
Living for God

What kind of attitude should we have in order to successfully live for God? Though He may be invisible, we should consider that He is there. When we live with Him, we don't have to sit on our knees in prayer all day long. We can simply visualize Him and include Him in whatever we think and do. If we come close to God, then what we do is exactly what God would do. Whatever we touch has the same value as if God had touched it. Whatever we speak has the same value as if God Himself spoke. That is the ideal. Maybe we cannot formulate words as well as God; perhaps they do not have the same impact, but it is still possible to become a small replica of Him.

Relating to God even when we feel there is a distance, is the real challenge. How can God live within us? God is within us when we become His temple. We merely need to look into the mirror and we will automatically see God.

It is better to die than to give up God.

To really live for God, we need to make up our minds that our individual life is no longer the main focus, but that we willingly sacrifice it for all of humanity. No matter what your age, commit the rest of your life to God. Put all your dreams, visions, and hopes aside and just live for God and others. If you do that, then you become a strong personality. Furthermore, you will feel a tremendous spiritual response. That is the grace of God. He responds almost out of gratitude, thankful that we go out and work for Him. So few of us go out in His name; most people live for themselves. But God loves us for what we do for Him. And He wants us to know that. In fact, we will hear the resonance of the beating of God's heart when we strive to live for Him.

If we don't offer our whole life to God, we will never be able to reach perfection. That is His commandment and our duty. Living for God is not a temporary thing, lasting one year or even ten years. It is a lifetime commission.

Father is the first one in history to explain in detail about the purpose of life, our relationship to God, and how we should govern ourselves

and eventually reach perfection. He is the one who reveals how we can become the true children of God.

Many people have asked questions in the past demanding that God reveal certain things. During the span of these last few hundred years, people fasted and prayed. They chastised and sacrificed their physical bodies in hopes of evoking answers from God. They wanted revelations. They wanted to come close to God. They desired the most intimate relationship with Him. God felt compelled to reveal His secrets to such people. And God did reveal His secrets to the many faithful who committed their lives in service to him—for example the monks, priests, and nuns. Many people who did commit their lives sacrificed themselves for God and heard the voice of God in many different ways. They were the people who discovered that to sacrifice one's life for another person and even for humanity is the most glorious offering anyone could ever make. That was a revelation from God. That is why missionaries went overseas. They sacrificed their lives because they were inspired to love their neighbor as themselves.

Many people receive answers to the questions they ask in prayer. Yet they have to fulfill certain conditions in order to receive such a reply. God is able to talk to them through the foundation of their pure life of faith. Father personally created all necessary conditions which enabled God to reveal the entire Principle to him. But it took time and effort. When Father asked God whether or not some of the points of the Principle he uncovered were in fact true, God tested him by denying those findings. It was Father's diligence, tears, sweat, and sincerity that brought him through that kind of faith crisis. But God could perceive that Father's commitment to live for Him and the whole of humanity was genuine and solid. And finally God confirmed those points of the Principle were actually true.

It is the same situation with us today. If we long to discover who we are, how we should govern ourselves and control our intellect, emotion, and will, we must approach God for the answers. And He will point us in the direction of the Principle. All of us have burning questions about our future, about our present, and even about our past. In order to discover God's answers, we have to work hard and sacrifice ourselves for His sake.

Many people simply do not understand that, but instead feel God owes them everything. They think that if there is a God, He should automatically come down and perform every miracle they ask for. They wonder how He let so many wars and so much suffering happen. And then some of them proclaim that they don't believe in God anymore.

Some people are very ignorant of spiritual things. They do not perceive God or recognize the way to solidify their personal relationship to Him. Yet we must live for God without attaching any strings.

The temporal things we confront in secular society often overwhelm and even satisfy us so much that we may forget to live with God. It is not that we don't long for or have faith in God, but with the devastating burden of restoration of the physical world as our social responsibility, we have made no time for God. If this is your situation, I can guarantee that unless you do an about-face, you will spiral downward rather than upward. We are not granted salvation just through solving social problems. We have to unravel our problems of faith with God. We have to learn to prevail with God, not *without* Him. If we can do this, God will shelter and protect us, and nurture us with His love.

Don't make your relationship with God a once a week event. Create many experiences with God daily. Many religious people just concentrate on meeting God during the time of worship. They receive a little input to soothe their hearts before going home again. But can they really survive spiritually on that little input? Can *God*?

I have found that if we live with God every day, we will neither lose power nor His vision. Yet if we fail to do it, our strength to combat Satan will definitely ebb. The weapons we use to battle him have to be sharpened through a daily grinding. We also need to renew our energy through communicating with God on a moment-to-moment basis. And our capacity to live for God must expand every day.

If you really live by the Principle, you have nothing to be ashamed of. And when you face death, you can be assured that you did your best. That is when God will take you home. He will make sure you go to the realm in spirit world where you belong, and where you will live for and with Him for eternity.

Let your experiences with God become solid, natural, and so much a part of yourself that they no longer feel artificial. If God ceases to live within us, our words will come strictly from ourselves, not Him. But if we establish a rapport and a harmony with God, then to walk with Him be-

comes a way of life. It must become so substantial that it will be second nature, or eventually even "first" nature.

By living with God, we become a new creation. This point is very vital and important, but the reality is that we can only offer God and others what we are and what our reservoir holds. God wants to live through us and have us become a pure and clear channel for Him to pour out His love.

Make sure that your life with God grants you an inner peace. When you feel free and clear inside, you *will* be successful.

God endowed a tremendous potential to each one of us. But that aptitude has to be developed. We must cultivate a sense of freedom, not be restricted by limitations which deform our spirit through fear and shame. That only hinders us from speaking freely and conveying what goes on within ourselves, or blocking out what God wants to tell us.

We may want to become an instrument for the love of God, but we become a channel for God only when we are spiritually free. If we want to impersonate somebody else or even want to *be* somebody else, we will not succeed in making much of our life. The spirit of God can work and speak through anyone, not only certain people in history or those in His service. Since he performs differently within each one of us, it is important that we don't try to be someone else.

Yet this does not contradict the philosophy of copying someone who is successful. What it *does* mean is that you should follow the other person's pattern according to your capability, and express the uniqueness of your own personality. For instance, Father has the best formula and is the most successful at fighting Satan. If we want to learn how to do that, who better could we follow? If you notice that someone is an excellent fundraiser, witnesser, businessman, cook, etc. find out why. How does he come to be so good at what he does? Discover his secret for success and apply it in your own life. If you notice that someone seems to be close to God, simulate his standard. If you see a couple with a good marriage, research what makes it that way.

How can you beat success? By being the most accomplished in every way possible, you will live for God in a more total way.

The main benefit in living for God is the freedom you will feel in your heart. This derives from loving God and True Parents. If each one of us is driven by the love and spirit of God, then we can really live for Him. Then we will be less tired and not become depressed so easily. We may feel

deep sorrow and suffering sometimes, but God often feels similarly. What we must guard against is giving up, becoming lazy, or using excuses to rationalize our behavior. Instead we should heed the advice of people who tell us things for our own good.

If we are in close communication with God and our heart is connected vertically, then we become the servant—living for God and the sake of others. That is the time God speaks to us. And that is when we really feel God. If you squeeze by, making everybody else do all the work and commit yourself only half-heartedly, you will not feel the tremendous love that comes from God when you live for Him.

I have found that if we just keep busy and exclude God, we can never achieve the level of success we aspire to reach. God has to be at the center of whatever we do. Include Him consciously, not just subconsciously. Call upon Him at all times. Why not talk to Him as you walk. You don't have to speak out loud, but think of Him and feel His presence. If at this crucial juncture of time in restoration history you omit God from your life, you run great risk of forfeiting these valuable days.

To me, the worst punishment is to be ignored by someone. The "cold shoulder" technique is all too effective! What about relating to God? You also punish Him if you neglect Him. And that tactic hurts Him just as much as it does you. It does not matter whether your words are weighty and valuable or simple and sincere, acknowledge His presence by constant communication, and you show him that you regard Him as the partner you call on. If two marriage partners live side by side, not talking but instead ignore one another, how can their marriage progress?

Don't slight God; even call Him into the trivial matters of your daily life. I am sure you will find that He is more than willing to come. And once you decide to live for God, you won't desire to go back to life without Him!

The end result of living with God must become visible. In fact, it should be detectable every day. Through your give and take with God, you grow spiritually, and naturally fulfill more responsibility. You yourself have to know and feel that doing so makes you a greater person. And when that happens, you will naturally have greater self-respect and power on all levels—spiritual power, mental power, as well as physical power and strength. It is pitiful when a person is so timid and *intimidated* by Satan that he rides a

spiritual roller coaster during his entire life of faith. That kind of person suffers incredibly and experiences hell far too often than he has to. Although it is quite a process to climb the steep hill back to God, once we arrive in spirit world, we will recognize what benefit there is in living for Him.

When we travel the road which leads away from God, we can easily become coarse and cover up our emotions with beautiful dreams of financial security and a peaceful life with our family. But it seems to me that when we no longer hear God's anguished screams for us to return home, even as His *prodigal* sons and daughters, we shut off our lifeline.