

## Do You Have Your Personal God?

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God is the origin of us all. Everything came from God, and nothing can exist without God. This is the most essential understanding of God. Nevertheless, we came to be unable to understand God. Therefore, we lost everything. We became unable to understand anything. We lost God, therefore we don't know anything at all in this universe. We lost the beauty of nature, the beauty of birds, the beauty of trees. Just imagine. Man was created as lord over God's creation. When we look at a tiny flower, we can see the beauty of creation if our eyes are open. But man should have been far more beautiful than the flowers or the trees or beautiful nature. Man should have been more beautiful than cherry blossoms in the spring. We enjoy seeing nature, but man should have been more beautiful than the beauty of the rose.

In the early spring, when we are walking in the mountains, there will still be snow there. If we come to a small meadow and we find one tiny green bud, how happy we will be. But man was created far more beautiful than these creations.

Many of us don't like to live with brothers and sisters. Man doesn't like to see himself. Instead, he likes to go out into nature. Why? In the fall of man, man became impure. Man lost his original value. Man cannot find the original beauty of man in man. Therefore, man must go out to see beautiful nature. This is a sad fact, but it's true.

Man became ignorant of the beauty of man. Also, man became ignorant of the beauty of nature. He lost everything. Man became ignorant of the existence of God. So many atheists are living now. They cannot believe in God. They cannot understand God's words. And we cannot feel God's love. We cannot feel the deep and warm embrace of God. We believe in God, but still we cannot feel the existence of God within us. We cannot feel the fact that God is with us from morning to night. We think, "God is far beyond myself."

Therefore, we can do anything evil. If we truly could understand, "God is with me," we could not do anything evil. Even as members of the Unification Church, if no one is looking at us, we might do something evil because we don't understand God is with us. We believe in God, we understand Divine Principle; still, we cannot understand God. God is with us and He is desperately seeking us. He is looking everywhere.

Without God there cannot be anything. Because of sin, there came to be ignorance of God, ignorance of man, ignorance of nature. There have been many tragedies, but the greatest tragedy of mankind is ignorance of God. Man became unable to love God. Therefore, man became unable to understand and unable to love man, whom God loves.

Man began to fight against his brothers; so many troubles and conflicts have arisen because we don't love. We lost the purpose of man, the significance of life, the meaning of life. Man lost true love and truth through impure love. Man lost these most precious things because man became ignorant of God.

But open your eyes. God is revealing Himself through creation, through nature, through man himself. Listen to His voice. Harken to Him. God is whispering through the singing of birds, through the whispering wind in the trees. We can find God. He's appearing, He is whispering, He is walking through the earth. Through creation and through man we can see God.

As you know, man is made after the image of God, and creation is made as a symbol of God. We know God has Original Sung-Sang (Internal Essence) and Original Hyung-Sang (External Form).

This is the essence of God. Perfect Sung-Sang is His personality. The substantial world is the substantiation of God's nature, created after the image of God. Sung-Sang and Hyung-Sang both need

attributes of positivity and negativity. This is man and woman. Man has the same shape as God has. Other creations are made as a symbol of God. They also have Sung-Sang and Hyung-Sang, and attributes of positivity and negativity, for instance, male and female animals.

If you can understand this principle, you can find God in man and in nature. When we look into man's essence -- man's original nature -- we can see that this must have come from God. This nature must have been the mirror, the image of God. When we look into a sinless man, we can be very sure that we can see God's attributes in him. When he speaks truth, God is speaking through him. Therefore, he is a little bit of God. God is speaking through him, and we can see God in him.

As you know, when Jesus was speaking, some Israelites came to him with a woman who had committed fornication, adultery.

People accused the woman before Jesus and asked him to judge this woman to be stoned to death. Jesus was silent, just looking on the ground. So they came and asked Jesus what to do with this woman. They wanted to stone her. Jesus looked upon them and said, "Those who have never committed sin, let them throw the first stone." One left, two left, three left. After a while no one was there except for the woman.

We know this story very well. It wasn't Jesus who forgave the woman, but it was God who was speaking. It was an expression of God's love. Therefore, we can see God and we can see God's love in Jesus.

For anyone struggling to realize goodness and love, Jesus was the figure of God Himself. If anyone of us is struggling to see God, to find God -- praying to God, seeking God, thinking of God, reading the Bible, reading Divine Principle -- this is just a reflection of God, who is looking for His own sons and daughters. Man is praying to God, but God is praying to man. "Please show me your true self. I haven't seen you in 6000 years. I am sorrowful. Please come back to me, my son, my daughter."

If some of us are looking for God through prayer, through thinking, through struggling -- this struggling is the reflection of the struggle of God to find true man. Without motivation from God, nothing can result. Without God, we cannot pray to God. Our prayer is the reflection of God's prayer.

Our struggle is the reflection of the struggle of God. Our love is a reflection of God's love. If we find this kind of behavior, we can see God even within our brothers and sisters. Only those who can find God in their brothers and sisters can see God in the Messiah. Someone came before Jesus and said, "Teacher, let me see God." What did Jesus say? "He who has seen me has seen God."

Many people looked at Jesus but never saw God in him. Even the disciples couldn't find God in Jesus, because they couldn't find God in their brothers and sisters. If we understand this point, we will always be looking for reflections of God in our brothers and sisters and within ourselves. If we can find the motivating nature of God in our brothers and sisters, then we can find the entirety of God in each other. Sometimes it's true that you can see Satan in your brothers and sisters, but we have a tendency to find only Satan and accuse and criticize our brothers and sisters. We have to find a reflection of God in brothers and sisters.

Man's essential nature is a reflection of God's nature. Therefore, if we can find something good in our brothers and sisters, if we can find God there, then we can meet God in our brothers and sisters. Through talking with brothers and sisters, we are talking with God. Through smiling at brothers and sisters, we are smiling at God. If you find someone serving others with sincere love, you can find God who is serving. It's not Carl, it's not Joe, it's not Cindy, it's not Cathy, but it's God who is serving, who is smiling, who is speaking, who is crying, who is struggling. If only ourselves were open, we could see God. Therefore, man is the second Bible. We have a Bible in our brothers and sisters.

We have a third Bible, nature. We can find God through nature. We can find God's face in creation. When you find even a nameless, tiny flower, you can find God and God's truth. It's the nature of flowers to just go on budding and blooming until the stamen and pistil reach perfection. Until that time, these petals will never open, even though a butterfly comes or bees come by for pollination. Until positivity and negativity reach perfection -- formation, growth, perfection -- they cannot be united into oneness. Until perfection, there can be no give and take action between positivity and negativity. We can find the same principle as in the Bible. In Japan, we have a special plum tree with a tiny plum. When its fruit is young or immature, it contains poison, hydrogen cyanide. But when it is ripened, it contains no hydrogen cyanide. Only then can we eat it. It has the same meaning as Genesis 2:17: "Don't eat of it." While it is immature, don't eat of it. "If you eat of it, you shall surely die." It's very clear that man is lord over creation. God's commandment appears even in creation -- if we investigate the nature of creation, if we open our eyes, we can find God's truth.

In the kingdom of God we will teach botany lessons this way. Our students will investigate the nature of the creation and will be able to find God's truth through scientific investigation -- through experiments in the class.

We can find God's love, too, when we find a tiny flower. You can find yourself in this flower, because if you look and look and look, it will become bigger and bigger. Then you will find yourself in this flower. Look around yourself.

What a beautiful structure it has. What a beautiful color it is. The world is filled with vivid life. What a beautiful environment it is. Who created this world? God. Even the best scientist cannot create even one petal of a flower. However excellent the scientist may be, he cannot create life by himself.

Who made this wonderful environment out of soil, water and carbon dioxide? God. God created this tiny flower. Even though no one could understand how precious and how beautiful it was, still Heavenly Father created this flower from morning to night, without sleep. For what purpose?

To give joy to man. This tiny flower is just an expression of God's love to man. In order to give this present to me, Heavenly Father worked hard every day without sleeping. If you have ever cried to see one tiny flower, you have understood God's love for you.

Open your eyes and see this world. You can find God in creation -- in the white snow, in the trees, in the twittering birds. You don't find Satan there, only God's truth, God's love. Man and creation are the image and symbol of God's nature. We can find God's love in them both.

Hearken to heaven. Listen to God with a pure mind and you can hear God whispering to you through your deep intuition, not through man, not through nature, but directly to you. The Bible says, "Ask and it will be given you," and "Knock, and it will be opened to you." If you want to find God Himself, to see Him, to be able to meet with Him, how much do you ask? If you truly ask God, you will be able to see God.

He will speak to you directly. God appeared to Moses directly when he was walking in the wilderness. He saw a brightening of light and went, and God began to talk to him. The same God spoke to Elijah with a slight voice, and Elijah could hear God speak.

God called Abraham from Ur of Chaldea, and he put everything aside, obeyed God, came to Canaan, and became the ancestor of the Israelites. God called Noah and gave him directions to build the ark and he did it. The same God is speaking to you, if your ears are open, intuitively.

Because we committed sin, we became ignorant of God, of man, of nature. Open your eyes and ears. Then you can see God in man and nature; you can hear God speak through man, through nature, and sometimes directly through your own intuition.

We can understand God, but we cannot meet with God. Why? Our troubles or our difficulties are these: We can understand God officially, on the blackboard, with this kind of talking. But still, this is the official God. We need our own God with whom we can have secret and personal communication. We really want to call Him "my Father." We must understand God through experience.

We have been looking for an experience with God, haven't we? "Oh, Heavenly Father, if You are with me, please show Yourself to me. I haven't been with You for 6000 years. Therefore, I've never been truly happy. I've never experienced true joy with You. I've never been embraced by You." This is our long-cherished desire which has never been fulfilled.

Even though we meet God once, still we cannot be satisfied. Our essential desire must be to meet with God every day. We must feel His love, His deep understanding, His warm embrace every moment. We seek God because we know that unless we are with Him, we cannot feel at peace and joyful. This shows that we are truly children of God. If we were not children of God, why would we seek for God so deeply, so honestly, desperately? If we were Satan's children, we should seek for Satan desperately -- "Oh, my father, my father." Have you ever done this? No. This shows that we are not sons of Satan. We are truly sons of God, daughters of God.

How can children without parents be children? How can we be man without God? This is the reason why we must find God. We must see God, we must be embraced by God. We must be in the depths of His blood. Otherwise, we cannot have peace.

Why can we not have an experience with God? This is a problem. We are not one with God.

This is the reason. Why are we not one with God? Because of sin. Therefore, in order to experience God, sin must be solved. We are sometimes given the privilege of an experience of God, but unless a ceaseless effort to find God is made, it's very difficult to be one with God from morning to night, every moment. One wonderful experience can be a foundation, but still we need ceaseless effort in order to be one with God. If we try without the Messiah, we cannot see God. If we do see God, it's due to the existence of the Messiah.

In order to understand God, in order to experience God, we must pay indemnity. What kind of indemnity should we pay? First of all, prayer. We can see God, we can meet with God in prayer. When we are praying deeply, in the depths of our prayer sometimes Heavenly Father can whisper to us. We catch His words, not with our physical five senses, but with intuition. Many inspirations come in the depths of prayer. Through prayer we can feel God's truth, and also we can find how sinful we are. Without prayer, we cannot feel sin.

If our prayer is deep enough, we can feel very sure that this prayer was taken by God. Even without being answered directly, we can be confident that someday this prayer will come true. Then we can be at peace.

Peaceful joy comes through prayer. We can become very confident, however difficult the situation may seem. If our prayer is deep, it will make us confident and steadfast. Even in violent storms, we can always see the peaceful blue sky. Then, in faith and in prayer, we can always see smiling sunshine. We can see God's smile even in the most violent storm.

I always looked for this in Reverend Moon. We are always saying, "What should we do?" But Rev. Moon is always smiling. And in the final moment, his faith comes through. We must inherit his secret of faith in prayer. Truly, through prayer we can be very confident that Heavenly Father can work. If this prayer is constant, even if it isn't realized at that very moment, later on it will truly be realized. We should have deep conviction. Don't give up in your prayer. Mr. Cha prayed in Korea for five years to come to America, and now it is realized. Always he must have concentrated on America, "Heavenly Father, America; Heavenly Father, America." Five years he continued, and it came true.

We can also meet God through challenging our limitations. Who do you think made these limitations on you? Satan. If we are within limitations, we are within Satan. This means we cannot see God. Therefore, if we challenge and break through the limitations, in the next moment God will reveal Himself to you. God is behind Satan. We must meet with Satan first and struggle with Satan. When we subjugate him, in the next moment, Heavenly Father is smiling at you. What is the saying?

Every dark cloud has a silver lining. Usually we give up when we meet Satan. Heavenly Father is waiting for us, but we give up and Satan wins. And we say, "I couldn't." When you feel the situation very difficult, almost impossible, that is the very moment Satan is feeling, "Oh, he's strong; he's almost impossible." And if you retreat, Satan wins. But if at the next moment, at the price of your own life, you penetrate to the depths with a desperate effort, Satan retreats and God will receive you.

This is the one key to make miracles. This word "impossible" doesn't come from God. Satan made it and we made it. God isn't limited. We are putting limitations on God. We are making Heavenly Father impotent. Abandon this idea. After breaking through satanic limitation, God will be waiting for you with both hands outstretched. Satan will shrink away.

I've been talking about how to pay indemnity, and how we can experience God through prayer, and through challenging limitations. Next, God is pure. Therefore, God cannot have give and take action with impurities. But even though we are in the Unification Church we still have so many impurities within ourselves. This is the reason why God cannot reveal Himself to you.

Tears of repentance are the key to open the door to Heavenly Father. The biggest hindrances are arrogance, selfishness, and lustful desire. These should be deeply repented. Then God can come to you, and you can have an experience with God. Tears of repentance are the best way to see God.

God reveals Himself to purity because He is pure. Therefore, if someone says, "I cannot understand God," this doesn't mean he cannot understand Divine Principle, but it means he is impure. If we cannot understand the existence of God, God's words, God's love, it's not because we cannot understand the truth. It is not because of lack of knowledge, but lack of purity.

As the Bible says, we are without excuse. We see beautiful nature, we see Father, we understand Divine Principle. We are completely without excuse. Since we are not pure, we need to repent. Repentance will take us to God. Tears of repentance are far more precious than a brilliant diamond.

God can reveal Himself where faith exists. We can have an experience of God when we have faith. We can see God and we can meet with God in the rock bottom of hell. We don't want self-centered happiness, where we cannot find God at all. By sacrificing ourselves, shedding tears, sweat, and blood, and by serving others we can see God. If we lead God's way of life, we can always meet with God.

Changing our point of view is the key to understanding everything. We are always feeling, understanding, looking, and doing everything from our own point of view. If we continue to do things this way, however long we will have been in the Unification Church, we will have nothing to do with God's heart. We must change our point of view from our own point of view to God's point of view.

Do you have your own God? Not the official one, but your own God, your own Father? If you have, please tell your brothers and sisters. If you don't have your personal God, find out how you can have your own God.