

## Preface



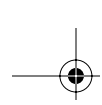
I live in two worlds, the East and the West. I communicate in two languages, the one Eastern, the other Western. I also have two streams of spirituality flowing within me, Asian and American. I was born and raised in Korea and have lived in the United States for the last twenty-five years.

As a Korean-American I think in two ways. Sometimes I see a thing as a whole, and sometimes I see only a detail. When I see a tree, yes, I see the whole tree, but sometimes I think only about its roots. When I greet the snow in winter, I see the seed of spring enveloped in it. When I embrace pain, I see, or try to see, the seed of joy that is wrapped inside the pain. When I'm confronted with the problems of life, I tend to look within for the seeds of a solution.

On the one hand, I'm Asian, and my spirituality comes from the East. When I eat fruit, I think about its seed. When I look at the fruit seed, I see a harvest of fruit. When I think of an oak, I see an acorn. When I look at an acorn, I see a forest of oaks. When a pinecone falls, the universe tumbles. When a leaf quivers, the universe trembles. When dew drops, the planets plummet.

On the other hand, I'm American, and my spirituality comes from the West. I've learned the faith and culture of the American





people. I've been privileged to meet well-disciplined spiritual leaders and learned much from them about deep spirituality. At the same time, I've learned many creative and practical principles of ministry from the fastest-growing churches.

Yes, I love the abstract, and yet I love the concrete. I've learned not only the know-why (principles) but also the know-how (methodologies). I've acquired the spirituality that fulfills my inner life and the leadership that expands my church life.

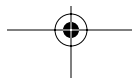
While living in two worlds that are often at odds with each other, I've learned how to bring harmony out of conflict. Inevitably, the meeting point, the balancing point, the unifying point is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the language in which the East and the West converse. He is the Lord of all things. He is the Creator of the heavens and earth with his Word. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

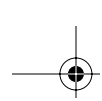
His love, mercy, kindness, peace, reconciliation and forgiveness are the parts of speech in the common language. In him anyone can love and everyone can communicate.

Yes, Jesus is the language. He is the Word, and yet his language has no words; there is no need for words. If this can indeed be said, then it's the language of silence. Silence is the password that gains entrance to the holy place wherein we worship God in our inner world. And who greets us at the gate? It is Jesus himself.

Deep things are good. Deep taste, deep thought, deep writings, deep words, deep looks, deep love. Often depth is hidden from our sight. However, we feel it, we know it, we reveal it to the rest of the world by the sort of life we lead. As Richard Foster says in his book *Celebration of Discipline*, "The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but deep people."

Needless to say, we don't start our spiritual lives as deep people.





First we have to choose this course of action, and then to grow in the virtue we have to work hard. That doesn't mean we need to be serious all the time. Deep brightness, deep cleanliness, deep refreshment and a bright but deep smile—these are all good things, the sort of things that illumine the spiritual life.

With this book I'd like to invite you into the deeper life that is rooted in Jesus. Pursuing depth takes little enough effort, but it will eventually lead us to a very genuine and very deep inner world.

It is my prayer that as you read this book you will become a person who pursues character before success, integrity before popularity, maturity before growth and service to others before accomplishment in your own life.

Let us go before the Lord Jesus who is the root of humankind. Let us be one in Jesus with his language. Let us accept his lovely invitation. Let us go deeper into the spiritual inner world together.

