

"Giving thanks is a fountain of blessings!"

"God is the Master of my life."



Senior Deaconess Soon-Joo Ryu
(Vice President, Mary's Mission)

What would it be like to live a life in which God intervenes in it every day? Senior Deaconess Soon-Joo Ryu, after she began working at Heungkuk Life Insurance as a telemarketer, she has been in first place every month in sales. "At first, it felt burdensome as I had to urge strangers and strike deals with them. So I prayed, 'I can't do this on my own. You have to help me, God. If You help me, I will be faithful to Your work and live by the Word.'"

She began living her life just as she had prayed. Then God began taking responsibilities for her work. As she made such positive confessions as, "What's impossible can be done," and with the prayer of Senior Pastor Dr. Jaerock Lee, she received blessings upon blessings.

She felt that God desired to bless His children but the lack of blessings had something to do on the part of God's children. This is why she first looks back at her life if the sales results are lower than usual, and this is why there is no "giving up" in her life. She has experienced many a time God's carrying out His part of the work when she remained thankful to the end. When she strikes a deal so easily over a phone call, she can feel God at work. From this child of God confessing everyday that her life is a series of miracles when she makes God the Master of her life, we could easily tell how the Word "Give thanks in everything" is the key to overflowing blessings.



"God kept me safe from disasters."

Deacon Suk-Hun Kim
(Cell Leader, 1 Men's Mission, Masan Manmin Holiness Church)



Throughout the course of life, many people face unpredictable disasters and suffer the difficulties from them.

Can you imagine how grateful you would be if God had protected you through them?

Around 11:30 p.m. on Friday, October 17, Deacon Suk-Hun Kim received a call, informing him of a fire at his store. At that moment, needless to say, he became devastated. "Oh, no!" he thought to himself. "I've lost everything!"

When he arrived at his store, Deacon Kim found a huge crowd gathered with about 10 fire engines on the scene. He pushed aside the people and went in front of his store, and he could not believe his eyes. His store was intact.



His shop was sharing space with a taxi company in a building. Most of the edifice was in a shape of a sandwich, very much vulnerable to fire, and about 8 centimeters (about 3.1 inches) separated Deacon Kim's store and the taxi company. It had taken 2-3 minutes for the tax company office to be completely destroyed by fire and it would have spread to Deacon Kim's store in a few moments. On top of that, the fire engines arrived late and Deacon Kim's store would have faced the worst.

Yet, the fire did not spread any further. The fire engines arrived and began to put the flames out and not even a square inch of his store was scorched. Anyone who saw the scene could have only confessed, "God saved it."

After the opening on February 23, God has kept safe the store of Deacon Kim, who has never stopped giving thanks and being diligent despite difficult financial situations. Remembering the love of God who has protected everything he owned, Thanksgiving Sunday will be particularly sweet and more meaningful for Deacon Kim this year.

"God has shown me the joy of sharing."



Deaconess Ok-Ja Suh
(Sub-district leader, 32 Parish)

The more one practices sharing, the more he realizes that it is more joyful to give than to receive.

At Manmin's Bupyeong Branch Sanctuary, "Sharing of the Meal of Love" takes place every Wednesday. One such member of the Sanctuary inviting some 80 elderly people and treat them to delicious dishes is Deaconess Ok-Ja Suh, who had been dedicating herself to this for the past 6 years. She could not be happier to see the elderly enjoying warm meals and a variety of side dishes she and others had prepared with devotion.

Her husband passed away suddenly 8 years ago. He had always been a kind and warmhearted husband and Deaconess Suh had always relied on him; she was dumbfounded by her husband's death.

She overcame the difficulties and the grief by faith, however. Thinking of those who were in less fortunate situations than she, Deaconess Suh made giving thanks an integral part of her everyday life. Neither did she cease serving her neighbors with love. This was possible on account of the devotion of her fellow workers of the church.

Then God raised her 2 daughters in good health and uprightly and has provided for her family whenever they were in need. Deaconess Suh, who says that the service of sharing she had begun in gratitude of God's grace, now gives thanks to Him for allowing her to know such joy.

Book Review:

Extraordinary Miracles, a compilation of manifestations of God's power

People do not tend to believe in miracles. Yet, when faced with obstacles, they desire miracles in earnest and pay very close attention.

Extraordinary Miracles, recently published by the Editorial Department at Urim Books, is a report in response to such interest and curiosity that has compiled fascinating stories of 70 individuals from 20 different nations.

Accompanied by vivid imagery, the work delivers the voices of those who have experienced extraordinary miracles, the likes of which were manifested by the Apostle Paul (Acts 19:11-12), in our own time. In bookstores are many testimonials and other faith-based works that have recorded the healing of diseases and the works of the living God. What sets *Extraordinary Miracles* apart from such written works is the fact that the scope of testimonies surpasses individual experiences of faith.

Extraordinary Miracles provides objectivity to Christian testimonies, which have largely been deemed subjective, by presenting X-rays taken by physicians and medical professionals, medical records, graphic testimonies of those who have experienced God's works, and pictorials. *Extraordinary Miracles* is yet another piece of documentation of the mission work of worldwide pastor Dr. Jaerock Lee and provides readers with clues to the resolution of any remaining questions. I only wish the book had featured instances of miracles in which deeper spiritual significance or substance was embedded. Of course, this shortcoming can be easily supplemented when the readers make use of other works written by Dr. Jaerock Lee.



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ARISE, SHINE, (ISA 60:1)

MANMIN NEWS

Manmin Central Holiness Church with the Vision of National Evangelization and World Mission

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'Two Consecutive Special Daniel Prayer Meeting' Glory to God with Abundant Fruit



Manmin members on the way home following a Daniel Prayer Meeting

As the autumn ripens, the fragrance of prayer at Manmin is also intensifying. Under the auspices of Manmin Prayer Center (Mrs. Boknim Lee, President), "The Two Consecutive Special Daniel Prayer Meeting," began on Monday, October 13, and was scheduled to go on until Sunday, November 23, 2008. It is in full swing amidst the fullness and the grace of the Holy Spirit.

At a time when Year 2008 is fast approaching its end, the two consecutive "Daniel Prayer Meeting" is taking place especially for the following 3 prayer topics in everyone's mind: "The Construction of the Canaan Sanctuary," "Into Spirit and Whole Spirit," and "Carrying Out My God-given Duty."

In addition to "Special Daniel Prayer Meetings," Manmin members participate in the nightly "Daniel Prayer Meeting" and experience receiving God's answers to their prayers and are empowered to possess faith that grows rapidly. As Daniel humbled himself before God, devoted himself to prayer for 21 days, and received God's answers (Daniel 10), the "Daniel Prayer Meeting" taking place with all brothers and sisters at Manmin Central Church, branch churches and sanctuaries throughout Korea, and around the globe is the energy that has propelled the Manmin congregation and the driving force behind its revival.

Column The Root of Faith

In volcanic areas in Japan are parcels of land on which you can see green leaves and such tropical fruit as oranges even in the middle of winter months. Due to the subterranean heat in the land in which trees have taken their roots, the plants can withstand the winter gusts. At times we blame on the poor conditions and circumstances around us. At such times, the place at which we take our roots will determine whether or not we overcome those conditions and circumstances. People who have taken their roots of faith in Jesus Christ lead lives full of energy like evergreens.

"Remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you" (Romans 11:18b)
from Dr. Jaerock Lee's column series "The Water of Life" carried in *The Korea Economic Daily*

Thanksgiving Service and Communion

On Sunday, November 16, 2008, Thanksgiving Sunday was celebrated to commemorate the Feast of Ingathering (also known as "Thanksgiving" one of the 3 seasons marked in the Bible). In the Morning Service, Senior Pastor Dr. Jaerock Lee proclaimed a message entitled "A Prepared Vessel" (Luke 10:2) and a message titled "Gratitude" (John 6:53) in the Evening Service, during which he also officiated the Communion in commemoration of the body and the blood of Our Lord. For Thanksgiving Sunday, the Women's Mission gave glory and thanks to God by preparing in devotion a variety of grains, root and green vegetables, and fruit, and decorated the pulpits in the Main and other sanctuaries.



Round-up of Mission Work

- October 21 - December 2: 'Pastors' Seminars & Handkerchief Crusades' held in 7 countries in Central and South America (Rev. Lazarus Lee, Main Speaker)
- November 9: Missionary to the Philippines commissioned (Rev. Joo-Bum Kim)
- November 9: 10th Anniversary Celebration and Handkerchief Crusade at Yamagata Manmin Church, Japan (Rev. Hee-Sun Lee, Main Speaker)
- November 9: 8th Anniversary of Nairobi Manmin Holiness Church, Kenya
- November 14, 19 & 22: Handkerchief Crusades in Belarus and Ukraine (Dr. Mikhail Morgulis, Main Speaker)
- November 16 & 17: 4th Anniversary Celebration and Pastors' Seminar at Chennai Manmin Church in India (Rev. Mi-Kyoung Lee, Main Speaker)

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Confessions of Faith

1. Manmin Central Church believes the Bible to have been written in the inspiration of God and is the accurate and errorless Word of God.
2. Manmin Central Church believes that the Triune God - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit - exists as one and works with each other
3. Manmin Central Church believes that only the atoning blood of Jesus Christ forgives us of our sins.
4. Manmin Central Church believes in Jesus Christ's resurrection, ascension, and the Second Advent, and the eternal heaven.
5. Members of Manmin Central Church confess "The Apostles' Creed" whenever they gather and believe in it verbatim.

MEMO





Senior Pastor Dr. Jaeroock Lee

God Does His Work

“... He who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also...
Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do...”
(John 14:12-14)

As all sorts of grains and fruit fill the autumn fields, God desires each of us to receive His answers to our prayers and lead prosperous lives at home, workplaces, and businesses. Instead of agonizingly leading lives restricted by the limit of the flesh as do the worldly people, God wants us to lead joyful lives in which we exploit our privileges entitled to us as His children. In other words, the almighty God does not desire us to be burdened to solve the problems of life on our own but to resolve them Himself and work in our lives on our behalf.

What, then, should we do so that God will intervene in our lives and grant us the desires of our hearts?

1. God carries out that which He has promised.

If our prayer requests are proper in His sight, the God of love without doubt grants us the desires of our hearts when we ask Him by faith in the name of Jesus Christ. His response to our requests, however, will vary according to the magnitude of our trust in God with which we ask Him (Mark 11:24).

Jesus tells us in John 14:12, “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.” According to this Word of promise, countless signs and wonders, the likes of which had been manifested by Jesus, have been shown at Manmin Central Church. For instance, people suffering from a variety of diseases are healed; the mute begin to speak; the blind open their eyes; the deaf begin to hear; and those who had been confined to wheelchairs start walking and running.

Manmin Central Church’s beginning 26 years was insignificant but as a result of God’s carrying out of His promise, it has grown to a colossal denomination of approximately 8,000 branch churches around the world. The same can be said of the 12 overseas crusades that took place from 2000 to 2006, active mission work through the Global Christian Network (GCN) and literature, and the full-scale mission work in Israel for which we had been praying since the time of the church’s founding.

Jeremiah 33:2 reminds us of “the

LORD who made the earth, the LORD who formed it to establish it.” Therefore, we must comprehend the secret to God’s carrying out of His promise so that He will work for the desires of our hearts.

2. How to Experience the works of God

a. We must ask the God of faithfulness by faith without changing our mind.

By saying that God is “faithful,” we speak of how God grants us the desires of our hearts according to His righteousness and love as He does not forsake our faith and righteousness. As God is blameless and spotless, He will surely answer our prayers according to our faith as long as we do not ask Him for our own pleasures. God’s “faithfulness” refers to His attributes by which He answers, in His precise righteousness and love, the prayers of His children according to the extent to which they have accomplished whole faith and righteousness of the heart.

When people cling to Him and trust Him without changing their mind, the God of faithfulness makes possible all that is seemingly impossible in the mind of man. The fact that Abraham had a son at the age of 100 is not possible or conceivable in the mind of man. Why, then, did God allow such an event to transpire?

Abraham had accomplished the righteousness in his heart that was pleasing to God and believed in God’s Word of promise despite the passing of a long time. At the age of 75, Abraham was promised an innumerable number of descendants but he and his wife Sarah did not have a child during the following two decades. Still, Abraham’s faith in God did not weaken and he did not doubt God’s promise. God recognized Abraham’s faith and righteousness and, as He had promised, gave him a son. As God is faithful, He does not turn away from those who believe in Him (2 Chronicles 16:9).

How earnest was your heart when you asked God for anything? As God does not lie or regret, the fruit of His answers will vary depending on the earnestness of the heart with which we ask Him. Just as Abraham’s faith showed us, when our faith does not waver or shake the fruit of

God’s answers we receive will be whole.

God’s righteousness and love are found in His answering the prayer of a child who has displayed his faith to the end even if he felt God’s response was slow in coming or events transpired contrary to what he expected. Therefore, keep in mind that maintaining unchanging, true faith and accomplishing the righteousness of the heart are critical in order for God to answer one’s prayer. This is because, if our hearts condemn us as we have yet to accomplish the righteousness of the heart, we will not be confident before Him (1 John 3:21-22).

b. We must strive to magnify the name of God.

When are parents most captivated by their children and are most delighted by them? A troublemaker is sure to grieve his parents. A child who is focused and devoted only to his own work before being called upon to help his parents will not grieve them but cannot delight them, either.

On the other hand, can you imagine how delighted and proud parents would be if their child assisted them without having been asked or when they had not expected? The same can be said of our relationship with our Father God. If we merely devoted ourselves to maintaining our faith while being grateful for the grace of salvation, that will be the limit of God’s salvation as well. Yet, if we strove to accomplish anything, in our gratitude of God’s grace, that would give glory to Him, God would be pleased with our heart, help us to be successful with our tasks, and pour upon us grace and strength.

For example, God will be pleased with the heart to magnify Him in any God-given duty with which each of us is entrusted by making every effort to bear fruit; the heart to pray and receive the Holy Spirit’s guidance in seeking out God’s work and striving to accomplish it; and the heart to emanate the fragrance of the Christ at our workplaces in order to give glory to God and strengthen the church, and to cultivate our businesses by faith. When such a child has undertaken a certain task, God will allow him to bear fruit worthy of glory to God and in His delight, God will glorify him in return (John 13:32).

However, there are times when people

do not bear whole fruit even though they profess to work for the glory of God. This is because they desire, in a corner of their heart, to have their names shine and recognized as well. When such selfishness is present, people will tend to rely on their own thoughts and experiences over the wisdom and strength God has given them and their fruit thus cannot be whole.

c. We must harbor a heart of obedience.

In preparing to pay the tax, Jesus tells Peter in Matthew 17:27, “Go to the sea and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for you and Me.” If Peter had not gone to the sea to catch a fish, he would not have witnessed anything. This is precisely the result of what we find in the Bible: “Faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected” (James 2:22). God recognized Peter’s obedience and prepared a fish in which a shekel was to be found.

The same can be said of all the works recorded in the Bible. When a child of God asks Him for something, He in turn commands the child to do something else so that He may grant the desires of his heart. When the child obeys, God will accomplish all things effortlessly.

Furthermore, in commanding His children, God does so according to each one’s measure of faith and does not give unreasonable commandments. After one has been obedient and carried out small tasks, he will be given greater spiritual faith and when God commands him even greater things, he will be able to obey.

As we find in Isaiah 1:19, “If you consent and obey, You will eat the best of the land,” even if God does not command us to carry out a particular task, when we delight in obeying all the commandments we find in the Bible – all the “Do’s,” “Do not’s,” “Keep’s,” and “Throw away’s” – our spirits will naturally prosper. God allows affairs of all such individuals to prosper and walks alongside them always.

Therefore, may each of you come forth as a blessed believer as you magnify God and receive His abundant blessings and answers to your prayers by delighting in obeying God’s Word, in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ I pray! ✝

The life of an individual who is grateful even for the most trivial of things 365 days of the year will be at peace and abounding in joy. When blessings find his way, anyone can be thankful. It is equally critical to ask in return whether or not the same individual can be thankful when he faces difficulties against which his strength and abilities are powerless. Acts of thanksgiving in such times will be true in nature and exert wondrous power. The Bible teaches us to be grateful to God at all times. When we come to grasp the love of our God hidden in afflictions, instead of merely accepting affliction as affliction itself, we could only be grateful. Giving thanks, to which we become more familiar the more we show it, not only makes our lives prosperous but is also a shortcut in drawing nearer to God. (Editors)

Waves of Thanksgiving: A Year-round Event

Joy from God

Giving thanks gives birth to miracles.

When a war broke out, King Jehoshaphat organized a choir, placed it ahead of the advancing army, and had it offer God a praise of gratitude: “Give thanks to the LORD, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.” The result was a convincing victory for Israel (2 Chronicles 20).

While preaching the Gospel, the Apostle Paul and Silas had their robes torn off them, were beaten, imprisoned, and had the stocks fastened to their feet. These two also offered God a praise of gratitude and “suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened” (Acts 16).

When he was about to be thrown into a lions’ den on account of evildoers, Daniel did not concern himself with their crafty schemes but instead “continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God” (Daniel 6:10). In the end, Daniel was thrown into a lions’ den but he was not injured in any way as God had sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths.

Thanksgiving not only brings peace that soothes the mind but also gives birth to unimaginable miracles. In the face of one’s own benefits, he can give thanks easily. Thanksgiving offered amidst trials and afflictions, however, is impossible without the faith by which one believes that God is always looking over him and He always recompenses him.

Therefore, even when one faces a dire dilemma before which he is rendered completely helpless and finds that all his methods are useless, giving thanks is the key to bringing down from above astounding works of God.

Giving thanks is the evidence of one’s faith.

Among all the Israelites who left Egypt, why were Joshua and Caleb the only ones to enter the land of Canaan and the rest killed in the wilderness?

Even after witnessing works of God, the people of Israel were quick to complain if their everyday life became a little difficult. This flatly attests to their lack of faith. On the other hand, their descendants who gave thanks and were obedient in faith could safely enter the Promised Land.

The reason we can give thanks even when faced with disasters is because we believe that God knows all things and will give us in the end only that which is the best for us (Romans 8:28). Even the parents in this world do everything they can to give only the best for their children. What in the universe, then, can Father God not give us?

A life in which afflictions turned into blessings

There was a boy named Simon, born with a hereditary disorder called Morquio syndrome that causes dwarfism. He was less than 1 meter (about 39 inches) tall. He was the butt of jokes for people in the village and his friends and his own parents also neglected him. Yet, Simon never held a grudge against anyone.

Instead, Simon believed that he would grow up to be a hero and that God would use him for a special purpose. To others, Simon had nothing for which he should or could be grateful but he believed in God’s providence for him and that faith came from thanksgiving.

In the end, Simon could save many lives because of his height. He had become a hero of which he had dreamed. This is the

plot from the film “Simon Birch.”

Fanny J. Crosby, the lyricist behind beautiful and moving words for such well-known hymns as “Blessed Assurance” and “A Wonderful Saviour is Jesus My Lord,” wrote lyrics for over 8,000 songs of praise during the 94 years of her life. She became blind about 6 weeks after birth but most of her poems dealt with giving thanks and joy.

When she was 8 years old, Crosby wrote, “Oh what a happy soul I am / Although I cannot see,” and confessed that having lost sight was one of the blessings God had given her. Having led a life marked by her trust in God despite all difficulties and by thanksgiving, Crosby was a wise woman who transformed afflictions of life into sources of thanksgiving.

God delights in accomplishing His work through people who give thanks and always causes such individuals to lead lives of blessing.

There is one element for which we the Christians can never be sufficiently grateful: the grace of salvation, the fact that each of us has been blessed to become a child of God through the blood of Jesus Christ. When we keep this in mind, we will give thanks in everything.

Thanksgiving Day: A Spirit to Be Remembered for Ages

Even today, “Thanksgiving Day” is considered and celebrated as a major holiday in the United States, and there is a good reason for it.

Centuries ago in England, there was a conflict of faith between the Puritans who sought to lead God-fearing lives according to the Word of the Bible and the Anglicans who had become

drenched in formality of a religion. The king of England did not acknowledge Puritanism and its adherents could not enjoy the freedom of religion. They migrated to the Netherlands to preserve their faith but life there was weary and far more difficult than in England.

In 1620, the Pilgrims leased a ship called Mayflower with the money they had toiled to earn and crossed the Atlantic Ocean in search of religious freedom. When the ship made a landing in early winter at Plymouth in what would become the northeastern United

States, many onboard had died en route and from the cold weather and starvation. This is when the natives (“Indians”) provided the Pilgrims with corn and other grains and taught the new settlers to farm.

The following year, the Pilgrims reaped an abundant harvest and offered the first crops to God in thanksgiving. They gave thanks to the One who had all along stayed beside them as they migrated to a new continent to preserve their faith and until they reaped precious fruit after overcoming the cold

weather, starvation, and diseases. The Pilgrims also invited the natives and shared with them the crops they had harvested and turkey, and celebrated the first Thanksgiving Day in the New World.

This is the origin of Thanksgiving Day in the United States, a nation founded by the spirit of the Puritans. Each of us ought to keep in mind the spirit of the Puritans who celebrated the first Thanksgiving Day in a new continent and lead a blessed life marked by our giving thanks in everything.



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