



Single-Minded Focus

By Mike Stewart, CSP

We are all familiar with the absolute need to be persistent and tenacious in order to be successful. In one of the more well-known quotations on this topic, President Calvin Coolidge exclaimed,

"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 are omnipotent. The slogan 'press on' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race."

After supposedly failing 10,000 times to invent a successful light bulb, Thomas Edison, the archetype of 'sticking with it' is reputed to have said, when he finally succeeded,

"Results! Why, man, I have gotten a lot of results. I know several thousand things that won't work."

In a more colloquial expression of the results to be gained from sticking with it, Comedian Dave Gardner, paraphrasing industrialist B C. Forbes, said, "A diamond is just a lump of coal that stuck with it!"

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