Bereans Webzine September 2022

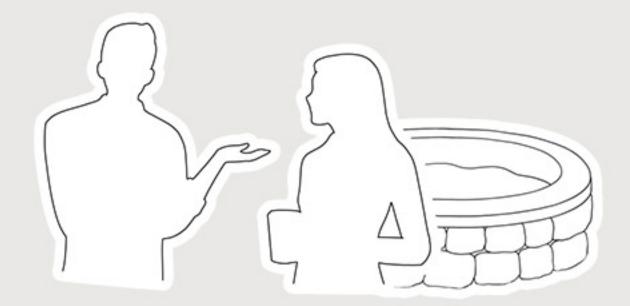
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BLESSING CHANNEL

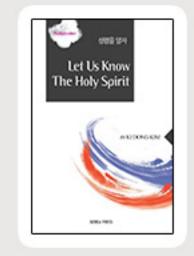
Sincere Heart that Delivers the Water of Life

Drink the Water of Eternal Life

John 4:9-26

Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim





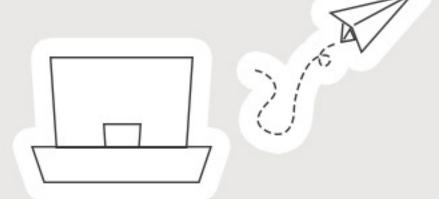
2 The Word and the Holy Spirit

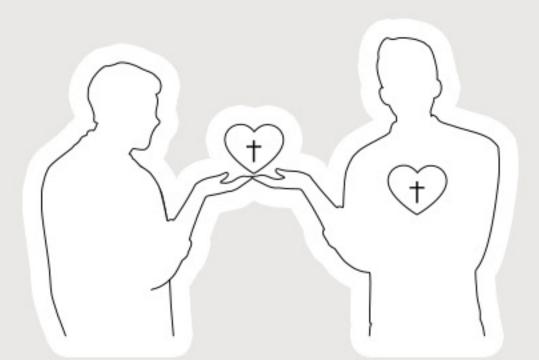
"The Word and the Holy Spirit"

in Let Us Know The Holy Spirit



- 3 Truthful Heart that Delivers Living Water
 - # Darby in Nigeria
 - # Pastor Sabo in Nigeria
 - # Pastor Adrian in the Dominican Republic





4 Taking after one's god

1.

Drink the Water of Eternal Life

John 4:9-26

Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.



"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The Samaritan woman who was drawing water from Jacob's well was captivated by Jesus' words. This woman tried to survive desperate circumstances, but neither water from the well nor her trust in the Law of Moses could quench her thirst. Jesus knew even about people's miniscule family circumstances, so she confidently believed that Jesus was a prophet. She asked Him, "Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."

The people of Samaria worshiped God on Mount Gerizim and did not recognize other books in the Bible except the five books of Moses. For sure, the Jews embraced the books of Moses and the prophets as God's revelation, and they believed Jerusalem was where God should be worshiped. From their viewpoint, the Samaritans were filthier than the gentiles. They claimed to believe God, but they rejected God's revelation and put limits on God's word to suit their tastes. The Jews disdained the Samaritans, yet not even the Jews worshiped God in the way God wanted. This was because they assumed an outward appearance, but their hearts were far from God.

Jesus said, "Woman, believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks." This is true. We can now worship God through Jesus Christ with a sincere heart while we follow the truth revealed by God; our spirits no longer need to despair of unquenchable thirst.



those who are in despair



God's help



a sincere heart



guided by the truth

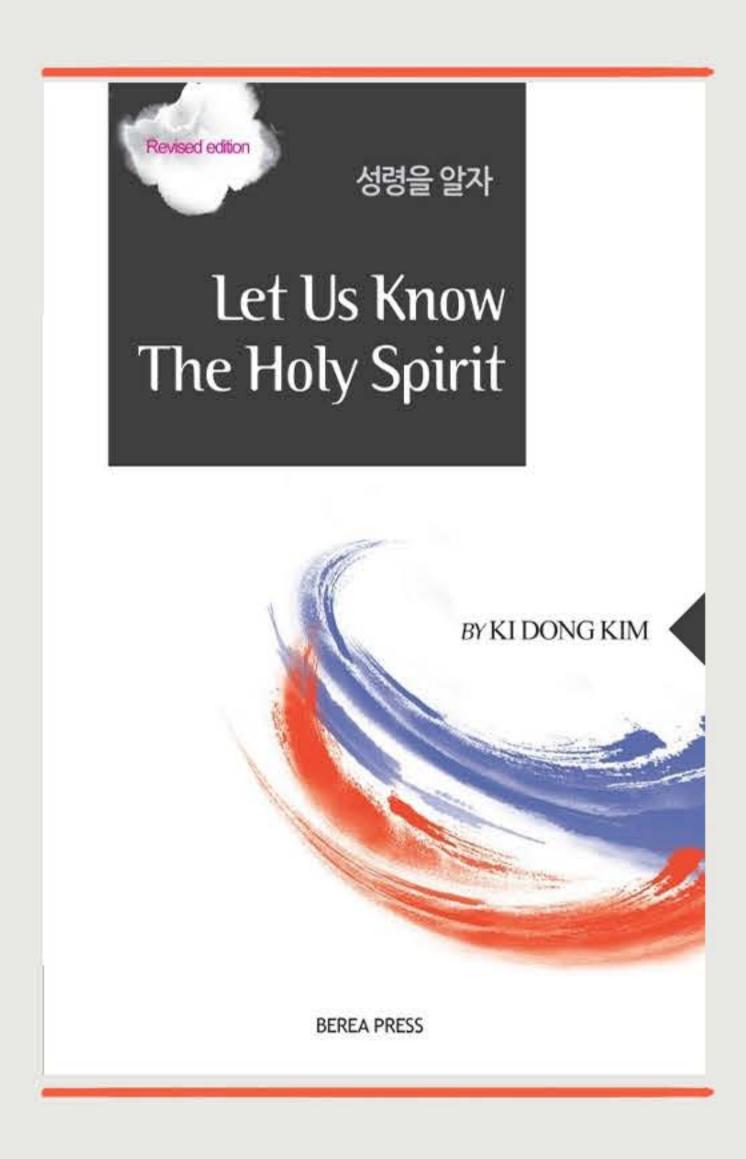
Jesus came to call those who are in despair.

Consequently, there are many believers in Jesus who have despaired of the world. For sure, their final hope is to enter heaven – but for those who cannot survive in the world by their own strength – the church is where they can receive God's help to overcome the world. Therefore, the church should not be a place where each person tries to become superior to others and display it. People who know their weaknesses want to overcome the world with **God's help**, and the church should be a place to welcome their struggles.

To achieve this, a sincere heart is more important than anything. This should be the basic character for all believers who make up the church. In the outer world, appearance is often considered more important than the heart, so sincerity is disregarded. But believers should not be swept away by these worldly tendencies. Additionally, they should not put limits on God's word by their ideas or be satisfied solely by possessing spiritual knowledge. Their lives should be guided by the truth. If all believers act like this, there will be no place for cunning desires and attitudes to stay, and those who drink the Lord's living water will overcome despair and they will rise.

Sungrak Church Lord's Day Service on June 12, 2022 Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim 2.

The Word and the Holy Spirit



John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." In the same way, the Holy Spirit is with God and thus He is God. The Father is the essence of God. Though He fills heaven and earth, no one can see or feel Him at a moment in time. The Son of God is the image of God. So, everything that the Father created was through the Son. Without the Son, the Father does not and cannot do anything.

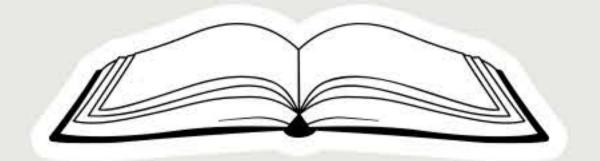
All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made (John 1:3).

Has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds (Hebrews 1:2).

The Holy Spirit is the intrinsic Spirit of God. Without the Holy Spirit, the Father does not and cannot reveal Himself. Without the Holy Spirit, it is impossible to see the Father through the Word. Therefore, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are inseparably one.

This is He who came by water and blood – Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one (1 John 5:6-8).

The *water* here signifies a *spirit*-composition. It describes an eternal and spiritual characteristic, not a personality. The word *Spirit* in the Bible should not *always* be taken as the *Holy Spirit*. It can also mean an eternal substance of God.



Though the word *spirit* describes something that is immaterial, it is still not an abstract or a concept. A spirit can be something or someone that exists eternally. The *blood* always signifies life. "He who came by water and blood – Jesus Christ" means He came as eternal life.

Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). The *water* here also indicates a *spirit*-composition. More specifically, it refers to the words of God. His words are *spiritual*. Therefore, Jesus also said, "The words that I speak to you are spirit (composition) and they are life" (John 6:63b).

The words of Jesus Christ are spirit, eternal substance. Words spoken by people are just temporary sounds. Because they are not spiritual, they linger for a moment in the mind but are soon forgotten. They can never go into a person's spirit. Only spiritual things can enter and dwell in the spirit of a person.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

The Word is the one who was with God from the beginning. This Word is also spiritual (eternal) in the same way the words of Jesus are spiritual (eternal). The difference is that The Word is the *eternal Person* (the Son of God) while the words of Jesus are the *eternal substance* from His mouth.

The Word who became flesh is Jesus Christ (Matt. 16:16), so His flesh is a *spirit*-composition and thus eternal. Jesus said, "Eat My flesh" (John 6:54). Just as man's flesh is made of physical components, namely dust, Jesus' flesh is different from us. His flesh is spirit. This spirit is called in the Bible, the "Spirit of Christ" (Rom. 8:9). Thus, when Jesus said, "Eat My flesh," He was really saying, Take and eat the spirit (what is an eternal substance). Also, eating His flesh is also same as drinking the water. If you understand everything until now, you would know what the next

verse means: But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst (John 4:14).

Therefore, the meaning of, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5), should be interpreted as, No one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of the words of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Here, the water refers to the spirit (words of Jesus) and not the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit who has a personality, but the water has no personality. Jesus came "by water and blood" means that Jesus came as eternal life (1 John 5:6). Jesus also said, "The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63).

The body of Jesus Christ (the Word become flesh) and His words are spirit. This spirit is "a life-giving spirit," which gives us eternal life (1 Cor. 15:45). "A life-giving spirit," (1 Cor. 15:45) "water and blood," (1 John 5:6) and "The words that I speak to you are spirit and they are life." (John 6:63b) all have the same meaning.

Today, many people confuse "a life-giving spirit" with the Holy Spirit. The life-giving spirit is also called "the Spirit of Christ" or "the spirit of adoption."

Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His (Romans 8:9)

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!' (Romans 8:15 [NASB])

The life-giving spirit, the Spirit of Christ, and the spirit of adoption are all not referring to the Holy Spirit. As it was stated before, John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

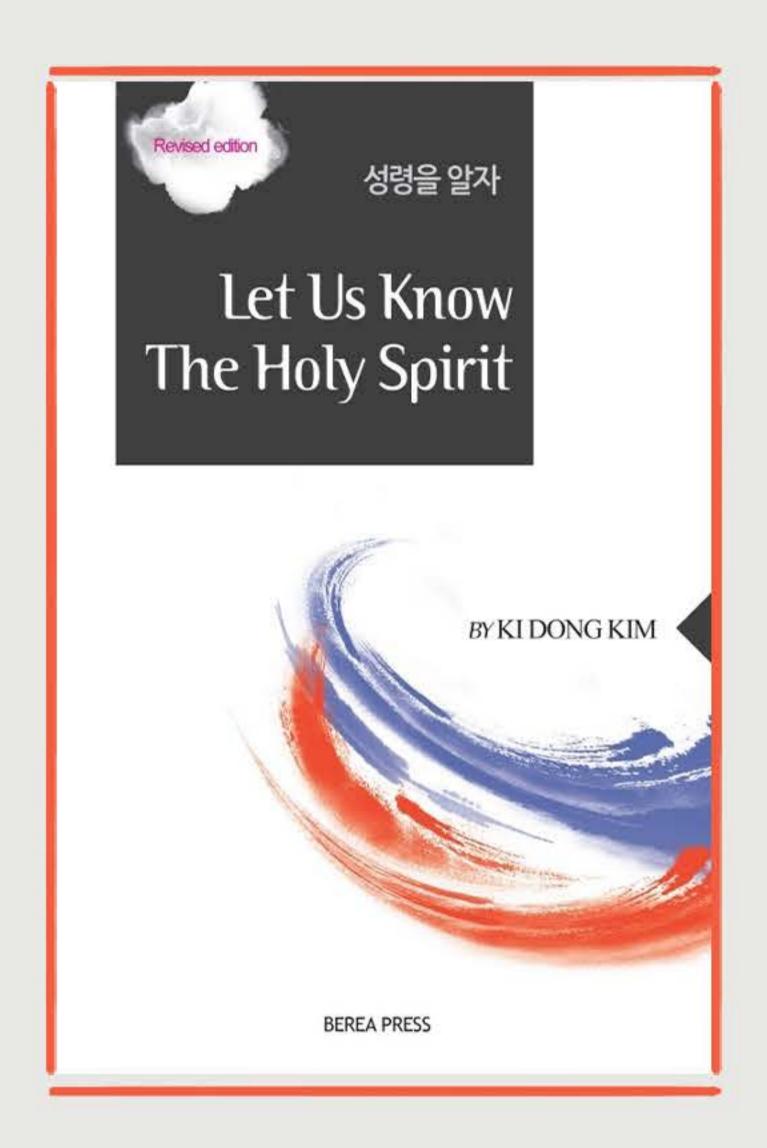
In the same way, the Holy Spirit was with God and thus He is God. Yet, the Son of Man and the Holy Spirit are two

different Persons. The Son of Man is the one who came by water and blood, the life-giving spirit. The Holy Spirit is the one who came upon the Son of Man in the Jordan River.

Receiving the spirit of Christ, the life-giving spirit, is the same as receiving the life-giving words. This life-giving spirit that came by water and blood touches the hearts of those who belong to Christ (in the way Paul was touched). Today, we have received eternal life and crossed over from death to life because of these words. Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live" (John 5:24-25).

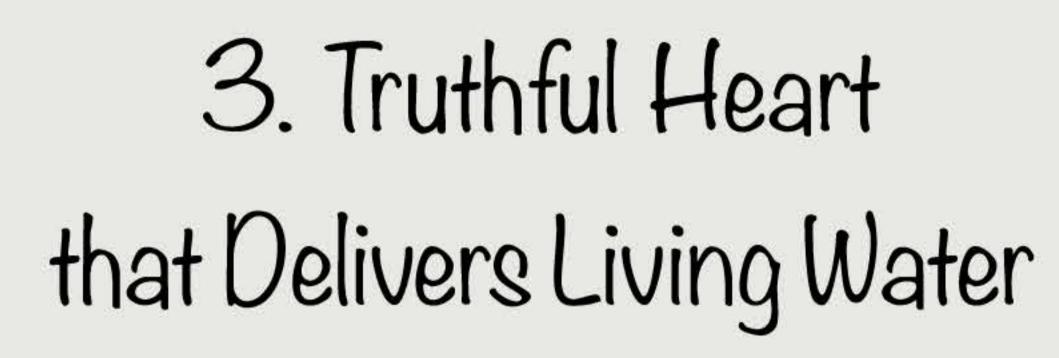
Jesus is the Word become flesh; in other words, He came by blood and water. Although Jesus came as a Man, His body was of *spirit*-composition, not from the dust of the earth. Even though Pilate took His life in the flesh, he could not kill His spirit. Thus, Jesus was brought back to life from death. Man's flesh is from dust, but Jesus' flesh is the Word become flesh. Thus, the flesh of Jesus can solve man's spiritual problem. In a deeper level, man's spirit was created from God's words. The difference is this: Jesus is the Word become flesh, and we are born again through these words of God.

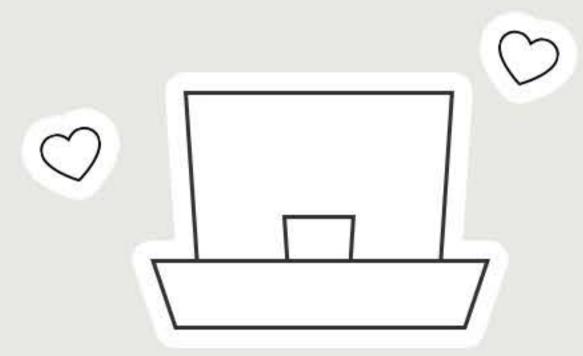
Romans 8:15 [NASB] says, "For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!" The Holy Spirit is not the spirit of adoption. The spirit of adoption is the word of God given through His Son, Jesus Christ. We are born again by this word of God. His words are spirit and life (John 6:63). Jesus was not birthed by the word of God but He IS the Word become flesh. Instead, we are the ones who have been reborn through the word.



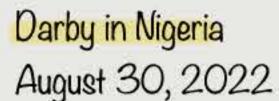
in Let Us Know The Holy Spirit, Chapter 12 "The Word and the Holy Spirit" by Semuon

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Sungrak Church is preaching God's heart who saves souls and pours blessings throughout the world. God let the only begotten Son die on the cross to save our souls and even entrusted His work to us to save others. God is continuously working to save souls in despair. Moreover, He guides us into the way of eternal life by loving us to the end until Jesus comes again. Like this, we understood and deeply experienced God's heart to save even one more soul. Therefore, we are sincerely supplying the word of God and the Berea books so that all people over the world can receive God's love. Through this ministry, many people over the world are experiencing God's word of life and being transformed. Furthermore, they do not stop there, and they are joining the work of God, which delivers God's heart and saves souls.



I am extremely excited to share with you the powerful and life changing blessings that you have impacted in my life and in the life of my pastor here in Nigeria.

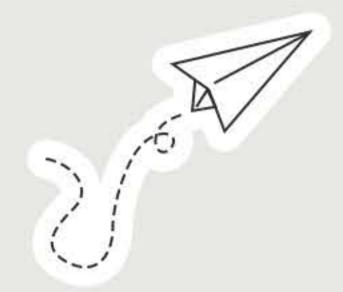
I read the book thoroughly and also share the rest with my pastor. It really blesses us immensely among many things that I learned from the book is the power of persistency prayers. After reading how the Sungrak church began and the prayers that the servant of God made with respect to the acquisition of the land for permanent building, the beautiful lesson here is that persistency is essential in prayers because sometimes you ask God for something and immediately you received result and sometimes you tarry and pray and pray and pray before the arrival of answer.

After reading the book I decided to practice persistency in prayer and amazingly, I have received many answers to my prayers than it used to be.

Indeed, I am very astonished for seeing a woman who is passion about the enthronement of Christ first in the heart of men and by extension in every state of human activity through the gift and the capacity God has given you. you are a model and I promise to replicate this in the life of people around me as the Lord established and enlarge us in the ministry.

This my prayer for you!!! God will expand and enlarge you! His presence and his power shall not leave you! May his grace keep you blameless till the coming of the Lord Jesus.

Lastly, indeed thanks you for blessings and shining your light in my life.



Pastor Sabo in Nigeria July 20, 2022

Hello my name Sabo from Africa, from Nigeria and northern Nigeria to be precise. I am a pastor and I just want to share a testimony with you.

Someone lent me one of your books and I read it and still reading it it's so amazing. I use to think am wrong but reading your book has added more knowledge and strength to my spiritual life. I love the way you see the scriptures. Thank you I wish there are more books.

Oh, my goodness I am so grateful I don't know how to begin to thank you. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you, your ministry, your family and you for the kingdom of Christ. Am actually crying right now as I write you this reply because I am going through a lot with my family in Nigeria. We have been kicked out of our house because we couldn't pay the rent. The landlord is a Muslim and did not want a Christian in his property so he increased the price beyond what I can afford. Nevertheless, I really wanted your books because after reading the first one, I told myself "This book will change my life and ministry" but from so far away in Asia!!!!! I never dreamed of o could know or talk to anyone from there or if I can ever afford such book and material. Therefore, for the first time in my life, I wrote and you responded. Not just that you are sending me books I have not yet paid for... I want to thank you for your love and care for my spiritual life and ministry and I want to assure you that you are not wasting your resources on me. Thank you so much and God bless you always.

Pastor Adrian in the Dominican Republic August 23, 2022

¡Muy buenas tardes, amado hermano, desde la Republica Dominicana!

Estube muy ansioso de leer estos libros, y descubrir lo que el Espiritu Santo me va a revelar a traves de ellos. Les escribo para decirles que ya he leído el libro Conozcamos al Espíritu Santo que, gentilmente, ustedes me enviaron...

I greet you in the name of Jesus from the Dominican Republic.

I really wanted to be guided by the Holy Spirit through the Berea books you had given me.

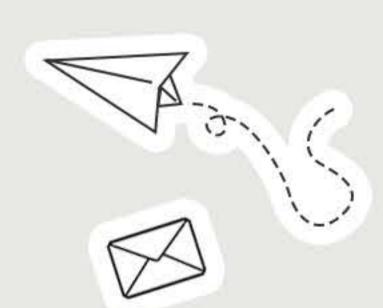
I have finally finished reading all the books you sent me and I express my gratitude with a glad heart to Sungrak church.

These books came to me when I suffered from many difficult situations emotionally.

However, after reading the Berea books, I can prepare the retreat for spiritual revival.

Something made me stop growing up spiritually because I really felt that spiritual motivation was insufficient.

Thank Sungrak church for these efforts so that I can be born spiritually through these books.



4. Taking after one's god

Our faith life is also called spiritual life. The word spirit means that it is an everlasting being. Everything in this world is fading away but there are beings which exist eternally. In most cases, those beings cannot be seen with our eyes and thus people think they do not



exist. However, they do exist. Just as the air can't be seen yet is essential to our existence, there are beings which are eternal and undeniable. They are called spirit.



And similarly, there is the word god, which refers to spirits that have a personality. Hence even though people may not attend church, when they do ancestral rites, they write on the 'jibang' (memorial paper) "學生府君神位" which means a god with a personality.

In this world, there are many spiritual beings with a personality, namely gods.

Though they are invisible to the eye, they are existential and influence humans very closely. Even if a person says he wants to have nothing to do with gods, that is actually not possible. When shamans (spiritists) become possessed, it is not because they wanted to be. Because they get sick and are afraid of dying, they have no choice but to accept being possessed.

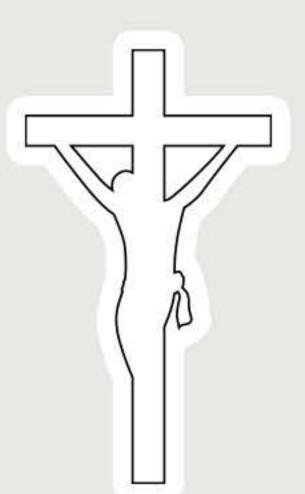
Those gods unilaterally approach a person to live with him or her. They come unilaterally and say,

"I want to use you!" It'll be great if the person can drive them out but since they can't, they just surrender and live with those gods. But even that depends on what god it is. There are various types of gods. They all have different personalities too. Therefore, it is important that you are close to a god that has a good nature, has many possessions, is happy and virtuous. And that is the god you can meet at church. Today is Christmas. But which of the many gods in this world sacrifices himself to bring good to humans? Yet the god I am trying to introduce you to is such a god who sacrificed himself in order to deliver man that was sunk in despair. And why did He do that? That is His nature. Every god has a different personality.

We start to take after whichever god we become closely acquainted with. We take after their personality and even walk in a path of life similar to theirs. If that god was cursed and ended up somewhere horrible, then the person who was close to that god may find himself in the same position.



So which god we become close to is a very critical matter. Depending on which god we become familiar with, we could even develop a sickness. When a person drinks heavily, people might say, "What has gotten into you?" Why do you think unbelievers say that? They do sense something to some degree. The reason a person drinks alcohol heavily is because of the works of an alcoholic demon. The gods (spirits) enter a person that



has similarities to themselves. And makes their conditions worse. So an alcoholic demon will go into a person who likes drinking and thus cause them to drink more. An adulterous demon goes into a person who is adulterous to make them even more adulterous.

However our God, the God whom we are meeting at church, what is He like? He can be described in many ways. In the Scripture we read today, it says, "Him (God) who called us by glory and virtue". He is a God full of glory. Glory refers to all the great things that this God possesses. And that cannot be expressed in one word. Glory is the whole summation of all that which is wonderful and good.

Not only did He call us by His glory, it also says that He called us by His virtue. Virtue! Virtue is wanting to share if there is anything good. That is what our God is like. That which is good that He possesses, meaning life. This life is everlasting life. Everlasting life. Then there is joy, and blessings, happiness and an abundance of everything. He wishes to share all these things with us. His is full of virtue. He constantly wants to pour out what He has. On whom? Not only to those that know Him but more people, even to those that don't know Him. He even wants to share them to the people that want to do evil to Him. This is the nature of our God. Whenever I have something good, the first to come to mind is my family. Do you think of your father first or your children? It rightly should be our fathers but since I became a parent myself, it's actually my children that come to mind first. And then my father. And after that, the people around me. But that's it. I don't really have any desire to share it to people that hate me. But this God wants to share everything good which He has to those that don't even like Him. He wants them to share in His happiness. This is the nature of our God. Hence people like us came to church and met this God, received those good things from this God, and have come to love this God. Therefore, we do not worship this God out of fear. We have received so much from this God and love Him so much that we worship Him like so. For people that don't know Him yet, it seems so difficult to come to every Lord's Day and worship Him. However, once you start having fellowship with Him, you will realize that there is so much to receive from Him. Therefore, you will experience that fellowshipping with Him and worshipping Him is certainly not a difficulty but the greatest joy that this world can never give us.

While you are living in this world, don't get acquainted with just any god but with that God who gave up His Son to save us the sinners. Many people die and others don't know where their souls are scattered about. Yet we would all resurrect, in the likeness of Jesus who resurrected and went up to heaven.

As I said, our God can be expressed in various ways but we can also say, "God who raised Jesus Christ from the dead!" Two thousand years ago, Jesus died but someone brought Him to life. A certain invisible being raised Him to life and that is the God whom we believe now. If we have this faith, then when the time comes, He will also raise us from the dead and take us to be with Him where He is.

Not only is He the god of virtue; He is also the god of power. Although it has been thousands of years, He is still doing His work and keeping His promise. The gods of this world can't keep their promises. They don't have the power to do that. Yet our God is so different from them. He is full of mercy. I hope you will also meet this God, and take Him to be your companion who is always with you, your co-worker, and your protector who is always there to protect you.

Pastor Ki-Taek Lee The Director of Sungrak Mission Center

