

DOGGED DETERMINATION

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Evolutionists and Hollywood movies like to show our forefathers as ignorant savages who carried clubs and lives in caves and who could not speak or write. There is evidence that many of our ancestors were very intelligent. Take, for instance, the ancient Egyptians. More than 4,000 years ago, they built great pyramid-shaped “tombs” in which to bury their dead kings. One of these tombs, known as the Great Pyramid, stood nearly 500 feet high (almost as tall as the Washington Monument—the tallest stone structure in the world!) The Great Pyramid was made of over two million blocks of stone that had to be cut, transported, and assembled to create the almost six-million-ton structure. To this day, modern man still does not know exactly how the Egyptians built these great pyramids.

As soon as ancient writers compiled a list of “seven wonders,” it became a great topic of debate over which achievements deserved inclusion. The original list comes from a work by Philo of Byzantium written in 225 B.C. called *On The Seven Wonders*. Ultimately, human hands joined with natural forces to destroy all but one of the wonders. The Great Pyramid, located at Giza on the west bank of the Nile River north of Cairo in Egypt, is the only wonder of the ancient world that has survived to the present day. It is part of a group of three pyramids that were built between 2700 B.C. and 2500 B.C. as royal tombs.

Climbing the Great Pyramid of Giza, or any of the 118 Egyptian pyramids for that matter, is forbidden. To see what’s on top, tourists often take paragliding tours of these monuments. On Monday, October 14, 2024, powered paragliding enthusiasts Alex Lang and Marshall Mosher were flying above the Great Pyramid and shooting video. They began to notice some movement at the top of the great pyramid. It was **a dog!** The dog had somehow scaled what had been the tallest human built structure on the world for about 4000 years. Incredible video from Mr. Lang showed the dog walking along the top of the pyramid. Lang said, “The dog was barking at birds.”

It is a pretty amazing video. I have been thinking today about the idea of determination. Determination is the ability to make difficult decisions, persevere through challenges, and move forward despite resistance. Think about the determination of that dog to climb the great pyramid which stands nearly 500 feet high. I think we can call that *dogged* determination! Think about the determination of the Egyptians to build that pyramid so long ago.

Now think about the determination we need as Christians to maintain our faith in Christ, to serve the Lord each day, to bear the fruit of the Spirit, and to reach our ultimate destination of heaven. “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him” (James 1:12). “And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62). “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Phil. 4:13). May you and I have the determination necessary to reach our

heavenly goal.

[Editor's Note: Some have inquired about the safety of the dog mentioned. Marshall Mosher, who paramotored with Alex Lang and shot the video, later posted additional information on Instagram. They went back and flew over the Great Pyramid to see if the dog was still there. However, he was gone. On October 17, 2024, I found that Indianexpress.com has a video made on October 16th of the dog happily climbing down the pyramid. No rescue was needed.]