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To be effective and productive

I remember reading "Effective and Productive?" written by Dr. Melvin. And I've been thinking about it for a long time, and all the time as well. And while I was doing something, I used to ask myself, "Is this effective and productive?" Once we are doing some projects, ministry, it's good to ask these two questions. And we could also use it as a checklist.

It was a long time ago, but I spent a really hard and boring time going there for nearly three years to set up a school in Korea. Unfortunately, however, there has not been much progress. In the end, Rev. Melvin advised me to think, "Is it effective and productive to do so?" I believed he was talking about my leadership, strategy, action, etc. He and I both know I'm a hard worker, and it doesn't matter. It's much better than being lazy. But is it effective as a result? Is it productive?

I needed this question. If it's not effective and not even productive, we need to question "Why do I keep doing this?" for our long (three years in my case) effort. In retrospect, I was unwise, but because I really wanted to go to school, and I believed it was the right decision, the right procedure. But in the end, I was wrong, I gladly accepted Rev. Melvin's advice to "don't do that," and had quit the project.

So how can we be effective and productive? I'll talk about the former first. If you want to be effective in a particular ministry, you will need to 1) a high degree of concentration, 2) use the right tools, 3) review the process again, and 4) find a more systematic approach.

Once we do any ministry, we have to concentrate on it completely. That way it will be effective. And we need to use the right tools to do that. That is why we

need a lot of resources around us. Personally, I used to get a lot of insight from new books on a regular basis. We must also consider the progress. Every ministry is alive, moving toward something, so there has to be a process, and it has to catch people's hearts, and it has to work with them. We need a more systematic approach. We always need to have two minds: React immediately, or take time to think!; emotional, or thoughtful; and there may be points to consider, such as high speed, or sometimes slow speed; and so on. These factors are always at play in our process. We must therefore proceed systematically.

So how will it be productive? This is another important issue. How can we be productive? I think the goal is important. What are you going to do? Where is the final destination? What is our purpose? So we need a result-oriented mindset. If not, it can be distracting when we face different opinions and different situations from many people. Therefore, it is necessary to be result-oriented. If we only tend to stick to our usual routine, it may not be productive. We need to check progress all the time. "Is it productive in this way?" If not, we might have to take the style and system seriously and change the course.

I would like to thank Rev. Melvin for asking me the important question, "Is your work now effective and productive according to your purpose and goal?"