

Beyond Restoration – Hope for the New World

Cheryl Roth
October 31, 2015



The Heart of God in the New Era

— *The Divine Principle from a Unification Thought perspective*

In the previous article, we'd been examining Unification Thought's explanation of the *Heart of God*. Over the decades since I discovered the Principle, the effort to grasp this has become a driving force in my life. And yet it was only relatively recently that I first took note that it's mentioned in the Introduction to the *Exposition of the Divine Principle* textbook. (A reminder yet again that, if you keep your heart's eyes open, there's many gems yet to be unearthed in that textbook, even in the pre-matter.) The *New Essentials of Unification Thought* takes special note of that small sentence in the Introduction and it frames the entire Divine Principle within it using these terms: the heart of joy, the heart

of sorrow, and the heart of pain. Earlier Unification Thought texts use slightly different translations that I like to refer to as well. They are: the heart of hope and expectation, the heart of grief, and the heart of suffering.

Through my experiences as a missionary in a few different countries for my first 30 years in the Unification movement, I'd especially learned the second and third hearts of God: the heart of grief (about the human condition) and the heart of suffering (about striving for a peaceful world amid the realities of this one). And once in a rarer while, I'd see or hear some beautiful article or documentary about the wonders of the natural world, its oceans, geology, the Milky Way we're part of, or the billions of other galaxies out there. And then I'd have at least a fleeting glimpse of the heart of joy. It might be analogous to what a soldier feels when he has a few moments of respite and can dream briefly of the peacefulness of home. Eventually he opens his eyes and returns to the task at hand.

But developments in recent years point to a change in the air. As indicated by Rev. Moon, we have moved from a life in the *wilderness* into an age of *settlement*. A Foundation Day was declared, the calendar was reset, a new nation is to be built — “*thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*” - *Matt. 6:10*



A fourth heart of God?

These events coincide with another change which I didn't fully notice before: that in the decades since *Exposition of the Divine Principle* was published — and I mean the original language version from 1966 — Father Moon has been speaking more and more extensively about the original world. I can remember my delight when it dawned on me that the *Cheon Seong Gyeong* book was largely about life in the original world. What I mean is that, where

the *Exposition of the Divine Principle* dedicates only about 40 pages out of 400+ to summarizing some original ways of life (the Principle of Creation), in the new book, more than half of its 2000 pages explain those original ways of life.

I began to perceive that the emphasis of our teaching has increasingly shifted from explaining God's providence of saving and restoring us from *death*, to explaining how God originally intends us to *live*. What I'd missed during the succeeding decades after I began this journey was that Father Moon was gradually adding to our understanding of the Principle of Creation, moving us closer and closer to it, as

we approached the change of eras and how we needed to adjust to it. Only now, when I have all the teachings of the past nearly 50 years in one place is this shift of emphasis clearly evident. Which is what made me take note of this passage that I found in the *Cheon Seong Gyeong*:

*“...to be a son or daughter of filial piety, you have to know your father and mother’s heart. ...the heart of God before creation, His heart during the process of creation, and His grieving heart after the Fall. ...the sorrowful heart with which He has been leading human history toward restoration, and His heart of **hope for a new world** after restoration is completed.” (14-174, 1964.10.03)*



So, whereas in the past decades, my explanation of the Heart of God has always arrived at a place of rather grim resolve (because the 3rd heart is one of *pain*), something new is growing in my heart: a guarded excitement that an era of hope has already begun amid the chaos. It gives my heart something additional to hold on to, a motivation that augments my hope to comfort and liberate God’s painful heart. It’s the anticipation of **increasing joy**, as God’s hope and anticipation can once again return.