

NURSING: SEEKING PERFECTION IN AN IMPERFECT WORLD

As a nurse, your days (at least most days) have a recognized plan and personal behavior of intended healthcare achievements. The day may be full of necessary nursing practice behaviors, everyday menial tasks of covert nursing behaviors, comforting of others, or a well-deserved time to calculate future personal and professional healthcare happenings and events.

Some personal nursing happenings come and go with smooth-sailing outcomes. However, feelings of nursing perfection in everything/anywhere most often occur when others respond to positive and personal nursing efforts, and you see healthful outcomes.

An Intellectual perspective of nursing and a sense of nursing purpose is most often acquired *incrementally* through personal efforts of helpfulness, caring about and for others, enhancing those inward thoughts and practice of nursing perfection through nursing education, learning about and experiencing the outcomes of other nurse's behavior, and patience in our pursuit for healthcare perfection for ourselves and others. Our admiration for the ability of all nurses to understand the healthcare needs of others and a patient's appreciation for nursing skills oft leaves us in awe as we witness the healthful outcomes of sometimes simple or complex nursing skills that change a person's negative world to a worthwhile and productive future.

No matter where you geographically share your nursing skills, it is the smiling face, the squeeze of the hand by another person, hearing the outburst of a healthy baby's first cry, the love of your kind service in another person's eyes, the verbal appreciation of support from a healthcare team member or a nursing student, and even the human comforting of others after a family member loss that helps to make nursing experiences as "nursing professional perfection in an imperfect world."

Seeking perfection through "doing" is The Way-of-the-Nurse. The "doing" is often covert and comes from the heart of the nurse as a sincere compassion for helping others. It involves *prevention* of illness, *recognition* of covert signs of illness, *treatment* as a healthcare team member to establish a pathway to wellness, and then, education to *prevent* illness. The nurse knows the hidden and unexpected happening of a smile on a patient's face (when smiles are difficult), comforting family members when no one else takes that time to understand the feelings of loss, holding a perfect new babe in your arms, and then, seeing a new mother's loving passion.

Being a significant nursing member of "the healthcare team" in whatever capacity you serve, says that you care about healthcare outcomes and your position as a unified healthcare team member. Even with all the fortunate and unfortunate moments to remember, the nurse is there through it all to rejoice in the good and support through the bad. It is the nurse's role to calm a difficult and imperfect world laden with fears and unfortunate and numerous happenings that remind nurses of their responsibilities to all others. Nurses comfort the hurts of the world and participate in the optimum recovery of a broken body and spirit. Therefore, dear nurse, continue to seek and give quietly your power-of-care through unexpected challenges of participating with other healthcare members for the utmost care for others—whatever that role entails!

Because you are the kindred spirit of the nursing profession, thank you for continuing your efforts to seek nursing perfection in our imperfect world through efforts of nursing kindness!

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