

Weekly Column
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Melvin University
and Me

Meaning of Compelling

I have recently come to think about the word and concept of Compelling. The dictionary meaning was supposed to be "impossible not to notice." I understand that it's something we must do.

It is believed that external compellingness makes us want to do something internally (impelling), and when we are fully motivated, we move into action. It's not necessarily this order, but it can be easily expressed as compelling, impelling, motivation, and action.

Then where does this "unavoidable" come from! In my case, there are two examples, although there may be many, when I receive two letters of appointment. Everyone must have had these experiences, the one was the Certificate that I am the "Representative of LPM Korea" which was given from Rev. Melvin of the United States once I started his ministry in Korea. I didn't know it well at that time, but now that I look back, I think I had an external urge to do it. As it became voluntary, and spontaneously over time, it seems to have been in my ministry for a long time. The other was the "President's Certificate of University" that I received at the Opening Ceremony of Melvin University a few years ago. I've wanted to give up this title a few times, but I also think that the Certificate (a piece of paper) was compelling and that kept me going.

If I add one more, it's time to think about doing [Institute] and then doing [school]. It can be seen that the establishment of a school after continuing to think about it while feeling that it was difficult for the [Institute] to be long-term was also the action of compelling.

I think it is a blessing to move spontaneously from inevitability. There are many cases where its inevitability is rather annoying, so they quit without progress. Would you like to take it as an opportunity to appreciate it or go to irritation and complaints while feeling burdened! I think this is entirely up to individual choice and responsibility.

Do you get opportunities only when you are happy? Rather, I think there are many cases where it comes when it's hard. The title of the book written by Rev. Ok Han-heum a long time ago, "The Meaning of Pain," reminds me of again. Perhaps pain is a factor that could be an opportunity. As it is said that many ideas come to mind when it is quiet, creative thoughts may come to mind when we are in a difficult and painful environment.

I read an article the other day, and it was about a famous sculptor who is known worldwide. When he was young, his parents broke up, and he grew up under his stepfather, and he was a drunkard, so he only caused a disturbance at home every day, and eventually he shot his mother to death. By the way, he grew up hearing his mother always say, "I think you have a talent for painting and sculpture," and he remembered that, and eventually he sharpened his talent and became a world-famous sculptor. If we have lived such an unlucky life, we are generally pessimistic and desperate, and I thought that such an environment could be compelling enough to allow him to live a better life.