

MART 120

Spencer Whitaker

Randy Pausch - The Last Lecture

“Experience is what you get when you don’t get what you want.”

It’s really impossible to articulate how powerful this lecture is for me. I first watched it a few years ago for a high school class and have made a point to rewatch it at least once a year to keep my thoughts and actions oriented in a positive way. Aside from the heavy emotional aspect introduced when the man talking to you admits he is going to die, this lecture is incredibly motivating.

“The brick walls that are in our way are there for a reason. They are not there to keep us out, they are there to show how much we want it.”

I’ve always been a dreamer in one way or another. The majority of my childhood games involved just myself running around outside with a stick, pretending to be a pirate, Jedi Knight, Marine, artist, pilot, football player, basketball player, president, astronaut, lego designer, race car driver, extreme athlete, sports analyst, engineer, entrepreneur, historian, economist, writer, photographer, filmmaker - you name it, and I’ve dreamed of it. Obviously, at only 20 years old, I’ve yet to attain any of those dreams, but this lecture has always struck a chord with me due to its approach to childhood dreams. Often, discussions of childhood dreams revolve around two extremes: dream all you want or don’t bother dreaming because you’ll never achieve it anyway. This lecture approaches the subject with such a refreshing attitude. Pausch tells us that it is absolutely okay to dream, in fact it is essential to living a fulfilling life, but he also lets us know that we won’t achieve every dream we dream - and that’s absolutely okay. Achieving the goal

may happen somewhere in the future, but the experience and knowledge gained along the journey is one of the most important and fulfilling parts of life.