

Greatness

Dave Beckman, Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of La Crosse, WI, March 3, 2021

Candle Lighting and Opening Words:

Be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them.
William Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*

You are capable of greatness. It does not matter what others say about you, how much you have failed in the past, or the challenges you are facing. All that matters is that you believe in yourself and never give up. - Unknown

Check-In: A time for sharing cares and concerns.

Focus

Qualities that lead to greatness. Lolly Daskal

Drive: You have the determination to work harder than most and make sure things get done. You pride yourself on seeing things get completed and you take chances when necessary. You align yourself with purpose and align yourself with excellence.

Self-Reliance: You can shoulder responsibilities and be accountable. You make hard decisions and stand by them. To think for yourself is to know yourself.

Willpower: You have the strength to see things through. You don't vacillate or procrastinate.

Patience: You are willing to be patient and you understand that in everything there are failures and frustrations. To take them personally would be a detriment.

Integrity: This should not have to be said, but it's seriously one of the most important attributes you can cultivate. Honesty is the best policy for everything you do. Integrity creates character and defines who you are.

Passion: If you want to succeed, if you want to live, it's not politeness but rather passion that will get you there. Life is 10% what you experience and 90% how you respond to it.

Connections: You can relate to others, which in turn makes everything reach further and deeper in Importance.

Optimism: You know there is much to achieve and make good in this world and you know what's worth fighting for. Optimism is a strategy for making a better future. Unless you believe the future can be better, you're unlikely to step up and take the responsibility for making it so.

Self Confidence: You trust yourself. It's as simple as that. And when you have that unshakable trust in yourself you're already one step closer.

Communication: You work to communicate and pay attention to the communicators around you. Most important, you hear what isn't being said. When communication is present, trust and respect follow.

Reflection

1. "Great men are not born great, they grow great." - Mario Puzo

2. "Success isn't always about greatness. It's about consistency. Consistent hard work leads to success. Greatness will follow" Dwayne Johnson
3. "Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value." Albert Einstein
4. "When you're good at something you'll tell everyone. When you're great at something they'll tell you." – Walter Payton
5. "The only limit to the height of your achievements is the reach of your dreams and your willingness to work for them." – Michelle Obama
6. "The price of greatness is responsibility." - Winston Churchill
7. "Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can be great." – Mark Twain
8. "Greatness is a lot of small things done well every day." - Lewis Showers
9. "The only thing standing between me and greatness is me." - Woody Allen
10. "You have to fall in love with the process to become great." Jeff Capel
11. "Don't ruin a good day by thinking about a bad yesterday." - Grant Cardone
12. "The only time you should look back is to see how far you have come." – Mike Kremling
13. "Worry is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do but gets you nowhere." – Glenn Turner
14. "A person's actions will tell you everything you need to know so pay attention." - Unknown
15. "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education." - Aristotle
16. "Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can." – Arthur Ash

Questions:

1. What additional qualities do you believe lead to greatness?
2. What qualities of greatness do you see in someone you look up to?
3. Have you ever been thrust into a situation where you displayed greatness?
4. In what areas of your life do you feel you have achieved greatness?
5. In what areas of your life would you like to achieve greatness?

Closing Words:

You cannot control your greatness.

You can only control the qualities that lead to greatness.

Your greatness is only be seen by others.