

## Repentance through Action

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Excerpt

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*"Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time saying, 'Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.' So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey, and he cried, 'Yet 40 days and Nineveh shall be overthrown.' And the people of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. Then tidings reached the king of Nineveh. He arose from his throne, removed his robe, and he covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes, and he made proclamation and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, 'Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed nor drink water. Let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them cry mightily to God. Yea, let everyone turn from his evil way, and from the violence which is in his hands. Who knows, God may yet repent, and turn from His fierce anger, so that we perish not.' When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God repented of the evil which He had said He would do to them, and He did not do it. Then Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, so he should see what would become of the city. And the Lord God appointed a plant, and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant."*

*"When dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm, which attacked the plant, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God appointed a sultry east wind, and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah so that he was faint, and he asked that he might die, and said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.' But God said to Jonah, 'Do you do well to be angry for the plant?' And he said, 'I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.' And the Lord said, 'You pity the plant, for which you did not labor. Nor did you make it grow, which came into being in the night, and perished in the night. And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city in which there were more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?'"*

In obedience o God's words, Jonah went to the city of Nineveh, where people were so impure and evil. Beginning from the top to the least, they cried and repented with tears. When God stopped to judge the city of Nineveh, Jonah was sitting on a hill -- watching what was going on. He was sitting and waiting for fire to come down from heaven, but nothing came. He began to complain.

"God said the city should be destroyed by fire, but God didn't do it." God gave him a plant to cover him because it was so hot, but God took off the leaves and he began to complain because it became hot again. When he complained, God said "You pity the plant for which you did no labor. Nor did you make it grow, which came into being in the night, and perished in the night. And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

America is like the city of Nineveh. America is filled with evil. America is filled with impurity. America will be crushed. America will be destroyed by God. But America must be saved. In order for America to be saved, America must come back to God. But God is pure, and America is impure. God is sinless; America is sinful. The depths of America's sin is incredible. In order for America to be able to come back to God, sin must be solved.

But America has no idea how to solve the sin she committed. The president doesn't know; governors and professors and spiritual leaders don't know. In order for America to be able to come back to God, the only way is to be forgiven, because America cannot solve or indemnify her own sin by herself. They only way for America to be saved is to be forgiven. But in order for America to be forgiven, America muse repent. Without repentance, there's no condition of forgiveness. Only when America repents of her own sin can God forgive America.

America must cry because of repentance of sin. The president and governors and the 220,000,000 American people must cry because of the sin America has committed. Without a flood of tears, it is impossible for America to be forgiven and to come back to God. Many of us will think, "What kind of sin did America commit?"

We might think, America is filled with sexual corruption, immoralities, drugs, family troubles, and so on. But we must understand, there are two kinds of sin. When Adam was born, God told him not to eat of the fruit, but he ate. He violated God's commandment. We usually think this is a sin, when we do what we shouldn't do. We feel we committed a sin before God. But there are lots of kinds of sin.

When God says, "Do this," and man doesn't do what he should have done, this also hurts God. When Adam and Eve fell, Adam and Eve did what they shouldn't have done, but afterwards, throughout the course of restoration, many central figures were chosen by God. They were given direction from God to fulfill something. They should have done many things, but they didn't do them, and they destroyed the dispensation and crushed God's intention and will. Because of this, God has been suffering deeply and for a long time. So, there are two kinds: sins of commission and sins of omission.

Throughout the history of restoration, most of the providential leaders didn't fulfill what they should have done. Most of them committed sins of omission and gave deep wounds to the heart of God. Because of the sin of omission, God has been bleeding a long time. Cain killed Abel. Ham didn't fulfill his mission. Abraham failed in his offering. Moses couldn't accomplish his mission. The kings failed in their mission. John the Baptist didn't fulfill his mission, and Jesus was crucified. So many sins of omission brought deep pain to God's heart. When Adam was born, God had great hope for Adam. God was so glad to see His own image in the pure, limpid eyes of Adam and Eve. He embraced and almost cried because of His hope and joy for Adam and Eve.

Likewise, America was born through the hope of God. When America was born, as the Adam nation in the dispensation of Christianity, God must have had great hope for America. God was so happy and glad to see the newborn baby of the Adam nation of America. God expected so many things.

It was God's intention to create the model of the coming Kingdom of God in this land of America. They came from Europe, from Asia, from Africa. Those who came from Africa were mistreated but that wasn't God's desire. Underneath was God's desire to bring all races from all over the world to create one nation as the model of the kingdom of heaven.

If Asian people were excluded the kingdom of heaven cannot be created. If African people were excluded, it would be impossible to create the kingdom of God. In the kingdom of God, all races are needed. If one brother is lost, how can the family be happy?

God loves everyone so deeply. This is the reason why God brought brothers and sisters from all over the world, even though the course was sometimes terrible. It was invaded by Satan and it was sometimes miserable, but His original intention was to bring brothers and sisters from all over the world to create one nation to be the model of the coming kingdom of heaven. Therefore, the mission of America must have been to create the pattern of the kingdom of God.

Was God's intention realized? Did God intend to create pornography in America? Was segregation the desire of God? Were drugs and sexual corruption the desire of God? This gap must be the result of America's sins of commission and sins of omission. America is retreating all over the world and losing the trust of other nations. Throughout the history of America, when did America fulfill her mission? "In God We Trust" is the motto of America. America proclaimed government of the people, by the people, for the people. It didn't say, a government of God, by God, and for God. America had forgotten her essential mission almost from the time of her foundation.

The essential spirit of Christianity is to sacrifice for others; to die for others as Jesus died on the cross. But Jesus, who was killed on the cross, didn't die; he's alive, and even now millions and millions of people are willing to die for him. When someone sacrifices himself for others, he becomes needed by others. If America sacrifices herself for other nations, America will be needed by other nations.

But America doesn't like to sacrifice herself because she's so individualistic. This is an essential part of the nature of the American people. Then America will not be needed by others; America will be forsaken, even by God. As we know through Divine Principle, there are two aspects of purpose, sung-sang purpose and hyung-sang purpose. One is for others, the other is for the self. America forgot the sung-sang purpose of America, and is just pursuing the hyung-sang purpose of America to be happy for herself. This is the individualism of America. The proclamation "government of the people, by the people, for the people," itself was already individualistic.

We forgot God and mankind. We forgot to sacrifice America for the sake of others. At this point, the direction of America was already wrong. Even if it was good, it was not enough. When did America fulfill her mission? What president of America fulfilled the mission of America? If President Truman had been more courageous and righteous, there wouldn't have been the tragedy of Vietnam. Because of the unsuccessful mission of America, the world is suffering so much now. It's the responsibility of America. America is committing the sin of omission. If America had obeyed God's words, "Forgive, Love and Unite," then Vietnam and Cambodia would not have fallen. Now, there are so many massacres and tragedies there. Even at the sacrifice of all our members, Vietnam should have been saved. America didn't understand God's words.

God's standard and the reality of America are so distant. Because of the sin of omission, Satan will invade

America and crush America, and America might be involved in tragedy. If America is lost, the world will be lost. God can't find any place to stay in America. God cannot dwell in the dirty shops, in schools, or in the White House. God cannot live in Times Square. God must leave New York. God must leave America. If America is forsaken by God, the destiny of America will be miserable. America is destined to be destroyed by Satan.

America must repent, like the citizens of Nineveh, from the highest people to the least people; 220 million American people must cry for God, with tears of repentance. Otherwise America cannot be forgiven.

A day of repentance, a week of repentance should be proclaimed for all America, like the city of Nineveh. One nation is the extension of one man. Fallen America is the extension of one fallen man. Even when man fell, still, there remained the image of God in the depths of fallen man. This is the reason God couldn't forsake fallen Adam. God had faith someday His image would come out from the depths of impurities.

The image of God within fallen man is called the original mind of man. Even though America is corrupt and fallen, the original mind of America must be there. In the depths of impurities, the original mind of America is crying for God. But the original mind is buried so deeply in the depths of sin. It's so difficult for the original mind to come out. It's so difficult for 220 million people to cry with repentance for the sins America committed. It's impossible to expect that.

Then, who can? Someone must represent America's original mind, and must cry for God, asking forgiveness for the sins America committed. The Unification Church must represent the original mind of America. The Unification Church must repent on behalf of America; repent of the sin America committed from her birth, even from the beginning four hundred years ago or more.

Historical repentance is needed now. This is the end of the world and the Last Days. In the last days, everything must be solved, everything must be indemnified.

Now is the time of repentance. The Unification Church must shed tears of repentance for the sins America has committed, both the sins of commission and omission. Otherwise, America cannot be forgiven. If America isn't forgiven, Satan will invade and destroy America. Sinners cannot understand or solve sin; darkness cannot solve darkness. Light must come, otherwise, it is impossible to realize the sin of omission and the sin of commission. Only when light comes, will the sin be clear.

Only when purity comes, will impurity be clarified. Now, to our gratitude, God's truth has come. God is speaking directly to Americans. Light is being given to all Americans. When light is given, the darkness will be destroyed. When purity is given, impurity will be clarified. And America can repent. All Americans must hear Rev. Moon speak. All Americans must hear God's words spoken through him.

The Bicentennial "God Bless America" Festival is being prepared. Two hundred thousand people must gather at Yankee Stadium to represent the 200 million Americans. Don't think that the "God Bless America" Festival is just a gathering of people to hear Rev. Moon speak. They must come to repent for the sins America has committed and to be given forgiveness of their sin.

Based on this condition, America will be forgiven, and when America is forgiven, America will be saved. The success of the Yankee Stadium "God Bless America" Festival is the key to the forgiveness and salvation of America. Two thousand years ago, after the resurrection, the time of Pentecost came. One hundred and twenty people were praying: a tongue of fire came from above and they all were inspired by the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in different languages, and Peter stood up and began giving inspiring talks, speeches and sermons.

Through these talks, 3,000 people joined at once. Afterwards, the Bible said, 5,000 joined. An incredible change took place. This kind of Pentecost changing the atmosphere for witnessing should come now. Already, signs are appearing. Many of our pioneers are having give and take with groups. All the signs are here. Yes, Pentecost must come, an incredible Pentecost must come.

How can I bring the Pentecost? Based on man to man, how can I bring Pentecost about? Are you doing all you can do? The reason why God can't work doesn't come from His not fulfilling God's portion of responsibility, but from man not fulfilling his portion of responsibility. Without mobilizing God's incredible capability, the spirit world cannot bring about Pentecost. In order for God to be able to work, man must fulfill man's portion of responsibility first. From this point of view, are you doing all you can do? But something is missing; even though I do all I can do, you do all you can do, he does all he can do, and we all do all we can do, still something is missing -- repentance.

God is pure; therefore, God cannot have give and take with impurities. We are impure, therefore, our impurity must be solved; otherwise, it will be impossible for God to work. To do this, the best indemnity condition is tears of repentance. I'd like to give one experience I had of how I came to know God. I was in a sense a scientific atheist. When my friend who was a Christian invited me to church, I refused and said, "Let me see God, then I'll go with you." Afterwards I got sick and had kidney trouble. I was in bed one year and a half; I couldn't move at all. The condition was pretty serious. I thought I was dying, but still I didn't believe in God at all. Many people came and said I must believe in God but I denied it. It's better to die, I thought, than to believe in God. I had very strong confidence that God doesn't exist.

I preferred death to faith in God. One day I was reading the newspaper and found a story about a miracle through faith. I didn't believe it but I bought a book of this story and read it. It was ridiculous to me, but when I read the book over, I felt one thing; before the occurrence of miracles there was one common condition. After repentance, they're healed from diseases; even cancer, tuberculosis, or paralysis. Then, I looked back at my past and found that my past life was filled with impurity. I couldn't stand what an impure person I was. I couldn't understand and I was sad because I might die in such impurity.

And another shock came to me. I understood that I had lived maybe 23 years in this world, but I had never loved even one person. Therefore, no one loved me. My physical parents loved me, but it was not so unselfish in the true meaning. I had never loved anyone and I wasn't loved by anyone. I was in solitude. What a miserable person I am to die in such misery and solitude, I thought.

Tears of repentance rushed from my eyes and trickled over my cheeks, hour after hour every day. Especially at night time my pillow was soaked by tears of repentance. I continued exactly seven days. On the eighth day I got another book; the contents were something like before, but this time every one infiltrated into the depths of my heart. I cried and cried and cried with tears of repentance and joy. I felt something pure within myself. I felt completely unselfish. At night, I sat down and began to pray for the first time in my life. I entrusted myself to some great, invisible being. I could understand it was love.

The next moment gold and platinum colored lights flashed over my head from the right side, and a thick red beam broke through my head. Even now I have a clear vision of this moment. I was filled with awe; I could understand. I was paralyzed and the next moment I put my hand on my back and my kidney was vibrating and I felt it was healed. The next day, one and a half years of disease had disappeared; it happened at once. Soon after the doctor approved it, and in five days I left my bed. But I couldn't stand because my legs had become very thin. I was filled with joy that God exists. Completely changed, I felt I could stand for God even in front of millions and millions of atheists.

I could understand God is alive because when I prayed for the first time in my life, God answered. He is alive, He has personality, He is alive with us. The same God who was alive in Jesus and Moses is alive within us. The same God who guided Jesus and Moses is alive within me. The final thing I could understand was that one method through which we can have skin touch with God is repentance.

God is pure and I was impure; therefore, God couldn't have contact with me. But after one week's tears of repentance my sin was washed away. Even if it was conditional, my sin was washed away and I became pure. I prayed to God and the next moment God revealed Himself to me, God sent the Holy Spirit. I began to pray every day, because there was nothing else to do. I was filled with joy from morning to night, but my family didn't understand at all.

I prayed to go back to the university where I was majoring in biochemistry. I tried to come back to school and I prayed to God, please give me the best boarding house. I also wrote to my friends. In one week an answer came and when I went to my boarding house, it was next to the Baptist Church. The Holy Spirit guided me to Jesus and inevitably I received baptism and became a Christian. From that time on I began to have contact with Jesus to some extent. But Jesus' words were different than those of the minister. I didn't believe the minister at all; the minister loved me, but I didn't trust him. I did trust him as a pious Christian, but I didn't trust his message. That's why I came to the Unification Church.

Anyway, late at night when I was praying I realized this point; that the key to Pentecost in my experience is when tears of repentance are a pure offering on the altar of God. Through the offering the broken relationship between God and man can be restored. We can be freed from ignorance of God and everything. We can be given guidance from God; we can have a clear mind, and be given inspiration and revelation and many solutions. God cannot come or work without repentance, and Pentecost doesn't come. This pattern should be applied substantially now in order to bring about Pentecost through the works of God and the spirit world.

Repentance first means realization of sin before God and to ask forgiveness of sins, then to have confidence or faith in being forgiven. Next, make a determination not to commit sin again and finally, put it into practice. This is repentance. Without practice, repentance doesn't work. To the degree we can repent, we can begin to change. But without purity within ourselves, without repentance, God cannot come down to the earth.