Faith: A Life Lived

Joseph Kennedy January 31, 1974 Unification Church Leadership Conference Sheraton-Lanham Hotel near Washington, DC



Joseph Kennedy

From the first, you young people attracted me. I knew a young man who was demon possessed. He was my patient as a psychologist. But I was not able to help him through my clinical training. After he had been in contact with the North Carolina Unification Church he improved dramatically.

You are probably the first young people in the world who have a true unity of spirit. You are the first true world citizens. Three times these young men came to my home, in my small town in North Carolina, and had not been able to see me. Finally we met. Kevin McCarthy began to lay it on. He witnessed to me and laid on me a great need. I thought Kevin was a unique phenomenon. I thought I would never see

anyone like him again. But I went to Atlanta to help them prepare for the Day of Hope campaign, and there I saw more people like him.

I have always had a mania for work. But these young people really do it. People tell me, "You can study a person by the people associated with him." You can study a man's children and learn more about him than from the man himself. After studying you, the children, I know your father. Reverend Moon's spirit, whom you have embodied in yourself, will change the world.

But very few people impress me, because I had one of the greatest men on earth as my father. So I am not easily impressed. There is no society in the world that does not honor courage. The absolute courage you have flows out of Reverend Moon. As I have worked with you on these projects, I became impressed with the power of faith. In the Methodist Church I had been struck by the declining faith of the people. But I was impressed with the faith of you young people.

Faith is not belief in spite of evidence, but it is a life lived. Meditate on that saying. You can hold a belief, but conviction is something that holds you. You young people have conviction to act, and that's what people around the country are looking for.

One morning during prayer, I jumped up and telephoned Billy Graham. Dr. Graham answered the phone from his hotel room-the first time in at least nine years he ever answered the phone himself, according to his assistants. He was at the Mayo Clinic. I explained, "I have something heavy on my mind I want to talk to you about." He said, "Come on over." When I arrived, he was going down to the store. He asked me to come along with him as he was taking some medical tests. During a half hour break in the tests I showed him the preface to the book Victory Through Persecution. I asked, "Billy, did you write this?" He said, "Yes." "Then please autograph this preface for me," I replied. After he did, I said, "Billy, I have always known you were a great preacher, but I didn't know you were a prophet. Those words are fulfilled in me. I had lost my spiritual fire, but a little Korean preacher got to me."

I once met Jesus on the hills of Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, and he called me to do his work. But I found that I could not do it through the established church. It was too circumscribed. People broke their promises to me. Although I continued to support the church, I quit the pastorate and took up psychology.

I have travelled all around the world. I was the organizing secretary of the Second World Council of Youth. I was the international chairman of the Methodist youth of this country. But what always troubled me was that I could not find young people as dedicated as the Communist youth. I had seen young people living in a barn 15 kilometers from Paris. Three of them worked all day in order to buy food for everyone. The others rose before dawn and walked into Paris to leaflet on the streets all day, at night they walked back, and slept in the straw. You are the first young people I've found who can match such dedication of the Communist young people.

Mr. [Bo Hi] Pak told me about the difficulty in getting tickets for Reverend Moon for the Presidential Prayer Breakfast. The committee which was organizing the prayer breakfast met the day before yesterday in an out-of-the-way area. When I finally got there, I asked them to pray with me, which they did. I explained why I thought Reverend Moon should be invited to the prayer breakfast. They would not answer me on my request for tickets. I went home and prayed most of the night. The next morning, a knock came on my door: there was one FBI man, one committee member, and one congressman. They were worried about security for the banquet. I pulled out the picture of Mr. Nixon surrounded by Mr. Salonen and all the young people to show them how much trust the President had in them. At 3 p.m. they brought the tickets. This morning we had a most beautiful breakfast.