

VOICES:

How do you maintain a seeking spirit after practicing for a long time?

Members from Philadelphia Joint Territory respond:

Keeping my eyes open, ears open and especially my mind open are crucial for me to maintain my seeking spirit. There are many great things [I can gain] from meeting members and listening to what they [have] to say about their lives. These interactions help greatly. Also, reading SGI President Ikeda's guidance helps me understand the nature of life...and how to challenge my problems, improve my life and show actual proof in my reality.

— KUNIHIRO URYU, Philadelphia

By constantly taking care of members and doing whatever I can for kosen-rufu, I find myself in situations in which I have to seek guidance.

I also have developed a trusting friendship with a senior in faith. We have lunch about every six weeks at a restaurant; it's a wonderful opportunity to talk. I'm always refreshed and encouraged after that.

— LUCRETIA WILSON, Philadelphia

I've been practicing for 21 years now and I think it is my early training that enables me to maintain a seeking spirit. I was fortunate to practice with people who chanted a lot...and I continue this today. I chant with members, and that enables me to develop myself internally. When doubts do arise, they manifest in my environment as a lack of self-confidence, problems at work, and a lower life-condition. Then I go back to my early training and increase my chanting and studying.

— EILEEN BOWMAN, Philadelphia

I go back to the Gosho "On Attaining Buddhahood." For me, that Gosho sums up how we should practice. Meeting and interacting with young men's division members also helps me maintain a seeking spirit. Reading President Ikeda's guidance, participating in activities and Gajokai also keep me focused.

— DAVID STEPHAN, Philadelphia

When I reflect on my life and where I want to go, it is the variance between two things — the ideal and the reality — that gives me the motivation to seek.... Often I seek my leader's wisdom in how to practice correctly, and always I am encouraged to practice to change my life. Consequently, I begin to understand myself and my practice better. Without this seeking spirit, I would stagnate or get disillusioned. I know I need to interact with others and assess what and how I am doing. To me, maintaining a seeking spirit is synonymous with growth.

— DASHARR FISHER, Philadelphia