

FFWPU USA: Trust in God's Timing

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In life, we often wonder about when things will happen and how they'll unfold. The idea of God's timing has fascinated people for a long time. It's about when God chooses to make things happen in our lives. But here's some important information: God's timing operates on a plane far beyond our human comprehension.

"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord, a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day."
- 2 Peter 3:8

God's Timing is Different

If we understand that God's timing is different from our own, things such as how the Israelites walked for 40 years in the desert until they found the Promised Land or how God created the world in only six days, make more sense.

"All phenomena occurring in the universe bear fruit only after the lapse of a certain interval of time. All things are designed to reach completion only after passing through a set growing period."
- Divine Principle 5.2

With this understanding, the only thing we need to do is live as we want, and things will happen, right?

The answer is no.

Portion of Responsibility

It is essential to understand that while God has a different perception of time, we also have our portion of responsibility to fulfill. I can use the example of how preparing to find a spouse has made me think more deeply about the subject. I remember being 14 and thinking about the [Marriage Blessing](#). The only thing I thought I needed was to meet my partner, which shows how I did not consider the importance of commitment. As I grew older, I realized I was ahead of God's timing for me. If I wanted to be ready when time arrived, I had to first work on myself.

"Human beings, however, are created in such a way that their growth requires the fulfillment of

their own portion of responsibility, in addition to the guidance provided by the Principle."
- Divine Principle 5.2.2

I started asking profound questions. "What is the meaning of the Blessing to me? What are my values?" In the end, I had to figure out who I am, so that when the right time and the right person comes along, I will be ready to receive them.

Preparation is Everything

The parable in Matthew 25:1-13 can be applied in this context. Jesus tells about the ten virgins who were awaiting the arrival of a bridegroom for a wedding feast. The virgins are divided into two groups: five are wise and five are foolish. While the wise brought extra oil the foolish did not. When the virgins heard the cry that the bridegroom was coming, the wise virgins had the extra oil to keep their flames alight, the foolish ones on the other hand did not. As the foolish ones left to buy oil, the bridegroom came and welcomed all of the wise one's who had been prepared. He closed the door to the ones who were late for his arrival.

To me, this parable shows the importance of being prepared for the right timing.

God Needs an Invite

Now that we understand that God's timing is different than our own, and that it is also dependent on how much we are prepared to recognize it, another key aspect that should be taken into account is that we need to ask.

"Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."
- Matthew 7:7-8

God is always with us, and He sees what you are going through. However, it is difficult for Him to act if you don't tell Him that you're ready and open to His involvement.

How will He know what you need if you don't ask?

It is the same as when I was a kid. I had a soar throat and was feeling under the weather. I cried to my mom and she came running to examine me. She asked what was wrong and the only thing I did was continue to cry. How was she supposed to know that I had a soar throat if I did not tell her? It is the same for God. Sometimes He sees people suffering and He wants to help but we need to take the first step to ask for His support and guidance.

Leave Space for God to Work

[How we ask things from God is important](#). For example, my parents have always told me that having preferences for a spouse is not a problem, but that I must keep in mind that if I have too many criteria, I close the space where God can work. We must seek God out but trust that God's vision for our life is much bigger than our own.

In essence, a partnership with God is necessary if we seek to achieve our and God's goals. We must prepare and strive to become the best version of ourselves and be aware of the opportunities that come in our path. By cultivating patience, faith, and resilience, we open ourselves to the blessings of His timing.

Are Mass Weddings For You?



Hundreds of thousands of brides and grooms have participated in the Unificationist marriage ceremony called the Blessing. Like most weddings, there are white dresses and tuxedos, flowers, music, and of course, cake. But the Blessing is not your average wedding...

For the Love of God

Weddings are beautiful, two people commit to love each other, “till death do us part”, to unite and share their whole lives with one another. It embodies all of our hopes for happiness and peace. Every culture, every religion, has some form of this sacred institution.

Marriage is a cornerstone of society, but it is also a gift, or “Blessing” from God. It is God’s gift to all His and Her children to be able to experience love and create a family. For Unificationists, the Blessing signifies the union of man and woman, which is the truest reflection of God, whose essence is both male and female. The divine union of a man and woman through a Blessed marriage reflects our Heavenly Parent’s image more fully, and invites God’s presence more powerfully than any individual alone. As Father Moon put it: “Neither man nor woman can touch God’s highest love by themselves.”

For many, even before the marriage itself, the process of finding a husband or wife is unique. Instead of dating multiple partners in order to find, “the one”, Unificationists participate in a family-guided engagement process, often referred to as the “matching”. With the matching, two individuals are introduced and build their relationship with the support of their families or mentors. While most couples in a dating relationship may not even be looking for a long term commitment, Unificationists begin their relationship with the goal of marriage in mind. They commit not just to each other, but also to God, putting the Heavenly Parent in the center of their family.

“We are gathered here today.”

we are gathered here today...

In a traditional wedding, a bride and groom stand alone in front of family and friends to proclaim their vows. In the Blessing ceremony, couples are married along side of hundreds, sometimes thousands of other couples, in one big ceremony.

Why would anyone want to share their wedding day? Because marriage is not just about the joining together of "man and wife." It is a joining together of two families, and often, two cultures. There is a higher purpose that goes beyond the couple.

Unificationists think of their marriages as a piece of the larger puzzle to creating a better world, and believe that the family is the channel of God's love. In order to build a peaceful world, we must first build peaceful families, and that begins with the harmonious union of husband and wife.

A History of Love

Beginning from Rev. and Mrs. Moon's own Marriage Blessing in 1960, this Blessing tradition has spread to millions of families and homes throughout the world, transcending the Unification faith itself.

If you were to look out on the crowd at a Blessing Ceremony, you would see couples of all different nationalities, races, and religions. Since 1992, clergy and members from many faiths have participated in the International and Interreligious Marriage Blessing Ceremony. Already-married couples join as well to rededicate their love to God and each other.

Father Moon's special insight is that the corruption that exists in the world today is a direct result of the breakdown of the family, starting of course, with the first family. When Adam and Eve fell away from God, they were unable to receive God's blessing. Genesis tells the history of the first dysfunctional family; hiding from God, blaming and mis-trusting each other, and creating a family in which a jealous and angry elder brother killed his own younger sibling. This family is the root of the entire human family today. The Holy Marriage Blessing is a way to return to God's original idea of love, building loving families, harmonious nations, and a peaceful world.

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I Pray This in My Name: Aju



What is prayer to you? A prayer takes on many forms. It could be a meditation, a ritual, devotion, or a conversation with our Heavenly Parent. In the Hindu faith, Puja is a form of ritual prayer, and it is the way Hindus show reverence and devotion to God. When they wake up, believers offer water, fruit, flowers, and incense to God or the divine. In the Muslim faith, prayer is known as a Salawat where believers pray five times a day. Each time they pray, practitioners recite words from the Quran while bowing and reciting scriptures. One key aspect of prayer in the Unificationist faith is the act of praying in our own name.

Prayer in Our Own Name

In the Unificationist faith founded by Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, prayer takes on all those forms. Prayer is a spiritual practice to [be more in tune with our Heavenly Parent](#). It is also an act of devotion. Unificationists are encouraged to report to God what we are doing to support His dream, instead of asking what God can do for us.

“The age of pleading through prayer is over. From now on, you should pray in alignment with your responsibility, saying I understand what I need to do, and I will do it.”

— Rev. Sun Myung Moon

You may have heard prayers ending in “Amen”, “thy will be done” or “so be it,” but have you heard the prayer ending “Aju”? Coined in 2006, Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, affectionately known by Unificationists as True Parents, stressed the importance of praying in our own name and ending in “Aju”. Instead of saying “Amen” as an affirmation of God’s absolute power, “Aju” became a way of presenting our Heavenly Parent that we will fulfill His

Aju became a way of promising our Heavenly Parent that we will fulfill His will.

A New Age of Prayer

Rev. Sun Myung Moon later explained, "Up to the present you have prayed, 'Please do this; please let that be done.' God then listened to your prayers and fulfilled everything for you. However, after receiving all that from God, you need to do what I have done: face Satan's world of the flesh, invest all your mind and body, and win. You understand all this. If so, why do you need to pray like that? The age of pleading through prayer is over. From now on, you should pray in alignment with your responsibility, saying I understand what I need to do, and I will do it." (1999)

Praying Is Not Always Easy

It can often be a battle of calming your mind and heart while there are a million to-dos on your plate. At the same time, [praying for topics bigger than us](#), like poverty, famine, crime, and even our next-door neighbor, may at first seem hard to reach. However, Paul Werner, a Unificationist and author of *In Harmony with the Eternal*, talks about the importance of learning how to pray just like we learn to do everything else we are not good at first. He says, "We have to learn how to talk, walk, write, and sing—so many things. And just like any of them, we have to learn how to pray. Prayer is like ingesting a meal of spiritual food. And it is like breathing spiritual air. When we pray, we inhale God and drive out the devil as we exhale. That is part of the purification process prayer affords us." (Werner 79)

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Even if we only can pray for ourselves, then that is the sincerity to which God will listen. Even if we can only repeat the prayer Jesus taught, "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven," God is surely listening. The moment we begin to feel how much our Heavenly Parent is guiding us and loving us, we may naturally begin to feel the urge to pray more for bigger purposes than ourselves. We will feel the need to pray for support, love, and guidance to the people around us, [to the leaders](#) who are in front of us, and to this world. Those are the kinds of prayers being taught by Jesus, Rev. Sun Myung Moon, and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

Heavenly Parent is Listening

We know through [our personal life of faith](#) that our Heavenly Parent listens to our needs, desires, and worries. When we pray for the safety of our family members overseas or our friend's health, God is surely listening. When we pray that our parents can stay healthy and live the most fulfilling life they can live, God has our ear. However, Father and Mother Moon teach us about the value in seeing prayer as a way of reporting.

"We offer You, our gratitude. Heavenly Parent, please accept this joy and glory."

— Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, also known as [Mother of Peace](#), at a recent Marriage Blessing prayed, "We offer You, our gratitude. Heavenly Parent, please accept this joy and glory. I pray that all 8,000 couples who are receiving the Blessing today will fulfill their responsibility. Let them guide the eight billion people of the world to Heavenly Parent's bosom in the shortest possible time so that they can become couples whom You will remember and be proud of and in whom You will have increasing hope. Please grant them Your wisdom and capability . . . In True Parents' name, we pray and proclaim these words. Aju."

Pray to Support God

Even a grown adult will sometimes ask their parents for clarity, guidance, and support in times of trouble. Hearing that, a loving parent will gladly do what's necessary to make sure their child is taken care of. We don't always know when our prayers will be answered, but when we look back, they always are in some way, shape, or form. When we say "Aju" in our next prayer, let us think about the plans and promises we will accomplish to [comfort the heart of our Heavenly Parent](#), rather than how Heavenly Parent can comfort us.

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