

The 'Three Pillars of Extraordinary Achievement'™

Established by

*Stanley J. El, Business and Personal Development Specialist
Founder of The National Society of American Business Owners*

As a result of working with individuals whom I claim to be dynamic, I am privileged to share their three most dominant traits. I call these traits 'The Pillars of Extraordinary Achievement'. The 'Three Pillars' are not unique to any individual. Anyone can develop these traits.

'Focus' is the first of these three pillars. 'Focus' refers to controlling one's attention. As a skill, it means being able to keep the attention on constructive things only such as goals, ideals, principles, and quality experiences. In business, as in our daily experiences, every event or activity presents an opportunity to make something better. Problems as we call it are a natural occurrence in business and should be viewed for what they truly mean to any growing company - experience and opportunities. Giving attention to opportunities eliminates the perceived problem and helps an individual to be constructive. The attention is a powerful tool. The ability to stay focused on what is constructive sharpens the mind, builds tremendous character qualities, and is the foundation of every successful individual.

'Self-control', the second pillar, simply means controlling the emotions. Emotional self-control or the lack of it is the difference between mediocre and extraordinary performance. An individual who is poised and responds constructively to any given situation demonstrates high integrity and performance. An individual that lets his or her emotions swing with changing events causes instability and uncertainty. Individuals must control their emotions. The emotions are the powerhouse. The quality expressed through the feelings is ultimately the individual's experience. Maintaining a highly constructive outlook and harmony in the feelings is the key to success of any kind, whether it be with another individual or an organization.

The third pillar of extraordinary achievement is 'Flexibility'. Flexibility is keeping an open mind, not prejudging any given situation, appearance, or individual's action. This ability requires great vision, the ability to see the good in everything around you. This also means the ability to see opportunities to build something better. Visualization is vital to the creative process especially when others are involved. Successful leaders, managers, and employees have learned to use visualization to inspire others and to control situations. They are extremely alert. They are always ready to respond by expanding on an idea or improving upon any situation. They know that their role is to relieve pressure, not add to it. They inspire high performance by being a friend, coach, mentor, counselor, enthusiast and a champion.

The Three Pillars of Extraordinary Achievement – Focus, Self-Control and Flexibility – are abilities that must be developed through conscious effort. In achieving the extraordinary there must be the conscious acknowledgement and effort to perfect these gifts. The workplace provides an extremely unique opportunity to develop these traits in a way that yields tremendous benefits.