

Prayer to Acquire the Power to Make Progress

BY MASAHARU TANIGUCHI

THERE IS GREAT, wonderful wisdom in nature, and it is embodied most completely in man. From within us, this great wisdom prompts us to advance to a higher level of self-realization. It is when we follow this inner urge for endless progress, and manifest it to the fullest, that we can find joy as well as meaning in living. Thus, when our life is not lived in accord with this urge for progress, we become tired and lax; we cannot find meaning in life and feel bored and frustrated.

There are five strong desires deep within man — to live, to love, to be loved, to be recognized, and to be helpful to others. In the desire to live is the wish to progress. Life does not want to stay in the same place for long. When life stops advancing, it is not merely a pause but retrogression. To live fully, we must progress every day, for it is only in progress and improvement that we find reward and joy in living. So, from today, let us endeavor to advance one step further each day, be it in wisdom, love, or work. We will read a few pages of the Truth, love all people and all living creatures, and willingly help others.

In renewing this resolve, I will always remember and practice it. This is the pledge I make to God today. I will always express love. I love God, my country, society, my fellow workers, my family — in fact, all mankind. I even love those who do not agree with me, and I wish to enlighten them. I know that to love is not to satisfy a physical instinct, but it is more spiritual. True love is the feeling of oneness with others. Another person's happiness becomes my happiness. His sadness and pain become my sadness and pain, and furthermore, I wish to comfort all people by removing their sorrows and troubles.

True love does not merely wish but takes action. True love is not like a blaring trumpet that is hollow inside. It acts to remove others' sorrows and troubles as much as possible and to replace them with joy and pleasure. I have now made the decision to put this into practice. Thank you very much, God, for teaching me this Truth and helping me to make this resolve. I humbly ask that You grant me the strength to put this into practice.

—From *Shinri No Ginsho*,
“Recitations of the Truth,” pp. 97-100