

## Step-by-Step

Making a quilt or practicing a sonata, getting a degree or losing weight, building a house, repairing a highway, or writing a book—none of these can be done in a day. Each requires time: sometimes months, sometimes years.

With any long project comes the temptation to abandon it. People begin the extended process with a view of the end in mind—a beautifully finished work of art, the attainment of better health, the completion of a course of study. But after beginning the journey, some do not continue. On the way they realize how much effort it requires. Some quit and revert back to the life they led, minus the dream.

The Israelites trekking through the desert rejoiced at their freedom from slavery, at their miraculous crossing of the Red Sea, and at the food God provided seemingly out of nowhere. But after a while, they grew disillusioned of their goals and tired of their diet. They remembered the abundant food from their days of slavery, and they complained.

Even Moses complained. He could handle the heat, the sweat, and the manna, but he could no longer tolerate gripes. He told God he wanted out of the deal as well. He compared himself to a weary foster father, carrying an infant out of duty, not out of love.

Our longest projects require the clearest vision. And when we feel like complaining, we should rather concentrate on each incremental step forward.

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