

## My Journey, My Faith - How I came to know God through my life - Part 1

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Good evening! You have heard many lectures today. You heard lectures on the Principle of Creation, the Human Fall, the Advent of the Messiah and the Purpose of His Second Coming. Now, I would like to talk to you about how I came to know God through my life. I am a Korean born in China. In college, I majored in Economics. After graduating from a college in China, I went to a graduate school in Russia and got a masters and a doctoral degree in Economics. It was the time of Perestroika when I was in Russia. During this

period, communists broke into or destroyed many churches; they specifically attacked many Korean full gospel churches. I was also a communist back then. From an early age, I learned at school that human beings evolved from apes. They taught me that all my ancestors were apes and they suddenly evolved into human beings in the days of my ancestors. Even today, some schools teach that. Once I visited a school with a diagram on the wall showing the evolution of apes to humans.

Until I graduated from college, I used to think that humans share similarities with dogs and cats. Communists teach you that humans are a bit more evolved than that. In light of this, I thought nothing remains after death. When I was seven or eight years old, at bedtime every night I would worry. In total darkness, I would crawl under my blanket and think to myself in fear, Everyone will die someday. Dad, Mom, brother and sister -- everyone I love will die. They will vanish from the world.

Time passed, and I had a chance to study in Russia again. While I studied, I also taught at the same college. One day, a member of the Teachers' Association asked me to attend a seminar. Around this time, my maternal grandmother started appearing to me suddenly. She would appear abruptly when I was walking down a street or even when I was sleeping. She died when I was three months old, so I didn't remember her at all. Back then, poor people never had their photographs taken, but she appeared to me distinctly.

### Confirmation

I thought that was strange, so I decided to ask my mother. Since it was expensive to phone, I wrote a letter. "Mother, your mother appears to me all the time. She appears to me when I am outside, when I am asleep, or when I am correcting my students' exams. Wasn't your mother like this and that? She is always wearing a white traditional clothes (hanbok). She sometimes appears with a white cloth over her head. She has very black hair parted in the middle. She binds her hair on the lower part of her head. The woman who appears to me looks like this. Is she your mother?"

My mother was astonished. My grandmother never wore colored clothes in her life. She always wore a white Korean hanbok. She had the same hairstyle, too. She never changed it. She lost her husband when she was thirty years old. She raised four children on her own. She died when she was sixty. She used to cover her head with a white cloth during the winter. I was surprised to hear this. I asked my mother again, "Mother, are you sure she's your mother?" My mother asked, "You've never seen your grandmother before. She died when you were three months old. How did she appear to you?"

I needed an answer to this. Where did she come from? How could this happen when nothing remains after death, and she had been buried many years ago? Why did she appear to me?

In search of an answer, I visited every full gospel church and questioned the ministers. "I want to believe in God, too. Please tell me how I can believe in God! You mentioned in your sermon that God is love. He is our father and we are his children. Almighty God can do anything! But why are we living in misery? God's children are fighting and killing one another. They also die of illnesses. Why doesn't God Almighty do anything about it? Where is God's love? Look at Africa (as I showed a famous photo of an African child wasted away to skin and bone). Children are starving. If God actually exists, he must do something about this!"

None of the ministers was able to answer my questions. Each week, I visited a different church. Visiting every church around me, from Catholic to full gospel churches took me two years. But nobody could give me an answer.

## Encountering our movement

Around this time, an FFWPU member invited me to attend a lecture. She was my boss and she liked me very much. She invited me to a lecture that they held at her house.

The lecture was in English with Russian translation. The interpreter was not fluent in English or Russian, so I think the interpretation was only 30–40 percent accurate. Fortunately, a Korean missionary was there, and he gave me a one-on-one lecture. There, I asked everything I had wanted to know for years. Finally, I got answers to all my questions. I was so happy.

When I heard the Principle of Creation, I rejoiced because it told me clearly that God exists. If God exists, it means that the spirit world also exists. In other words, your loved ones will not disappear after death. You can see them again someday in the spirit world. This was why I was so happy when I knew for the first time that God exists. I believe all of you here have gained much information today. Back then, I, too, felt that abundant information came into my head at once.

God exists. I felt that God manifested himself through the Principle of Creation. It was as if it explained who he was and what he looked like. Then, why are humans living in misery? Why does God leave his children that way? God is not just shedding tears. He is bleeding tears.

I finally understood where I came from. But where should I go? I have a son and two daughters. If even one of them disappeared, I would search for him or her for the rest of my life. Isn't that so? If I knew for sure that he or she were alive, I would search for my child to the ends of the earth. This is a parent's heart. Who gave us that type of heart? He is God, our Creator and Father. Since he has that heart, he gave that heart to his children as well, which is why we have it. Since God is love, we also have much love. What is most important in our lives? Love is. Nobody can live without love.

Without love, this world would become colorless. Everything would turn gray. Since God is like that, so are his children, so are we.

When I learned about the Fall, I was incredibly sad. I was full of anger against Eve. If only Eve had not fallen, human beings would not have fallen lower than animals.



## No answer came

Learning the truth, I realized that God had been searching for me. I had to answer him in some way. I don't know how many times I prayed as I called to him. "Father! Here I am! Can you see me? If you are God Almighty, you can see me, right? Can you hear me?" However, although God could hear me repeatedly calling him, he could not answer me.

From that I realized that I had to fulfill my responsibilities. I had to take on the responsibility of returning to God. If not, God could not even touch me. God wants to hold me, kiss me and put me on his lap and say, "My beloved daughter, I am your father." Most of the time, we cannot hear God's voice. This is because we are spiritually

deaf. I shouted, "I want to hear your answer! But I cannot hear you! Why?" I learned that human beings, including me, have inherited Satan's nature due to the Fall. God did not create Satan or sin. Therefore, God cannot touch us as long as satanic blood flows within us and we have satanic behavior and character, which we call "fallen nature." God would say, "Yulan, I cannot touch you." If God touches me under these circumstances, this means God is accepting Satan as another Creator.

In light of that, how could I return to God? I wanted to know every aspect of the process of returning to God. God wants to save me so he could hold me. God is love. What should I do to receive that love?

## Three great responsibilities

Today, you studied up to "The Messiah: His Advent and the Purpose of His Second Coming." Tomorrow, you will study the latter half of the Divine Principle. You will hear lectures on the principle of restoration through Adam's family, Noah's family, Abraham's family and Moses' course. The "Principle of Restoration" shows God's plan to bring his children back to the garden of Eden, their original home. This is God's plan. When I learned about this, I was so happy because I could now participate in that plan. Now I can return to God's home, which is also my home. I have the right to go home. But how?

I have realized something as I read the Divine Principle over the years: There are some things in common among Adam's family, Noah's family, Abraham's family, and Moses' course. They are the "foundation of faith" and the "foundation of substance." I wondered why they were repeatedly similar paths. This was because humans have repeatedly failed to restore the foundation of substance. What, then, is this foundation of substance?

You have learned through Rev. Inowan's lecture today that God has given us three great blessings. This, in other words, means God has given us three great responsibilities. He did not give them to dogs, cats or monkeys. He gave them only to his children.

What are those three great blessings? The first blessing is to be fruitful. What does it mean to be fruitful? I have grown up. My mother spent a lot of money for me to eat, sleep and graduate from graduate school. This year, I will turn fifty-two years old. My parents have passed away. Is this the first blessing? No. When a baby comes out from the mother's womb, she starts to breathe automatically. When she is hungry, she will cry, and her mother will feed her. She will excrete and sleep. She grows as she repeats those processes.

However, God did not refer to these processes when he told us to be fruitful. For example, within me exists another me, but this other me is not fifty-one years old. She is much more immature. Why? Like it or not, our birthday comes around every year. We cannot avoid becoming a year older when that day comes. But how old is my spiritual body?

According to Rev. Moon, we must do three things to make our spiritual body grow. First, how does a spiritual body breathe? It breathes through prayers. Second, what does the spiritual body eat? It eats the word of God. Lastly, one must practice a religious life of loving and serving others.



### **Our spiritual body's health**

As for me, I came to know God while I was attending graduate school in Russia when I was twenty-four years old. Therefore, my spiritual body had not grown until I was twenty-four. I had never prayed or read God's word. I may have done a few good deeds, but a spiritual body has no chance to survive without breathing or eating. She cannot survive in that situation. Even if I have invested great effort into doing these things from when I was twenty-four years old, my spiritual body may not have grown much.

I believe you all know that to live for the sake of others and to serve others is good. However, this is much easier said than done. Isn't that true? Let me

give you an example: A wife comes home from work and finds her husband watching a football match on television while the house is messy and a pile of dirty dishes is in the kitchen sink. In that situation, most wives would go crazy. Could her spiritual body grow if she goes crazy? The answer is no.

Her action does not match her thoughts. In her head, she knows that this is a critical moment and that she must stay calm, but she cannot take it. In her head, she knows that she must endure this situation and that she may "kill" her family if she says anything, but she says it anyway. When she does, there's no turning back. She knows what she should have done, but her body did not respond.

Getting back to what I was saying, I am now fifty-one years old and I am turning fifty-two this year. This is not a secret anymore. (Please quickly forget this!) Anyway, it is clear that my spiritual body is not fifty-one years old. She needs to grow and I must help her grow. But how? For days and nights, I searched for the answer in Rev. Moon's teachings. How could I complete the first blessing, to be fruitful? I could not find a theoretical answer, but one day, I figured it out. For the first seven years of my blessed marriage with my husband, I shed so much sweat and so many tears. I cried out and prayed, "God! You said this was a blessing! You told me this was your blessing! But I've been in hell for seven years already! How could this be a blessing? (I'm not talking about seven days or seven months, but seven years!) Where is your blessing, God?"

### **Not an easy fit**

My husband is the FFWPU-Brazil president, Rev. Sasaki, who gave the lecture last evening. When we have arguments, he is always calm. When he makes any statement, he first feels something deep in his stomach. Then his sense of feeling comes up to his chest to check if his heartbeat is slow, fast or very fast.

It then comes up to his throat to feel if that is itchy or not. When it reaches his tongue, he tastes if it is sweet, very sweet, sour or bitter. Only then does he finally utter the words he wants to say.

I am not like that. I say whatever comes to my mind. The moment I think, I'm already doing it. My husband and I are poles apart. I felt as though my husband were from another planet. He was not the type of person who lives on my planet. Men and women are different, right? They are very different. I did not realize this for seven years. I did not realize that he was actually from another planet.

I was thinking to myself, "How can I complete God's three great blessings?" At the same time, I was telling my husband, "You married me. I will shout when I'm angry and I will go against you when I'm upset. This is me. You don't think everybody thinks and acts like you, do you?"

### **Who am I?**

Until then, I used to think that that was the real me. However, after seven years of suffering, I realized that this was due to my fallen nature. I used to think that it was a part of my character. I am indeed straightforward and direct. I say whatever enters my mind. I am also very passionate. My husband probably does not like people with passionate characters. He likes kind, warm-hearted people. Unfortunately, I am a fervent person. He and I are different. Being different from each other does not mean he is wrong, but I used to think he was wrong. I thought that he was wrong if he had a different opinion from mine. Seven years later, I realized that the fallen nature mentioned in the Divine Principle adhered to my character. I did not realize it because it adhered so tightly.

Originally, God is supposed to be in me and I am supposed to be in him as mentioned in the Bible. However, because of the Fall, Satan is in me and I am in Satan. Most people think that Satan does not exist. They think that Satan is in the kind of person who collapses when a pastor offers a strong prayer. They think that he crumbled because Satan left him and that only one Satan was within him. We tend to think that Satan is far away from us. However, I realized that Satan is within me.