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Wisdom: Sober Judgment

Young Oon Kim

God is good, His purpose of creation is good, and He is carrying out the providence of restoration for the good of all mankind. Therefore, it is illogical to think that God ever predestines anyone to suffer or to perish. What God really predestines is His Will for mankind, which is eternal and unchanging.

In order to fulfill His unchanging Will, God chooses and calls individuals successively to carry out divergent missions fitting into His overall plan, just as a craftsman selects the appropriate materials to fit into various parts of the whole work. Naturally, in selecting people for specific missions, God assesses the spiritual heritage (ancestral background), personal traits, nature, and environment of the individual.

In assigning the work to specific individuals, God divides the responsibility for carrying out the task between Himself and man. When man fully cooperates with Him and accomplishes his part, God's responsible part becomes effective. Even after God has chosen someone for a specific mission, God's will can be left unfulfilled if the individual fails in his part. This has happened over and over again throughout history.

Man is not created as a machine, but with freedom of will and action and also with wisdom, the ability of rational judgment. So man is free either to cooperate with God or not. In carrying out his mission, man must exercise correct judgment in all important situations. In so doing, he will fulfill the five percent of his responsibility. At these times, God does not guide or intervene, but leaves man alone to do his part. Adam, Cain, Ham, Abraham, and Moses were left alone in every situation when they had reached that point at which they had to use their own wisdom to judge and decide.

When the apostle Paul was called on the road to Damascus, he responded wholeheartedly. It was not the miraculous call of God, but Paul's wholehearted response and his total commitment to the call which made God's call effective. Many times Paul was attacked by doubts, depression, and perplexity and felt left alone, but he overcame all situations because he used wisdom the ability of sober judgment. "The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any that act wisely, that seek after God." (Psalms 14:2) "They have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened." (Rom 10:2)

When John the Baptist's disciples asked of Jesus: "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?" (Mt 11:3), Jesus replied: "Go and tell John what you hear and see." Whether to believe in Jesus or not depended entirely upon John's own judgment, upon his wisdom. So Jesus said with regard to John, "Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds." (Mt 11:19c)

God loved Jacob and "hated" Esau in their mother's womb (Rom 9:11-13). Why? Because God had chosen Jacob for a specific mission. However, if Jacob had failed to fulfill his mission, God's choice would have been nullified. When Esau fulfilled his part, God could not refuse him but blessed him also. Both Jacob and Esau overcame their problem by wisdom and fulfilled their parts.

After one accepts the Divine Principles, spiritual gifts are often taken away and phenomena are seldom given. Why? The message itself is priceless, and the amount of indemnity to be paid for it is great. Why should we expect to receive more? There is another reason. We are running our ultimate course, which we must walk alone with sweat and tears without outside help. We are fulfilling our responsible part, and therefore it is we who must lead those in spirit. They are dependent on us for their growth to perfection. We are to teach them what to do. During this final growth period, God is not going to teach us what to do. In such a situation, we must use our wisdom, sober judgment, and think all problems through in a rational way. Our goal is not far. The bright sun will soon come out from behind the clouds when we fulfill our 5%.

"The words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end. Many shall purify themselves, and make themselves white, and be refined; but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand; but those who are wise shall understand." (Dan 12:9b-10)

"For by the grace given to me I bid every one among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith which God has assigned to him." (Rom 12:3)

"Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few." (Mt 7:13-14)

Let us be the few wise ones who know why the way is hard and the gate is narrow!

News from Africa

Beloved of the Light,

H. O. Tetteh

Here again comes the boundless pleasure of writing to you whose love for God's Light grows brighter. The newsletter was a source of real inspiration to me and fires me with the determination to keep going.

My silence was for awhile owing to multiplicity of work with the Voice of God Temple here. I propound the Principles to them. Some are, altogether "raw", ignorant; hence it is requiring patience and tact. This placed me in such a position that not having anything of good report to offer, I then clothed myself in silence.

Beloved One, let us carry on with the work of enlightenment in our people and what a glorious day will it be up there when we shall meet our loved ones there. God Bless you.

News from Castro Valley

Enid Lee

Greetings of love and gratitude to our Beloved Leader and Family in Korea, to Miss Kim and family at home, to Peter and Ursula in Germany, and to each and every one in the Master's vine-yard:

My activities are brief, and after a long silence, I am pleased to say, that it is encouraging. Most of my witnessing is being carried out through corresponding with individuals overseas, mainly in the West Indies. Many are seeking more Truth and Light, and there are great possibilities in those parts for one who must be prepared for the task.

Beloved students of Light, death does not defile it be the death in man of his old and corrupt nature. Those who are filthy before entering the halls of death are filthy still, and those who are holy are holy still. (See Rev 22:11) Final Victory is not attained through death but through the transformation of the Adamic nature into the "quickenings spirit" of the Christ man when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption and this mortal have shall have put on immortality. (I Cor 15:10-58)

I am advocating that the dangers of all forms of contacting the so-called "dead" be understood. Just as you would not admit unrighteous men or thieves into your homes, when living; so all, who have parted bearing the stamp of their own lack of holiness cannot be relied upon in the psychic world to do ought else than that which they practised while yet in physical embodiment. May God's Counsel guide and uphold you, always in His Service I am.

News from Fresno

Douglas

Dear Family,

Last week I put an ad in the paper about the Principles. I only got two responses. The first was from a Mr. Stratford, an insurance man. I lectured the first three chapters to him, and covered the main points on chapters four through six. He was very pleased with the Principles and bought a book. The second response was from a woman who had attended one of our meetings in San Francisco a couple of years ago.

I hope and pray that you and everybody else is O.K. in the Bay Area, and that the Divine Principles is causing a spiritual earthquake there. With Love and Prayers.

News from Oakland

Marie Laux

Testimony:

I was reared a Catholic. Knowingly or unknowingly God or His messengers have guided me throughout these years. I visited various churches and found nothing. In September of 1959, while up in the Sierra Mountains, I had come to feel so close to God, especially at the dark of the moon. It was on such a night that I had cause to be out doors on a clearing at 2 A.M. I was standing there drinking in the beauty and thanking God for causing me to be aware of such beauty, and for directing my husband and I to this area; when there appeared this magnificent light! Lighting up the entire sky, the brightness equally as brilliant in any direction I looked. As fast as this light appeared, it disappeared. Then came this tremendous earth-shaking and rumbling. It was as though God literally took hold of me by my waist and shook me. At this same time, He stated in a stern voice, "The time is getting late. Why don't you wake up?" My search really began then. Searching for what, I did not know. In the meantime I had been attending a community church which was basically Swedenborgian. In August of 1962, two new ministers arrived at this church. Each was strong in their beliefs and discipline. A planned study and discussion group was to begin that October. When this study group began, I sat and did not have very much, if anything, to say - until after February 1963. Then, slight disagreements began with one of the ministers. I was not thinking his way, and a number of things that I said disturbed him. I was seeking more and had a desire to grow - not to stand still and/or regress. I had to grow. Then came the Divine Principles!

Gordon Ross presented a number of chapters to this group in Richmond on a Friday night. On

the following Tuesday night I attended this weekly meeting with this spiritual group, that I had attended often. Several of those whom had attended these Friday meetings spoke of a few personal beliefs of Gordon's. The next A.M. I awoke chipper and was overwhelmed by the quality of inner and outer ~~joy~~ joy. I was experiencing. This was accompanied or followed an inner sense of dancing and glee. I could not keep from laughing - outwardly. Then this inner voice said, "You must call Gordon!" I thought, "This is ridiculous. I do not know him." The inner voice responded, "But you do know him. CALL HIM!" I obtained the S.F. phone number, however, Gordon was out of town for the week. The following week I contacted Gordon, relating that which had preceded and made an appointment with him for the following morning.

I sat in amazement at much that was said, Some of my beliefs so paralleled the Principles. On the same day, my feeling or reaction to Miss Kim upon our first meeting, was rather astounding. When Gordon and I entered the kitchen where Miss Kim was standing, I went directly to her with open arms, as to a mother or dear one I had not seen for some time. Little did I know then! My search had ended. A most memorable day it was. One by one, those that I have met in the Principles have become most dear to me. After having read the letters in the New Age Frontiers, it is amazing how I feel about some of you, that I have never met. Each of these letters were most inspiring and such a feeling of love between the writer and myself.

Together, with God, our Leader, and Miss Kim, we are filled with courage and strength. The challenge is absolute; the call is ultimate and inescapable. Our communicating and yearning to know each other via New Age Frontiers, is our 'draw string' to being one with God in thought and prayer.

News from Los Angeles

Dear Miss Kim and Family,

10-14-63

Doris and Orah

We have been going so much, my head is swimming! Monday night we taught at Opa and Otto Finstad's, and Wednesday at Wanda's house. Wanda's son Mike is witnessing quite a lot. Bert is doing fine. He is working two jobs now, and also studying and witnessing all of the time. We have two new boys now, one's name is Leonard Edwards. He is a very good speaker. He has moved in with Teddy and Bert. He witnesses constantly and is so eager to learn everything. Peter John Mancusso is the other boy. He also has moved in and is studying.

10-20-63

Many things are happening here in our City of Angels. The boys are witnessing up a storm, going day and night. The boys are all eager to work hard for the Principles.

10-23-63

Just came back from Zella's. We discussed third chapter and other questions in her mind. We are going to get together and go over the entire book together. Estelle told me today that she would begin to teach the first chapter at meetings.

The other night, Leonard, Pete, and Orah went to a revival meeting, Pete and Leonard really blasted them. Pete is a whiz with scripture and had the preacher and congregation going around in circles. Several of the people were interested and said they wanted to hear more. Pete has really been prepared through much study of the churches and how they operate, especially Catholic. Teddy is teaching Principle to all the fellows he works with, and everything is going wrong in the Plant. He is really a go-getter, Bert is also active, and has two people coming to meetings. Until I see you, we all send our love.

Dear Miss Kim, Brothers, and Sisters,

Teddy

After many years of traveling all over the world, going from one country to another, always looking for something, but never really knowing exactly what I was searching for, I finally reached a point of disgust with life and became physically ill. It was at this time that I met Doris and Orah and they told me that they were teaching a New Revelation from God. After hearing almost all of the Principles, they told me that the King of Kings was on the earth. I was really shocked and yet at the same time very happy. At the moment they told me, I thought back to the time I was a boy of 12 years of age, and was attending the Catholic church on an Easter morning. When I looked at Jesus hanging on the cross, I began to cry, trying to understand why the people had crucified him.

As I began to study the Divine Principles, I experienced much interference by ~~Satan~~ Satan. Father three times he showed his dislike in an obvious way, and later he became much wiser in his attacks. This proved to me the validity of the spirit world's existence. I cannot express fully how happy I was, knowing that at last I had found what I had been searching for all of my life. I only hope that someday I will be worth just one hair of our Beloved Leader's head. The world has never known a Leader like him, and throughout eternity, there will never be another as great as He. In His Glorified Name.

News from Sacramento

Dear Miss Kim and Family,

John Pinkerton

We are looking for a house to rent so that we can dedicate it and use it for spreading the message of the Divine Principles to others in Sacramento. With Pauline's encouragement, all of us have attended various religious meetings in an effort to contact people and present them with the message. Some of our contacts appear to be fruitful at this time, but it is a little early to tell. We pray continually for the hearts and minds of all individuals to be opened and understand their true relationship and responsibility to God.

As one becomes conscious of the truth contained in the Divine Principles, the presence of Satan is more easily recognized, and renewed effort must be expended to overcome the influence he wields over us. Our humble gratefulness for being fortunate enough to have been presented with this message permeates our every prayer. Love.

Dear Miss Kim and All,

Jo Gray

How wonderful it is to meet and study with such an enthusiastic group, so full of love and happiness as we have in Sacramento. The positive vibrations felt when present certainly stir one within, and makes a person more determined to find what their mission is, and to set about accomplishing it without delay. This is my desire. My name is Jo Gray. My husband, Don, and I have two grandchildren. So far we have only attended a few meetings. Maybe because I am one of the older ones, but I find myself being so impatient, wanting to know everything now. Patience is a lesson I must learn, for the "road" to "Mission completed" is long and bumpy, and will take a great deal of hard work, time, energy, tears, and laughter to cover it. I am looking forward to meeting all of you next month. Love.

Letter to Paul Werner, Sacramento from Peter Koch

9-30-63

Dear Paul,

Satan works in the most subtle ways to keep people under his domination. It is no problem at all for Satan to inject doubts and thoughts into you which you will not be able to recognize as an outside influence. You will think they are your own thoughts. You may not like that situation, but your disliking it does not change the fact of its existence. About four or five months after my first contact with the Principles, I suddenly was filled with doubts. The Bible is full of warnings against false prophets and anti-christs. I caught myself blindly doubting the truth of the Principles and the identity of the Master. At that point, I said to myself: "Now, wait a minute, Peter. Don't get all excited, but keep your head clear. No good can come from a panic. You don't believe in blind faith because you can blindly believe everything, even nonsense. But then you should be just and not believe in blind doubt either, because you can as well blindly doubt everything, even the truth. Sit down quietly and analyze your problem!" And that's what I did.

1. If our Master was sent by Satan, then he should be Satan's pet. But he has been tormented by Satan in the most cruel way for many, many years.
2. A man who seeks out Satan's crime and who by telling it to everybody is giving all men the weapon to subjugate Satan and break his power, cannot possibly work for Satan's interest, but must fight on God's side.
3. If Satan 'planted' the revelation of the wrong nature of his crime through a false prophet, then the knowledge of this (wrong) crime could not be effective as a weapon against Satan. But the knowledge of Satan's crime as discovered by our Master has proved over and over as an extremely powerful weapon against Satan. Every member of our group, including myself, has experienced this.
4. We recognize a tree by its fruit. If the Master would work for Satan then his disciples should be evil, and a life according to his teachings would have ill effects. But the contrary is the case. Members of our group are gaining in humility, brotherly love, wisdom, patience, and willingness to sacrifice. People are healed of all sorts of sickness and bad habits. They suddenly dislike smoking, drinking, and foul language and are able to overcome very deep-rooted personal problems which have never been cured before.
5. If we were Satan's soldiers, evil people would feel comfortable in our midst. But they just can't stand it. Look how they get nervous and start shifting in their chairs when they are exposed to the Principles!
6. Many people reject our Master because they love Jesus so much. But their loyalty to the work which Jesus did 2000 years ago is not doing Jesus any good today. History did not stop 2000 years ago. If these people would really love Jesus as much as they claim, they would do his work of today. If they do not want to accept our testimony, they may try to contact Jesus directly and ask him what to do. It may take a lot of fasting and praying and listening, though. If their love to Jesus is genuine and not just a phony excuse for avoiding a decision, Jesus will answer them.
7. All those who are not yet convinced, I advise their masters not

for avoiding a decision, Jesus will answer them.

7. All churches claim that they have the absolute ~~truth~~, and yet they advise their members not to study too closely other religions. Obviously, they ~~fear~~ comparison. Our group is the first one I have met which encourages its members to compare the teachings with that of the other churches. When I did just that, I experienced tremendous ~~superiority~~ of the Principles to other teachings.
8. If the Principles really are a truth which is higher than anything else revealed to man in the past, then they must be not only theoretical and must not be in contradiction to the realities of daily life, but it must be possible by their application to solve any problem arising in our life, even those problems which could not be solved by the application of Christian teachings. When I realized their absolute validity in daily life, I was overwhelmed by their greatness.
9. If we would serve Satan, then he would not ~~constantly~~ try to attack us. In case you don't know what a Satanic attack is, just wait, he won't miss you.

I have come to the absolute conviction that our Master is the Lord of the Second Advent. In this time of the great universal change, you have a tremendous responsibility - not only to yourself, but also to God, your family, your nation, and to all mankind. Once you have realized that responsibility, all your other problems which you may deem very important dissolve into nothing. May God enlighten, strengthen, and guide you; may He give you the power to break the claims of Satanic domination. Love and prayers,

News from Oklahoma City

Philip

Dear Doris and Orah,

9-28-63

It is now Saturday morning and Joe is well on his way. He and I were together for such a short time, but in that time we explored every facet of the Divine Principles we would think of. Usually our minds were so intense on the work that we sat amongst the people as two spirits being totally abstracted from the whirl of the human world. It never failed to amaze us how we ~~spent~~ more than a month together but every day was a new adventure into the Truth and we never failed to find more and more to talk about. It goes without saying that I am so indebted to him and the group. I can't say enough and thus would rather express my inexpressable thankfulness in absence of words. The spirit of Joe while I was with him was a great factor in my acceptance of the Divine Principles. Still, I saw him grow so much in these few weeks. It helps greatly when we share our minds and experiences. A day never passed that something new would not evolve which always added to our confidence and convictions. Though we both admitted that we cannot realize the greatness of the New Age, we would feel its fullness ~~feel~~ fleetingly in our spirit. In the last week we gave our testimony about ~~g~~ five times and tried to quickly explain the Principles. But they encompass so much that to "quickly" tell all is humanly impossible. However, people are captive to the message and they will come if ready.

Since coming into the Divine Principles, I have prayed daily at the chapel just up the street from my barracks. I have visited it every day since I came here and before the Divine Principles, I believed that in time I could achieve peace and closer communication with God. Then, it seemed that religion was so ~~g~~ full of hokus-pokus that one had to do everything short of dying to reach a deepfelt awareness with God. I had considered the Catholic church at that time, but one thing that I strongly disliked was the use of repetitious prayers. Likewise, I believed God was as active today as He was 6000 years ago and could not accept that the heavens were closed and no further revelation would come forth. I called it 'putting a fence around God' or 'making God too much in our image; rather we in His'. If anything, God was still doing works and revealing truth and thus only spontaneous prayers felt from the heart and spoken in the emotional heat of the soul could satisfy me. Prayer must be 'earnestness, not eloquence'. Now, I find that when I come to Him as a child speaking to his Father in 'earnest', there is eloquence but it is ~~the~~ eloquence of the heart, not the mouth.

Dear Doris and Orah,

10-10-63

When I read your letter, I was overcome by chills and tears and was lost in the words of your ~~letter~~ letter. In these times, I know so much that ~~was lost in the words of your letter~~ God is with us, that this is the Truth and that we are living a life that every government head in the world, every king and queen, every stately person, every millionaire, every religious leader, the Pope, every man, woman, and child, every last soul on this earth would give up everything that they possess, riches, and knowledge to have the same thing. May God touch our minds and hearts to touch them all, to love them and see them as the Father sees them, to give our very beings for them. How little we have suffered beside the Master's suffering. The pains and sorrows He has felt are on my heart and mind every minute of the day. At times, I feel such a deep, deep sorrow for the

I knew that my shoes were completely unsuited for such a trip. After 40 km. my feet were reduced to a blistered, bleeding, swollen mass, and I thought that I could hardly walk one more day and that it would take a long time before I could reach my destination. Yet all through that night, I constantly heard your encouraging voice. So I pulled myself together and walked on. Then I heard a voice: If you will make it in 21 days, you will be alright! This was the way my journey became a 21 day course.

Oh Father, I have thought so often of you! When I was walking over the hills and through the valleys, I thought of your walk to South Korea. When the pain drove tears in my eyes, I remembered that you have suffered a thousand times more and that you have cried much more and more bitter tears than I. When the children in the street called names after me, and the people stopped and gaped at me with their mouths hanging open, I thought of you pushing a push-cart through the fancy streets of Tokyo.

I saw so many automobiles, good, comfortable ^{new} cars. They were speeding down the road, splashing me with muddy water and forcing me off the road, Big, fat Satan! Oh Father, what belongs to God in this country? Only my ~~blister~~ blistered feet? How long does this country have to suffer under the rule of the anti-god? Father, let me liberate this land and restore it to God! It is a land of great beauty, ~~but~~ but the people have to be changed. I thank you, Father, for showing me the way to restore this country.

A few days ago, when I almost could not pull myself any further, I suddenly saw a good stick lying in front of my feet. So I picked it up and used it to lean on it. I have been very happy about this simple stick and very proud of it. At night I parked my stick right among the fancy automobiles of the other ~~poor~~ people. I knew that this seemingly worthless stick was of more use to God than many a minister. So, my beloved Father, I pray that even I as your unworthy 'stick' may be able to bring joy to your ~~heart~~ heart. With great love.

News from San Francisco

1. The U. S. government recently recognized LT. Col. Pak's group in Washington D. C. as a non-profit organization and has granted them full tax exemption. Congratulations from San Francisco!
2. Gordon and Dale have been going out day and night to all sorts of groups. They are now often using the tactic of approaching one or two people and presenting a synopsis of the Principle in about one hour (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 12).
3. Ernest Stewart is back from his trip to the east after speaking to approximately fifty people. It was quite an experience!
4. Edwin, Elke, Barbara, James, Mary passed the test on the Divine Principles with high marks. ~~I congr~~ We congratulate them all!
5. The 3rd Edition of our book is now being distributed.
6. Peter Koch walked all alone from Münster to Heidelberg (app. 248 miles) for 21 days to make a condition of indemnity for the restoration of Germany. We thank the Father for giving him the strength to accomplish this difficult task. We are proud of you Peter and we cry with you. May your effort of blood and tears soon bring life and joy to your people and all Europe!
7. The German translation of the Divine Principles has been completed and is now being distributed,