



## PRINCIPLE

### 2

## BEGINNING FROM THE END

*You might question, "why to start from the end?" My answer is: 1) If you start from the beginning stage, e.g., from No. 1, 2, 3 ...so on (to NO. 10), you can't reach to No. 10, I mean very difficulties to get there, the finish line.*

Why, many people failed even they had strong determination because their energy is out at beginning stage, nearly around #3, 4. I believe you have already these experiences. That is why around 95% of people are not getting there. For instance, as you know people makes a decision to do, let's say diet, they start, and mostly stopped in three days. Sauna, Exercise, starting with good intention and firm determination, but stopping it soon. Maybe to master other languages is same.

You know this proverb, "Resolution good for three days," We Koreans use this very much and also very often. Yes, only three days. Let's put here #1, 2, 3, then you will be burn out, far before the final destination, the finish line, and says "#10 looks very far from here, so better to stop now, that is not our job."

So the reasons all of these, I might say it's more wiser to start from #10, "the final destination" in your hand, then you can walking freely between #1 to 10, in the end you will find you are arrived in the #10. You got it.

This is one of many secrets to make it. For instance, to make school in Nagaland and Kenya were easier in terms of this strategy. We, I and principals over there started making school from the end, more specifically, we decided firmly "When To Open" the school. So we were freely walking between #1 to 10. Sometimes we were in the #4, sometime #9, sometime #8, so on. Anyway, we did not skip anyone of these 10 stages, but freely come and going in between. After all we covered 10 stages completely, but not in a row #1, 2, 3...at all. It depended one that needed at that moment. So it was

easy to cope with any difficulties, any challenges. So two seminaries were opened successfully.

I have adjusted this strategy to making Melvin's University in Kenya, actually not making but shifting seminary to university. We determined firmly to make university, called it #10, finish line, landing spot that we have already in our hand even though it is surely not physically but in our hearts. Not in here but it here in our mind, imagination, then show it to the people just like Real One. Yes, people need to see the same picture even it is not real one yet. That's in the dreaming, but its real in our heart, and clear plan in our imagination.

That's why I suggest you to start from the end, especially people want to the get the RESULT what they wanted. Of course people need to see what we are doing in No.1, 2, 3. If we don't #1, 2, 3, people won't believe us to getting arrived at final spot. When people see us through walking from #1 to 10, e.g., between them freely, then they say, "You can make it." One of my pastor colleagues told me this, because I guess, he saw me in doing #1 to 10 always with passion, with confidence. And there is no reason not to do in this way.

Because many people tries but ended with failure, disappointed. There are so many this illustrations of failure around us. They had plan, passion, even prayer, but the process they had were not proper to make it. That's "WHY" that I repeated it, "please starting from the end."

Let's talk more onto our main topic what I thought. I found once we are launching any ministry, we'd better to start "quickly," and then takes a "long process."

Some people are in reverse: start too late and then close down too quickly. I found these people are thinking too much and too longer.

I read one article and were written, "most of successful people start very quickly but unsuccessful people start slowly." Are you agree with it? I agree 100 percent through my experiences and search others. Let me talk about our ministry, that is Lay Pastors Ministry. Some Pastors are thinking too much I mean to check it out many aspects: possible or not, matches to our church or not, what will be its aftereffects, so on. Even everyone, laypeople are ready to take an action, but he is still wandering and thinking continually. In the end, sadly people's motivation are jumping into the bathtubs. Ended badly. Concluded that "our church is not possible to do anything, to be growth now and for the future because...."

So my personal suggestion to you, "Start soon, and keep on going, processing longer." Then they will grow, learn, and grow again, then mature..eventually they will reach to the goal and landing the spot where they decided in the beginning.

Spending too much time before take an action is not wise. Just start right after brief-thought, and go forward it, then you will get there.

Planning and preparation. I was very interested in these two things when I set up a seminary in Nagaland, India. In other words, we made a plan and started preparing. These two words both are probably familiar, easy, but not taken seriously.

Usually, we decide to do a certain ministry or project, but now we plan. However, planning takes a lot of time and energy, but in reality, and often it is not possible to

actually proceed with it. It's a long way from trying to put the plan into practice. That's why I am saying here, 'Preparation' is necessary before practice.

Preparation means that rather than preparing everything at once, as there is a saying that "when you light a candle at night, you can only see one to two meters ahead."

When I tried to start school in Nagaland, I talked a lot with Mr. A who was a student that came to Korea to study. We had known each other while LPM/PACE training together for two years in Korea.

We decided to set up a school, and we said "Let's pray" to each other many times. While praying, I read one article in a summary of a book made by the Auxano Institute in the United States, which seems to have been the title "Preparation is More Important than Planning." So after praying and planning, I said to Mr. A, "Let's PREPARE for now," and he understood what I meant and accelerated the preparation. The word 'plan' was no longer needed for us. The word and concept of preparation, and the [verb form] of "preparing" remained, and in fact, only that "preparing" was waiting for us. So as we continued to prepare, we were able to eventually hold the Opening Ceremony of the Seminary. It was the result of preparing steadily for almost a year. The plan alone does not produce results. It doesn't happen if we just expect something to happen.

In fact, we have learned and done a lot of things 'to make plans'. It's not that we don't have to plan, but the potential unconsciousness that planning itself is the end often binds us. In other words, it means that after planning, we need to focus more on preparation and put our energy into it.

Why is preparation important! Preparation is not a one-time slogan, it is not completed at once, and it is not a [static noun.] It is actually progressing by continuing to do something that has no end. Then one day, there will be a moment of ending that we have completed.

Anyway, once the preparations begin, we will get a lot of ideas, insights, and resources from both inside and outside. If we just 'stand still' to make plans, we can't see and find the resources around us. When we prepare for a goal, we will find a way, and when we do, people will help us.

Robert Fritz emphasized in his book, "The Path of the Resistance," that if we set one major goal and worked hard to achieve it, everything around us would help us. Because that's how people and things line up. This is what he called "structural dynamics."

Yes, God will be with us when we prepare for an important ministry. Planning alone is not enough. Many people make plans, but not many people execute them, and they no longer prepare in that direction, just standing still and waiting. Nothing happens, even if you planned very well.

Personally, I found out that this was true because it came from my own experiences. We can't complete it if we just plan and stop there. It's a sad fact that many people stop before preparing. Because they make a plan, and then they stop as if they've done it. Then they are killing time looking forward to something happening, and ask "What's going to happen!" but it doesn't actually happen. After you have planned, you should move on to preparation.

Failure is 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 a 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 talk lightly to you about failure at this point. I didn't think I should do it too hard, so I just touched it a bit. However, I think my meaning was fully conveyed because you read it. The gist of my story to you is, "Failure is necessary." It meant that you shouldn'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 you may 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 just like those who have a lot of future left.

When the honeymoon is over (metaphor). Dr. Melvin wrote this to compare ministry with marriage life metaphorically. I have used this metaphor many times and many occasions, especially at re-equipping seminars. The Lay Pastors Ministry and marriage have phenomena in common. It is a useful metaphor and truth for not only Lay Pastor Ministry but at all ministry as well. I have pasted his writings here directly but not full of them, just made it short because they are too long to read. You can transfer what you have learned from here into your own ministry.

The start-up of marriage is often idealistic, euphoric and unrealistic. The bride and

groom have expectations that no human relationship can fulfill.

The discovery that one's partner is not perfect is painful. The reality of keeping houses, washing clothes and paying the bills hits hard. Undulating moods, not feeling well, heretofore unknown temperaments and habits are shockers. Disillusionment can settle in like a chilling fog at the end of a beautiful day.

At this point, many marriages break up. For such couples, what appeared to be love proved to be an illusion: a transient infatuation, romantic passion and physical attraction. Disillusion destroys the fragile relationship. Such marriages lack underlying substance.

At this point, however, instead of divorcing, other marriages mature. Waking up from the dream, the husband and wife can now see the real person across the table. And they begin to see themselves as they never saw themselves before.

Without losing the romance, passion and physical attraction their marriage matures into an ever-deepening relationship, companionship and endearment. They adjust to their differences and pool their strengths while growing old together. It is evident that their marriage is blessed with underlying substance.

Commitments. I think there are some stages of commitment for longevity. First of all there should be a special case, special incident, or strong feeling inside something to do. For me, the third one was there. Something was very strong in my mind to do when I jumped into this ministry. I think this is the first stage of commitment, kind of a promise to God.

The second stage is that meaningful to our life? I mean good work and helping others, and then I felt this is also meaningful to my life. If there is no meaning we can't keep on going and this is a sense of accomplishment. Good start and some small result there and see the people look happy, having joy in the ministry is important. I think this is the second stage, even small progress there we feel good.

The third stage is something different from the previous two. We are feeling something difficult, a roadblock, learning about humanity, ministry itself and get experiences from real field work, wrestling with some problems, but still keep on going, and then we feel we are growing.

I think there were some important moments for me to grow up. I read an article which was written by Peter Drucker, who said that if nobody is going to receive any benefits from any work, it's possible to succeed. It struck me! I am working for something now, but if I don't expect any benefits for myself from there it will be successful. It means we have to work for the ministry itself, nothing else. I understood what he meant because I was there, in the midst of ministry all the way, of course I understood it slowly and after many days. And also this concept became one of my lifelong partners; I question myself all the time, why I am doing these things for now, because God wants me to do this, nothing else. Through this concept, I have committed myself again and again to this given task for now.

Lastly, what is the last and ultimate commitment? I think it is "to accomplish what was given to us in our lifetime." Yea, and so we have to complete well just like Jesus who said at the end of his life: "I have done what I have to be done." Let's commit continually until the end.

In fact, the case of quitting is an example of mountain climbers. There are also people who quit as soon as they started, people who go up a little more and quit again, and finally only a few people go up to the top. People who have practical difficulties quit. Some climb further, enduring difficulties, look around, and quit satisfied with this. Others are glancing up to the top and going all the way up. This is the case in ministry, and most people do it until the end.

Then how can they go all the way! First, I think it is important to know what they are doing. At the same time, They should know that ministry is not an illusion like a honeymoon. Of course they don't have to be very negative. Second, it is necessary to reconsider what this ministry means to their life. We feel meaningful when we are doing good things and helping others. What we cannot continue is this aspect, which is a sense of accomplishment. It's important that they also feel happy to start well and see others look happy while making small achievements there. Even a small step forward should be made. The third difference is that we always live with problems and difficulties. Isn't there another problem after one?

At the same time, we learn about obstacles, humanity, and the ministry itself, gain experience in the real field, and struggle with such things, but if we continue to move on, we feel that we are growing. I think life itself means this by continuing to learn. Finally, what is the ultimate commitment? I think "to achieve what is given to us while we are alive." So we're going to have to complete it as well as Jesus, who said, "I did what I had to do." You'll have to keep going until the end.●