

From the editor

This time, we'd like to share with you Pastor Peter's message given in the *Church of the Wind* on July 3rd.

Everything Works for Good

Peter

Gratias! Thanks!

Divine *Gratias* floats in the eternity.

The *Gratias*, Life-Giver, is rising like waves.

Oh, Lord, You are God and the Redeemer.

Oh, the Spirit, You are the breath of life,

enveloping the whole creation with Your *Gratias*.

Gratias Domini.

♪ *Kyrie Eleison*

Christe Eleison ♪

This praise is in Greek. Kyrie means “the Lord,” and Eleison “Have mercy.” Christe, of course, is “Christ.”

“Have mercy on us.” It is our soul's deepest prayer, which is originated in the heart of God and returns to God. When Divine Life circulates by way of man's heart, we call it prayer. This work, this flow of life, is of the Spirit.

Now is the time of the Holy Spirit, the time of Divine Life.

Now we are in peace more or less after the hideous

disaster which took place three months ago. I believe the Lord is giving us comfort and healing for a while. The Lord, who allowed the unthinkable disaster to strike the land of Japan in March 2011, is the same God who now comforts us. Thousands of people are still in the dire predicament, and we are far from safe on the nuclear disaster at Fukushima. Yet I hear the ancient prophet's proclamation, "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins."(Isaiah 40:1-2)

The Lord God has called us for intercessory prayers to pray for healing of the earth, not as the judges to denounce the world. The land has suffered enough, and we the intercessors bring the people's sorrow and suffering, the earth's pain and agony, to the presence of the Lord.

Yes, we are the intercessors, the humble lambs that do not raise up voice but carry the burden quietly. No one notices your act of prayer. No reward for your praying labor. Yet you are in the sight of God. Oh, how angels and heavenly hosts are rejoicing over you, who have been made the instruments of the divine love and light.

We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

It says, "We know." And I ask you what you know.

Do you know that you do know in the depth of your being what is most important? Say not that you are not aware of it, for the Word of God declares that you do know the vital truth implanted deep in your being. In everything God works for good with those who love Him, who are

called according to His purpose. That's the truth, the grand truth.

While English translation reads "for good," Greek word can read "for beauty." When God touches, everything becomes beautiful! The Lord has indeed made everything beautiful in its time. (Ecclesiastes 3:11) On the other hand, we cannot accept it when we see too much of evil and turmoil in the phenomenal world.

Which is true and which is false?

When I was young, I was tormented with this verse, for I did not know how to interpret it in the face of the world's ugly sphere. Just in my own life, nothing seemed to work for good and beautiful. There were mountains of sadness and frustration. How can you assert that everything works for good. Does the Bible speak of some kind of utopia? Is this a divine illusion?

No. The Word of God stands aloof from any twisting interpretation. What it says is what it is. Everything must work for good.

Though I was puzzled by the verse, I was convinced deep in my spirit that this is the truth, the ultimate truth.

When bewildered by the puzzling verse in my youth, I bumped into the book, *Christian's Secret of a Happy Life*. A Quaker lady, Hannah Whitall Smith, who lived in Philadelphia a century ago, wrote it. To my surprise, she too had gone into agony over the same verse. Does everything work for good? Isn't it too passive? Wouldn't bad people take advantage over passive believers? Should we not distinguish good from evil and resist evildoers?

At the time of Hannah Smith, Calvinism that claims the doctrine of predestination was dominant among Christians. They thought that God selected those who would be saved

and those who would be condemned to eternal punishment, and that there was little merit to pray for the unrighteous souls to be saved. Hannah knew it was a wrong interpretation of Paul's theology, but could not repudiate it. "No, the love of the Lord I know is nothing like a cold dogma. He is love, nothing but love!"

She had to find out how far the love of God would extend and from where man's flesh would work, and at which point the Devil would enter onto the stage. She prayed and prayed.

One day, she went to a prayer meeting and sat quietly in the corner. Suddenly she saw a vision. She was surrounded by a ring of light. It was a thick ring. As she watched, a tiny thing came from outside and penetrated into the ring of light. Finally it touched her.

Immediately she understood the meaning of the vision. Everything works for good. No exception at all. Without God's permission, not a thing can penetrate into the presence of the Lord and touch her being. The Lord God reigns! Everything is subjected to the Lord. No exception.

As soon as her eyes were opened to the grand truth of God, Hannah entered into the bliss. There was no distance between the Lord and her. The kingdom of heaven was within her.

Everything works for good. It is in the present form. It is not farfetched idealism. Its reality is now and here. God's presence is eternal now.

Your surroundings may be the same. Your most fundamental base, however, is altered. You have now an altered consciousness, which is called faith. I call it the realization of Christ's Atonement.

As the Lord's redemption takes visibility in your life, your soul responds with deep gratitude unto the Lord. Thanksgiving is a visible sign of God's presence.

Say no longer that your life will be better if your neighbor is changed. Don't be silly. Don't be blinded. If you are unable to see the Lord's hands in everything, extend your perspective to the extreme. Do you not see then the absolute love of God?

The absolute love is the absolute acceptance. Everything is perfect in His love.

You may think I am talking mambo-jumbo of mysticism.

Mambo-jumbo? No. Mysticism? Yes.

I know what I am talking about. I am talking on the secret of the kingdom of God, which is agape-love, the divine Love, the reality of reality.

Paul says that in everything God works for good with those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose. The key word is "love." My spirit knows the secret of life, the ever-working love of God, which transcends and embraces all things. God's redemption was completed once for all. You are now in its aura. In agape-love, all contradictions in life are integrated to manifest God's beauty and harmony. You are in the presence of God, in the very agape-love.

Say not that you want more tangible love. The fact you are here to know the grand truth of God is the very evidence of God's love for you. This is sufficient.

Although the Bible mentions of agape-love countless times, it does not teach us how to obtain or exercise it. No, because we need no "know-how." What we need is faith. Just believe that God loves you and you love God. Say loud

and clear that you love the Lord God with all your heart and soul. Confess it over again and again.

Your soul's sincere confession will bring forth God's reality. You are to recall the most cherished memory, namely, the memory of Christ's redemption. It should be awakened now.

I love the Lord.

I love the Lord.

I love the Lord.

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