

PATIENCE

Definition

The capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset.

Story

Kurt Warner, the former two time NFL MVP quarterback and perhaps one of the greatest performers in NFL playoff history, could have been that guy bagging your groceries.

As a high school quarterback, Kurt Warner was overlooked by major division one schools, and ended up at the University of Northern Iowa. After redshirting his freshman year, he sat on the bench for the next 3 seasons. Finally, during his senior season he won the starting position and led Northern Iowa to an 8-3 record and received conference honors as the Offensive Player of the Year.

However, Warner's dream of playing in the NFL seemed unlikely when he went undrafted in 1994. The Green Bay Packers invited him to training camp, but the team cut him just five weeks later.

But Kurt Warner patiently pursued his dream of playing in the NFL. While bagging groceries for \$5.50 per hour at night, Warner kept working to achieve his ultimate goal of being a starting NFL quarterback.

There were two things Warner never gave up on: his faith in himself and his skills. Warner moved on to play in the Arena Football League and then stepped up to more talented competition in NFL Europe. Finally, Warner caught the eye of NFL scouts and landed a job with the St. Louis Rams.

After an injury to the starting quarterback, Warner was sent in as quarterback in 1999. That season, Warner was second in the NFL in passing yards and led the league with 41 touchdowns and an incredible 65.1 percent completion percentage. Warner went on to win the MVP that season and lead the Rams to a Super Bowl victory, while making a league minimum of \$250,000. He signed a four-year contract in 2000 for more than \$46 million and in 2002; he was named the league's MVP and led his team to a second Super Bowl.

However, St. Louis began to decline as a franchise after 2002, and so did Warner. Just a few years after being one on the NFL's best quarterbacks, constant interceptions and fumbles made Warner look washed-up.

Everyone gave up on Warner, but not Warner himself. Warner signed with the New York Giants and continued to struggle. In 2005, the Arizona Cardinals took a chance and signed Warner to a 4 year deal. He became the starter in 2008 and finished second in the NFL with a 67.1 percent completion percentage. He also took the Cardinals to the Super Bowl for the first time in 2008.

There aren't many athletes who exemplify patience better than Kurt Warner.

Quotes

“Never give up on something you really want. It is difficult to wait, but it is more difficult to regret.” *Unknown*

“Patience is not the ability to wait, but how you act while waiting.” *Joyce Meyer*

“The key to everything is patience. You get the chicken by hatching the egg, not by smashing it.” *Arnold H. Glasow*

Interaction

1. In regards to the past, what is one example of how you have you been impatient?
2. Why is patience so difficult?
3. What are two of your personal goals?
4. What habits and/or behaviors are necessary to achieve these goals?

Main Idea

The key to Kurt Warner's success was his ability to accept the delay in the fulfillment of his dreams. This is what patience looks like It is a form of action.

Never give up on your dreams. Set reasonable goals and patiently endure the pain that is necessary to achieve them. If you are patiently waiting for something significant, then you are in good company.

Take Away

Patience is not about how long you wait, but on how you behave while waiting.