

# Manmin News

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## Memorizing the Bible Verses, the Shortcut to Blessing!

Psalm 1:1-3

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.



Manmin Central Church holds a Bible Verse Quiz Competition sponsored by the Men's Mission. The church members show great interest in this annual event, so the branch church members as well as many members in the central church compete in the first, second preliminary competitions and the final round. This event helps the members lay a firm foundation of faith on the Word and increase their faith. (Below: 2012 the Winner of Winners Competition, the members cheering for the participants, and the 14th Bible Quiz Competition Award Ceremony, 2014)

The final round of 15th Manmin Bible Verse Quiz Competition was held in the main sanctuary following Sunday Evening Service on September 20, 2015. Senior Pastor Dr. Jaerock Lee has emphasized that a fundamental in Christian belief is to love God and to achieve His heart and to do so we should have the Word of God in us. Since 2000, in particular, he urged the members to read one chapter and memorize one verse of the Bible a day and arm themselves with the Word spiritually. In the context, Men's Mission holds annual Bible Verse Quiz Competition to help the members' arming of the Word.

In August, approximately 4500 people took part in the first round, and those who passed the round went through the second round, and 57 people entered the final round.

Deaconess Sunwoo Lee, a soloist of Performing Arts Committee earned the Golden Prize in 2014. She used to be a comedian and broadcaster, so she was confident about memorizing. She

stated, "I was used to memorizing because I had memorized program scripts many times, so I thought that I could win the Grand Prize. But it was not at all what I expected." While entering the competition five times, she learned that she can do nothing without God's help. She said that she experienced God's great love with which He helped her discover her arrogance and desire for others' recognition and throw them away.

The finalists have experienced the grace of God who helped their souls prosper through the competition. Pastor Geumran Hwang won the Grand Prize in the Winner of Winners Competition where previous winners got together and competed in 2012. She said, "I started it with desire to obey, but now I cannot stop doing it because God poured so much grace down to me through it. I have received many blessings through the competition, but most of all the Bible verses that I memorized are great help to me when I meet and counsel

people."

The test questions come from 365 verses that appear in Daily Bible Verse in the church's weekly bulletin. They can be answered not only when we memorize the verses perfectly without any error in letters but also when we know their spiritual meanings because there are applied questions as well as direct recall.

Elder Keunjong Seo, age 72, is the oldest competitor this year. He stated, "For the first few years, I could not memorize the verses no matter how hard I tried. But once God's grace came upon me, I could do it. I realized that it was not I who could do it. The Lord saw my heart that wants to obey and helped me. I feel much rewarded to be able to obey just in itself."

Deacon Hyunok Han, who entered this final competition for the first time, also testified to the blessing given to him through obedience. He said, "While I was preparing for this competition, I could closely look at

my heart through the Word. When I prayed based on it, my heart was renewed more quickly and my faith increased. I also received financial blessings in my workplace."

Deaconess Hyojung Yim from Masan Manmin Church is a primary school teacher. She memorized the verses in school using her spare time before she left school. She said, "As I memorized the verses, the sermons came to taste sweeter than before and I came to have more hope for Heaven."

Deacon Kyungseok Ko has participated in all the competitions every year, the first one through this 15th, and was the Grand Prize Winner in the second competition. He talked about why he has constantly participated, saying, "I feel God's great love in His Word. That is why. As I memorize more verses, I can link them with their pairs. And all of them come close to me as God's love. So I am so happy to have the Word near me."





Senior Pastor Dr. Jaerock Lee

“But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love”  
(1 Corinthians 13:13).

# Unchanging Heart

God became everything to me. I began to pray and worship with true heart, though nobody told me to do so. I looked for conditions for thanksgiving to give thanks offerings. I tried to give more to God. Also, because I loved God and the Lord I took care of the flock entrusted to me by the Lord with my life. I gave my wife and three daughters to God as pastors and a worker for His kingdom. I considered my flock more precious than my own family members.

When the whole church went through great trials, I kept the flock and church praying to God with all my strength. If God commanded me to accomplish something, I obeyed only with ‘Yes’ and ‘Amen’ although there were life-threatening situations.

It’s been far more than 30 years since I met God, but I have never thought anything was overwhelming for me. Even the worldly people are willing to do anything for their partners when they love each other passionately. In the same way, if we love God foremost of all, we will never feel what we may do is wasted effort even if we were to give all our possessions and even our lives.

Since I first met God, my life-giving love has never cooled down nor has it stayed the same. My love for God and the Lord has only grown more fervent.

Then, how is your love for God? Do you truly love God first without any changing of your mind? Are there any of you who are living just like the worldly people with lukewarm faith and compromising with the world even though you once loved God earnestly and worked for him diligently? Or have you established your first priority as a successful life or the love for your family members before that of God?

As Proverbs 8:17 reads, “I love those who love me; and those who diligently seek me will find me.” To those who love God first, He will pour down His overflowing love. He will certainly show the evidence of His love that He loves us very much. If we need health or wealth or anything, He will give to us according to our needs, and He will even let us manifest His great power.

## 2. The heart to trust God’s love without changing in any kind of situation

If we passionately love God, He will definitely return that love back to us. If we experience those evidences of God’s love, our faith will grow and we will be more filled with the Holy Spirit, so that we can lead a more passionate Christian life. But some change their mind when they go through trials although they led fervent Christian lives.

The joy on their face disappears and they complain. They weep with sorrow and wonder why they have to go through such trials. Moreover, some people forsake their faith and go back to the world. But if you truly love God, you can never do that.

In Acts chapter 16, Apostle Paul was beaten severely for preaching the gospel and was put into the inner prison. Since he was jailed with his body covered with blood, the pains only got worse. He didn’t know whether he would be beaten again or whether he would be released. Nothing was sure for him. What would you do if you were in his shoes? Wouldn’t you complain saying, “I have worked with devotion for the Lord. But why do these difficulties happen to me?”

Paul did not complain about his pain or become saddened, but praised God from his deep heart. This praise moved God’s heart and the doors of the prison were opened by an earthquake (Acts 16:25-26).

The apostle Paul could be assured that since he loved God so much, in return, God loved him very much too. He did not doubt God’s love who had given His only begotten Son and had been answering his prayers. Even though he was beaten and chained, he believed there was the providence of God in it. Even though he was in hardship or a life-threatening situation, his confidence in God loving him was never shaken.

It is the case with me too. As a layman member as well as a pastor, my way was not easy at all. Sometimes, it seemed that the things I accomplished by devoting all my life were going to be destroyed in a moment. There were also times of such difficult trials that

I just wanted to go to be at the side of the Lord.

But even in difficulties like death itself, I never spoke a word of complaint or resentment. In fact, I didn’t even have a complaining heart. Did Jesus, the Son of God, complain when He forsook all the glory of heaven and took the cross? No.

Jesus tried to comfort the heart of God who felt sad for Jesus’ sufferings. Jesus voluntarily took the way of sufferings in thought of the love of God. Thinking about this Jesus, how could I dare to complain or express any resentment? No matter what kind of hardship I faced, I believed that the way was the way of blessings and the way to accomplish God’s providence, so that I only prayed with thanks. Because I worried that God would be sad if I were having a hard time due to trials, I tried to please Him confessing, “I can overcome all these things. Fulfill Your will through me and receive all the glory.”

How did you act when you faced trials in your life? Some people recklessly express words of doubt, complaining, and resentment although they used to sing praises of thanksgiving with their lips.

What God wants from us is not the faith of a child with which you are happy when things go as you want but complain when you don’t get what you want. He wants us to have the mature faith of a father whose love and trust doesn’t change even in any hardship and who understands the depth of God’s heart.

Only when we accomplish this trust with God can we share our love with God like a friend as Abraham and Moses did. Then, God will walk with you and show you the evidence that He loves you.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, when our love is truthful and never changes, God also can love us with truthful love. If we have a problem He will solve it, and He will fulfill the desires of our heart and prove His love with blessings and glory.

I pray in the name of the Lord that by achieving this unchanging heart you will receive answers and blessings and glorify God.

To lead a good Christian life, we need faith, hope, and love. Only with faith can we receive salvation and please God. Only with hope for Heaven can we take hold of the best dwelling place in Heaven, New Jerusalem by force. Foremost of all is love for only when we have love can we become God’s true children.

The ultimate purpose for God to create men and let them experience this earthly life is the love. God wants to gain true children with whom He can share love forever, and to the extent that we achieve the unchanging heart with love we can receive amazing blessings. Then, what kind of heart is the unchanging heart?

## 1. The heart that loves God foremost of all without changing

Jesus said the foremost commandment as Mark 12:30 says, “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” Many forefathers of faith did not spare even their own lives because they loved God first. It is because they experienced the love of God who came to them first and gave His only begotten Son for sinners as recorded in 1 John 4:19, “We love, because He first loved us.”

I also experienced His love, and

## The Confession of Faith

1. Manmin Central Church believes that the Bible is God-breathed Word that is perfect and flawless.
2. Manmin Central Church believes in the unity and the work of God the Trinity: God the Holy Father, God the Holy Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
3. Manmin Central Church believes that we are forgiven of our sins only by the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ.
4. Manmin Central Church believes in the resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, His Second Advent, the Millennium, and the eternal heaven.
5. Members of Manmin Central Church confess their faith through “The Apostles’ Creed” each time they come together and believe in its content verbatim.

“[God] Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things.” (Acts 17:25)

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

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# Charitable Works to Make Us Prosperous

Proverbs 11:25 reads, "The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered." God tells us to help others by giving to them and He is pleased with it (Deuteronomy 15:10). Now let's delve into how to give and do charitable works that are proper in God's will and thereby pile up goodness and mercy and bring down blessings from above.

## ◆ Charitable works with love from the bottom of your heart

1 Corinthians 13:3 says, "And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing."

The kind of charitable work that has no 'love' in it is just a kind of formality. Although such a person has given his money, time, and everything he cannot receive any blessing or rewards for this kind of works.

And when we do charitable works, we should not desire to reveal ourselves or to be praised by others. We should always check our hearts and try to help neighbors only for their benefits with truthful love from the bottom of our hearts.

If you do charitable works with love for your neighbors, you wouldn't care whether other people recognize you or not. You are happy just that your neighbors' situations have become better. If your good deed is known to others and they praise you, you rather feel embarrassed. You want to give to others just because

the grace you received from the Lord is so great. Also, you will be happy thinking the Lord is so pleased with your love and good deeds. And, because you believe that God who sees what you do in secret will reward you, you are even happier (Proverbs 15:3).

What kind of charitable work do we have to do in order to please God? God accepts our giving most delightfully when we give with true love and thankful hearts for being able to give.

Acts 10 records the account of Cornelius. Although he was a Gentile, he was a devout man and one who feared God with all his household. He gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually. God was pleased with him, and moved Peter so that he could hear the gospel and receive the Holy Spirit for the first time as a Gentile. It was not only himself, but also his family members and friends who were saved. In Acts chapter 9 we find a woman called Tabitha, who was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity. She received the blessing of coming back to life by Peter's prayer.

If you do the deeds of charity of which the aroma of love will be accepted by God and proper in God's will, not because you want to gain honor from others, you will enjoy abundant blessings both in spirit and body.

## ◆ Spiritual deeds of charity according to the Holy Spirit's guidance

It is important to hear the voice and receive the guidance of the Holy Spirit because when we obey the will of God we can do more perfect deeds of charity.

Charitable works in the Lord is not just about supplying basic needs of life like clothes, food, and housing. It is also about supplying the food of spirit to save the souls. But there is one thing we should consider when we do charitable works; there is inappropriate charity.

The first duty of churches is to preach the gospel and save the souls so that they will gain spiritual peace. The ultimate goal of charitable works lies here. Thus, it is very important to do a proper work of charity by receiving guidance of the Holy Spirit. If some improper help was given to a certain person, we may cause that person to become even more distanced from the Lord, and in the worst case, we may even drive him to the way of death.

For example, some people come to church not because they care about faith but just to receive financial help. They come to church to abuse the good intention of church for their own benefit. In this case, if we help them, it is only to cause them to disappoint God. If they have just a little bit of faith or goodness in heart, when they receive help, they will be thankful to God and the church, so that they will keep on attending church to receive salvation. Then, their faith will grow up, and at the proper time, they will ask God to give them what they need and receive

answers.

But it does not mean that you should not help those who don't have faith. Sometimes, we should also help the worldly people to spread the love of the Lord, and in case of new believers who have weak faith, we should strengthen them until their faith grows up.

There are also some members who have congenital infirmities or disease, or there are others who suddenly had accidents. So, as a result they cannot make a living by themselves. In cases of those senior citizens who are living alone and in cases of children living as heads of family, they are in desperate need of charitable works.

We can do better in this kind of charitable works to the extent that we have spiritual love and that we pray more earnestly for other people and receive wisdom of goodness. Therefore, we should try to help others, but we should not just help thoughtlessly by our fleshly affection or with our thoughts. Even though it is our money, we should recognize that everything was given by God. So, we have to help others according to the will of God who is the owner of everything, by receiving the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

As Matthew 25:40 says, "...Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me," if you help your neighbors with true love, that work is same as serving our Lord. So we have to do charitable works that are proper in God's will according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and thereby lead many souls to the way of salvation. By doing so, we can enjoy great blessings and rewards both on the earth and in Heaven.



In May 2013, I attended the Umoja Crusade led by Bishop Dr. Myeongho Cheong and registered in Nairobi Manmin Holiness Church, Kenya with my family.

But until 2014, I still had an adulterous mind and anger. Though I received grace from the sermons, I still lived as I had before, against the Word of God.

On January 1 in 2015, Dr. Cheong told me about the importance of keeping the Sabbath and giving the full tithe. From then my believing life started to change. The following week, he advised me to evangelize my neighbors, since I had good relationships with them.

I had never spread the gospel, but I wanted to obey and thought that I needed God's help to evangelize them. So, I prayed earnestly and studied the Bible. And I kept the Sabbath, and gave the tithe. Dr. Cheong prayed for me and let me know how to evangelize people. I started to guide them one by one to the church.

I gave tea or some refreshments to customers who visited my drugstore, and invited my neighbors to my place and had a great time. Meantime, I talked to them about the amazing works of God who



Brother Dan Okot (middle) with people he has guided to the church



## “I Have Evangelized and Guided 50 People to the Church”

Brother Dan Okot, age 34, Nairobi Manmin Holiness Church, Kenya

blessed me and gave answers. I also formed a group and we visited households in need, helped them, and delivered the Word of God.

My wife also invited many neighbors and shared the grace she had received. Through this, we could guide them to the church every Sunday and they have met and experienced the living God.

A sister was about to get divorced because her husband was alcoholic and away from the home. But after she received Dr. Cheong's prayer, he came back home and stopped drinking alcohol. He is attending the church together with her and evangelizing others. Another sister had a

manifested through Senior Pastor Dr. Jaerock Lee and became filled with God's love and hope for Heaven.

I am diligently delivering the grace I received in Korea to people and spreading the gospel more happily. I was also given duties as a district leader and a leader in Men's Mission. While fulfilling the duties, I am delivering the Lord's love.

I give all thanks and glory to God who renewed me. And I give thanks to Senior Pastor who has shown the love of God through powerful works and Dr. Cheong who has guided me in the Word and by prayer.

## “I Was Healed of Shingles”

On July 27, 2015, I got a headache. The back side of my right ear and neck became swollen. Three days later red marks appeared on my forehead. It was sore and I even felt pain in my eyes. I went to hospital and I was diagnosed with shingles. Many blisters formed and pain got worse. I felt like I was pricked with something sharp. Later I even could not open my eyes.

From August 1, I had the dry heaves, and I vomited even when I drank water. So I could not eat anything. Next day I went to the emergency room at a university hospital. The doctor told me that if shingles was spread to my eyes I would be blind. And he added that even if I was healed nobody could know when it would recur. I just got an IV injection because I could not take medicine. My face was so hideous and scary, and I was in a great pain. I even thought I wanted to die.

Before this happened, I stopped praying with the excuse of my busy schedule in college and later I even did not go to church on Sunday. I was not confident about living by the Word of God, so I did not even repent nor listen to the

Word of God.

But my parents prayed with lamentation for me, their only child. And because I realized that my loving Father God did not forsake me, the Lord interceded for me, and Senior Pastor Dr. Jaerock Lee was praying with his life for a sheep even like me, I came to turn back.

On the night of August 2, I repented of my past wrongdoings. Next day I departed for Manmin Summer Retreat 2015 even though it was hard for me even to move. But it was really amazing that the pain was gone! I was given the faith that I would be healed. On August 3, during Divine Healing Meeting, I received Senior Pastor's prayer. Then the fire of the Holy Spirit came upon me. My forehead, eyes, ears and affected parts around them became hot. Then blisters became dry and scabs formed. And it was healed quickly. Hallelujah!

After I came back from the retreat, I thoroughly repented again from the bottom of my heart feeling God's great love. Afterwards, I no longer found it hard for me to live by the Word of God. This is because I realized that the Father God had waited for me as the father of a prodigal son waited for the son. I give all thanks and glory to God who is full of love.



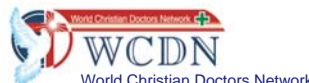
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