

Dr. Penny, 7/2015

I wanted to write you this letter as a memento of the impact that your words have had on me. Not only did you go way out of your way to help dispel my fear of developing ALS a couple of years ago but you also said one phrase that had a massive impact on my life - "I would not let the fact that there are people like that in the world stop me from trying to achieve to the best of my ability".

You told me that during our Dec. 2013 appointment at a time in my life when I was kinda in a slump. Those words just clicked deep down inside me for some reason or another. I've applied that saying to every aspect of my life from that day forward and it has caused massive (and great) changes in my life.

I suffer from high functioning autism which always made me very touchy to what others said and thought about me. Combine that with an abusive/neglectful family and not-so-nice treatment from others because I am different and you end up with a person who, to put it mildly, had a very hard time functioning normally day-to-day.

However, your words on not letting people like that hold you back was the key to me getting my life on track. I only regret that a person like you didn't tell me those words sooner. Thanks to your advice ignorant people and their words and actions no longer have the power to cause me to shut down. I am no longer afraid to better myself. I even went and got my teaching credentials renewed and have returned to that career field with success.

Unfortunately words simply do not reach most people. People are, for the most part, hard-headed and only hear what they want to hear. It's just how most humans are wired. I want you to have this letter so that one day in the distant future, once you retire, you can open this letter and read it so that you can always remember that your words reached one person.

Not only did they reach me but they greatly improved the quality of my life both personally and professionally. I always tell people about what you said to me and how it changed me. I am certainly in your debt for this. If you ever need my help with something, I am a phone call away. My best  
Thank you for everything Dr. Perry.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]