

Run with a Goal

I consider the first principle of success aptly described as 'working hard at working hard' (Cross 2021), 'endeavoring to persevere', and related phrases. However I identify two approaches to hard work: one with a purpose and another without. The two may be indistinguishable at face value, yet time smelts their true character into success or lack thereof. In the former case, we might pour over paperwork, sit through hours of meetings and spend long hours focused on a problem – that is, we work hard, but it only came as an afterthought and was never the initial approach. Of course, hard work pays off in the way of innovation, development, and personal achievement.

Then you have a latter approach where individuals are reaching for innovation, development, and personal achievement. They look at those who are advertised as successful and see that they spend a lot of time pouring over paperwork, sitting through meetings, and focusing on problems. What do they do? In desperate counterfeit attempts, they follow suit, but often not achieving the same dream. Working hard at working hard? Yes. Successful? No.

What are we really after? Phrases such as 'deal with it' can carry the interpretation to either suffer in silence or, on the other hand, to endure with a purpose. It is that purpose which really counts, and with that purpose, an individual is willing to endure whatever comes along the road to its end. Hard work softens into pleasure when one appreciates the instrumental value it carries, and we know friends who will tell us that they rarely work a day of their life because

they love their job so much. As an extreme, I would take delight in suffering for the principles and people I care about, and regarding all the smaller challenges I currently face, I am willing to face the wind because I know there is an objective to reach out for. However I'm not willing to work hard at something that has no value. The character of working hard is only valuable when tempered by foresight and wisdom, not simply clenching one's teeth and grinding through midnight study sessions that are forgotten by a sleepy brain the next morning.

Now I'm not one to harp on this point. Most cases of hard work which we exalt on pedestals truly earned their place. I'm sure either one of us could drive that nail in for pages or even volumes, and your video did a good job. However, to keep my additions concise: run with a goal.

Works Cited

Cross, Ron. "Episode #55 the First Principle for Success." YouTube, YouTube, 23 Feb. 2021,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWq5KGzhYPg&ab_channel=BoomerLifeLessons%26Stories.