

Weekly Column  
Korean Newspaper



Melvin University  
and Me

### #3 Is Failure Necessary?

Rev. Melvin, the founder of the American Lay Pastors Ministry Inc., once wrote about failure. He presupposes that no one has ever failed. In the meantime, you can learn from your failure.

There are many people who have failed, and there are many who have succeeded. However, if you look at those who fail, it is often temporary failure.

Thomas Edison as an example: Having enjoyed success only after numerous failures. Edison was criticized by his teacher as "too stupid to learn." But now everyone knows the name of Edison, who invented the light bulb. It took 1,001 attempts to succeed.

Walt Disney: The head of a global animation company has also had a hard time. He was fired from The Kansas City Star newspaper in 1919, and the magazine's editor-in-chief pointed out to Disney that he "lacks imagination and has no ideas to write about."

Vincent van Gogh: His paintings are now priced at millions and tens of millions of dollars. But when he was alive, no one was interested in his paintings. In 10 years, he produced about 900 pieces, selling only one. It's also very cheap for his friend.

It is said that there are two kinds of failures. Temporary and permanent failure. Temporary failures are forgotten after a night's sleep.

However, with temporary failures, they often brand themselves as if

they were permanent failures, and sometimes they make extreme choices.

Temporary failure is sometimes seen as a blessing, an opportunity. It is absurd to say that God allows his loved ones to fail!

I talked lightly to our students about failure at a Graduation Ceremony. I didn't think I should do it too hard at the graduation ceremony, so I just touched it a bit. However, I think my meaning was fully conveyed because they listened attentively. The gist of my story to the students was, "Failure is necessary." It meant that you didn't have to fail, but if you failed, you should accept it. Furthermore, I even said that failure is necessary. At the same time, I also said, "Failure is the mother of success," because graduates may now be obsessed with fantasies(unrealistic) that everything will be possible in the future.

Furthermore, does failure really make a failure? Columbus, an Italian explorer who discovered New World America as an example. Because of that, we learned about the New World. But in fact, there was a time when he was imprisoned for it and waited for the day he was executed. It would have been considered a failure. Since then, however, his name has gained a lot of glory. His name was used as a regional name, and the official name of British Columbia in Canada, and even Washington, the capital of the United States, is Washington, D.C., or District of Columbia.

After all, the term failure is not an easy title to be given. There are many cases like Columbus. After all, temporary failure is considered a necessity for us, and for young people who have a lot of future left.