

A person in a dark suit is seen from behind, celebrating with their arms raised. In their right hand, they hold a round medal on a ribbon. The background is a bright, hazy sunset or sunrise over a landscape, with the sun low on the horizon. A blue rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the title text.

Finding the Winner in You!

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Have you ever wondered how some people get the things they desire and others do not? You might ask yourself, “What is it that they are doing that I am not?” “What is the secret?” and “Do they have something that I do not have?” Well, from my standpoint, there is a winner in us all. You just have to find it within you. People tell me all the time that I am the luckiest person that they know. They say, whenever I set my mind on something, they have no doubt that I am going to get it. I don’t know about being the luckiest, but I certainly believe that when preparation, patience, and persistence are involved, eventually, blessings will follow.

I often win a lot of things. Prizes have ranged from money, trips, gift cards, concert tickets, electronics, and even a car. I do not think I won these things by chance. I believe that I prepared myself to win. I was patient until my time came to win; and I took action and was persistent to make my idea of winning a reality. Just this year, I was on *The Price is Right* and I made it on stage and won a car, a trip to Paris, a trip to Amsterdam, a diamond necklace, a ring and some weight equipment. A few years ago, I was on the *Wheel of Fortune* and won cash and a trip to Paris. Here again, most people wanted to say I just have good luck. However, what they don’t know is what I did to prepare to be selected for those shows. For the *Wheel of Fortune*, I ordered a book entitled *Winning on the Wheel* because I knew that there had to be a method to how contestants were selected. I studied the book and did other research online to make sure I matched the type of contestant the producers were looking for. I watched the show of course and played the game as often as I could to become familiar with the puzzle categories and topics. When the opportunity came for an audition, I was ready right down to the introduction I had prepared in advance because I envisioned myself making it to the final interviews. For *The Price is Right*, I taped the show and watched it daily. I memorized prices of cars and trips because that is what I wanted to win. Even prior to going to the show, I put it in the universe that I was going to win a car. Ask any of my close friends how many times I said that up until the day I left for Los Angeles. I didn’t just show up and expect to be selected. I did research and got tips from others who had been on the show. I also had a shirt made in the colors of *The Price is Right* symbol so that I would stand out and entice the producers to ask me about it. Now, you may say, that is a lot of effort, but most things in life require you to put in work. I believe my efforts utilized to win on game shows and other contests can be used to apply to winning in anything that you desire to.

For those of you who are interested in law school, you will find that it can be a long and tedious process. However, you must prepare and do the work to determine which school is best for you. This requires preparation because you have to be realistic based on your grades and scores what schools are likely to accept you. Therefore, you have to do the best you can on your law school admissions test as well as with grades from undergraduate and graduate school. Perhaps you have been out of school for a while. If so, your focus can be on what you have accomplished in your career, leadership roles and your community involvement.

As you prepare for this journey, there will be times when you will need to be patient. Sometimes we want things right when we want them. We want them in our own time but our time may not be the right time. I wanted to go to law school right after undergraduate school. It did not happen for me then, so I decided to start my career in writing and public relations and also obtained a graduate degree. I wondered why all my plans did not work out at that time. Years later, I realized that was not the right time for me. I had another path that I needed to follow which ultimately brought me full circle when I did attend law school. The skills I learned as a writer and editor helped me pay my way through law school. I decided to embrace the path I was led down and made great accomplishments in my field. I always knew I would go to law school but I had to be patient and knew that when the time came, I would be ready.

This leads me to persistence. I always kept the ultimate goal of going to law school and being a lawyer in mind. I also had family members and friends remind me that I was supposed to be a lawyer. I had decided I would be a lawyer at 15 and always knew that it would become a reality. It helped to have the encouragement as well. While waiting, I would learn about what lawyers did on my own time. I would ask questions and read about the field. Once I decided I was going to leave the career I had grown to love, I took a preparation course to better equip myself for the admissions test. I had to drive to another city for the course everyday after work, but I knew that I had to do whatever was required in order to be accepted to the school of my choice. I went to law school fairs and forums, called and talked to admissions counselors, researched schools in each of the tiers, and just armed myself with a wealth of information.

I ultimately was accepted by a number of schools and decided to attend the University of Iowa. All of the preparation, patience and persistence paid off because I graduated, passed the bar, and now I am a practicing attorney in Texas. I say all that to let you know that no matter what you strive to do - whether it's go to law school, or have another career, you can use these principles to help you succeed. We all have the ability to be a winner in all aspects of our lives. Winning in our careers, relationships, finances, spirituality, health, etc. is all within reach. Believe it, prepare for it, have patience and persistence for it and you will receive it. Most importantly, if you want to win, you've got to put in the work!

