

Weekly Column  
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Melvin University  
and Me

## Giving and Receiving

I read a book titled, "Give and Take" (Adam Grant, 2013). First, the title caught my attention. I haven't read it in detail due to time, but seeing that the subtitle is attached to A Revolutionary Approach to Success, giving it first seems to be directly related to success. If we give it first to succeed, it seems to be less justifiable, and it means that we will return as much as we give it. What does it mean to give first? It can be said that we do it to receive it. There is something called PUMACY in Korean, which has the concept of give and take.

I recently started to help a professor at our school who wanted to do a Ph.D. Our school is still done not have those programs. Fortunately, he was accepted because I wrote a letter of recommendation for him to enter a university in the United States. A long three-year journey has begun. It was not easy to help him up to three weeks of homework. I think it's harder than when I got my own Ph.D. a long time ago. Still, I said I would help, so I will keep my promise. I think this is also a kind of giving. I thought to myself what I would get when I said I would get it if I gave it.

Margaret Clark, a psychology professor at Yale University, said that most people are more likely to give in marriage or friendship, that is, the closer they are in a relationship. But in the workplace, giving and receiving is more complicated. In the meantime, from the perspective of experts, it is extremely rare to be in the stage of giving and receiving smoothly, he said, adding that this is the different style. In other words, when giving and receiving are equally matched (matchers) do so. In other words, the theory is that when

helping others, people protect themselves while pursuing "interrelationships."  
("Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin," 1993, pp. 685.)

Of course, I personally don't necessarily have this matching theory to help him now, but I think it makes sense. Because I found that it was enough for me and that there was a reward. I summarized what benefits I have.

First, it is true that my grammatical efficiency of English is improving. I went to middle and high school in the countryside, and moreover, I went to a business high school, so studying English is less emphasized in the school itself, so English grammar is too weak, so I have been thinking about it for decades. It's a little better, but the foundation was so weak. However, the problem is being supplemented by helping with his degree study in this time. Second, I am indirectly learning those schools' own operating system of American universities. In the past, when I entered for my Ph.D. and studied, I had no time to pay attention to management of those universities, and moreover, I am learning a lot this time.

Also, I am grateful that I am becoming the person who needs me while helping others study their degrees, and I think it is also a matter of gratitude that what I have fills and solves the other person's needs. The other person I help has what I don't have, but he is a person who will contribute greatly to the development of our university. As we fill each other's needs, the logic of "give and take" naturally establishes. Even if he doesn't give me anything directly, he will work harder on the public interest of university development, so it is expected that he will play a role more than material help to me in the future.

Through this experience, I also ask myself the question, "How much have I been helping others so far?" Of course, it is true that I helped many churches through the Parachute Institute, and also tried to make Melvin University present. However, on the other hand, it was also an opportunity to realize that something that was lacking was true.