

My Unificationist Memoirs Chapter 82

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The Only Begotten Daughter, Part XI

"The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart."
--Genesis 6:5-6

As a fundraiser on MFT, running from person to person, I knew in my heart that each encounter with me was an encounter with the Living God, a visitation by the Lord in the Last Days. Our parking lot meetings were not random: as the spirit world mobilized, good ancestors inspired descendants to break out their wallets and set positive conditions. Not oblivious to the cosmic struggle, evil spirits arrived and the battle unfolded--every day another chapter in the Great and Terrible Days of the Lord.



If we could divide good and evil in ourselves, if we could engage each person with an open heart, if we could set aside our preconceptions and intentionally exercise "non-judgment," then Heavenly Parent could be present and our momentary encounters electrifying, as we sought to close the circuit of True Love. With our bodies as the battleground, our consciences prompted us to self-denial; we simultaneously trained ourselves and restored the dominion of God's love.

Once we grasp the tragic reality of the Fall, and the unrelenting sorrow oppressing the heart of God, in my mind, the existence of a history of human restoration naturally and logically follows. Moreover, the

irrefutable necessity for universal and "total" salvation flows from the understanding of God as our Heavenly Parent seeking after the lost children of Eve, as can be seen in the parables of Jesus. Very simply, no other option can harmoniously exist in tandem with God's parental love.



Yet, what does "total" salvation mean in practice? We can instinctively sense the unconditional forgiveness of God when we come before Him with tears of repentance and longing like the psalmist,

"Have Mercy on me, O God, in your goodness,
in your great tenderness wipe away my faults;
wash me clean of my guilt,
purify me from my sin.
For I am well aware of my faults,
I have my sin constantly in mind,
having sinned against none other than you,
having done what you regard as wrong." (51:1-4)



In our own cases, we naturally feel sympathy for ourselves and our personal predicaments, and we assume God will feel the same. We can easily call to mind all of the mitigating circumstances that might make us more deserving of forgiveness. But what about those who injure and oppose us? What about the "other guy"? Elsewhere the psalmist prays,

"But may those now hounding me to death
go down to the earth below,
consigned to the edge of the sword,
and left as food for jackals." (63:9-10)



We have all felt this way. In the heat of ideological and political combat, who hasn't hoped for the sudden demise or just humiliation of one's opponent? I for one have. I confess: as recently as this morning, I relished a certain schadenfreude at the slow unraveling of a political enemy. Immediately, however, I felt conflicted, even convicted. How can I align these antagonistic feelings with my commitment to "total" salvation? Doesn't the grace of forgiveness extend to this politician as well? And not only to him: shouldn't I also forgive the legislative and political mendacity of my other ideological opponents?



I meditated on these questions as I swam this morning. The physical repetition of my freestyle stroke created the perfect mental space for extended thought. I reflected on True Mother's Rallies of Hope, and her role as the Only Begotten Daughter, the Cosmic Queen of Peace, and repeatedly these lines from the "Miserere" came to mind,

"Yet since you love sincerity of heart,
teach me the secrets of wisdom.
Purify me with hyssop until I am clean;
wash me until I am whiter than snow." (51:6-7)



As I prayed over these thoughts, and then through these thoughts, to touch God's heart, an idea formed in my mind: "Total Salvation" requires that I be "against" no one, and "for" everyone. That is, I must absolutely seek the salvation and well being of every human person, and especially my "enemies." This conviction should come to reside as an immovable force at the center of my heart. However, that being said, with equal conviction, shouldn't I oppose all ideas and actions which are an obstacle to a person's redemption? And, if those ideas and actions threaten the restoration of the family, community, society, nation, and world, must I not publicly do so? Isn't this the very essence of "Headwing Theory"? And isn't this the example True Father set in his meetings with Mikhail Gorbachev and Kim Il Sung? This dichotomous approach, to love the sinner but hate the sin, is impossible without God. So again, I

meditated on True Mother and prayed with the psalmist,

"God create a clean heart in me,
put into me a new and constant spirit,
do not banish me from your presence,
do not deprive me of your holy spirit." (51:10-11)



Here, True Parents' teaching and Dr. [Chung Sik] Yong's Morning Devotion came to mind: this state of heart is accessible to us only when we open ourselves to the most deep and enduring sorrow consuming God's heart, as He longs for each of his lost sons and daughters. This cannot be a passing state or an occasional experience. Each new day requires a new beginning, one in which we refresh the understanding of our hearts with the sorrow of God. Then, with this heart, we can love our adversaries, even if we must oppose their proposals and programs. Isn't this the course our True Mother is currently pioneering with us?

"Be my savior again, renew my joy,
keep my spirit steady and willing;
and I shall teach transgressors the way to you,
and to you the sinners will return." (51:12-13)

Each day, after I bathe my heart with tears of repentance and feel the immediacy of God's sorrow, I am renewed with energy and an abiding sense of joy to meet my day. This mysterious transformation, finding joy through sorrow, can only be explained by the reality that union with God through our True Parents gives us the power to love. And the power to love gives birth to hope and the confidence we can transform our world. By the time I finished my swim and climbed out of the pool, my spiritual turmoil had resolved, and with a new perspective, I felt at peace, energized with fresh determination.

And so, I close with a final and fitting verse from the psalmist, "In God alone there is rest for my soul...". (62:1)

