Day 2**

### **Bernardo Castro**

Bernardo Castro was an immigrant to the United States. He came to New York City with only a couple of dollars. He searched from store to store to find a job. Finally, he secured a job sweeping out an upholstery shop. He could speak very little English, so he enrolled in night school. It was a large school of more than 2,000 students. One cold December night he set out to class. He had to walk five miles and a blizzard was raging. After going one block, the thought came to him, "Turn around, quit and go home." The other thought he had was, "I can make it. Keep going." He decided to keep going. When he reached the school, the door was locked. Finally, a janitor came to the door and told him that no one had shown up because of the weather and that the school was closed. Bernardo turned and began his long walk home. He was at first frustrated and miserable, but after traveling about a mile he began to feel excited. He walked taller and straighter, with pride in every step, as he thought, "Of more than 2,000 people, I am the only one who had the inner drive to weather the storm. I have something great inside of me. My destiny is to achieve greatness."

Castro would gradually go from sweeping up an upholstery shop to being an apprentice to an upholsterer, to being an upholsterer, to being a furniture salesman. Then he managed a furniture store, became the owner and eventually the owner of a chain of furniture stores and a millionaire. The key to his success was his persistence.

**Explain in your own words how Bernardo Castro was persistent?**

**It would have been very easy for Bernardo not to have walked through this blizzard. Are there blizzards in your daily life that are hard to walk through? Explain.**

## **Week 12 - Persistent Day 3**

### **Bulldog Story**

I once heard about a man who loved to hunt. The man bought two pups that were top-notch bird dogs. He kept them in his back yard, where he trained them. One morning, an ornery little vicious-looking bulldog came shuffling and snorting down the alley. He crawled under the fence into the backyard with the bird dogs. It was easy to see that he meant business. The man's first impulse was to take his setters and lock them in the basement, so they wouldn't tear up that little bulldog; but he decided he would let the little bulldog learn a lesson he would never forget. Naturally, they got into a scuffle in the back yard and those two bird dogs and that bulldog went round and round! There were growls and yips as bulldog hair flew everywhere. The little critter finally had enough so he squeezed under the fence and took off. All the rest of the day he whined and licked his sores. Interestingly, the next day at about the same time here came that same ornery little bulldog-back under the fence and after those bird dogs. Once again, those bird dogs beat the stuffing out of that little animal and would have chewed him up if he hadn't retreated down the alley. Would you believe the very next day he was back! Same time, same situation, same results. Once again after the bulldog had all he could take, he crawled back under the fence and found his way home to lick his wounds. Well, the man had to leave town for some business, and he was gone for several weeks. When he came back, he asked his wife what had happened. She told him every day that little bulldog came back and fought with his two bird dogs. He never missed a day! It was now to the point that when those bird dogs simply hear that bulldog snorting down the alley and spot him squeezing under the fence they immediately start whining and run down into the basement. That little bulldog struts around the back yard like he owns it. That bulldog never quit!

You may get "whipped" every day but eventually you will win if you never quit.

**How much talent, skill or knowledge does it take to quit?**

**What are some of the justifications that people give for quitting?**

# **Week 12- Persistent Day 4**

## **Hope Experiment**

“If there is hope in the future, there is power in the present.” Dennis Parker

Harvard University did a study in the 1950's and found that it took 20 minutes for rats to drown. They took a second group and just before the rats drowned, the scientists pulled the rats out of the water. When they put the rats back in the water, the rats swam for 60 hours before they drowned. They persisted because within them was the hope that they would be saved.

People don't quit; they lose hope. Athletic events, academic degrees, marriages and success in classes are all based on the hope in the future which gives them power in the present.

Our job as educators, parents, clergy or leaders is to give those under us hope which will empower them to do great things. Remind them continually of the PRIZE not the PRICE.

Never take the hope away. You eliminate the quality of persistence.

**The first step in developing the quality of persistence is to have hope. What does this mean to you?**

**“You just can't beat the person who never gives up.” Babe Ruth  
What does this quote mean to you?**

# Week 12 - Persistent

## Day 5

### Evaluate Your Week

We've been focused on "Persistent" this week, how did you do? For every goal not met, explain what happened and what you can do differently next week to have success.

---

---

---

---

If you completed goals, what did you learn?

---

---

---

---

Write down in complete sentences, something that you learned about "Persistent" this week.

---

---

---

---

Of the three stories, "Bernardo Castro", "Bulldog Story", "Hope Experiment", which had the greatest impact on you? Why?

---

---

---

---

### Demonstration:

For each day of the week, give yourself either "+" if you demonstrated this quality or "-" if you did not.

M\_\_\_\_\_ T\_\_\_\_\_ W\_\_\_\_\_ Th\_\_\_\_\_ F\_\_\_\_\_ Sa\_\_\_\_\_ Su\_\_\_\_\_