

How Do We Practice Absolute Faith?

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True Father's message below is appropriate for our current church circumstances. Why did such hardship come to our church? Not only is our church experiencing these difficulties, nations are having troubles as well. Korea has the Choi Soon-shil scandal and many American people are protesting Donald J. Trump's election. Politicians all over the world are concerned about how global politics will change.

God predicted that during the Last Days, seven years of great hardship would occur. This period of hardship will be a time when believers face one of the most sorrowful times in God's six thousand years of history. Relationships between people will break and believers will experience an unfathomable environment. During this time, no matter how much you live according to your conscience, you will be unable to assert your life through it. The more you embrace God's will and think conscientiously, the more suffering you will experience wherever you look. This time is the seven-year period of great hardship during the Last Days. During this time, your hopes will be shaken, the center of your faith will be shaken; the

leaders you believed and followed will falter. Not only will your principles be shaken, your religion, conscience and even your parents' hearts of determination will be shaken. In that case, why did God make this type of world? He did so to offer humans the value of working together with the true God who took great pains throughout history. God has seen countless horrors over six thousand years and suffered countless hardships. During the Last Days, people will find they are unable to center themselves on their conscience, principles or faith. This period will come so that God can find the true son who will love God and live with God even amongst hardships. -- Sermons of the Reverend Sun Myung Moon 11-97

Our current reality

What is the current era? Why is the world experiencing such adversities? If we do not understand this period correctly, our faith will falter. How should we understand this time of confusion? Just as Father said, it is a time when believers' hopes shake and the disappearance of leaders causes loss of hope. Why are these confusing events taking place?

Even if members live according to their conscience, leaders follow the righteous path of public life, or we all understand the providence generally, understanding this moment of hardship is still difficult. Why are we experiencing this time of heartfelt pain? These tribulations and struggles are a process to find the original heart from the time of the Creation, which we lost.

Encountering God

Our being able to experience God's heart is not theoretical. As we experience God's six thousand years of misery, we experience God; without going through some of that ourselves, we could not comprehend how much misery, suffering, and sorrow God has been through. Father has said this was all in order to make true people, which God desires. Even through this suffering, we did not betray our loving God through that time; we set a condition for him to receive comfort.

We can see through what Father has said that the seven years of hardship will begin between Foundation Day in 2013 and 2020. We are in the midst those years. During this time, focusing on searching for our inner conscience to discover God, rather than developing external events and tangible things is important. We are facing these external and internal hardships within the church in order to rid ourselves of fallen nature and filth from the secular world. Through occurrences inside the church, we will be able to take time to consider the purpose of our existence by making conditions and praying deeply to find our faith identity and the essence of what a blessed family is. We will be able to discover a new subjective faith through asking ourselves why conflict and discord have arisen in our church.

Maintaining a consistent heart

Can we keep our faith, love God and have love within our hearts through this time of struggle? God is testing us through these many miserable events and accidents -- he is trying to rid us of the shell of our fallen habits in our everyday lives in blessed families through shock. God is not interested in external circumstances such as fancy titles within our organization, money or honor. He is asking us whether we have become true people.

True Parents are always emphasizing that we must live settled lives as if at high noon, without even a bit of shame. However, we think that is a life distant from our own and that only True Parents can live that kind of life. We are not changing; more accurately, the desires of the flesh tie us down and we continue our fallen habits. That is why we continue to easily complain and criticize the providence, True Parents and the True Family as if we have been personally affronted. We cannot enter Heaven if we hold on to this mentality. Currently, we are living in the fallen world, which gives us hardships by making our living environment difficult. True Parents have emphasized the need to revolutionize our thinking in order to cleanse our souls of fallen world elements.

True Mother already said in 2013 at the beginning of Foundation Day:

"We are now living in the historic time of a great cosmic revolution that will change history, unite the spiritual and physical worlds and create the ideal kingdom of heaven that God has longed for since the beginning of time. We can no longer postpone or prolong it. Heaven has already proclaimed that January 13, 2013 will be 'Foundation Day.' That day will mark the beginning and genesis of the substantial Cheon Il Guk." -- Pyeong Hwa Gyeong p. 959



Overcoming inertia

True Parents foresaw that the transition period would be one of stagnation. We can understand it as a moment of cosmic revolution or of a revolutionary transition. I believe that prioritizing the providence during transitions and through stagnation and boldly reforming and making a great transition are imperative. In order to overcome this stagnation we must establish our subjective faith as one based on God, the truth and becoming one with God. We must begin anew through establishing our faith as one that is empathetic with God, allowing us to experience God and his love and truth. This type of faith will vitalize us and become a sacrificial and creative faith that will be autonomous.

How do we make a revolution in the culture of heart? Father has prophesied that Foundation Day will be the beginning of a new spiritual revolution. However, because we still live with our habits and have a certain concept about our faith, our church faces painful divisions that do not allow us to maintain a vision for the future.

In the past, in the wilderness period, we had the mission to report results to Heaven, such as a providential rally, a proclamation of God's providence or activities. We were living in an age in which God and Satan were fighting -- a life or death situation. However, we must now practice our faith in the settlement age.

Our lives must be different. The age of indemnity was an age of war, so all the problems did not emerge. Our only goal was to be victorious in war. We overlooked internal problems.

In the settlement age, the complete opposite of the age of indemnity, through our own faith and communicating with our internal conscience we must make a subjective faith. One must first become a true person and then create a true family.



Becoming the embodiment of our faith

The basis of faith in the settlement age is the ethics of taking responsibility. We must take the path of a public life for the providence, through honest and sincere means. If the wilderness age was a symbolic era based on numerical results and reports to demonstrate faith, we must now transition to an era based on substantial and realistic results. Instead of focusing on symbolic providential rallies and victories based on indemnity, we must display to the world a substantial nation and the successful lives in our community of blessed families, so that the world's people can look at what we have accomplished and naturally come to us on their own to follow the path of the true providence. We must become leaders who can achieve this. Before being able to live such lives, experiencing a revolution of consciousness is necessary.

How does a revolution of consciousness occur? After Foundation Day, we came to live within the realm of God's direct dominion. If in blessed families we personified living for the sake of others, we would be full of true love's energy. The origin of this true love is God's Holy Spirit, which enters our bodies. In order for God's Holy Spirit to enter our mind and bodies, we must live lives of service and honesty. Then, the true energy generated through service would naturally settle within ourselves and allow us to grow and cultivate our spiritual senses. We would be able to have spiritual experiences.

This is life lived in oneness with God. You are accumulating God's energy within yourself and developing your conscience (your second God) within yourself, leading to the ability to empathize with God. Through this sacred training, you would embody God's love and wisdom, become one with God and experience God's heart. Father has spoken about that future world.

In the future, people will compete to live for others. Why? In Heaven, those who have lived for others will go to the highest place. Therefore, when people live for the sake of those people in a high position, they would be able to jump to a higher place themselves through their actions. Humans are bound to return to the original homeland. A physical homeland exists on earth, but what is more important is the return to the original and eternal homeland. Those who had not lived a life that those in the homeland would welcome will be miserable. -- Sermons of the Reverend Sun Myung Moon 213-194

In the society of the future, everyone will live for others. We are living during the fourth industrial revolution with the development of artificial intelligence, including robots. The age when human labor will pass to robots is nearing, when humans can live the original life, which Heavenly Parent had meant to establish at the Creation. This age is one when the world's NGOs are working in service to others in society. National welfare is becoming systematic. We are facing an era when we must mature and develop ourselves. Our lives will eventually change as we graduate from external jobs and work, so that we may

mature spiritually and become perfected individuals who can enter heaven.

True Father described becoming one with God in the following words:

If you look at the mind, it has a gate. It does not always open in just one direction. Because your mind itself rotates, without going through this door, the minus component is unable to establish a relationship centered on the plus component. Everyone has that kind of mind's gate.... On the day the gate of God's mind and the gate of your mind become perfectly one and revolve around a certain standard, the path to fully experience what God is feeling will be established. -- Sermons of the Reverend Sun Myung Moon 76-127

Every day and every moment, with an honest heart, we must achieve mind–body unity. We must practice true love each day. When the energy of true love fills us and overflows, the gate of God's mind and the gate of a human mind are in perfect accord, and they can communicate with each other. This is not something you can skip over because you are busy. Individual perfection is the theme of Cheon Il Guk. If you are unable to reach perfection as the owner, you become an irrelevant existence to Cheon Il Guk. Realizing Cheon Il Guk is a project we must complete before we die.

True love training must begin with practicing and experiencing the four great loves within the family. First, you must acknowledge the other and that they are better than you are. This is the start of living a heavenly life. Second, you must respect one another, share a heart of true love, worship God together with a child's pure heart and attend all people as a child attends adults. Third, live a positive life and praise one another, thereby practicing living for the sake of others.

Through practicing the four great loves, positive energy will overflow within ourselves, filling us with hope. No matter how difficult our church circumstances become, we need positive energy to control negative energy so it does not influence us. This is how we will overcome these seven years of hardship. This time of tribulation and struggle will allow us to rid ourselves of fallen nature and discover our conscience, the second God, within ourselves. Becoming a true person through this training is what we must do at this moment. When we do that, we can have absolute faith and live lives as if at high noon, without shadows. I will end this by asking you to look deep within yourself and ask how much of a life of faith you are living.