
Restoration and Salvation

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Historical Restoration and Salvation

According to God's original plan, man was to be literally "saturated" with the love of God. Adam and Eve grew up in the love of God, free and uninhibited, but were tested during their growth period. If they would have passed that test victoriously, God would have blessed them in marriage and would have been able to participate in their love relationship. But this idea was stolen by Satan. The sexual relationship was meant to be pure and holy, yet Lucifer infused licentiousness. It became twisted and perverted, and even today, so many people feel guilty about sex. When Adam and Eve deviated from God's principle and relinquished their loyalty to Him, they ultimately gave their allegiance to Satan.

At this time in history, one man and one woman have been placed in similar roles; they have the mission to restore the error which happened in the Garden of Eden. God waited and watched, and to His astonishment, *this* "Adam" and "Eve" —our True Parents—succeeded in centering their love on Him rather than Satan! This allowed God to experience a total unification with man and woman for the first time in history—spiritually, mentally, and physically. We cannot even imagine what a precious moment it was for God. But even so, God cannot rest. He cannot stop until He fulfills His desire to live within the hearts of *all* of His children, and to share the experience of love with each of them.

People are so lonely. Loneliness was one result of the fall; man became lonely for God because he was separated from Him. People as well as nations became isolated from one another. There was warring—brother against brother, even father against son. Technology assisted the assault. Instead of using the advances made in technology to foster peace, freedom, and unification, far too many people abused them. The same is true with nuclear energy. Instead of using this precious energy to make life easier, it is turned into destructive weapons.

Throughout history, God and Satan have been in conflict. Religious people have recognized that one is pitted against the other. Others at least noticed there is a conflict between good and evil within the world, and even within their own hearts and minds. The process of restoration which has gone on throughout history is meant to diminish the forces of Satan and strengthen the forces of God.

If people pondered this deeply, they would seek to restore interhuman relationships. More importantly, they would aspire to revitalize a true

relationship with God. This would certainly begin a spiritual revival; each person would more clearly see his fellow man with the eyes of God, and therefore be more generous and loving.

History is a record of countless tragedies. It is the steady prolongation course due to the fact that small, or so-called "small" mistakes were committed by the central people in God's history. Because Abraham did not cut the birds in half, his descendants suffered for hundreds of years. If Abraham would have made his offering correctly, the nation to which Christ would come, could have been established.

If we examine the details of biblical history, we would see that two thousand years were lost unnecessarily because of seemingly insignificant details. Actions or inactions by the central figures in God's dispensational history also caused prolongations. For example, Moses struck the rock twice which made a base to disable Jesus from completing his mission. Thus, mankind lost another two thousand years before the Messiah could come again. But we cannot ignore the fact that it was *God* who suffered most because of these delays. We can see that God never worked arbitrarily. He had to work exactly in accordance with His own law. Although God can love us unconditionally, He is not free to forgive us unconditionally. Serious mistakes were made thousands of years ago. For God to once again assume sovereignty over this world, fallen mankind must be purified. We have to reverse fallen history and clear up these mistakes. We have to literally kick Satan off his throne.

God has chosen us to be among the first to know His truth. For that reason, our actions and attitudes have serious consequences. There is no way we can just get away with our mistakes. If we go against the will of God, we will pay for our errors. Furthermore, unless we repair or reconstruct those made in the past, we simply extend the time before this world can enjoy its much needed rebirth. We have to bring this knowledge into our everyday life. Perhaps we work in a mission in which someone made many mistakes in the past. We may have to resolve resentments or finish projects which were left uncompleted. Perhaps we must deal with financial problems —any number of things. If we do not seek to learn the history of the mission, city, nation, and/or the people who used to work there, we may not understand when we repeat failures, or *why* we feel certain emotions. We may not be able to understand what we have to do in order to restore our feelings.

Restoration is such a complicated process. Even though God is assid-

uous and uncompromising, human society is in a constant state of flux. Although God can predict the turn humanity could take, because human beings possess free will, His prognosis may not be one hundred percent accurate. Unpredictable situations arise which cause God to adjust things; God has one absolute goal, yet He must also have a great many auxiliary plans. Although He must have experienced tremendous pain waiting, He has been forced to extend certain time periods before He was able to send His representatives.

In restoration, certain time periods must be fulfilled and symbolic acts performed. For example, there were certain conditions which had to be established during the Old Testament era. People were able to reach God only by fulfilling those conditions. The same was true in the New Testament era. Now the Completed Testament age has begun; many Unificationists can see the difference between the ideal which Father talks about, and the hell-like conditions of the secular world of today. And we know that we are the ones who must do something about closing the gap.

Even after Jesus' birth, the Israelites were still awaiting the arrival of their messiah. Because they did not recognize him, they missed their chance to unite and work with him. Now the Messiah has returned. He has brought the highest truth; through its clarity, we are able to detect that both the Old and New Testaments have many points which are difficult to understand and which seem to contradict one another.

Once we are exposed to a new view of life, it becomes nearly impossible to go back to the old ways and our old understanding. But if we do not make certain efforts, we will drift back into hell. Once humanity is given a higher understanding, people have to believe in whomever God sends. Therefore, we must fulfill the conditions which are set for the Completed Testament age. Doing so will allow us to restore many of the past failures and mistakes.

God chooses certain people because He needs them. The Outline of the Principle explains that the person chosen to be a central figure in God's dispensation for restoration must 1) be from a chosen nation, 2) have good ancestors, 3) have an appropriate disposition, 4) have the necessary experience, and 5) be born at the right time and place to carry out God's will. If God wants a person, He takes him. After all, who was Abraham? — the son of an idol maker, someone on Satan's side. Yet because God wanted and needed him, He took him.

Once God accepts you and you accept Him, He takes you into His family. All of us experience an equal beginning point, but then He watches

what we do. He tests to see what we are willing to restore. Unificationists have a daily opportunity to restore both certain failures and particular fallen natures. We can even regard our blessed marriages as unions of "restoration." Although we are not always conscious of it, our attitude in facing up to such responsibilities bespeaks a great deal about our faith.

Although the reunion of Jacob and Esau was an act of forgiveness, it was also an historical confrontation. So many forces were at work in this culminating point of the struggle that had to be restored between a "Cain" and an "Abel." When Jacob was on the way back to his homeland, the armies of Esau were already on the way to kill Jacob and overtake his forces. It was only through Jacob's wisdom that a tremendous confrontation was avoided. He did something on a personal level which precluded the necessity for those armies to get involved in tribal wars. If Jacob and Esau would have fought, they would most probably have slaughtered each other. So Jacob's wisdom—inspired by God—saved them all.

Even though Jacob was quite a rich man, he was much more willing to give up his material possessions than his life. He became wealthy while working for his uncle Laban. Although Laban cheated Jacob many times, Jacob learned from those experiences. They somewhat clouded his sense of justice and righteousness, but at the same time he gained valuable experience in learning how to deal with a man such as his uncle.

Esau felt deeply hurt and angry that his brother had cheated him out of the birthright. He was cheated out of his entire inheritance and felt completely deprived. He no longer had any position, which meant that he would have to attend his younger brother almost like a servant. Because of these feelings of resentment and even hatred toward Jacob, he even wanted to kill his brother.

Yet Jacob was wise. He offered Esau all the wealth he had accumulated during those twenty-one years he spent in Haran. He might have figured, "I'll show him ten percent of what I have and watch his reaction. Let's see...Is that enough? No, he's still wild. Alright, I'd better give him another ten percent. Hmm, he is a little quieter, but he still wields his sword. I guess had better give him another twenty percent. Ahh, that's better. He's much more subdued. He's not running any more. In fact, he is starting to walk toward me. I'll give him another ten percent..."

Esau loved money, animals, and the other material blessings Jacob was offering him. He was stunned and overwhelmed by Jacob's gifts. He might have thought, "I'm going to be a rich man now!" But as more and more goods were presented to him, he must have begun to think more

deeply, "If this brother of mine is giving me everything, there must be something more to it than the fact that he wants to get away with his life. He must really love me. Why else would he come back?" Eventually, Esau and Jacob embraced each other and everybody had everything. Both were rich and no one died, thus reversing the problem which had happened during the time of Cain and Abel.

There is hardly any record in the Old Testament about the later life of Jacob and Esau. The particular point of restoration which God had been looking for was accomplished in their reunion especially when Esau and Jacob embraced as brothers. Father has taught us what an historically important restoration this was.

Through the fall, man's physical body was claimed by Satan. Yet within our hearts—our souls—we all have the possibility to feel and experience the heart and soul of God. But our physical bodies are still lured and tempted by Satan because until a total redemption can be brought by the Messiah, our bodies are still under the influence of Satan. Even Jesus' body was taken by Satan; our Christ was in essence murdered by Satan. There are still some religionists who do not understand why God allowed this to happen. But seen in light of the bargain which He made with Satan, this becomes clear. As Paul says in Romans, "So then, I of myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin."

As Messiah, our True Father represents the "third Adam" and has won both physical and spiritual victories in the war against Satan; this enables the conditions which he has made on behalf of mankind, to assist in our spiritual and physical salvation.

All of us need to be reborn. Spiritual rebirth can take place through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. But that is still only a spiritual process, one which allows us to become spiritual children of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, who occupy the position of parents. Yet True Parents can connect us with God totally—both spiritually and physically—and then Satan will no longer have any claim on us. The first step is to receive the Blessing and be cleansed of original sin. From that point, we have to work to overcome our fallen nature. It has become such a habit to sin, and even after we are blessed, it is not something we magically stop all at once.

Kee in mind that judgment is not a cry for damnation, but rather salvation. All of us need to be realigned with God; while this could be called "judgment," we can more easily endure its pain when we discover what

great benefits it provides. Since all people eventually must go through this process of judgment anyway, we are lucky to do this at this time under Father's direct guidance. In the future, people will not have such a privilege and blessing as we do.

As parents, Jesus and the Holy Spirit give out love and take care of their spiritual children, in fact, the Holy Spirit soothes the hearts of Christians. But we Unificationists have to be active, and ourselves become like the Holy Spirit to soothe the hearts of others. One of the major battles against Satan begins there.

Spiritually, Christians *are* saved, but their physical bodies are still held in Satan's hands. Therefore, Satan does not always go after them with relentless determination. Because he still controls their physical bodies, he doesn't really need to bother them so much. Yet Satan knows if Unificationists succeed in getting away from him, eventually he won't be able to dominate our bodies, and we will be gone from his domain for good. So what does he do? He runs after us "like the devil." With incessant fervor, he pours himself into the task of enticing and tempting us through worldly pleasures. He prays that we will believe him, and discard this new revelation from God.

With the heart of a parent, God desires to save us from Satan. But with the scheming heart of a criminal, Satan is desperate to alienate us from God. We ourselves make the choice to whom we will 'respond.

The Foundation for Restoration and Salvation

As we strive to restore past mistakes and failures, it is natural that each of us wants some return on our investment of indemnity. I am sure God feels the same way. When you make a dollar, you get a dollar, but there is a certain frustration in witnessing because it is not always possible to see the change in and rebirth of a person's spirit.

It is understandable that you want to see the effects of unity through your consistent outpouring of energy and heart. So does God. We must become conscious of the fact that God is concerned with the restoration of the whole world, not just one nation, or a handful, of people. For six thousand biblical years, God poured out love and energy to this world. He fed, sheltered, and clothed His children, but few seemed to notice and even

fewer responded in appreciation. Most people took His generosity for granted. Probably with little gratitude, millionaires and billionaires used the money with which God blessed them. God knows that according to His own law, no matter how much unconditional love He pours out, He still cannot determine how it will be received. Our response is at the same time our responsibility. He is very aware of how much He gives to mankind, but He is just as conscious of what is returned to Him. Sure, He must be hurt. I think that if any of us were in a similar position, we would feel the same way. I feel we are lucky that He is a fighter, and not a quitter. If God had given up, we would not be moving forward on the path of restoration today. The world would be totally Satan's, left without a memory of the God who designed and purposed all its beauty and splendor.

We must recognize that if God had not been determined to see the results of His toil, He may have given up long ago. He has been pouring out His love into what seems to be a bottomless cup. Yet through their conditions and love, even at this moment True Parents are securing the bottom to the "cup" of this world. All that God invests now, is beginning to fill it.

The Unification movement started in Korea with almost nothing—nothing, that is, but suffering. True Father began to accomplish worldwide restoration and yet for many years, that footing could not even be considered a foundation. During his visit to Europe in 1965, Father spoke about the amazing victories we would achieve in the future. Some members wondered if these stories were meant to be fairy tales. Some pondered about whether he told them to us to soothe our war-torn spirits. But he talked with all the confidence in the world, and in a sense even *proclaimed* what accomplishments he was expecting ten, twenty, even thirty years from then.

Since that time, I have witnessed that everything he spoke about then has come to fruition. He inspired us with the plans which were purposed by God; Father may also have been incredulous at God's directions to him, but when he looked at the world with the eyes of God, he came to share our Heavenly Father's purpose. On the other hand, we looked at the world through our own narrow vision and wondered how any of those things could happen. The foundation at that time was so small. In fact, to us, it seemed nearly invisible. But the faith and perseverance of True Parents was strong; that foundation expanded and now stretches to every corner of the world. We are so privileged that we have the opportunity to benefit from it.

When we even *think* about restoring the world, we may feel overwhelmed by disbelief, or at least question how. Our faith can be strengthened by reviewing the track record which True Parents have set and maintained. They willingly paid incredible amounts of indemnity on so many levels. They set up the foundation for world restoration through

hard work, sacrifice, and service. But after setting the tradition and imparting us with a great deal of knowhow and confidence, they wonder how diligently we will work, and actually whether we will even join them in the task of restoring this world from Satan's sovereignty to God's. This is a question we must answer individually.

I was chosen to pioneer our movement in Austria. Although I brought very few belongings with me, one thing I *did* carry was the understanding that according to the Principle of Restoration (as explained in the Principle), I would have to invest a great deal, and pay tremendous indemnity before much external result could manifest. When I left from Germany, I could not initially foresee that the restoration of a nation would take so long or be so difficult. I am sure that I had rather typical missionary zeal. I went out with the burning desire to show people something of the nature of God and wanted to teach them how to build a personal relationship with Him. Even though I worked day and night and witnessed to people wherever I could, it took a long time before the first person accepted the Principle. Yes, I prayed. Yes, I cried. And I almost fasted myself to death. But even that did not produce tangible results in terms of new members. Why? I believe that the time was not right. Indemnity for that nation and mistakes made by leaders throughout her history had to be paid for. Yet I am absolutely convinced that the indemnity I paid was used by God. All that could be achieved during those first years amounted to only a footing—not even an actual foundation.

What is accomplished today? Throughout our movement, Unificationists talk to hundreds, even thousands of people every day. Through our efforts, prayers, and even conditions of indemnity. God is able to plant seeds of faith in the hearts of many individuals. He is able to see how their hearts change. When we fail to see any tangible success within a few days, we may have the tendency to grumble, "God, there must be something wrong with You and Your principles! Why isn't anything happening?" Does that sound like you? I know that each of you does your best. I have watched you witnessing. I have seen the sincerity in your eyes, and how your hearts seem to almost leap out in your desire to spiritually embrace people. I have noticed the amount of energy and love you pour out. If we personally, or as a nation, go through a dry spell and only a few people respond to our witnessing, we should examine ourselves and whether we are totally invested, and if we are parental rather than judgmental, but we also cannot blame ourselves totally. Rather, we should try to see things in light of the Principle. Satan has played havoc with this world for so many years. To

reach this point of chaos and confusion has taken time. Likewise, restoration will also not be a simple or quick process. The seeds which God plants take time to harvest. I believe that blossoms will sprout and bloom when God's own springtime finally arrives.

The Principle explains the foundations important for us to establish in our lives of faith. We must erect the foundation of faith and the foundation of substance—the foundation to receive the Messiah. No matter what you do, who you are, or where you are, once you call yourself a Unificationist, you have to begin developing your personal foundation of faith. The first point is to recognize and accept Father's position as Messiah. As well, you have to believe in the validity of the Principle. You need to make an offering of your belongings, which also entails severing yourself from the satanic environment.

After you have established that foundation, you must work on building the foundation of substance. This involves cultivating total unity with True Parents, as well as your central person. Putting this into practice will involve overcoming fallen nature, and past resentments—elements from both your personal and ancestral histories. We essentially enact the Principle by fulfilling the foundation of substance.

As both those foundations blend, the foundation to receive the Messiah in our lives is being established. Even without being conscious of it, we actually work on them concurrently. Yet a foundation for our personal restoration is not completed quickly, painlessly, or automatically. Each time we change mission, we must work on building a new foundation of substance. In the relationships we construct with our mate and children, and even with our friends, we certainly are not home free. We constantly have to overcome our fallen nature, and must work on building and sustaining true harmony. The restoration of the Cain/Abel struggle is not simple, and does not happen only once. There are a great many elements to overcome, therefore, we must constantly work on purifying ourselves.

The Process of Restoration and Salvation

The process of restoration entails refining our spiritual senses to be able to detect and perceive the love, the motivation, and the purpose of God. It also helps us in our discovery of human nature. We are still spiritu-

ally immature and cannot yet perceive the love of God with complete accuracy. As well, Satan does his best to prevent us from opening our spiritual senses. We have inherited all types of sins from him. He has even seen to it that we inherit wrong concepts, especially about love. What we know of love is actually quite distorted from God's original ideal of love. Not only have we acquired a certain standard of values, we have also inherited false knowledge. Our minds and hearts need to be cleansed; we have to get rid of the old and acquire something entirely new. This is the process of restoration.

By doing something for God and humanity, you are not doing anybody but yourself a favor. It is not just the Messiah who saves us; we are an integral part of the process. Each person ultimately must *want* to be saved from Satan's world, and himself work to enter and live within God's direct dominion.

There is no place to hide. You have already been exposed to the Principle and a life of faith. No matter what it takes, you have to work at overcoming your problems and fallen nature. Everyone with whom you come in contact could be viewed as a grinding stone. You are a raw diamond; become a brilliant and polished one! That is the process of salvation. Anyone who pulls himself out of circulation or stands on the perimeter of life will never be exposed to this very painful process which can help purify the spirit. But then again, he will be unable to reach perfection, not realizing that *absolution is available through it.*

We have to understand one thing: a life of faith is not simply a "job." We are not being paid in dollars and cents for our efforts. We are engaged in the process of salvation. Yet as we work to be saved, God also works to redeem us. Billions of people throughout history have desired salvation. Millions of people are probably much better qualified to work for God. But *we* are the ones God called. That places certain responsibilities for worldwide restoration upon our shoulders. Though the major part of that obligation is God's and True Parents', it is something we must share with them.

Man's dignity as a child of God was lost when the four position foundation was established centered upon Satan rather than God. Therefore, the process to restore the dignity of man should start within the family unit. True Parents are our role models; they have been successful in restoring

the God-centered four position foundation. And they have reestablished man's dignity as a child of God. God *must* be reflected in the family—His dignity, His love, His wisdom, and His emotions. God must be reflected not only spiritually, but also tangibly and physically.

The dignity of our Heavenly Parent has been endowed to us through the Messiah. Blessed couples are able to inherit this quality from True Parents, but it has to be transmitted to all people, through all generations—until every person is restored.

Restoration of the entire world involves tremendous responsibility. There is so much work to be done. The Principle must be followed to bring about a spiritual renaissance. Father is our paragon; he follows the Principle exactly. One way he shows us how to enact the Principle is in the way he serves all mankind before he attends the needs of his own family. Instead of loving and educating his own children who are in the "Abel" position, he and Mother love those in the "Cain" position first. Unificationists and secular society represent that "Cain." Father sacrifices his own family to take care of us. This is a clear example of restoration. True Parents desire that all mankind return to God, therefore, they give their energies to the rest of the world—for the sake of God, history, and all people.

Yet the day will come when all children—from the True Children to the blessed children around the world—will receive the benefit of total familial and parental love. During the process of restoration, we cannot but follow True Parents' pattern. That is why sacrifice of the family is called for. At this time, we cannot give total love to our own children. When we emulate the example of True Parents and put our mission above our family, we restore mistakes made by people in the past.

When you transfer jobs, people at your new workplace may scrutinize you, wondering just who you are. They may silently even question your objectives and motivations. While this may cause you to feel self-conscious, try not to let it bother you. Even if people say unjust things about you, are suspicious, and even seem hostile toward you, do your best to rise above any petty resentment. When the truth ultimately comes forth, people will be judged by Heaven; you don't need to worry about doing that.

Human history began with Adam and Eve, and Cain and Abel; the consequence of their mistakes—what we term "fallen nature"—was inherited by all of us. As a result of the fall, each human being is filled with

inner turmoil, and ultimately all of us have to restore those very mistakes. If we examine some of our problems closely, we cannot help but notice that they resemble those situations which Adam and Eve and the archangel, as well as Cain and Abel, faced.

We would not need to be restored if we could perfect our hearts by ourselves. The process of restoration is painful; through it, the roughened stone heart in you grinds against the roughened stone heart in me. Through interaction, we refine and polish the edges until there is at least some smoothness, some "harmony." Ultimately, these hearts of ours will turn into perfect and brilliant gemstones. And then God will encourage us to shine out to the whole world, showing all people that perfection of heart is possible.

We have to cope with the misery and agony of restoration. We have to contend with the fact that we are separated from God, and as a consequence, we must separate ourselves from Satan. The first step is that we must separate from our environment, cutting off from our former lifestyle. The next step is to subjugate our body and then our heart.

In order to come close to God, we must pay something to Satan. Unificationists refer to this payment as "indemnity." Through such payment, we make tangible efforts to return to God. In living a life of faith, we have to become humble, not arrogant—not flaunt our personality or our knowledge. We have to be willing to listen instead of always talking. We have to act for others instead of just for ourselves. We have to sacrifice ourselves for others, not vice versa. While this may represent a total change in lifestyle and even seem like quite a burden, it is very necessary.

Other religions do not know much about this principle. It was Father who revealed the significance and the absolute need for indemnity to be paid before restoration can be accomplished or a rebirth experienced.

The work of restoration goes on year after year. Yes, it is strenuous work. In one way, it is even quite repetitive. At this time, we are still trudging through the desert. Perhaps at the outset of our commitment, we could not envision how difficult it would be.

Restoration of our fallen nature can make the dream of perfecting our heart come true. What would we accomplish if we gave up? For the sake of God, True Parents, and humanity, we must persevere even if it takes the

rest of our lives. We must believe in eternity. We must believe in Heaven, and that through even the mundane points of life, we *are* working to create it.

Restoration is a serious endeavor. It is not easy to mature spiritually, or reach perfection. It takes work—on ourselves and others. But restoration entails doing whatever is necessary to come close to God. We should therefore become thankful that we have the chance to pay indemnity. Sometimes people may give us advice; if we accept their words with humility, we pay indemnity. Temporarily, we may be hurt by the words of another because they offend us or make us feel smaller in spiritual stature, or even expose our negativity and sin. Yet ultimately, this can help us restore feelings that we now hide within our hearts, and by overcoming those emotions, we can grow closer to God.

If someone made a big mistake and carries his burden around for months and years, he may find it impossible to even look someone in the eye, much less express his heart. He will not be able to perform at peak level, and his relationship with God could become impaired until it all but dissolves. Yet if he would immediately have confessed the problem to God and perhaps his leader or another close friend, he would have felt tremendous relief and freed from that heavy load.

Adam and Eve tried to hide themselves and their sin. Therefore, we restore their failure by revealing our sins and mistakes to God. It takes overcoming pride to admit our problems, however, we can find comfort and solace in Him. And naturally we will also grow spiritually through this kind of experience.

Mankind has been "brainwashed" by Satan. We have been pressured into behaving a certain way; this has become our way of life, our ideology, and our "religion." We lived by that and thought it was "good" and "normal." We are still used to those old ways that have been perpetrated throughout these six thousand biblical years. Yet we cannot kid ourselves. We have to work hard to *rid* ourselves of this inherited substance or cognition. It takes confronting the challenges of life, and therefore is naturally a part of the process of restoration.

We will find personal liberation when we discover God. We must do everything possible to make a total oneness with Him. That in itself is the

process of restoration—reviving our heart and purifying our character to the point where we are totally one with the will of God.

The reason we have such a hard time to be constant is that we do not tap His reservoir enough, nor do we always stay connected to Him. Each one of us has different things to cope with. We Unificationists all grow and develop at different speeds. But nevertheless, all of us are working against Satan and attempting to overcome our fallen nature. We all hear the same words, study the same Principle, and walk along the same streets in the same kind of spiritual vacuum of loneliness and agony. But each one of us produces a different result in terms of our personal restoration. The amount and quality of our effort determines the outcome.

Mankind has been unfree since the time of the fall. We are still bound in the chains Satan placed upon us at birth and he is the one who holds the key to our release. As we engage in restoration—personal, familial, societal, national, and worldwide—the process we undergo is ultimately for the purpose of being released from these chains. Yet this process takes time and great effort.

The process of restoration also involves emptying ourselves of sin and being filled with the love and truth of God. In a way, we spiritually hang on the cross and bear tremendous pain during our course of restoration. We really need the help of a friend during this time of trial and tribulation. And that friend is the Messiah.

Restoration is necessary because we have been born under Adam's curse. We have lived in a false world for so many years. Since all our ancestors know nothing but a life of sin, it will take some time to get all generations engrafted into the new tree of life and connected to the True Parents. Therefore, each of us must experience a rebirth.

It is impossible to become true children without fulfilling our purpose and reaching the goal of divinity. If a certain person cannot reach perfection during his earthly lifetime, he will have to work for thousands of years once he advances to the spirit world. It does not matter if it takes us a long time to reach that goal of perfection; the process of restoration is something each of us must go through. This world *will* be returned to God; He will never compromise that dream and goal. If He did, He would be inviting Satan back into this world, something which He will never do.

During the process of restoration, we do not have so much time to be

joyful. We don't even have so much reason to be ecstatic. Rather, we should be looking for ways to suffer since restoration can only take place through paying indemnity. If we really understand God's purpose and plan, we will look for chances and opportunities to pay indemnity and to redeem as many people as possible. But to do that, we would have to shed tears. Restoration involves suffering and crying for all of humanity, for God, for history. We have a longing to erect the new Jerusalem on the earth and make it possible for everyone to enter.

Of course we do experience certain intervals of joy during this time of restoration. We feel exhilarated when even one person turns back to God. It is like the ecstasy a woman feels when she gives birth.

The restoration process involves the work of both God and man. Everybody has to do his best. God sends the Messiah who brings the truth, the forgiveness of sin, and imparts the Blessing. That is God's part. But we have to fulfill our human responsibility by being obedient to God, True Parents, and the Principle. We have to become sacrificial through total obedience and total love. We have to serve the True Parents and consider ourselves as their children.

The Nature of Restoration and Salvation

Salvation is nothing less than being restored to our original position as a son or daughter of God. That is man's greatest desire and dream. Since man has gone such a great distance from God, it is only normal that we have to retrace our steps; home is a long way from here, and the path leading there is hard to walk. Father says that to return to God takes seven times more energy and effort than to stay where we are with Satan. We are in the valley of death; the way back to God is steep and narrow. Few have ever attempted to walk that road. But if we keep on climbing. Father has assured us that eventually we *will* touch the face of our God!

Restoration can be accomplished through the combination of our effort and the power of God. The power of God comes through the outstretched hand of the Messiah. We have to grab his hand and walk with him. Nobody can carry another into perfection; each of us must walk by

ourselves. But first, each person has to individually make the decision to go. Do not postpone your development because of jealousy or weakness. There is no way out; ultimately, everyone just has to return to God. If you put off restoration today claiming that you still cannot do it, it will not become any easier tomorrow, a year from now, or three years from now. The longer you wait, the more indemnity you will have to pay. If God wants certain people to do great things in history, those people will have to pay a great amount of indemnity. Do your best to gather your strength and just do what you have to do *now*. There are certain things in life which are inescapable. Such is the case with restoration.

In restoration, we cannot be concerned primarily with ourselves. We must first look at the highest goal and purpose. The purpose of restoration is for all of humanity, and in fact the whole world, to be returned to God. Satan has to be chased out of this world, and God has to get a foothold; we are the ones who must help Him expand His sovereignty.

Eventually everything will be restored. The problem seems to be that throughout the generations, values have become so distorted. The word "love" will receive a different meaning. So will the word "beauty." Even the word "shame" will take on a brand new meaning, not necessarily with a negative connotation. Colors, music, the arts—everything will be restored.

According to Unificationism, salvation is not merely belief in Christ or a petition for redemption. Rather than only striving for individual salvation, Unificationists are encouraged to actively participate in creating God-centered families, societies, nations, and a God-centered world. Although Father may have newly coined the word "Unificationism," it certainly suggests the process of gathering, combining, and connecting. We need to listen for the heartbeat of God, to connect to and focus on the problems of others—even those endured by God Himself—and forget our own. Whenever people look beyond the borders of their own life, the problems which may have seemed like mountains usually become quite small and much easier to overcome. It is when we care for others that God helps us to overcome them.

The Last Days is the time when the Messiah returns, and with him

he brings the truth of God. People refer to this as "Judgment Day," but too many individuals are ignorant of the fact that judgment has two sides. It is true that people are confronted with the truth and have to pay indemnity to restore themselves. However, the other side is that through judgment, people are able to receive salvation.

The Bible implies that the word is the sword and the tongue is fire. That means that we are to be judged by the word of God. Once we are judged and have succeeded in adjusting ourselves to the truth, we will be saved, and we will be free. The "day of judgment" is the time when God actually cancels and forgives our sins. Seen in that light, we can understand that it actually is a time of joy.

I am sure the day will come when something will happen to all those people who are so stiff-necked and stubborn, and who continue to persecute Father and the Unification movement. Being a Unificationist does not guarantee that we will be saved from every natural or man-made calamity. Maybe some of us will go to spirit world sooner than we expect. However, I am convinced that spiritual beings will definitely help us during our physical lives by pointing out any danger so that we can make our way to safety. As the Principle shows us, we can most easily accomplish our personal restoration during our physical lifetime.

Our personal problems comprise a legacy from our ancestors, but ultimately, we inherit them from Satan. However, we cannot resign ourselves to keeping them forever. We have to continue working to overcome them.

The term "salvation" indicates that everything will be brought back into balance and harmony. For example, spirit and body must get back into proper alignment. If somebody became depressed and spiritually regresses, at some point he must do his best to come out of his shell again in an attempt to feel the love of God. Is that your situation? Look up. Notice how the sun is shining? Get out of your negativity and let's restore this world together. Let's make it beautiful just as God originally wanted!

If we look at the world today, we cannot help but notice the great turmoil that exists everywhere. We see that Satan is rampant, and that the Kingdom of Heaven is not yet established. We can't help but notice that hatred, rather than love, governs human society. Instead of peace, there is war. Instead of people who are free in their hearts and secure in their families and society, people are insecure. Some even take their own lives,

unable to stand the pressures of life any longer. What can the idea of salvation mean to this world? And furthermore, what can a person do to become "saved?"

The Israelites desired to be saved from their enemies and their oppressors. Theirs was more or less a physical concern; they wanted to survive! They wanted their "savior" to be their king, someone who would build a nation strong enough to reject aggression from any of their enemies. Salvation which comes from God through Christ is something entirely different. Because the world is still governed by Satan, it is actually freedom from him that we seek. We desire that our savior magically redeem our souls. We want to feel freedom and peace enter our hearts, and we desire to feel secure. But even if this would happen, something still does not feel right. When we look all around us, we know that people are not yet saved. People still continue to sin—whether they are Jewish, Christian, Moslem, Hindu, Buddhist, or any other religion—because the *world* is still not redeemed. There is still crime and war and hatred. Our societies don't know God, and He certainly isn't the one governing this world through man.

Uniticationists feel that salvation and restoration go hand-in-hand, and that accomplishing them will surely build a beautiful Kingdom of Heaven on earth and in spirit world, something which God purposed long ago.

We are not just concerned with coming to God to uplift our hearts through leading a strong prayer life. Total salvation for the world encompasses all the ideological, political, economic, and scientific processes. Everything has to be reversed back to the direction of God. The Messiah has the task of bringing salvation. First he must find people who will listen to him, people who feel the heartbeat of God and are ignited to do something. But what is to be their next move? First of all, they should educate mankind about the will of God. But at the same time they must also work to alleviate the miserable situations which exist everywhere in human society—from the poverty to the crime.

God wants to dwell on this earth, but He must have a place to stand; He needs a nation which He can call His own. He has to come forth with an exemplary government and a standard of living which is divine. A God-centered society where people live according to the will of God must be created—a place where each person can be respected and loved, and is able to enjoy the privilege of his own rights. All of this points to the fact that restoration, or salvation, is not at all a simple thing.

Restoration and Salvation and Our Relationship to God

None of us knew anything about the Principle when we were young. Neither were we raised according to God's standard. Yet in this work of restoration, we are meant to be restored or brought back to the position of God's child. This is not an easy thing. Our intellect has already developed quite strongly in a certain direction, and we hold fast to many concepts and beliefs. We have had years of practice discerning what is right and what is wrong. The only problem is that we do not think in accordance with God's principle. For that reason, our hearts are so underdeveloped and misguided, that we have become self-centered. This is the reality we are faced with, yet now we are asked to reverse our way of feeling, thinking, and acting.

Man originally left God and walked a great distance from Him. Yet many of us had a personal "conversion" or rebirth experience, and thereby reversed our direction, heading back to the place we came from. Man should be confused no longer; we must recognize that the heart of God is our original place of birth, and realize that is the place we should be headed.

Part of the process of restoration involves cementing relationships which have become severed—healing, mending, and reconnecting them. Yet we must do this not only with people and things of the creation. The most primary relationship we must restore is the one we have with God. In the process of reconnecting all people, we have to do some adjusting to their way of feeling, thinking, and acting. We must find a common base and then work on communicating as well as building harmony.

Originally, man's standard of value was in accordance with God's. We have to rediscover that standard, even though to do so will take some readjusting. Our conscience has to be realigned according to the principles of God. If you don't have a clear conscience, you will feel imbalanced and may become off-base. When a missile is shot into space, its exact course must be pinpointed precisely, or it would be almost impossible to predict certain factors about its reentry into the earth's atmosphere. We must come to embrace God's standard of truth. Even when we talk with another person, we should always strive to have the standard of God in our mind and heart. If you always check whether you are off-center or not, you will be able to "restore," or readjust, yourself every few minutes, even with every sentence you speak.

The fastest way to get away from Satan is to go to God. Turn around and run, don't walk—but make sure it is in the opposite direction from Satan. Instead of thinking of Satan and fear, consciously think of God and love. If you do that often enough, the problems which plagued you before will simply fade away.

If God accepts you as His son or daughter, then that is your identity. Could you then claim you are any less? You create problems when you allow yourself to succumb to Satan's urging. To God you are no less of a person than your neighbor. And in His eyes, you both possess value.

We have to restore many false concepts. Satan has treated us in a certain way for years. We have been pushed around by him, and we allow him to continue doing that, but this is very unhealthy. If you want to restore yourself to health, you have to restore, or change, yourself. You have to gradually get rid of the old concepts and acquire a set of new ones, ones which are close to God's own.

Some people are mistreated, abused, or even tortured. But they suffer more than just physically. For example, a person who has been locked in an attic for years will surely suffer psychological damage. In one real sense, Satan has kept us under a type of lock and key. It is no wonder that we suffer, and quite natural that either consciously or unconsciously we erect defense mechanisms. The kind of behavior exemplified in fallen man is not according to God's standard for perfected man. Fallen human behavior can be likened to the way turtles act. Just like that creature, we often withdraw from life, especially when we become afraid of being hurt. If a turtle is hit on the head, it will naturally draw its head inside its shell. Sometimes a turtle will pull its feet as well as its head inside its shell and then remain quite stationary. While a turtle may feel safer doing that, think about this action for a moment. Unless it pokes its head and feet out again and begins to move toward its destination, it will never be able to tell what is happening all around it. If an earthquake comes, it will be oblivious to the rumbling sound, and might wake up to find itself in a crevice within the earth. I urge you *not* to be a turtle. Even though in the fairy tale the tortoise beat the hare, if that tortoise had withdrawn, it would never have made it to the finish line.

As you work on your personal restoration, be careful not to limit yourself to changing only your external environment or your appearance. Make sure that you give at least equal time to repairing any tears you find in your heart. Learn how to trust. When a child is hurt in either a physical or an emotional way, he has a much harder time trusting once he grows

into adolescence and adulthood. But in restoring ourselves, we must regain trust in both God and humanity. Doing so takes a lot of hard work; it entails a process, and cannot happen in the span of a few minutes or even a few days. A lifetime of hurt needs to be handled with patience and love. And you should even treat yourself in that manner.

If your spirit is damaged by the words or actions of another person, it affects you totally. You may feel a physical aching in your heart, and your self-confidence may have taken a dive. To feel free, a healing and a restoration of heart must then occur on several different levels. Trust in God is paramount. Be open to Him. Be daring. Refrain from withdrawing as you did in the past, and open up and go forward. Step by step, you *will* overcome those feelings. They are not realistic, and there is no reason you should feel inferior. If you have an inferiority complex which contributes to your lack of self-confidence, or becomes ammunition for your resentment, then work to get rid of it. You become free once you rid yourself of those negative elements and beliefs.

No doubt many things have happened in your life that have caused you pain. But rest assured, you are not unlike the billions of other human beings who live on earth and spiritual beings who live in the spirit world. All of us were born with original sin and none of us have experienced true parental love. In a sense, at birth we were like beautiful vases; even though we had a defect, we were still usable. Unfortunately, Satan took hold of each of us and smashed us into a million pieces. In restoring ourselves, we must glue those pieces back together, allow ourselves to dry, be polished up, and then God can use us for our original purpose.

Why not look at the people who have not heard about and accepted True Parents as vases which are still in countless pieces. All of those people need to learn the skills which will enable them to put themselves back together. Those people are boxed in, but we can help them. Even within ourselves, sometimes small chips and pieces are missing; we are not "whole" but have many small "holes" in us. Yet True Parents and our brothers and sisters have invested time in putting us back together, in helping us "restore" ourselves. We have the same precious opportunity to help others. Remember how destroyed they are, and how much help they need to mend their broken "wings" before they can accompany us on the flight back home to God.

Every person originally comes from God. Even though mankind fell away from Him, every individual still possesses a conscience—a thread—which connects him with his Heavenly Father. Many people refer to this

as the original mind. That is what connects us with God and creates the possibility for us to be restored. If Satan had been able to claim everything, we would have no way to hear the voice of God, and there would be no way we could ever be restored as His true child. But something inside of us still binds us to God. That spark of God is within every person.

Even as we are being restored, we can hear the voice of our conscience as it attempts to instruct us what we should or should not do, what direction to take, what God thinks of our decision, and even how True Parents would handle the same situation. We are already living in a realm that is far removed from the secular world.

In a world such as ours, what could be considered behavior befitting a religious person? How can a person express his relationship with God? Is there any dogma, any religiosity, that sets a part a religious from a non-religious person? Most religious people feel that the only way to connect to God is through prayer and spirituality. But I feel there is much more to it. Most religious people do not understand that their own physical restoration is something which they must work on by themselves, even though they can receive help from others. Since Father revealed the Principle, humanity has the possibility of learning that God wants to dwell in man's heart. Therefore, man must do his utmost to reach perfection so that he can totally perceive the love of God with both his physical and spiritual senses.

The relationships between human beings and all truth bodies—whether in the world of minerals, plants, or animals—must be restored. According to God's ideal of creation, each entity should be able to perceive the love which God endowed into all entities in the universe: the totality of the give and take process would be evident within each person. But that did not occur and we find we are in the midst of restoring ourselves to our original position as God's true son or daughter. We sit on our knees and pray, "Oh, Heavenly Father. Help us! We are in such trouble. Make me this and make me that. Give me this and give me that!" But what is our real purpose? Are we supposed to pray like this forever? Are we supposed to study the Principle forever? No. What we must do is become the *incarnation* of the word of God, of true love. When we succeed in becoming the incarnation of love, we will be perfected. And we are perfected once we fulfill the purpose for which we were created.

The process of reconnecting ourselves with God is the process of restoration. We restore our connection to God so that His love might once

again flow between us. Yet even during the process of restoration, we must deal with being in the midway position. Since Satan still has a hold on us, he will use any base we create to seize us, even possess us. Therefore, it is important to create conditions and foundations for God to be able to guide you. On your climb to become the incarnation of truth, you will naturally be guided by the Principle. In fact, eventually you even guide yourself, because you become the embodiment of truth and love.

Restoration of Resentment

One of the greatest obstacles we face is that of overcoming our resentment. It is a feeling which partially emanates from us, based on our personal life experience. It is partially transmitted through generations, based on the life experiences of our ancestors. And it is partially inspired from spirit world. Yet some resentment is even generated from God.

Each human being experiences all kinds of resentment. Over fifty million people died in the last world war. Those millions of people left behind their families when they went to fight—spouses, children, parents, and friends. But what do they feel now? What kind of attitude do they have? Do they have resentment? I believe many of them are *still* fighting that war in spirit world, although it ended years ago on earth. The young people who died must have resentment because their lives were prematurely snuffed out. What about Jesus? Can't you imagine that he has resentment concerning his crucifixion?

Resentment is one element which we have to fight, and one which we eventually have to overcome. But how can we get rid of resentment? The only way to dissolve resentment is to restore our fallen nature. Forgiving is one way. Displaying humility is another. Yet perhaps the most effective method is loving.

We Unificationists are the ones who must work to restore the failures of history. By doing so, we wash away the resentment from the heart of God and also heal the hearts of people who may have died prematurely. When we work on the restoration of resentment, in a symbolic sense, we open the doors to Heaven. The goal of God is that ultimately every person will walk through them.

We Unificationists are the ones helping to clear up the resentment

which exists on the universal level. Even though we are not always conscious of doing so, we are the ones who must work on our problems, on bridging the divisions, and dispelling the animosities that still exist within the spirit world. We may not appear different from the people in the rest of society, but God has chosen us to walk this difficult path, to be the ones who must resolve, and even dissolve the resentment which has accumulated throughout the centuries. Too often people don't know that man's ultimate resentment is toward Satan; too often people don't recognize him as the culprit. We think we only feel negative toward a person, but don't consider that some of this blockage might be historical.. Perhaps our ancestors even fought each other, and are *still* fighting each other in the spirit world. Restoration of resentment is not an easy task, but it is important that love, not hatred and resentment, eventually permeates this world. For that reason, none of us should give up; we represent our nation, and our people.

As representatives of our nations, we have great debts to pay off. Each of us becomes a mediator between those who are disappointed and resentful in the spirit world, and those who feel that way in this world. I have been the leader of the Unification movement in both Austria and Germany; so many spirits who were filled with resentment came against me. I felt their rivalry, their jealousy, and so many ungodly emotions and feelings. If you are the central person in a nation, you will have to account for what was done by past leaders. The spirit world pursues such a person relentlessly.

Resentment is the key word in restoration. Restoration must be overcome on all levels because problems between "Cain" and "Abel" still exist in every strata of society. God surely has great resentment against Satan because he was the one who snatched away God's rightful position as ruler of this world. Satan is the one who denies every human being, and in fact every entity, the fruit of God's labor. Satan is the one who steps in and prohibits us from developing the kind of bond which we originally should have developed with God. God is our real father, but Satan claims to be our parent and continues to rule our physical selves.

If we really understand what has been forfeited through the fall, we will easily be able to conjure up resentment against Satan. This resentment and anger stem from the deprivation of perfect love. God originally desired that true love govern all relationships. Yet because Satan has forced entry into our lives, all creation was then denied the true fulfillment which God originally purposed. The process of restoration entails ridding every entity of its resentment. Doing so also gives back the value to all entities originally given by God, for it is then that forgiveness can begin to dissolve the overpowering emotion of resentment.

Especially as we desire to grow closer to God, we rather naturally resent anything which is satanic. We must always keep up our shield and defense. When goodness finally replaces evil throughout the whole world, even the resentment which God feels, will fade away.

There are underdeveloped third world nations which have suffered for hundreds of years. Colonial powers treated the citizens of those nations like slaves. And after those people were used and abused, for no apparent reason, many of them were killed. People were murdered by the hundreds and thousands. They did not have the chance to live out their lives. Therefore, there is incredible resentment and animosity still existing in spirit world. These emotions are perpetrated through the relationships between black and white, yellow and red, brown and black—every combination. No race, no people is spared.

When our foreign missionaries went to serve the Third World, many of the people they met were not just undernourished and living in poverty. They discovered that the native citizens were living in resentment, people whose ancestors were still "alive" through hate and anger. A little child in black Africa looks a white man or woman up and down, and is filled with suspicion and mistrust. The resentment of hundreds of years is *still* alive there. Today, it manifests in any number of ways, including the practice of voodoo. Even though a black child may not personally have experienced any abuse from white people, he feels and displays the resentment of spiritual beings who were mistreated by the whites generations ago. Those spiritual beings enact their long-standing hatred for another race or religion through their descendants.

What should missionaries do to convince those people and make them understand that they have come to free that nation from spiritual slavery? Some missionaries in the past failed because they wanted to conquer the natives by lording over them, plundering their property, or even killing them. Unificationist missionaries must not repeat the same mistakes, but rather restore those problems. They must go and cry tears for those black, red, yellow, brown, or white children, and love them even more than they do their own children. Through humble sacrifice and service, missionaries of this age must restore the resentment both of those people and the spiritual beings who cooperate with them. A good place to start is by overcoming their *own* resentment. That is ultimately the only way to become victorious over the situations existing in spirit world. Therefore, in order to help dissolve resentment, our missionaries try to serve the people of their nation, not *be* served. This is one way to free people in spirit world and *let* them see that mistakes made in the past won't be repeated.

Our missionaries are representatives of True Parents. They want to make good; they even want to restore the past failures of other missionaries who may have gone to conquer the people in attempts to "save" them. They want to expend efforts which hopefully will soften the hearts of the people. But there are still millions of spirits in spirit world who continue to carry around their resentment. This is one reason that it is such a challenge to work in those nations. It is not just that the people have a hard time understanding some tenets of our faith. They have whole worlds of emotions to overcome, before they even get to the point of listening with their heart and mind. Hatred might well up in their hearts when they only *look* at a white person. This animosity is transmitted through generations. Older spirits work with the young ones and transfer their own personal feelings and experiences. We have been called to stop this vicious circle. And isn't it about time?

The Effect of Restoration

If you only live for yourself and do not go into the depths of hell, sacrificing your life for humanity and for God, isn't it possible that Satan might have cause to say, "Why do you feel that you deserve to be with God? Are you worthy to receive the title of the son or daughter of God? What did you do to earn it?" Look back throughout history. Many people willingly offered their physical lives in order to come close to God. But what have *we* done? We just accepted Father, call ourselves Unificationists, and offer prayers through True Parents. While that is all good and well, what do we do for our personal salvation and for the salvation of humanity? What do we do for God? Unless we make conditions to be released, Satan might wonder why he should let us go.

We are confronted with two forces—on one side there is God and on the other, there is Satan. If God could arbitrarily take all the people back to Himself without an offering of any conditions, He would have done it thousands of years ago. Since that would violate His own law, we have to consider that for a total restoration to occur, mankind must cooperate with God. We know that is explained in the Principle, but we are not the only ones who know that law. Satan knows it, too. Satan says to God, "Anyone that You want to claim must acknowledge Your presence and Your fatherhood. That person must pay his debt to me because since his birth, I have acted as his father."

This is our situation. Every person who wants to get away from Satan and come back to God must make effort by paying his debt to Satan. Therefore, each of us experiences both "heaven" and "hell" during our physical lifetime. God and Satan both look at what we do. If the person longs for God, then he or she is naturally inclined to move in the direction of God. Yet if he does the will of Satan, he or she will gravitate toward Satan. We can't just jump into God's camp based on mere desire. In order to reach perfection, we must pay. We must "buy" ourselves loose. The greatest portion of that payment is offered by the Messiah. Nevertheless, we ourselves must pay a price to be released from Satan's dominion. We must show God that we make effort in that direction because our loyalty is to Him, not Satan.

Many people don't understand that the ultimate purpose of religion, and the main role of the Messiah is to uplift us and bring us closer to God. They feel that "being saved" is a personal experience. But what many people fail to realize is that humanity should not choose to remain a world of individually saved people. Rather, the *world*, this *family* of man, must be restored back to God's dominion. It is our responsibility to proclaim the truth about salvation. If God feels the freedom to live within our hearts, then we will fulfill our responsibility. God's words will then flow from our mouths. And through our efforts to love on His behalf, the steady stream of love God pours into our hearts, will then spill into the hearts of others.

FOR thousands of years God prepared for mankind to come back to Him. He wants us to meet Him face to face. He means for our meeting to be neither abstract nor symbolic. Instead, He wants this to be a tangible meeting—He wants us to even touch His soul. God desires to enter our hearts so that we may become His temples, and that we will recognize Him as our parent and change the quality of our own lives from satanic to divine. I am sure that further He hopes we will be so ignited and charged with His love that, in turn, we will do all we can to change society, helping the quality of life for those who live behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains, in poverty, or in the Third World. Billions of people are waiting for salvation; many of them have been longing for God all their lives. But we Unificationists have to take responsibility to enlighten the billions of other people on this earth about what constitutes "salvation." It is a grave responsibility, and looked at in light of our human weaknesses and frailties, a completely incomprehensible task. We absolutely need God to bring this world to a rebirth.

Therefore, our relationship to God and the Principle at this time is important. We must be disciplined and sincere, as well as honest and conscientious, and live according to the word of God. If we compromise, then our words embody less than perfection. Could we create a new world if we teach imperfect truth? That would only succeed in furthering the predicament which still exists in today's world. We must not create bases for Satan to invade, or we destroy not just our personal growth and salvation, but also the salvation process as a whole.

There are many distortions of love; unless we bring the pure true love of God to humanity, they will continue to flourish. Only God's divine love will bring salvation, revive people, and bring new life. When the truth is kept in its purest form, total restoration and salvation are possible; that will have the greatest impact on today's society.

Once we experience rebirth, we should cleanse ourselves internally by tossing out our old ideas and problems. Essentially, we must start anew. That is easier said than done. What we need to throw out first is the debris in our minds and hearts which stands in the way of deepening our relationship with God. But we don't even recognize that so many of the emotions, concepts, and experiences we have stored within us, are nothing but spiritual "garbage." Instead, we often even consider them useful.

Once you are reborn, you naturally change your life—your attitude, and your behavior. You might even change your speed of working, and the way you smile. Don't limit yourself. You are accustomed to doing things in a particular way—to talk, to grin, and to laugh in a certain way. Change those habits, even overnight, if possible. But don't look back to the way you used to do something. That may just cause you to slip down the mountain.

Each rebirth and conversion is different. Were you touched by the Holy Spirit? Did that somehow turn you inside out? Why don't you expect such events to happen to people you witness to? It is definitely possible!

If the work done by the Holy Spirit and Heavenly Father could succeed in helping to empty us of our spiritual "garbage," we would surely see things with different eyes. If we could look at other human beings or even the world through the eyes of love, we could embrace everyone and everything. That is when the whole world would take on new meaning for

us. Nature would respond quite differently to us, and we to it. When we are honest with others and strive to be divine and godly, people might also have a unique reaction to us. We will notice amazing effects when we "restore" our emotions.

There is still a great deal of restoration ahead of us. If we do not accomplish reconstructing this world—most specifically if we cannot overcome communism—our children may have to live in captivity under that oppressive system. If our generation does not fulfill, our children will have to suffer much more.

We Unificationists consider the Messiah to be our tree of life. As his disciples and followers, we can be likened to the leaves of that tree. Our flowering, or accomplishment, will produce fruit which when fed to people throughout the world will help them in their course of personal restoration. Eventually, salvation can be brought to individuals, and ultimately even nations can be healed. Once the new Jerusalem is built, people will no longer cry tears of desperation to be saved. They will be able to learn how salvation works, and work toward their own redemption. All of us then are destined not to remain as leaves, but through a spiritual ecological chain, we ourselves are to become trees of life. That is when God will begin to shed tears, not out of sorrow, but joy. They will be absorbed by the roots and soil of the land which is lined with trees of life.

As we grow tall and straight, the branches and leaves which blossom from us will touch the tops of our brother and sister trees, and together we will form a canopy which can cover to the ends of the world, providing shelter for humanity. Ultimately, the tears of God will come down to earth as the water of life which all men can drink.

It is our responsibility to work at connecting human relationships which become severed as a result of the interaction of fallen natures. We must connect people with each other again and take away the barriers between nations, races, colors, or anything else which prohibits the whole world from becoming one family of man. Finally, the whole universe will be governed by perfect man, and every person will implore God to live within him.

As we work to restore ourselves, we also glorify God at the same time. This has amazing results. One of them is love; the more this world becomes

restored, the more humanity will see how God's pure and true love is manifested within every strata of society.

Even though there is a great amount of money to be made through business, at this time Unificationists still fundraise. Yet our fundraising efforts are not only for the purpose of acquiring money to support our current projects and begin others. That could be done through establishing a number of businesses. In fundraising, however, we humble ourselves to the lowest level, and in a sense, we literally go out in the shoes of a beggar. Doing this not only strengthens character, it also creates a new history and a new example. Eventually, people the world over will bow before fundraisers. Even though presently we may not see how, the world will ultimately benefit from this tradition. In the future, fundraising will no longer be necessary. But to form a new and purified history, we must do things which nobody else wants to do or may ever need to do again.

Father started our movement in a little shack which he constructed from leftover materials such as cardboard. He ate very little. He lived a meager lifestyle not just because he made do with little, but because he knew that the tradition he set would be instrumental in defining our course; he was aware that even at that time, he was making history. He wanted to start with nothing so that Satan would have no reason to accuse him. That is how our Father built the Unification movement—step by step. In fundraising, we battle satanic forces. We prevent Satan's accusation through our humility and desire for purity. Furthermore, we overcome fallen nature through offering our sacrifice and service. Later, people will praise and envy us for this.

Fundraising is restoration. Through this activity we "restore" or return material from Satan's world and offer it to God. Ultimately, the proceeds go to God and His work. I believe that everyone who gives does receive some benefit. I am sure the offering is accepted by God and the person receives a blessing for his generosity. Anybody who participates in either physical or spiritual restoration absolutely receives positive credit because they directly help in restoring the world. Even though to the world it may seem like a tiny thing, in the eyes of God it may be monumental and represent much more. Also, our Heavenly Father is an amazing accountant. He remembers every little bit that a person gives; He tallies each seemingly insignificant contribution and reminds us that many small credits add up!

Since the time of the fall, God has never stopped wanting to reclaim His children. God is the parent of this world; He cannot restore most people

and simply forget about millions, hundreds, or even one. Eventually, all of us must work to return to God. We contact many people through fundraising, witnessing, or through other work. Many are friendly. Many even accept the Principle as true, but then some grow distant after a couple of years. I believe it is just a question of time before they all come back. There is no place to hide. One day even Satan will be restored.

If you feel that living a life of faith is too much of a burden, you are more apt to stumble in both small and big things than if you view your life of faith as a challenge. No matter what it takes to restore our relationship with God, our road back to Him must be paved with repentance. Make your way back. If you don't, you risk losing a great deal. Restoration and unity are so important to Heavenly Father, but He cannot work by Himself. We are the ones who must help Him.

A fifty-story building which stands on seven columns may come tumbling down if one of those columns is taken away. Even the smallest things are necessary in God's creation. God cannot just condemn and forget them. One small screw or wheel in a machine makes the difference of whether a machine will work smoothly, or not at all. We are all part of God; He cannot just leave any one of us by the wayside; He is concerned that each one of us is restored.

In order to change your view of the world, don't just try to emulate the lifestyle of people in secular society. In a very big way, you have little in common with them. Their lifestyle is one which you gave up. If you spend some time with them, you may wonder how you could have just talked mostly smalltalk for so many years. Through the insights of the Principle, our vision has expanded. That vision causes us to discover that the world in which we live today is an altogether different world. Yet God is begging us to be the ones who can help direct *all* people to reach our ultimate home.

Truly, it is a long road home. There *is* a shortcut, but that road is a much more arduous one to climb; it is straight up the steep mountain of faith. To walk that road, we must stay with the Principle, not vacillating, not compromising. It is so narrow, if we look down or back, we may become dizzy and afraid to proceed further. It may be too tempting to simply allow ourselves to slide back down the mountain because we remember how safe and secure the valley felt.

We have been programmed to live like everybody else in society. If we "reprogram" ourselves with the help of the Principle and the love of God,

we will work correctly. But if the "statistics" or information which we feed into our self "computer" are inaccurate, the readout we give will also be wrong. All of us have quite a bit to overcome—our old ways, our old "Adam." That is why since we have found a new software package—consisting of the Principle and the words of Father—we must work hard to "reprogram" ourselves, and we can do that when we tap into our God—our unlimited reservoir.