

Prayer to Practice God's Love

BY MASAHARU TANIGUCHI

IN THE INNERMOST DEPTHS of every person dwells God's life. In Buddhism, it is called the Buddhahood of all sentient beings. In Christianity, it is called the inner Christ. God resides in everyone. Not only does God live in every person but He is one's true self, his life.

The physical body is the means for God to appear in this world and manifest Himself, thus it is not one's true self. Beyond the physical, material being exists the completely free and omnipotent spirit of God, and that is you. The essence of God is love, wisdom, and everlasting life. Thus, when we fulfill God's love, we have truly lived God's spirit within us, and when we live this way, we are rewarded with the awareness that we have lived a meaningful life.

God's love does not hate anyone. God's love forgives everyone. God's love gives life to everyone. God's love does not have biased likes and dislikes. God's love cannot but be harmonious with everyone and make them happy. God's love is considerate. God's love never stumbles. God's love loves even those who do not love you. God's love does not feel lonely even if that love is

not reciprocated, for God's love does not know loneliness. God's love does not expect to be loved. God's love is unconditional. Even if you do not seek love, when you practice it, God's love will be fulfilled.

When God's love is manifested in you, you become sacred. This is because you are then free of selfish desires. God's love is unselfish, and in unselfishness God appears. Love which has a selfish desire is impure. It is only desire disguised as love. Tainted love is selfishness masked as love. Love does not seek pleasure but rather abandons pleasure for one's own sake. Love devotes itself to others, expecting nothing in return. When love gives totally, it fulfills itself. That is the love of God.

Like the dew that gives life to all plants with moisture during the dark hours of night, God's love comes quietly and inconspicuously, giving life to everything. Having sustained all things, it gives and goes like the dew when morning arrives. That is the love of God.

I am grateful to God for teaching me this Truth.

—From *Shinri No Ginsho*, "Recitations of the Truth," pp. 110-114