

to do, and this is the next, and this is the next. What is our attitude? If God is going to bless us we can't be like Joash and smite the ground 3 times (touch the ground with them 3 times). We jump into things with a vim and we set to work to make our lives count for God.

If your life is going to count for God it is necessary to put effort into it. Now there are 3 things I want to mention. You need first effort. Tremendously important. But equally important is intelligence. One time when I was camping up in the mountains a heavy rain came, a tremendous rain. I saw a little cabin with a porch, and I spread out my stuff where this roof would keep it dry and when I had been there about half an hour a car drove up and some people came in. They were very considerate and friendly but naturally they didn't want me staying on their porch since they were going to be staying there. I told them what the situation was and they said, Just a quarter of a mile down the road in the mountains, there is another cabin which has a closed in wood shed in the back of it which is unlocked. They said, You could get in there out of the rain and be protected for the night. I thought, I'll do that. So I went down there and I got there and I tried to open the door of the woodshed and it would not open. I pushed and I shoved. The rain was coming down harder and harder. The harder I shoved the less it would give. Then I looked at it and saw a little piece of cord hanging down (these people had said it was unlocked). Here was this little cord that simply pulled up the bar inside and just touched it ~~fixing~~ with my finger and it opened. I put in a lot of effort and got nowhere! We need intelligent effort and to think about what you are doing to be getting training and preparation that is really intelligently planned is 1000 times more important than just effort.

You take a course and you begin to study and work on it. What is your objective? Is your objective to pass this test? Is it to get a credit or is it get something that you are going to use in later years. If you think of it intelligently you will find you will get many times as much out of it. Intelligent effort is the thing I would mention as the second thing.

Now poor Joash could not have very intelligent effort here because he did not know the background of it, but I think he probably didn't have intelligent effort in other things either judging for what we read about him elsewhere.

But the third thing is I think most important of all. Am I doing a thing to get a credit in a course? Am I doing the work to get a degree to graduate from college? Or am I improving myself in such a way that in future years I will be able to learn far faster than I can today? Am I improving myself -- not merely getting this course, not merely getting this thing, but improving my ability to get things. I find that in schools of all kinds a person says something and they misunderstand you. They think you are a little unfriendly, and they are unfriendly, and the next thing you know you've got two people who don't like each other. Then you think, Well maybe he won't be back next year or maybe when I graduate I'll never have to see him again. Maybe you won't. But you're going to meet many people like that in after years and many a time your relation with somebody else is going to be a matter of an accidental relationship or a misunderstanding. If you can think now of your relationship to the other person. Here's this other person who doesn't seem to like me and I don't like him, but why? How can I get him to really understand what I mean and see that I'm really a friendly sort of person and not