

Words to the Wise: SELF-RELIANCE

From SGI President Ikeda:

*True and lasting happiness only and always comes from our own efforts, our own wisdom, our own good fortune. This is a fundamental truth. Faith is the key to strengthening our efforts, wisdom and good fortune. SGI activities are the key to strengthening ourselves. . . . (March 29, 1996, *World Tribune*)

*There are those who seem to be exerting themselves energetically in Gakkai activities, but who always end up absolutely exhausted. This is because they are participating passively. As long as you feel somewhere in your heart that you have to do activities because you've been told to or are expected to, then you won't feel any real joy. Nor are you likely to have much energy and enthusiasm.

* To feel that energy, it's important to boldly take initiative in your activities. Set concrete personal goals and then strive to realize them. When you exert your utmost toward a goal and then achieve it, you will experience great joy and pleasure. (Oct. 3, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 8)

*Everything depends on our attitude or inner resolve, on the kind of philosophy and conviction that we cherish. Our environment or circumstances are not the determining factors. When we advance resolutely based on this admonition, then all the hardships we experience will pave the golden path of our mission. (July 11, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 15)

*Mrs. [Rosa] Parks writes: "I have never allowed myself to be treated as a second-class citizen. You must respect yourself before others can respect you." (Oct. 17, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 15)

*Our faith isn't the kind in which you look to others for help. No, each of us has to carry out our own human revolution. We have to stand up on our own two feet and win through our own effort. If you depend on others, you're sure to lose.

* No amount of money will change your karma, and unless you change your karma you will never be truly happy. . . .

* True faith has nothing to do with beseeching someone else for help. Each of us creates our own happiness.... The basic requirement for happiness is the determination not to be defeated, the ability to stand up and fight, no matter what the difficulties or odds. (Oct. 31, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 6)

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