



Perseverance Leads to Success

When spiritual aspirants are looking for guidance, the ultimate advice that is usually given is, "Whatever you are engaged in doing, continue to do it, but make it gradually progressive. Do more and more of it. Increase your sadhana; perseverance in your sadhana. This is the way."

Impatience does not help you in any way. In any journey, you have to cover the distance between where you are and your destination. If you are eager to reach the destination early, then increase your pace and speed a little more. In addition, cover a comparatively greater distance each day than you have been doing hitherto. It is thus that a traveller will be able to fulfil his desire to reach the destination earlier. Even so, a sadhaka in the life, on the path of sadhana, should gradually increase and persevere in his sadhana – be it *japa*, meditation, study, praying to the Lord (or) remembering Him in the midst of your duties and work. Do not let any doubt become an obstacle in your path. You carry on your sadhana with greater vigour. This very act itself sometimes helps in clearing up doubts as we continue our sadhana and make it more progressive.

All want to succeed in the spiritual life. And success is achieved by adhering to our spiritual sadhana and enhancing it. Continue to do what you are doing and do more and more of it. Continuous, unceasing movement towards the great Goal is the one sure way of ultimately succeeding in attaining the Goal of life. Persevere and augment your sadhana day by day. This is the key to sure attainment of the great Goal.

It is the continuity and onward progress that makes each river to ultimately attain the ocean. No matter what obstacles come in its way, it circumvents them and goes onward. Just as the oil flows in an unbroken, continuous stream, so should one's inner spiritual life and sadhana be. Keep your aspiration alive and blazing.

If your longing for God is keen (and) intense, then surely you will attain God-experience; you will come face to face with the Supreme Being. We should become the very personification of that longing. This should be the inner content of the *sadhaka's* heart. This is the inner truth of all spiritual life and sadhana. We should ponder deeply and become benefited by dwelling upon these truths about the life mystical – a life of devotion, perseverance and aspiration.

May the grace of the Divine and the blessings of Holy Master enable us to keep this before us as a touchstone and ideal!

May God Bless You All!

■ *Swami Chidananda*