

## Bethany's Perseverance

"I don't want easy, just possible," is a famous quote from the relentless Bethany Hamilton herself. On October 31, 2003, at the age of thirteen, a routine surf run off the coast of Lihue, Hawaii changed her life. A shark viscously bit her arm, which forced it to be amputated up to her shoulder. Bethany was able to overcome her obvious obstacle of having one less limb. She not only had the perseverance to get back on her surfboard, but also respected herself and what God had thrown her way enough to grow stronger and a more caring human being from the scaring experience. She has become an international inspiration to anybody who has something that causes difficulty in his or her life.

Respect does not only apply to others, but can directly apply to us. Bethany specifically showed us this through her persistent motivation to carry on after the traumatic incident. She went out and got back on her surfboard and lived her life to the fullest. Her strong faith also helped her through the recovery and continues to encourage her today to be a caring and respectful person. Bethany respected the roadblock God had given her and decided that it could be over come. She maintained her faith even with this unfair ailment she was given. Even in the face of hopelessness, Bethany held dear her faith in both God and herself.

Bethany's courageous recovery is one for the textbooks. She embodies so much of what type of a person I want to be. I have become a more driven, caring, and respectful

person by simply learning about her character. She did not become a shell of herself or bitter towards the world. She respected herself enough to become stronger both physically and emotionally than before the amputation. She demonstrated her self-respect and respect to God by continuing to be the strong and caring person she is today. The world would be much better if we all had even a fraction of Bethany's mentality and respect.