

The Purpose of Our Earthly Life

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A Personal Reflection

Happy Holy Days and Happy New Year in this 6th Year of Cheon Il Guk!

As the heavenly calendar has reached its sixth year, I would like us to reflect on the value that we attribute to our earthly life. I hope this article will inspire you to reflect further on your own.

What is the purpose of our life on earth? Is it going to school? Is it having a great job? Is it making money? Is it going to church? Is it getting married or receiving the Blessing? All these events are good, but they are not why we are on earth. We are on earth to prepare for our eternal life—the life in the spiritual world. Going to school, working, making money, doing religious activities, receiving the Blessing, etc. are supposed to help us fulfill the purpose of our life on earth; they are not the purpose for which we are on earth.

The unfortunate reality is that when we think about the purpose of life on earth, we usually focus on what we need to live on earth—receiving education, making money, procreating, having fun, travelling, buying material things, etc. We rarely connect the purpose of our life on earth to preparing for a prosperous life in the spiritual world. Even living a religious life has been mostly dominated by worldly success. We rarely connect the purpose of our religious life to developing the divinity within us, and, living happily with God on earth and later in the spiritual world.

Once we understand that the purpose of our earthly life is to prepare for our eternal life in the spiritual world, surrounded by the love of God, then the earthly life takes on a whole different meaning and value. We must develop the awareness that everything we do contributes to forming the type of life we will live—healthy or unhealthy—once we enter the spiritual world.

When in a mother's womb, an unborn baby develops all the necessary elements that he/she will need to live on earth—the realm of air. In other words, a human being's physical life does not begin after birth; it begins while still in the mother's womb. By the same token, a human being's spiritual life does not begin once one enters the spiritual world; it begins while one is still physically alive.

We need to reflect on what our life in the spiritual world will be like if we were to transition today. Are we making enough preparations for our eternal life? What type of character, personality, or heart are we developing? Which way of thinking do we embrace? What type of emotions do we hold on to? Which type of memories do we cherish?

An unborn baby most certainly shivers with excitement upon hearing the voices of his/her parents. How much do we crave God's voice? How many of us long for God's love? How many of us feel connected to the universe?

Would there be any conflict in this world if everybody understood that the purpose of our earthly life is to prepare for a better life in the spiritual world? How can anybody hate another when one understands that hating somebody will negatively impact one's life in the spiritual world? How could anybody murder another? How could anybody commit adultery? How could anybody hurt another? We do all these things—stealing, hating others, murdering others, committing adultery, etc.—because we do not realize that our spiritual health, and the quality of our life in the spiritual world, depend on how we live our life on earth. This supports True Father's teaching of forgetting of having given after giving. It also supports Jesus' teaching of turning the other cheek (cf. Matthew 5:39).

Just like how we prepared for our physical life when we were in our mother's womb, we are likewise to prepare for our spiritual life while we are still on earth. When we were in our mother's womb, we were at the same time connected to the earth, even though it was foreign to us. Now that we are on the earth, we are also simultaneously connected to the spiritual world, even though it is foreign to us. This explains why we do not only need air, but we need God's love as well. We must start to cultivate God's love in every part of our being while we are still alive on the earth.

Your first parents are the parents who gave birth to you. Your second parent is the earth. The earth supplies you with all the essential elements for your physical growth. The earth is your second parent. After living on the second parent, your physical death provides the entrance to the third parent, God. However, you cannot go to the third parent as you are. In order to enter the third parent you have to resemble God, who is the original parent. (Earthly Life and Spirit World I, *Gathering for Reading and Learning Series*, Volume 11, p. 53)

This is so beautiful. This means that we go into God's bosom when we go to the spiritual world. Hence, we can also say that the purpose of our life on earth is to become one with God. It is best for us to become one with God during our earthly life so that we can freely enter God's bosom when we shed our physical body. How awesome is that?

What type of eternal life would you like to live? Everyday is an opportunity to prepare for a better afterlife while we are still alive on the earth. Hence, we should strive to develop a heart of love—true love—everyday.

Thank you for reading.

Once again, Happy 6th Year of Cheon Il Guk!

May you be filled with our Heavenly Parent's love everyday.