

Becoming God's Children—The Eight Stages of Restoration

By Christian Nseka

May 17, 2017

A Personal Reflection

Has your body freed itself from the control of Satan and attained oneness with God? You cannot overcome Satan if you cannot completely deny yourself. Therefore, you must go through suffering for three and a half years. You should start from the position of a beggar and a slave of slaves, and then rise up. From a slave of slaves to a slave, adopted son, illegitimate son, child in direct lineage, next mother, father, God—this makes eight stages vertically. Moreover, there are also eight stages horizontally: individual, family, tribe, race, nation, world, universe and God. In this way, there are eight stages horizontally and eight stages vertically. This is the Principle point of view. These are not my words. (*The Tribal Messiah: Gathering for Reading and Learning Series*, Vol. 9, p. 165)

According to True Father, there are eight vertical stages and eight horizontal stages of restoration. In this reflection, we will mostly focus on the eight vertical stages, which are: (1) Slave of Slaves, (2) Slave, (3) Adopted Child, (4) Illegitimate Child, (5) Child in Direct Lineage, (6) Mother, (7) Father, and (8) God.

I took the liberty of changing these eight stages as follows: (1) Enemy, (2) Slave of Slaves, (3) Slave, (4) Adopted Child, (5) Illegitimate Child, (6) Child in Direct Lineage, (7) Parents, and (8) God.

On second thought, I probably should have changed them as follows: (1) Enemy, (2) Slave of Slaves, (3) Slave, (4) Adopted Child, (5) Illegitimate Child, (6) Child in Direct Lineage, (7) Mother, (8) Father, and (9) God. Nine stages instead of eight. I don't know which one is better—eight or nine stages?

Are you offended by my changes? Do you feel like I don't have the right to change these eight stages? How frustrated are you that I took the liberty to change the eight vertical stages? Please take a moment to react and then continue to read.

I would like to thank you if you had a reaction, whatever it was or however strong it was.

By the way, I should confess that I didn't change the vertical stages. I said that I changed them to provoke you, to rouse you. The reality is that **we**, all if not most of us, have changed the eight vertical stages, even though we don't have the right to do so.

Just think about this: How much do we love our spouses? How many of us, blessed couples, honor our spouses? How many of us honestly and whole heartedly

thank God and True Parents for giving us our spouses? Aren't there blessed couples who relate to each other—husband and wife—as if enemies?

Restoration starts when we forsake the position of enemy. We do so by developing, possessing, and displaying an attitude of gratitude and a heart of pure love, which is the heart of living for the sake of others.

We cannot be in the process of restoration, the process of restoring ourselves, and at the same time have enemies. This means that there is no stage of enemy in the process of restoration. So, why do we have enemies? Why do we hold grudges? How can we hate anyone if we are really walking the path of restoration?

Jesus said,

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Matthew 5:43-48)

Believe it or not, that teaching of Jesus is no different from True Father's teaching of living for the sake of others, or True Father's teaching of the eight vertical stages of restoration. We cannot become perfect if we have enemies. We cannot become God's children if we do not forsake the stage of enemy, which is dominated by Satan. The heart of having enemies is the heart of Satan. One who strives to become one with God cannot nurture animosity. Just to be clear, disagreement is not necessarily proof of hatred.

We usually understand Jesus' teaching to love our enemies to mean that we should love those who hate us. That is one way of understanding it. The other way, which I think is even more powerful, is to not have enemies. Meaning, that we should not hate anyone. In other words, “I” should not consider anyone as my enemy whether or not those people consider me as their enemy.

The key to the eight vertical stages is not the external positions that these labels represent, but the disposition of the heart. Hence, we have to forsake any disposition of harboring resentment. This explains why True Mother has been asking us to have gratitude. Gratitude is very important for our personal restoration and the restoration of those around us. Who will have enemies when they have a heart of gratitude? True Mother also emphasizes attitude. We can say that she wants us to have an attitude of gratitude. In practical terms, individual restoration starts once a person abdicates

resentments. The key is to have gratitude. That should become our default disposition. We cannot be resentful when we are grateful.

Have you ever wondered why True Parents matched together people who belonged to enemy nations, races, ethnicities, or tribes? It is my understanding that True Parents matched together people from enemy nations in order to help dissolve historical resentments and weaken the position of Satan. With blessed couples from enemy backgrounds loving each other, what type of power would Satan have over them? In other words, the impact of people from enemy backgrounds loving each other in the realm of the Blessing is a major victory for God, because it weakens Satan's hold on humanity.

According to the eight horizontal stages, restoration starts with the individual. When two individuals who are in the process of restoration get married, meaning receive the Blessing, they form a family in the process of restoration. This means that their restoration moves from the individual stage to the family stage. Because the ideal is for them to become one with God, they have to start to be God-like from the individual level onward. At the individual level, each person should strive to represent God. At the family level, each person is to represent God in a love relationship with a spouse. Something that God did not experience with Adam and Eve. Also, at the family level, each person is to represent God in the positions of parent and child.

The success gained at the individual level will impact a family. A success gained by husbands and wives at the family level will impact their tribes/clans. A success gained by families that constitute several tribes/clans will impact races. A success gained by families that belong to different races/ethnicities will impact nations. A success gained by different nations will impact the world. The success gained at the world level will impact the universe. Lastly, the success gained at the level of universe will guarantee the fulfillment of God's ideal and solidify God as the sole owner of the creation.

By not living in service of each other, by not overcoming historical resentments that have plagued our ancestors for generations, we, blessed couples, have pulled the stage of enemy into the realm of the Blessing. It's time to dissolve historical resentments and separate Satan from the realm of the Blessing.

God is the ultimate beneficiary of the Blessing. This is why blessed couples ought to work through their challenges and build a harmonized husband and wife relationship. A relationship of love. A relationship driven not only by the principle, but by love as well. Since God is love, why would He want to be in a loveless husband and wife relationship? Did True Parents put us together as husbands and wives so that we be miserable? We don't have to be filthy rich for us to be happy. Once we understand that we are doing it for God, we will know that there is no choice but to be loving to our spouses. Once we understand that we are doing it for His Kingdom, we will realize the value of each other's company. Remember that animosity toward one's spouse has no

room in the realm of the Blessing. This is because *enemy* is ***not*** one of the eight vertical stages. Once again, the eight vertical stages are: (1) Slave of Slaves or Servant of Servants, (2) Slave or Servant, (3) Adopted Child, (4) Illegitimate Child, (5) Child in Direct Lineage, (6) Mother, (7) Father, and (8) God.

The purpose of the eight vertical stages is to help us resemble God. To help us eliminate our fallen nature. To help us become one with God, and be part of His direct lineage as His children. It is only possible through the Blessing. Let's go through the eight stages with an attitude of gratitude fueled by love, forgiveness, and unity.

Christian Nseka is the author of the book, [The Blessing](#).