

Gratitude In Difficult Circumstances

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World Peace and Unification Sanctuary - USA

Lessons Our Son Taught Us



Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 5:3-5

The fact that we are alive and get tired and sleepy is a source of gratitude. Last night I talked until 4:40 with one of the older members who recently came to give a report. I never slept at all, and when it was time for service I just washed my face and then came down here. Even though I was utterly tired I felt I needed to speak to you family members. It is not easy sometimes, especially after a sleepless night, but then I felt grateful for that. You know how satisfying it is when you push yourself hard without rest and then finally you get a chance to sleep.

Why do I talk about this? You might reply that it is because this attitude determines who goes to the best place in spirit world. If I speak too much about the spirit world then you will really feel lightheaded! In one word, though, whoever can feel grateful even in the midst of impossible circumstances will find themselves in the highest place in spirit world. SMM, "Let Us Be Grateful," June 18, 1978

Hello,

Shigeru Tashiro started with a children's service, speaking about when God talks to Moses from a burning bush that was not consumed. The adult sermon was given by Yoshi Ichijo on the topic "Count Your Blessings: Our Journey."

Yoshi discussed how it's often easier to count problems, than to count blessings. That's human nature. There are people who are in better situations and those who are in worse situations. Do you compare yourself to the billionaire Elon Musk? Or to a homeless person? To an Olympic athlete or to one who is paralyzed in a wheelchair? We don't know what's happening for those we envy or admire, behind the scenes, at home. Couples on the verge of divorce? Or lost a loved one? The grass is greener on our neighbor's front lawn? It's all up to our attitude.





[Sanctuary Service 8/16/2026](#)

Which do you like? A disabled child with a golden heart or a healthy one with a bad attitude? Obviously, we cannot have everything in life. Good to have enough to share with the needy. If you have only one dollar, you learn its value and how to stretch it. If you have a disabled child, you learn that to have a normal, healthy child is a miracle.

Yoshi was matched in 1978 in Korea. Fran called her mom right afterwards. Her mom's first response was "he is our enemy!" but later her mom appreciated when they visited that he was relaxed and helpful.



[Sun Myung Moon's Fight Against Communism](#)

Kenji's development was slower than Erika, the first child. He had "Fragile X" which is like Down's syndrome. Someone recommended Institute for the Achievement of Human Potential in Philadelphia which advises to teach intellectual, physical lessons all day. Yoshihiro and Fran made over 2,000 flash cards over the course of his life.

Yoshi and Fran came to feel that God "chose us," trusting them to do a good job to take care of a disabled child. Kenji teaches them a lot of lessons, patience, self-sacrifice, passion for the disabled, and to develop compassion for the disabled. Many parents say they wouldn't trade their disabled children for anything in

the world. His heart is so pure, purer than the average child. He never hits anyone, except in a playful manner. He is thankful for all kinds of things.



[Sanctuary Townhall Meeting- Part 1](#)



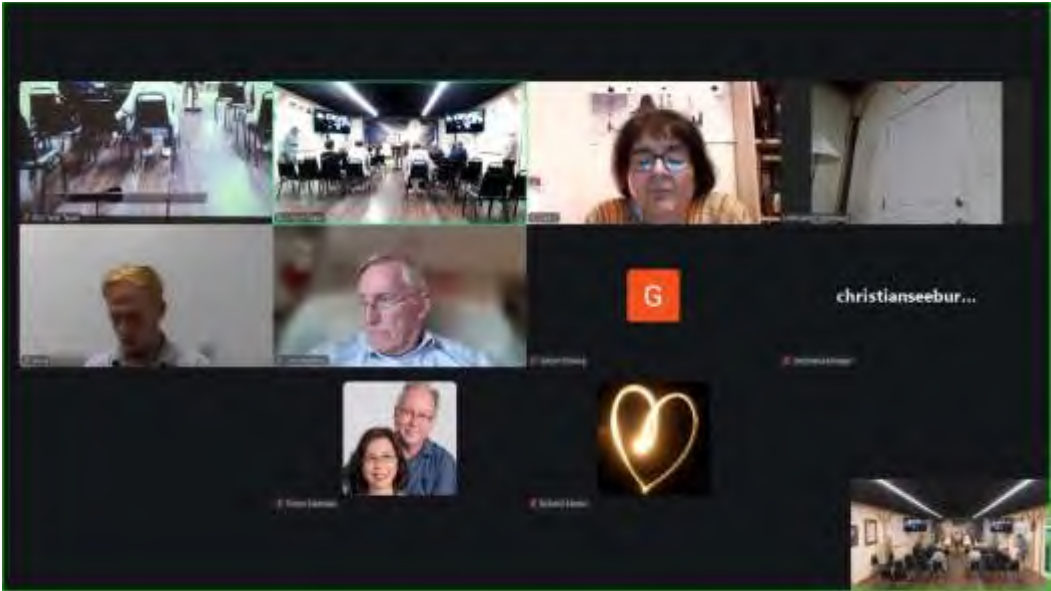
When he becomes frustrated or upset, he realizes how imperfect he is. Fran is much more patient! Yoshi thinks she is perfect!

Yoshi spoke with Steven Yoder about his disabled daughter. They decided to match Kenji with Steve and Susan Yoder’s daughter. True Father saw the photo of their blessing and told Dr. Yang to facilitate other disabled couples to get blessed. That’s how the “Grace of Heaven” ministry started, which the 2nd King is continuing. They started a horseback riding group at New Hope Farms, which helped many couples with a disabled child to find solace and acceptance.



[Sanctuary Townhall Meeting - Part 2](#)

Fran has ancestors who were slave owners (Dreightons) in South Carolina. Enslaved families were often separated, so Fran felt that Kenji’s disability was separating him from a natural relationship with his parents as indemnity for that.



If you have a complaint about your spouse, talk to people who lost their spouse. If you have a complaint about a child, talk to someone who couldn’t have a child, or lost a child. Gratitude is the basis for all virtues. Without gratitude, it’s difficult to practice true love. Author/talkshow host Dr. Laura Schlessinger told someone who was struggling to go do volunteer work.



Yoshi once tried to help a wounded bird by taking it in his hands. It died a few days later. He realized that we are like the wounded bird in God’s hand. We don’t realize that God is trying to protect and love us.





May God bless you and your families!

Sincerely,

Richard

Richard A. Panzer, Ph.D., President

World Peace and Unification Sanctuary - USA

"Sanctuary Church" is short-hand for "World Peace and Unification Sanctuary" which is from calligraphy on a scroll presented to Hyung Jin Moon by his father, Rev. Sun Myung Moon. The purpose of the "World Peace and Unification Sanctuary, Inc." is to "preserve and propagate the Biblically-based teachings of Reverend Sun Myung Moon."

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