

27 September 2018

With perseverance, we soar high (Speech at the 35th Athletic Meet Opening Ceremony)

Good morning, teachers and students. On this occasion of the 35th Athletic Meet of Pentecostal Lam Hon Kwong School, I'd like to offer my sincere thanks to our teachers, especially PE teachers for their great effort in organizing these two days of Athletic Meet.

During the two days of Athletic Meet, our school has organized a number of sports events for you to join and enjoy. There are field events, track events, cheering team competition, inter-society invitation relay, inter-sports team invitation relay, inter-house captain relay and the healthy kilometer activity. Through participation in the above sports events, we hope that all of you will learn the real meaning of sports.

Today, I'd like to share with you the secret of success of a famous American professional basketball player, **Michael Jordan**. Michael Jordan is regarded as the greatest basketball player of all time. He played 15 seasons in the National Basketball Association (NBA) for the Chicago Bulls and Washington Wizards. He made NBA of the United States popular around the world in the 1980s and 1990s. Michael Jordan has also gained a reputation for being one of the best defensive players in basketball. His individual accomplishments include six NBA Finals Most Valuable Player (MVP) Awards. He holds the NBA records for highest career regular season scoring average (30.12 points per game).

With such a great achievement, Michael Jordan is the right person to share with us the importance of perseverance. Michael Jordan said, **“I have missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I have lost almost 300 games. I have failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.”** In other words, Michael Jordan thinks that perseverance is very important. Even if you have failed many times, just persist and carry on and you will succeed. **Gold medals are not really made of gold. They are made of sweat, tears, determination and guts.** You cannot win unless you learn how to lose. The only way to prove that

you are a good sportsman is to lose. **Adversity causes some men to break down, but others to break records.** Continuous effort, not strength or intelligence, is the key to unlocking our potential.

Boys and girls, I sincerely hope that through participation in the sport events of our 35th Athletic Meet and following the role model of Michael Jordan, you will learn the real meaning of sports and never give up.

As Apostle Paul says in the Bible, Second Timothy Chapter 2 Verse 5, “If anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules” (人若在場上比武、非按規矩、就不能得冠冕。) In other words, as a good sportsman, if you want to win victory in the sports ground, you should play according to the rules. One of the rules is: persevere and never give up. I assure you that with perseverance, we soar high. Last but not least, may I wish you great success and enjoyment on these two days! Thank you very much.