

# *Seed*



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# *Introduction*

*Foreword: Our Hope for the Seed of Life*

"The seed is the word of God (Luke 8:11)".

"The seed of His word was planted in me who was selfish and full of hurts.

This holy seed began to grow, revealing the kingdom of God in my life gradually but very clearly. With a great hope, I therefore encourage all of you to prepare our heart with honesty and humility so that it provides fertile soil for the seed of His word to grow and produce beautiful flowers and holy fruits to glorify our Heavenly Father."

(by Pastor Daniel Jihyun Yi, from his message for the Sunday Worship on 2 December 2012)

Seed is not usually visible. Seed is hidden in the beauty of flowers. Seed humbles itself under the ground. Seed sacrifices itself to produce a sprout. Seed can tolerate lack of water, cold weather, drought, or any other threats to its life, with enormous patience and long-lasting hope. The life of date palm seed in Israel could endure more than 2,000 years to give birth to its green plant under the bright sun. Seed cannot compete with flowers in its beauty. We forget often, however, that flowers are only to allure the nature to produce the next generation of seeds. Life is conveyed through seeds. A seed can generate countless seeds to spread its life around the earth. God created the seed of life and planted it in the soil of our spirits and hearts. The seed is the word of God. The seed is Jesus. Through this humble production of DCFM multi-media e-book, Seed, we wish to share with you the seed (the word of God) that has deeply rooted in our life as well as the vitality and joy that we are receiving from Jesus.

7 December 2012, Montreal

Jihyun Lee (Managing Editor)

# *Soul Seekers*

*by Daniel Yi, Hyeok Jung, and Hye Ji Moon*



[Full music video available at Vimeo >](#)

**Music by Daniel Yi**

**Lyrics by Daniel Yi & Hyeok Jung**

**Translated by Daniel Yi**

Lyrics of "Soul Seekers"

English Version (Translated from Korean)

**(Chorus)**

Among the endless sins causing the land to fall,  
Among all the sufferings and hurts,  
Let there be rejoicing through the stars  
Enlightening the darkest days

**(Verse 1)**

Another day has just passed and  
It's the same routine every day,  
I can't even tell the last time  
That I felt like living,  
Another sigh, another fight,  
My future is undecided,  
Where am I heading to?  
My unsecured ambitions  
And decisions are blinding me,  
Everything seems so useless  
When did I become like this?  
Maybe life is like a poker game  
Where there is no chance but to lose,  
There is no such thing  
As second chance,  
And it feels like it is always raining  
I keep asking to myself,  
'When will this finally end?'

**(Verse 2)**

Yesterday or today  
The same life's cycle goes on,  
As the sun rises and the sun sets  
I had a hard time chasing  
Meaningless things  
Are you satisfied?  
Or struggled to survive?  
Why am I unsatisfied?  
Why I am fighting for?  
Acknowledgment? Love?  
I didn't realize the joy and the love I already had,  
While the time is flying at the speed of light,  
I have finally realized the meaning of life,  
Without any doubts, without any hesitations,  
Let's make a new start

**(Chorus)**

**(Verse 3)**

Let's begin today by saying sorry,  
Saying thank you and telling love,  
Money, wisdom and power  
Are nothing compared to Him,  
He calls me by my name,  
I was an orphan but He comforted me  
And promised that He will never leave me,  
I'm now forever His child,  
He took away all my burdens,  
He is now the Light of my path,  
I'll walk with Him  
Till the end of the earth





#### **(Verse 4)**

How come I was so ignorant,  
There is actually something  
better than a 'second chance',  
It's accepting Jesus Christ as  
Our personal Savior,  
All you have to do is  
Believing in the Father's son,  
He came for us and  
Died for all the sinners,  
Yeah, that is it, believe and become a true winner,  
In Jesus Christ Our Lord  
Our personal redeemer,  
The leader, in everything and  
Anything we do,  
The father of Heaven, man  
If only I knew,  
My life wouldn't be the same  
At least from now on,  
I will serve my God  
No matter what is going on

#### **(Chorus)**

Bridge  
Nothing can't prevent us from failing  
But as we are broken down in tears  
In front of His humble love  
We are finally redeemed

#### **(Chorus)**





*seed is his words*





## *What is a blessing?*

**Genesis 11:27-12:9**

*by Pastor Daniel Ji Hyun Yi*

Near my house, there is a nice riverside park named Marie-Victorin in Longueuil. This is a vibrant and peaceful park with children playing in the playground, cyclists and promenades. All of a sudden, a terrible incident happened one Thursday morning. That morning, a woman, in her 20s, was jogging along the bike path and a suspect knocked her over. The woman tumbled down on the side of the path and the suspect followed, continuing to hit her as she lay in the ditch. When the woman fought back, the man ran off on his bicycle. She was seriously injured and brought to the hospital.

Although this kind of tragic crime happens in this modern society, it seems for me that we need to pay closer attention to this incident for a couple of reasons. First of all, this crime took place not in the dusky evening but in the bright morning. And it occurred not in an isolated place, but in a park in which there were a couple of people around. In addition, the incident happened not in an apparently dangerous area but in a residential area.

When we take a close look, it is not difficult to recognize how seriously corrupt this world is with sins. While the world becomes more and more wicked, God seems to be far away. As Genesis describes, in the beginning, God created the universe giving it wonderful beauty and harmony. In particular, He made humans in His image and crowned them with glory and honor. Nevertheless, humans doubted His love and did not believe Him. As a result, they were driven out from His land, and became restless wanderers. Later, since the fall and corruption of human-beings went too far, God had no choice other than to punish them with waters, the Flood.

After the Flood, it was from the three sons of Noah came the people who were scattered over the earth. Their father Noah had built the ark by faith. Moreover the three sons were eyewitnesses of the Flood. The Lord expected a new humanity, who would respect Him, and would be formed from them. Nonetheless, while the years flowed on and the population grew, they again fell. Building the tower of Babel, rejecting God, they wanted to make a name for themselves. The creation of God seemed to end in failure. Humans, the highlight of His creation became troublemakers like vehicles with a broken steering mechanism, running around as they like making tragic incidents. Dark days overwhelmed. God's hands were hardly present. However, the Lord did not forsake the damaged and fallen humanity, and He was faithfully working to restore them. For this purpose, the Lord first calls a man, whose name is Abram.

*An ordinary man, Abram (Genesis 11:27-32)*

Abram was born from his father Terah who lived in Ur in Mesopotamia worshipping other gods. Abram naturally must be under the influence of other gods because of his father. He got married to Sarai, who was however barren. Abram was one of ordinary men at that time who were not interested in God the Creator, but in other gods, being led by their own interests. Moreover, he was 75 years old having no children. Childlessness was a serious problem in the ancient days. He did not seem to be a right person for the grand new project of God to restore the world.

### *Leave your country! (Genesis 12:1)*

While Abram was in Haran, God appeared to him and told him, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you." (Genesis 12:1). The request of the Lord consisted of two parts. First one is to leave his country, his people and his father's household. For Abram, his hometown Haran was undoubtedly a secure home, in which there were relatives whom he could rely on, and he had an economic base. It could be dangerous to leave his country. Then, why God asked him to leave? Joshua 24:2-3 gives us an answer. "Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your forefathers, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the River and worshiped other gods. But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the River and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants...' (Joshua 24:2-3) The Lord wanted to separate him from the influence of





idolatry. This is why God strongly asked him to leave his hometown and his father's household.

The second part of God's request was to go to the land God would show him. The Lord had a plan to give the land to the descendants of Abram. So He asked Abram to go there. We also probably have to leave something in order to go to the land God gives us. It could be your country, your people or your household that you had to leave. Without leaving such things, we are not able to go to the new land God gives us.

### *The promises (12:2-3)*

The Lord gave Abram not only commands but also promises. “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I

will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (2-3). Closer look of these three promises comes as follows:

#### **Promise One, A Great Nation.**

The Lord promised him to make him into a great nation. What an amazing promise was it for Abram who had no children! God's plan was to give many offspring to him. And He wanted to make a great nation who would worship Him through Abram. Moreover, the Lord had a plan to save all people on earth through this new nation.

#### **Promise Two, A Great Name**

If Abram follows God, God would make his name great. Actually, today his name 'Abraham' has become very famous being loved by many nations all over the world. To make his name great means much more than to make his name famous though. His name represents who Abram is. So the promise “I will make your name great” implies that

“God is with you in everything you do.” (Genesis 21:22b). When we follow God and His calling, He will make our names great, shaping us so that we may have His image.


God will make Abram a great person. When Abram followed the Lord, his character was transformed and shaped into a new being. At first, he was an ordinary man under the influence of idols, who once lied saying that his wife Sarai was his sister for fear of being killed. However, following the Lord he became, step by step, a man of faith, a man of prayer honestly asking God to save a soul, and a generous man who entertained strangers. Such transformation was witnessed by his neighbor King Abimelech, who was in competition with him, telling him “God is with you in everything you do.” (Genesis 21:22b). When we follow God and His calling, He will make our names great, shaping us so that we may have His image.

### **Promise Three, A Channel of Blessing**

The Lord promised to bless him. In addition, God would bless all people on earth through Abram. People like blessing, and they like to be blessed. When my family and I arrive in Montreal ten years ago, we stayed at a B&B for a couple of weeks. The owner boasted to us about her big house





A gravel path lined with yellow flowers and green foliage. The path is made of small, dark grey stones and runs diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right. On the left side of the path, there is a dense row of small, bright yellow flowers with green foliage. In the upper left corner, there are larger green leaves and branches, possibly from a tree or shrub. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the path and foliage.

saying, “God is so good. He blessed me and gave me this nice house.” Although she is not completely wrong, her concept of blessing was not healthy. Getting wealth, being healed from illness, getting promotion, and having children are good, but these are not the essence of God’s blessing. Of course, in the blessing God gave to Abram, the protection and material care were included. There is however much more important element in the blessing! It is to know God. Encountering God and knowing Him is at the center of His blessing.

When Abram followed the path led by God, God gave him these blessings, including the blessing of getting to know God better. Moreover, the Lord made Abram a channel of blessing for all nations.



Likewise, God promised that all people come to know God through Abram and his descendents.

***Abram left Haran and God began to bless him  
(Genesis 12:4-9)***

Genesis 12:4-9 describes the early part of Abram's life of faith. When Abram trusted the Lord and left Haran, God began to bless Abram as He had promised. The following section shows how God blessed Abram.

When Abram and his family arrived in Canaan, the land was not empty but inhabited by Canaanites. At that time the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." (7a). He then built an altar to the LORD, gave thanks and worshipped Him. From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel. It must have not been easy for him to move from place to place as an immigrant, but there he built another altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord. Likewise while God revealed Himself to Abram, Abram responded to the Lord with a worship of getting to know Him. Knowing God, this was indeed the greatest blessing the Lord gave Abram.

About 400 years later, the Lord gave His Law including the Ten Commandments to the descendants of Abram. Thanks to this Law, they had wonderful opportunities to know God personally. Years passed, and finally the Messiah was born of Abram's descendant. The Messiah Jesus is the climax of the revelation of God. Anyone can know God through Jesus. Anyone's relationship with God can be restored, thanks to Jesus. Salvation is in Jesus. When an ordinary man like Abram got a call of God, he obeyed and went by faith though he did not know where he was going. Then all promises given to him

were fulfilled. He was blessed and came to know God. He became a channel of blessing.

The world is still corrupt and filled with the wickedness of humanity, whereas the new nation started from Abram continuously grows. Even now a lot of people come back to God all over the world joining this holy nation. In the summer retreat of our church, we saw two young brothers returning to the Lord glorifying Him.

I usually have tight schedules because I am a bi-vocational pastor. In spite of this heavy schedule, the Lord leads me to spend a lot of time to prepare my sermon every weekend. In the last retreat, I worked hard spending a lot of time to prepare three sermons. It was not easy. During the worships in the retreat, however, I saw that God was working powerfully through me, who was still a weak being, and blessed my brothers and sisters. I was very happy in the Lord who used me as a channel of blessing.

The Lord eagerly wants to bless us. First, we are to leave all other gods to be blessed by the Creator. When we follow Him, He will lead us to know Him and experience Him more and more. This is the essence of blessing He gives us. Furthermore, He wants to make each of us a channel of blessing for people around us.

The Lord calls us, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing."

(Genesis 12:1-2)





## *Strangers and Labor Pains*

**Isaiah 53:4-12**

*by Pastor Daniel Ji Hyun Yi*

### *The Stranger*

Not long after the First World War, in 1939 the whole world was drawn into the Second World War. Over 60 million people were killed during 6 years of the War, which was over 2.5% of the world population at that time. Many people despaired for the future of humanity. At that time a young French writer named Albert Camus published a novel titled, *The Stranger* (*L'Etranger*), which became a worldwide bestseller. And later Camus was awarded the Nobel Prize. His novel, *The Stranger*, clearly shows the desperate situation in which human beings are placed. In addition, it describes well who we humans are in such situation



The protagonist of the novel is a French young man named Meursault who has a unique feature. He lives in Alger in Algeria, and an ordinary employee of a firm. The story begins with Meursault being notified of his mother's death. But he feels nothing special. The day after his mother's funeral, he goes to a beach and makes a girl friend. They go to see a comedy and sleep together. Sometime later, his girl friend asks him if he loves her. Meursault tells her that he doesn't love her but if she wants he can marry her.

One Sunday, Meursault goes to a beach with his friends and there they get into a quarrel with some Arab guys. While he tries to merely frighten them away with a pistol, Meursault ends up shooting and killing a guy. Arrested and put in jail, he is however indifferent to his judge and prosecutor, and even to his attorney. After he is sentenced to death, a catholic priest wants to see him, but he does not feel the need to meet him. While he thinks of his mother for the first time in jail, he neither misses her nor feels sorry for her. To the last day Meursault is indifferent to others. He is a stranger to the world and the world is stranger to him.

### ***Each has turned to his/her own way.***

It is difficult for human beings to understand each other. Basically humans are indifferent to one another, and sometimes hate each other. We humans suffer from loneliness, and feel the need of intimate relationships, though. Albert Camus was right when he chose the word 'Stranger' to express this characteristic of humans. In fact, the concept of "all humans are strangers" is already mentioned several times in the Bible. One of them is found in Isaiah 53. This prophecy talks

about how the Messiah saves mankind. Moreover, it explains what the fundamental problem of human-beings is and why we humans need the Savior.

In Isaiah 53:6a, **"We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;"** Isaiah compares humans with sheep. In what respect, do humans resemble sheep? While sheep are very useful animal, they need a shepherd. It is their shepherd who leads them to green pastures and beside quiet waters. Thanks to their shepherd sheep are protected from wild animals. Sheep without a shepherd wander, go astray and finally perish. Humanity is the crown of creation. We are beautiful beings having wonderful abilities and potentials. Nevertheless, we human-beings need a shepherd. Only when we follow our shepherd God, we are protected and we can lead our lives like decent persons.

However, humans forsook the Shepherd. We have gone astray and each of us has turned to his/her own way. Here we need to pay a special attention to the expression **"each of us has turned to his own way"**. When people reject God, do they get together to follow their own way against God? Are they like-minded to carry out their own project? No, each of them turns to his/her own way. Likewise, one of the important characteristics of humans who left God is being scattered according to his/her own interest.

In the Garden of Eden, at first Adam and Eve loved each other. They felt like they were one. They were like-minded. Nevertheless, when they forsook God, they felt shameful to each other, covering themselves with fig leaves. And finally each one hid in his/her own place. Even today, wherever humans gather, similar phenomena





happen. Everyone thinks he/she is right. Everyone believes his/her reasoning, experiences and judgments are better than those of others.

This is why conflicts and disputes are continuously produced. It is hard to endure this kind of isolation and fragmentation. People therefore rather want to go separate ways. All who left God are strangers. They are nothing but strangers to each other forever. However, although people go separate ways in order to avoid interference by others, they are taking up their infirmities and carrying their sorrows, as described in verse Isaiah 53:4. Even though we humans want to love and to be loved, and to share a friendship, we are afraid of being hurt. Human beings are strangers.

The most serious problem of strangers is that although they take up their infirmities and carry

their sorrows, they are indifferent to God. They are not interested in the Lord. Some of them have uncertain fear to God saying, “What if I am hurt by God, What if God intervene too much in my life?”

When we meet this kind of people who insist on their own ways, hate even constructive interference, and are indifferent to the Lord, we are tempted to leave them alone. It seems it is impossible for them to be saved. Then how does the Lord save these cold people? Look at verse Isaiah 53:4. The Messiah takes care of them with all His soul. **“Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.”** The Messiah takes up our infirmities and carries our sorrows. But we still ignore Him. His love for us, human beings, is manifested in the most touching and deepest way at verse Isaiah 53:5. **“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he**



was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.” He was punished in our place. Wounded by whips, pierced and crushed by nails and spears, He died for us. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his/her own way; and God has laid on Jesus the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:6). At last we have peace and we are healed, thanks to Jesus.

### *Birth Pain of the Messiah*

When you carefully read Isaiah 53, you will find that the Messiah bore all sufferings because of a hope. What is the hope? In verse Isaiah 53:10, **“But it was the Lord’s good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants.”** (Isaiah 53:10a, NKJV). This verse tells that the Messiah will have many descendants. In other words, Isaiah describes the suffering of the Messiah as a birth pain. In Isaiah 53:11(NKJV), this fact is explained more clearly, **“He (Jesus) shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied.”** Here the labor of His soul indicates labor pains. Even though birth pain is terrible, when a mother holds her new born baby in her bosom, her great joy makes her forget all the pain. Although Jesus’ suffering on the cross was so painful, He is satisfied with His new born baby Christians in his arms. He forgets all his labors. With the hope and love of a mother, the Messiah bore each of us on the cross.

By the way, even in this cold world filled with heartless strangers, we can find devoted love which is not calculative of benefits. This is love of parents to their children: the love of a mother who gives birth to her child enduring terrible pain

and the love of a father who gives all to bring up his child! The love of parents helps us imagine how the love of the Messiah is, despite its vagueness.

What can open the cold hearts of strangers like Meursault of the novel of Camus? By reasoning with them and persuading that they are wrong? By telling them the final judgment with a strict rebuke? By arguing that coming back to God is eventually more beneficial? Maybe these things can help a little, but they are not effective enough to melt their frozen hearts.

However, when they realize the love of Jesus who endured all sufferings to bear them bleeding on the cross, their hearts will be opened. When they experience the love of Jesus who is their eternal mother and eternal father, their frozen heart will be melt down. Like a new born baby cries with hope, they will burst into tears of repentance.

As He went through terrible labor to bear us, now He is going through another labor to bring us up. Although we fall sometimes, the Lord encourages us like loving mother or father who lead us. As long as we remain in His love, we will gradually grow becoming spiritual fathers and mothers who can bear children. Thanks to Jesus, we should be able to take care of people whom He entrusts to us to endure birth pains for them. What a great blessing it is!



# Love letters from God

by Jihyun Lee

## Number 6:22-26

**The Lord said to Moses, Tell Aaron and his sons, "this is how you are to bless the Israelites". Say to them: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.**

Dear Heavenly Father,

Are you there? Are you there listening to me?

On the way to my home in Montreal after finishing my work in India, I am now flying over the land that observed the coming and going of your One and Only Son, Jesus, about two thousand years ago

Whenever I fly in the sky, I have a hope that I might even get closer to you, and you might hear me better. In the dark cabin of the airplane where most of the passengers are sleeping or watching movies, I escape myself with this spiritual outing with you, seeking your presence, meditating on your words, and crying over your grace and love. My secret ritual in this airplane comforts my dry soul and spirit, even my fatigued mind and body, with the moisture of your love, and showers my spirit with energy of renewing it into new being loved and cared by you.

Are you listening to me? Are you there with me?

Like an insecure baby, I keep looking around to seek for you. The more I feel your love, the wilder my tears come down like waterfall. Who are you that inspire me so much? Who are you that give me so much joy? If it is only my psychological dreaming, I must be crazy. Strangely, I did not have such a psychological madness of joy and peace, before I get to know you and the secret you granted to the sinful world, Jesus. **Like an earthquake, like a lightning, like a waterfall, and like a fire, you came to my life, revealed yourself to me, and occupied my heart, which was originally yours, but have been ruined by all sorts of confusions, sins, stupidity, fear, and darkness for so long.**

You did let me know that I can become a beautiful daughter of yours who deserve your passionate love. You did let me realize that I have been neglecting your presence, like a blind child, although you have been there for me all the time and protected me whenever I was falling into deep in the valley of death and darkness. **You did give me the purpose of life, which would not change by the whims of world and my weaknesses. You did declare to me that you are the Way, the Life and the Truth. You did show me the light, which shines upon the path of my life.**

Can this be a psychological drama that I am dreaming? How can it be so real then? You revealed yourself to me in many ways: through



You revealed yourself to me through the stars, flowers and winds that comforted me when I was walking in the dark road of early morning to dedicate my 40 days of prayers after I finally realized that you are the master and designer of my life.

the sad and teary eyes of my daughter who was concerned about her mother who did not know you; through the intelligent and thoughtful voice of C. S. Lewis in his book, Mere Christianity, which became my first reading about Jesus and helped me realize my arrogance of rejecting Jesus; through the stars, flowers and winds that comforted me when I was walking in the dark road of early morning to dedicate my 40 days of prayers after I finally realized that you are the master and designer of my life; and the Bible, a secret love-letter from God to me, which has been waiting for more than 40 years to be read by me. Only when I kneeled down before you and accepted your Holy Spirit, you opened my eyes and gave me an ability to understand the depth of your love-letter, the Bible.

Whose love-letter made me cry, I do not remember, except for your love-letter!

Whose love-letter is so real and can transform my life, I do not know, except for your love-letter!

Whose love-letter is so sweet and vivid, I cannot find, except for your love-letter!



Whose love-letter has such a living word that penetrates my heart, I cannot think of any, except for your love-letter!

Who can be there reading his love-letter with me, so that I can understand his love better? I do not know, except you!

#### Psalm 119:18 - 20

**Do good to your servant, and I will live; I will obey your word. Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. I am a stranger on earth; do not hide your commands from me. My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times. You rebuke the arrogant, who are cursed and who stray from your commands. Remove from me scorn and contempt, for I keep your statutes. Though rulers sit together and slander me, your servant will meditate your decrees. Your statutes are my delight, they are my counselors.**

Before I started writing this essay, I prayed to God to be with me and to pour out the inspiration I need. I opened Psalm 140, and started reading the next pages. Guess the surprise He had in store for me! The next page started with Psalm 119, which explains to me what His love-letter is. He used the mistake of the printing company, which inserted Psalm 119 after 140. I have not noticed this mistake for these four years that I have been using this little red Bible that I bought in Manila, and only now when I prayed for the leading of God for my writing, God was using the mistake of the printing office to bring me to Psalm 119. Einstein said, **there are two ways to live: you can live as if nothing is a miracle; you can live as if everything is a miracle.** Every day, I

witness the miracles of God, the creator of universe, who loves us so much.

#### John 3: 16-18

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believes stands condemned already because he has not believe in the name of God's one and only Son.**

God loves us and works in us and in this world in trinity, together with His One and Only Son, Jesus, and His Holy Spirit. We do not know the secret of Trinity, which is beyond the realm of our understanding and knowledge. Personally, I pray to God, with the help of Holy Spirit by joining the prayer of Jesus and submitting my prayer in the name of Jesus. I feel God like my father, and His Holy Spirit as my mother, and Jesus as my husband. Jesus entered in this world carrying the secret key that will enable us to get reunited with God. **God showed us His love in such a way that any human being would never be able to possibly even imagine: sacrificing the life of His One and Only son to save those who have kept on betraying Him. The key to open this secret is our "faith" in the sacrifice and love of Jesus. Our faith can turn a stone into a diamond of salvation.**

Some people raise doubts that a simple faith cannot possibly save us, and we have to work on ourselves accumulating good deeds so that our sinful souls can be saved. Which is easier for

human beings? : believing in themselves or believing in Jesus whom they never saw, and his love on the cross that most humans cannot possibly imagine? The easier way is the former, believing in themselves. It is much easier to act nicely to other people than developing a faith in a man called Jesus, who claimed himself as the Son of God and died on the cross two thousand years ago. Without faith in the words of God about Jesus, Jesus on the cross could remain just a strange story or at most a historical fact of one Jewish man's tragedy.

Faith does not come easily as many people may think. Faith in Jesus comes through the blessing of God. Faith in Jesus comes through the process of spiritual revolution. Faith in Jesus comes through very intense spiritual interaction with Him through the help of Holy Spirit. When our heart is filled with the faith in Jesus, we can start to understand the meaning of His love letter, His command for love, His law, decrees and statutes, His counseling, written in the Bible. When our heart is filled with the joy of knowing the love of Jesus, we can start to see that the words in the Bible are living and doing miracles in our time, touching our hearts, moving our souls, and transforming our lives. We learn how to communicate with God through learning his secret codes of languages in His love letter. Knowing His words, we can communicate with Him through our prayers and listen to Him through our meditation.

Every moment of our life, we can feel his presence by maintaining on-line status in our communication with him. Sometimes we walk alone in this world, but we are not alone as his

light shines upon our path. His light rooted in our hearts keeps our spirits and souls so that we do not stumble ourselves in the darkness. The prayer of Jesus keeps us from being consumed by the depressive world that continues to divert us from maintaining hope for the goodness. In this wicked world, I hold onto the hope given by Jesus on the cross. I see His love in the smile of nameless and helpless people, whom God love so much, although my ability to love them is so weak. I read the message of His love hidden everywhere and in every facets of our life, as much as the forces of darkness are trying to consume this world. **Darkness will disappear on the moment we turn the light of God's love by our secret igniter of "faith". It is that simple but that difficult. Blessing of God is upon us since the creation of this world. We just need to accept His gift with thanks.**

Let's not fall into the trap by thinking that we do not deserve His gift. Of course, we do not deserve His gift, but He is the One who **"Decides"** to give us a gift of salvation through his Grace. Let's not confine the indescribable love of God into our small well of judgment on ourselves. Before God, nobody is righteous. But it is only God who will judge us. He sent us His love letter promising His love and grace of salvation. I simply accept His invitation of love with my humility and immeasurable thanks. Although I am still learning His ways, trying to understand the depth and width of His love as well as His intentions for my life in this world and the time to come with Him beyond this world, I simply trust in the secret of Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection.

(Written on the plane from Doha to Montreal, 21 October 2012)





# *How I read the Bible*

*by Jihyun Lee*

The below is to share my reading of the Bible, using the scriptures from Book of John (NIV version). Through this sharing, I wish to reveal how my thought process is interacting with the inspiration led by the Holy Spirit. I would like to highlight that this inspiration comes at different levels and diverse types of understanding every time I go back to the same scriptures. That indeed amazes me whenever I interact with Jesus through the Bible reading.

## **1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

What is this Word? How can the Word be with God? How can the Word be God? When is this beginning? Beginning of human history? Beginning of the universe? Our reading of the Bible should start asking questions to Holy Spirit in order to understand what God is really trying to tell us in this simple but very profound one sentence. Word is the reflection/expression of our thoughts. Word is the media for creation. God created the world by His Word. The Word was not only an abstract media. The Word was WITH God, and the Word was God. Who could be WITH God during the creation of universe? It could be only the Son of God (Jesus) or the Spirit of God. From the later part, we can realize that the Word is Jesus, as it was sent to the world in the form of human beings. Why did the author say Jesus is the Word? Jesus carried the message from God, His will and His plan for us.

Through Jesus, God revealed Himself to human beings.

## **2. He was with God in the beginning**

Jesus was with God in the beginning of the universe. He was not the product of creation. He was there already when God created the world.

## **3. Through Him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.**

God created the world through his WORD (Jesus). Nothing could have been created without Jesus. We were created through Jesus by God. I am created through Jesus by God.

## **4. In him was life, and that life was the light of men.**

Without Jesus, we were not created. Through Jesus, we received our life. He knows our life. He knows the purpose of our life. When pottery-maker makes a porcelain, he knows the purpose of the porcelain, whether he would use it for a tea cup or a flower vase. It is not the porcelain that would decide its purpose. Our life would be the same. We are created by God through Jesus. Then who should know the purpose of our life? Who should determine the path of our life? If the tea cup insists that it would live as a flower vase,



it would lose its own purpose. We would get lost in our life, wondering around without knowing the meaning of our life, if we are not connected to Jesus. Without having the life from Jesus, we would lose the light for our life, and live in the darkness. How many people around us complain that they feel lost, sad in the darkness and unhappy, despite their education, wealth, or beauty, etc. We all get lost in the darkness, if we do not carry the light coming from the life in Jesus.

#### **5. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**

The sad fact is that Jesus came to our history more than 2000 years ago to fulfill the promise of God for salvation of human beings in the

darkness, but despite their long waiting for Christ, people in darkness could not recognize Jesus. They could not understand the Word of God. Even now, it is happening all the time. When there is a calling from God, not many people can understand it. Most of the people would laugh about it. They would say they are happy in their own darkness. Only when we see the light of Jesus, we can realize who we are and how much blessed we are as we were able to see the light and found the way to come out of darkness. Once we see the light, we start to have sympathy on the people who are still in the darkness, trying to tell them "please come out!" It is this awakening in the light of Jesus that makes people to start to practice "giving love", instead of endlessly desiring "receiving love".





*flower of his words*

Jesus that I met





## *My first witness*

*by Sunah Kim*

In 2003, my first church life began in Edinburgh, UK, where my family moved due to my husband's overseas posting. Life in Korea before Edinburgh had been somehow satisfying and I had never felt that I needed God. The church life in Edinburgh was pleasant as a social community, while God was far away from my heart. However, an English bible study which I started in order to learn English led me to develop a sincere interest in Christianity. Two mature Scottish Christians, Ann and June, who had been leading the bible study, made me realize the inner thirst of my deep soul. They always reminded me that I came to Edinburgh not by a coincidence but through God's will.

In 2006, when I came back to Korea, I expected something special would happen to me in the hope that God might guide me, but I ended up feeling disappointed. Meanwhile I made my first sincere prayer to God, which I wrote down in my journal: "Why have you led me here so far? Oh, God. I am here waiting for your presence. I know that I am only here because you have led me. But I am still foolish and weak. I am still looking for the reason why I should be here. Don't forget me and desert me. Please be with me and strengthen my faith. Help others like me

for you are our God, our only God.” Then I forgot my prayer as well as God, while living a busy and hectic life for 4 years in Korea.

Although I forgot my prayer, God didn’t. In 2011, we moved to Montreal for the same reason as before. During my first time attending the service of our church in Montreal, to my surprise, I received an amazing blessing. During worship, I felt as if Jesus was welcoming me so warmly in his delight, saying “You have finally come”. From the moment of feeling the presence of Jesus, I could not stop crying. At first, I felt such a wonderful moment as a mere dream, but Jesus, who had come to me once, kept touching my heart boldly through the messages of our pastor. Eventually, I could not help but to accept the truth that Jesus is the Messiah who can save me.

In spite of having experienced true joy in encountering Jesus, it was not so long before my heart became dark again, full of complaints and anguish by judging others. Then I realized that there was a turbulent river of resentment deep in my soul, which was a shock to me. Nevertheless, through the bible study led by our pastor as well as continuous prayers and support from the church members, something amazing happened to me. Jesus called my wounded little child out from my deep inner self and began to heal me in his grace by unlocking the doors of my heart. My pains that I had hidden were revealed, and I realized that I was a very weak being who needed God. Moreover, I felt that God was so pleased with my uniqueness when He made my soul and I was beautiful the way I was. In his great unconditional love, I cried a lot. His grace set me free and gave me true peace, which I could not experience before in my life when I tried to become a better person relying on my

own strength. Through this liberation, I was able to give true love to my family and restore the passion for my life. I believe that Jesus will always be with me in the spiritual journey that I have started.

When we accept our pains and the need for God and turn to Him, we will meet Jesus, who has been waiting for a long time to have a personal loving relationship with us. I would like to share my life verses, Jeremiah 29 : 11-14, with you to end my brief witness.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you”





# *Because of His miraculous love*

*by Hye Ji Moon*

This is the story of my experience with God and His miraculous love.

Honestly, when all the church members prayed for me two weeks ago for sharing the life testimony upon the pastor's request, I felt guilty and thought I was a hypocrite. However, I realized the fact that I experienced God would never change even though I am a mere sinner in front of Him. I used to go to church since I was a child, but I did not have a real faith in Him. Moreover, I could not deeply understand what it is to believe in God. At the same time, however, I have never doubted the existence of God. I considered Christianity as a mere religious activity, but not as the One and the Only Truth.

I simply repeated going to and being away from church, until I reached the age of adolescence. During the period of my adolescence, I frequently suffered from depression. And when I was 17, I got severely hurt due to the betrayal of my best friend. At that time, a friend was the only comfort and the most important part of my life and so such an incident was more than enough to destroy myself. I was then very depressed, and gradually became a negative person. I couldn't find the reason to live, and I was becoming more and more aggressive and abrasive.

With all those hurts and bitterness in my heart, I started the university. The world was full of pleasures and entertainment, and they constantly tempted me. While struggling without

knowing God, one of my acquaintances introduced me to a church which I am currently serving in Korea, and my life was totally changed since then.

Surprisingly, I began to yearn for sermons and worships that I used to ignore, and I began to listen to God's voice as I started praying. I began to fully believe that God has been with me from the time I did not even know Him, from the beginning of the world, and even while I was hurting. I gradually learned how much God has loved me, and how graceful He is. Then I realized that I belong to the heaven, even though I am physically living in this world.

Gradually, I have become a bright person with positive mind. Before I did not know the purpose of life, but now I confess that I want to be God's true disciple. Previously I dreamed of worldly success and wealth, but now I dream of God's world and vision. I could forgive my best friend whom I couldn't let go of for the past three years. I sincerely pray that I can become a true disciple of Jesus, not just a Sunday Christian. The distrust once I had towards my parents and even to God is now fully healed by the words of God, prayers, and praises. God gave me true peace that the world cannot give, and I felt that He truly got my back. In His presence, my values and priorities have been transformed.

Whenever I fall, doubt, or struggle in guiltiness, God tells me: "There would be no one to save if I ever count his or her sin". I then realize that



Jesus would surely have died on the cross even for just one sinner.

“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)”

It is only through this love that I am now standing here in the house of God.

The first voice I heard from God was “I love you, my dear daughter”. The word, love, is sometimes so abstract that we cannot fully understand the true meaning of it. I came to a miraculous understanding of the meaning of love when God spoke to me. It is only through this love that I am now standing here in the house of God. I believe that all of you who have read my story are to experience the same true love of God.





# *My hope in God*

*by Hyeok Jung*



I started going to church with my parents at the age of four.

Throughout my teenage years, God has been always by my side and I have actively participated in church activities. As I became mature, I realized my relationship with God was not what I thought it should be. At church, people would say that if I follow God and pray, I would receive a lot of blessings. However, when I was trying to live a life on my own, all I had were unanswered prayers. I felt He was absent in my life. I have always ended up praying to Him when I experience hardships.

I came to Montreal in 2008. Life in Korea is very hard in general with a lot of competition, and working is tough and people are busy all the time. I thought things would be different here, but I faced a difficult time adapting myself to this new cultural and social environment. I started to seek God again and developed a renewed desire to go to church. Through the network of friends, I eventually met Pastor Lee and began to attend his weekly bible study. Through attending these Bible meetings and Sunday worship, my heart gradually began to open toward God.

During the past two years, I have been preparing for a French examination in order to apply for a permanent residency. I encountered a lot of difficulties learning a new language. The examination that I had to pass required a fluency level well above my ability. I began to pray more and asked God for help. Thankfully, I passed the test! I then realized it was not my own ability that allowed this good result. It was indeed God who made this success possible, which is a miracle for me. Non-believers would tell me I was very fortunate, as if it was all luck. But I am convinced this was not a coincidence or a mere chance. I

have no doubt in my mind in acknowledging that God has provided His hands for helping me to overcome one of the most difficult step of my life in settling down in Montreal.

I am still plagued by various hardships of life and I know I will face many more in the future. I however believe in God and I know He is faithful. I become therefore filled with excitement when I think of what God might have prepared for me. I lay down my desires and seek to live a meaningful life. I believe that I will find this life in God and He is my only hope.

**Jeremiah 29:13**

**"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."**

This verse summarizes my hope in Him. I want to meet God and I desire to seek Him with all my heart. I believe that it is God who put this verse in me. In the past, I had no courage to move forward facing the challenges of life. Now, I can stand up against the hardships of life, as God is telling me to live a fearless life. God has helped me achieve things, which I could have not achieved on my own will and strength. I am truly grateful for His faithful love.



*Painting, a new way of worship*

*by Hye Yoon Choi*



The first time I truly enjoyed painting was ironically when I was going through the toughest time in my life. In the year 2004, I left my family in Korea at the age of sixteen to attend a boarding school in the United States. From this moment, I began to seriously ponder upon the purpose and meaning of my life. Often, I went to the library and stayed there for hours and hours doing nothing. Observing other students struggling with meeting essay deadlines and studying for lengthy exams, I thought: "What is the point of all these? What are they busy for?" For me, everything seemed empty and meaningless.

One semester, I took a painting class in my junior year, and it became the only relief for my life at school. I loved walking down the hills no matter what the weather was like; even when total darkness devoured the sky, the harsh wind of New England hit my cheeks, and I slipped on the ice, I was only excited to paint.

A few years later, I happened to move to Montreal, and here, I encountered Jesus. It was one of the most dramatic events that happened in my life as I had been a stubborn atheist. When His spirit came to me during the Christian Conference held in Montreal in 2008, I felt as if all my depression and sorrow had disappeared. I could feel that my heart was filled with powerful love and warmth that I had never experienced before. Somebody I didn't know was truly consoling my soul. Then, I began to hear a mysterious voice. It kept saying the same words to me: "I have called you for the poor".

Since then, I tried to live as God commanded me. I tried hard to become a person who helps the poor. I once took a political science class in order to learn how to practically help the poor,

but I only found it boring. While struggling to find a true vision of my life, I started praying and asked God what I shall do for Him. Whenever I prayed, He kept telling me, "I have created for you these precious hands". Gradually, God has led me to have a strong desire to become an artist who emulates the ultimate creator of the universe.

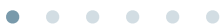
Gradually, God has led me to express my tangled emotions and memories encroached deep inside of me through paintings. Before I start painting, I stand in front of the white canvas, as free as a white dove in the sky. Holding a brush, I listen to the songs that take me to a certain place at a certain time. I recall the memories and feelings that I had kept inside, and start to burst them out onto the canvas. During this process, I often can feel that my hurts are being healed. By releasing my inner self and transferring it onto the canvas, I feel the hand of a superior and spiritual being, leading me to the right path. Through the act of creating, I feel the presence of the Creator. Whatever unpleasant memories or emotions my paintings may bring about, when I'm done with my work, I reach an inexpressible peace and thankfulness from finding my identity in God. I strongly believe that it is God who executes and brings life to my works. Therefore, I try to express not only my human emotions but also God's spirit in my paintings. I find I can effectively execute this with abstract forms.

Abstraction is a magical way of touching both the artists and the audience with the fire of emotion exuberating from its ambiguous and uncertain nature. It also leaves the images untouched and undefined, allowing making room for various interpretation from each viewer who



The Salvation describes the moment of encountering God. The bird represents myself being set free from the old muddy pit and flying high towards the real freedom in Jesus.

Salvation 18 x 24 oil on canvas 2011



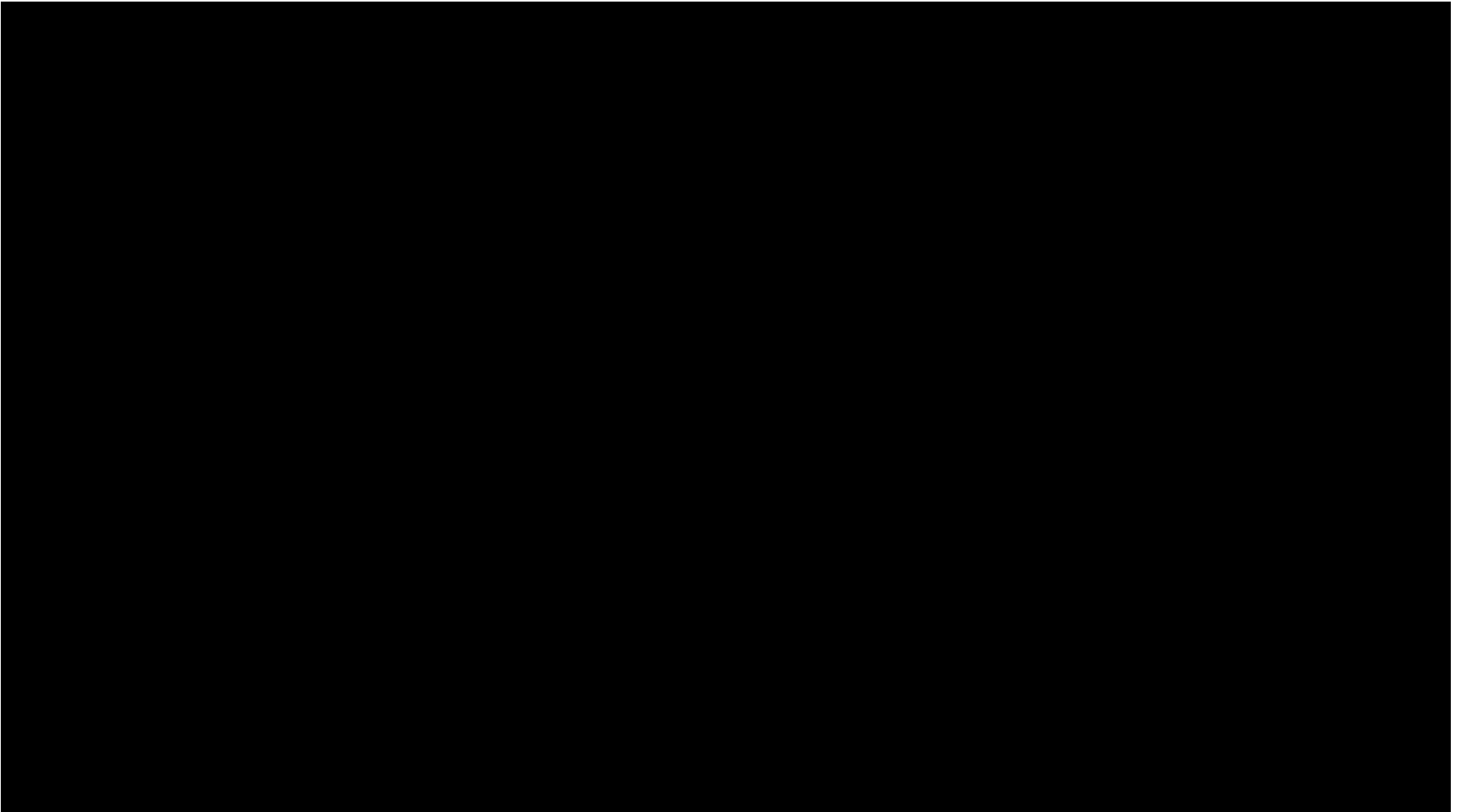


encounters the painting. The value of abstraction comes from its paradox—uncertain images at some point transform into personal definitions.

Now, painting has become a new way of worship for me; I experience God, find something new about myself, and share the hurtful experiences of people around me. And I have a strong faith that God, who has raised me up strictly according to His ways, would also lead me to create the paintings He wants. In this way, all my works are only to glorify Jesus.

# *Power of Prayer - Video documentary*

*by Yong Ku Kang (8 minutes, 2011)*



[Full documentary available at Vimeo >](#)

This is my first video project that I produced in the title of “power of prayer”. I have always wanted to show how powerful the prayer is. A prayer is a communication with God, and it can be in any forms, including a petition to God, worship, repentance, praise or thanksgiving. Prayer is powerful when it is in words from the heart, and it doesn't have to be constrained by any forms. God wants all of us to cry out to him. He knows our minds and hearts, so we can talk to him like children seeking the help of their father as he already knows our situation.

This video was produced with an intention to be spiritual making people to think about God. I also hoped that it would help people think about

what the prayers are and what our prayers can do to our life. For me, prayer is children's cry bursting out of their desperation for their father's protection and guidance. When we are overwhelmed by the life demand, we cry out to God. When we are suffering from a pain, we want God to hold our hands. God may not change our situations of suffering or challenges through our prayers, but we can feel the presence of God through our prayers and gain the strength and courage to face those waves and tides of life. Through prayers, we can build our relationship with God in the most personal and intimate way.









## *Book Reviews*

### *The Reasons for God- Belief in an Age of Skepticism by Timothy Keller,*

*published by Riverhead Books,  
New York, 2008.*

*by Pastor Daniel Ji Hyun Yi*

#### **Introduction**

In this book the author addresses the issues of doubts on Christianity, which are frequently raised by skeptics and sometimes even by dedicated Christians. Keller wrote this book for not only non-churchgoing people but also for Christians. For the former he offers a reasonable and challenging argument for pursuing the reasons for God, while for the latter he provides a substantial foundation of their faith against philosophical, literary and religious attacks in this modern society. This book consists of two parts. In the first part Keller handles seven interesting and hot subjects related to doubts about God and Christianity, and in



the second part he focuses on explaining seven main key themes of God and Christianity with a delicate, logical and modern way of writing.

## **Part 1. The leap of doubt**

Keller begins with handling the famous claim, "There can't be just one true religion." One of the biggest problems with Christianity for modern people is its exclusivity. If Jesus is God as Christians believe, then Muslims and Jews fail in a serious way to know God as God really is. However if Jesus is not God but rather a prophet or a teacher as Muslims and Jews argue, Christians fail in a serious way to know God. Many people believe that one of the major obstacles to world peace is the main traditional religions which insist on their exclusive claims to superiority. A lot of people think that all major religions such as Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism are equally valid and basically teach the same thing. People in the world usually find it arrogant to try to convert others to Christianity by insisting that it is right. Why is the God of Christianity the only God? Why is Christianity the only truth?

Keller tries to give answers to these difficult questions and his Apologetical approach to defend Christianity looks reasonable and interesting, but it seems that his argument is not cogent enough to convince non-Christians. As the Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1:18, for the message of the cross - the main message of Christianity - is foolishness to those who are perishing, but for Christians it is the power of God. It could be useful for us to convince people with logical explanations to show them only Christ is the way. People would be, however,

able to understand about Jesus only when they humbly read or hear the Bible. It is thus suggested that both Apologetical approach and invitation to Bible study or hearing sermons are necessary if we are to bring people to Christianity.

The author explains why Christianity is fundamentally different from other religions by introducing one of its characteristics. As said by him, orthodox Christianity has rich resources which can make its believers as agents for peace in the world. In most religions believers' spiritual status depends on their religious attainments. Consequently, believers have a clear tendency to feel superior to those who don't believe and don't behave as they should. Keller argues that Christianity don't have that effect, because Christians have the strongest possible resource for practicing sacrificial service, generosity and peace-making in their belief system. Christian doctrines lead believers not to act in violence and oppression toward their opponents. Although there have been injustices done by the church in the name of Jesus in human history, no one can deny that the force of Christians' most fundamental beliefs can be an impressive driving force for peace-making in this tough world.

Although there is no doubt that Christianity has been contributing to world peace, in my opinion, this contribution does not seem to be effective to argue that Christianity is superior to other religions. For example, in South Korea people generally think that Buddhism, no less than Christianity, has been contributing to peace. Moreover a large number of Koreans believe that the Roman Catholic Church is better than the evangelical churches concerning their

contribution to peace in the modern Korean history.

In the continuing chapters Keller talks about why God allows suffering and why He allows so much injustice happen. Many people think that the suffering in this world is a clear proof that there is no God. The author however argues that evil and suffering are not proofs against God but rather for Him. Though it is true that a certain number of people have done injustice in the name of Jesus, these people do not personally know the Christ who sacrificed Himself as a victim of injustice calling for the forgiveness of His enemies. Keller underlines that when people adequately understand Christianity, they speak and act for the justice which drives their lives to liberate others as Jesus did, and that we have a considerable number of examples such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Dietrich Bonhoeffer and even others in modern history.

In the chapter five, the author raises an important and interesting question: How can a loving God send people to hell? In this chapter Keller explains well on the concept of hell with appropriate and practical examples. Many people doubt the existence of a judgemental God who requires blood to pacify His anger. Moreover, a lot of people have a problem with the doctrine of hell, because if they want to believe in God, it would be a God of love. This is why some people argue that the God of the Bible is no more than a primitive deity who asks suffering for Him to be appeased. As Keller points out, the judgment of God is one of Christianity's most offensive doctrines.

Keller first explains how people have come to conclude that a God of judgment cannot exist.

According to C. S. Lewis there had been very little magic in the Middle Ages and its glory days were in the 16th and 17th centuries, at the very time modern science began to develop. What magic and applied science have in common is how to subdue reality for the wishes of men. Lewis indicated that the modernity and modern applied science were born in dreams of power, and they gave humans the responsibility to determine right or wrong. While scientific and technological development achieved by humanity since the industrial revolution was impressive, Keller reminds that the new confidence that human beings can control the physical world has spilled over so people now think humans can reshape the metaphysical realm as well including the concept of God and the doctrine of hell. People believe so deeply in their personal rights that they have finally reached the very idea that the judgment mentioned in the Bible is impossible.

Keller then describes common images of hell in the Bible. Since humans were originally created by God who is the source of joy, love, wisdom, and good things of any sort, only before Him we flourish and grow in happiness. If we totally lose His presence, that would be hell. It is meaningful that a common image of hell in the Bible is that of fire. Fire destroys and separates whatever it touches. When humans accept and follow the flow of self-centeredness and individualism in this society, the disintegration of their soul occur. As a result they become a slave to self-absorption. Hell is therefore the trajectory of a soul to a self-absorbed and self-centered life forever rejecting the Creator who is the source of our joy and happiness. In addition, it is important to remind that God does not throw unqualified people into hell but that hell is simply one's freely





chosen identity apart from God on a trajectory into infinity. As C. S. Lewis said, hell is the greatest monument to human freedom.

previous 3 sentences)The author therefore concludes that the source of the idea that God is love is from the Bible itself.

Many people say that they believe in God of love, but they reject God of the Bible. Keller proves that the concept of 'God of love' comes from Christianity. He found no other religious text outside of the Bible, which mentions that God created the world out of love and delight. Moreover, only Christianity supports that humans have personal relationship with God, as God is compared to our spouse, Father, Counsellor, and Shepherd in the Bible. (This is repetitive of the

## **Part 2. The reasons for faith**

Keller opens the second part by arguing that there are clues of God and divine fingerprints in many places in the world. Following the list of Alvin Plantinga, the author introduces several interesting arguments for the existence of God. The first clue is the Big Bang. As Stephen Hawking told, almost everyone believes now that the universe had a beginning at the Big Bang. A considerable number of non-Christian scientists

think that if the universe had a beginning, it would imply that someone or something, , had to be outside of nature. However Sam Harris told, "Even if we accepted that our universe simply had to be created by an intelligent being, this would not suggest that this being is the God of the Bible." The "Fine-Tuning Argument" (or Anthropic Principle) indicates that there was no possibility for the universe including the earth to be prepared by chance for living beings. We can find clues of God in the regularity of nature and in the beauty of nature. Nonetheless, the problem is that these clues are not able to reveal that the divine designer is the God of the Bible.

In the next chapter Keller leads readers to the knowledge of God, using a similar logic and reasoning to that of C. S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity*. And then he handles the problem of sin. He defines what is sin and shows personal, social and cosmic consequences of sin. In citing C. S. Lewis, Keller tells that a sinner means a man who is totally corrupt without any hope of self-restoration, and that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. He thereby tries to help readers by turning their attention to Jesus. Finally Keller leads readers to Calvary Hill to see the true story of the cross. The crucifixion of Jesus looks terrible, violent and cruel. He highlights that real forgiveness is a costly suffering, and shows how the forgiveness of God was revealed on the cross. He impressively explains how the unconditional love of God for humanity was revealed on the cross. At last, Keller brings readers to the glorious reality of the resurrection. He unambiguously argues that the resurrection of Jesus was a historic fact. Christ has indeed been raised from the dead and became the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep, resulting in the living hope to those who are in Him.

## Conclusion

I am convinced that this book is an extraordinary writing not only for Christians but also the skeptics and non-Christians as it will help them to better understand susceptible and somewhat difficult topics regarding Christianity. The approach of Keller is logical and Apologetic as well as interesting. This book can be very useful for Christians to know the essence of Christianity and to prepare themselves for evangelism. Keller effectively instructs us how to talk about God of the Bible and His gospel to non-believers, in particular those in this skeptical modern society.



*The Return of the Prodigal  
Son by Henry J.M. Nouwen,*

*published by Doubleday,  
New York, 1992*

*by Sunah Kim*

"But, most of all, it was the hands-the old man's hands-as they touched the boy's shoulders that reached me in a place where I had never been reached before."

This is the description in the book about the father's hands touching his prodigal son's shoulders when Henry Nouwen encountered Rembrandt's painting, The Return of the Prodigal Son. This impressive sentence about the father's hands as well as Rembrandt's painting by Henry Nouwen led me to choose this book. I always felt that people's hands speak a lot about their heart, and thus could not wait to figure out what Henry Nouwen had felt through the old man's hands in the painting.

Henry Nouwen was deeply touched in his soul by the encounter with the painting depicting the parable of the lost



son in the Bible. Since then, he carried with him the poster of the painting, which helped him understand the loss, pain and last aspiration of the great painter, Rambrant, in his journey of life. Moreover the painting helped Nouwen accept and serve his true vocation given by God throughout his life.

In the parable of the lost son in the Bible, there was a man who had two sons. The younger son left his home with the money that he had demanded as his own share from his father, but unfortunately he squandered all his possessions in a distant country. After having gone through a miserable life, he decided to return to his father's house. When the father saw his younger one returning, he welcomed him warmly, restored his sonship and called for a big celebration in joy. His elder son, however, could not understand his father's welcoming of his younger brother, got angry and refused to join the celebration. He felt that his father did not give him the love that he deserved and treated him unfairly in spite of his hard work at home. Hearing the anger of his elder son, the father tried to convince him to join the family celebration, showing his unchanging love toward him. While the father was full of joy since he found the lost son who had been considered to be dead, he also truly loved his elder son who had been always with him.

Standing in front of the painting as if he stood in front of a mirror, Henry Nouwen reflected on his inner self earnestly. He confessed that he had always craved a life of freedom, which the prodigal son seemed to have enjoyed, and also dreamt of true homecoming from his exhausting and competitive daily lives. Furthermore, Henry Nouwen realized that he felt envious and jealous of people who left their home to live their own

ways, but had hidden his anger and resentment in his heart. Through his deep contemplation, he found in himself the elder son as well as the prodigal son, who were both lost. Then, Henry Nouwen finally came to face the father's immense love that embraced both of his sons without any accusation and rebuke. He experienced the true homecoming, which he had desired for his entire life, through the compassionate and forgiving love of our father, our God. Thereby, he humbly accepted an invitation to divine joy in which God called for a celebration since He found one lost soul in spite of grief for others. I also remember the deep joy that I experienced when I was converted. The joy is a milestone to return to God, when I am away from God like the younger son and the elder son.

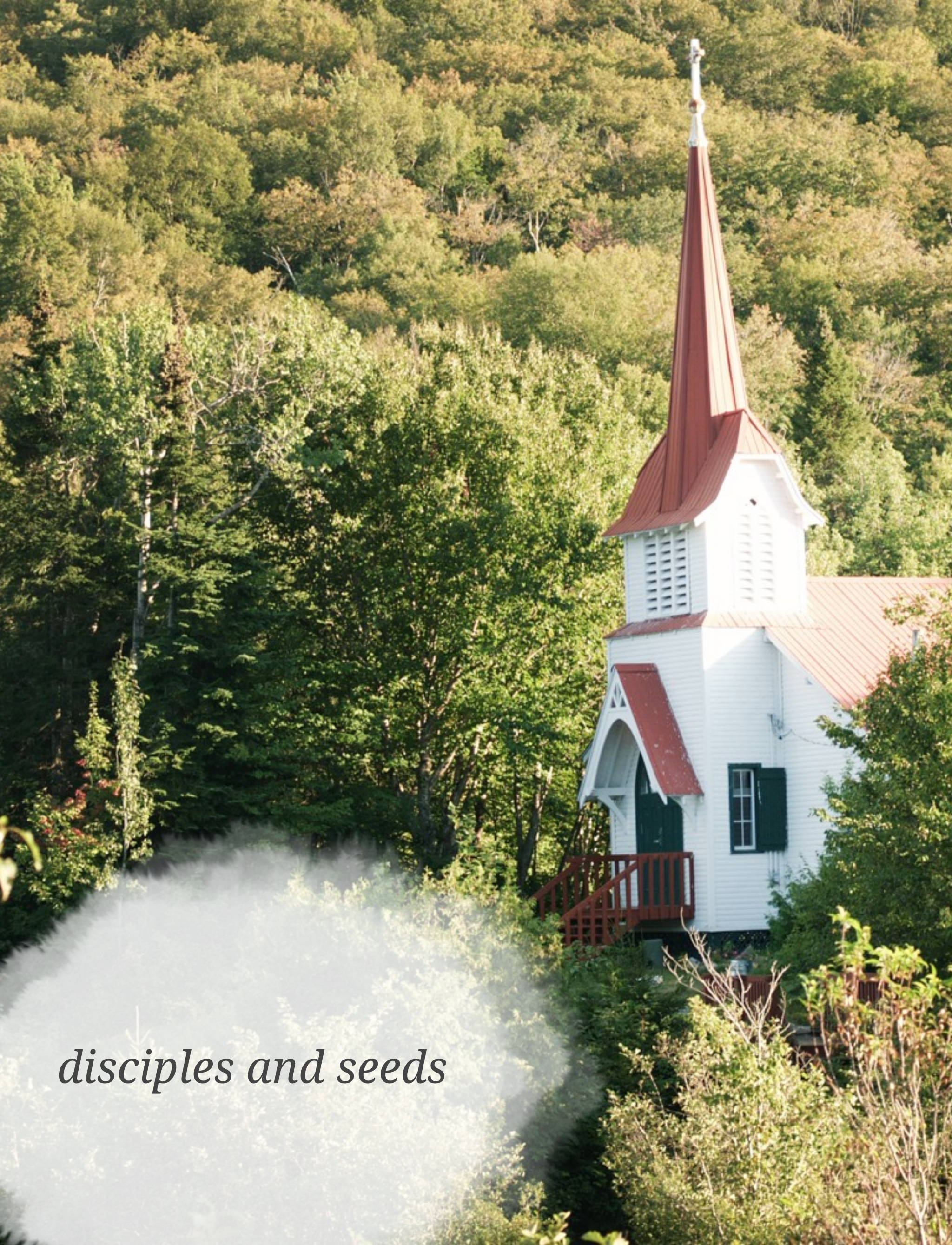
This book is a homecoming story of Henry Nouwen. At the core of the story, there is the painting, and at the true center of the painting are the father's hands. On the father's hands, Rambrant put his sincere aspiration for God's mercy and love, after having suffered so many deaths and losses. After hundreds and hundreds of years, God's true love was delivered to Henry Nouwen through the father's hands, the very same. The way God works is beyond any limitation of human beings. I feel that God led Henry Nouwen to encounter the painting so that He can hold him safely in the light of His love, knowing in advance that Nouwen would suffer greatly from the loss of his most intimate relationship. During his most difficult times, God reached out to Henry Nouwen's inner most being and began to heal him. At the same time, Nouwen also responded humbly to his inner voice from God saying "You are my beloved, on you my favor rests." Eventually, God transformed Henry Nouwen to be more Christ-



like, by letting him accept 'becoming the father' as his true vocation even using his broken pieces of hearts. I was deeply touched by God's everlasting love for Henry Nouwen and also amazed to realize that the same love is open to everyone who is willing to receive it.

I have always thought my hands are not very beautiful, looking rough and clumsy, and I could never like them. When I accepted them as mine given by God, however, I was able to see that they were showing my unique beauty, and finally I began to like my hands. I now have a new hope in God that Jesus our savior will eventually turn my hands into beautiful ones that would share God's love despite my weakness and faults.





*disciples and seeds*





## *About DCFM*

Welcome to Disciples Christian Fellowship of Montreal (DCFm)!

**DCFm is an evangelical church, for Montreal people, including Korean, who are in pursuit of the true wisdom of Jesus in coping with complex demands of multicultural and multilingual life in this metropolis.**

## **Our Vision**

Restoring Jesus Disciples' Fellowship in Montreal toward Global Mission

## **Our Mission**

We have a passion to help everyone who comes to our church to glorify God by:

- Learning how to devote his/her life to Jesus;
- Getting matured as His disciple;
- Understanding God's purpose for his/her life;
- Restoring love toward family members and neighbors;
- Reviving the flow of Jesus love and life into diverse communities in Montreal;
- Transforming Montreal into God's holy land

**We have a special calling for 2nd and 1.5th generation immigrants, including Korean, to help them grow as leaders of our church through:**

- Experiencing the fullness of the Christianity and the joy of spiritual growth;
- Serving the church members and communities in Montreal;
- Merging into Canadian society as mature Christians; and
- Contributing to the world mission with their multicultural values

**We are devoted to cultivate Disciples of Jesus with particular focus on Montreal College Campus Mission and Asian Community Mission by:**

- Encouraging college/university students in Montreal grow as disciples of Jesus to reach out their non-Christian friends from various nations to experience God's blessing and love through Gospel; and
- Helping Asian communities, who are in great spiritual needs, become evangelized and born again as holy disciples



## *Our service schedule & Contact information*

### **Sunday worship (11:00am)**

Bilingual (English and Korean) worship service for everyone.

### **Friday young adults worship (6:30pm)**

Bilingual (English and Korean) worship service for young adults.

### **Life changing bible study**

for college students and young adults. Group bible studies in English/French/Korean can be organized upon request.

### **Disciple training**

We help you grow up as a Jesus' disciple and be prepared for various ministries and the world mission.

### **One to one bible study (personalized bible study)**

If you want to study the Words of God individually to meet your personal needs, we can arrange you paired up with one of our leaders.

### **Church address**

[5964 Avenue Notre Dame de Grace, Montreal](#)

[H4A 1N1](#) (on the corner of Avenue Royal)

### **Email**

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### **Website**

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# *Acknowledgement & Copyright*

We thank Jesus for leading this first book project of DCFM.

Every step of our preparation, we, the team of editors as well as contributors, felt His blessing and guidance.

DCFM acknowledges the contribution of various authors.

DCFM thank the kind efforts of the team of editors:

- Jihyun Lee - Managing editor
- Hyun Cho - Design and Photography
- Ji Eun Lee - Copy editor
- Hye Ji Moon/Soo Gyeong Lee - Assistant editors

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