Committed. Dedicated. Faithful.

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"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much" (Luke 16:10)

com•mit•ment
/kə'mitment/

Noun

1. the state or quality of being dedicated to a cause, activity, etc.
   "the company's commitment to quality"
   Synonyms: dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, fidelity
   "her commitment to her students"

At first she didn't succeed, but she tried and tried again. Cha Sa-Soon of South Korea was dedicated to a cause. She became somewhat of a national celebrity by achieving a record that would cause many of us to shake our heads and say, "Give it up already."

*Starting in April of 2005, Ms. Cha took the written driver's test once a day five days a week. For three years, she took the test once a day five days a week. It was a 50-question written test on road regulations and car maintenance. After that, her pace slowed to about twice a week. She failed the test hundreds of times, but she never gave up. Finally, she got her license – on her 960th time! Her commitment and dedication had paid off. The instructors at the driving school where Ms. Cha had once attended, greeted her with cheers, hugs, and flowers. One instructor said, "We didn't have the guts to tell her to quit because she kept showing up."

It's remarkable that this 68-year old woman's commitment and dedication could carry her to attain this achievement. She was born to a peasant family with seven children but no land. She spent her childhood working in the fields and studying at an informal night school. When she was 15 she joined a formal school as a fourth grader, but her schooling ended there a few years later. She envied the people who could drive, but it wasn't until she was in her 60's, after raising a family of four, that she got around to trying for her license.

PRACTICE made perfect, but slowly. She had to wait for the bus to come to get her to the driving test site. (If you missed the bus it was a two-hour wait.) Another bus transfer took her to her market stall where she sold vegetables. Studying was difficult because of her illiteracy, but each time she remained determined and cheerful. She was going to one day drive her grandchildren to the zoo.



On the 950th try she achieved a passing grade of 60%. She then passed two driving skill and road tests, but only after failing each four times. For each of her 960 tests, she had to pay $5 in application fees. She had spent $4,200 on the application fees. Hear her words of commitment: "I believe you can achieve your goal if you persistently pursue it, so don't give up your dream. Be strong and do your best." What a special lady! What grit! What dedication!

(The picture on the left is Ms. Cha with her new Hyundai, presented to her from the carmaker.)

Could the same be said for you? Your former students? Your future students? Colleagues? Parents? Board members?

Sadly, there are many areas of our lives where a gritty attitude just doesn't work. There are things we can't achieve no matter how hard we work for them, no matter how long we stick to them, no matter how sincerely we believe or dream. Need an example? Here's one: we are sinners, and as sinners we get stuck in our nasty situations. A person can dream of being able to get rid their sins: she/he can work day and night to get rid of their sin; she/he can be persistent in pursuing a new, sin-free life and be dedicated to keeping things perfect. There are things we sinners can do, but we sinners are still going to fail.

For believers in Christ, failure is not an option. If we want to be saved, John shows us how in the third chapter of His Gospel. There it reads in verse 16: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life*." ***This is what we get to talk about in a Christ-centered school.*** Each and every day, day in and day out. Talking isn't enough though, is it? It's not a test. It's about believing. It's about faith in Jesus. Through your commitment, dedication, and care, your students' faith in Jesus is nurtured throughout their entire stay at your school.

That's it. We believers are saved by God's love and grace, not by what, or how hard, or how long, or how intensely, we work and dream. Remember that, each and every day of summer vacation and every school day God gives you!

For all this we give Him thanks and praise!

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