

Keeping the Kingdom in Focus

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I think I've been a bit harsh on myself lately. On several occasions I've doubted my degree of focus on the vision of building Cheon Il Guk, the substantial nation of peace & unity on earth and in heaven. This is clearly the goal that True Parents are aiming for – and thus the goal of our Heavenly Parent – which is to restore a nation during the earthly lifetime of True Parents. As someone who is striving to live a life of filial heart, or hyo jeong, it should be my goal too. And yet I ask myself, “Have I taken my eye off the ball? Am I losing focus?”

In such moments of self-doubt, it's handy to have a personal cheerleader (aka my dear wife) who can remind me that my regular prayers are centred on this goal; that the vision I've been trying to articulate for the last 2 years has indeed been centred on this goal; that much of what we're doing in FFWPU is not random and reactive but is proactively trying to pursue that agenda.

When I watched [the video of True Mother's words](#) of encouragement to the young participants of the GTG workshop in Korea last month, I felt encouraged by her simple yet practical guidance:

When you wake up in the morning and open your eyes, the first thing you should think about is your Parent: “Heavenly Parent, thank you. As I begin this day, I will work hard to become a person who in Heaven's eyes is worthy to receive True Parents' love.” That is how you must start your day.

I'll admit that my first thoughts of the morning, shortly after turning off my alarm clock, are rather hazy and confused, but once I've prepared myself for the day and offer my morning prayer, I do offer thanks to God for a new day and recommit myself to the daily pursuit of making a contribution to the building of God's Kingdom.

At the Annual Gathering Festival last week, I shared the message during the Sunday morning worship service, with the theme Our Family Makes a Difference. I reflected on how every family makes a difference to those around us, and while we aim to have a greater impact on the people, community and world around us, it's important to recognise and celebrate the difference we already make. As owners of Cheon Il Guk – a phrase we repeat whenever we recite the [Family Pledge](#) – it is our determination to be co-creators with God of building the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus taught his disciples to pray, “Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Thus he connected the will of God with the works of humanity.

In the past few weeks I've invested more effort to be clear in my focus about the vision of national restoration, and the result has been that I've felt more sharp, more intentional, more purposeful. In so doing, I realised that my self-doubt (to which I referred earlier) was simply a result of being involved in a number of challenging situations, all of which were important but which also had the potential to distract my focus from the overall vision of national restoration. What I feel now is an overwhelming sense of gratitude to God for the loving protection and guidance I have received which has actually enhanced my sense of clarity regarding the vision, which in turn leads me to live more purposefully, connecting everything I do to the realisation of a substantial nation of peace and unity here in the UK.