
The Manifestation of God

Throughout human history, God has been preaching through His numerous messengers in various ways. Sometimes even using a slingshot or a sword, God's representatives have tried to convey something more about His nature. God was always involved in man's life, but at the same time wondered whether or not man would listen to and obey His law. Through our study of the Principle, we Unificationists have discovered that God designed His children in such a way that for them to feel really "alive," it is necessary for them to breathe more than physical air. He fashioned their existence after His own, making it absolutely essential that they also breathe spiritually. In order to exist and be fulfilled, like our God, we too must breathe love. And it is love which exists within His reservoir.

In order to evince that love, it is essential that we evoke the presence of our Heayenly Parent. We want it. We even pray for it. God must hear us, but yet how does He manifest Himself to us and bestow that love? We cannot see the evidence of this longing in our hearts, yet I believe that we feel the love of God many times, even without realizing it. The love of God is the breath of life. If we want to live—and in fact, breathe—we need God. We have to encounter the total image of God, and do our best to allow Him to reflect through us. We have to receive the breath of life from God, and then impart it to others; we do that by tapping His unlimited reservoir!

Each human being represents one Cell of the body of God, and we are commissioned as caretakers. He is very interested to preserve the physical lives of those who have chosen to work for Him. In fact, He only has a very few people who are truly committed to do His will. Although He deeply desires to work through us, too often we block Him from entering our lives. That is why a person should become intent upon purifying himself physically and spiritually when he begins to live a life of faith. We are most effective if we refuse to allow Satan to take sovereignty over our lives. Doing that takes manifesting the spirit of God.

We realize that God is a spiritual being, but sometimes we still can't help wonder if and where we could see Him. We might even ponder about where He "hides." According to the Principle, God is able to manifest Himself within the family unit. That is where man can experience "Heaven." Although this actually refers to the God-centered family, we should not have such tunnel vision that we fail to recognize the "family" of man which lives all around us. Neither should we forget to touch the heart of our neighbor, nor allow Him the chance to touch ours.

God originally intended relationships between human beings to be

divine and built on trust. As fallen people, we feel it is almost unimaginable that there is divinity within every person. It also seems inconceivable that we could love and be loved by every person. Since we believe that the world will one day be totally restored, let us also assume that someday love will permeate all human relationships. But even now isn't it possible that at least *some* portion of the spirit of God is tangible in every person? Even if it takes some digging and a lot of blood, sweat, and tears, why not set out on an exploration to unearth the golden nugget of God buried within the heart of each person? Discover where it is lodged within yourself, and bring it out to show others. Not in an arrogant or conceited way, but in the spirit of sharing. Once you become proficient at this, help others make their own self-discovery. This is something God is longing for, because it allows Him to reveal much more of His essence.

God is spiritual as well as physical. By that I mean He exists and "appears" to us physically (in creation, for example), and at the same time, functions in the realm of spirit by moving within our hearts and minds. To me, His "appearance" in our emotions is by far the most "tangible" manifestation. On the other hand, He takes care of us in a very real way, loving us through the members of our family and also through those members of society that provide protection for us. Lawmakers write laws which are meant to protect us, police patrol city streets or country roads in an attempt to make them safe for us, and ideally our family affords us some feeling of security. It is actually God's care we experience through them. These are just a few ways in which He concretely manifests His love.

If we examine certain characteristics of the creation, we could see just how beautifully God planned everything; He envisioned the finest of details. Not only is He loving, but also systematic and scientific. Looking at the universe in this way, we can see it is the reflection of God, and that through it, God surely demonstrates His love to us.

Do you visualize that mirrors exist in the spirit world? How do you suppose God looks at Himself? God has willed that every human being eventually reach perfection and reflect His image. Therefore, to "see" Himself, He should be able to simply gaze at us. Unfortunately, because we are not yet His true representatives, the "mirrors" we are today still show distortions. Much like the mirrors in an amusement park typify a false image of a person—sometimes wavy, sometimes elongated, sometimes contorted and far too wide—in our imperfection, we manifest inaccurate pictures of God.

God *wants* to see Himself in us. And He also desires for us to see Him within each other. God will not remember the fall forever. Yet until restoration is completed, He will continue to feel the pain His heart experienced because man walked away from Him; the scars have not yet completely healed. The Bible records God's plan that eventually *everything* will be thrown into the fiery furnace. The anti-christ—the beast—and even hell itself will completely burn up and disintegrate. That will be the time God can manifest Himself throughout both the physical and spiritual worlds. No more memories of evil, and no more tears. That is the day His children throughout the world will serve as *true* mirrors, allowing Him to see a genuine reflection of a part of Himself wherever He looks.

If you want to comprehend someone's situation, it is important to listen to him. When you read or receive God's words of truth or hear words of spiritual guidance, listen and do your best to absorb everything, not just digest what you like from it. Maybe upon later review, you will find there is more to it than what you initially grasped. When you are married, you have to accept all sides of your mate. You cannot just love a man for his money, a woman for her beauty. You have to accept your husband's smelly feet, the way your wife primps in front of a mirror, and even his or her snoring.

To build a solid relationship with God requires that you totally accept Him. You should accept God in His entirety, not just certain and selected fragments of Him. Yet throughout history, man has perceived only segments of God. Every religion has a partial understanding of God, but until now, no one has been able to encompass the whole manifestation of God. Portions of God's truth are contained within Judaism, Hinduism, Confucianism, Taoism, Islam, Christianity, and the other religions and their denominations. We could say that one represents the hand of God, and another depicts the heart of God, and so forth. *Each* religion has something to offer of the nature of God.

Because of the True Parents, God is now able to manifest Himself totally. God has revealed a complete picture of Himself to True Parents, something unprecedented in all of human history. We must study the True Parents to learn something about the quintessence of God, and from there, broach life with the confidence that we *will* learn more about Him every day.

God is very close to us. As close as our breathing. As close as the blood that flows through our body. He is so near that when we look into the

mirror and see our face and the fine details of His master sculpture—our eyes, nose, mouth, and chin—we can actually see Him.

God is as close as a husband and wife are when they embrace each other. Why do we feel it is so necessary to look for God someplace in nature? Of course He *is* there, yet Jesus told us that the Kingdom of Heaven is not coming with signs to be observed, but rather is in our midst. God manifests Himself through us, a fact we forget all too often.

All human beings are connected to God; each of us was made in His image. However small a person's conscience or however dimmed his spirituality, nevertheless God is connected to each person and lives within both his body and spirit. God wants to cement our bond with tons of love, yet so many people feel attached to Him by just a thread. Man's view of God is so narrow. The majority of people feel so far from our mutual Heavenly Parent; how ignorant we are of God's view of us. Actually, it is all-encompassing, for what we often fail to perceive is that God experiences all our suffering along with us. Our tears are His tears. Our heartache causes His own heart pain. We may feel that we go through these experiences completely on our own. How mistaken we are, for we are actually connected to God through our original mind. If it seems as though our connection is rather threadbare, it is our own fault for not working hard enough to secure it. While that may be our view, God on the other hand observes the tapestry of each of our lives, and knows much more than a thread connects us.

Even though we are currently under Satan's rule, according to God, this is just a temporary situation. God wants to manifest His broken heart and become as real to us as we are to Him. He wants us to know how much His heart has been aching since Satan assumed control of this world. In fact, He hopes we will accept the commission to tell the world that His own suffering is much greater than what we ourselves experience. The question is, will we accept His bidding?

Remove any distance you assume exists between your feelings and God's feelings. Eliminate the distance between you and God in general, and don't think of Him as being so far away. We may not have understood much about God before. We may not have been cognizant of God's desire, or comprehended what He experienced throughout human history, but Father has clarified so many of the mysteries of God. By now we Unificationists should be absolutely convinced that He loves us, that in fact He needs us, in order to perfect Himself. We have become aware that He

can only manifest Himself and assume total sovereignty of this universe through perfected human beings. That is why we have to live with God and accept ourselves as His sons and daughters. If we can really feel like a son or daughter of God, we will come to the point of caring for everyone and everything with more unconditional love. We will better be able to love and govern everything. And we will more easily manifest the power necessary to uplift and heal others. Even now, spiritual powers are available to us, and God wants to express them through us, but He is unsure how we will react.

All human beings are extensions of God; some of us work as His mouth, some reflect His heart, while still others act as His arms and legs. God desires to transmit His full power to each of us according to our own capacity to receive and manifest Him. But God also fashioned the interdependence between Himself and His children, and between His children and the creation. So few of these things which He purposed came to fruition because of the fall: It was His true love which awakened His desire to create, and still stimulates His master plan of *re-creation*, which is now unfolding.

Although the concept may seem far-fetched, we are concerned with the billions of cells which comprise the body of God. God conveyed His heart equally to each of those "cells"—to every person—and He manifests Himself everywhere. He is the true God of the Chinese, the Russians, the French, the Nigerians, the Americans, the Brazilians, the South Africans, and all people. God never intended there to be so many nationalities and languages. And He certainly never planned that so many disputes would erupt between His children. He now tries to reunite His "body," to reestablish the family of man.

Each one of us possesses free will. You alone decide whether or not you will come close to God. Any of us can either represent, neglect, or even totally ignore Him. The process of refining our senses and bringing God back into the center of this world and especially within our lives, involves the task of restoration—beginning with the individual and spiraling through every stage, up to the cosmic level. God longs to manifest Himself totally and wants all of us to be assured of His presence. Although God's heart is the very core of this world, there are many "layers" to His nature—minerals, vegetation, animals, and mankind. The human body provides an analogous comparison. Skin may be roughened by work, leathery from the sun, or even caked with dirt, but were we to peel off the layers, we would see that the further down we go, the more sensitive the body is. Ultimately, we

could also say that our heart is covered by certain "layers." That holy place is embodied in the deepest part of us, protected by ribs, bones, and cushioned by flesh and skin. The most holy place of God—His heart—is protected by His own "bones," and "flesh" —what we call His truth and will. And it is mankind and creation which represent the "bone" of His truth and the "flesh" of His will.

We have to learn how to behave properly in society. We must know how to act, psychologically as well as spiritually. The most simple acts, even walking and talking, are abilities which must be learned, but man has the responsibility to also acquire correct ethical and moral behavior, manners, and the like. They may seem quite menial and unimportant, but are essential in helping us reach perfection. They are a starting point, and through them we become much more aware and conscious of ourselves. Proper attitudes, grooming and dress etiquette, etc. set the stage for us to present our best possible representation of God to others. God is neither sloppy nor dirty. If we want to reflect Him, we will naturally think more of keeping our body, our mind, and our heart pure and clean. The more conscious we become that we are the "mirrors" of God, the better job we will do in reflecting His nature. Our goal is to become the evidence that God is indeed alive!

We have to match our physical appearance and intellectual ability with the level of our spirituality. The Messiah is on earth now and has called people to become true children of God. We Unificationists have answered that call and we are obligated to represent Him in such a way that we reflect His heart and love for all mankind. This is a serious commission. We therefore should be diligent in living for others, and understand the privilege of becoming the heirs of God and True Parents. Hence, we must effectively manifest the qualities that bespeak their true natures.

We have to begin to act like the true children of God. We should apply all the principles that we know now, and do the same for others as they become clearer to us. We must come to understand the will of God in much greater depth. Once we apply His principles, we become formidable people—upright people ethically and morally. We must become people who live according to a higher standard, and are even conscious of God's expression through nature and the arts. We should also cultivate a respect

for the environment, and learn to relate to the universe in the proper way. In essence, we are to become lords of the creation, and ultimately fulfill all three blessings which God originally imparted to Adam and Eve.

As we come closer to God and become more the incarnation of His truth and love, our opinion, judgment, and viewpoint will become more godly. We will learn how to handle the challenges of life with greater perception and sensitivity. As we become more god-like, those people who are actively searching for God will notice that there is something different about us. Once we reach perfection, our eyes will see with the eyes of God, our mouth will speak the words of God, our ears will hear what God hears because we will be governed by the absolute standard of truth and love.

Therefore, as we increase in divinity and come closer to perfection, each of us becomes more important and valuable to Him. People will naturally place greater trust in us because our evaluation of things and our behavior will resemble God's.

As we develop our relationship with God, we may scrutinize ourselves, wanting to understand what it is about us that God really loves. We may even decide to make a list of our good points—and why shouldn't we? If we dwell on refining them, they would far outshadow any of our deficiencies. Besides, delineating them will help us discover those qualities within us that God most likely calls His own. That can even help us put our best foot forward as we relate to others. God wants to see His own reflection in us. Whatever is good in us, whatever is divine and godly, is what He loves.

How do we manifest more of His nature? The first thing to do is cast off satanic accusation. If you have inferiority complexes, or somebody says something which makes you feel guilty or worthless, you have to build yourself up again. Why listen to Satan? Before you receive the Blessing, he still retains his hold on you, but even then, those accusations of his are wholly unwarranted. After the Blessing, he will do his best to wangle himself into your immediate surroundings and do his best to attack you. Even though after the Blessing he no longer has the right to accuse you, he still has control over the environment and therefore can influence you that way. Satan always wants to make you smaller and discourage you, whereas God always wants to inspire and encourage you. God is always looking for you to mirror His image, and to represent Him in all you do.

When we stand before God we should be pure, clean, and

organized. We all were born with original sin and hence our spirits were deformed, but through our sacrifice for God's will, each of us can do a great deal to straighten those unnecessary contortions in our spirit. If we are emotionally twisted and inept at self-control, how can we do anything for God or others? It is our obligation then to bring unity between our spirit and body, and become centered upon the will of God. Many people are disorganized, and it is difficult for them to be conscientious and virtuous. Hence, they are not the best representatives of God.

If this is your personal situation, realize that you need to work on cultivating different points of tangible faith—organization, cleanliness, purity, behavior, communication, etc. In all you do, manifest your divine traits. Each of us must eventually be able to shine the light of God's divinity in the hearts of others. We need to represent God in every way, even through our appearance and in our dress and grooming. We should try to live according to the Principle as closely as possible and come to reflect God, even becoming aware of how to better evidence physical, mental, and spiritual health.

God is an example of purity, cleanliness, organization, and lawful behavior. His hope is that He can manifest these same qualities through us. If your household is dirty and things are strewn everywhere, whether or not you realize it, you have made a base for evil spirits and God cannot be present. Yet if you strive to express pure thoughts and feelings, *He* will be attracted. If we fail to understand and work on this very basic spiritual principle, our connection to God could become hindered or broken.

As we Unificationists move more into public life, God uses us in even greater ways to proclaim His message and heart. He does this not only for us, but as a part of His goal to restore all mankind. In a sense, we become God's tools or property. This is quite a contrary view to the one held by most people. As Unificationists we endeavor to be concerned with more than just our own little pains. We aim to feel that what we receive is for others, even for the whole world, and then share our blessings based on that belief. God's love is parental and very giving; we should strive for ours to be similar. Whenever we receive something, we should be *selfless* rather than *selfish*, and share our wealth with others.

We should consciously keep our body healthy and in good shape primarily for God's benefit, and for the purpose of working to restore the world. We should no longer live with a selfish motivation. If we do everything with the intention of representing God and for the ultimate good of humanity, then we will naturally manifest Him in our every action.

The spirit of God even dwells within the people who totally deny Him. Although the voice of God is quite silent within them, man must come to realize that he did not create himself, nor does he live his life totally alone. God tries with such diligence to direct both the body and spirit of man, but it is actually Satan who still controls fallen man.

God is within you, and it is unnecessary to look for Him in external things. If your heart and intellect become identical with His, then you would think and feel like God, even act like Him. The closer we come to God, the less we will feel it necessary to look for Him through closed eyes. We don't have to search high and low. We won't feel that we can only meet Him in the prayer room. Rather, we will simply need to look at ourselves, because by following His pattern, we will become the incarnation of His truth and love. That is when we will surely know the intimate details of both the purpose and the plan of God.

You may run into problems as you strive to achieve success. You may set yourself a goal, but at the same time, forget to include God by neglecting to prepare your heart. If this becomes a habit in your personal life of faith, you may find it is much harder to break once you live a married life, at work, or even in your social obligations. If you do not prepare your heart to manifest God, you will suffer because through your free will, you unwittingly insist on living without Him. You may have received the Blessing and think you are with God, but actually a big wall separates the two of you, even if you are the only one who can "see" it. All of us need to experience God at all times—to feel Him, His power, His peace, and His love. These are some of the very qualities of God's nature which can engulf and protect us no matter what our circumstances.

We have to reach perfection to come under the dominion of the true love of God. That is when we will be dominated by love. That is when we will possess the right answers about God. And that is when we will make the right decisions—for that is when we will actually represent God.

Don't you think that sometimes God wants to tell me something through you? Even if you don't realize it, I often hear God speak through you. Give and take is necessary to sustain life. No relationship can be a one-way street forever. From personal experience, I know that someone who comes close to God weighs every word he speaks, deeply considering

its value. He tries to transmit only positive elements. That should be our concern, too. Every word we speak should be divine and principled. That is why we should refrain from talking exclusively about worldly matters. We all need to breathe the spiritual love of God, and as we come closer to Him, we should become more selective about our topics of conversation. The things we talk about should be more substantial and related to building the Kingdom of Heaven. We are all on a course of personal restoration or transformation, and we need to test our wingspan a bit, but as we walk this path, we must learn to become more divine and more spiritually powerful. We feel tremendous strength once God is with us. But God is immobilized when we become chatterboxes, avoid talking about the real "meat" of life, and content to live only by our own "steam." It is good to get into the habit of thinking several times before we say anything, considering the possible responses and consequences of our words. Our plight is serious. Father has already warned us that if our words do not serve toward the erection of the Kingdom of God, they may eventually accuse us. We may even destroy more than what we are actually building. He has told us time and again just how detrimental it is to complain. Representing God and reflecting His image are truly ominous tasks, ones that should cause us to think deeply and act with caution, and sometimes measured reserve.

The quality of a human being is decided by how much "God" he contains and displays and by how much he has tapped that unlimited reservoir and filled the containers of his heart and mind. We can call the substance we use to fill them "love," but all other aspects which are extensions of it, such as forgiveness, compassion, patience, tolerance, and the like are also necessary for spiritual survival and to succeed in restoring this world to God. Very little comes solely from us. Although our response is necessary, all we have to do is open ourselves to allow His divinity to fill us. God actually does it all; we just have the responsibility to cooperate. Once we unlock our hearts and allow ourselves to be filled with the love of God, we no longer have only our own strength—which is very limited—but will possess His power. That will enable us to accomplish anything; we have but to seek, to knock, and to ask.

Anything good that emanates from us, especially forgiveness and love, does not actually come from us. The source is God; such qualities originate in God and are then channeled *through* us. And the amount of God's nature we allow to flow through us determines how much

forgiveness or love we generate toward others. Neither are attributes which we can create or construct within ourselves. They do not sprout from any great effort we expend; we either have the love of God within us or we don't.

Every life experience is in some way connected to God. How much do we represent God? How much are we able to be His temples? When someone needs us or our love and energy, it is God who answers that call. It is God who speaks through us, God who gives through us, and God who loves through us. Many times this concept of "mediatorship" is misunderstood. We feel *we* emanate these qualities, but actually our perception is wrong. What do you really see when you look at a person whom you respect because of the goodness and love he radiates? Do you see only that person, or are you able to discern the divinity of God Himself reflected by that person? Are you thankful to that person, or are you thankful to God who guides the person to become the channel of His love? In the end, the work of God and man blend together, but it is important to understand that nothing actually originates in man. Everything comes from God; we have the responsibility to open ourselves to the workings of God, to both perceive and contain His love.

The way to tap God's reservoir is to be one with God. Be "in God," and then be yourself. All of us are supposed to be temples of God, but before we can successfully do that, we must cultivate a solid relationship with Him. After making the initial connection, we can be ourselves and freely express the unique aspects of God's character that we alone possess.

The first prerequisite to evidence that we are with God is to automatically connect with Him first, no matter what our circumstances—easy, difficult, sorrowful, or happy. We should begin the day by relating to God even as we wake, and be conscious of becoming the channel for whatever He wants to pour through us. That is when He will abide in us, affording us the opportunity to become His temples. We must just be ourselves. God knows that He can bestow part of Himself to others through our individual capacity, talents, and capabilities.

We will reflect the image of God, but can only do so with our unique and individual flavor. If two people speak on the same topic, they may use many of the same words, but each speech will be different because each person will use a unique style of speaking, as well as creative facial expressions and gestures, all of which conveys distinct impressions. Our speech patterns and even the tone of our voice and the speed with which we speak all depict our individual character. How would you describe a rose? Probably different from the way I would. Each of us would be inspired

to speak according to our feelings, even our emotions of the moment. Our intellectual understanding and our past experiences would also enter in. Each of us has a particular way to formulate words and ideas, therefore no two people would say exactly the same thing in exactly the same way. One person might hold a rose in his hand and with tears streaming down his cheeks exclaim, "Beautiful!" That one word is a speech in itself, especially with such an outpouring of emotion. Another person would describe the flower from stem to thorns. Yet another might speak mainly about its fragrance.

God has the uncanny ability to use a person's unique characteristics to convey what He wants to say, and each of us represents God in some way. There are so many millions and even billions of unique "gods" through whom our Heavenly Father can speak. But being a channel of God does not happen automatically. Each of us has the responsibility to allow God to work through us. To be truly successful, we must become a clear channel, something which is determined in large part by our faith. Some people do not believe in God; still others have never been told of His existence. Those people are obviously not able to be the purest channels, for there is a certain amount of "static" which accompanies either a lack of faith or spiritual ignorance. Nonetheless, every one of us communicates according to our own unique "flavor." But to make a total and harmonious manifestation of God, it is necessary that all the millions of people throughout the world perfect their unique "flavor" of God's nature.