

Open Letter to Adherents of the Substantial Word Group

Dear brothers and sisters,

I am John Raucci, and I have been with the Unification Sanctuary since 2015, and the Unification Church since 1974. I have come to know your activity from friendships that I have with a number of your adherents. I feel obligated to write this note, which in essence will be a reminder of something that Jesus taught us. That is, we should worship both in spirit and in truth.



I realize that you focus on one of Father's final speeches. And, by conveying that speech to others, you have moved many people. Father's words are very powerful. But, that speech, however significant, can by no means nullify the rest of what Father said or did.

All of his words and deeds are significant. Father may try to simplify things for us by bringing attention to this final speech, but his life is so much more than anything I've seen or heard. In light of that, Father has chosen a successor.

That successor also elevates Father's words, but does something more, from what I can tell. He conveys Father's spirit, and in so doing, brings a life to Father's words which serves to express their fundamental meaning and essence.

It's like with the Bible. We are left with Jesus' words, but often without the spirit by which he conveyed those words. Those of us who have been privileged to spend time with Father understand a little of his spirit, and can understand the words along with that sense of spirit that was acquired through experience with Father.

Jesus may have come as a shepherd, but when we think about the Second Coming, Christ comes a warrior. Just read the Book of Revelations to see if that's not true. Hyung Jin Nim is a warrior. It's not to say he's not loving and compassionate, but ultimately he stands strong against evil, and will fight it wherever it appears.

That's why he's so interested, especially in training young people, to be not only good husbands and wives, but to be defenders of the faith, and of the freedoms that come from God. Hyung Jin Nim is responsible for constructing the framework of the Kingdom, so he emphasizes new things, and people thus get confused about how closely he resembles Father. But, there's nothing in what Hyung Jin Nim says or does that is adverse to Father's words and deeds.

His spirit is remarkable, and his daily life as well. He can help us to really understand Father not only in truth, but in spirit as well. When Father selected Hyung Jin Nim as his successor, Father said he surpassed each of us in his faith, and in every other way. He called Hyung Jin Nim his "representative body." So, from Father's point of view, Hyung Jin Nim was the best one to convey Father's truth and Father's spirit. If we judge him

while focusing on Father's words given in one final speech, we may not be looking at him the way Father was.

Through Hyung Jin Nim, we learn about self-reliance, self-defense, hard work, how to be our brother's keeper and protector, how to harmonize with nature, how to appreciate the natural world, and how to live in the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. As such, these items may not be specified in the one final speech, but they are no less aspects of Father's spirit. They are connected with all of Father's words.

In the recent Substantial Word book "Foundation Day and Seonghwa," why was only one page devoted to Hyung Jin Nim, who was the hope of True Father? Why was True Mother Kang not mentioned at all? Why was it stated that Hak Ja Han would ultimately return to True Father? Did not Father teach that once a central figure fails in his or her mission, that that person can never be used again? If we think in terms of "love, love, love," we may be confused, because this is a time of battle, and we are in a war. Wars have casualties. Is not Hak Ja Han one of them?

If there is no physical central figure on the Earth, those of us who follow Father will ultimately divide, just as happened within Christianity. That's why Father said there will always be a physical successor from generation to generation. Please recognize the value of Hyung Jin Nim and his family, as well as True Mother Kang, and let's find a way to stay united as Father would want.

In Christ,

John Raucci