

**The Lord who binds up the  
brokenhearted**

**[Short Word Meditation (4)]**

**James Kim**

## **The Roman centurion's faith**

The Roman centurion's faith was ... (Lk. 7:1-10):

1. Faith that transcended the nation
  - a. As a Gentile, he loved the Jewish people so he built them their synagogue (v. 5).
2. Faith that transcended the environment, situation and status
  - a. Despite being in a position of Roman centurion which he could be arrogant, he was humble (v. 7).
3. Faith that transcended the problem of time and space
  - a. He asked Jesus "... but just say the word, and my servant will be healed" (v. 7).

## **“you son of the devil”**

The son of the devil is full of all deceit and fraud,  
The enemy of all righteousness,  
Doesn't cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord,  
And seeks to turn the Christians away from the faith  
(Acts 13:8, 10)

## **It may not be as pleasant**

It may not be as pleasant as having more income than what we desire in the imaginations of our hearts.  
The reason is because our hearts may be proud and we will speak from on high.  
(Ps. 73:6-8)

## **We should know with our heart and will.**

We should know in all our hearts and in all our souls  
That not one word of all the good words  
Which the Lord our God spoke concerning we has failed,  
All have been fulfilled for us,  
Not one of them has failed.  
(Josh. 23:14)

## **Obedience because He gave heart and thought**

It's very interesting how God works.  
During this week Morning Prayer meeting,  
I read and meditated on the Books of First and Second Chronicles.

- (1) Obedience of Prophet Elijah,
- (2) Obedience of the widow of Zarephath,
- (3) Obedience of Obadiah,
- (4) Service of a precious woman

And actually when I called the couple of women in the church  
Who helped my father for his mission work and said 'Thank you' to them,  
Both of them said that God gave them hearts and thoughts  
So they obeyed Him. Haha.  
Our God is wonderful God.

Through all this, What God is saying to me is  
When He gives me heart and thought like those two women  
I must obey the Lord.

## **Heart and body separately**

My heart wants to act like Joseph who feared God  
But my body fall into temptation like Samson  
And committing the sins of covering the glory of God  
And giving occasions to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme  
(2 Sam. 12:14).

Satan is discouraging me and making my spiritual strengthen to be exhausted  
By constantly stimulating my weaknesses such as  
the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life (1 Jn. 2:16)  
and making me to sin against God.

## **Keep the saying in mind**

Even though we don't understand well  
What our loved one is saying,  
We keep the saying in mind and ponder the saying in our heart.  
(Gen. 37:11; Lk. 1:66, 2:19).

## **Sadness of heart to sad face ...**

Although we are very much afraid, sadness of our hearts can be manifested in our sad faces.  
The reason is because we can receive favor from other person  
When the good hand of our God is upon us.  
(Neh. 2:1-9)

## **Don't take seriously!**

We shouldn't take seriously all words which are spoken to us (Eccle. 7:21).

## **We should treasure in our hearts.**

Although we cannot understand the word which the Lord has said,  
We should treasure His word in our hearts. (Lk. 2:50, 51)

## **My heart should be light**

My heart should be heavy when I commit sins against God (Ps. 32:4)  
But after repentance of sins my heart should be light.

## **Heart that is not steadfast toward Him**

Those whose hearts aren't steadfast toward the Lord  
And those who aren't faithful in His covenant (Ps. 78:37)  
Don't keep His covenant, refuse to walk in His law  
And forget His deeds and His miracles that He has shown them (vv. 10-11).  
They still continued to sin and rebel against Him (v. 17).  
And in their heart they put God to test and they spoke against God (vv. 18-19).  
They satisfy their desire (v. 30)  
And still sin and doesn't believe in His wonderful works (v. 32).

## **Pierce to the heart**

There should be piercing to our hearts when we hear “the sword of the Spirit”  
That is the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 6:17; Acts 2:37; 7:54).  
Like those 3,000 people who heard the Peter’s sermon and were pierced to the heart,  
Said to Peter “Brethren, what shall we do?” (2:37),  
Repented their sins and were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins (v. 38),  
We must repent our sins by hearing the word of God through a pastor  
And by our hearts being pierced by His word.  
But for some reason, we are like the Jews who were cut to the quick and gnashed their teeth at Stephen  
After they heard his message (7:54) and stoned him to death (v. 58),  
We are stoning our pastor with our words out of anger and complaining  
Because he has proclaimed the word of God to us.

## **My conscience should be bothered ...**

We should know that the Lord forbids we lift our hands against the Lord’s anointed  
And our conscience should be bothered when we disobey Him. (1 Sam. 24:5-6)

## **If you don’t want to acknowledge God any longer?**

Even though you know God (Rom. 1:19) but don’t want to acknowledge God any longer,  
God will give you over to depraved mind to do those things which are not proper, such as  
“being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy,  
murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips” (vv. 28-29)

## **I don't need to take the word seriously.**

Even though I can hear people saying all the words about me,  
I don't need to take all the words seriously (Eccle. 7:21).  
Then I won't hear false rumors about me.

## **He who conceal hatred in his heart and slanders**

He who conceals hatred in his heart and slanders  
Is a fool who has lying lips.  
(Prov. 10:18)

## **Let us reflect our hearts.**

Just as in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects man (Prov. 27:19).  
And in order to reflect our hearts to each other,  
We must open our hearts to each other and honestly and purely share the story of our hearts  
So that we may empathize and sympathize with each other and show the Lord's love to each other.  
Then we cannot help but to give thanks to God  
For having one mind and one heart in the Lord  
As we love each other with His love.

## **They stir up and poison each other's mind.**

Those unbelievers who refuse to believe  
Stir up each other in any way possible  
So that they poison their minds against Christians who believe in Jesus.  
(Cf. Acts 14:2)

## **Even we saw the distress of his soul?**

Even we saw the distress of his soul, yet we didn't listen;  
Maybe that's why this distress has come upon us ...  
(Gen. 42:21)

## **The motives of the heart?**

What if the motive of the heart in listening to the Lord's servant about faith in Christ Jesus  
Is to receive money from him?  
What if the motive is to give hard time for the Lord's servant  
In order to earn the church members' hearts?  
(Acts 24:24-27)



## **Playing the harlot in following after our own hearts and eyes**

In order to prevent from playing the harlot

In following after our own hearts and eyes

We must remember all the commandments of the Lord and do do them.

(Num. 15:39)

## **Even through the brokenness of the heart**

Even through brokenness of our hearts

The Lord is trying to lay hold of our hearts.

(Ezek. 14:5)

## **Restraining of the heart**

Of course we should restrain from eating desire for food and in our thoughts

But above all, we must restrain our hearts.

I think restraining of the heart is keeping contentment of the heart

By resisting any kind of temptation of covetousness.

(Cf. Prov. 23:4)

## **“The arrogance of your heart”**

If our hearts are arrogant (Obd. 1:3),  
Then not only that there is no understanding (v. 7)  
But also we don't realize that we are deceiving ourselves (v. 3).

### **Our hearts became proud.**

Although God has perfected our beauty (Ezek. 27:4)  
Our hearts became proud on account of our beauty (28:17).  
Although God has given us power to make wealth (Deut. 8:18)  
We think that our power and the strength of our hands made us this wealth (v. 17).  
And because of our wealth our hearts has grown proud (Ezek. 28:5).

### **Our hearts should be generous.**

If we are wealthy but our hearts aren't generous,  
Then there will be quarrel.  
But if we have generous hearts with wealth,  
Then we can make and live in peace.  
(Gen. 13:1-8)

## **“our hearts melted”**

This is what a harlot Rahab said to two spies whom Joshua sent secretly to Jericho:

“... all the inhabitants of the land have melted away before you. ...

When we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer. ....”

[Reason: It was because Rahab and all the inhabitants of Jericho heard

how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before the Israelites when they came out of Egypt and what the Israelites did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan] (Josh. 2:9-11)

The hearts of all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west,

And of all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea

melted and there was no spirit in them any longer.

[Reason: It was because they heard how the Lord had dried up the waters of the Jordan before the sons of Israel until they had crossed (5:1)]

The hearts of the Israelites melted and became as water.

[Reason: It was because they lost the war against the men of Ai due to Achan’s sin] (7:5)

## **“men of depraved mind”**

Those people of depraved mind deprive the truth (1 Tim. 6:5)

And oppose the truth (2 Tim. 3:8).

## **The Lord who binds up the brokenhearted**

Lord, send me to bring good news to the afflicted

And use me to bind up the brokenhearted and to proclaim freedom to captives

(Isa. 61:1).

## **It hurts my heart.**

When my beloved brother in Christ whom I trust  
Says something that I don't understand  
After he has heard falsehood about me from someone,  
It hurts my heart not because what he said to me  
But because he has trusted me only this much. (Cf. Prov. 29:12)

## **“For the heart of this people has become dull”**

This people cannot understand even though they hear,  
Cannot perceive even though they keep on seeing  
Because their heart has become dull.  
They hear with their ears but they cannot understand with their heart. (Acts 28:26-27)

## **The upright in heart**

He who is upright in the sight of God is the upright in heart.  
The upright in heart takes refuge in the Lord.  
Even though his foundation seems like being destroyed by the fatal temptation and violence of the wicked,  
he goes up to His holy temple and looks to the Lord's throne in heaven.  
The reason is because he knows that His eyes behold and His eyelids test the upright.  
The righteous God hates the wicked and the one who loves violence  
So he will judge them and rain snares upon them.  
But He loves righteousness.  
So He will make the upright to behold His face. (Ps. 11)

## **The wise of heart**

The wise of heart fears God,  
receives God's commands and keeps them.  
(Prov. 10:8; Eccle. 12:13)

## **I want my heart to be wise.**

Those who are wise in heart receive God's commands.  
That means my heart is foolish  
Because I am not receiving His commands.  
(Prov. 10:8)

## **Those who are wise in heart ...**

Those who are wise in heart  
Receive God's commands,  
Walk in integrity  
And walk securely.  
(Prov. 10:8-9)

## The Christians whose heart is pure ...

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8).

The Christians whose heart is pure ...

1. Pursue the purity of the body.
2. Know that no one can say "I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin" (Prov. 20:9).
3. Believe not only that all of their sins are forgiven  
by the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross but also that they have been purified.
4. Cleanse themselves from the things come from the heart and defile them such as,  
"evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders" (Mt. 15:18-19)  
And from the deeds of the flesh such as, "immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery,  
enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying,  
drunkenness, carousing, and things like these" (Gal. 5:19-21).  
They pray to God, "Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a steadfast spirit within me" (Ps. 51:10).  
They keep their way pure by keeping it according to God's word (Ps. 119:9).
5. Live before the Lord whose eyes are too pure to approve evil (Hab. 1:13).  
They clean themselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit,  
perfecting holiness in the fear of God (2 Cor. 7:1).
6. Experience God's presence.

[As I was reading Iain M. Duguid's book " Hero of Heroes"]

## **Like a mother eagle ...**

Like a mother eagle that stirs up its nest and let its young eagle to fall,  
Sometime the Lord shakes our complacent comfort and causes us to fall .  
Then like the mother eagle that hovers over its young  
And then spreads its wings and carries the young eagle on its pinions  
Before the young eagle hits the ground,  
The Lord rescues us and carries us  
Right before we crash and hit the ground  
Even though we try our best to spread our wings and to fly against falling gravity.  
The Lord carries us and walks with us when we are having the most difficult time.  
(Deut. 32:11)

## **Like a mother eagle ...**

God finds His people in a desert and encircles them,  
Carries them and guards them as the pupil of His eye.  
And God stirs up our comfortable home like a mother eagle that stirs up its nest.  
He keeps watching over us from above when we are falling  
And catches us with His wings and carries us  
Like the mother eagle that hovers over its young which is falling from its nest,  
And spreads its wings and carries the young.  
The Lord who is with us alone guides us.  
(Deut. 32:9-12)

## **Even if it looks like the garden of the Lord ...**

Even if it looks like the garden of the Lord

Because “it is well-watered everywhere” and plentiful (Gen. 13:10)

We should keep in mind that it is not the garden of the Lord but Sodom and Gomorrah (v. 10)

If the people who live there are wicked exceedingly and sinners against the Lord (v. 13).

If we choose a place like Sodom and Gomorrah by relying on our own understanding (Prov. 3:5)

We may live comfortably and abundantly

But our righteous soul will be tormented day after day (2 Pet. 2:8).

## **A blind end drama into a reverse drama!**

No matter how Satan tries to write a blind end drama,

God writes a reverse drama of salvation.

(As I think about how God wrote the reverse drama of salvation by using Esther and Mordecai to deliver the Jews out of Haman who was writing the blind end drama in the Book of Esther)

## **A leader’s heavy responsibilities**

A leader’s responsibilities are heavy.

I am experiencing the need to have strength to take those responsibilities every day, whether home or in the church.

I want to quietly trust God (Isa. 30:15) who is my strength (Ps. 18:1).



## **The manna faith**

The manna faith is

Believing the true Manna in the covenant of Father God

Who is the bread of life from above (Jn. 6:48),

The Son of God Jesus Christ,

Obeying the Lord's word in thanksgiving by the guidance of the Holy Spirit,

Especially sharing the bread of life that is Jesus Christ and His gospel to neighbors.

## **Meeting is not a coincidence.**

Even though Joseph didn't sin, he was imprisoned under a false accusation (Gen. 39:19-23).

And in the jail Joseph met the cupbearer and the baker for the king of Egypt (40:1-4).

Was it coincidence that those who had sinned and Joseph who didn't sin met in the jail?

Never.

It was God's sovereign will that God led them to meet at that place and at that time.

The purpose was that God made Joseph to interpret their dreams (vv. 12-15),

the chief cupbearer was restored (v. 21) and he introduced Joseph to the king of Egypt who has two dreams,

so that eventually God delivered Joseph out of the jail,

made him to interpret the Egyptian king's dreams

and then raised him to be in charge of the whole land of Egypt (ch. 41).

Our meeting may take place in a situation that is not as good as we see it.

But even in such a bad situation,

God can make us to meet good people even though we don't want it or even expect it.

God can give us good encounters even in bad situations

In order to accomplish His will of salvation.

## **If the result of my wrong relationship ...**

What should we do with my wrong relationship

If the consequences of that wrong relationship have the adverse effects

Not only on our children but also on our grandchildren?

King Jehoshaphat of Judah had wrong relationship.

He had a relationship with the wicked King Ahab of Israel

by all allying himself by marriage with Ahab (2 Chron. 18:1; 19:2).

King Jehoshaphat married his son Jehoram with the daughter of King Ahab (21:6).

As a result, King Jehoram walked in the way of the kings of Israel.

In other words, he did evil in the sight of the Lord (v. 6).

He made high places in the mountains of Judah,

and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to play the harlot and led Judah astray (v. 11).

Not only that, he also killed his brothers, his own family, who were better than him (v. 13).

It didn't end here.

Because of the wrong relationship that King Jehoshaphat made,

Not only his son Jehoram did evil in the sight of the Lord (v. 6)

But also his grandson Ahaziah walked in the ways of the house of Ahab (22:3).

King Ahaziah seemed to be forced to do so

Because his mother [Jehoram's wife who was Ahab's daughter (21:6)] was his counselor to do wickedly (22:3).

"He did evil in the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab,

for they were his counselors after the death of his father, to his destruction" (v. 4).

The consequences of the wrong relationship that King Jehoshaphat made with King Ahab

Not only had the adverse effects on his son Jehoram

But also his grandson Ahaziah.

There seems to be no law that this wouldn't happen to us.

## **If you are well-built and handsome like Joseph ...**

If you are well-built and handsome like Joseph,  
even a (lustful) married woman will take notice of you  
and will tempt you(Genesis 39:6-7, 10).

### **"If we ..."**

“If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness,  
we lie and do not practice the truth” (1 Jn. 1:6).

“If we say that we have not sinned,  
we make Him a liar and His word is not in us” (v. 10).

“If we say that we have no sin,  
we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us” (v. 8).

“If we confess our sins,  
He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (v. 9).

## **If we have real faith ...**

How can we know whether our faith is real or fake?

We will know if we take various trials.

If we have genuine faith,

Then we have assurance of salvation and hope of salvation

Even though we have been distressed by various trials (1 Pet. 1:3-6).

And we will continue to love Him and believe in Him even though we have not seen Him (v. 8).

Therefore, we greatly rejoice

Even though for a little while we have been distressed by various trials (vv. 6, 8; Jam. 1:2).

This faith of ours is more precious than gold which is perishable (1 Pet. 1:7).

When Jesus Christ comes back,

There will be praise and glory and honor for us who have real faith (v. 7).

## **The dissatisfied heart**

The dissatisfied heart pursues meaningless things (Eccle. 5:10, 11).

## **There are many ...**

It isn't always good to have many ... (Deut. 17:16-17)

## **“You have sown much, but harvest little”**

If we don't live the Lord-centered life  
And without living the Lord's church-centered life,  
However much we have sown and look for much,  
The harvest will be little. (Hag. 1:2, 4, 6, 9)

## **Love only with word and tongue ...?**

If we don't love in deed and truth but only with word and tongue,  
Then we won't know that we are of the truth  
And we won't assure our heart before the Lord.  
(1 Jn. 3:18-19)

## **I am hesitating to obey His word.**

It seems like the Lord is telling me,  
'Go and meet him and pray for him.'  
But I am hesitating to obey His word  
Because I have heard a lot of bad stories about him from several people.  
(Cf. Acts 9:10-14)

## **Distorting the word of God, blinding the minds?**

We shouldn't distort the word of God.

We shouldn't let our minds to become blinded. (2 Cor. 4:2, 4)

## **Reasons for obeying the Word**

Rather than submitting to the Word of God in fear of God's wrath,

We must obey the Word for conscience' sake (Rom. 13:5).

But it seems like there is no fear and our conscience is paralyzed.

## **Have you ever weep and rejoiced because of the Word?**

Have you ever weep because of the Word of God? (Neh. 8:9)

Have you ever rejoiced greatly

because you understood the words that had been made known to you? (v. 12)

## **We should fear the word of the Lord.**

Those who fear the word of the Lord pay regard to the word of the Lord and obey it.

But those who don't fear the Lord's word pay no regard to the Lord's word and disobey it.

(Exod. 9:20-21)

## **We must listen to the Word and be separated from them.**

Too much things are mixed.

Although we must have God's Word-centered thoughts,  
There are too many worldly and humanistic thoughts in our minds.

Although we must have pure faith toward the Lord,  
There are too many worldly and miscellaneous things are mixed even in our faith.

Although we must be content with the Lord only,  
We are mixed with so many worldly and lustful people in this world.  
Therefore, we are falling into various forms of temptations of covetousness  
And are sinning against God.

We must listen to the Word of God and be separated from the mixed people,  
mixed things and mixed thoughts (Cf. Neh. 13:3).  
I look forward to the true revival of the Word.

## **The people who hear the Word can be divided.**

When a pastor boldly proclaims the word of God's grace with reliance upon the Lord,  
The people who hear the Word can be divided (Acts 14:3-4).  
Those who are "appointed to eternal life" believe.  
And they rejoice and glorify the word of the Lord (13:48).  
And they follow the Lord and the pastor whom He has raised (14:4).  
But those who don't consider themselves worthy of eternal life reject the Word of God (13:46).  
And they who refuse to believe stir up the church members  
And poison their minds against the pastor (14:2, 4).

## **The reason why we don't understand the Word even though we listen**

The reason why we don't understand the Word of God even though we listen to it  
Is because we listen with disobedient heart. (Mt. 13:4, 19)

## **The false leaders who peddle the Word**

Too many church leaders are peddling the word of God (2 Cor. 2:17, 4:2).

The false teachers who distort the truth of the gospel and spread the false teachings,  
Are selling the false gospel for their own good and are doing business in the church.

We must not do that. We must not peddle the word of God.

We must speak before God with sincerity (2:17).

And we must set forth the truth of the gospel plainly (4:2).

We must shine the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ (v. 4).

## **My reflection in the mirror of the Word?**

Just as I can't see myself clearly if the mirror is cloudy,

I can't realize my sins if I don't know the Word of God, the spiritual mirror, well (Rom. 7:7).

So I want to meditate the word of God diligently.

And I want to diligently reflect myself in the mirror of the word of God (Jan. 1:22-25).

Therefore, I want to acknowledge and confess my sins to God as the Holy Spirit works in my heart

So that I may be able to obey His word by the help of the Spirit.

My earnestly desire in to imitate Jesus at least little bit before I die

When I see myself in the spiritual mirror of the word of God.

[After I heard the sermon from our church retired pastor during the Wednesday night prayer meeting]



## **We must taste the sweetness of the Word.**

It is much better to taste the sweetness of the word of the Lord  
Than to taste the bitterness of the false world.  
(Ps. 119:103)

## **Why there is no fruit of the Word**

The reason why there is no fruit of the Word of God is  
Because “the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word”  
(Mt. 13:22).

## **Are you offended?**

We regard God’s word as offensive (Jere. 6:10).  
In other words, the word of God is offensive.  
The reason is because the word of God reproaches us.  
As a result, we refuse to hear the offensive word of God.  
And we continue to do what we do.  
The more we do that, our hearts are getting hardened and hardened.  
With stiff necked, we don’t pay attention to His word anymore.  
There must be consequence of our actions of regarding the word of God as offensive.

## **The word that is sown on good soil ...**

The word that is sown on good soil

Hears the word and receives it with joy (Mk. 4:16, 20).

And when trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they don't fall away (v. 17).

Therefore, they are fruitful

And are victorious in fight against the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things (v.19).

## **When there are many words ...**

"When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable,

But he who restrains his lips is wise." (Prov. 10:19)

## **He should have said it, but he struck it.**

God commanded Moses to speak to the rock before the eyes of the Israelites (Num. 20:8).

But Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod (v. 11).

God said to Moses, "Because you have not believed Me,

To treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel ..." (v. 12).

Nevertheless, God proved Himself holy among them (v. 13).

## **The more we taste it ...**

The more we taste the goodness of God (Ps. 34:8)

The more we will dislike the taste of the Satan's evilness.

## **I shouldn't desire his delicacies.**

No matter how delicious the food is,

I shouldn't desire that delicious food

Because his heart is not with me.

(Prov. 23:6-7)

## **If we forget, we are mistaken!**

If we forget "the grace of God that I am what I am"

We are mistaken for my merit.

If we forget, we are mistaken!

(Cf. 1 Cor. 15:10)

## **They can be considered heavy burdens to those who are entrusted**

Moses, who heard all the greedy Israelites weeping for meat  
(Num. 11:4, 34)

Felt that the Lord had been so hard on him

By laying the heavy burden of the Israelites on him (vv. 11, 14)

So that he could carry them in his bosom to the land

Which the Lord swore to their fathers (v. 12).

Since Moses alone wasn't able to carry all the Israelites,

Because it was too burdensome for him

He asked the Lord to kill him at once

So that he might not see his wretchedness (vv. 14-15).

The people whom the Lord entrusted to us can be too burdensome to us

When they mix up with greedy people in this world (v. 4)

And keep on complaining and weeping (vv. 5-6).

At that time, we can try to evade our responsibilities

Since we cannot afford them anymore.

## Heart is more important than beauty

Beautiful of form and face Rachel (Gen. 29:17),

Even though she was beautiful of form and face, her heart wasn't beautiful.

How can we know this?

1. Rachel became jealous of her older sister Leah when she saw that she bore her husband Jacob no children (30:1). She didn't regard her unloved sister Leah as an object of love, but a competition (v. 8).
2. Rachel said to her husband Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die" (v. 1) even though it was God who gave the fruit of the womb (v. 2).
3. Rachel considered taking Leah's husband as a small matter (v. 15). And she regarded Jacob as small [or lightly (?)] because she let Leah to hire him with Leah's son's mandrakes (v. 16).
4. Rachel stole the household idols that were her father's (31:19). And she even hid it from her husband Jacob (v. 32). She also lied to her father Leban (v. 35).
5. Rachel was a greedy woman. We can know this by looking at her father Leban's household idols that she stole (v. 19). Leban's household idols were the idols that the people in the ancient Mesopotamia served and there were types of family guardian deities and the objects of worship. In addition, the household idols were passed on as a legacy from one generation to the next, showing that the idols were used for inheritance. That was why Rachel stole her father Leban's household idols because of her greed regarding her father's inheritance (Internet).
6. And for some reason, I think there were some foreign gods in Jacob's house because of Rachel (35:4). The reason I think this way is because Rachel would have grown up seeing the household idols, the idols her father Leban served, and also she stole them and brought them into Jacob's house.

## **I don't understand with my head, but with my heart ...**

With my head,

I totally cannot understand God's guidance.

I can't understand why God is leading us to a situation where we are trapped.

But with my heart,

I hope and pray that I can have assurance of God's guidance (Cf. Prov. 3:5-6).

I want to completely trust in God

Who didn't spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all (Rom. 8:32).

## **God's command that cannot be understood with my head?**

Although even Israelites didn't listen to Moses

On account of their despondency and cruel bondage,

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

"Go, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the sons of Israel go out of his land" (Exod. 6:9-11).

Moses' response:

"Behold, the sons of Israel have not listened to me;

how then will Pharaoh listen to me, for I am unskilled in speech?" (v. 12)

If I rely on my own understanding, I cannot obey God's command.

## **"in regard to food or drink" ...**

We shouldn't let anybody to judge us "in regard to food or drink"

(Col. 2:16).

## **Let us eat, drink and enjoy.**

I think eating, drinking and enjoying in the Lord with beloved ones is glorifying God. (1 Cor. 10:31)

## **Let's believe in the Lord who goes before us and move forward.**

Was it really good to say that

“Let us send men before us, that they may search out the land for us” (Deut. 1:22-23)

Was it really good that Moses took twelve men, one man for each tribe? (v. 23)

(What would have happened if only Joshua and Caleb were chosen to spy out the land of Canaan?)

Wouldn't it better not to send the 12 spies to the land of Canaan

But just to believe in the Lord who was going before the Israelites (vv. 30, 33)

And to move forward?

## **First, I have to live by keeping the word myself ...**

Before I exhort my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ in sound doctrine

And refute those who contradict, first, I must keep the word of God and His teaching. (Tit. 1:9)

## **People to stay away**

People to stay away: Liars (Jn. 8:44) and gossipers (Prov. 26:20)

A person to be close: S/he who is truthful and faithful (Rev.17:14)

And doesn't stumble in what s/he says (Jam.3:2)

## **“He is like the beasts that perish”**

Without understanding, he is like the beasts that perish (Ps. 49:12, 20).

He who trusts in his wealth and boasts in the abundance of his riches is a fool (vv. 6, 10, 13).

Since the redemption of his soul is costly, he should cease trying forever (v. 8).

He will not live eternally but will die (v. 9). He will leave his wealth to other (vv. 10, 17).

## **A discerning and wise man ...**

A discerning and wise man prepares for the coming years of famine of life

When he is in the years of abundance. (Gen. 41:33-36)

## **God who causes all things to work together for good**

God even causes the consequences of my sins, that is even my sufferings,

To work together for good (Rom. 8:28) for me (Ps. 119:71)

And teaches me to do His will (143:10) and fulfills His promise to me

So that I may experience His presence (Job 42:5).

## **Every weight and the sin**

Since Jesus took every heavy sin on the cross and die for us

We can lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us

And run with patience the race that is set before us.

(Heb. 12:1-2)



## **A liar who is well spoken by everyone**

A person who lies whenever he opens his mouth,  
Who distorts the truth and speaks lie so that people like to hear him,  
So that he is well spoken by them,  
The Bible says “Woe to you when all men speak well of you,” the liar.  
(Lk. 6:26)

## **God of comfort**

God of all comfort comforts us in all our affliction.  
This comfort of God is effective in the patient enduring of any kind of affliction.  
Thus we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction  
With the comfort with which ourselves are comforted by God.  
(2 Cor. 1:3-7)

## **All that is in our hearts?**

No matter how much we love the person  
We don't need to tell all that is in our hearts.  
(Judg. 16:17)

## Moses

The name “Moses” means “to draw out” (of water) (Exod. 2:10).

Moses thought that he saved his brethren by killing an Egyptian

When he saw the Egyptian beating “a Hebrew, one of his brethren” (vv. 11-12).

And he tried to deliver the man who had no fault

When he saw two Hebrews were fighting with each other

And said to the offender, “Why are you striking your companion?” (v. 13)

But the offender said to Moses,

“Who made you a prince or a judge over us?

Are you intending to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” (v. 14)

So Moses was afraid that the matter had become known (v. 14)

so he fled and settled in the land of Midian (v. 15).

The one who tried to deliver was now a fugitive.

In that land of Midian (v. 15) Moses delivered seven daughters (v. 16)

from the hand of the shepherds (v. 19).

Moses, who couldn’t deliver his brethren from the Egyptian,

delivered the Midian women in the land of Midian.

God called Moses at Horeb, the mountain of God (3:1), gave him mission (v. 9) and delivered him .

God delivered him from doubt (4:1ff).

God delivered him from helplessness (vv. 10ff).

God delivered him from disobedience (vv. 13ff).

Then God delivered the Israelites from Egypt through Moses.

Then God saved us, His people, through Jesus who is the true Moses,  
from Egypt that is the kingdom of Satan.

And God still uses us, Jesus’ disciples, to save God’s chosen people in this world  
who have not yet entered the kingdom of God.

When Jesus Christ comes back, He will surely lead all of us, God’s people,  
to the true Promised Land, Heaven.

## **A pastor-killer?**

Although King Saul's guards weren't willing to put forth their hands to attack the priests of the Lord (22:17),  
Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul's shepherds (21:7)  
attacked the 85 priests and killed them without any hesitation (22:18).

There still seems to be few pastor-killers like Doeg.  
They don't hesitate to slander, criticize, or even condemn the Lord's servants.  
That's how much they don't fear God.

## **The pastor must preach boldly.**

When the pastor must preach boldly with reliance upon the Lord,  
The listeners can be divided into two groups (Acts 14:3-4).

Those who "had been appointed to eternal life" will believe  
And they will rejoice and glorify the word of the Lord (13:48).  
And they will follow the Lord and His servant, the pastor (14:4).

But those who are "unworthy of eternal life" will repudiate the word of God (13:46).  
And they, who don't believe, will stir up the minds of the church members  
And will embitter them against the pastor (14:2, 4).

## **Authority given to the pastors?**

The authority that the Lord gave to the pastors

Is to build the saints up (2 Cor.10:8).

The pastors should help the saints' faith to grow (v. 15).

After all, the authority that the Lord gave to the pastors is the authority of the Word.

## **Pastors must preach two things to the saints:**

We, the pastors, must preach two things to the saints (2 Cor. 4:5):

1. We must not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord,
2. We must preach ourselves as the Lord's bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

But now maybe we are preaching not Christ Jesus as Lord but ourselves

Maybe we are pouring out our hearts that want to be the lord over the saints and/or

Maybe we are emphasizing that we should be served by the saints

With the illusion that we have become their lord.

## **Church members who consider their pastors as wind**

The church-goers who don't have the Word of God in them

Don't acknowledge God and consider the pastors as wind.

They say, "He will do nothing! No harm will come to us" (Jere. 5:12-13).

## **Pastors' overuse of their power?**

The pastors' overuse of their power are giving the world to ridicule them. (Cf. Neh. 5:7-9)

## **How would she feel when she hears it from her pastor?**

Imagine a pastor said to a sister in Christ who is greatly distressed,  
Praying to the Lord, weeping bitterly, thinking that she is drunk,  
'How long will you make yourself drunk? Put away your beer from you'? (1 Sam. 1:9-14)  
How would she feel when she hears that word from her pastor?

## **Pastor's calling**

Go! Speak! Don't be afraid! (Jere. 1:7-8, 17)

## **The stubborn church members**

The stubborn Israelites quickly turned aside from the way which God commanded them  
And made a molten image for themselves.

To them, God told Moses to go quickly (Deut. 9:12-13, 16).

The stubborn church members quickly turn aside from the word of the Lord  
And worship the idol of wealth for themselves.

## **Giving up my right as a pastor?**

As a pastor who is sowing “spiritual things” in my church saints,  
Am I not using all my right such as “material things” but endure all things  
So that I “will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ”  
But “I may win more” that is, “I may by all means save some”?  
(1 Cor. 9:11-12, 18-22)

## **In the pastor’s heart ...**

In the pastor’s heart, there is daily pressure on him of concern for all the churches.  
(2 Cor. 11:28)

## **Secretly hiding and sinning?**

Why aren't we stop sinning secretly and hiding from others?

Why are we disobeying God's commands

Even though we confess our love to God with our lips through praises and prayers?

Why are we living our Christian life

As we are bound by human teachings and traditions rather than by His Word? (Isa. 29:13)

Why are we keep on doing sinful things that are done in a dark place? (v. 15)

Why are we boldly commit sins against God and against people (Eccle. 8:11)

Thinking that even God is not watching us and He doesn't know what we do secretly

Since we deeply hide our deeds (Isa. 29:15).

But how come we aren't fearing God

That He will expose our unfruitful deeds of darkness (Eph. 5:11)

When we fear people that they will found out about what we are doing secretly in a hidden place?

The reason is because we don't truly fear God (Isa. 29:13).

The Bible says "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil" (Prov. 8:13).

If we truly fear God, we must hate evil and keep evil far away.

If we truly fear God, we will no longer hide our sins

But acknowledge our sins and abandon them

When the Holy Spirit makes us to realize our sins (28:13).

## **Isn't the heart already back to the world Even though the body is in the church?**

The reason why God didn't lead the Israelites

By the way of the land of Philistines, even though it was near,

But let them around the way of the wilderness to the Red Sea

Was because "The people might change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt"

(Exod. 13:17-18).

It seems that their hearts were already back to Egypt

Even though their bodies were in the wilderness (14:11-12; 16:3; 17:3; 32:1, 4, 8).

## **I shouldn't ignore him.**

In love with a brother in Christ, I know I shouldn't ignore him but ... (Deut. 22:1-4)

## **I always thought I couldn't ...**

All along, I always thought I couldn't do it

But God said, 'I will do it'.

At that time, I confessed, 'Amen, I believe that the Lord will do it'.

But as 'my time' passes,

I began to say to myself again 'I can't'.

I couldn't wait for 'God's time' anymore.

Now I can't believe what God said, 'I will do it'.

So I decided to do it 'my way' and moved onto action.

Then I got 'what I want'.

So now I have confidence that I can do it too.

But that wasn't 'what God wanted'.

I couldn't wait for 'God's time'.

I couldn't believe what God said, 'I will do it'.

Nevertheless, God did as He said 'I will do it' in His time.

The reason is because

"God is not a man, that He should lie";

Rather He is God who surely does what He has spoken.

(Num. 23:19)



## **Helpless Christians**

If we don't live holy and separated life in this world  
But mix ourselves with the people in this world and have mixed faith  
Then we have no choice but to be helpless Christians.  
(Hos. 7:8-9)

## **Incompetence, helplessness, ineligibility**

Pastors need to realize thoroughly  
How incompetent, helpless and ineligible they are  
Even through adversity and crisis.

## **Being dishonored**

Even Jesus was dishonored, then of course I should be dishonored too. Haha (Jn. 8:49)

## **Truth or anger?**

He who speaks truth tells what is right  
But a fool's anger is known at once.  
(Prov. 12:16-17)

## **What am I boasting about?**

I want to boast the power of Christ and let that power to dwell in me  
By gladly boasting about my weaknesses.  
(2 Cor. 12:9)

## **What are we looking at?**

We must look at the eternal things which are not seen  
Rather than the temporal things which are seen.  
(2 Cor. 4:18)

## **What is different?**

Satan made Paul and Silas to be put into the inner prison (Acts 16:24).

God cast Jonah into the deep (Jon. 2:3).

What is different?

While God's purpose for Jonah was to make disobedient Jonah

To offer prayer of thanksgiving in his affliction (vv. 1-2)

And to confess that "Salvation is from the Lord" (v. 9),

Satan's purpose for Paul and Silas was to make them

Not to proclaim "the way of salvation" (Acts 16:17).

Nevertheless, God who was in control of the Satan's work

Not only delivered Paul and Silas from the inner prison (vv. 24, 26)

When they prayed and sang hymns of praise to God (v. 25),

But also saved the jailer who tried to kill himself (v. 27)

And he and all his household were baptized (vv. 31-34).

Our God is the God of salvation!

## **What is better?**

It is much better to give something to drink to our neighbor with God's love (Mt. 25:34-40)

Than to "give all my possessions to feed the poor"

And to surrender our bodies to be burned with His love (1 Cor. 13:3).

## **What is better?**

It is better for us to handle the heavy task with those who we trust  
Rather than to try to handle it well by ourselves. (Exod. 18:18, 22)

## **What is beneficial, what is harmful?**

We need to be concerned about our health because it is the body that God gave us as a gift.  
As stewards of the Lord, we must faithfully manage our health.  
In order to do that, we first need to know and separate  
what is beneficial and what is harmful to our bodies.  
Then we must abstain what is harmful and hold fast to what is beneficial to our bodies.

Likewise, we must be very concerned about our spiritual health.  
And we must be responsible for managing our spiritual health faithfully.  
In order to do that, we first need to know and separate  
what is beneficial and what is harmful to our spiritual health.  
Then we must hold fast what is beneficial and abstain what is harmful  
As we count them as rubbish (Phil. 3:7-8).  
We must do this for “the sake of Christ” (v. 7).

“But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good;  
abstain from every form of evil.”  
(1 Thess. 5:21-22)

## **What are you hoping for the fulfillment?**

The false and the foolish prophets prophesize from their own inspiration,  
By seeing falsehood and lying divination  
And make people to hope for the fulfillment of their word (Ezek. 13:2,3, 6).  
What are you hoping for the fulfillment?

## **What goes up to God?**

Since our cry for help due to hard work goes up to God (Exod. 2:23)  
Won't our wickedness go up before God as well?  
(Jon. 1:2)

## **Even though I know it's useless ...**

Why can't I turn away  
Even though I know it's useless and futile  
If I persist in doing evil, I will be swept away.  
(1 Sam. 12:21, 25)

## **In silence**

This Monday morning, the phrase “in silence” came into my mind.  
I thought about I should fulfill the mission that the Lord gave me “in silence”.  
More than that, I thought about I should gaze “in silence”  
How the Lord is faithfully fulfilling His promises to such unfaithful sinner like me.  
(Gen. 24:21)

## **If we are fearful and anxious about the future ...**

If we are fearful and anxious about the future situation that hasn't happened yet,  
Then it can be hard not only to ourselves but to the loved ones around us.  
We must not lean on our own understanding but trust our sovereign God. (Prov. 3:5-6)  
And we must walk by faith and not by sight. (2 Cor. 5:7)

## **Since God's salvation in the future has already been done in his trusting heart**

He who has the steadfast of mind trusts in “an everlasting Rock”, the Lord forever (Isa. 26:3, 4).  
And since God's salvation in the future has already been done  
in his trusting heart as he waits for God of salvation,  
he will rejoice and be glad in His salvation (25:9).

## **The sluggard**

The sluggard doesn't have ability to evaluate himself.

Therefore, he overestimates himself. He thinks he is wise. He is proud (Prov. 26:16).

As a result, he will fall into his own trap (28:10).

## **The foolish rich ...**

The foolish rich trusts in his wealth (Ps. 49:6, 13).

He boasts in the abundance of his riches (v. 6).

His inner thought is that he should live on eternally (v. 9) and his house is forever (v. 11).

He cannot redeem his brother (v. 7). He cannot redeem his own soul (v. 8).

He will see that he will leave his wealth to others (v. 10).

He is like the beast that perishes (vv. 12, 20).

## **A foolish man ...**

A foolish man blames on others, even God

When he goes through the consequence of his wrong choice

Instead of trying to be responsible for what he chooses to do (Prov. 19:3).

The reason is because the foolish man has lost the ability to turn the responsibility to himself.

## **A fool**

A fool has closed mind so he only knows himself.

And since he is selfish, he opens his mouth

And delights in airing his own opinions.

(Prov. 18:2)

## **Honor is not fitting for a fool.**

Honoring a fool who is wise in his own eyes

(for example, entrusting an important position in the church)

Is like tying a stone in a sling and isn't fitting.

(Prov. 26:1, 8-12)

[What would happen if we try to put a stone in the sling while we are trying to throw the stone?

What would happen if we entrust the important position?]

## **The mind of fools ...**

The minds of fools set the minds on the beginning instead of the ending

And have useless sorrow instead of godly sorrow.

(Eccle. 7:1-4; 2 Cor. 7:10)



## **The lips of a fool vs. the tongue of the wise**

While the lips of a fool speak harsh word and crush the other person's spirit  
The tongue of the wise heals the wound.  
(Prov. 15:1, 4)

## **Let us pray for forgiveness in advance.**

At least I want the one who did me wrong realize what he did wrong to me  
Even though he doesn't ask me for forgiveness.  
But Jesus prayed to Father God in heaven on the cross,  
"Father, forgive them" (Lk. 23:34),  
His people, the Jews, who exclaimed 'Crucify Jesus'  
And who didn't know how great their sins were.

The Spirit-filled deacon Stephen prayed, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!",  
The Jews who were stoning him (Acts 7:60).

Both of them forgave in advance those who didn't realize their sins.

If we realize that the Lord has forgiven our many sins in advance,  
Then we can offer prayer for forgiveness in advance for those who did wrong to us  
Even though they don't realize what they did wrong to us.

## **Even though she was beautiful ...**

Although beautiful of form and face Rachel (Gen. 29:17) loved by Jacob,  
The second son of beautiful mother Rebekah (26:7)  
More than her older sister Leah whose eyes were weak (29:17),  
She didn't have a child.  
So she became jealous of her sister Leah,  
She wanted Jacob to be in the place of God  
And said to him, "Give me children, or else I die" (30:1, 2)  
Even though Rachel was beautiful, she was a woman with jealousy and fierce temperament  
Instead of having good character.

## **God's grace in making us low**

We should thank God because it is God's grace that He makes us low (Ezek. 29:14-15)  
So that we can solely depend on God  
And never again to be confident of ourselves  
And don't remind our sin (v. 16).

## **Hateful heart, but slippery lips?**

I shouldn't become a person who covers my hateful heart without changing my face  
And use my slippery lips to speak a honeyed word  
That covers my own evil heart. (Prov. 26:23)

## **Those who hated are now afraid of being hated**

Joseph's ten older brothers, who hated Joseph when he was 17 years old (Gen. 37:2-4).  
Were afraid that Joseph might bear a grudge against them and might pay them back in full,  
Thinking that Joseph might hate them after their father Jacob died  
When Joseph was 56 years old (50:15, 19).

[Cf. #1: Joseph had two dreams when he was 17 years old  
And became a prime minister of Egypt when he was 30 years old.  
And when he was 39 years old (7 years of harvest + 2 years of famine),  
he revealed himself to his brothers.  
Then he brought his father Jacob and all his families from the land of Canaan to Egypt.  
Jacob lived 17 more years in Egypt and died at the age of 147 (47:27).  
Therefore, Joseph's age was 56 years old (39 years old + 17 years) when his father Jacob died.]

Cf. #2: Jacob spent 17 years with Joseph, the oldest son of his beloved wife Rachel  
(Joseph was 17 years old) and met Joseph when he was 130 years old  
and lived 17 more years in Egypt with Joseph until his death at the age of 147].

## **Believe and obey**

Those who believe in Jesus, the Son of God, have eternal life  
And those who have eternal life experience heaven  
By obeying Jesus' twofold command (Love God & Love neighbors). (Jn. 3:36)

Therefore, in order to achieve heaven in our heart, in our family and in our church,  
We must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and obey His twofold command.

Let's remember that faith without obedience is dead faith (Jam. 2:26)  
And obedience without faith is meaningless obedience.

## **Some will believe, but some won't**

When we teach concerning our hope Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered  
Some will be persuaded and believe but some won't believe. (Acts 28:20, 23, 24, 31)

## **The relationship between faith and joy**

Progress of faith is progress of joy! (Phil. 1:25)

## **Those who pray by faith ...**

Those who pray earnestly to God by faith believe that  
God will send "a heavy shower" even seeing "a cloud as small as man's hand"  
(1 Kgs. 18:44, 45)

## **When we suffer because of our faith ...**

When we suffer because of our faith in Jesus, our consolation is  
That we suffer with Christ (Rom. 8:17)  
And that no one can separate us from the love of Christ (vv. 35, 39).

## **We must see it with the eyes of faith.**

Although with our physical eyes,

It is well watered everywhere in Sodom and Gomorrah, that looked like “the garden of the Lord”,

There are God’s promises to be fulfilled in future

In the garden of the Lord that we see with the eyes of faith

With our eyes of faith, the garden of the Lord. (Gen. 13:10, 14-17)

## **"the same spirit of faith"**

We who have the same spirit of faith speak because we believe and act in faith. (2 Cor 4:13; 5:7)

## **The testing of faith**

Endurance must be produced through the testing of our faith. (Jam. 1:3)

## **He who has strong faith ...**

Those who have strong faith in the church should love those who have weak faith and edify them.

They shouldn’t be proud, thinking that they know something

and boast about their knowledge (1 Cor. 8:1-2).

Also those who have strong faith shouldn’t become a stumbling block

to those who have weak faith by their liberty (v. 9).

They shouldn’t sin against those who have weak faith by wounding their conscience (v. 12).

It is to “sin against Christ” (v. 12).

## **We who are strong ought to bear The weaknesses of those without strengthen.**

How can we who are strong bear the weaknesses of those without strengthen  
Please them for their good, to their edification?  
(Rom. 15:1-2)

First, we should accept those who are weak in faith, just as Christ also accepted us (v. 7).  
Also, we must not pass judgement and condemn those who are weak in faith (2:1).

And we shouldn't look down and pass judgement  
on disputable matters with those who are weak in faith (14:1, 3).

We should please those who are weak in faith for their good,  
To build them up (15:2).

We should give them hope  
Through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures (v. 4).

Therefore we who are strong in faith and those who are weak in faith  
Should have a spirit of unity among ourselves as we follow Christ Jesus (v. 5).

As a result,  
We should glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
With one heart and mouth (v. 6).

## **Those who are mature in faith ...**

Those who are mature in faith don't cause those who are weak in faith to stumble  
(1 Cor. 8:13).

Those who are mature in faith try not to be a hindrance to those who are weak in faith.

Those who are mature in faith don't use their right but endure all things  
So that they won't cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ (9:12).

## **A mature person of faith ...**

As a person well suited for running the race of faith  
A mature person of faith knows the law of God  
And runs the race of faith according to that law.  
(Phil. 3:15)

## **“their unbelief and hardness of heart”**

Our unbelief and hardness of heart that the Lord reproaches  
Don't believe the word of God.  
(Mk. 16:14)

## **Without faith, we cannot obey God's command.**

Without faith, we cannot obey God's command.

God commanded Abram to go forth from his country Ur (Gen. 12:1; cf.: 11:28).

And God gave him the word of His promise (12:2-3).

Abram believed in His promise word and went forth from his country Ur (v. 4).

We must go forth with faith.

Even if it looks comfortable, familiar and good to us,

We must leave by faith if the Lord commands us to leave.

By faith, Abram left Ur in following the word of God

And went into the land of Canaan as God showed him (v. 5).

However, when he went into the land of Canaan there was famine instead of harvest (v. 10).

He could complain to God, 'God, why didn't You let me stay at my country Ur.

Why did you command to leave Ur and go into the land of Canaan where there is famine?'

But Abram didn't complain to God.

There are many times we cannot understand about God's guidance with our understanding.

That's why we disobey God's command by relying on our own understanding and not trusting God (Prov. 3:5).

In disbelief, we disobey God's command of 'Leave and go'.

As a result, we aren't experiencing the promise of God's blessing.

Without faith, we cannot follow God's Word.



## **If we look at the attitude of treating those whose faith is weak ...**

He who thinks that his faith is strong  
But who doesn't accept those whose faith is weak  
But passes judgement on disputable matters  
Is not a mature in faith.  
(Cf.: Rom. 14:1-3)

## **Evidence that faith is growing?**

Evidence that our faith is growing is  
That in the community (the church)  
Our love toward each other is enriched.  
(1 Thess. 1:3)

## **What is faith?**

Faith is hope  
That God will surely fulfill the promise that He gave to us  
Even in the midst of very pessimistic circumstances.  
(Cf. Heb. 11:1-3)