

# SPOTLIGHT

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## Set Apart

By Irene Lee

I just recently turned 21. Before I was 21, I was never into the party scene. In high school I was labeled as the prude and the resident "Christian" in my group of friends. I never had a problem with giving into peer pressure or wanting to get drunk. Anyways, the reason I wanted to write about this subject is because as I get older, I realize the conflict and struggles that a Christian faces in this world. Questions started to arise in me as I saw fellow brothers and sisters in Christ party and get drunk and go down a path of a lifestyle filled with clubbing and whatnot.

Before, I couldn't help but judge. These were Christians who should know better, I thought. How could they so blatantly choose the world over God? And then, more and more, I found myself in compromising situations. I started to enjoy going out, going to parties, and ditching bible study to hang out with friends.

Every person I talked to had their own opinion about what was right and wrong. Some just didn't even care. I began to wonder about our family at GNC. How much was too much? How far was too far? What was ok? I found my answers in God's word.

I am currently going over Romans with my small group and God seemed to speak to me. First, on the judgment of others, in Romans 14:1 and 4, it talks about welcoming those who are weak in faith. God asks, "Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand." Honestly, there is no reason for me to be offended because it has nothing to do with me what another person does. Everyone has their own personal relationship with God and he is sinning against God, not me.  
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## Called to be a Missionary?

By Rubin Kim

As our family prepares for the final stretch of training and fundraising for our long-term missions to the Philippines, one question is asked over and over again: "How were you called to be a missionary?"

My answer to this question is simply that Jesus called me to be a missionary. But it's not like He appeared to me in a dream or vision and told me to be a missionary; He told all of us two thousand years ago, and it's written plainly in the bible. Yes! This call to missions work is not specifically for me, but for everyone! There are two main passages in the bible that state this:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nation baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I command you; and lo I am with you always even the end of age" – Matthew 28:19-20

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" – Acts 1:8

You see, Jesus' commandments apply to every Christian; therefore, it is applicable in the same magnitude to you as it is for me. All of you are called to be missionaries! That's the purpose of a Christian life, and there is no discrimination among pastors, deacons, or "regular" church-goers. The only difference is where you are called to serve.

For apostle Paul, he was called to serve the regions of Macedonia and Western Europe. In his dream, a poor Macedonian man appeared to him and asked him to come over, which Paul believed to be a sign  
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## Why I Pray for You & Why I Pray for Me

By Esther Ahn

Living in the greater Los Angeles area has granted me many blessings. These include living amongst the largest population of Koreans outside of Korea, having delicious ethnic food just a phone call away, and being close to Larchmont Village- the most enchanting neighborhood community in L.A. However, living in L.A. has also allotted me a fair share of curses as well: parking fees equivalent to a Subway lunch, bad drivers, and, worst of all—traffic. Traffic sucks because: 1) you have somewhere to be or go but you are held back from being there, 2) it feels like and is a big waste of time, 3) the smarter you try to be about finding quicker routes, the longer these "short-cuts" takes.

Ironically enough, my prayer life strengthened from this curse of all curses. Being stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic in the early morning forced me to pray that by the grace of God I would make it Point B on time.

When I finally realized that my car most likely would not levitate, blast off, and safely deliver me to my destination, I embraced the solitary confinement in my car and began focusing my prayers around more  
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*cont. of "Set Apart" by Irene Lee*

Secondly, I searched for discernment about my own life. In Romans 12:2, Paul wrote "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." And furthermore, in Romans 6, Paul calls us to "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions" and to use our body as instruments of righteousness.

Personally, I'm still trying to figure it out. I want to have the best of both worlds but God is very clear about his followers denying themselves daily and being the salt and light of this earth. All I can know for sure is that the Holy Spirit is at work in us constantly and that God loves us. His word claims that he is more worthy than anything else on this earth and that everything in the world pales in comparison to him. And, in the end, God redeems all, even our mistakes. †



*cont. of "Called to be a Missionary?" by Rubin Kim*

from God. Saint Patrick also had a dream, in which poor Irish people appeared to him and begged him to come to Ireland. For me, there was no prophetic dream, but both my heart and Bo's heart were leaning heavily toward the land of Philippines. And when our missions organization decided to send us there, we took it as God's calling.

So my point is, everyone is called to be a missionary, and the only difference is where you are called to fulfill that mission. This doesn't necessarily mean everyone is called to go overseas. Acts 1:8 above says either "Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth". So whether you are in Jerusalem, Judean and Samaria, or somewhere far away; you are to always carry a missionary heart and mentality.

So I want to remind you and encourage you to live a life of a missionary wherever you are. God has called you to that place, and you are to fulfill your calling in the place even if it's Diamond Bar or Koreatown. For us, we believe God is calling us to go to the Philippines, and we will do our best to be God's missionaries in that land. God bless!! †



*cont. of "Why I Pray for You & Why I Pray for Me" by Esther Ahn*

worthwhile subjects. So each morning, I started to pray for the list of things I had to do that day, for the things that occupied my mind, and for the people that I would meet. This proved to be quite therapeutic, and before long, my morning commute transformed into precious, intimate times spent with the Lord. Sometimes these times are silent, sometimes they are accompanied by Hillsong, but on every occasion, they are the foundation for my day and a revealing of the Lord's heart.

Now, on my drives (be they near or far), I pray for myself and I pray for you, brothers and sisters of GNC. I pray for myself because prayer reminds me that I am not in control of anything. Just as I cannot control the flow of traffic, I cannot control any part of my day. Prayer that surrenders my thoughts and commits my daily interactions to the Lord helps me to remember that my God is not only in control, but He is sovereign, ever-present, and constantly working for my refinement—so that ultimately I can be a better and more effective instrument for Him. Likewise I pray for you because it gives me a chance to reflect on who you are and the unique circumstances in which God has placed you, reminding me that He is working in your life. Through my times of prayer for you, God reveals to me a glimpse of His great love for you.

So, if you have any prayer requests please let me know, because the California cell phone law makes it really easy for me to pray unabashedly out loud while sitting alone in my car, stuck in lovely L.A. traffic. †

