

Our Life in Faith

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To the participants in the three-day prayer and fast at the U.S. Capitol



Is there anyone who wants to speak about devotion or sacrifice?

"Devotion is giving. Devotion goes hand in hand with love, so the amount of love you have for something, that's the amount you would want to give. Then that's the amount of devotion you would have for it. When someone loves us very deeply and is greatly devoted to God, if there is anything we could do for them, we would want to do it, thanking God for the opportunity to give this to them. That's what devotion is—love. We think of Heavenly Father, for all these years He has been so devoted to His children, you just think of the past and all the things you have done that would bring tears to Heavenly Father, but He stuck with it through all that. He was so devoted, He could do that. That's how devoted we have to be. I think love comes with understanding. The more you understand our position and how important each one of us is to God, the more our love can grow. Until the understanding comes, you just have to have faith. When we think of Reverend Moon being in prison and being beaten, we know we must have that kind of love for God. We should be that devoted to God too, because we are His children. We really have to feel that in our hearts. Each person is so important; each plays such a vital role." "When I think about devotion, I think mainly in terms of being out in the field and trying to talk to God's fallen children. I think of their spiritual deafness. Indeed humanity has been in the state of spiritual disease for thousands of years. When we are out in the field and get frustrated, this frustration normally doesn't have anything to do with these people, but with our attitude. Because if we experience the absolute reality of God, then we feel His great gift, His thousands of blessings, spiritually and physically. We can feel nothing except great sorrow for the people. There is no room within us for self-pity. So I think that we develop this natural indignation to go out and speak to the fallen children. There is nothing else to do. That's the absolute motivation that comes when we see the appalling spiritual disease and blindness and deafness that Mr. Sudo was talking about."

"I think of devotion as when you ran tell God that you will never leave Him anymore, when you can actually stand up to Him and say, 'No matter what hell I am going through personally, I know that you have gone through hell for 6000 years and your children are still suffering.' We have our brothers and sisters to go to when we need comfort and advice. We have people that can help us solve our individual and personal problems. But many people have no one to turn to, no one who really loves them. We are so fortunate to be here; if we weren't here we might even be physically dead right now. I myself feel that I am very devoted to God. Although there were many times when I could have given my heart and done more than I did, I know I will never leave Him. I really feel that our devotion has to be so deep that we can be like those who leave their countries without looking back. I want to be able to develop the heart that no matter what persecution I may face, every day I will still work for God."

As I said before, we have mind, body, and things. Devotion is to offer our body. Our body means our life, our entire life. But we have been living centering on ourselves or on Satan. Therefore, this means that our life must be changed from a self-centered life to a God-centered life. This is devotion. Therefore, our own desire, our own hope, our own plans for life must be denied and changed into a God-centered hope, a God-centered desire, a God-centered plan. So we will have a God-centered dinner, a God-centered lunch, God-centered sleeping, God-centered eating, God-centered laughing, even God-centered crying. This is devotion.

Therefore, before coming to the Unification Church, before knowing God we lived for the sake of ourselves. But from now on, we will never live for the sake of ourselves, but live for the sake of God and

die for the sake of God. So life and death are not for the sake of myself but for the sake of God. This is devotion. Therefore, everything must be changed. If I offer my life before Heavenly Father, then who can have dominion over myself? God. Therefore, I cannot have myself, all belongs to God. Therefore, I have nothing: I have no hope of my own, no desire of my own, no pleasure of my own. Nothing. Because everything belongs to God, therefore I am nothing.

If He says go, then what do you do? Go. If He says stay, then what do you do? Stay. If He says do, then what do you do? Do it. If He says die, then what do you do? Die. Therefore, devotion means that you let God have priority over yourself. In the real life of faith, we always have our own desire. But when Father's desire comes, we should give it priority over ours.

The essential attitude of faith in this age is attendance. Reverend Moon once said, "There are two aspects of attendance. One is to report. And the other is to review. Every day we should review before God our eating and sleeping, joy and anger, and grief and pleasure." About eating, for instance, for what purpose do you eat? For the sake of yourself? For the sake of your family? For the sake of your country? For the sake of the world? For the sake of heaven and earth? Or for the sake of God? If you think, "Oh, I'm hungry, oh, I'm hungry," this attitude is only for the sake of yourself. But just imagine, when you eat praying, "By eating this food, Heavenly Father, I can do my best for you." You can eat. Then this eating belongs to God, and the life of eating belongs to devotion, in its true meaning.



If when you sleep you say, "Oh, I'm so sleepy," and go to sleep without praying, to whom does this sleeping belong? Only to ourselves. But if you pray when you go to sleep, "Oh, Heavenly Father, you have no time to sleep; I'm sorry I must sleep. Please forgive me. But when I awake tomorrow morning I will do my best to console you and do what you require me to do. Heavenly Father, I am sorry, please forgive me for sleeping. Thank you Heavenly Father, good night." Then is it possible to please Heavenly Father by sleeping? Yes, it is okay. This is devotional sleeping.

Before you came to the Unification Church you must have cried many times. Because of what? Sadness. But whose sadness or whose sorrow? Your own. You cried because of your own sadness and sorrow. However much you may cry, you will find no solution in this world that way.

Therefore, don't cry for yourself from now on, but cry because God is crying. Because God is sad I am sad; because God is crying, therefore, I cry. Then these tears will be precious tears, because these tears can be one with God's tears. Then these tears will be offered before God, and when He receives them, they will be precious, because the value of these tears will never perish.

Therefore, cry when Heavenly Father cries. Laugh when Heavenly Father laughs. Take a rest when Heavenly Father rests. Have fun when Heavenly Father can have fun. Therefore, check your everyday life centered on these points. This is the real devotional life. Devotion means to sacrifice ourselves before God. But our satanic desire is to sacrifice God's desire in order to satisfy our own desire. God's desire always has priority over our own desire. We must live this way every day.

If we really love God, to sacrifice ourselves for God must be joy. Sacrifice or devotion is to give. Therefore, to give is love, and love is joy. Therefore, sacrifice is joy.

Devotion is joy, because by devotion God can be happy and mankind can be happy. Then brothers and sisters can be happy, to see the happiness of God, of mankind, and of brothers and sisters. Don't you think

we can be happy? Since sacrifice or devotion is love and happiness, devotion is joy.

Our third sacrifice is things of creation. Every creation likes to be happy. Why do you think flowers are beautiful? Why are trees beautiful? Because they want to be loved. Every part of creation-the trees, flowers, birds, sky, clouds, lakes, mountains-likes to be loved. That's why they are trying to be beautiful. Even a nameless flower is trying to be beautiful from morning to night. Therefore, they are seeking someone who can love them with true meaning.

There is a famous episode in Korea. One family member fasted for 21 days, and after that food was served to him. He prayed and he was about to eat the food, but because of fasting he was spiritually open and he heard the food on the plate say to him, "Are you qualified to eat me?" He was amazed!

He went to Reverend Moon and told him. "My food said, 'Are you qualified to eat me?' Then can I eat the food or not?" He answered, "It's okay." So he ate. I have you fasted for 21 days? Then are you qualified to eat food? It is very true that we are not qualified to eat food. We are not qualified to have dominion over creation.

Why? We are not qualified to eat food because we haven't fulfilled the first blessing [Gen. 1:28, "And God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.')] Therefore, the third blessing [of dominion over creation] comes after the first two blessings. Then who is qualified to have dominion over creation? Sinless man. Therefore, we are not qualified to eat food; we are not qualified to live in a house. We are not qualified to get into a sleeping bag. We are not qualified to use money. If you want to use money, the green bills may accuse you and ask, "Are you qualified to use me?"

All creation is seeking for sinless man. To have dominion over creation doesn't mean to dominate or destroy it, but it does mean to use it for the purpose of creation. To have dominion over creation means to love things, and to love means to fulfill the purpose of creation. Don't you think that when things are loved, they must be happy. Eventually, to have dominion over creation means to make things happy: to make flowers happy, to make trees happy, to make fish happy.

To use money means to make money happy. Maybe green bills come to you and ask, "Are you qualified to use me?" Then can you make the bill happy? You can by giving them to Heavenly Father.

Something must be discussed on the actual practical aspects of offering creation. Suppose someone sent \$100 to h u and said, "Use this only for yourself. Don't use it for the purpose of the church." In such a case, if you keep the money for yourself, can it be happy? It will accuse you. Then how can you make it happy? It must be offered. If you are given a suit, you should report it to your central figure; then your central figure will be happy and say, "Oh, your father gave you a wonderful suit. Please wear it; it's very nice."

When you report it, it belongs to Heavenly Father. But Heavenly Father will give it to you again. Then this suit will be cleansed, and there will be no accusation from Satan. Eventually those things which belong to the Unification Church belong to God, because they are offered to God. Therefore, when you use something, you must understand that you are using God's things. Then you can understand how to use them. This microphone belongs to God. This suit belongs to God. These lights belong to God. These walls belong to God. Everything came from God. Therefore, we can't misuse or abuse anything. We must be careful lest we should abuse or spoil God's belongings. They are God's belongings.

Even food belongs to God. Therefore, first of all, we must be grateful to Heavenly Father when we eat. All things are God's and He gives to us. Therefore, we must be always grateful to Heavenly Father. Then if we only understand this point, we can understand what to do with things. This is the fundamental understanding of the meaning of creation.

I said we sacrifice mind, body, and things. These are all we have. Previously we have had them centering on ourselves, so they have been satanic possessions so far. Our mind has belonged to Satan; our body has belonged to Satan; our things have belonged to Satan. All these have been satanic possessions because of the fall of man. When we cut them into two, and shed the satanic blood, then they can be offered on the altar of the world before God. Then these are offerings. With these conditional objects, ourselves as the central figure, and a period of at least three years, we can lay the foundation of faith centering on ourselves.

This is the first part of the foundation to receive the Messiah.