

## The Spirit of "Not Giving Up!" Keep Investing

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*A Korean proverb: "If you plan for your life for one year, plant grain; if you plan for your life for 10 years, plant fruit trees. But if you plan for 100 years, then plant people."*

St. Paul writes to the people in Ephesus and Crete with a concern to maintain the faith and to ensure the continuity of the Church of Jesus Christ.

II Timothy 1:12-13 "For which cause I also suffer these things, nevertheless I am not ashamed for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" "Hold fast the form of sound words which thou hast heard of me in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus." "That good thing which was committed unto thee keeping by the Holy Ghost which dwelled in us." St. Paul is encouraging his people not to give up.

In 2001, Father Moon spoke here in Billings, MT. We had great support for this event. We brought about 500 people to the Holiday Convention Center. During that time, we brought all our key people from far and near. During the course of the event, half or more left the venue before the end. I was shocked. It was then I had one of my many epiphanies. I realized I was a campaign guy. I really did not invest in these people. I was more of a follower. At that point, I made a determination to invest, to serve genuinely in my investment. I felt I was emerging from being a follower to becoming a leader.

"One who prepares for the future prudently over a long period of time can get the final victory."

This week I was looking over my old address books. My wife is making a new address book for me and so I was reviewing all the addresses. We had met so many people, good people over the years. As I count, more than 40 names have passed. But not just names, they were our friends and family. We cared for them. Many of these I actually conducted their funeral.

### Keep-Calm-And-Don't-Give Up



Over the years, I have come to understand loyalty, dedication and not giving up whether to my wife, to my children, my neighborhood, mission, community. Over the years I have come to value consistency in adversity through the MLK JR. Program, MADV, 9-11 as well as projects through the task Forces, Elks Lodge and other groups. In short, not giving up nor being discouraged even in tough times.

I believe in the end people respect you not so much for what you believe in but what kind of person you become. They will hold in regard not on your words but your deeds, your investments.

As I was looking through my old address book, I found an old letter from my son tucked away in the back. He wrote, on Oct. 8, 2007 to the Yakawich Family. He was writing from Wisconsin out fundraising on a mission aka Student Task Force.

"I guess I would like to share some words of wisdom. How do we grow to become better people? If we are always in our comfort zone taking it nice and easy can one grow? No, we have to endure pain and suffering. In other words, in order for us to fulfill our purpose of creation and find our original value we have to struggle. It is unavoidable.

Heavenly Struggle is only as bad as you look at it. When you can learn from it then it is good struggle that brings accomplished me and joy. But if you don't have a positive attitude about it and complain, then it is painful, depressing and brings unhappiness.

So embrace struggle and use it to help you grow. Learn from it and in that way you can truly see your accomplishments.

Where does value come from? Value comes from sacrifice and investment. Never do things just to get it done, but give your whole heart into it. If you do things without heart then in a sense you have wasted a portion of your life. Give everything 100% investment and heart and each moment of your life will be valueable. Clean your room because you don't want it to be dirty and so you don't get sick. Mow the lawn because you want to work hard and sweat and lose weight. Study hard so that you can be able to teach others.

Crazy right. If you want to be happy you have to struggle. Always remember to keep a positive attitude and find joy."

His letter helped me explore the value of dogged determination! Not giving up, investment. As St. Paul's letter wanting to encourage his people. He wanted to uplift and support them not to give up.

Finally, I am reminded on this day of the Super Bowl how much these football players invested. Just like each of you to be good in a sport, a career, a talent or gift, you practiced and did not give up. As some are going to college or had gone to college. It is tough. Yet, in not giving up they will succeed to become better and look back with gratitude that they did not give up.

We will watch the 50th Super Bowl today. They will play hard until the very end. Sure each player will get 100k if they win and 50k if they lose. Money motivates them. Yet, I am sure they are motivated by more than money. They are investing in the team based on:

**Experience:** They lost some games and won others. We learn. Experiential learning!

**Support from others:** Teamwork, family, friends.

**Knowledge, resources, study:** Practice, learn from others, research. I just got a book from the library on marriage. I am never too old to learn.

**Pace yourself, prayer and reflection:** Finding their peaceful place. Even taking a walk around the neighborhood.

**Serve others, volunteer:** Something about the guy who tackles another but stays by to give him a helping hand. Take a walk around the neighborhood and picking up litter! May you find your spirit of not giving up in all you do? Invest for it is always worth it.

"The one who uses his hands and feet is better than the one who uses only his hands, the one who uses his hands, feet and heart is better than the one who uses only his hands and feet."