

## What Can You Be Proud Of?

### 1. Introduction

Man needs something to be proud of. People display their beautiful houses, expensive cars, prizes won in sports, big ranches, nice families, etc. They expect to be admired. But what can you be proud of in a true sense?

In order to be proud of something, you must have something good, or you must do something good. It is easy to be proud of something good; you cannot really be proud of something bad. Man cannot be proud of his crimes, sins, miseries and poverty. You may be able to be proud of the things I mentioned above, but can you be proud of those things forever? How long does a beautiful car last? How long does a beautiful house last? Also, who can guarantee that a nice family will last forever?

### 2. Testimony (use own testimony)

Last year I spent some times in a country in Africa. I met a missionary from the neighboring country. He had laid the foundation in that country, but many difficult situations occurred and he had to leave the country he was working in, unable to re-enter it. He didn't have any money, but he decided to go to the borderline of his country, to keep in contact with his people across the river. Even though he couldn't get into his own mission country, his people came to see him from across the river by canoes. He had build a mud house for his wife and newborn baby in the deep thick African forest, hundreds of miles from the civilized city. There was danger of malaria, and a visit took two to three weeks by river plus an additional two to three days by truck. I was deeply moved by this brother, because he wasn't thinking of his own situation but was only thinking of his people and the salvation of his mission country. He was determined to accomplish this.

### 3. Rev. Moon and the African missionaries

One day, Rev. Moon was talking to the African missionaries from the Unification Church. He knew how hard the missionaries were working for God, but he didn't like to praise them. Instead, he wanted to push them more and more. He said that he didn't like to give them financial support, and wanted to send them back to their mission countries to suffer more. The

time would come when he would be invited to their country. Then he would invite his own missionaries to sit beside him, and let each one give their tearful testimony in front of heads of state and dignitaries, of how they suffered for the sake of the nation, shedding tears and sweat. He would say, “If you suffer now, not for the sake of yourselves but for the sake of the nation, then even if they persecute you you are making the stories by which the whole nation will cry. Am I a cruel leader?”

#### 4. Conclusion

It is not the temporary beauty of a car or house, but the tears, sweat, and if necessary blood, shed for the sake of others, that you can be proud of forever. The stories you will proudly tell are the stories of how you suffered for the sake of others.