



Lecturing from the President Byeong
on the
Ministry, Philosophy, and Leadership of Dr. Melvin
(Number 26)



Experience of failure in the early years

Dear students,

I found that there are two categories of leadership books. One is how successful people [in business] succeeded in the business world! The other is books about [self-help], written by people who have overcome difficulties and failures in their early personal lives. These second illustrations caught my attention more than the first. As you know, the former are successful people in the successful business world, and they are on the list such as 100 people in the FORTUNE magazine. For example, Steve Jobs, Bill Gate, and many others.

I found that the former are books about how to lead the entire organization, business, and then the latter are about the growth of individual leaders. By the way, I have discovered one peculiar thing in later books of leadership. It is that people who failed in their childhood or youth wrote wonderful books. Not everyone has, but most have had failed experiences. There have been various kinds of failures. For instance, there used to be people who had experienced homelessness; and people who had experienced rough work by the pier. In the meantime, some of those people would visit the community library during their breaks, and read biographies of the world's famous people there. And they were inspired by them, how they restored, how they succeeded. Then, they not only succeeded, but also wrote many books about 'self-development' in the light of their dark past experiences. So I enjoyed reading such books. Because those books about self-improvement are really helpful for ourselves. I think we may grow through these books. It is important to grow on your own. I'm not talking about making a lot of money, or getting richer in the world. Of course there are many illustrations of how they became rich in the world as well.

In the other words, failure becomes a valuable medicine in their youth. Definitely, there is no need to invite failures purposely, but I think the more important thing is how we act and cope with such things when it comes. The former books - successful people in business - teach us the knowledge and skills of success, but the latter books impress us on how to act and to be proper. The former shows how to make money, while the latter shows how to live wisely. So I think we can once again restore ourselves through these books called 'self-improvement.'

Do we need to put the name to those who failed in their youth as 'failures?' Even though there is a saying that "sprout leaves are recognized from an early age," I think there are many different cases. There are cases where they are born as a genius, and then become normal; or they are born as normal, but they do big things later; and some people discover that they get smart late.

Probably, you were not making some failures yet. But if, if you make those failures, you need encouragement from those who overcame them! They've had enough painful experiences, and they were trying to recover again and again. You might think enough, and you will find solutions in the near future. Dr. Melvin once said, if we fail it's just a lack of experience in life, so I think you'll be solved over time. May God bless you.

Weekly Axiom

Failure is another steppingstone to greatness.

(Oprah Winfrey)