**Do You Know Why A Determination is Important**

A firm determination, “I’m going to do this no matter what.” is a critical component to getting what you want. In *The Hope Filled Teachings*, Daisaku Ikeda says, “The heart matters most. Having a firm, concrete resolve is what secures the path to victory.”

A determination is a decision which tells the universe that this has to happen. This kind of focus travels throughout the universe like radio waves and triggers the invisible, positive forces in the universe to work on your behalf. Vague but hopeful thoughts without the force of this decision behind them, don’t trigger that response from the universe

If we don’t make a determination, we are telling the universe that our goal isn’t really important.

**Why Aren’t You Making a Determination?**

Since chanting for a goal without making a determination is one reason why we don’t get the results we want, we want to look at some the things that might be influencing this decision.

1. Are you merely waiting to be saved by some external source expecting the results to magically occur without making any personal effort?
2. Or, at some deep level, have you lost hope because you really don’t believe it can happen. This can occur when you have been struggling with a problem for a long time without making progress.
3. Are you unwilling to take the necessary action towards your goal due to fear?
4. Are you resisting making the personal changes necessary to reach your goal?
5. Have you become complacent, satisfied with your life as it is and don’t want to rock the boat?
6. Have you given up thinking you’ve hit a dead end and don’t see a way around it? We want the goal but don’t have any idea of how we’re going to get there.

When we stop making determinations, at some level our fundamental darkness has influenced us to abandon the understanding that we possess the Buddha nature, connected with the life force of the universe itself and have forgotten we have the great power to create our lives as we wish them.

Let’s examine why might be done in each case.

**Is Chanting Without Action Enough?**

Are you thinking that all you have to do is chant? Many people do believe this without understanding the following,

“Prayer is the foundation. But, at the same time if we fail to make concrete efforts, no matter how much daimoku we chant, our prayers will not be answered.” Ikeda, *Faith into Action* p. 88

You will see wonderful things happen when you chant with a determination and then move forward. So plant the rice.

 **You Don’t Believe Your Goal Can Happen**

If you don’t believe your goal can happen you are dealing with some kind of limiting belief. These beliefs will have to be opened up to be more in alignment with your goal, because what we think and say, and actions we take, set a seed in the core of our lives that is going to manifest in the future according to the law of the simultaneity of cause and effect.

Example:

I’m not able to get a job because the economy is bad. This is a limiting belief because it is saying that outside circumstances control your life. You may have heard it all your life. But that doesn’t make it true.

To bring it closer to what you want you might change this belief to, “ Many people find jobs during a recession. Or new kinds of jobs open up all the time. You’ll feel a sense of relief and movement when you hit on a thought that opens your situation up for you.

**Are You Resisting Making Personal Changes?**

Our outer circumstances are the result of what is going on internally, our thoughts and our beliefs. According to the Buddhist concept of oneness of life and its environment– we build our lives from the inside out. So if we don’t like what our lives look like, we can’t blame it on anyone else. Fortunately, if we don’t like what we’ve created, we can change it on purpose by changing what we think and visualize and how we chant.

Or perhaps you are fearful of making the personal changes necessary to achieve your goal. Chant for courage and to move a higher life condition.

Determination gives you the willingness to make the personal changes necessary for your goal to be accomplished.

**Do Think You Are Deadlocked?**

If you think you are deadlocked and can’t move forward, you have stopped looking at the truth of your life, which lies under what appears on the surface. The truth is you are one with the Mystic Law, that life force which can find a way around anything.

* Be willing to see your circumstances as mutable, not fixed.
* Make yourself open to new ideas as you chant about your situation.
* Act on new ideas as they come to you.

**Are You Complacent?**

If you are satisfied and don’t want to rock the boat, you have basically put your life on hold. This is not Buddhism. Time to get out of the easy chair and challenge yourself.

**To summarize:**

A determination ‘this is going to happen no matter what’ is critical for a path to victory.

**Reasons why you might not be making a determination**

1. **Expecting results without making personal effort**

 **2. Don’t really believe it can happen. Need to change limiting belief.**

 **3. Resistance to personal changes needed to achieve your goal.
 4. Complacent – need to challenge yourself.**

 **5. Think you are deadlocked and have forgotten the Mystic Law can find a way around any deadlock**

If you’ve liked this vlog here are some others you might like:

1. I’ve Been chanting a Lot. Why Isn’t something Happening?
2. When I Chant My Mind Goes to My Fears. What Should I do?
3. Is Resistance to Personal Change Stopping you From Achieving Your Goal?

Topic Next Time: I want to hear from you. Please email me and make suggestions. It will be a surprise.