

Clanzelle Moore

Ms. Toney

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Introductory Speech

Hello, and good afternoon. My name is Clanzelle Moore. I was born and raised in Huntsville, Alabama and I'm currently a sophomore attending Huntsville Bible College. I'm majoring in Pastoral Ministry. I can honestly say that this career field chose me, because had the choice been mine, I believe that I would have been more comfortable occupying a regular seat with the rest of the congregation. But God had other plans for me and as I look back over the years, I don't regret one moment of this journey in the ministry of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the world. The success that I'm able to achieve, while being a student at Huntsville Bible College, will stand as a testament that I began something that I wasn't sure I would even enjoy. When Dr. John Clay, the founder and president of the college, first approached me and was trying to recruit me to the college going to school was the last thing on my mind. With every opportunity that came his way he was always encouraging me by telling me of the benefits and advantages of having a college education. To me, it will also mean that someone saw something in me that I didn't see for myself, and that I accomplished what I thought was impossible. I believe the knowledge and skills that have been provided to me through the teaching and instructing at Huntsville Bible College will aid me in being a successful contributor, not only in my home, but on my job, in my neighborhood, and especially in my

church. I'm becoming a better communicator, listener, and critical thinker. And these attributes will be very useful in aiding me in the aforementioned areas of my influence.

This success can only be experienced through perseverance. If I could give a definition for the word perseverance it would be, it is the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual mindset that enables a person to push through and overcome any obstacle, difficulty, life crisis, or any adverse situation. When I think of perseverance, in a biblical sense, I'm reminded of First Corinthians 15:58, where the Apostle Paul is instructing the church at Corinth about their Christian service for the Lord. It states, "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." We are instructed in the Bible to persevere, and if we do, we will experience success not through our abilities, but by the will and purpose of God. My first experience with perseverance happened while playing football in high school and I suffered an injury that left me immobile from the waist down. The doctors were not certain whether I would walk again and had given up on me to ever play sports again, even if I did manage to walk. I was a little disheartened because of this, but a nurse told me to just give it time and it will be alright. Every morning and evening she would come in and massage my legs, which was part of the therapy, and would ask if I could feel anything and would constantly remind me to give it time and it will be alright. One morning, after several weeks of therapy and the nurse's positive outlook, the doctors did a reflex evaluation on my legs, and they twitched ever so slightly! Fast forward, I not only learned to walk again, but I finished high school, and, in the process, I won several track and field honors and championships. So, does perseverance equal graduation to me? Yes, it does. While attending Huntsville Bible College, there were times, that I became very frustrated and discouraged due to certain instructors and class availability that I wanted to quit several times.

But I would hear this small voice telling me to hang in there and stay the course and things would work out. I listened and followed the instructions of this voice and endured everything that came my way. Shortly thereafter, I found myself walking across a stage during a college graduation ceremony having earned my first college diploma. This milestone happened because I persevered through the emotional and mental barriers that had been placed upon me by my own disappointments.

The one major challenge that I will face in obtaining my college degree is time management. I'm dividing out my time to full time employment, to pastoring, to the school, and everything in between. It appears they've often overlapped one another throughout the course of my studies and if I had to eliminate one of them, chasing a degree would mathematically be the one. I can't quit my job because bills need to be paid and I need food and shelter, and my employment secures those necessities. I certainly can't place an earthly pursuit over a heavenly assignment that only God can dismiss me from. So that leaves me with either learning how to adjust and schedule my time better or foregoing the higher education for a while. The very first obstacle that I encountered when considering the possibility of pursuing a higher education was money. I simply didn't know how I was going to make it on the budget that I was working with at that time. And, yet again, Dr. Clay, who recruited me into furthering my education, informed me the college had a special tuition program for new incoming students called the 50/50 program where the college would pay 50% of the tuition and the student pays the other 50%, provided that the student was enrolled in at least two courses of study and maintained a C average. I not only met the requirements prescribed by Dr. Clay, but I managed to exceed those expectations by averaging an A in all my classes since my enrollment. It's easy to fail if you don't try or ask any questions. Fortunately, Huntsville Bible College extends to all the students the use of the library,

financial aid and academic counselling, both in-house and virtual learning by way of Zoom and on-line classes, and it also has satellite campuses for those who live outside of the Huntsville city area. By taking advantage of these amenities offered by the college there is no valid reason why anyone could not succeed at the school. I can describe my determination with one word... sacrifice. I've had to abstain from people, family activities, and even lose sleep to make sure assignments were completed and turned in on time and this speech is one prime example! I believe, when I graduate from Huntsville Bible College, that my success story will say that I fought hard and overcame all the obstacles that were set before me, that I endured when I wanted to quit, that I encouraged someone else to push forward, and that I gave my best from day one on the journey to higher learning.