

Sharing your bread with the hungry,
sheltering the oppressed and the homeless;
Clothing the naked when you see them,
and not turning your back on your own.

(Isaiah 58: 6-8)



25. The Way to Get the Blessings of God 1

Spiritual Blessings

Man cannot live without love, as a fish cannot survive without water.

Love comes from the heaven.

Man cannot do anything without the favor of God.

There are three kinds of blessings from God: Spiritual, human, and material.

Spiritual blessings are obtained by obeying God, human blessings by loving, and material blessings by treating materials as something for managing and not owning.

“The Way to Get Blessings of God’ will be serialized in the order of spiritual, human, and material blessings.

We believe and pray that all those who listen to and practice the spiritual words be blessed.

The Changes of the Anavims Who Used to Live as the Homeless

On the Feast Day of St. John, December 27, 2005, Fr. Oh Woong-Jin, the Kkottongnae founder, held a commemorative mass with the Anavim families as main guests, refusing courteously any celebration for himself.

Then Fr Oh, after giving the Anavim families the one million won of the gift money that had been donated in his honor, asked them

what they wanted to do with it. The Anavim families who once were drunk homeless people with much resentment toward the world answered unanimously, “We would like to use it for those who are in a worse situation than





A feature of the 25th anniversary of vigil prayer gathering of Kkottongnae



we are, shivering in this cold..”

After that, they chose 10 people to implement their wish by visiting places around Seoul Station and by distributing rice cake and drinks that they had prepared themselves to the homeless there. Finally, they returned to Kkottongnae bringing some severely sick and homeless people. Whereas they have only asked favors of others before, now they were able and willing to think of others before themselves.

Nothing was Going Right for Them

Anavim families were those who had abandoned all hope and, in despair, were wearing their life away with alcohol. They are poor people who failed in whatever they did; were betrayed by people they knew; and even were forsaken by their own family. Whenever we meet those with ill-fated lives, who have struggled so much to live a decent life, we get frustrated and sadly wonder, “why...”

Those who live for God will live forever, but those who go against Him will die. We cannot do anything without the favor of God. There is a saying, “After trying everything, wait for heaven’s will”: After you have done everything in your power, wait for heaven’s will. While it is a man who makes a plan and puts in the effort, it is God who completes it.

Stem Cell Controversy

These days we are in the midst of confusion with stem cell controversy.

Nobody would dissent on doing research for the ill, but there is a problem in the research method with using embryo stem cells and somatic cell duplication. They are already life

because they have the ability to specialize into an individual being when they placed in the womb. It is wrong to sacrifice a life to save other lives. It is certain that this behavior cannot have blessings, because this is to counteract God’s will.

Those who live for God will live forever, but those who go against Him will die. When we go against God, although it may seem to go well at first, we get fewer fruits as time passes. However, when we go along with God, even though it seems nothing is going right with recurring ordeals for the present, we can get more and better fruits as time passes.

Spiritual Blessings Will Be Gained by Obeying God

Kkottongnae families consist mostly of those who had been selfishly following only their own will. How did they change into people who follow God’s will and help others after coming to Kkottongnae? The answer is that Kkottongnae is a house of healing. The healing power does not come from a man but from heaven. This free gift of spiritual blessing to heal and change people is called a spiritual gift. There are nine kinds of spiritual gift according to the Bible: The gift of wisdom, knowledge, belief, healing, miracle, prophesy, strange words, interpretation, and spiritual discernment. *These gifts are given not for the person who receives them but for the common good, given by obeying God.*

Jesus Christ received the glory of resurrection by obeying God until He was crucified, praying “Not my will, but your will be done” However, until He died, He had cured the sick, expelled evil spirits, performed miracles, did



Fr. Oh Woong-Jin and Oh Hang-Wook, Park Jong-Hyuk from Kkottongnae were greeting the Pope Benedict XVI after the installation of Cardinal Jeong Jin Seok in Rome.

lots of spiritual work and proclaimed the kingdom of God throughout his whole life.

Fr. Oh Woong-Jin Obeying God

It was when Fr. Oh was staying at Geumwang Church taking care of beggars and the poor around the parsonage that he was suggested by bishop Chung Jin-Seok, the chief of the diocese, to move to Eumseong Church to fill in its sudden loss of a priest. Even though the sudden appointment was a bolt out of the blue for Fr. Oh who loved the poor so much, he answered the bishop like this: "It is more difficult to leave these poor people here than to die, but I will move to Eumseong Church happily since I promised to obey you as a priest."

Fr. Oh who gave up his own will and followed the will of the church at that time was ultimately given a blessing of not leaving Kkottongnae and was given a permanent pastorate at Kkottongnae.

People tend to do only what they would like to do, staying only where they would like to be and working with only those who they would like to work with, being captivated with individualism. However, those who are to live according to God's will rather than their own will do what they would not like to do, stay where they would not like to stay, and be with those whom they would not like to be with. Those doing their best will eventually move the heaven, live an enriched life with spiritual blessings, and deliver a lot of favor and love to the poor and the forlorn. The spiritual blessings are gained by obeying God.



'Seol' (New Year's Day) in Kkottongnae

Everybody is returning to their hometown to be with their parents, brothers and sisters, and relatives on the New Year's Day. However, Kkottongnae families do not have a place to go to. The religious at Kkottongnae prepare special holiday food all day long and stay the night with the Kkottongnae families who feel

The life vow ceremony of the Brothers and Sisters of Jesus of Kkottongnae



lonelier on holidays. They prepare and serve breakfast from early morning, and give special greetings to the Kkottongnae families who suffer from illness and were forsaken. "Happy new year!"

After exchanging greetings with one another, the religious, volunteer workers, staff, and families gather at the parsonage with Fr. Oh, the founder of Kkottongnae. They bow and greet each other. Fr. Oh would give them a well-wishing remark about humbleness: "Let's live a humble life this new year. To be humble means to pile up love."

Happy New Year:

The Blessing of Abraham

People exchange the well-wishing remark of "Happy new year," but few can actually teach how to get blessings. Abraham, the ancestor of belief, who received the most of God's blessings, earned them through obedience and faith.

Abraham ran to an unknown place, a world of fear and uncertainty, giving up his loving relatives and comfortable home by the order of God: "Leave your country, your relatives, and your father's home, and go to a land that I am going to show you (Genesis 12: 1)." He even took his beloved only son, Isaac, to the mountain to offer him up as sacrifice in the fire to God without a doubt or hesitation. Moved by his faith, God gave him the word of blessing: "I vow by my own name-the LORD is speaking-that I will richly bless you. Because you did this and did not keep back your only son from me, I promise that I will give you as many descendants as there are stars in the sky or grains of sand along the seashore. All the

nations will ask me to bless them as I have blessed your descendants-all because you obeyed my command (Genesis 22: 16-18)."

Spiritual Blessings Are Gained by Obeying God.

A woman, who wore a loop not knowing that it is against God's will, once visited Kkottongnae. She felt the pangs of conscience after she was told by Fr. Oh Woong-Jin to give birth to one more baby.

After that, she happened to become pregnant at the age of 40 as the mother of two. The doctor suggested getting an abortion, saying, "The loop can get stuck in the flesh of the baby, and the mother may be in danger due to old age and a weak heart." The distressed pregnant woman visited Kkottongnae and asked Fr. Oh for a prayer, worrying about who would raise her two children if she died. Fr. Oh consoled her saying, "If you pray with unshaking faith, you will meet a good doctor and God will give you peace." When she visited Dr. Kim Su-Pyung at St. Mary's Hospital, he encouraged her, saying, "Please give birth to the angel sent by God." And she gave birth to her third baby in the month of parturition through caesarean section. Dr. Kim who handled her operation said, "You would have had to have a big operation even if you hadn't given birth, because the loop was absorbed by the womb. So give thanks to God for saving your womb and giving you a new baby."

The mother who risked her life was given an even bigger blessing. She now had a much happier family: Her parents-in-law had the joy of obtaining a third grandchild, her husband's faith in religion was renewed, and the older

children loved the baby so much. The mother became active in the pro-life movement, sharing her experience with other people.

**The Prayer of the Good Is Answered,
but That of the Wicked Is Not.**

In this world, God is the only truly righteous one. However, the Lord gave mercy on us sinners and called those who repented and followed His will the righteous. **Those who obey the Lord will receive spiritual blessings and live a spiritual life, performing miracles, curing the sick, expelling evil spirits, foretelling, speaking strange words and interpreting them.**

A brother, who had been an alcoholic, suffering from malnutrition and going in and out of a mental hospital for twenty years, once visited Kkottongnae after he decided to listen to his neighbors' earnest request to look around Kkottongnae if he wanted to be a new person. He talked about his experience as follows: "Something miraculous happened to me when I visited Kkottongnae. Upon entering the intensive care unit of a nursing home, I felt my heart wrench as I watched the volunteers tend to the sick: 'Why are these complete strangers doing such a good deed here?' My mother and brothers and sisters flashed through my mind. Despite the several children my mother had, no one could take care of her after she was palsied. And she died after three years of suffering. Because I knew what the sacrifice of taking care of the sick was, I burst into tears at that moment with a gut-wrenching feeling. Being ashamed, I could not say a word when I met Fr Oh. He laid hands on me saying, "I know what you're thinking, my child. You don't have to say anything." At that moment, I

felt severely dizzy, so I came back home after taking a long rest. Since that night, I've been a changed person who could no longer drink alcohol after vomiting several times. I vomited when I even thought of alcohol and could not endure the strange rotten smell that arose when I saw a drinking glass. I was reborn on that day. I regret how I didn't realize earlier how happy life could be."

The Age of Spirit

Human history has passed through the primitive age centered on religion, the agricultural age centered on monarchy, the Industrial Revolution followed by modern times centered on a nation, and has reached present society by a process of centering on enterprises with the development of science and material civilization. Now we live in the Internet and information era where intelligent individuals control the world. The new world we are looking forward to is **the age of spirit**. Spiritual life is a life of following the wisdom of the Holy Spirit and not worldly knowledge. **Those who live by God's will can receive spiritual blessings and prove to people that spiritual things are far more important than material things or science. They can turn things from impossible to possible, change and cure individuals, families, societies, and all human beings, so they as a result can help people enjoy true happiness loving each other and following God's will.**

Spiritual blessings are gained by obeying God.

26. The Way to Get the Blessings of God 2

Human Blessings

Fenceless Kkottongnae

The reason why Kkottongnae families, who used to habitually roam around, would not leave Kkottonae is because there is an invisible love fence around Kkottongnae. Just as bees or butterflies gather around flowers for the honey, people also rally to the place where love dwells. Sometimes family members leave Kkottongnae to go back to society after recovering their health. But in more cases, they leave Kkottongnae owing to temptations such as alcohol, or they leave here impulsively missing the family that had forsaken them. Those who leave Kkottongnae for their hometown unannounced usually return to Kkottongnae in dejection, not welcomed by their family or friends.

Once there was a paralytic who left Kkottongnae without notice and seemingly for the vagabond.

We, the religious, searched for him until late at night because he was hemiplegic and had a speech disorder. Although he had sometimes shown signs that he missed home, we worried a lot because he was not in a condition to go to his hometown with difficulty in walking and speaking. Early next morning the patient's

family had brought him back to Kkottongnae. As they did not want to spend a single night with him, they had driven all night to bring him back. The next day, when he was asked if he wanted to go back to his family in his hometown, he shook his head firmly, conveying that he would never want to go again.

From the Cradle to the Grave

Real welfare takes responsibility of people 'from the cradle to the grave.'

Our love for the Kkottongnae families extends to their after-death, taking care to ensure their proper burial. Many people wonder why we do not cremate them, but this does not take into account the forsaken Kkottongnae families' feelings. When they are asked if they want a burial or cremation after death, they answer with a long face, "We do not deserve to want anymore. Either way is all right for us. Deal with it as you think fit." We know, however, that they are probably thinking, "Forlorn people like us should naturally be cremated to be disposed of easily." The founder, Fr. Oh Woong-Jin, who is very well aware of this, goes through all the steps a traditional funeral entails: preparing the body for burial, proceeding the rite of placing a body in



The tombs (referred to as “Paradise”) for the people of Kkottongnae in Kkottongnae

its coffin, performing funeral service and mass, and entombing the coffin at the Kkottongnae cemetery.

Fr. Oh is embellishing the cemetery as a beautiful paradise and developing it into the most valuable place to honor the miserably forlorn people's last moment. We are trying to make the Kkottongnae cemetery, where the forgotten are laid, a sacred place with a lot of prayer and sacrifice with other patrons for the people to recollect and visit. This endeavor comes from the true love for the poor, so the Kkottongnae family who know the love cannot leave here even though there is no fence.

Love Training Center

Every year around 200,000 of students, businessmen, public officers, the religious, etc. in groups get training at Kkottongnae Love Training Center. There is one reason why so many people visit Kkottongnae: There is love here. The following passage was written by a student who finished a training of 3 days and 2 nights at Kkottongnae.

Finally I visited Kkottongnae. I learned, felt, and thought a lot there. When a religious asked a patient with severe cerebral phalsy about the meaning of happiness, he answered, "Happiness is in our mind. I have a severe disability, so I hardly committed a sin. I am happy because I can pray for others and help them."

It was a very common saying, but as I heard it, I don't know why my eyes shed tears... When I heard that Kkottongnae patients write a will which promises the donation of their internal organs before death, I thought I was

the very unhappy person, who had sought for happiness with eyes only. I only washed dishes and cooked at the kitchen because I didn't have courage to meet the patients, for which I felt regretful when I returned to the lodging. While Kkottongnae was founded by a Catholic foundation, it is a really beautiful place regardless of religion. I reflected on my conduct a lot looking at them helping each other with heavy disability. I made up my mind to live doing good deeds with a lot of voluntary work. I would like to visit Kkottongnae again to serve the family there.

I Love You

The greeting of Kkottongnae is 'I love you.' We put our both hands over the head making a big heart shape and greet. The greeting which we have taught at Kkottongnae Love Training Center since 10 years ago is now spread all over the country and used by students, mass medias, various publications, and even commercials or posters. Last time when President Noh Moo-Hyun visited Iraq, a soldier was seen to say "I love you" to the President with a heart-shape hand motion on TV.

People rally into the place where love dwells. Even the restaurants which are run with love and hospitality are crowded with people. A household having a lot of continuous visitors becomes an honorable and prospective one. It is because there should be love. It is not easy to find love in a family where visitors are rare.

There is only one reason why there are so many people at Kkottongnae: Love dwells here.

Love comes from 'those who have no place to depend on and no strength even to beg food' and the volunteers and the religious who gathered to help them relying on each other. The young people gather from all over into Kkottongnae to serve devoting themselves without any condition because they have love of God toward the poorest.

Human blessings are gained by loving.

Many students who came to Kkottongnae to learn the love of neighbors are happy to learn the way of greeting of Kkottongnae.







A feature of the gathering for the supporting members of Kkottongnae in a stadium of Jamsil, Seoul

27. The Way To Get the Blessings of God 3

Material Blessings

The Reason Why the Rich Man Fell into Hell

There is a story of 'the Rich Man and Lazarus' in the Bible.

A poor man named Lazarus used to beg at the rich man's door, but the rich man did not give a help. The rich man died and fell into hell where he saw the poor man, Lazarus, was sitting beside Abraham at the feast in heaven. He ended up in miserably begging mercy for a sip of water to Lazarus in the burning hell.

Why did the rich man become to go to hell?

The new Cardinal Rosales of the Philippines explained the reason as follows: What Lazarus wanted was not a big thing. He did not ask for dining together at the feast. He did not ask for food at the kitchen. What he wanted was just the bits of food that fell from the rich man's table. But the stingy rich man even refused this. That's why he could not help falling into hell.

Cardinal Rosales led the 'Five Won Collecting Movement' to let the believers in the Philippines see, hear, and touch God's love. Five Won in the Philippines values very little like crumbs. However, he could save 140,000,000 Won through this movement, and used the valuable money for the poor. Cardinal

Rosales is making Filipinos experience God's love.

Kkottongnae Membership Fee of 1000 Won

To be a member of Kkottongnae, you just need to pay 1000 Won of monthly fee.

The founder Fr. Oh Woong-Jin is still sticking with 1000 Won as membership fee which is the same amount as of 28 years ago when the price was one tenth of the price now. His intention is to run Kkottongnae with people's love rather than the amount of money. Some family opens up a bank account for each child from their childhood and educates them about practicing love by letting them save 1000 Won every month to send it to Kkottong-nae as membership fee. Since the number of Kkottongnae members reached about one million, Kkottongnae has endeavored to take a role of a good manager to use the money from the members effectively for the poor at the right time in the right place not as an owner. **The rich man**, who did not share even the crumbs with Lazarus, **would persist in owning properties not consider them as a share of the poor.**



For the commemoration of opening the Training Institute of Love an open concert is being broadcast nationwide on KBS-II TV.

A Homeless Person Saved by the Contribution of the Members

A few months ago when the Kkottongnae ambulance visited Daejeon Station, a drunken homeless was found unconscious on the ground. It was said that he hurt his head in a fight with someone. We took encephalography as soon as we brought him to the Kkottongnae hospital, where we found a large amount of cerebral hemorrhage in his brain. An emergency transfer to Gangnam Catholic Hospital, which allowed for brain surgery with tracheotomy, saved his life. He has gradually recovered, now is able to walk and help other patients in the hospital room. The reason why we were able to save a life like this is because we have treated the valuable contributions of the members with management principles, not ownership motives. We brought the patient in with the ambulance bought with our members' contribution, diagnosed him in the Kkottongnae hospital which was donated by Jinro Company, and put him through an operation at a large hospital with the money sent in by Kkottongnae members.

The better we manage the properties and funds to be used efficiently for the poor and the sick, the more material blessings we receive and the richer Kkottongnae becomes.

The Last Regret

Man's desire to possess is endless.

A grandfather who was on his deathbed fell into one last state of regret. With the lower half of his body paralyzed from an automobile accident and dependent on an artificial anus from colectomy, he was in critical condition, developing various complications. Just before he

entered Kkottongnae, he gave all the money he'd received in compensation for the accident to the caregiver at the hospital.

As he himself would not need any money at Kkottongnae, while the caregiver would in order to support a large family, he gave her the money without condition, moved by her sincere care. Then his ex-girlfriend whom he used to live with, suddenly appeared and persuaded him to sue the caregiver to return the money, saying, "Why did you give the large sum of money to a random person? I will make you happy after we reclaim the money." Though face-to-face with death, he regrettably yielded, suing the caregiver, and the police ran an investigation. The night before he passed away, when I visited him in the sickroom, he said, beating his chest, "I'm so frustrated. I am full of evil. Please help me."

I said to him, "Don't try to get the money back. You have to rise above self-interest and be content with the fact that the money is being used by a person who needs it the most." Then we prayed for the grandfather to win over his last temptation. The grandfather told us that he would throw away the greed in his mind, and he would be fine if the money is used by someone who needs it. His face considerably brightened after our prayer, and he said he felt much better.

The next day he passed away peacefully.

Material blessings are obtained by treating material things as something for managing and not for owning

Apostolic Nuncio Emil once visited Kkottongnae and left words of encouragement on the Kkottongnae Journal: **"We have entered**

this world empty-handed and empty-handed we' ll be when we leave it. However, the fruits of selfless love and kindness will remain.”

We want to own property, but if we do not have the ability to manage it, it will diminish and disappear in the end. However, if we try to manage the property (which are entrusted to us to manage for some time) well, using it to love our neighbors, it will gradually increase.

Most Rev, Emil P. Tcherigg, the Apostolic Nuncio to Korea, and Bishop Jang Bong Hoon, Diocese of Cheongju and Fr Oh Woong Jin are having a conversation with some family members of Kkottongnae.

