

Learning is always the Key

Good Morning Teachers and Students,

This morning I would like to read you a story. The name of the story is: ***Don't think, Just Push!***
The following is the story...

There once was a man who fell asleep in his room, when all of a sudden his room was filled with Light and God appeared.

God told the man that He had a job for him. God pointed to a large rock in front of the door and said, "I want you simply to push against the rock with all your strength."

This man was a good Christian. After hearing what God said, with his shoulders set squarely, he pushed against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock.

This man carried out his task day after day for many years, toiling with all his strength from sunrise to sunset. Each night the man returned to his bedroom with a tired body and sore limbs. In the beginning, he felt very excited for he was doing something for God. But as he did the same task day after day, he felt sad and thought that his whole day had been spent in vain.

Satan observed that the man was showing signs of discouragement and so he decided to intervene by placing some evil thoughts into the man's mind. He told the man: "You've been pushing against that rock for a long time and it hasn't moved a bit. Why waste your time over this? You're never going to move it. You should find something interesting to do." Satan gave the man the impression that the task was impossible and that he was a failure.

Naturally, these thoughts discouraged and confused the man even more and he thought to himself, "Why waste my life over this? I'll put in my time, as this is the order of God, but only give the minimum of effort and that should be good enough."

He then planned to do just that until one day he decided to pray over the matter and take his troubling thoughts to God. He said, "Lord, I've laboured long and hard in Your service. Putting all my strength into doing that which You've asked. Yet, after all this time, I haven't even moved that rock half a millimeter. What's wrong? Why am I failing?"

To this God responded compassionately, "My friend, when long ago I asked you to serve me, I told you that your task was simply to push against the rock with all your might. Never once did I

mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push and I'm glad that you've done that. Now you come to me, your strength spent, thinking that you've failed. But, is that really so? Look at you. Your arms are strong and muscled, your back brown, your hands are powerful and your legs massive and hard. You're a strong man now."

The story ends here.

My dear students, why does God ask the man to do all this? It is very common that stories have something to say. What can we learn from the story? I don't know your answer, but I want to share with you what I learnt from the story.

Firstly, we can look at the story from the perspective of a Christian.

This story demonstrates that at times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect and wisdom to judge what He wants. Very often, what God wants is just simple obedience and faith in Him. Don't make things too complicated with your own value judgments. By all means, exercise the faith that moves mountains, but know that it is ultimately God who moves mountains.

Secondly, the story can be understood from the perspective of a student or teacher:

Pushing the rock is an analogy of doing homework. From time to time, teachers ask students to do homework. Quite a lot of students don't like doing homework, they think that homework is boring, using up their free time, and some may not even understand why they need to do homework. Some students will do homework properly, but what they care about is the marks they will get, because that mark will become part of his/her daily marks. What they want is good marks in their academic report.

It is a matter of fact that students are required to do a lot of homework. There are many kinds of homework, but why do teachers assign homework? There are different answers for this question. One thing you can be sure of is that it is not because teachers find that your homework or compositions are very interesting and they want to read more, or because your mathematics exercises contain great mathematics findings that attract their interest. Homework --- like pushing the rock, the focus is the process. The man pushes very hard and at the end of the day, he becomes very strong. Doing homework consolidates what has been learnt by you, or helps you to form learning habits.

My dear students, please remember, in learning, the learning process is more important than the end results. (However, I'm not saying that end results are not important.) Why is the learning process more important? It is very common to find students struggling with tests or examinations. Any time

an examination is coming up, their minds will go blank and they will panic. The pressure of passing weighs down on them to such an extent that they care about nothing but the examination.

Facing this kind of student, experienced teachers would normally say, “You don’t need to worry about tests if you always try your best. There’s more to life than getting full marks.” The teacher would probably go on to say, “An interest in learning is far more important than focusing on a test result. If you can honestly tell yourself that you have worked hard at learning all the time and you have completed all the required homework in a serious manner, the results should follow. Marks don’t matter if you work hard in the process. The results will come naturally.”

Focus on the result, or focus on the learning? A focus on the learning allows the end result to develop favourably, whereas a focus on the result clouds the process. My dear students, passing tests or getting high marks should not be treated as the only goal of education; it is only a by-product of effective learning. Remember, learning is always the key. Now let’s return back to the story – pushing the rock is the process and the result --- the man become very strong, and this comes naturally.

Thank you for your attention and enjoy your study. Please work hard while you still have time. The final examination is coming soon.

Reference:

<http://theuniversityblog.co.uk/2010/08/23/learning-experience-is-greater-than-end-results/>