

## FFWPU USA: Higher Ground National Tour 2026

Demian Dunkley  
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### **Rev. Dunkley Calls Us to Higher Ground Amid Persecution and Uncertainty - You Are the Hope**

Standing before a room filled with members and supporters, Rev. Demian Dunkley did not begin with policy, strategy, or timelines. He began with a personal confession - one rooted in frustration, longing, and hope. "Every day my wife asks me, 'When is Mother coming out?'" he shared. "She's looking for comfort. She's looking for hope." That question - repeated daily in his own home and echoed by members around the world - framed the emotional core of the sermon.

Amid the ongoing detention of Holy Mother Han and the mounting pressure facing our communities in Korea and Japan, Rev. Dunkley acknowledged what many feel but rarely say out loud: there are limits to what information, analysis, or speculation can offer. "If I gave you everything that I know," he said, "all you would feel at the end of it would be more frustrated and more concerned." Instead of dwelling in uncertainty, the sermon offered a reframing - away from fear and toward responsibility.

### **Freedom Is A Precious Thing**

At the heart of the message was a clear and unwavering declaration: "True Mother is innocent. Don't be confused. No matter whatever you heard about this or that - Mother is innocent." Yet Rev. Dunkley was equally candid about what cannot be controlled. "We cannot control the trial. We cannot control the media. We cannot control the government," he said. "We can influence here or there, but we can't wait for others to fulfill their responsibility. We have to do our work." That work, he emphasized, begins not with reacting to hostile narratives but with embodying truth and freedom - especially in North America. "Freedom is such a precious thing," he said. "And if we really want to be honest about it, probably there's no human being who has yet experienced full freedom - freedom in total oneness with God."

### **Why America Matters - Now More Than Ever**

A central theme of the sermon was Rev. Dunkley's conviction that America holds a unique and irreplaceable role in God's providence - not because of power or perfection, but because of freedom. "By far," he said, "this nation is a living embodiment of freedom like nothing we've ever experienced in human history." He noted that while many nations use the word "freedom," the lived experience behind it is often fundamentally different. "Their interpretation of that word freedom is different than our interpretation, because their experience of that word freedom is different." This distinction matters deeply, especially in light of what Rev. Dunkley described as clear religious persecution abroad. "This is unfair, it's unprecedented, it's imbalanced," he said. "There is some type of agenda at work that does not have the freedom of your faith in its interests." Referring to recent rhetoric labeling the Unification Church as a "pseudo religion" and "heretical," Rev. Dunkley asked pointedly, "Who determines which

religions can stand and which cannot?"



### **Fear Abroad, Freedom at Home**

Drawing from his own experiences in Korea and Japan, Rev. Dunkley described an atmosphere of fear that many Americans may struggle to imagine. "There's a real fear that if I say the wrong thing, they'll treat Mother worse," he said. "Even small joys - like snacks she's allowed to receive - can be taken away." By contrast, he reminded the audience of the extraordinary responsibility that comes with freedom in the United States. "If we can't stand up and speak freely here," he asked, "then where?" Quoting True Father, Rev. Dunkley reinforced the theological foundation of that freedom: "Religious freedom is America's greatest treasure. If it is lost, everything else collapses." Religious freedom, he explained, is not primarily about institutions or buildings. "It's about the individual," he said. "The Constitution recognizes first that you are not created by the government. You are created by God."

### **The Higher Ground**

The sermon reached its emotional and spiritual peak with the image of the "higher ground" - a recurring metaphor for moral clarity, spiritual maturity, and collective courage. Referencing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s final speech, Rev. Dunkley reminded listeners that vision does not die with bodies. "The dream, the purpose - they are eternal, unbreakable, unshakable." But he also warned against leaving visionaries isolated. "We don't want our leaders to be up on the mountaintop alone anymore," he said. "When we gather together, we are impenetrable." This was not a call merely to speak or post or protest - but to live the values of faith and freedom daily. "They can take away our church. They can take away our buildings," he said. "But they cannot take away our faith. They cannot take away God."

### **"You Are the Hope"**

Rev. Dunkley turned the spotlight away from himself and back onto the audience. "You are the hope," he said. "You are God's hope. America is God's hope - not just for me, but for Mother, for Father, for the world." That conviction, he explained, is what inspired the launch of the

### **Higher Ground Tour**

Higher Ground Tour - a nationwide effort not merely to speak, but to reconnect, encourage, and mobilize. "All of this," he admitted with a smile, "is just an excuse to come and see you." He closed with another quote from True Father: "America is the hope of God - but only if it lives for the sake of the world." The challenge, then, was unmistakable. Freedom is not something to admire from a distance. It is something to live, defend, and offer - together. "Let's be the light and the hope of the world," Rev. Dunkley concluded. "God bless you."