

Words to the Wise: STUDY

Exert yourself in the two ways of practice and study. Without practice and study, there can be no Buddhism. You must not only persevere yourself; you must also teach others. Both practice and study arise from faith. (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 95)

From SGI President Ikeda:

* On what do we of the Soka Gakkai base ourselves? On the Gosho, the collection of writings that embody the teachings of the original Buddha of the Latter Day of the Law, Nichiren Daishonin — the original Buddha who practiced the Lotus Sutra with his life. We certainly do not rely on the irresponsible claims of self-appointed critics or disparaging articles in sensationalist weeklies. Our fundamental guide in life and faith is, and always will be, the Gosho's teachings. I proclaim that the Gosho is the eternal foundation of the Soka Gakkai and of our Buddhist practice. (Aug. 29, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 7)

* I hope each of you will strive to read with your life even one passage of the Gosho by actively putting it into practice. If you do so, it is the same as reading all the Daishonin's teachings. (Aug. 15, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 7)

* The Gosho is filled with illumination. When we open its pages, we are bathed in the sun of life and its rays of philosophy. The Gosho is Nichiren Daishonin's voice. It is the collection of his golden words and teachings. So it's important to have the spirit to study the Gosho, to open it up. Even if you forget what you've read, something profound will be engraved in the depths of your life... Only through strong faith, seamlessly fused with Gosho study, can we truly be enlightened and accomplish our human revolution. (July 11, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 13)

* When we read the Gosho, we should do so with the profound conviction that we are reading the truth, the absolute truth — that this is exactly how it is. In other words, we should read with faith, seek with faith and understand with faith. (Dec. 12, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 6)

* We must read in a way that nourishes and cultivates us. Food will not nourish us or contribute to healthy bone and muscle growth if it is not digested and absorbed properly. In the same way, digesting what we read requires serious reflection and contemplation. (Nov. 14, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 13)

* 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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