

# **Faith that Hopes Against All Hope**

**[Short Word Meditation (5)]**

**James Kim**

## **Faith that hopes against all hope**

Faith that hopes against all hope believes and be persuaded  
That God has power to do what He has promised,  
Without wavering through unbelief  
Even in the fact of humanly impossible situation. (Rom. 4:18-21)

## **“false doctrines” that are contrary to “sound teaching”**

We, the Bible teachers, must not teach “false doctrines”  
that are contrary to “sound doctrine” (1 Tim. 1:3, 10).  
If we teach “false doctrines”, then those who learn from us will turn aside to “fruitless discussion” (v. 6)  
And will “not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and with the doctrine conforming to godliness” (6:3).  
And they will have “a form of godliness” but deny “its power” (2 Tim. 3:5).  
If they pay attention to “false doctrines” (1 Tim. 1:4) and advocate them (6:3),  
Then they are conceit and understand nothing (v. 4).  
And this will give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God (1:4).  
In other words, they will pay attention to false doctrines and will have a morbid interest in controversial  
questions and “disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions,  
and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that  
godliness is a means of gain” (6:4-5).  
Isn't our church like this?

We the Bible teachers must teach the “sound doctrine”.  
We must teach the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the doctrine conforming to godliness (6:3).  
This is “according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God,  
with which I (we) have been entrusted” (1:11).  
And “the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith” (v. 5).

## **If we don't learn "sound doctrine" well ...**

If we Christians don't learn "sound doctrine" well (Tit. 2:1),  
Then we can't be sound in speech (v. 8) and can't live sound life.

## **Because we aren't agreeing to the sound words ...**

If we don't agree with "sound words",  
"those of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and with the doctrine conforming to godliness" (1 Tim. 6:3)  
then we will hold to "a form of godliness"  
but will deny its power (2 Tim. 3:5)  
and will suppose that godliness is a means of gain (1 Tim. 6:5).

## **With good judgment, we have to make a right decision and act ...**

In the church, those who have strong faith and those who have weak faith  
Shouldn't judge and criticize each other without respecting each other's conscience  
And condemn each other, thinking that they are irresponsible.  
Instead, they should make a right decision with good judgment and act  
By positively thinking about how to overcome each other's differences and by serving each other  
So that they may keep the unity of the church.  
(Rom 14:13)

## **I am like a Pharisee**

I am like a Pharisee  
Who don't know that I am a sinner  
But know that other person is a 'sinner'.  
Although outwardly I am with that 'sinner'  
In my heart, I am keeping the 'sinner' far away.  
(Lk. 7:36-48)

## **Applause rather than persecution**

“Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ will be persecuted” (2 Tim. 3:12).  
But now we like to be applauded rather than persecuted.

## **God will surely deliver us.**

The God of salvation  
Who delivered us in the past when we were burdened excessively,  
beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life,  
Is delivering us even in the midst of life's greatest crisis,  
Which seems that we have the sentence of death within ourselves now,  
Will surely deliver us from so great a peril of death in the future.  
(2 Cor. 1:10).

Our God of salvation is the same yesterday and today and forever.  
(Heb. 13:8)

**“He is able to humble those who walk in pride.”**

Our ‘Towel of Babel’

That is thinking that ‘I did it with my own strength and power’

Will surely fall.

The Lord will surely humble us when we walk in pride.

(Cf. Dan. 4:30, 37)

**God will surely make them to return!**

The God of covenant

Will surely make the children of covenant

To return to the Promised Land.

(Cf. Gen. 31:3; 32:9)

**“blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of  
what had been spoken to her by the Lord.”**

Zacharias and Elizabeth, the parents of John the Baptist,  
Were both righteous in the sight of God (Lk. 1:5-6).  
They walked blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord (v. 6).  
But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren,  
And they were both advanced in years (v. 7).

Nevertheless, they didn't give up and kept praying to God (v. 13).  
And they received the answer of their prayer from God.  
The angel appeared to Zacharias and said to him:  
“your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John” (v. 13).

Why didn't God give a child to the righteous couple until they got old  
who have been obeying all the commands of God without any fault?  
Why did God promise to give them the child when they were old?  
Why did God give Isaac to Abraham when he was 100 years old  
Even though He promised him the child when Abraham was 75 years old?  
(Gen. 15:5, 21:2-3)  
Why isn't God fulfilling His promises to each one of us,  
That He gave to each one of us?

There are two lessons to learn:

First, don't give up and ask God (Lk. 1:13, 18:1).  
Second, believe that God will surely fulfill His promises to us (1:45).

“And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment  
of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.” (Lk. 1:45)

## **God will surely bring us back!**

Although God hides His face from us for a little while  
Because of our wickedness  
He eventually will bring to us health and healing  
And will reveal to us an abundance of peace and truth.  
God will surely bring us back and will rebuild us as we were at first.  
He will cleanse us from all our iniquity by which we have sinned against Him  
And He will pardon all our iniquities by which we have sinned against Him.  
We Christians will be to Him a name of joy, praise and glory before all the nations of the earth.  
All the nations will hear of all the good that He does for us  
And they will fear and tremble because of all the good and all the peace that God makes for us.  
(Jere. 33:4-9)

## **I need to know how to pay back the love I received.**

I must not forget a person who has given me love when I was having the most difficult time.  
So when I get better off, I need to show my love to the person who gave me love.

When the Lord used me to help someone in trouble,  
I should try not to be burden to him  
When he tries to help me  
When his situation got better from his hardships and difficulties.  
(2 Sam. 19:31-39)

## **Betrayal**

If a bride has an affair with a man other than her bridegroom,  
Then the bridegroom is forced to feel betrayed by his bride who has an affair.  
Because the Israelites worshiped their idols other than God,  
Their God felt betrayed by them (Ezek. 14:5).  
Jesus, the Bridegroom, feels betrayal  
As He see His bride, the Church, idolized Money and serve it rather than Jesus.  
Nevertheless, the Bridegroom Jesus is calling us, making us to confess and repent our sins  
Because He wants to forgive our sins.  
And Jesus recapturing the hearts of His people, who have all deserted Him for their idols (v. 5).

## **“a stubborn and rebellious heart”**

The church members with “a stubborn and rebellious heart” don’t realize  
That their iniquities have turned good things from the Lord away  
And their sins have withheld good from them.  
(Jere. 5:23-25)



## **We shouldn't fall into a behind coordinator's trap ...**

When we look at the story of the Israelites  
Who played the harlot with the daughters of Moab  
And sacrificed to their gods and ate and bowed down to their gods in Numbers 25,  
It seems that the story has nothing to do with Balaam in Numbers chapters 22-24.

But when we look at Number 31,  
The Scriptures say that the people who made the Israelites to commit sins against God  
in the matter of Peor were the Midianite women “through the counsel of Balaam” (31:15-16).

But in Revelations 2:14,  
The Scriptures says “... because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam,  
who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel,  
to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality.”

Behind the matter of Peor, where the Israelites played the harlot and worshiped the idols,  
There was the counsel of Balaam. Balaam was a stumbling block to Israel.  
He was a behind coordinator.

Eventually Balaam was killed with the sword  
As God commanded Moses to take full vengeance for the sons of Israel on the Midianites.  
(Num. 31:2, 7-8)

## **Don't forsake your spouse.**

We must not forsake our spouse.

We must know that it is evil and bitter for us to forsake our spouse. (Jere. 2:19)

## **I want to learn the love that forsakes.**

The heart of Father God who loves us until forsaking His only begotten Son Jesus Christ on the cross,  
The heart of Jesus Christ who loves us until being forsaken by His beloved Father God on the cross  
As He cried out to God, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mt. 27:46)  
The indwelling Holy Spirit enables us to understand little by little  
The heart of Father God and the heart of the Son Jesus  
And imitate the heart of the Lord.

## **Despite being rejected ...**

Despite being rejected by the Israelites  
Who asked for a king to judge them even though God was their king,  
God listened to their voice (1 Sam. 8:5-9).

The Son of God Jesus obeyed the Word of Father God even death on a cross (Phil. 2:8)  
While he was being forsaken by His own Father God (Mt. 27:46).  
Also, Jesus was crucified and died  
As the Israelite wanted (Lk. 23:23).

## **When we feel like we were forsaken ...**

When we are born and being raised,  
There is pain when we are forsaken by the most important people, our parents.  
When we are grown up and get married,  
There is pain when we are forsaken by our beloved spouse.  
When we are old,  
There is pain when we are forsaken by our children.  
In this life on earth,  
There is pain being forsaken by our loved ones.  
Even the pain of being forsaken by our loved ones is hard and painful to endure,  
How painful will it be when we feel  
That we have been forsaken by the Lord of love?  
(Judg. 6:3; Ps. 22:1)

## **God will multiply**

God will multiply the disciples of Jesus Christ and the Lord's servants who serve the Lord.  
(Jere. 33:22)

But the more they are multiplying, the more they are sinning against God.  
So God will change their glory into shame.  
(Hos. 4:6-7)

## **When they grow large, increase and multiply ...**

The land of Canaan was “a good land” (Deut. 8:7, 10)

And “a land where bread will not be scarce” (v. 9).

When the Israelites would enter that land,

They would lack nothing (v. 9) and would eat and be satisfied

And would build fine houses and would settle down (v. 12).

And there their herds and flocks would grow large and their silver and gold would increase

And all they had would be multiplied (v. 13).

But at that time, God was concerned about their heart would become proud

And they would forget the Lord their God (v. 14).

Perhaps, it would have been better for the Israelites to stay in “the vast and dreadful desert” (v. 14).

It seems so easy for our hearts to be proud when we grow large, increase and multiply.

## **When they multiply?**

When the worldly members in the church multiply,

The more their sins will fill the church and the world. (Cf. Gen. 6: 1, 5)

## **Lay aside the old self!**

We must lay aside our old self.

Even though we once walked in the old self, now we must put them all aside.

We must lay aside to “immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.”

(Col. 3:5-9)

## **Thing that shouldn't change and thing that should be changed**

We should be able to clearly distinguish between the thing that shouldn't change and the thing that should change:

The gospel of Christ must never change (Gal. 1:7).

But our life that isn't worthy of His gospel must be changed (Phil. 1:27).

### **Unchanging hard appearance**

The one whose hard appearance is still unchanged is because of his own folly (Eccle. 8:1).

### **Will be changed**

When we deny ourselves and take up our own cross and follow Jesus (Mt. 16:24)

Our hearts will be changed into the heart of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:8).

### **More important than being healed ...?**

More important than being healed is the receive forgiven of my sins

Which is the cause of my sickness.

If I continue to commit the same sin even after I got healed,

Then the worse may happen to me (Jn. 5:14).

## **We who are sick need the doctor Jesus.**

What God wants from us is mercy.

However, what we want to give to God is worship (Mt. 9:13).

And our worship to God is

Worship without obedience to the Word of God (1 Sam. 15:22),

And without mercy that God wants from us (Mt. 9:13).

Our life without mercy is like that of a Pharisee.

We think that we are healthy (v. 12).

We are seeking to justify by law (Gal.5:4).

That's why we think that we don't need the doctor Jesus (Mt. 9:12).

That's why don't understand why Jesus reclined at the table in the house

with "many tax collectors and sinners" (vv. 10-11).

The reason is because we think we are different from them (Lk. 18:11)

And we exalt ourselves (v. 14)

And with a spiritual sense of superiority and view others with contempt (v. 9)

We who aren't compassionate to "many tax collectors and sinners"

whom the Lord is compassionate

But emphasize the worship to God,

are the ones who are sick (Mt. 9:10, 12).

We must realize that we are the ones who are sick

And we need Jesus (v. 12).

## **"For My own sake, for My own sake, I will act"**

Our Lord God teaches us to profit,  
Who leads us in the way we should go (Isa. 48:17).  
But we don't pay attention to God's commandments and disobey His commandments (v. 18).  
But for the sake of His name, He delays His wrath (v. 9).  
And for His praise, God restrains it for us in order not to cut us off (v. 9).  
Instead, God tests us and refines us, who are disobedient to God  
who sin and not repent our sins, in the furnace of affliction (v. 10).  
God says, "For My own sake, for My own sake, I will act" (v. 11).

## **God sees, hears and is concerned**

God certainly sees our sufferings, hears our cries and are concerned about our sufferings.  
Therefore, God comes to us and delivers us. (Exod. 3:7-8)

## **A man with the same heart as Boaz**

Ruth's mother-in-law, Naomi said like this to Ruth about Boaz's heart towards Ruth:  
"Wait, my daughter, until you know how the matter turns out;  
for the man will not rest until he has settled it today." (Ruth 3:18)

I think it's a great blessing to have a man like Boaz as a friend in the Lord.

## **An artificial way is starting to show**

When I can no longer endure by faith and hold on to the word of promise that God has given me  
Then I keep on trying to solve my problems in an artificial way that I can see with my own eyes.  
(Cf. Gen. 16:1-2)

## **Let us live by faith and not by sight.**

If we live by sight (2 Cor. 5:7), then we will loose heart (4:16).  
The reason is because our outer man is decaying (v. 16; Cf. 5:1, 4).  
If we look at the things which are seen (4:18) then we will groan and are burdened (5:2, 4)  
due to our light and momentary affliction (4:17). That's why we must live by faith (5:7).  
Although we are wasting away outwardly, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day (4:16).  
Also, our light and momentary affliction will produce for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all  
comparison (v. 17). When the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God,  
a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (5:1).  
So "while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen"  
Because "the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (4:18).  
And we long to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven (5:2).  
When we are clothed with our dwelling from heaven, our mortal will be swallowed up by life (v. 4).  
God who prepared us for this very purpose gave us the Spirit as a pledge (v. 5).  
Therefore we are always live with good courage (v. 6).  
So "we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the  
Lord. Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him" (vv. 8-  
9). Let us live by faith and not by sight (v. 7).

## **We must not see and take her.**

We must not see a beautiful married woman (2 Sam. 11:2). We shouldn't inquire about her (v. 3).  
We must not take her from her husband (12:9).



## **Blessed is the man ...**

Blessed is the man who delights in the law of the Lord (Ps. 1:2).

His delight is to hear the word of the Lord's unfailing love (143:8).

Therefore, he waits for the word of the Lord (130:5) and runs toward it (119:32).

And he obeys the word, trembles and doesn't sin (4:4) while walking the path of righteous.

He treasures His word in his heart (119:11) and keeps his way pure (v. 9).

He wins the spiritual battle with the Word of God.

Therefore, he makes the Word of God his possession (v. 56).

Blessed in the man who keeps the Word of God.

Blessed is the man who doesn't rely on people in any persecution and adversity

But rely on the Lord as he hopes in Him.

In fearful situation, he waits in silence for God only (62:5) when no one can help him.

He casts all his cares upon Him.

And he cries out to the God of salvation who saves him.

He prays urgently to God, 'come quickly, O my God, to help me" (71:12).

He confesses "But I am in prayer" and humbly asks his desire to the Lord (109:4).

In doing so, he commits himself to prayer as he says "I will awaken the dawn" (57:8; 108:2).

The reason he does so is because his hope is always in the Lord (39:7).

The reason is because he firmly believes that God will surely listens and hears the voice of his prayer (66:19).

Therefore, he determines that "I will call on him as long as I live" (116:2).

Blessed man commits himself to pray to God as long as he lives

Because he understands Gods' great love in answering his prayers

And God's abundant grace in forgiving his sins.

Blessed man gives thanks to God wholeheartedly (9:1; 11:1; 138:1).

He gives thanks to God because of His saving love and grace

By not refusing the desire of the humble (10:17) but listening and delivering him.

And he gives thanks to God for lifting up his head (3:3; 110:7)

and had dealt with him according to his righteousness (18:20)

He gives thanks to God for giving strength and power to him (68:35).  
He is so grateful to the Lord because His love endures forever (136:8, 9, 14, 15, 16).  
He knows that God's thoughts toward him is too numerous to count (40:5).  
He gives thanks to God for making his suffering beneficial to him,  
Enabling him to experience His strength in his weakness, and for sustaining him (54:4; 119:116).  
Blessed man who gives thanks to God like this doesn't and can't forget all God's benefits (103:2).  
Therefore, he confesses to the Lord:  
"I love You, O Lord, my strength" (18:1).

Blessed man makes God the greatest joy.  
For him, God is his joy and his delight (43:4).  
He dwells in the presence of God in fellowship with the God of his exceeding joy.  
And he is satisfied with the Lord alone and rejoices by the Lord  
Who has made him the head of the nations (18:43).  
He gives thanks to God because of God's unchanging eternal love,  
Having countless thoughts towards him,  
Pleasing with his prosperity,  
Strengthening his way,  
Strengthens him,  
Guiding him until death (48:14).

Therefore he praises God with thanksgiving.  
He is committed to give thanks to God wholeheartedly and praise Him forever.

Blessed man praise the Lord until his last breath (150:6).

## **Adversity than blessing**

It is much better to receive adversity from God (Job 2:10)  
Than receive disguised blessing from Satan.

## **The qualification of a preacher is not coming from ourselves.**

As the Lord reproached his disciples for their unbelief and hardness of heart,  
He told them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." (Mk. 16:14-15)  
The qualification of a preacher isn't coming from ourselves,  
But our qualification is from God. (2 Cor. 3:5)

## **"the hope of the gospel" & "the hope of glory"**

We should continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast,  
And not moved away from "the hope of the gospel" and "the hope of glory",  
Which is Christ in you. (Col. 1:23, 27)

## **Blessed?**

Mary was a blessed woman. The reason is because she believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord (Lk. 1:45).

What the Lord said to her was that the virgin Mary (v. 27) would conceive in her womb and bore a son, and she should name Him Jesus (v. 31).

It was the word that the Holy Spirit would come upon her,  
and the power of the Most High would overshadow her,

And for that reason the holy Child should be called the Son of God (v. 35).

The holy Child's name is "Jesus" and He would be great, would be called the Son of the Most High; "and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end" (vv. 32-33).

Mary believed and prayed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord (vv. 38, 45). Are we blessed in the sight of the Lord?

## **The blessed man**

He whose delight is in the law of the Lord

and who meditates on his law day and night is the blessed man (Ps. 1:2).

This blessed man doesn't walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners

Or sit in the seat of mockers (v.1).

The blessed man bears fruits and whatever he does prospers (v. 3).

## **"an example"**

The Old Testament Israelites who were destroyed in the wilderness

as "an example" for us and our instruction,

Upon the ends of the ages have come

so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved (1 Cor. 10:5, 6, 11).

We shouldn't be idolaters (v. 7). We must not act immorality (v. 8).

We shouldn't try the Lord (v. 9). And we shouldn't grumble (v. 10).

## **We need an example.**

Not only that we need an example of salvation but also we need an example of destruction.

(1 Cor. 10:5-11)

## **Kind word, tender heart?**

As love of God, God allures us and brings us into the wilderness and speaks kindly to us  
When we sin and don't repent (Hos. 2:14).

Our hearts should become tender when we listen to the Word of God  
So that we may humble ourselves before God and wept and repent (2 Chron. 22:19).

## **The reason why we force ourselves to sin?**

The reason why we force ourselves to disobey God's commandments (1 Sam. 13:12-23) is  
Because the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17) is not sharp but dull (1 Sam. 13:21).

## **For children who fight with their parents' inheritance**

When children fight with their parents' inheritance, they must remember this word of Jesus:  
"Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed;  
for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."  
(Lk. 12:13-15)

## **The parent's heart**

The parent's heart is to be afraid that harm might come to their beloved child (Gen. 42:4).

## **The couple's quarrel is ...**

Most of the time, the couple's quarrel starts with something very small and gets bigger and bigger.

"Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam" (Prov. 17:14).

When the water starts to leak from the dam, we need to stop the leaking the dam quickly.

The couple must drop the matter before a dispute breaks out (v. 14).

Why don't they drop the matter? It is because of their desires that battle within them (Jam. 4:1).

There is lust in these desires that battle within us (v. 2).

If that lust is not being satisfied, then we have no choice but to become peace-breakers

By disobeying God's commands in discontent and complaint.

The couple who are driven by these desires are the ones who love a quarrel

And the ones who raise their door for destruction (Prov. 17:19).

We must repent.

## **The married couples should do as they do to the Lord.**

The husband loves his wife because he loves the Lord,

Even his wife isn't lovely, even he doesn't like her and hates her.

The wife respects her husband because she respects the Lord,

Even her husband isn't respectable, even she doesn't like her and hates her.

(Eph. 5:33)

## **The Father's heart**

The Father's heart is not sparing His own Son. (Rom. 8:32)

## **Instead of trying to get rich ...**

We should strive to walk in our integrity, rather than trying to get rich. (Prov. 19:1, 28:6)

## **We don't have enough, outrageously lacking.**

Thinking numerically, it's impossible that God's promise to us can be fulfilled.

With our power, we don't have enough, outrageously lacking

to make that impossible thing to happen (Num. 11:21-22).

God's word to us is "Is the LORD'S power limited?"

Now you shall see whether My word will come true for you or not" (v. 23).

## **It seems that not lacking in anything is not necessarily a good thing.**

A place called "Laish" in Judges 18 lacked nothing

And the people in that land were living in safety, unsuspecting, secure and prosperous (v. 7).

It was a spacious land that lacks nothing whatever (v. 10).

However, the Danites set up for themselves the idols and worshiped them (v. 30).

It seems that not lacking in anything is not necessarily a good thing.

## **In order for those who want to get rich not to wander away from the faith ...**

In order for those who want to get rich not to wander away from the faith,  
They should know that their desires can be harmful, covetousness can deceive them,  
And be alert not to fall into temptation of loving money when they make more money.  
They must have heart of contentment which is a means of great gain for their godliness.  
(1 Tim. 6:6-10)

## **“A fool always loses his temper”**

A fool always loses his temper, but a wise man holds it back. (Prov. 29:11)

## **We need to control our anger**

Instead of manifesting our foolishness by giving full vent to our anger,  
It is better to control our anger and demonstrate our wisdom.  
(Prov. 29:11)



## **We must express our concern clearly with clear purpose.**

With our concern and clear purpose in helping our children to continue to fear God,  
We can be misunderstood by our families while we try to work out our clear purpose carefully.  
Then we must express our concern clearly with clear purpose  
So that when our families hear our words, it can please them. (Josh. 22:24-30)

## **Blessing without discernment**

Aren't we, the pastors, blessing so many people without discernment? (Gen. 27:23)

## **Let us not boast beyond our measure.**

Let us not boast beyond our measure (2 Cor. 11:13, 15). Let us boast in the Lord (v. 17).  
Let us become Jesus' disciples whom the Lord commends (v. 18)  
Instead we commend ourselves (vv. 12, 18).

## **We must not go too far.**

We must not go too far in our thoughts, in our words, and in our actions.  
(Num. 16:3, 7)

## **I shouldn't go too far.**

Without knowing that I went to far in trying to set myself above the another person,  
I told that person that he went too far. (Num. 16:3, 7)

## **What could be the start of a dispute ...**

What could be the beginning of a dispute,  
Let's make it a chance of harmony and unity in the Lord  
(As I meditated on Joshua 22)

## **In order not to have an affair ...**

In order not to have an affair, we must keep a path far away from any person beside our spouse  
(Prov. 5:8), Especially if that person has potential to break into the gap in our relationship with our spouse.  
We must guard ourselves from covetousness (Exod. 20:17).  
If we have covetousness, we won't be captivated by our spouse' love (Prov. 5:19),  
But we will keep on looking at another person (Eccle. 1:8)  
and will think about her/him and listen to her/him. We must forgive each other (Col. 3:13).  
As the Lord forgives us, we must forgive and accept our spouses.  
If we don't and refuse to forgive each other, then we won't be satisfied with our spouses and our  
complaints will increase so that our relationship will get worse and worse.  
Then in the end, we are likely to be interested in other person that our spouses.  
We must not choose the comfortable way of solving our marital problem such as, just pass or leave them  
alone, Rather than trying very hard to resolve that problems in the Lord.

## **Justifying our disobedience?**

When Prophet Jonah was disobeying God's command and was fleeing to Tarshish  
And went down to Joppa, he found a ship which was going to Tarshish (Jonah 1:2-3).  
I think Jonah could justify his disobedience  
By saying 'This is God's will for me to go to Joppa'  
When he found the ship that was going to Tarshish.

## **The unbelievers are more terrified Than the disobedient pastor?**

The servant of God, Prophet Jonah, wasn't terrified  
When he was disobeying God's command and running away from the Lord.  
But the unbelievers Gentile sailors were terrified  
When they found out that Jonah was running away from the Lord.  
(Jonah 1:3, 10)

## **Need to obey even after being insulted by the disobedient people ...**

He who obeys the Lord can be insulted by the disobedient people.  
This is extremely reasonable and natural.  
We need to get used to it. (Cf. Mt. 27:39, 44)

## **God who makes the word more certain through unbelievers**

Our God makes His word of promise more certain even through unbelievers.

God told Gideon “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat Midian as one man” (Judg. 6:16).

In other words, God promised Gideon that He would deliver Israel through Gideon (v. 36).

More specifically, God told Gideon

“I will deliver you with the 300 men who lapped and will give the Midianites into your hands” (7:7).

Nevertheless, it seemed that Gideon couldn’t believe His promise word completely,

And had no conviction of victory in the war against Midian (vv. 10-11).

But he was able to believe His promised word and to have assurance of victory (deliverance)

After he obeyed God and went down against the Midian camp with Purah, his servant,

And heard a man relating a dream to his friend and its interpretation (vv. 13-15).

[This reminds me how God reminded Jonah His command even through the unbeliever Gentile captain (Jonah 1:2, 6)].

## **He didn’t pity on whom he supposed to pity.**

David didn’t pity his loyal soldier Uriah who he supposed to pity (2 Sam. 12:6).

But when his child that Uriah’s wife had borne to David became ill

(one of the consequences of his sins) (v. 15),

he fasted and wept and asked God for his grace (v. 22).

Am I not like David and not being pity on whom God pity

But keep on asking gracious God in tears for pity on my beloved family members who are sick?

To such sinner like me, God has been gracious and pity on me.

I want to imitate Father God’s heart in giving His one and only Son.

And I want to have pity on whom God has pity on with His heart.

I want to be in pain with those who are in pain and weep with those who weep (Rom. 12:15)

with affection of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:8).

‘O Lord, give me a heart to pity one soul with Your heart.’

## **The false pastors who love the wages of unrighteousness**

Balaam ,

Who loved “the wages of unrighteousness”

(2 Pet. 2:15),

Judas Iscariot,

Who sold Jesus with “the price of his wickedness”

(Acts 1:18),

The false pastors,

Who love the wages of unrighteousness and make the Lord’s church “a robber’s den”

(Mt. 21:13; Mk. 11:17; Lk. 19:46)

## **Complaining because of discomfort?**

Just because I’m in discomfort (Jonah 4:6), that doesn’t mean I can complain.

In particular, we shouldn’t be angry at God (v. 9).

## **When we are grown fat, thick, and sleek ...?**

When God’s blessings make us fat, thick, and sleek,

We will forsake God who made us

And will scorn the Rock of our salvation.

(Deut. 32:15)

## **Though the tree doesn't have leaves and fruits ...**

Once when my father-in-law was able to walk little bit  
he watered a tree in the backyard of his house.  
At that time, I carried the water hose behind him, followed him,  
and helped him to water the tree.  
But the tree had no fruit and no leaves on the branches.  
But my father-in-law still watered the tree.

I think about the Lord's love.  
The Lord is keep on watering such sinner like me  
Even though I am like the tree without fruits and leaves.  
I think about why.

Today in the morning, I meditated on Hebrews 12:2-3:  
“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,  
who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame,  
and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.  
Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men,  
so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

The Son of God Jesus Christ, who obeyed the Father God's will till death (Phil. 2:8)  
Endured the cross (Heb. 12:2).  
Although He came to His own, they didn't receive Him (Jn. 1:11).  
Instead His people, who were disobedient and rebellious, shouted “Crucify! Crucify!” (19:6).  
But on the cross, Jesus prayed for them, “Father, forgive them,  
for they do not know what they are doing” (Lk. 23:24).  
How could Jesus forgive them?  
How could Jesus endure the cross for us?

“... who for the joy set before him endured the cross ...” (Heb. 12:2).  
Jesus was able to endure the cross because He had the joy set before Him.

What was that joy?

Wasn't it the joy to save us whom the Father God loves  
and chose before the creation? (Eph. 1:4)

Wasn't it the joy of forgiving all our sins and of accepting us? (Eph. 1:7; Col. 3:13)

Wasn't it the joy of making us, who were once the enemy of God,  
the children of God? (Rom. 5:10; 8:21)

Wasn't it the joy of making us to live with the Lord forever in Heaven?

I remember the word of Habakkuk 3:17-18:

“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines,  
though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food,  
though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,  
yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.”

## **Even if I don't know God's will for me ...**

What's more important than knowing what God's will for me is

Believing that God's will for me is "good, acceptable, and perfect" (Rom. 12:2).

Even if I don't know God's will for me

I am comforted by the fact that I am in God's sovereign good, acceptable and perfect will.

## **A person with irrational anger**

Don't get close to those who are easily angry (Prov. 12:16).

Keep away from those who have been angry for a long time with distorted thoughts (2 Sam. 13).

Don't ever meet a person with irrational anger (Prov.17:12).

## **The children of light**

We are the children of light who have fellowship with God.

And we who have fellowship with God walk in the Light.

We who walk in the Light don't lie but practice the truth. (1 Jn. 1:5-7)

## **God is Light**

God who is Light exposes our sins when we don't walk in the Light but in the darkness.

At that time, when we say that we have no sin, then we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins

And to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 Jn. 1:5-9)

## **We must not fill our stomach with plunder.**

We must not go along with those who fill their stomach with plunder

And shouldn't set our feet on their paths (Prov. 1:13, 15).

As stolen water is sweet (9:17), we must not give in to Satan's enticement (1:10)

Satan's enticement is to steal other church members and fill my church.

But we must not become pastors who fill the Lord's church by stealing them.

And we must not go along with church member-stealing pastors.



## **The people in this perverse and crooked generation**

This is perverse and crooked generation (Deut. 32:5).

The people of this generation are foolish and unwise (v. 6).

They lack in counsel and there is no understanding in them (v. 28).

They cannot discern their end (v. 29).