

家新伴你行

Stay Connected...We Care!

VOL 1405

Perseverance

Last year, during my visit to my daughter's family living in the U.S., I noticed that my 8 year old grandson Bobby was struggling with his mathematics multiplication homework every day. Despite the encouragements from his parents and me, he would still end up in tears, saying, "I can't do it, I want to give up." My heart sank, feeling so sorry for him. But his parents would insist, "No, keep trying. How can you give up? You just got to try harder, you can do it."

Six months went by, one day Bobby called me over the phone, and shouted with excitement, "Por, Por, I am one of the three in the class chosen to go for an interschool multiplication contest!" Taken by this wonderful surprising news, I nearly fell backwards. I said, "Good work, Bobby!" and curiously asked with joy, "How DID you do it?" He replied, "I worked very very hard on the Multiplication Times Table, I memorize it day and night. I am really good at it now." I replied with a laugh, "So it pays not to give up, eh?! I am so proud of you!" He also laughed, and said firmly "Yes! Por Por!"

Children growing up in the Y and Z generations are bombarded with digital automatic gadgets resulting their demands on everything in speed with instant gratification. They don't have to put much effort in overcoming difficulties to attain results. They have minimal experience in withstanding hardship. Having ended my conversation with Bobby..... from excitement to a quiet moment, I put my thoughts on children of this day and age that if they were not nurtured from young the practice of persistence in building up perseverance, how were they going to face all kinds of challenges and setbacks along their life's journey?

Perseverance is adhering to a course of action, a belief, or a purpose even when it gets difficult or tiresome or discouraging. It is continuous striving to reach the goal. One puts every effort until it is finished.

When we encourage our children to persevere, we are also helping them to develop some strong character qualities:

- **Patience** – Sticking with the work for as long as it takes to finish it. When failed, take time to overcome setbacks and push through difficulties.
- **Endurance** – Keep trying, do not quit or give up easily until the job is finished, tolerating all things necessary to make it happen.

- **Persistence** – Adhering to a course of action in spite of obstacles. This act results “the power of withstanding hardship” which is a quality trait in overcoming future challenges and life struggles that one has the capacity to push through tough times.
- **Conscientiousness** – One needs to work hard so as to result the continuance of working through obstacles, and work hard to follow through with a plan in order to be able to stick to a task to achieve ultimate excellence. By working hard one set up goals and commitment to the future that something good will happen later.

Research has shown that cognitive skills by themselves are not enough for children to succeed in school and later on in their life long journey. It is the combination of the above quality character traits that work as indicators of success. Perseverance has contributed to excellence, success and the good on humanity through many heroes that changed and influenced the world, from Thomas Edison to Madame Curie, from Martin Luther King to Nelson Mandela, from Helen Keller to Nick Vujicic the Australian Evangelist without limbs. ………and also you yourself (isn't every one of us would have this experience?) – Your persistence, your perseverance has given you satisfaction and success in your life……all these episodes we can share and focus our conversation with our children, to guide their thoughts in modeling us. Admit in honesty that we too had our time of weaknesses and had the desire to give up, but through prayers, we pushed through to the end. Parents, take time to bring your children to The Lord in prayers, let our children truly experience God's help.

May you be encouraged to persevere in planting “perseverance” in your children to ultimately bearing fruit.

“A man reaps what he sows.” Gal6:7

“Since we are surrounded by such great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” Heb12:1

By: Brooke