

Graduate to Greatness

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

Philip. 3:14

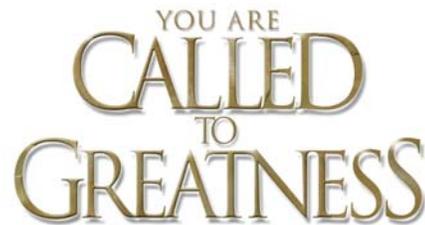
I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Proverbs 4:26-27

Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. [27] Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

Proverbs 5:21

For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings.



Opening Statement: Making it through twelve years of high school involves facing some very real challenges. And, as we can all testify, making it through life will include continuous encounters with challenges that we must meet. But the wonderful thing about confronting these numerous challenges is that we can face them with some victories already under our belt.

Observation: Just think, graduate “Lorin”, of the encounters you have already experienced with success. You graduated from the womb and successfully adjusted to life on the outside.

You graduated from infancy and successfully began that first day of kindergarten. You graduated from preadolescence and successfully navigated those teen years. Now you have graduated from high school / on your way to the United States Military and now you must travel the road of adulthood. How can your continued success be assured?

You’ve earned some respect...you’ve sharpened your edge...but don’t “fly off the handle” in the pride, rather, sharpen the edge and keep your edge in life! Many adults lose their cutting edge by not remaining learners, growing complacent, and ceasing to go forward.

- You have been in school now for **2160 days**.
- You have spent **12,960 hours** in classes.
- That translates into **777,600 minutes**.
- So far you’ve lived approximately **18 years**.
- You’ve been around **216 months**.
- You have been breathing **936 weeks**.
- You’ve been going through the motions for **6,570 days**
- You’ve been here **157,680 hours**.
- You’ve been taking up space **9,434,880 minutes**.
- You’ve slept **52,500 hours**.

- You've watched T.V. **12,173 hours.**
- You've spent **7,488 hours eating.** (Mostly pizza!)

If You live the average life span of 70 years, or as the Bible says 3 score and 10, You'll...

- **SLEEP24 YEARS**
 - **WORK52 YEARS**
 - **PLAY 8 YEARS**
 - **EAT 6 YEARS**
 - **DRIVE5 YEARS**
 - **TALK4 YEARS**
 - **GO TO SCHOOL..3 YEARS**
 - **SICK3 YEARS**
 - **STUDY & READ.....3 YEARS**
 - **MOST OF YOU WERE BORN in the mid to late 80's**
- YOU WERE WRINKLED, RED, BALD, TOOTHLESS, COULDN'T HARDLY SEE, CRYING, COMPLAINING, AND HAD NO CLOTHES ON.**

Well Graduate, you've come a long way, baby! You've reached a milestone. **But this is not the end...it's really just the beginning!** You've come to the end of a big episode, but just before the credits roll, across the screen flashes the words: "To be continued!"

"When you were born, everyone around you was smiling and you were crying. Live your life so that when you die, you're smiling and everyone around you is crying."
 (Author Unknown)

Mediocre: "neither very good nor very bad, ordinary, average, not good enough, inferior"

Greatness: "eminent, distinguished, illustrious, superior, very impressive, remarkable, showing nobility of mind, purpose, striving for the best."

"We must all suffer from one of two pains: the pain of discipline or the pain of regret. The difference is discipline weighs ounces while regret weighs tons."
 --Jim Rohn

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Vitamins for the Mind by Jim Rohn

EXPERIENCE

Take time to gather up the past so that you will be able to draw from your experiences and invest them in the future.

Don't let the learning from your own experiences take too long. If you have been doing it wrong for the last ten years, I would suggest that's long enough!

Life is not just the passing of time. Life is the collection of experiences and their intensity.

It's easy to carry the past as a burden instead of a school. It's easy to let it overwhelm you instead of educate you.

Be like a sponge when it comes to each new experience. If you want to be able to express it well, you must first be able to absorb it well.

To Your Success,

By: Jim Rohn

GREATNESS

Graduate to Greatness

Achieving Greatness through.....

1) Gratitude for All Blessings

A feeling of thankful appreciation for favors or benefits received; thankfulness.

Achieving Greatness through.....

2) Reliability in All Circumstances

One that can be relied upon, dependable; trustworthy; can be counted upon to do what is expected in an emergency and often connotes level headedness or steadiness; trustworthy meaning that ones integrity and truthfulness can be relied on consistently.

Achieving Greatness through.....

3) Enthusiasm in All Opportunities

To be inspiring, to have zeal, intense eagerness and interest, to be passionate where you inspire others around you, Have passion.

Achieving Greatness through.....

4) Accountability in All Relationships

Recognizing ones own obligation to give account for one's acts, being responsible, capable of being accounted for, explainable. To make satisfactory amends. One's own actions will acquit one's credibility.

Achieving Greatness through.....

5) Tenacity in All Challenges

Holding oneself firmly, can hold oneself together, strongly, cohesive, tough, persistent, and courageous in spite of the odds.

Achieving Greatness through.....

6) Nobleness in All Ambitions

Having and showing high moral qualities or ideals; greatness of character; when one hears your name and your participation in whatever endeavor it automatically gives it credibility.

Achieving Greatness through.....

7) Excellence in All Endeavors

The fact or condition of excelling, surpassing goodness, exceptional merit. Outstanding.

Achieving Greatness through.....

8) Sensitivity to All People

Showing keen sensibilities; highly perceptive and responsive to others around you. Constantly seeking to build those around you and not hurt and or destroy them.

Achieving Greatness through.....

9) Spirituality in All Decisions

Spiritual character, belonging to the church of the living God and having ones actions and decisions governed by the Word of God. What Would Jesus Do?

NEVER STOP LEARNING. WHEN YOU MAKE THE DECISION TO STOP IS THE DAY THAT YOU BEGIN TO DIE.

Epigram On Students

No man really becomes a fool until he stops asking questions.—Charles P. Steinmetz

Epigram On Students

He who asks a question is a fool for five minutes; he who does not ask a question remains a fool forever.—*Chinese Proverb*

Epigram On Students

The teacher can light the lantern and put it in your hand, but you must walk into the dark.—William H. Armstrong

Unusual Degrees

"Dr. Edward Francis Green, headmaster of Pennington School for Boys, a school which does not confer degrees upon graduates, says he will not be happy unless all of his boys have, before they leave the school, won the five following degrees:

"A.B.—Ardent Believer."

"M.D.—Magnificent Dreamer".

"Lit. D.—Devotee of Literature (especially the Bible)".

"F. R. S.—Fellow of Regular Supplication (Prayer Life)".

"D.D.—Doer of Deeds."

—Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations

Dr. Howard Kelly At Graduation

On the night of his graduation from medical college, Dr. Howard A. Kelly, world-famed surgeon and gynecologist, wrote in his diary: "I dedicate myself, my time, my capabilities, my ambition, everything to Him. Blessed Lord, sanctify me to Thy uses. Give me no worldly success which may not lead me nearer to my Savior!"

—Orville S. Walter