

by Masaharu Taniguchi

Prayer for Our Souls to Receive Life and Attain the Ultimate

WE ARE CHILDREN of God. Within us are the *seeds* of God's omniscience and omnipotence, as well as His perfect, unbiased love. Within us are the seeds—all the attributes of God—that take root in the world of time and space. We grow through the loving care of our parents, utilizing our environment as the soil and our experiences as the fertilizer. Under the protection of God's providence, we gradually grow like tree branches, luxuriant with leaves and absorbing the bright sun. At times, we will train ourselves as we encounter difficult challenges while nurturing our indwelling divinity. Our souls will develop in depth and breadth like a flowering tree with its branches gloriously ablaze with blossoms that will bear the most beautiful fruits.

The journey for the growth of our souls is long and arduous. At times, the path is level, smooth, and pleasurable as we gaze at the clear blue skies. Other times, it may be a rugged trek on a rocky trail, and we may gasp for air as we steadily approach the mountain peak. Both the level path and the perilous path are essential lessons given to us by God to nourish and train our souls, through which our personalities will be enhanced. It is not only the outer light but we will also be shining forth our inner light.

Challenges are not our "enemies" or "barriers;" we will not feel bitter about them and try to escape from

them. When *thinking of hardships as the enemy*, difficulties will appear as the harmful enemy. However, when we humbly accept them as lessons to polish and train our soul and endeavor to understand what God is trying to teach us, the hardships we experience will shine forth as proof that God's love is blessing us.

There may appear to be many hardships and difficulties in life but in essence God did not create a single hardship. Every experience is a blessing and a lesson. High spirits have voluntarily chosen to be born physically challenged. As they encounter difficult challenges, their spiritual progress is more rapid than those taking a smoother path.

Those who advance slowly will experience fewer vibrations, like riding a slow-moving vehicle. For those traveling at a high speed, whether on land or in the air, the noise and vibrations will be strong. This means that the soul will quickly reach its desired altitude and enter the promised heavenly Pure Land. A child of God cannot be harmed by anyone or anything. I offer my thanks to God for teaching me this Truth.

—From *Hikari No Izumi*,
"Fountain of Light," August 1978, pp. 16-17