

The Providence of Restoration

By Christian Nseka

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A Personal Reflection

A reflection on the providence of restoration may be written in many different ways using any of the many different concepts found in the *Divine Principle* and from many of the volumes left behind by our True Father. For the sake of succinctness, I have elected to reflect on the True Parents-led providence of restoration herein by using the Three Stages of the Growing Period.

It is written in the *Divine Principle*, “In truth, those who walk the providence of restoration must continually strengthen their faith” (*Exposition of the Divine Principle*, p. 208). This means that there will be challenges in the path of restoration. Not once, but several times. Not of one kind, but of many kinds—Challenges that we might anticipate as well as those that we might not anticipate; challenges that will make sense to us as well as those that will not make sense to us. These challenges come not because God wants to test us or because Satan wants us to lose our faith, but they come to help us strengthen our faith. Remember as written in the *Divine Principle* that we ought to strengthen our faith continuously. Yesterday was a day, today is another day, and so will be tomorrow.

There are people who feel that our movement is going in a wrong direction. There are some who cannot reconcile with True Mother’s leadership. There are others who cannot move on even though it has been several years since True Father transitioned into the spirit world. The reality is that there will be new people who will join the movement in this moment of confusion. Just like there will be people who will feel the need to distance themselves from the movement. This is a natural process of affairs. People leaving the movement because they cannot reconcile with True Mother’s leadership may sound like something new, but it is not. It is new because it is True Mother’s leadership. It is new because it is in a new stage. It is not new because, even under True Father’s leadership, there were people who left the movement. What we do not realize is that the providence has to keep on moving forward. We should be aware that the direction of the providence may not be in agreement with what we have presumed it to be.

After Jesus’ crucifixion, though it seemed that Peter was the one leading the earliest form of the Christian movement, it was actually the Holy Spirit that

was leading it. The only difference between that time and now is that the Holy Spirit has a body in the current era. In a sense, in the early days of Christianity, Jesus was leading the movement through the Holy Spirit, which in turn assigned different assignments to the disciples. Today, we can also say that True Father is leading the movement through True Mother, the incarnation of the Holy Spirit. Peter and the others seemed to be the leaders of the movement because the Holy Spirit did not have a body. In a sense, they were channeling the Holy Spirit—the earthly leader of the post-Christ movement.

The providence of restoration centered on the life of the True Parents has been going through the Three Stages of the Growing Period. The first stage, i.e. the Formation Stage, is already behind us. That was the stage when the providence was led by our True Father alone during the era of the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity. The second stage, i.e. the Growth Stage, is also behind us. This is the stage that began with the establishment of the Family Federation for World Peace. It is the era during which True Father and True Mother led the providence together. It is the era during which True Father lifted True Mother to prominence. This stage ended when True Father transitioned into the spirit world.

According to the *Divine Principle*, “The heifer [offered by Abraham] represented the completion stage” (*Exposition of the Divine Principle*, p. 210). This means that the third stage, i.e. the Completion Stage, is “the age of the wife” (*ibid.*). This is the stage when the providence of restoration is led in both realms simultaneously—True Father is leading the providence in the spiritual realm while True Mother is leading it in the physical realm. Will there be confusion? Of course yes. Was there confusion when True Father was leading the providence physically during the Formation Stage? Of course. How do we then expect that there should be no confusion now that True Mother is leading the providence in the Completion Stage? The irony is that most people believe there is no confusion in the spirit world. They think that all the spirits in the spirit world welcomed the changes that took place when True Father became the substantial leader in the spirit world.

Remember the Origin-Division-Union Action in the *Divine Principle*? Well, in the providence of restoration centering on the life of the True Parents, True Father and True Mother led the providence together as one unit at some point. That can be equated to the Origin Stage of the O-D-U Action, with the masculinity taking the most predominant role. Just like it has been with God, our Heavenly Parent, throughout the providence of restoration. Now that we are in

the Division stage of the O-D-U Action, True Father is leading the providence in the spirit world while True Mother is leading the providence in the physical world. Before transitioning, True Father proclaimed the era of women's leadership. We are in an era during which we have been referring to the Almighty more as Heavenly Parent rather than God. The term "God" emphasizes the masculinity of the Creator whereas the term "Heavenly Parent" underscores all the dual characteristics found in the Creator.

If we cannot strengthen our faith at this stage that at least our True Mother is still physically with us, what will happen when we enter the era when neither of the True Parents is physically alive? This will be the time of Union, when True Mother will reunite with True Father in the spirit world and lead the providence side by side once again. What will be the predicament of those who did not strengthen their faith during the Completion Stage be it here on earth or in the spirit world? Will the era after True Mother's transition be the Perfection Stage or will it be the prolongation of the Completion Stage?

The success of the Completion Stage depends on how much we have united with our True Mother, how much we have fulfilled our responsibilities, and how much we have helped True Father's legacy come to fruition during this era. In other words, how much confusion there would be here on earth once our True Mother transitions into the spirit world depends on how we have strengthened our faith during this Completion Stage. By transferring the physical leadership of the providence from True Father to True Mother, the True Parents have made it easy for us to prepare for the era after they have both gone to the spirit world.

I hope this reflection helps you reflect on the state of the providence of restoration as is and as it will be.

May the Heavenly Parent bless you for reading and guide your steps as you strengthen your faith.