

The History and Practice of Our Church Traditions: Part III: Holy Salt

Compiled by Nancy Neiland from speeches given by Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak
1981

Our True Parents have introduced many traditions for members of the Unification Church. One of the most common of them is holy salt. The purpose of this article is to include some points of history and providential significance as well as to provide answers to some of the questions which members have asked about holy salt and its use.

History

On the day of the True Parents' Holy Marriage in 1960, Father gathered disciples and members. All in all, slightly less than two hundred people attended the meeting. Yet it was an historic one because at the time Father introduced the tradition of holy salt. He brought salt which he had blessed before the meeting and divided it among all who were present. As well, he gave each a piece of paper with his signature (Korean signature seal) on it as an additional remembrance of that day.

At the time of the True Parents' blessing, Heavenly Father told True Father that He actually wanted to destroy all things of Satan's world. Heavenly Father didn't even want to see the things of Satan's world any longer. However, the only creations directly under the dominion of Heavenly Father were the True Parents. For that reason, God couldn't completely demolish this world. Yet as one process for restoring this fallen world to the ideal, Heavenly Father instructed our True Parents to make holy salt.

He further told them that when they blessed any item with holy salt, it would no longer be in Satan's dominion; it would then belong to the dominion of God. Therefore, Father and Mother need to make a condition with Satan in order to use the things under his dominion. Such a condition is made when they bless things with holy salt. Through our belief in the True Parents and by standing on their foundation of victory over Satan, holy salt has the same effect when members of the Unification Church use it.

Father couldn't make holy salt before the time of his blessing; he had to wait until there was absolute victory over Satan.

Providential Significance

The True Parents have two aspects to their mission. On one side, they are concerned with the restoration of fallen mankind. On the other side, they must create the standard of a brand-new world centered on God.

Before his marriage, Father was alone. In Heavenly Father's eyes, True Father had tremendous value; he had sacrificed himself for the world and he shared the burden to restore the fallen world with God. Yet Satan did not agree with God's viewpoint; he felt that True Father had not yet laid a strong enough foundation of indemnity conditions to be able to stand at the top of the growth stage in order to reach fallen man and offer him the process for salvation. Satan had a point; such a task would be impossible for any individual to do. Yet even Satan had to agree that as a couple, the True Parents stand on the apex of the new world, and when fallen man is reborn through them, spiritual and physical salvation was possible. In the fallen world, no such position exists. It is impossible for one sinful individual to cleanse another sinful individual.

We pray to God in the loving and precious names of the True Parents. The True Parents are our mediators to God. Even Father and Mother pray to him in the names of the True Parents. To stand in the position of the True Parents is to stand in the position of the ideal. In this sense, they have supreme value. However, there is not yet an ideal world in which they can live. The things within Satan's world are tinged with evil and sin. Had Adam and Eve not fallen, all creation would have reached perfection. We can just imagine that even the vegetables and fruits they would have eaten would have been perfect creations under God and that there would eventually have been an ideal factory which produced ideal clothes for Adam and Eve. Yet throughout history, the True Parents have been the only ones to make a victorious foundation to separate themselves from Satan. Except for the two of them, all things are still under Satan's dominion.

The book of Revelation in the New Testament explains that the things of this world will be burned or broken. This refers to the fact that Adam and Eve will be "reborn" and the things under God's dominion restored while those under Satan will be destroyed. A holy person should have holy things. Father needed to find some substance which could be used as a condition to purify the things of Satan's world and make them (invisibly) holy even though they (physically) would look the same.

The Bible speaks of a new heaven and a new earth. This actually began at the time of the True Parents holy wedding. It signifies the beginning of the end of Satan's dominion over this world. By using holy

salt, we become the participants in building the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. That God could allow the True Parents to set up such a condition shows a definite broadening of God's territory.

From a providential viewpoint, whenever we use holy salt we essentially engage in battle with Satan: we take things from his world and ask God to accept them under His dominion. This is extremely powerful. Because we have the blessing to use holy salt, we must realize that we are not ordinary people living on earth. We are people of God, holy people still living in an unholy world.

Purpose

All members of the Unification Church should understand what a privilege it is to be able to use holy salt. We should always be conscious of its meaning: using it changes things from Satan's dominion to God's. Striving to live spiritual lives, we are desperate to become free from Satan. By using holy salt, in a very basic way we obtain some of that freedom.

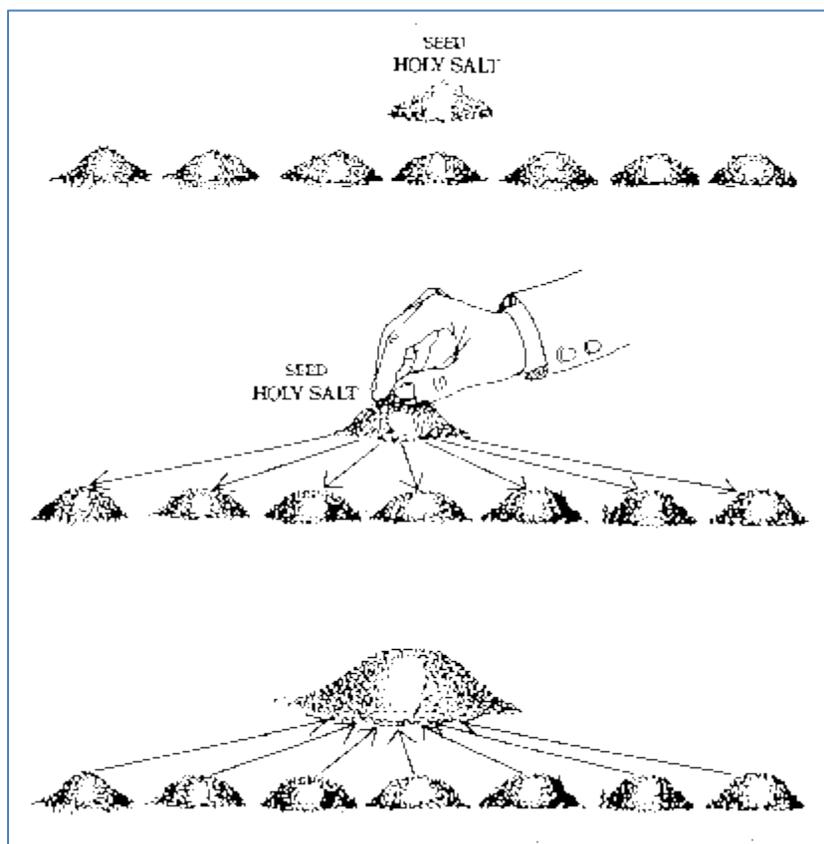
History has recorded the lives of famous saints and people of deep religious conviction. Yet none of them had a perfect give and take relationship with God. Even the relationships which Noah, Abraham and Moses had with God were imperfect. Each of them tried to break loose from Satan's domination within their physical lifetimes.

They may have done well, but Heavenly Father still couldn't have perfect give and take with any of them. This is simply because Satan has always had a base to attack fallen man: original sin was never solved. Even though Jesus desired to help man form a perfect relationship with God, his restoration or salvation work was only on a spiritual level. True Father's main mission is to change the dominion of this world from under Satan to once again under God. By allowing us to use holy salt, the True Parents grant us the opportunity to actively participate in offering things from Satan's world to God for use under His dominion.

Why Salt Was Chosen

We know that in olden times salt was often used to preserve things. It served to protect materials from rotting or decaying. For this reason, Father chose this particular substance.

Preparing to Make Holy Salt



One must first purchase a new container of regular salt. Take a few grains of holy salt with you to the store and if it is possible, sprinkle them on the carton, praying as you purchase this salt, it will be used by heavenly father to purify the things you holy salt. However, if the store is crowded or for another reason it is inappropriate or difficult to do this, at least pray some similar prayer as you remove the container of salt from the shelf. Pray that by the strength of Father's original condition of creating holy salt, this new salt will be able to become holy.

In order to multiply holy salt, one must first have a quantity of (previously blessed) holy salt even if it is only a few grains. When you multiply it, make six equal piles of new salt, the original holy salt should be in a pile in the middle. You can place this on a table or some paper on the floor. Pray: "Under the names of Heavenly Father and True Parents and the conditions they have previously established, I pray that Your spirit comes here, and by Your holy power this new salt becomes holy." Then mix the seven piles together. Pray again. Fill your containers with the new holy salt. Don't become overly concerned with how well mixed it is. The most important thing is that you have a pure attitude as you pray and multiply the salt.

Every member should keep the first holy salt given him either at the time he joined or first understood its significance, even if it is a small amount.

When to Use Holy Salt

Until we holy salt them, the things we buy to use in our lives are not claimed under God's dominion. The food we eat was probably not grown on a farm which God can claim; neither are the clothes we wear made in a factory under God's dominion. Yet we still need to use the things in Satan's world, therefore, through the tradition of prayer and holy salting the items we buy, we have the True Parents' assurance that God will accept them under His dominion.

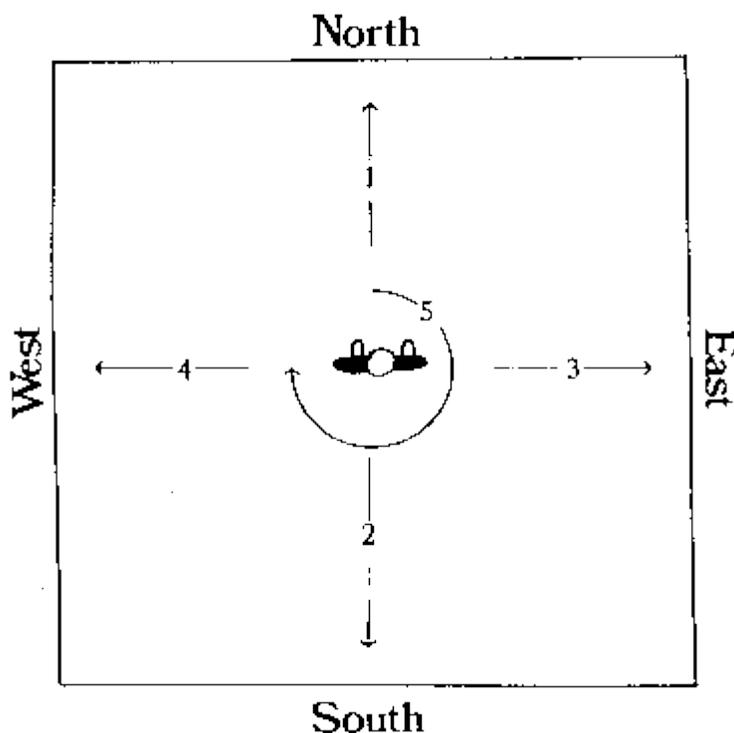
In some areas of the world our church owns farms which cultivate crops. It is not necessary to holy salt this produce; when the seeds were originally purchased they were holy salted.

Prayer When Holy Salting

If you holy salt a small item (i.e., a bag of groceries, etc.), it is sufficient to simply sprinkle a few grains of salt in the form of a cross: north, south, west, and east.

At the time when anything is holy salted, pray in the name of "the Holy Trinity (i.e., God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit), the name of the True Parents, and my own true name." (This is the prayer to be prayed no matter if you are single, engaged or blessed.)

How to Holy Salt Rooms and Buildings



With some amount of salt in your right hand stand in the center of the room and walk toward the north, tossing a small quantity of salt in that corner. Walk to the south end of the room, east and finally west, following the pattern in each of these areas. Go back to the center of the room and throw salt in a circle around the room. During the entire process, pray in the same manner as was previously indicated.

If you are holy salting a large home or even an entire building, you do not have to do this in each room. Follow the above pattern in the main room(s). The other rooms can be holy salted in a more representative fashion. You can simply open the doors to the other rooms and as you pray that the room becomes purified, toss a small quantity of salt in.

If it is convenient you can walk around the outside when holy salting a building or house, allowing grains of holy salt to fall on the ground as you walk (i.e. leave a small trail of holy salt as you walk.)

One example to note is when our True Parents holy salted the entire World Mission Center. Even though it took Father over five hours to salt the building, he did not follow the above pattern in each room. He did this in several of the main rooms; but the doors to all other rooms were opened and as he walked down the corridors, he merely tossed a small quantity of salt into each of them.

How Long Will We Need to Use Holy Salt?

The man of God's original ideal would never have needed to use any substance to bless and purify things. Because this world is not yet under God's dominion, fallen people need to use such a condition for God to claim the things they use. However, after the restoration of one country, people who reside there will no longer need to use holy salt. All things will be sanctified and no special blessing will be necessary. This does not mean, however, that people in other nations will not need to use holy salt.

Until the restoration of their nations, they must. The tradition of holy salt will need to be followed until all people and all things of creation are under God's dominion.

Holy salt has historical value. There will come a time when we might put it in our own museums; it is definitely not something which has to be used forever.

When You Are Away From Home or in a Restaurant

Although it is not wrong to holy salt the food in a restaurant or when you are invited to the home of a friend, it is not always practical. If you have a bit of holy salt in your pocket or purse and it does not look strange or obvious, you could take a small quantity of salt from the container and quietly sprinkle it over the food, praying as you would normally to holy salt any item. Again, it is certainly not always practical to do this. If you are with others, who have no idea of this custom, or the restaurant is crowded and it would be inappropriate, Father has also indicated that another condition will take the place of holy salting food for your use. He has instructed us to blow softly three times on our food instead of holy salting it. Use your discretion, making it as unobvious to others as possible.

Questions

Should Holy Salt Be Used On People?

Members have often asked the same question whether there is a tradition for the use of holy salt on ourselves or other people.

Holy salt is the material which will change the internal and external quality of something. While it is effective in blessing things, it does not change people. I have seen the tradition which some centers have of keeping a jar of holy salt at the front door and members holy salting themselves when they come in. You are not a "thing." It does not have the same kind of effect on people. Therefore, this should not be done as a general practice.

On one occasion I noticed that holy salt was used on a girl who had an obvious spirit possession; she became absolutely wild. However, there are other times when I saw that it was effective. If you feel some type of evil spirit around somewhere, it can be to their benefit to try to use holy salt on them. Leaders could try to use it, but based on the reaction, wisdom should be used. It is an effective tool against Satan's power, but it is much more important for members to make an internal victory than to rely on holy salting themselves.

Who Can Make Holy Salt?

Any member of the church can multiply holy salt. However, it is best for a leader to multiply holy salt for use in the center and to divide it among members. As well, it is a good practice for spiritual parents to make holy salt for their spiritual children.

How Should One Use Holy Salt in the case of Renting (or a temporary stay)?

There is a conditional way to holy salt things which may not stay in the ownership or use of God's children. Therefore when you rent (as opposed to purchase) a house or an apartment, you should preface using it by holy salting it and blessing it with these simple words, "Bless this for the duration of the time we/I use it. Please bless it and take it under Your dominion until we move out."

If you are traveling and rent a motel room but feel that it has a strange atmosphere you may/should holy

salt it. However, again make sure that your prayer is conditional. If a person is going to use something temporarily -- a house, a car, a motel room, and the like -- but forgets to make a conditional prayer, when he moves out or returns the item to its owner, Heavenly Father feels that it was claimed unconditionally from Satan by the power of the holy salt but then given back to Satan. It is essential that we remember this point and make sure our prayer states that only for the duration of our use should it be purified for God's will.

Should You Holy Salt a Gift?

When you give a gift to a person who is not in our church, it is not necessary to holy salt it. If you have done so, it is all right. The important thing is that you pray for the power of the holy salt to have a positive influence on the person.

We live in the same kinds of buildings that others do; we eat the same types of foods that others do; we take the same subways and buses that others do, yet because we have made conditions to change the things we use from Satan's dominion, everything is not the same. We are actually different people. We are the sons and daughters of God. We are people living for Heavenly Father and the accomplishment of His will. It is not just that we feel we are different; we really are. It is essential that each of us remember how fortunate we are to be in a position to use holy salt.

In closing, I want to quote Father's speech of 10-24-74 (The Seven Day Fast):

"In our movement we must elevate ourselves to such a standard and by doing that we use holy salt to sanctify yourselves. It is not God's intention to have His children use things and eat things stained by Satanic control... God permitted me to create holy salt to sanctify all those things, to bring them to the condition where they are pure enough to be used by His children.

The value and significance of the holy salt is to eradicate or annihilate or exterminate what is satanic and if you use the holy salt you are always sanctified."