

## God's Work in America

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To members in Washington, DC



God must be the example of unconditional faith, the well-spring of eternal optimism. Every time a sinner gets down on his knees and prays to God, "I'm going to change my ways," we may not believe him and his wife and family may not believe him, hut God believes him. If God didn't believe him, how could He have any hope at all? When he sins again, God is hurt. And if he prays again and repents again, God believes him again. If he sins again, God is hurt again. This is the most fundamental understanding of what it means to love with God's heart.

In the face of thousands of years of faithlessness on the part of man, God still believes in man. God believes in each one of us, He loves us and He's hoping for us and He knows what we can become. As we edge towards it step by step and generation by generation, God is forever believing and hoping. But man has disappointed God time and time again. If man can't respond to God, nothing can be accomplished. Man broke his promise again and again. Yet it is man, not vaguely man somebody else but us and me who come back to God and accuse Him for not fulfilling His promises to us. That's probably the most bitter moment of all for God, not only to be disappointed, but to be accused of being the responsible one, the guilty one, when what has happened was never God's desire or intention.



Reverend Moon, too, is forever telling us what can be, what should be, if we fulfill our responsibility. But not everything that he has said could be or should be came about. Whose responsibility was that? That was our responsibility.

We are beginning to understand that the limits that we're operating under and that we accept in our lives and in the influence and possibilities of our movement, our nation, and our world are not limits which are intrinsic to those things but are limits which are self-imposed, limits that we've come to accept. It's only when we challenge those limits that we can begin to understand the tremendous potential that's within one man. If there's so much potential in one man, we can't even begin to understand the potential that exists within all of humanity to create a heaven that's far greater than anything that God could just hand over to us. We can create it out of our own potentiality.

In the beginning, even before God created man He had a concept of what His partner would be like. It must have been God who was the most excited at the time of the creation of Adam and Eve. It must have been God who had the greatest hope, because it was God's joy that grew as they grew and it was God who wanted to give everything to His sons and daughters. But because they centered things on themselves and because they adopted a selfish way of life instead of a truly unselfish way of life, then all the things that God wanted to give, He couldn't. And when He couldn't, man accused Him: What kind of God are you? If you're so good, why do we have this kind of world?

However much man has suffered since the time of the fall, we must always remember that God has suffered far more than us. If you've ever been in the position of a physical or spiritual parent then you've realized how much you can love someone you feel responsibility for, unconditionally and regardless of how much they understand. If you have a little baby that hits or bites you, you don't get angry or consider it responsible, because your love is far greater than all those things. God's love for man was so great and God's need for love was equally as great as man's. Since the fall, God has been looking for man, looking for love, and man has been looking for God, for that same love. But because we're so far apart, we couldn't even see it. When we say The Word was in the beginning, we mean the concept of man, and Adam and Eve were reflections of that Word. They were the incarnation of that Word and when they fell away from God, God's Word was lost to man. But painstakingly, never failing, God continued and persevered until He could raise man little by little.

If you're the parent of a genius, it's easy to be proud or if you have a very faithful child, you know the joy of being a parent. But if you have a child who's delinquent it's very difficult to understand what your responsibility is because you can't cut off the relationship. You can't deny him. You'll be the parent of that child eternally. You're completely bound up with the fate of that other individual and you'll keep working despite the most difficult circumstances. If you have a retarded child you feel desperate because you can sense within that child, unable to express itself, the spark of a human being.

There's a book out about an autistic child who completely withdrew from the world. It's a beautiful story of parents who would not let their child slip away. Autistic children are usually very normal in the beginning but by the time they're one or two years old, suddenly they stop responding. If you go to a baby, the baby always reaches up to be picked up but an autistic child just stands there. You can pick it up or put it down and it doesn't seem to make much difference at all. But these parents fought with all the power of their love. They poured everything into that child and they never once gave up believing that their child could be a normal, fully functioning individual, and they won! In a most amazing case, extremely rare in medical science, they won because they wouldn't stop until they won. When I read that story, it showed me just a little bit of what God's love is like.

We think it's easy to be God. You just have to reach out and love everybody. But is it so easy? It's very easy in the Unification Church or any church to say to someone, "Of course, God loves me and I imagine He loves you, but there are so many other people. How can He love them all?" But that's not the nature of God.

In the particular family I just mentioned, the parents were so caught up that they sometimes said they felt guilty ignoring their other children because they focused everything on the one who needed them most. But they were fighting for his life. That's how much God loves us, because that's the love of a parent. If even fallen parents love their children so much, can't you imagine how God, the ideal parent, must love us so much more. Even the most wonderful parents can recall moments when there was just a flicker of the wrong kind of anger towards their child. But God never once, from the beginning to the end, wavered in His love for each one of us. He suffered so much.

How much did it mean to God when Jesus was called? When people fall in love, their basic desire is to be together, to just sit down somewhere and look at each other, because it fulfills something so basic in them. When God found His son, His first desire was to be with him, to go up on a mountaintop with him. But because God is the parent of all mankind, He saw His son as a channel through whom He could restore His word and His love to all mankind.

Therefore God had to sacrifice the very love that He'd been searching for by sending His son out into the world, and His son experienced the same thing as God did. Jesus came with the most sincere desire to help people, to restore God's Word and to lead them to the very situation that they desired, but they couldn't understand him or accept him; they felt threatened by him. They pushed him away.

The life of the people who have followed God throughout history has been a life of sacrifice, not because God demands sacrifice but because God has lived a life of sacrifice. Following after God simply means to take up responsibility with Him. God sacrificed Himself. God put man first. God sent those people who could understand Him back out into the world. I'm sure many of you have been on teams where you just wanted to stay together but when a new instruction comes or a new campaign begins, the group has to break up and go someplace. I know you realize the maturity of doing that, but something inside is tugging

at your heartstrings, and you wish you could remain together. That's the same way God feels. He would like to have a small group just praising Him and giving sacrifices to Him. It wouldn't be everything He expected but it's better than what He receives under most circumstances. But instead He sends His people out. God has lived a life of sacrifice, so we must never feel that God is different from us.

It's not that God made up this terrible list of requirements: "Please do many sacrifices and live under difficult circumstances. Travel around and eat in a strange way and go out and do this rally or that campaign and then if you do everything on the checklist I'll open up my heaven and you can walk in." That's not the nature of God, but sometimes we act as if we felt that way. That's not right at all. God has been at the very front. If we want examples of that, look at God's central figures, His representatives. They have always been the ones at the very front of what had to be done. That's the pattern of God so that's the pattern we follow. It's not to satisfy some demand but to catch up to where God already is. If we want to receive the love that we've all been longing for, if we want to fulfill the promise of making this the kingdom of heaven on earth, and most important of all if we want to create a world which we will be proud to bring our children into, not a world in which we're afraid to send them to school, afraid to send them into the streets, if we want to be like that then we're behind and we have to catch up to where God already is.



*Mr. Kamiyama (at far end), regional coordinator for the five-state campaign, meets with Washington, DC leaders.*

If we catch God now and go through these circumstances with Him, there'll be a certain camaraderie. Are the richest times you remember the ones where you had the most food and the best place to live or was it the time when you and your family went through a difficult hardship together? That's the kind of memory that will be the richest in heaven, not the joyous Easter services where the candles were just right, however nice those were. It'll be the times when we just made it by the skin of our teeth. When the war heroes came back from World War II and the Korean War, were they forever telling you about the R and R they had or the times they had off? They usually told you the close calls they had or how somehow in the most crucial moment somebody was needed and they stood up and the whole war changed because they did something. That's what they remember and what fills their hearts with pride. That's what makes a total victory, because that's not just the victory of the army or the victory of the nation, it's their victory. It's not just a feeling, it's the truth. There's a certain sense of accomplishment and joy that comes with that.

It would be nice if we were living in the kingdom of heaven already, but that's not true. Look around. It's very obvious what the world is like. We know that, yet before we joined this church we couldn't find the solution. The solution is not some secret that just hasn't been revealed yet. The solution is to restore God's Word, not in sermons and books, but in the hearts of men. If the world is going to change, people have to change, and if people change, they have to change something so fundamental that they can't even hope to do it by themselves. They're going to have to renew their relationship with God.

However joyful God was when Jesus was born, can you imagine how much He suffered when the people didn't accept him, how frustrated He was. For the past two thousand years God has forever encouraged and supported us, even in our most meagre efforts.

That reminds me of a story. I was raised in a Scandinavian home; my parents were Finnish and Norwegian. One Norwegian story became famous when it was turned into the television series called "I Remember Mama." They were always living hand-to-mouth but they didn't want their children to be upset

so every Friday when the family came home and they counted out the money for the different things they had to pay, the parents would say, "Well, we'll make it this week. If anything happens we can always draw some money out of our bank account. But we don't want to do that if we can help it." The children always felt there was some kind of cushion protecting them. When the eldest daughter went out and got a job, the first thing she did with her paycheck was to give it to her mother and say, "This is for the bank account." The mother looked at her and said, "There was never any bank account."

So God has never fully revealed to us the seriousness of the situation because there wasn't any way, as children, that we could take responsibility to help. But now, God has rekindled the hope that we can bring about not an improvement in mankind but a fundamental change, that we can restore God's Word to mankind. But to do that we have to unite with the words of Jesus and die to ourselves in order to live in him. It's like swinging from one trapeze to another in a circus. There's that moment when you have to let go of what you are and fly through the air to what you hope will be there and that's called the leap of faith, because that's the point at which you just have to throw everything in, there's no turning back. There's no compromise and there's no way to be sure.

No matter how many discouragements Reverend Moon suffered in the last 30 years, when he came to America he put his foot down and said, "I come to bring God's Word to America." There were only about seven or eight centers in America then. He gathered together the leaders and told them he would give a speaking tour, and he formed a team of 70 pioneers. At that time, no one had ever heard of him before. The results weren't what we expected, and then Reverend Moon explained that this was where we had to begin -- that we had to train ourselves. We couldn't expect any mystical success to come to us. We learned we had to build our success step by step, laying a foundation.

But it was real and it was pure, so it was accepted by God. Our success grew as he traveled across America, and the great victory came with Madison Square Garden. The membership began to grow and God's blessing was obvious. We generated some publicity and Reverend Moon was no longer the man nobody knew. He became the man everybody had heard of but nobody knew anything about. Reverend Moon taught us the pattern of success. That same team he had formed over two years of crusading marched on to eight cities in 1974 and went on to Japan and Korea, culminating in the great Yoido Rally which drew 1.2 million people in Seoul.

Now we are beginning again at the very bottom. There will not be time in his life for Reverend Moon to crusade in every country, so he has to set the pattern here, to pour the effort of the entire world into America and then transfer the pattern everywhere. God's greatest desire is to shake this country.

We're being trained to go out as little Sun Myung Moons. That's the interesting thing that's different about our movement than, say, Billy Graham, who's been crusading for many years. He calls what he does "bringing people to the door," in order not to cause divisions among churches. He tries to convert them to Christianity in general and he leaves them to the churches to be followed up on. I know some people who've been saved by Billy Graham three or four times. I'm not saying that's bad, I'm just saying it's obviously not enough. It's much better than if they hadn't been saved at all, but it's not enough. He hasn't formed a movement, he hasn't sent out state leaders, he doesn't send out missionaries all over the world. The thing that impresses people so much is that Reverend Moon's movement is multiplying. Even when he's in New York, there are still people speaking up in Washington or someplace else. People have the feeling in America and soon around the world that we're everywhere.

So the purpose is for us to fulfill the responsibility of going out to other parts of this country and the world. After the Washington Monument campaign, if we can have a great success, we will evangelize in each state and when the foundation is strong we will use it to launch a crusade throughout the world. Then America will fulfill her promise to God, the promise that was made at the time of her blessing. We're going to lift up the people of other lands and create one world family under God.

If a state leader goes out and wants to start a crusade after Washington Monument, we may say, "We have no money and no one's ever heard of you," but that's exactly the situation that Reverend Moon was in when he started his seven-city tour in 1972. That's the pattern that he established. The purpose was to launch us into the future, that any one of us could begin a crusade. We won't be successful in the beginning just like that; we'll have to build our success brick by brick, but we can do it. If they persevere with the same determination that Reverend Moon had, they'll bring victory. And when we're having Madison Square Gardens in 50 states and more than 100 countries, speaking God's words, then the world will really change. So the Washington campaign is meant to be the culmination of a certain pattern, of a certain training that we've received.

It is the end of one stage of Reverend Moon's ministry in America, but it is the beginning of something too. It is the beginning of our ministry to our mission. From there we have to march. We have to go and carry out with that same determination and that same success. If that pattern can be multiplied, if there were just 50 of our members in America as controversial as Reverend Moon is today, the country would be tearing its hair out and people would demand a full-length television special explaining the Divine

Principle. People would have to know what was creating a new race of people, people who are uncompromising, who are not dependent on the support of dignitaries or big labor or a good press, people whose power must come from someplace else. They can look everywhere and if their eyes are open what they will find is that this power comes from God. There's no power greater than that -- the power of truth, the power of love.

But we must take the responsibility to make sure that what we are doing in Washington and in America is truth and is love. We are the people to resurrect the family so we have to first resurrect ourselves. We have to become the shining examples.

What is the purpose of the Washington Monument campaign? One purpose is to serve as the culmination of Reverend Moon's ministry. It is also an offering. America is strong because God has given her incredible blessings and yet in this generation we feel that it is because America was lucky, and we don't want to get dragged down by people who are not so lucky. But if America loses her relationship with God, she will lose the blessings that came with that relationship. That is not just a theory. It is all too obvious that the extent to which we've been turning away from God is the extent to which we have been losing those blessings. When the home was a Christian home or a religious home, the family unit was strong in America. When the homes became secular then families began falling apart -- many divorces and remarriages, many kids running away (a million and a half kids under 18 ran away last year). Even more shocking, 700 kids were beaten to death by their parents last year, and that's just the ones that were reported. Who knows what happens that's never recorded. There's a shocking rise in alcoholism, drug addiction, immorality. (Immorality isn't even considered immorality anymore; it's the new morality.) To be moral is to be guilt-ridden, repressed, and psychologically disturbed.

We have to fan out across the city and bear witness to what this movement has meant to our lives. You know there are many people in America who were raised in the right way. One reason we are so desperate to do something is that the younger generations seem to be getting further and further away and we seem to have less and less in common. There are many people who are troubled deeply in their hearts and they're praying daily to God; they're isolated because they don't find the leadership in the government or even in the churches. But their foundation is still intact and they're waiting for someone to come and sound the alarm. They are ready to be called, to stand up together for what is right. They can't do it by themselves, and there isn't anyone to lead them to do it together, except us.

I don't think what Reverend Moon is going to say at Washington Monument is news to many people in America. Those ideas are not unique to our movement, although they aren't popular. But I do think that by coming together to affirm those things, we are demonstrating that Reverend Moon is providing the leadership to mobilize the people of this country to reach out to God. We are saying, "Come and stand up for what you believe. Come and stand up for God in America, for the things we have to do in the world. This is your chance. There isn't a candidate you can vote for, there isn't a church you can go to, there isn't a newspaper you can support, but here's a rally. If you come, the meaning will be very clear. This rally is not a compromise. The statements made are not going to be vague. We are going to say what God wants to say. If you come and stand up for that, then everyone in America and throughout the world will recognize that there are people who believe those things. That will bring a tremendous rebirth of hope for people just like that all throughout America and the world. The rally is a time for you to come and stand up for what you believe." That's the meaning of the Washington Monument rally.

If there are no Americans who will give thanks to God for the blessings He has given, then by the Principle He cannot continue to give His blessing. There is no give and take. Not because He's angry or vindictive, but because there's no base for Him, God is being pushed out of America. Another meaning of the Washington Monument rally is to bring together people symbolically representing all of America. Two hundred thousand, two million, whatever the number, they will come together and give thanks to God. If that offering is really pure, if we create the right environment for that offering, then God can continue to give His blessing to America, so that we can still be in a position to carry out our mission. Five years from now if America turns to God, but nothing happens now, the country may have so declined that it will be a hollow shell. We have to save America now while she still has the strength to act for God the way God needs her. America is the champion for freedom around the world. If we don't save America soon, then America will just be another country on a long list of those that need to be rescued from chaos and tribulation.

Washington Monument will be an offering. If we can make that offering pure, then we can extend God's blessing into our coming century. All the leaders, the president, the congressmen should come out and make that offering, but until they do we will go in their place, not because we are more worthy than they are, but because somehow God could reach us at this time. It's not easy to do this campaign. We don't have enough people, enough money, enough facilities. That is why God needs us because we are the people who can still work in that situation. If everything were easy, then God would not need us. The reason God needs us is that there is no one else to do this work.

Our determination must be to somehow find a way for us to take the responsibility off of God's shoulders

and carry it ourselves. For 6,000 years the human race has left everything in God's hands and blamed Him for their own shortcomings. Our responsibility now is to become the true men and true women who can live up to God's standard and take responsibility for this world and welcome God into this world. Instead of making God change the world, we will change the world and welcome God into it. Then America and men and women throughout the world will have realized the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of heaven is the place where God is the guest and man is the host. America will be whatever we make it, or whatever we fail to make it, and we will all live with the consequences.

There are millions of people who know what's right, but they are looking for someone to lead them. At Washington Monument we have to show those people who is leading the cause of righteousness. We want to assemble the people at Washington Monument who will testify to the meaning and purpose of America, who can stand up and be counted as true Americans in God's sight. Nehemiah gathered the Hebrew people together and read them the book of laws to renew their covenant with God. We too will gather the people together and read them the book of laws and renew their covenant with God. If the people renew their covenant and if they humble themselves and pray, then God will remain in America. So the purpose of the Washington Monument rally is to bring God's truth to America.

We have no merit by ourselves, unless we humbly ask God to use us despite all of our shortcomings, to trust us despite all our wrongdoings and to have faith in us despite all of our inconsistencies, and to help us love others the same way that we want Him to love us. If we can do that, we will have laid the cornerstone for the kingdom of heaven in America and on earth. Washington Monument is the end of one stage but the beginning of our real battle to establish the kingdom of heaven. Nothing is going to stop us, nothing is going to stand in our way. If people wonder, when are we going to leave Washington, the answer should be very clear: We are never going to leave Washington.