## **Pure Vessel of God**

Ken Sudo March 2, 1975 Director of the Barrytown International Training Center



When we look around this world we feel that this world must be changed because even though we have lived on earth a long time we still can't find anything pure. We only find impurities and evil. Something must be changed! Everyone must have felt this way at some time.

But who constitutes this world? We do. So unless we ourselves are changed, it is impossible to change this world. It is not a question of the world that must be changed but a question of myself. Unless I am changed we cannot change this world, no matter how much we may wail over the state of the world.

But impurities cannot change or cleanse impurities. We are born as sinners so we are not qualified to change ourselves. No matter how much we may try to change ourselves, we cannot change our evil nature because we are impure, and impurity cannot 'solve impurity. Someone must come to change my impurity, to change the world. Most of us have been on earth at least 20

years. From the beginning of our lives we must have met many people beginning with our own mother, then our father, brothers and sisters, neighbors, friends, and teachers. We must have met thousands and thousands of people in our lives. Out of them, who was able to change you from a sinner to a sinless man? Who could change your evil nature, who could change this world, who could cleanse your inside from evil to goodness? Who made you pure? Your father? Your mother? Your brother and sister? Then who can do that? What could be the most pure and significant encounter in our lives? The answer must be God.

Throughout history, there has not been one person whose life has not been changed when he met with God. If only we could meet God, our lives would be completely changed. If our life hasn't changed from evil to goodness, from impurity to purity it's only because we have never met with God. St. Paul was persecuting Christians when he was struck by a heavenly light and he fell down and became blind and said, "Oh, my Lord, who are You?" He got the answer, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting." The next moment his life was changed completely. The persecutor became the foremost disciple of Jesus. It didn't take one hour or two hours or three years, but just one moment was enough. He was able to change 180 degrees because he met God.

If you cannot change yourself, it is not because of the Principle but because you have had no experience of God. Each of you can experience rebirth through Christ. You can be a new man or woman, filled with joy, purity, hope and goodness, but you must have an encounter with God. "Oh God, Heavenly Father, if You are here with me, reveal Yourself to me and let me know You are here with me." This must be our essential desire because when are the children of God. Without parents, how can children be children?

Without God, man cannot be man. In order to be a man, in order to feel happiness as a man, man needs God. When we come back to God in the depths of His bosom we feel pure, peaceful and joyful. Once you have experienced the taste of God, it is better than the taste of steak. The taste of God is the best taste of all.

Always when we are embarrassed in the depths of His bosom and we can suckle the milk of God, then we feel true happiness, true peace, true joy. Therefore, every one of us must be seeking an encounter with God. Nevertheless, many people cannot experience God; they cannot see God, they cannot feel God. They are far apart from God and cannot find anything pure and joyful and peaceful. They are involved in corruption because they cannot see God.

America is a wonderful country. I respect and love America even more than my native land of Japan because America is representative of Christianity. When I came to America my first impression was that America is beautiful. But soon after I found that America is not always beautiful. I asked someone, where are your parents; and she said, "My father is living in San Francisco." What about your mother? "I don't know because my mother is divorced and I haven't seen her since." She said she had heard that her mother married someone else. How about your brothers and sisters, I asked "Maybe they are traveling around America; I don't know," she answered. America is wonderful but something very simple is missing here. The most important thing missing in America is love, true love. Lack of love is the cancer of America. America is, in a sense, dying because of the cancer of lack of love. You cannot get it from your parents, your friends, or your teachers. But still you need love. This is the reason so many are involved in sexual corruption and drugs. America is being ruined not by an enemy or an invasion but because of this corruption. I have seen so many terrible situations here. Something must be changed; otherwise America

will be ruined.

God cannot live in America as it is now. America has been great not because of the Empire State Building but because of our faith in God, but He cannot live on Fifth Avenue any more. God is leaving America, but if America is forsaken by God then America will be taken by Satan and her future will be miserable. If America is lost to Satan, then what country can be responsible for the world? None. We would have no hope for the future of the world. America needs God and God needs America.

America must come back to God. I think America is also seeking God. No matter how much Americans are involved in corruption, still inside the heart of America she must be seeking God, just like every one of us is looking for God. Unless America is one with God, America cannot be happy, the world cannot be happy. If we can encounter God we can feel joy, purity, and happiness.

Then why can't we meet with God? Several years ago I was giving a sermon in Tokyo and the more I spoke the more depressed the congregation became. It was very strange. Finally I just couldn't speak anymore and I slipped away by myself; prayed and prayed, "Oh, Heavenly Father, why couldn't I give the sermon? Tell me, Heavenly Father." Inspiration came. God answered me and said He couldn't work through me because I was impure. That was why I couldn't speak.

I wanted to be a pure vessel of God but instead I was an impure vessel of Satan. Therefore, Satan interfered with my speech. It wasn't me but God who could give life. Heavenly Father must be the source of life. I am just a vessel of God but if that vessel is defiled God couldn't speak through me. I continued to pray, asking God to show me how impure I was and what was wrong with me. "Show me, Heavenly Father." Very soon I realized that my entire body was filled with fallen, evil natures. "What a terrible man I am; what an impure, sinful man I am," I thought. I was almost crazy. I couldn't do anything at all that week because of the terrible battle within me.

The next Sunday I was appointed to give the sermon again, so I just spoke about my experiences and the battle of satanic nature within me. I spoke from the point of view of the Divine Principle of how we should subjugate the Cain-like nature within ourselves and how by establishing the internal foundation for the Messiah we can receive him and experience rebirth. Then we can feel joy and purity.

I did not speak so enthusiastically, but my sermon made a deep impression on the congregation; it was printed up and distributed all over Japan. I received many letters of gratitude. Because of my battle against my satanic nature somehow I was cleansed and then God must have been able to work through me, speak through me. So only by cleansing our insides can we change America and change the world.

Many people think that this world can be changed by solving the financial situation, or by political methods. Some think that we can change the world through education. All these are good for the betterment of the world but unless sin is solved there can be no realization of the kingdom of God, no ideal world. The solution of sin is an experience of rebirth. Not science, not economics, not education, but the solution to sin is the key to solving the problems of this world. Sinners cannot solve sin, but a sinless man must come. The Messiah must come or there can be no realization of the kingdom of God in America or the world.

Jesus came, was crucified, and gave his life for all mankind, yet the kingdom of God has still not been realized on earth. Therefore, the Messiah must come again on earth. Centering on the Lord of the Second Advent this world will be restored and America will be restored. Sexual corruption, the drug problem, racial problems all will be solved by the second coming.

Only the Lord of the Second Advent can save America. He will appear and solve original sin completely. Through the solution of sin we can become sinless. I can be sinless, you can be sinless, we all can be sinless, America can be sinless, all mankind can be sinless. This is the solution. He will come on earth and he will cleanse this world by shedding tears, sweat and blood. He will give new life to us and the kingdom of God on earth will be realized.

The Divine Principle shows how it can be done. This is a new revelation from God given through Rev. Sun Myung Moon. God is alive now. Even though you read the Bible you cannot understand it all. Only by new revelations can we understand the true meaning of the Bible and of the providence of God.

Through establishing the foundation for the Messiah we can receive the Lord of the Second Advent and by his coming our sins will be cleansed and we will be born anew. Sinless mankind will start again. There will be sinless marriage, sinless children, sinless families, tribes, races, nations, and a sinless world. By changing ourselves through his words and his love we can be the example for this world. Only when we can be cleansed are we qualified to cleanse this world so that the kingdom can be established to the ends of the universe. We must cleanse our sins and be prepared to receive the Lord of the Second Advent.

He will re-create us and give us new life and we can be reborn. Every one of us can see God, can meet with God. From morning to night God will live with us. He is our Father, the God of eternal love and joy.