

**Resolving Doubts**  
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**If you do not question and resolve your doubts, you cannot dispel the dark clouds of illusion, any more than you could travel a thousand miles without legs. (“Letter to Niike,” *The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 261)**

Nichiren Daishonin in this letter talks about faith and how we should practice. He also explains how foolish it is to practice or claim to have faith but still slander.

When I came across the above sentence, I had to ponder it. It seems so simple: If you have questions or doubts about something, especially about the practice, then why not find the solution or the reasoning behind the part you don’t understand? Especially regarding the temple issue: Many members are still confused by it, but it seems difficult for them to ask questions, let alone discuss it. I have found that through home visits, I can find out what concerns the members and where they are at. I have also realized that leaders are members, too. Though I may see them at activities, that doesn’t mean they’re fine.

I am finding out many things by visiting members — what they feel about the temple issue, if they subscribe to the *World Tribune* or *Living Buddhism*, their personal challenges, etc. By chanting together and having dialogue, we resolve or work through many issues. Each time I am surprised that the very issue the members have trouble with can be resolved immediately if it is simply brought up. However, as is often the case, even with me, it is difficult for people to bring up things at the right moment, and, after awhile, they just get swept aside or they build up. My determination is to inspire and empower the members I meet to resolve their doubts — to speak up and speak out, as SGI President Ikeda encourages us to do. It takes courage and much daimoku to speak out clearly, but it is important to do so.

In this age of technology where e-mail and voice mail prevail, it is, I feel, the one-to-one dialogue during a home visit that unlocks distrust and builds friendship. This one-to-one, face-to-face connection is, I feel, the SGI spirit and the SGI’s strength.

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