# Manmin News

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# Fragrance of Joy

"For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing;" (2 Corinthians 2:15)

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Joy is the signature fragrance of a saved child of God.

Rejoicing only when something good happens

and rejoicing only when it benefits you is not true joy because it is conditional. It is not true joy because it disappears when difficulties arise.

The joy we have in the Lord is a joy that we always have, regardless of our circumstances. Even if the reality is hard and difficult, we have eternal life that we can't trade for anything, and we are full of hope for the afterlife. It makes us have joy springing from the depths of heart.

The fragrance of this joy brings comfort and happiness to not only ourselves but also to the people around us.

#### TESTIMONY

# "Hey, Look! My back became straightened!"

Deacon Soonhyun Yoo (Age 93, Seosan Manmin Church)



I lived with a cane for about 15 years because my back was getting more and more curved, and sometimes when I tried to straighten it out, it didn't work, and my lower back pulled and my bones ached. My left arm also hurt because of the hard work in farming, and I couldn't move it properly.

Then, in mid-January of this year, I collapsed in the bathroom of my house, which caused a lot of pain in my tailbone. I couldn't eat properly because I was so frightened by the collapse that I couldn't digest well. Under the care of my eldest son and his wife, I tried medication, but it didn't help.

I went with my eldest son to spend the Lunar New Year holidays with my children in Seoul, and on January 25, after the Lunar Year holidays, before Daniel prayer meeting, I received prayer from Mrs. Boknim Lee.

At that time, I felt peace in my heart, and after the prayer, my lower stomach didn't pull when I tried to stretch my back, and the pain in my left arm disappeared, allowing me to move smoothly. I felt myself getting better and better as time passed.

On Sunday, January 29, after the evening service, I received prayer from Dr. Soojin Lee, the Acting Senior Pastor. At that time, I felt a cool sensation in my back, and when I got back to my daughter's house and stretched my back, I felt it stretch out. I said to my daughter, "Hey, Look! My back became straightened!" She rejoiced with me, saying, "Your back is straight!"

God's grace came upon me, who was over 90 years old, and to my surprise, after receiving prayer, not only did my bent back straighten, but the pain in my lower stomach, tailbone, and left arm disappeared, and I came to eat well. Hallelujah!

I give all thanks and glory to God the Father for the healing.



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#### Goodness (14)



Senior Pastor Rev. Jaerock Lee

# Abraham's Goodness (2)

"By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten so it was he to whom it was said, 'In Isaac your descendants shall be called.' He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type." (Hebrews 11:17-19).

will tell you'" (Genesis 22:1-2).

Even though people learn the Word of God at the same place, the obedience exhibited from person to person is different. Some obey immediately, some others sense being coerced to obey, and still others don't obey at all.

Then, what kind of deeds of obedience did Abraham, the forefather of faith, show that pleased God? No matter what God commanded him to do, he never followed his own thoughts but obeyed God immediately. He unchangingly trusted God and God's promise of blessing without any doubt, even when the situation seemed to go in a way that was unexpected.

Abraham has goodness in his heart and his trust in God was genuine. Why did God acknowledge Abraham as a man of goodness and bless him to become the 'forefather of faith', 'fountain of blessing', and 'friend of God'?

### 1. Abraham's unconditional obedience to the Word of God

Abraham did not follow his own thought but promptly obeyed the Word of God even when he could not understand why God spoke what He did to him.

In Genesis 12:1, when God told him, "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you," he obeyed straight away. He left his own country, his relatives, and his father's household. It is not easy to obey such command with fleshly thoughts. His obedient deeds continued from the first trial of leaving his own country until he passed the last trial, giving up his only son Isaac as a burnt offering.

In Genesis chapter 22, God told him to offer his only son that he gained at his age of 100, as a burnt offering. "God tested Abraham, and said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. To obey fully and completely he did not talk about it with his wife.

This obedience of Abraham was conducted at a much higher level of obedience than when God told him to leave his own country. When he was told to leave the country, he obeyed unconditionally without perfect understanding of the will of God. When God commanded him to offer his only son as a burnt offering, however, he understood God's heart well enough and obeyed. Abraham believed that when he obeyed God and gave him as a burnt offering God would raise him from the dead. And God delighted in his faith and pre-prepared the lamb for the burnt offering.

Let's check our obedience. In the Bible, God emphasizes many times we should pray all the time without ceasing. However, many people do not pray on a regular basis although they have lived a Christian life for long. They do not obey the Word of God instantly with every kind of excuse. No matter how difficult it looks, once you obey the Word of God, God will change that situation.

If we prioritize prayer to God to obey God's Word, no matter how busy we are, God will enable us to achieve our work in a shorter time and much more successfully than expected.

All the commands of God including the command on prayer make us prosperous in everything. Obeying His commands leads to blessing for us, but many people do not obey though they say they believe in God. And they think, 'Why haven't I received blessing?'

No matter what God says, it is a blessing to obey unconditionally and on the spot whether it is agreeable with our thought or not. Only when we demonstrate faith accompanied by deeds can we comprehend the heart and will of God. Furthermore, we will be able to become a man of faith who can obey something that men cannot obey with their thoughts.

### 2. Abraham's steadfast belief in God's promise to the last

Some children pressure their parents saying, "When will you give me what you promised?" They press their parents to give it as soon as possible. They even complain or groan to their parents if they do not get it at the expected time. On the contrary, a good child waits calmly with trust in his parents. When he knows the poor situation in household, he tries to comfort his parents by saying he does not need it right now and they take more time in preparing for it.

Some of our parents may not keep their promise because they are not able enough to keep it. However, our heavenly Father is the almighty God and can do anything. If God promises us to give something, it will surely be given, so you only have to wait for it with faith.

When His blessing seems to come later than we expect, we must not doubt His promise but measure God's will and wait for His answer with joy and thanks. Then, how good God will deem you to be!

When Abram (later called Abraham) left Haran he was 75 years old and Sarai (Sarah) was 65 years. They had no child. Then, God promised Abram to make him a great nation through his descendants. In the passing of 1, 2, 3, and 10 years, his wife still had no child. She could not endure anymore and let his husband, Abram, beget a son through her maidservant Hagar.

When Abraham turned 99, God finally promised him that his wife would give birth to a son after a year. At that time it was impossible for the two to have a baby due to their age. But Abraham did not waver in unbelief with respect to the promise of God (Romans 4:19-21). At the age of 100 he eventually begot a son, Isaac. And through Isaac, Jacob was born and through Jacob the twelve tribes of Israel were formed. In a spiritual manner, Abraham became the father of faith and gained his countless offspring of faith.

Many people are joyous when they receive the promise of God, but doubt His promise and let their heart become confused not long after. But God says in Numbers 23:19, "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" To place your faith in God's promise until the end, it is goodness.

Let's check how great the faith that we have had is regarding the God-given words of blessing and how well we have kept them in our hearts. We should hope to enter into spirit and whole spirit by faith as well as long for the glory and blessing to be given. When you have found your flesh and evils within you, do you get discouraged and lose heart?

If you doubt that you can enter spirit with this heart and level of faith and give up in frustration, you should realize the difference between your faith and Abraham's. By believing in the promise of God, receiving it with faith, and praying fervently, you can be filled with the Spirit and see everything with faith. Then, you can get the answers from God.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Abraham was recognized as a fountain of blessing and called a friend of God. I hope you will follow the example of Abraham, show perfect faith and obedience, and enjoy blessings as God's children. I pray in the name of the Lord you dwell close to the throne of God for ever by understanding the deep heart of God.



### The Confession of Faith

1. Manmin Central Church believes that the Bible is Godbreathed 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)

# Let us break down the fleshly thoughts that come from the self-righteousness and frameworks!

It is not easy to change your way of thinking or behavior that you have formed over a long period of time.

Because you tend to accept and understand only within your own boundaries of your framework, in the case that you've formed a wrong framework of truth in your own, it is difficult to understand the true will of God contained in the Word.

'Self-righteousness' is to insist that one's

opinions are right, and 'frameworks' is the solidification of thoughts, thinking a certain thing is right.

If you cannot destroy such fleshy thoughts, you cannot come into spirit and you may stop at the threshold of spirit.

Therefore, along with fervent prayer, there must be a constant effort to discover yourself in the light of the word of the truth.

# • Fleshly thoughts that come from the frameworks of temperaments

Some people do not realize the temperaments that they inherited from their parents and are hidden inside their chi, or life-energy. So, they cannot discover their shortcomings nor cast them away.

There are some who are born with an introversive temperament. They are usually quiet and they generally do not get angry or quarrel and break peace.

However, if such people become the leader of a group, because they just remain passive when the leader has to be decisive, they may lack in caring for others and leading them with confidence. Nevertheless, they do not have evident trouble with others and because they consider others with goodness, they don't realize the problem that lies with themselves.

On the other hand, some people are born with outgoing characters. They are passionate in every work and they express themselves very well. But they tend to lack service. They do not really consider others better than themselves. They don't give comfort to others. When they have to step back and yield, they cannot have peace with others, thinking that they have to long for spirit and advance into Heaven.

# **02** Fleshly thoughts that come from negative characters

People who looked at the world in sorrow and resentment tend to lead a life of faith with difficulties because of the fleshly thoughts that come out from the negative characters.

For example, they try to pray and work for God's kingdom to cast away sins and receive blessings. In the meantime, another person who is in a similar situation has received the blessing that he wanted to receive. As they feel that others are going ahead of them, they become nervous and disheartened.

Because they cannot feel the love of God deeply in their hearts, when they deal with others, they do not understand and accept others according to their measure of faith. They look at others within their frameworks.

# **13** Fleshly thoughts that come from the deficiencies of the body

People go through many stages in their physical growth and maturation, and in each step, they must experience and be trained to do certain things. A deficiency of the body is a lacking in this experience and training.

For example, those who are not trained to listen to the teacher may not be able to focus on what others are saying even after they become adults. So, they cannot concentrate in worship services, and they cannot listen to others carefully in conversations.

Also, they may not be able to pay close attention while listening to what their boss is saying and they make mistakes. It's not that they want to disobey the will of God, but they use their own fleshly thoughts because they cannot keep it in their mind.

Some people are raised in a kind of closed environment, and they lack communication skills. They do not really understand other people's way of thinking or way of expressing themselves. They cannot really get along with others smoothly.

It is because they think within their own experience, 'I like this, and I'm sure he thinks the same way too," but their thinking is not right.

# **04** Fleshly thoughts that are hidden in the fullness of the environment

Some people mistakenly think they are always having spiritual thoughts although they are neglecting circumcising their heart. Because of the happy feelings coming from the circumstances, they just forget about their fleshly thoughts they have from time to time.

Some people cannot overcome when they face any hardship. Only by circumcising the depths of the heart and possessing the fullness of the Holy Spirit that does not fade away under any circumstances, we can possess the sincere heart and perfect faith.

## **05** Fleshly thoughts that come from the minute untruths

Some people have cultivated their heart with the truth to a significant extent, but they have fleshly thoughts because they didn't get rid of minute untruths completely. When someone gives them advice, they agree with the advice itself, but for a moment they feel uncomfortable.

If you have just 0.1 percent of discomfort in your heart, you are not a man of spirit. But because the other 99.9 percent is the heart of goodness, and because such uncomfortable thoughts pass by very quickly, you just forget that 0.1 percent of minute untruth and you cannot cross over the threshold to the spirit.

# 16 Fleshly thoughts that come from the framework of truth

Some people interpret the word of truth in their own way and consider certain things to be right and good, and solidify those ideas. So, they don't realize that it is wrong. In some situations, their thoughts derived from such frameworks are right, and they are even more convinced of their ideas.

Suppose a worker in the church is touched by the pastor who is forgiving and covering the faults of a church member. Here, this worker forms a framework of goodness thinking, 'It is goodness to forgive and understand.' Then, he tries to forgive and cover up the faults of the flock that is entrusted to him. However, sometimes he needs to rebuke or punish someone in order to lead that soul to repent and turn away from sins. But he cannot understand the love of God more deeply for that soul because of the fleshly thought coming from his framework of goodness.

### "When I was praising, a cool breeze blew and the pain in my right shoulder disappeared."

#### Senior Deaconess Sangsoon Park (Age 68, The 14<sup>th</sup> Parish)

Around April 2022, I felt severe pain in my right shoulder, probably from overuse of my arms at work. As my shoulder hurt day and night, it was very difficult and it was not easy to live my daily life. When sleeping, I couldn't lie on my right side at all, and even when I was sleeping, I was startled and woke up in pain.

When I went to see a doctor and he said it was 'the right shoulder inflammation.' He also said, "Because of your age, it is difficult to cure it in a short period of time." Even though I received medical treatment, the pain was the same, and even though I went to an oriental clinic and tried acupuncture, it worked only for that moment.

In December, I decided to rely on God for healing. I attended the 'Vowed Daniel Prayer Meeting' ahead of the Divine Healing Meeting in January and prayed hard. I prepared myself by reading the Bible and praying from 5 to 7 every morning with longing.

Then one day, while I was praying earnestly, I remembered the things I had

been doing wrong since childhood. In particular, I repented a lot about the things I did not obey.

On January 13, 2023, I attended the Friday All-night Service held as the divine healing meeting through GCN. After Acting Senior Pastor Dr. Soojin Lee preached a sermon, she led praise for repentance and fullness of the Holy Spirit. Then I had an amazing experience. As I praised, a cool breeze blew toward my shoulder, and the pain in my right shoulder caused by inflammation completely disappeared. Hallelujah!

Since then, I have had no pain at all, so there is no discomfort in my daily life, and I can lie on my right side when I sleep without any problems. I am so happy to be able to sleep soundly without waking up from pain.

I give all thanks and glory to God the Trinity of love; God the Father who has waited for me, the Lord who shed His precious blood for me, and the Holy Spirit who guided me to the way of answers.



## "I can see clearly with my left eye, and my 85-year-old asthma and heart disease are healed."

Deaconess Junghee Park (Age 94, Chinese Parish)

I was born in S. Korea and moved to Jilin Province, China with my parents when I was 8 years old. From age 10, as I was weak and suffered from many diseases such as whooping cough, asthma, and heart disease. My family was in a financially difficult situation, so I had to work helping neighbors in farming from the age of 13.

After marriage, in order to take care of my mother-in-law and raise 6 children, I worked hard even by tying rice straw, which was difficult even for a man to do. When I was 50 years old, a rice grain got into my left eye while threshing. After that, my eye looked blurry as if spider webs were caught in my eye, and I had cataract, so I could hardly see with my left eye.

At the age of 60, I returned to S. Korea, and in June 2007, at the age of 78, I became a member of Manmin Central Church by the guidance of my granddaughter. While attending the church, I felt comfortable and happy, and Senior Pastor Dr. Jaerock Lee's sermons came into my ears and I received grace. I was happy to live my Christian life as I attended all kinds of worship services and Daniel prayer meetings.

Then in around July 2022, something like a dream happened to me. One day, I saw things clearly with my left eye, which was barely visible. It was amazing.

By God's great grace, I was healed of my 45-year-old cataract, which I had never thought of, so I wanted to be healed of asthma and heart disease by God too.

I registered as a patient at the Divine Healing Meeting in September and prepared with longing through prayer. I attended the meeting through GCN and received the prayer for the sick from Acting Senior Pastor Dr. Soojin Lee, and another miracle happened in my life.

Due to asthma, I was always breathing heavily and coughed when I lay down and tried to sleep. In particular, the cough was worse when I lay on my left side, so I had to lean against the wall to sleep. However, after receiving the prayer, there were no problems.

It was not all. I always felt stuffy and tight in my chest due to heart disease, but those symptoms have completely disappeared. 85 years of asthma and heart disease were also healed. Hallelujah!

As I have suffered from diseases since I was young, I thought it was a burden I had to carry for the rest of my life, but I am so grateful that God gave me good health at this old age.

It's amazing to be healthy without any problems these days. Because I met God at a very late age, I want to love Him more and to be loved by Him more until the day I go into the arms of the Lord.

I give all thanks and glory to God, a very good Father, who had mercy on me, embraced me with love, and gave me good health and happiness.