

Faith shouldn't be so frail that taking one brick out knocks the whole thing down

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One part of my life of faith that has been difficult is that I have lived under many assumptions, which come up from time to time and have to be examined closely. I have lost track of how many times my assumptions have been challenged: that Blessings never break, that you and your spouse will agree on everything, that blessed children have no fallen nature whatsoever, that we will live in vans forever, that we will sleep on the floor forever, that the True Children will embody True Parents' heart and lead us, that we can ignore Christianity.....

I have overhauled my faith many times, like an old car that still has to keep going somehow. Many things I assumed to be so, turned out not to be. But my relationship with God keeps deepening the more I examine my own faith. Done right, it makes your faith more solid.

It's not something I've been afraid of, but I've certainly been reluctant at times. Killing my cherished illusions hurts, but just for a while, they're not real. I've gotten over it every time.

I can't blame anybody who doesn't want to deeply question assumptions about their faith. It's not fun, but at times, ya just have to.

Now, I'm not talking about the kind of emotionally bent questioning that comes from frustration or despair, the kind that just roars loaded questions without really looking for answers and makes you want to curl up and die or get mad and walk away. I'm talking about a sincere, sometimes painfully honest look at what's what, a long soak with lots of prayer in it. And not shying away from a showdown.

It was with that kind of heart that I went to my third matching and second Blessing. I had been wounded deeply, hurt badly, and got to watch myself screwing up royally at a matching as well. Before I got on the plane to Korea, I made a deal with myself, 'This could be the greatest thing you could ever do, or it could be bullshit, a total fraud. There's one way to find out; let's go and see. If it turns out to be bs, we'll just walk away. But we have to find out.'

I can post a link to my testimony about that experience. Shorthand version, God didn't forget a single thing I'd dreamed about, even things I didn't have the nerve to actually say. I went to find out, and God answered.

Father urged us to test our faith, test God, test the Divine Principle. He wasn't afraid to, and I don't want to be afraid to face questions about any of my assumptions.

Here are some of the results of my recent questionings:

I've had several experiences of God and True Mother. I don't need theological reasons to attend, but here are my reflections.

Regarding whom was or wasn't born sinless: Father has taught about Mary's responsibility, that once she carried Jesus she should not have a husband, just raise her firstborn as the Son of God. Once the womb is prepared, and has given a sinless birth, there should be no other sexual relation after that. Nothing, no husband, no other children to divide her attention. Father taught us clearly that it was a mistake for Joseph and Mary to be as husband and wife, and for Jesus to have siblings. The only begotten needs to be the firstborn and all the mother's attention should be on that child.

Mother's family follows the pattern that Father said Mary should have followed: Dae Mo Nim dedicated herself to two things; raising Mother as God's daughter and looking for the Lord of the Second Advent. She lived without her husband, told Hak-Ja "God is your father," and had no other children. Indeed, Father said that Dae Mo Nim fulfilled her responsibility.

In Father's family, he was born the second son, with an older brother and older sisters, as well as younger siblings. This doesn't follow the pattern Father taught us about Jesus' family, of how a sinless child, an only begotten, a messiah, could be born. You can't have several children born with original sin, and have one sinless one born in the middle of the batch.

In the case of Jesus, it's clear that his brothers born to Joseph and Mary were not sinless. So by the logic of Father's teaching about sinless birth, the only conclusion is that either all the children born to Father's parents were born sinless or none of them were.

This doesn't take away from any of Father's achievements. If anything, it magnifies them. He took on the job, he could have said no. Father built his own relationship with God, fighting harder than any human being in history to unite his mind and body, to discover all the truths about God and the world. He wasn't born understanding everything. He explained all the unanswered questions in the Bible. Every word of the Divine Principle is soaked in his tears, sweat and blood. He exposed Satan's crime for the first time, and subjugated him, standing firm even when God denied the Divine Principle. He persevered through unfathomable opposition and torture, and he became True Father, and with True Mother formed the True Parents, the messiah. He didn't die and he never gave up, though it would have been easy to. He did all that and told us to be messiahs as well. Nothing here negates what Father did. If anything, it magnifies it.

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