THE POWER OF PERSEVERANCE

Troy Cervantes
San Antonio Academy, Grade 7

Lights shining, heart pulsating, I slowly walked on the field, nervous and scared. I was there to play football. My job was to be the best defensive lineman possible. “Base cover two, slant right,” we clap and get onto the line. “Down! Set! Huh!” the burly quarterback screams. As if the world stood still, I took a step forward. Then another and another. I was driving the strapping lineman back! I couldn’t believe it! I kept driving him back. The ball had already been tossed to the receiver, and I was there, next to him. I gave one final thrust and lunged at the lanky runner. Like a lion attacking an antelope, I grabbed him and yanked him down. This was my first tackle in football. Without perseverance, I would never have made that tackle. Without mental toughness, I would never have been able to make the hit to push my opponent back. It made me remember all of the hardcore conditioning I had endured to bring me to this moment. Perseverance is when you push through adversities; headstrong, you don’t give up, you keep pushing through, and you never throw in the towel. Perseverance is a crucial Law of Life for everyone to possess.

The first and most important reason why this is so is that perseverance will make you succeed in life and take you to new levels. For example, I remember in the fifth grade when I won the class spelling bee at my school. This meant that I would have to compete against the sixth, seventh, and eighth graders, as well. I wanted terribly to win the school bee. My desire to win got so bad, in fact, that I would study every day after school for about an hour or so, not to mention all of the other homework I had. This long and laborious task took perseverance. I had to keep telling myself that I could do this. Finally, it led to the big day of the bee, and I got up at 5:30 that morning to study. My mom tested me on all 450 words. She observed that I wasn’t entirely ready. This freaked me out, so I furiously spent the next hour studying. I won that day. It was because of the countless hours I spent studying. Without the “I can do this” in my brain, I don’t think I would have made it very far. For me, this was true perseverance. Also, tenacity served me well when I faced final exams. These tests were long, challenging, scary, and they required the utmost effort toward the end of the school year. It took significant self-control and perseverance to hit the books. Soon the exams rolled around. My classmates and I were terrified. Like soldiers before combat, we were shaking and nervous; that’s all we talked about. However, during the exams, I began to see how my perseverance and studying paid off. Then, a few weeks out of school, in the heat of summer, I saw my grades. I astonished myself with how well I did. Perseverance was the Law of Life that helped me succeed.

With a persevering mindset there is no limit to what a person can do. At my school, all football players return for conditioning a week before school starts. This is to give us a head start on the other teams by making us faster, stronger, and developing mental toughness before the season starts. Suicide after suicide, lap after lap, mile after mile, crossover after crossover - I thought I would die. It just was so hard for me to be unathletic for most of the summer and then to spill my guts out for this torturous week. To be honest, I wanted to quit - day one. But my mom and perseverance won out. I now believe that it was good judgement not to quit. I realized with perseverance I can do whatever I put my mind to. There was another time I learned about perseverance. I remember at the start of seventh grade it was easy. As the weeks went by, it became more challenging. I was really pushing hard to do well in school. Juggling all of my responsibilities like chores or studying was quite difficult. Every week kept getting harder and harder. Even though my responsibilities were pressing, that, “I think I can, I think I can,” mentality, kicked in again. Perseverance once again helped me push through and showed me that there is no limit for what I can do.

In conclusion, I think perseverance is the most important law of life because one. It enables you to succeed in life. If you’re in a make it or break it situation, perseverance will see that you go through it okay. Take me for example; I touched it out for the spelling bee and won and toughed it out with final exams and still did well with little sleep. Two, perseverance shows you no limits. Through all of that conditioning in football and through the many sleepless nights studying, I learned that I can go on for a while without sleep and can run for long durations blocking out the pain. The next time you’re in a pickle saying, “This is so hard!” or, “I can’t do this! I quit!” just remember to push through and tough it out. John D. Rockefeller once said, “I do not think that there is any other quality so essential to success of any kind as the quality of perseverance. It overcomes everything...” I have learned this to be true.