

## "High Touch"

Rev. Soon Hee Earm, August 17, 2014

Psalm 18:1-3

I am glad to see you and to preach the words of God in this morning. Whenever I come to this church, I feel the grace and love from God. I am strongly encouraged and feel deeply comfortable.

Last weekend, I and my husband went to Atlanta of Georgia. My husband was invited to preach at a Korean church. On Monday and Tuesday, the pastor of the church guided us to the four biggest churches in Atlanta. Three of them are ultra-modern style churches and each of them has a very large sanctuary with about 4000 to 6000 seats and an huge education building with many equipments of high technology. They had wonderful theater systems, camera systems, sound systems. However, even if these churches have these wonderful high technology systems, those things didn't really move and touch my heart.

Then, unlike the other three, Peachtree Presbyterian Church was very different and impressive. The sanctuary was decorated in traditional way and very simply designed with white and brown wood and red blocks. Additionally, the stained glasses were very beautiful. I was happy to see the stained glasses, because we were not able to find any stained glasses in the other three ultra-modern type churches.

Also the buildings of Peachtree Presbyterian Church were equipped with some high technology systems. But, somehow I felt something different than the other three churches. It was a feeling of piety. We sat down, and we prayed and we were filled with spirit from above. The pious atmosphere touched my spirit and I felt God was with me. I was touched by the Holy Spirit in that sanctuary. Being touched by the Holy Spirit was the spiritual experience of hi-touch.

This is the point of my sermon.

We are surrounded by many high technologies in our daily lives. We can't imagine the world without internet system. We can't imagine our daily lives without cell phones, iPads, other productions of high technology.

We spend most of our times on a day doing social network system such as Facebook. Therefore, Facebook becomes our faith book. We are too much relied on hi-tech, so that the Facebook gradually becomes our Faith book.

I want to introduce you the futurist John Naisbitt, who developed the concept of high tech and high touch. In his books, he presents a theory of the world of high technology. His theory is about the desire for hi-touch, which means that people long for personal and human contacts.

Naisbitt said that now Americans are trapped in what he calls the "Technology Intoxication Zone" and Americans lost the humanity of hi-touch. How do we struggle to bring the hi-touch back into our lives in this hi-tech age?

His solution is simple: pull the plug of the computer and TV, turn off the cell phone, and spend more time with family and friends with play and conversation. He said, "remember what it means to be human." It means human need high touch more than high technology. Yes, he is absolutely right. Hi-touch is contrary to hi-tech. Of course, Hi-tech can make our lives more convenient, but it might influence us to lose more important things, like humanity.

Naisbitt suggested many ways to bring the hi-touch back into our lives. According to him, one of the ways to overcome the problem by overloaded hi-tech is to seek meaning of life through religion. Yes, it is real and true hi-touch. Of course, the religion he suggested is not only Christianity. It can be any type of religion.

But right now, I want to talk about the hi-touch in Christianity. When God touches his people, they become hi-touched and they will know who God is and who they truly are. After we meet God, we will receive strength, love, braveness and hope from God. And we will experience God's help when we have hard times in our lives. God touches his people whenever his people need Him.

We can find it from the story of David in the Bible. He confesses it in the Book of Psalms: "I am saved from my enemies(Psalm 18:3)." "He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me."(18:17) David is hi-touched by God and he knows who God is and who he really is. Lord is his rock, fortress, deliverer, and shield to save his life from the death.

Psalms 18 shows how strongly David is faithful to God when God touches him so many times and rescues him from the depths which he can't escape. Even in any terrible situations, he believes and confesses that "The Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight."(18:24) This is the story of David who was touched by God. I believe that you might have the similar experience like David did. So we all know this is not just for David, it is for all of us.

Last week, I attended the executive meeting of NKPW as a spiritual adviser. We had many business meetings for women's group of church. Because the number of the member of women's

group was decreasing, so that the group needs ideas to call younger adults to the church. Many young adults left churches. There are many reasons for this problem.

One of the reasons is that they believed God was not in church and God was not there with them. They wanted to be hi-touched. They wanted to have spiritual experience like David. But their desires were not fulfilled, they lost their purpose and meaning to go to church. Therefore they were not able to confess their faith like David, when they truly wanted to. It is very sad and ridiculous.

I hope you to experience the high touch and you can confess your faith of God like David. When David was hi touched by God, he confessed, "I love you, O Lord, my strength"(18:1) "By you I can crush a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall' (18:29)

This morning I pray God to hi-touch you, and I hope we are all hi-toughed through each others in this beautiful sanctuary. Amen.