

Determination



In 1883, a creative engineer named John Roebling was inspired by an idea to build a spectacular bridge connecting Manhattan and Brooklyn. However, bridge building experts throughout the world thought that this was an impossible feat and told him to forget the idea. It just could not be done. It was not practical. It had never been done before.

John could not ignore the vision he had in his mind of this bridge. After much discussion and persuasion, he managed to convince his son Washington, an up and coming engineer, that the bridge could be built. The father and son developed concepts of how it could be accomplished and how the obstacles could be overcome. With great excitement over the challenge ahead of them, they hired their crew and began to build their dream bridge.

Only a few months into construction, a tragic accident on the site took the life of John Roebling. His son Washington was injured, left with brain damage, and unable to move or talk.

Since the Roeblings were the only ones who knew how the bridge could be built, people felt that the project should be stopped. In spite of his handicap, Washington's mind was still sharp and he still had a burning desire to complete the bridge. Suddenly an idea hit him. All he could do was move one finger, so he slowly developed a code of communication with his wife by touching her arm with that one finger. For 13 years, Washington tapped out his instructions with his finger on his wife's arm, until the bridge was finally completed. Today, the spectacular Brooklyn Bridge stands as a glorious tribute to the triumph of one man's indomitable spirit and his determination not to be defeated by circumstances.

When we face obstacles in our day-to-day life, our hurdles seem very small in comparison to what many others have to face. The Brooklyn Bridge shows us that dreams that seem impossible can be realized with determination and persistence, no matter the odds.

Affirmation: My determination makes me successful.

To think about:

1. What goal have you had that has taken you the longest to achieve?
2. When obstacles appear in your path to success, what are some specific steps you could do to overcome them?
3. Do you know someone who has overcome adversity to be successful? What are some of their traits that have made them successful?

One man has enthusiasm for 30 minutes, another for 30 days, but it is the man who has it for 30 years who makes a success of his life. -Edward B. Butler