

Ceremonia de Reconocimiento a la Excelencia

I would like to start us off by sharing my thoughts about the Brazilian athlete because I can relate to him, as I was an athlete as well. Not in gymnastics but in golf. What a powerful video! I look at this video and I feel energized and ready to go! But then I think more about it and I go "Isn't life like this?" I mean, how many times do we try something and miserably fail? How many times do we give up right away? How many times do we actually keep trying over and over again until we make it happen?

Maria Angela called me last night and asked me to talk about excellence; but not the type of excellence where you are number one at everything that you do, but the type of excellence where you become excellent by learning and growing from your mistakes to become a little bit better every single day. Think of this athlete. What do you think would have happened if he had quit after his first try in the Olympics? His career would have been over for him and he would be waking up every morning feeling miserable thinking how badly he failed that one time he competed.

Well, failure is only failure to those who give up. Maybe you do not win the top prize, but what you need to ask yourself is did you improve? Did you get better? You may not be as good as the next person but guess what? You do not need to. It is ok to not be the best, but what matters is that you put your heart and energy into things and give everything that you have every single day until you get what it is you want: it being a family, a car, a job, straight As, best student, or even being the kindest person in the world. Whatever it is you want, you cannot give up.

There are people watching when you least expect it. People you work with and people around you notice your attitude and your ability to not give up, not complain, but instead put your head down and get the job done the best way you possibly can. People will remember you for your hard work and then they will be willing to unconditionally be there for you and help you out when you need it the most because they know they can trust you and have confidence in your ability and potential to work hard, learn from your mistakes, and improve every day. This happened to me not too long ago. I was working in the US for a company doing forensic investigations, meaning we investigated fraud, corruption, and money laundering in the data of companies; I worked my butt off 70 to 80 hours a week. However, I did not get my work visa to be able to stay although I had already been working there for a year and within a blink of an eye I had to leave my job and leave the US. I thought nobody saw my commitment to work and learn.

Fortunately there was one person who did appreciate my hard work and did not want to see my career end because of this whole visa situation out of my control. Her name is Alicia, and she helped me transfer from the US office to the Spain office. I owe her everything now, but I also owe my parents for supporting me the last 6 years while I was abroad away from home spending most of my time representing my school in golf tournaments and at the same time pursuing an education. I am grateful for my parents who taught me that through hard work I could accomplish everything I want. If it weren't because of them, I would not be able to overcome struggles and be where I am at right now.

Look, everyone struggles, like I did a month ago when I did not get my visa. Everyone gets knocked down, but the most important thing is that you get back up and try over and over again. For this people called me stubborn, I like to call it perseverance. In other words, if you fall 7 times, you have to rise 8. Keep getting back up. Keep working hard. Persevere through the toughest times. It does not matter how long it takes you to achieve your end goal, just keep going and find a way. Find a way to make things happen. Endure and enjoy the outcome of excellence.

Know that everything that happens to you today is an opportunity to learn and grow. Think what will happen with our lives if we lived every day like that: There will be no limit to what we can do to become excellent. Because people will know you for that and they will remember you for your hard work and they will be there for you and unconditionally with you until the end, just keep going and never give up because all of us can become excellent at the same time in what it is we are seeking and are determined to accomplish.