

## 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.**