

The Power of Gutter Balls



“And so we keep on praying for you, that our God will make you worthy of the life to which he called you.” The Apostle Paul | 2 Thessalonians 1:11 (NLT)

Embrace Correction.

When I was a kid, an errant roll of my ball would slip off the hardwoods and go right into the gutter. Ugh! After all of that aiming and determination, nothing; all 10 pins standing at attention, untouched. What next? Another shot at it, perhaps with some adjustments to stay out of the gutter. Again and again I'd try, motivated not just to get a couple pins, but anticipating the sweetness of a strike. You know what? I got better. The pain of going in the gutter pushed me to higher levels.

There is no better teacher than failure. We need to embrace it.

These days a trip to the alley brings the option to prevent gutter balls by raising "gutter guards", one of the many modern-day inventions that help prevent failure. Will a child raised today ever know the power of a gutter ball?

"Whoever abandons the right path will be severely disciplined; whoever hates correction will die." Proverbs 15:10 (NLT)

I've learned to embrace correction but if you asked me 20 years ago, I would have said hate it. I still totally relate to this sentiment because it feels awful to be corrected. It's interesting that this proverb says "whoever hates correction will die." Doesn't this seem a bit harsh?

To think that if I kept my old sentiment of "hating correction", I would die?

What then does it mean to die? Perhaps I'm missing something? Shouldn't I avoid painful correction? Perhaps a better question is, what does it mean to live?

I've always loved the quote from the movie Braveheart: *"Every man dies,*

not every man truly lives.” and another old saying I heard: *“If you feel pain, then you know you’re still alive.”* The corollary – **feeling no pain means you’re dead.**

Somehow, I feel there’s an answer in these quotes... Sure correction can be painful, but you'll know you’re still alive. Avoiding correction means you are fearful, even hiding. You'll never roll a strike this way. And just like when we roll a gutter ball, the pain of correction can move us closer to making a strike.

Painful correction moves us to the center of the alley, where we are at the peak of life.

But we must choose to embrace it.

The Apostle Paul sure had his fair share of correction and I bet his prayer to the Thessalonians was not ignorant of it. Paul was praying that God would correct them so that they would be worthy of the life made them for.

The life God made you for is a strike.

Living out the life God made you for requires taking some chances by rolling a few gutter balls and embracing the correction.

No gutter balls, no correction. No pain, no strikes. No strikes, no life. No life...death.

I get it. To truly live we need to stretch ourselves. In doing so, we will roll a few gutter balls...and that's OK...so long as we embrace the correction and try again for a strike.

Boldly live out your Life Mission. Embrace correction then take fresh aim.
God guide's the humble into a life worth living.

Make your life a strike!

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

"Correction leads to life."

"For [your Father's] command is a lamp and [his] instruction a light; [his] corrective discipline is the way to life." Proverbs 6:23 (NLT)



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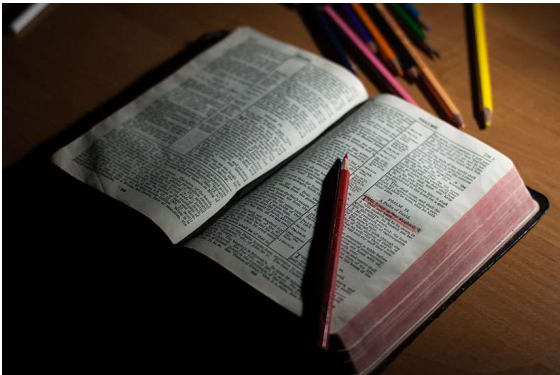
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