

Entry #1

Running head: INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE CHANGE THE WORLD

Influential People Change the World Around Them:
Determination Helps People to Stand up for Their Beliefs

INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE CHANGE THE WORLD

Abstract

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Influential people use determination in the choices they make in their lives. Three influential people who demonstrated this trait are Martin Luther, Billy Graham, and Joni Eareckson Tada. Martin Luther played a major role in the Reformation of the Church. He gave his 95 Theses to the Church and wanted change. Even when the Church threatened to excommunicate him, he did not turn his back from what he believed was right. Billy Graham showed determination through his gospel preaching. He felt called by God to preach the gospel. He was determined to carry out his calling. He preached the gospel faithfully for the majority of his life. Joni Eareckson Tada shows great determination. She is paralyzed but still paints, writes books, and owns a ministry called Joni and Friends. She does not let her paralyzation stop her from doing great things. All three of these people show great persistence in their lives.

INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE CHANGE THE WORLD

Introduction

Influential people use determination to stand up for what they believe in. Martin Luther, Billy Graham and Joni Eareckson Tada used determination in their lives. Martin Luther stood up to the Roman Catholic Church despite their power. Billy Graham pursued his gospel preaching fervently. Joni Eareckson Tada lives a full life despite her paralyzation. These individuals took their struggles and turned them into positive opportunities to grow. Influential people are determined in the choices they make in their lives.

Martin Luther

Martin Luther showed great determination in his life. While studying law to fulfill his father's wishes, Luther studied philosophy but found it unsatisfying. Philosophy only taught about reason and human knowledge; Luther believed that no man could know or understand God through reason. Luther dropped out of law school to join St. Augustine's Monastery to become a monk. Luther claimed the change happened due to a vow he made during a violent thunderstorm. The teachings of Johann Tetzel gave Luther his chance to stand up for what he believed in and show his determination. Tetzel, a friar, taught that the only way to receive

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forgiveness of sins was by buying a letter of indulgence. This frustrated Luther who believed the only way to receive forgiveness of sins was through the blood of Jesus Christ. In protest to the teaching of Indulgences, Luther wrote "Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences," or the 95 Theses. In the 95 Theses Luther pointed out problems with the Roman Catholic Church and how common people should be able to read the Bible for themselves. Luther was called to the Diet of Worms, or meeting of the Diet (assembly) of the Holy Roman Empire held at Worms (Britannica, 2017, p. 1), to debate his Theses. Luther would not back down and say his writings contained false teachings. He remained determined in what he believed. The Pope then condemned Luther's writings declaring they conflicted with the Church's teachings. Although the Church excommunicated Luther and declared him a heretic, he did not abandon his beliefs. He faced great persecution from the church but stayed determined to bring forth the truth. Luther is considered one of the most impactful reformers of the church due to his determination.

Billy Graham

Billy Graham, like Martin Luther, showed great determination in his faith. Graham grew up in a Christian home and attended a revival meeting at the age of sixteen which helped start him on his path of ministry. After he graduated high school he attended the Bob Jones College. Graham didn't feel like he belonged at the college and transferred to Florida Bible Institute. When Graham finished school he became a pastor for a while in Illinois before going to work at Youth for Christ. Later on, he became President of Northwestern schools. He resigned in 1952 to focus on his gospel preaching. Graham's first crusade meetings took place in 1947, although his name became known during the revival in Los Angeles in 1949. Later on, Graham started broadcasting his gospel meetings on the radio and TV; he also started the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Over Graham's career, he preached the gospel passionately to millions of people all over the world. Although Graham did not face persecution like Luther, he still used determination to fulfill the calling God set before him.

Joni Eareckson Tada

Joni Eareckson Tada faces challenges in her life but stays determined. At age seventeen Tada misjudged the depth of the water she was diving into. She injured her spine and was diagnosed with Quadriplegia, this caused her to become paralyzed from the shoulders downward. She struggled through anger, depression, and doubts about her religion. She used her determination and faith in Christ to overcome these things. Tada learned how to paint using her teeth to hold the paintbrush and her paintings are sought over by collectors. She also wrote 35 books through the use of voice typing. Despite the struggles she faces she finds a way to do the things she loves. Her determination makes her a role model to many people. Tada also started a ministry called Joni and Friends. Joni and Friends helps spread the gospel and Christian influence to other people with disabilities. With determination, Tada can paint and write books. Tada overcame her quadriplegia through her determination and faith in Christ.

Conclusion

Influential people use determination to make choices in their lives. Martin Luther, Billy Graham, Joni Eareckson Tada all used determination in their life. Martin Luther used determination to stand up for his beliefs despite the church's disagreements. Billy Graham was determined to live the life God called him to. Joni Eareckson Tada uses determination to overcome her quadriplegia. All three are influential people with determination. They have and continue to be role models to many people around the world. Their determination inspires the lives of the people they reach.

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