

**Let's Walk Faithfully
In Silence of Trust**
[Short Word Meditation (6)]

James Kim

Is it better to live or to die?

The righteous who are saved by the grace of God is better to die than to live.

The reason is because for to them to live is Christ and to die is gain.

The reason is because they desire to depart and be with Christ which is better by far (Phil. 1:21-23).

However, the wicked who have not yet been saved are better off living than dying.

The reason is because it is better for them to be physically alive than to die forever

So that they may receive the grace of God's salvation and have eternal life (1 Tim. 2:4).

The Gospel and a life in a manner worthy of the gospel that were proclaimed by Apostle Paul and Apostle John?

The Gospel of Jesus Christ that was proclaimed by Apostle Paul was

Concerning "His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom 1:3-4),

That "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures"

(1 Cor. 15:3-4).

And Apostle Paul said, "Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ" (Phil. 1:27).

The Gospel of Jesus Christ that was proclaimed by Apostle John was

Concerning the Word of life which was from the beginning (Jesus' divinity),

"The life appeared" that is "the eternal life" (Jesus' humanity) (1 Jn. 1:1-2).

And a life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ is

To live like the children of God who is the light and in Him there is no darkness at all (v. 5).

The life as the children of light is to hate lies and live by the truth (v. 6) as those who have eternal life

(v. 2), love their brothers (2:9) and live righteous life (3:12).

Apostle Peter

Although Peter said, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You” (Mt. 26:35), he denied Jesus three times (vv. 70, 72, 74).

“And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said, ‘Before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.’ And he went out and wept bitterly” (v. 75).

We should not trust ourselves too much.

We shouldn’t be self-confident. We shouldn’t be prideful.

We need to be thoroughly broken. Our pride needs to be thoroughly broken.

We need to thoroughly hate ourselves.

We need to fully realize how weak we are.

In doing so, we will have no choice but to rely on the Lord alone.

In doing so, we will have no choice but to trust the Lord.

Apostle Peter, who followed Jesus who was being taken away at a distance (Lk. 22:54), Denied Him three times (vv. 55-60) and a rooster crowed (v. 60).

Then the Lord turned and looked at Peter (v. 61).

Why did Jesus turn and look at Peter? What did Jesus see?

Did He see Peter who said, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You”? (Mt. 26:35)

Did He see Peter who denied Him three times?

Or did Jesus see a fisher of men? (4:19)

Jesus did discipleship (?) to Peter, who used to be a fisherman (v. 18), as he took him around for 3 years in order to make him a fisher of men.

But Peter, who had been trained for discipleship for 3 years, said to his fellow apostles “I am going to fishing” (Jn. 21:3),

even after he saw the empty tomb of Jesus who was raised from the dead (20:6-7)

and saw the resurrected Lord who appeared to the disciples twice (vv. 19-29).

To this Peter, the resurrected Lord appeared third time (v. 14)

And asked him ‘Do you love Me?’ three times

And gave him a mission, “Tend My lambs”, “Shepherd My sheep”

and “Tend My sheep” (vv. 15-17).

Sarah's doubt, my doubt

Sarah, Abraham's wife, did doubt.

She doubted about God's promise to her husband Abraham
"So shall your descendants be" (Rom. 4:18).

The reason she doubted it is because she believed her reality
That she could see clearly with her eyes
Rather than the unseen future hope.
Here, the reality that she saw was "the deadness of Sarah's womb"
(Of course her husband's body was as good as dead as well) (v. 19),
And the unseen future hope was what God promised to Abraham
That is, his descendants would become numerous like stars in the sky.

So Sarah couldn't endure by faith for 25 years
until her husband Abraham turned 100 years old
Since he received God's promise when he was 75 years old.
So when Abraham was 86 years old, 11 years after he received God's promise,
Sarah made Abraham to sleep with her servant Hagar and Hagar gave birth to Ishmael.
Sarah couldn't wait. She became impatient.
It seems that she was driven by impetuosity.
She tried to fulfill God's promise in her own power.

I reflect my doubt in Sarah's doubt.

(As I was reading Lydia Brownback's "LEGACY OF FAITH:
From Women of the Bible to Women of Today")

We should not try to be special to the people.

We should not try to be special to the people.

The reason is that we are already special in God's sight.

“Since you are precious in My sight, Since you are honored and I love you, ...” (Isa. 43:4).

We are already special in God's sight

Through the death of the cross and resurrection of

God's begotten precious and honored Son Jesus Christ whom God loves.

Therefore, we should make Jesus our precious treasure

And we must live our lives of boasting Jesus Christ alone.

The reason why we exalt ourselves in front of people ...

The reason why we exalt ourselves in front of people is

Because we believe that we are righteous

(Lk. 18:9, 14).

The basis for this belief is our own works (vv. 11-12).

As a result, we view others with contempt (v. 9)

And we put distance with them whom we consider as 'sinners' (v. 11).

We differentiate from them and boast ourselves that 'I am better than him/her (v. 11).

If we do so, then we cannot be justified by God (v. 14).

Receiving attention from people

The Spirit-filled Christians pay attention to dying souls (Acts 3:4).

They think it's strange that people are paying attention to them because of their power or piety (v. 12).

Instead, they make people to pay attention to Jesus (4:10-12).

Also the Spirit-filled Christians don't pay attention to themselves.

They pay attention to the Lord only.

Without the hardships and trouble that people suffer ...

It's easy to become proud for those whose wealth is keep on increasing

Without the hardships and troubles.

Their eyes bulges from fatness,

And they speak in their arrogance.

(Ps. 73:5-8, 12)

Inducing and stirring up people

Not only Satan secretly induces people to speak blasphemous words against Christians

But also stirs up the people and persecute us.

(Acts 6:11-14)

What brings joy to the heart

What brings joy to the heart is

Loving the Word of God and even accepting suffering with humble heart.

(Prov. 27:7, Yun-sun Park)

The number of people doesn't matter.

The Lord is not restrained to save by many or by few.

(1 Sam. 14:6)

Rejoicing dries up from people.

Rejoicing dries up from people.

Joy and delight has been cut off in the temple of our God.

Even the flocks of sheep suffer.

(Joel 1:12, 16, 18)

What is man that God is mindful

Like a lot of dust when the sun shines
When God's holy light shines
We see our sins more than dust.
In doing so, we have no choice but to look at Jesus
Who bore all our sins and died on the cross.
As a result, we see ourselves from God's point of view.
Then our confession is this:
“what is man that you are mindful of him,
the son of man that you care for him?”
(Ps. 8:4)

Love is ...

Love is sending. (Jn. 3:16; 1 Jn. 4:10)

"labor of love"

Those Christians who has received God's chosen love to such sinners like them
Can't help but do the labor of love.
That labor of love is to impart “the gospel of God” and “our own lives”
To those who have become very dear to them.
(1 Thess. 1:3, 4; 2:8)

Why discipline of love is useless

Father God disciplines us in love when we we sin and don't repent.

But His discipline of love is useless is

Because we are accepting no chastening from Him.

(Jere. 2:30)

Love is better than riches.

God's unfailing love is better than trusting in the abundance of our riches.

The reason is because all the riches will disappear

But God's unfailing love lasts forever.

(Ps. 52:1, 7, 8)

The one who does not love ...

The one who doesn't love

But just saying that "God is love"

Doesn't know God.

(1 Jn. 4:8)

What you do to your pastor's wife, you are doing it to the pastor.

As you serve your church with passion that isn't based on the right truth,
You may not be satisfied with your pastor.
So you may complaint to his wife instead of him
Which is you are complaining to your pastor.
Even though you know it and you are still doing it
Can make your pastor's heart very angry. (Cf. Acts 26:14-15)

It seems raising the children didn't go according to Samuel's plan.

Samuel, a great servant of the Lord who was judge, prophet and priest,
Had two sons who didn't walk in his ways,
But turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice (1 Sam. 8:3).
As a result, the Israelites asked Samuel to appoint a king for them
to judge them "like all the nations" (v. 5).
Samuel was born through the earnest prayers of his mother Hannah (1:20).
After he was weaned, he was dedicated to the Lord (vv. 22-28) and ministered to the Lord (2:11).
I am sure he prayed for his two sons and tried to raise them according to the word of God.
But it seems like it didn't go according to his plan.

You are being deceived by Satan.

Those who are being deceived by Satan don't forgive a person
Who has caused them sorrow
So that they don't affirm God's love. (2 Cor. 2:5-11)

What Satan does ...

Satan comes and takes away the word from our hearts,
So that we won't believe and be saved (Lk. 8:12).

Satan makes us to betray Jesus
When we hear and receive the word of God with joy
By making us not to be rooted firmly in His word
And make us to fall away in time of temptation (v. 13).

Satan brings no fruit to maturity
By making us to be choked with worries and riches and pleasure of this life (v. 14).

But the Lord makes us to bear fruit with perseverance
By making us to hear His word in an honest and good heart,
And hold it fast (v. 15).

Satan

Satan made Peter to set his mind not on God's interest but on man's (Mt. 16:23).

Satan filled the hearts of Ananias and Sapphira
And made them to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land
(Acts 5:1-3).

Satan deceives our hearts.

Satan deceives our hearts. Satan deceives us so that our minds can be led astray
From the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. (2 Cor. 11:3)

Satan's work vs. The Lord's work?

Satan tries to make us not to believe the word of God that we have heard and be saved.
Satan makes us to betray through temptations
and to bring no fruit to maturity with worries and riches and pleasure of this life.
But the Lord makes us to hear the word of God and to keep it
So that we may bear fruit with perseverance.
(Lk. 8:12-15)

Satan's strategy is to besiege us and make us trapped.

Satan's strategy is to besiege us (1 Sam. 23:8; 24:26).
Satan makes us trapped (23:7; Cf. Exod. 14:3).

Not only did Satan put Joseph into the jail (Gen. 39:20)
he also made Peter (Acts 12:4, 5) and Paul and Silas to be put into prison (16:23, 24).

Although Satan make us trapped,
Our God delivers us from the trapped situation.
The reason is because our God who loves us is God of salvation.

Even though we felt the sentence of death

“Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death.

But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us.

On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us" (2 Cor. 1:9-10).

Tongue like a sharp razor

The tongue like a sharp razor loves all words that devour (Ps. 52:2, 4).

A hired pastor?

A pastor who is hired by a man who lives a superstitious religious life (Judg. 18:4),

Gets pay by him (17:10) and has become to him like one of his sons (v. 11).

The pastor has agreed to to ministry with that man (v. 11).

But when some people from the mega church come to the pastor

And ask him a very tempting question,

“Is it better for you to be a pastor to the church of one man,

Or to be pastor to the mega church?” (18;19).

Then the pastor’s heart is glad, and he takes his own idol

and go among the people from the mega church (v. 20).

Is this pastor true shepherd or a hired pastor?

The church members who are counseled by a hired pastor?

The church members who are counseled by a hired pastor

Asks the pastor to inquire of God whether their way on which they are going will be prosperous or not (Judg. 18:5).

The pastor says to them, "Go in peace; your way which you are going has the Lord's approval" (v. 6).

So they do what the pastor has said and they think that their way is prosperous

Because what they have seen a place is very good (v. 9), quiet and secure (v. 7),

And it's a spacious place where there is no lack of anything that is on the earth (vv. 7, 10).

So the church members have conviction that God has given it into their hand (v. 10).

Isn't this really a blind pastor guiding the blind people? (Mt. 15:14)

Why we have the sentence of death within ourselves?

The reason why we have the sentence of death within ourselves is

So that we will not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead (2 Cor. 1:8-9)

When we despaired even of life ...

When we are burdened excessively, beyond our strength,

So that we despaired even of life, when we have the sentence of death with ourselves,

We must believe that God's will is for us to trust in God who raises the dead

Instead of trusting in ourselves.

And we must believe that our Savior God who delivered us in the past from so great a peril of death,

Will not only delivers us in the present crisis but also will deliver us in the future as well

(2 Cor. 1:8-10).

When we despaired even of life ...

We must know that the the reason why we have the sentence of death within ourselves is

So that we will not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead (2 Cor. 1:8-9).

When we trust in God, we must hope that

God who delivered us in the past

will deliver us not only in this present but also in the future (v. 10).

And we should ask our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ

To join in helping us through their prayers (v. 11).

To live

In order to establish our actions firmly in the word of the Lord,

We must open our mouths wide and panted.

Look at Psalms 119:131 – “I opened my mouth wide and panted, For I longed for Your commandments.”

This is like breathing because a person will die if he doesn't breathe air.

Likewise the psalmist longed for God's commandments if he would die (Park, Yun-sun).

That's how much we should yearn for the word of the Lord.

We should open our mouth wide and panted for longing the Word of God.

We need to know that we will die without eating the word of God.

So in order to live, we must long for the word of God.

We must seek His word with sense of survival.

Murderous jealousy

When King Saul began to look at David with jealous eyes (1 Sam. 28:9), he was afraid of David.
The reason is because he knew that the Lord had left him and was with David (v. 12).
So he sent David away from him (v. 13).
Because the Lord with David, he had great success in everything he did.
And when Saul saw how successful David was, he was afraid of him (vv. 14-15).
When he saw all Israel and Judah loved David (v. 16)
and even his own daughter Michal loved David (vv. 20, 28),
He became still more afraid of David, and he remained his enemy the rest of his days (v. 29).
That was why Saul tried to kill an innocent man like David for no reason (19:5).

Jealousy makes us to dislike and even hate someone for no reason.
It makes us to be distanced from him/her.
It even makes us to want to kill him/her and actually makes us to try to murder him/her.
And jealousy actually makes us to kill him/her.
This is 'Murderous jealousy.'

Even it costs him a lot

An authoritarian pastor who abuses God-given divine authority for himself
Doesn't and even can't think that he is stealing from his church members
Who are saying to him, 'I give it to the pastor.'
However, a humble pastor who uses God-given divine authority for His flocks
whom God has entrusted to him
Uses what the church members give to him for His flocks
Even it costs him a lot
(Cf. 1 Chron. 21:18-27).

Situation, reaction, fact

1. Situation: What is your situation now?

The situation that the people of Judah encountered during the days of Prophet Jeremiah was “the drought”/“famine”, “the sword”, “pestilence” (Jere. 14:1, 12, 15-16, 18), “distress” (v. 8), they were “crushed” “with a sorely infected wound” (v. 17).

2. Reaction: What is your reaction to your situation?

The reaction that the people of Judah during the days of Prophet Jeremiah was “mourning” (v. 2), their eyes flow down with tears night and day (v. 17), “languish” and “the cry” (v. 2), “shame” (vv. 3, 4), humiliation (v. 3) and “terror” (v. 19) ...

However, the Lord was “like a stranger” (v. 8), “like a mighty man who cannot save” (v. 9), seemed like He rejected and forsook Judah (vv. 9, 19), “loathed Zion” (v. 19), stricken Judah so that they were beyond healing (v. 19), seemed like He despised Judah (v. 21) ...

3. Fact (Truth): What truth are you holding onto by faith?

But the fact (truth) is that your God is your Hope (v. 8), “Savior in time of distress” (v. 8), “act of Your name’s sake” (v. 7).

Therefore you should hope in your God (v. 22).

And you shouldn’t love to wander and you should keep your feet in check (v. 10).

You should know our wickedness (v. 20) and confess your iniquities (v. 7).

And you should repent of your ways (15:7).

In doing so, you should fast and cry out to God (14:12, cf. 15:11).

You should remember God’s covenant with you (v. 21)

and cry out to God as you hold onto His promise word.

Then God will restore you (16:15), will forgive you and save you.

The Word rather than a situation ...

Lord, help me to be influenced by the Word of God rather than a situation
And help me to be led by His promised Word rather than the situation.
(Cf.: Josh. 14:6-15)

When we see things getting worse and worse ...

When we see things getting worse and worse, we can get discouraged.
Especially when we see and think rationally that 'This is humanly impossible'
Then we can even be in despair.
What should we do in this situation?

These days I think about Abraham's faith again and again.
I am struggling to let the Scripture Romans 4:18-21 to speak to my soul.
In other words, I am asking God for the faith that believes in hope against all hope (v. 18).
I am determined to believe the promise words of God in hope
As I look upon the Lord, my Hope, by faith
Even in the humanly hopeless situation.
Without becoming weak in faith, I want to give glory to God
By growing strong in faith without wavering in unbelief (vv. 19-20).
So I pray to God:
'Dad Father God, help me to be fully persuaded that God has power to do what He has promised,
That is Matthew 16:18 (regarding Victory Presbyterian Church) and John 6:1-15 (regarding me).
["being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised" (Rom. 4:21)].
In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.'

Some lessons that I received through four funerals in The New Year 2019

1. Mrs. Jung Sook Yoo: Grace

When I think Mrs. Jung Sook Yoo, I think about her favorite hymn, “Amazing Grace”. She used to be lost, but she was found when she started coming to our church and accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior and Lord and had eternal life. She knew the depth, width and height of the grace of God’s salvation. So when she was in a nursing home, she really wanted to come to church and worship God with thanksgiving in her heart. When I think about Mrs. Yoo, not only that the word “grace” came to my mind but also 1 Corinthians 15:10 – “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.”

2. Elder Richard Oh: Peace

My father-in-law Elder Richard Oh loved to sing the hymn “When peace, like a river, attendeth my way”. When I thought about this hymn, I asked myself first time last Friday during the Morning Prayer, “How can he sing ‘When peace like a river attendeth my way When sorrows like sea billows roll Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say It is well, it is well with my soul’ when my father-in-law was suffering so much that I can’t imagine until he passed away?” How could he sing “When peace like a river attendeth my way” when he was suffering? How could he enjoy singing “It is well with my soul”? When I think about him who died peacefully in the Lord, not only the word “peace” comes to my mind but also Philippians 4:6-7: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

3. My junior high school friend Pastor Rubin’s mother and

4. Pastor Narmandach from True Love Church in Mongolia: Love.

When I entered this New Year 2019, I had privilege to preside Mrs. Jung Sook Lee’s graveyard service on January 4, Friday and then one week later on January 11, I presided my father-in-law

Elder Richard Oh's graveyard service in the same cemetery. Between those two funeral services, I attended my junior high school friend Pastor Rubin's mother's funeral on Monday January 7 with another junior high school friend named Glen. When we sat down on the chairs in the church, the thought came into my mind that Glen lost his mother and his youngest son last year and I lost my father-in-law and Mrs. Jung Sook Yoo who loved me very much. It was little bit a queer sensation that we were both attending our friend Pastor Rubin's mother's funeral service. But the precious grace that I received during Pastor's Rubin's mother's funeral service was that I was challenged by what she did until she passed away. I heard that she posted 1 Corinthians 13 on her room wall and her grandchildren's pictures and she kept praying for them. Since this New Year's motto is to love one another (Jn. 15:12), I planned to sing the Korean gospel song 'Love is always patience' as an offering song, her life challenged me to not only sing that offering song but also to live a life loving one another starting from my family.

Last Monday when I was working out, I found out through Facebook that Pastor Narmandach (25 years old) from True Love Church in Mongolia passed away. I couldn't believe it. I still remember when I went to Mongolia about 4 years ago, I have memory that I played basketball with him and had lunch together as well. I heard that Pastor Narmandach passed away when he was sitting on a sofa during a break at the united churches seminar. So, I watched articles, photos, and videos that I uploaded frequently on the Mongolian True Love Church Facebook every day for the past week. I was sad when I saw the picture of his grave. When I think about the True Love Church pastor, his wife and the whole church members, my heart went out to them and I had been praying for them. The heart that God had been giving me through Pastor Narmandach was to pray for his three prayer requests that he asked me and my church to pray for. The first prayer request doesn't apply it because he passed away. His second prayer request is to pray for his non-believer relatives. The third prayer request is to pray for True Love Church. So I also encouraged my church members to pray for his two prayer requests. But what really made me to think was that when I looked at the writings of the True Love church members' on the church Facebook about Pastor Narmandah, I saw a consistent memory about him. And the consistent memory was that they all felt love from Pastor Narmandah. The challenge this gives me is 'What kind of consistent memory will people have when I die?' I was challenged to live the rest of my life to love my neighbors before the Lord. Through Pastor Rubin and Pastor Narmandah, I received six lessons from 1 Corinthians 13:

- (1) Love is patient (v. 4),
- (2) Love doesn't take into account a wrong suffered (v. 5),

- (3) Love endures all things (v. 7),
- (4) Love is kind (v. 4),
- (5) Love doesn't seek its own (v. 5)
- (6) Love hopes all things (v. 7).

Think

Let's not think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think.

Let's think so as to have sound judgment. (Rom. 12:3)

“I never expected ...”

Father Jacob thought that his most beloved son Joseph was dead for 22 years

(Joseph was hated by his older brothers when he was 17 years old and was sold to some Midianite traders and then to Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, and then he was put in charge of the whole land of Egypt, and then met his father Jacob when he was 39 years old, the second year of the famine).

But Jacob heard that Joseph was alive and he was put in charge of the whole land of Egypt from his other sons. And this is what he said: “... It is enough; my son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die” (Gen. 45:28).

And after Jacob met Joseph face to face in Egypt, this is what he said to him:

“... Now let me die, since I have seen your face, that you are still alive” (46:30).

And before he blessed Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, this is what he said to Joseph:

“... I never expected to see your face, and behold, God has let me see your children as well” (48:11).

This reminds me Ephesians 3:20 –

“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.”

"The fruit of their plans"

If we obey the Lord's command "Where the good way is, and walk in it",
We will find rest for our souls.
But if we say to the Lord "We will not listen" and reject His command,
Then the fruit of our plans is that they will be stumbling blocks before us
And will be disaster on us. (Jere. 6:16-21)

Let's slow down our thoughts

Those who are quick in thinking need to slow down their thoughts.
How about stop thinking for a moment and quietly think about Jesus.
"... In quietness and trust is your strength ..." (Isa. 30:15).

God who does unexpected things

God does unexpected good things for us that overflow. (Gen. 48:11)

The redemption of our soul is costly.

Since the redemption of our soul is costly

Even we who trust in our wealth should cease trying forever (Ps. 49:6-8).

But God redeemed us (v. 15).

In redeeming us, God paid the greatest price of his own Son

Jesus Christ to die on the cross (Col. 1:14).

But how can we serve both God and wealth? (Mt. 6:24)

How can we devote to both his Son Jesus and wealth?

Even in the midst of a life crisis

Even in the midst of a life crisis, let us not forget the word of God

We must not stray from that word.

We must make the word of God our eternal heritage.

The reason is because the word of God is the joy of our hearts. (Ps. 119:109-111)

The secret to survival

The secret to survival is to follow the Lord in faith. (Num. 14:24, 38)

The worries of life

Our hearts will be weighed down with the worries of life. (Lk. 21:34)

We have fellowship with one another.

In order for us to have fellowship with Him who is in the Light,

We must walk in the Light.

If we walk in the darkness, we don't have fellowship with Him.

We are lying and aren't practicing the truth. (1 Jn. 1:6-7)

Confess your sins to one another?

"Therefore, confess your sins to one another, ..." (Jam. 5:16).

1. Are we obeying this word of God?
2. How should we obey this word?
3. What should we do when we confess our sins in the church community and other members are tempted or it isn't edifying to them?

To be at peace with one another

Jesus said, "Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another." (Mk. 9:50).

In order to be at peace with one another, we must have ...

1. Self-sacrifice (Mk. 9:50)
 - a. As if the salt had to melt
2. Self-denial (8:34)
 - a. Must think about the work of God, not the work of man
3. Humility (9:34-37)
 - a. Proud people can't be peace with each other
4. Serving (9:41)
 - a. Serve our neighbors with the power of God, and be faithful to small things

What to mix and what not to mix?

The reason why the Word of God doesn't profit us is

Because the Word that we have heard isn't mixed by faith (Heb. 4:2).

As saints, we shouldn't mingle with the people of the word

But the church leaders have been foremost in this unfaithfulness (Ezra 9:2).

We must separate ourselves without mingling.

We must separate ourselves from those who do detestable things and not mingle with them.

(Ezra 9:1-2)

Let us not be discouraged in doing good.

We can be misunderstood and even be criticized instead of be complemented even though we did good.

But we don't have to be discouraged.

The reason is that we are doing good to other

because there is thanksgiving and love in our hearts

Due to God's abundant grace and what He has done for us,

Not because we want to be understood and be complemented.

“But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good” (2 Thess. 3:13).

The good Shepherd Lord ...

The good shepherd Lord calls His own sheep by name
And His sheep hear only His voice and follow Him. (Jn. 10:3, 4)

Mary Magdalene, who was standing outside the tomb weeping,
Didn't know that it was Jesus who was standing behind her.
She thought he was the gardener.
But when He said to her, "Mary!"
Then she knew He was "Rabboni!" ("Teacher") (20:11-16)

God's gracious hand, our good work

When God's gracious hand is upon us
We can be strengthened and put our hands to the good work. (Neh. 2:18)

Good influence

I think Moses, the great leader of Israel, was influenced by his father-in-law Jethro.
The good influence that he got from Jethro was humility (Exod. 18:11, Num. 12:3)
And wisdom in fearing God and truthfulness (Exod. 18:21).

While meditating on this, I came to think of my both side parents (my parents and my wife's parents).
And I hope and pray that I can have good influence on my wife and my three children too.

The Lord is with the upright.

Although Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, helped the wicked Ahab, king of Israel,
The Lord was with the upright.
(2 Chron. 18; 19:2, 11; Cf. 20:35)

Serve and die

I just need to die after I serve according to God's will in this generation. (Acts 13:36)

The Bible says ...

The Bible says, "Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people."
(Acts 23:5)

The secret to success in the Bible is ...

1. God with us (Gen. 39:2, 3, 21, 23)
2. Obeying God's commands (Josh. 1:8; 1 Kgs. 2:3)
3. Seeking God (2 Chron. 26:5)

What is the prosperity (success) in the Bible?

I think the prosperity (success) in the Bible (Gen. 45:4-8; 50:20) is that
God to fulfill His good will (Rom. 12:2), causing all things to work together for good (8:28)
Even in the midst of a lot of adversity and suffering (Gen. 39)
That is incomprehensible to our reason.

The Bible tells us to love our enemies.

Our enemies hate us, curse us, insult us, and strike our cheek.
But the Bible tells us to love our enemies.
The Bible says to do good to those who hate us, bless those who curse us,
Pray for those who mistreat us, and offer him the other cheek when he hits us on the check.
(Lk. 6:27-29)

Although they search the Scriptures ...

Although they search the Scriptures because they think that in them they have eternal life
They don't go to Jesus about whom the Scriptures testify
And they don't have the love of God in themselves.
They don't seek the glory that is from the one and only God
But they receive glory from one another
And they don't believe in Jesus and don't receive Him.
(Jn. 5:39-44)

When similar words come out while reading the Bible ...

Abram and his nephew Lot could not live together in Canaan, the Promised Land.

The reason was because their possessions were so great (Gen. 13: 6).

So Lot left Canaan (vv. 9-11).

Jacob and Esau could not live together in Canaan, the Promised Land.

The reason was because their property had become too great for them to live together, and the land where they sojourned could not sustain them because of their livestock” (36:7).

So Esau left the land of Canaan (v. 6).

As we read the Bible, similar words come out.

I think it is necessary to meditate those similar words together.

When I meditated on those two words above,

I thought about this question: ‘Why did Lot and Esau left the land of Canaan

And Abram and Jacob stayed in the land of Canaan?’

When I did so, Genesis chapter 12 came into my mind.

The land of Canaan was the land which God show to Abram (12:1).

And the land of Canaan is the land that God promised to give to the descendants of Abram (v. 7).

That was why God placed Abram

with whom He made covenant and his descendant Jacob in the land of Canaan.

And I think God blessed Lot and Esau abundantly and made them to leave the land of Canaan.

When I apply these words to ourselves,

I believe that God has saved us, His chosen and covenant people, through Jesus Christ,

In order to place us in the true Promised Land, the new heaven and new earth, new Jerusalem.

The Biblical view of success?

The Biblical view of success is (Gen. 39:2, 3, 23) that God is with us (vv. 2, 3, 21, 23), God making us to be found favor in another person's sight (vv. 4, 21), God exalting us [God exalted Joseph to be an overseer over Potiphar's house (v. 4), To be in charge all the prisoners in the jail (v. 22) and in charge of the whole land of Egypt (41:41)], And fulfilling God's will (45:5, 7).

The saints are ...

1. Those who are called by God's name (Jere. 14:9; 15:16),
2. Those who have concern for God's holy name as God has concern for His holy name (Ezek. 36:21),
3. Those who are jealous for God's holy name (39:25),
4. Those who have compassion on all the people (v. 25),
5. Those who don't let God's holy name to be profaned (v. 7).

"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints." (Ps. 116:15)

People who serve the saints

We should acknowledge those who not only are devoted themselves for ministry to the saints but actually ministering to us and are refreshing our spirits.

We should obey them as well.

(1 Cor. 16:15-18)

A false pastor who makes the hearts of the saints harden?

A false pastor, who seeks the well-being of the saints who need to turn away from sin and repent rather than harm as a result of their sins, is making their hearts harden.

(Cf. :Jere. 38:4)

The perseverance of the saints

The perseverance of the saints is to keep the commandments of God and faith in Jesus.

(Rev. 15:12)

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is with us forever (Jn. 14:16).

The Holy Spirit abides with us and is in us (v. 17).

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth (v. 17; 15:26).

The Holy Spirit teaches us all things, and brings to our remembrance all that Jesus said to us (14:26).

The Holy Spirit testifies about Jesus (15:26).

The Holy Spirit convicts the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment (16:8).

The Holy Spirit guides us into all the truth (v. 13).

The Holy Spirit glorifies the Lord Jesus (v. 14).

When we obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit ...

When we obey and don't doubt about what the Holy Spirit says

There is precious understanding about God. (Acts 10:19-20, 34-35)

There is liberty where the Spirit of the Lord is.

There is liberty where the Spirit of the Lord is because through the Spirit of the Lord

We behold the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image for glory to glory.

(2 Cor. 3:17-18)

The Christians with the dull sword of the Holy Spirit ...

If we don't sharpen a dull sword, then we must exert more strength (Eccle. 10:10).

Likewise, the Christians with the dull sword of the Holy Spirit,

the Word of God (Eph. 6:17) must exert more strength in their Christian life.

In other words, the Christians whose mind is not being sharpened by His word,

They have no choice but to live with their own strength instead of the God's strength.

As a result, they will become spiritually insensitive

And will dwell in confusion due to the lack of spiritual discernment.

And they will wander from this way and that way, not knowing where to go.

But the Christians whose mind is keep on being sharpened by the word of God

have spiritual sensitivity and spiritual discernment.

Bot only they are sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit,

They are able to discern which door the Holy Spirit closes and which door He opens.

Therefore, they boldly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ

in obedience to the guidance of the Spirit of Jesus.

When the sword of the Holy Spirit is dull ...

In spiritual warfare, I think Satan is attacking us

When we don't have our weapon, the sword of the Holy Spirit (the Word of God)

Or even when we have it is dull. (1 Sam. 13:21)

Let us make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit.

There are three types of people in the church community:

(1) peace-maker, (2) peace-breaker, (3) peace-keeper.

We should not be peace-breakers. Instead, we must be peacekeepers. We must be peacemakers.

There must be peace in the church community.

As members of the community,

we must make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit (Eph. 4:3).

In order to do so, we must be completely humble and gentle (v. 2).

And we must be patient, bearing with one another in love (v. 2).

Why aren't we bearing one another? Why aren't we forgiving each other?

If we are becoming those who break the peace of the community

because of hate, pride and impatience,

Then we will never be able to please God.

In order to please Him, we must love each other.

We must be completely humble, gentle, forgive each other

and show tolerance for one another in love.

As God has forgiven me and tolerated such sinner like me,

We must forgive and tolerate each other sincerely.

In doing so, we we be able to keep the peace of the community.

Let's love each other with the affection of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:8).

In the spirit-filled heart ...

There are praise, thanksgiving and obedience
In the heart of a Christian who is filled with the Holy Spirit.
(Eph. 5:18-21)

**Those who are filled with the Holy Spirit are
those who are filled with the Word.**

To those who are filled with the Holy Spirit are those who are filled with the Word
Receive the Word of God not only in word
but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction (1 Thess. 1:5).
And those who are filled with the Holy Spirit
receive the word of God "with the joy of the Holy Spirit" (v. 6).
They accept the word of God not as the word of men,
But for what it really is, the word of God (2:13).
Therefore, the word of God performs its work in them who believe (v. 13).

Only the Scripture!

[Those who are fill with the Word of God year for His Word
and have good receptivity of His Word.]

Sexual seduction

When the naive young man who lacks judgment takes the way to her house,
She comes to meet him, dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart
with the hidden intention (Prov. 7:7, 8, 10).

Her hidden intention was to set up the trap so that he maybe unfaithful to his marriage.
In other words, her true intention was to make many men to break the covenant
they made when they got married (Park Yun-sun).

With this hidden intention, she entices and seduces him

With her many persuasions and her flattering lips (v. 21).

Here the word “seduction” comes from Latin and its literal meaning is “to lead astray”.

It means ‘to lead in the wrong direction’, ‘to deceive’ or ‘to corrupt’.

When this word is used in negatively regarding temptation and enticement

It makes a person to cause sexual excitement

so that he may make a choice that leads him to fall and be corrupted (Wikipedia).

Then how does the harlot seduce the naive young man

with lack of judgement to fall and be corrupted?

There are at least three:

(1) The harlot seduces the naive young man with visual.

(v. 10 – “And behold, a woman comes to meet him, Dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart”)

(2) The harlot seduces the naive young man with physical touching.

(v. 13 – “So she seizes him and kisses him ...”).

(3) The harlot seduces the naive young man with words.

(v. 21 – “With her many persuasions she entices him; With her flattering lips she seduces him”).

Even now Satan is tempting the naive people like me to fall and to be corrupted.

Satan is enticing my sexual weakness so that I may commit adultery in my heart (Mt. 5:28).

As a result, Satan makes my spiritual strengthen to be exhausted.

What does it mean to fall in sexual temptation?

When we are sexually tempted and fall in sexual temptation may mean that

We are under the Lord's wrath. (Prov. 22:14)

Why is the Lord's wrath upon us?

Isn't it because foolishness is bound up in our hearts? (v. 15)

“Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors ...”

God says “Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors”

So that we would not offer useless worship to Him. (Mal. 1:10)

At the end of the age

At the end of the age when Jesus will come back,

Many of us who are Christians will be deceived, will be hated and will hate each other.

(Mt. 24:3-5, 9, 10)

We Christians who sin more than the people in this world

We Christians who sin more than the people in this world don't pay attention to His Word.

As a result, we receive God's discipline and suffer.

And through suffering, we humble ourselves and cry out to God.

When God hear our supplication and restore us

Then we knew that the Lord is God. (2 Chron. 33:9-13)

We who are worse than the world

Not only that we Christians are not living up to the God's standard
But also we are more unruly than the people in this world
By being conform to the standards of this world. (Ezek. 5:7)

Harmony with the world but disharmony in the church

As we live in this dirty and ugly sinful world
we as God's holy people suppose to cast out all the evils of dirty and ugly form,
And seek the holiness of God. But we aren't.
Rather, we are being polluted by dirty and ugly sins because we are following
As a result, we aren't living our lives apart from the world,
and are unable to be the light and salt of the world.
We are getting fingered by the people in this world. What is the problem?
It is because we aren't being separated from the world.
The true church of God is being separated from this world.
But now we the church is in harmony with the world and disharmony in the church.
This is the work of Satan.
Satan is exchanging everything (Rom. 1:23).
Satan is making church to be in disharmony and to be harmony with the world.

Rather than lacking nothing worldly ...

It is much better to live in poor neighborhood, living in difficulties and lacking this and that worldly
And confess 'I shall not be in need because the Lord is my Shepherd' (Ps. 23:1) and serve Him
Than to live in rich neighborhood that lacks nothing whatever, living in safety and are prosperous
And worship wealth. (Judg. 18:7, 9, 10, 30-31)

Is it very good that there is no lack in the world?

If we live in the world that is "very good" (Judg. 18:9) because we lack nothing (vv. 7, 10)
and we live in safety and peacefully, unsuspecting and secure (vv. 7, 27)
then we may worship idols (vv. 30-31).

The worldly Christians

The worldly Christians have faith that is like mere infants in Christ.
They don't have firmness but waviness.
(1 Cor. 3:1, 11)

The wall to be built, the wall to be broken down

The wall must be firmly and thickly built around the church
In order to divide between the holy and the profane (Ezek. 42:20; 43:8).
The wall of the church must be built firmly and thickly
so that the worldly waves cannot enter the church.
However, the wall seems to have already been broken down.

The walls must be broken inside the church.
We must break the walls that are being blocked between brothers and sisters in Christ
With the precious blood, the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ on the cross (Eph. 2:13-14).
We must destroy any kinds of walls within our hearts such as,
the wall of hatred toward one another, the wall of preconception or any kind of sinful wall
with the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ.
However, it seems that these walls are already being built very high firmly.

The people who are worse than an ox and a donkey

Those who don't know and understand the Lord are worse than an ox and a donkey. (Isa. 1:3)

God's time when our hope is gone

The Almighty God waits until we who are nervous to realize and acknowledge
how helpless and powerless we are.
For example, God waited until Abraham no longer was able to have a child and was against all hope
(Rom. 4:18-19). He also waited Martha's brother Lazarus to die so that it was impossible for Martha and
her sister Mary to have hope for their brother to live (Jn. 11:11, 27, 40, 44-45).
In God's time, when we have no hope, God manifests His glory
By hearing our cry out or fulfilling His promise to us
So that we may believe in Him more firmly.

Fearing God because everything we have?

Why does God leave everything we have in Satan's hands?

Maybe it's because God wants to test us whether we fear God or not

Because everything that God has given us. (Job 1:10-12)

Relationship between possession and dwelling together?

It's better to dwell together even if we have less possession

than splitting because we have a lot of possession. (Cf.: Gen. 13:6ff)

We should avoid hasty conclusion carefully.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'God, I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have selected a king for Myself among his sons' (1 Sam. 16:1), "You shall invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for Me the one whom I designate to you" (v. 3).

But when Samuel saw Eliab, Jesse's firstborn son, he thought and misjudged that "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him" (v. 6). Even though the Lord clearly told Samuel "... the one whom I designate to you" (v. 3) and He didn't designate Eliab, Samuel misjudged that Eliab was the one whom the Lord wanted him to anoint.

Eliab misjudged David and "Eliab's anger burned against David and he said, 'Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your insolence and the wickedness of your heart; for you have come down in order to see the battle'" (17:28).

As I think about Samuel's and Eliab's misjudgment, I thought about what caused our wrong judgement.

One of the causes is that I think it's a reckless judgment about the other person.

In the case of Samuel, even though God clearly told him "the one whom I designate to you" (v. 3), Samuel couldn't wait until He designated to him.

In the case of Eliab, he made hasty conclusion without listening to what his youngest brother David said because David was obeying what his father Jesse said to him (vv. 17-18).

We should avoid hasty conclusion carefully.

Quick

Instead of being quick to quarrel (Prov. 20:3), I want to be quick to forgive (19:11).

A way to be perished quickly?

A way to be perished quickly (Josh. 23:16) is not clinging to the Lord (v. 8),
Not clinging to the rest of the unbelievers and intermarry with them and associate with them (v. 12),
But to mention the name of their gods, or to swear by them or serve them or bow down to them (v. 7)
And transgress the covenant of the Lord which He commands us (v. 16).

Need to discern economic loss

There is beneficial loss for me. It is to regain spiritual property, even though there is loss of rich
Or God will turn our loss of rich to spiritual blessing to me (Ruth ch. 4). But there is also useless loss for
me. It is unnecessary or useless loss by meddling in a quarrel not my own (Prov. 26:17).
I should be able to discern even loss with spiritual discernment.

A pure Christian

I pray that that the Lord to remove all my impurities in me even through the furnace of affliction (Isa. 48:10) and make me a pure Christian. I pray that the Lord to refine my heart (Prov. 17:3) and remove everything that defiles me (Mt. 15:18-19). Lord, I am seeking pure heart.

May the Lord thoroughly purge away my dross and remove all my impurities (Isa. 1:25) through the furnace of sufferings and make me pure like a gold. Lord, I am seeking pure gold like faith.

May the Lord purify me with His pure Word (Prov. 30:5; Cf.: Ps. 12:6).

I pray that I may become “a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to he Master, prepared for every good work” (2 Tim. 2:21).

The path of obedience

It can be lonely to walk the path of obedience.

The reason is because no one may understand you fully that you are walking the path of obedience.

Even your beloved family and relatives may not understand you.

But we must still walk that lonely path of obedience by just looking at the Lord until the end

Because the Lord has commanded us and it's the Lord's will.

That's what Abraham the father of faith did.

When God tested him and said to him, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering

on one of the mountains of which I will tell you" Abraham obeyed by faith (Gen. 22:1-3).

He rose early in the morning and obeyed God's command by going to the place of which God had told him (vv. 3-4) and he even stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son Isaac (v. 10).

Was Sarah, Abraham's wife, aware of his obedience?

If she did, could she understand her husband's obedience with her own understanding?

Not only Sarah, if Abraham relied on his own understanding, then he couldn't obey God's command.

The reason is because with their own understanding, they couldn't understand God's command.

Did Isaac understand this obedience of his father Abraham?

He asked his father Abraham like this:

"Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" (v. 7)

This was how father Abraham replied:

"God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son" (v. 8).

But why my father Abraham built the altar and arranged the wood, and bound me and laid me on the altar, on top of the wood? Why did he stretch out his hand and took the knife to slay me? (vv. 9-10)

In Isaac's point of view, could he understand his father Abraham's behavior? I am sure he couldn't.

How can we fully understand the will of our Heavenly Father with our own understanding?

Never. We cannot fully understand His will.

The Lord's will is not to be understood but to obey.

And in obeying his will, of course we want to be understood by our beloved family.

But we may not be understood by them either. Rather, they may misunderstand us.

But we must still obey the Lord's command faithfully as we look only to the Lord.

The reason is because that's why Jesus did.

Jesus obeyed Heavenly Father's will until his death on the cross (Phil. 2:8).

He wasn't welcomed by His people (Jn. 1:11). Rather, He was rejected by them (Mt. 13:57).

Jesus obeyed the Heavenly Father's will until He was crucified (Jn. 19:6).

Jesus, who learned obedience from the things which He suffered (Heb. 5:8), said to His disciples,

“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me”
(Lk. 9:23).

Will you obey this word of the Lord by faith?

Will you faithfully walk the path of obedience of the cross by just looking at the Lord?

Will you walk in faith to the end as you rely on Father God

Even though your beloved family may not understand you but misunderstand you?

The path of obedience

Although Prophet Jonah went down to Joppa, went down to a ship,
went down into it, and even went down all the way into the deep sea
in disobedience to the Lord's command (Jonah 1: 1-3, 15).

Jesus came down to this earth in obedience to Heavenly Father,
came down even to wear the human body,
came down to taking the form of a bond-servant (Phil. 2:7),
came down to the death on the cross, the three of curse,
and eventually went down to Hades.

(As I was reading Louis Berkhof's "Systematic Theology")

We are blessed when we obey?

After the sons of Israel did all the word
according to all that “the Lord had commanded Moses”
(This phrase appears 18 times in Exodus 39-49)
Moses blessed them (Exod. 39:42-43).

Despite the numerous times of disobeying what the Lord had commanded me,
I am still receiving God’s abundant blessings.
The reason is because Jesus obeyed the Father God’s will
until death on the cross.
(Phil. 2:8)

Would they able to obey?

How did the Israelites hear in the time of Exodus when God commanded them,
“You shall not do what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived
(for around 400 years from Jacob and his sons),
nor are you to do what is done in the land of Canaan where I am bringing you;
you shall not walk in their statutes”? (Lev. 18:3)

Although God clearly commanded them
“you do not practice any of the abominable customs which have been practiced before you” (v. 30),
Did the Israelites really obey this command of God?
Although God commanded them,
“You are to perform My judgments and keep My statutes” (v. 4),
Did the Israelites obey that command?

Test in obedience?

Jacob had two great fearful situations for him to overcome in obeying God's command
"Return to the land of your fathers and to your relatives" in faith (Gen. 31:3).

The first great fearful situation was his father-in-law Laban pursuing him (v. 23).

Jacob was afraid that Laban might take his two daughters Leah and Rachel from him by force (v. 31).

In that fear, Jacob fled without telling Laban

after he saw Laban's attitude wasn't friendly toward him anymore (vv. 2, 5).

When Laban found out about it on the third day that Jacob had fled,

he took his kinsmen with him and pursued Jacob a distance of 7 days' journey (vv. 22-23).

Laban had power to harm Jacob (v. 29).

What a fearful situation.

But God came to Laban in a dream of the night and said to him,

"Be careful that you do not speak to Jacob either good or bad" (v. 24).

Eventually as God promised to Jacob that He would be with him (v.3)

even in that fearful situation (vv. 5, 42)

And He stopped Laban and didn't allow him to harm Jacob (v. 7).

The second great fearful situation was

his older brother Esau was coming to meet Jacob with 400 people (32:6).

When Jacob heard that news, he was greatly afraid and distressed (v. 7).

He feared that Esau would come and attack him and the mothers with the children (v. 11).

So Jacob cried out to God:

"Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau" (v. 11).

Eventually, God saw Jacob's affliction and the toil of his hands (31:42)

He delivered Jacob from Esau.

I want to learn the Heavenly Father's heart through obedience.

When God commanded Prophet Jonah to "Go ...", Jonah disobeyed (Jon. 1:2-3).

The reason was because Jonah didn't have compassion heart toward the people in Nineveh (4:11).

When God commanded Prophet Hosea to "Go, take to yourself a wife of harlotry and have children of harlotry", he obeyed (Hos. 1:2-3).

The reason why God commanded like this to Hosea was

To teach Hosea God's heart toward the Israelites who were committing spiritual adultery.

I think God told His Son Jesus to 'God, take to yourself a wife of harlotry, the Church.

So Jesus obeyed the word of Heavenly Father until his death on the cross (Phil. 2:8).

We must also obey the Lord's command to go and take to ourselves a spouse of harlotry and have children of harlotry and love them in order to learn our Father God's heart toward us.

When there is relief ...

When I see that there is relief, I harden my heart and don't listen to God. (Cf.: Exod. 8:15)

Idol worshipers vs. God worshipers

Idol worshipers forfeit the grace that can be theirs and worship

and cling to worthless idols that are like breath that are empty and vain.

However, God worshipers go to God and worship Him with thanksgiving

By treasuring God's covenant grace in their hearts.

(Jonah 2:8-9)

Rather than covering it up yourself ...

Rather than trying to cover my sin up for myself

It is much better for my gracious and merciful God to cover it up

As I rely on the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross and repent my sin. (Cf. David)

I need to know that I cannot go unnoticed ...

I need to know that I can't go unnoticed before the Lord

and come trembling and fall at His feet ... (Lk. 8:47)

I deceived myself.

I said what was true with my lips but I didn't act upon it.

After all, I deceived myself. (Jere. 42:6, 20, 21)

Bring suffering upon ourselves?

Of course, it is God's grace to participate in Christ's suffering (Phil. 1:29)

But going through meaningless suffering that we bring upon ourselves

Isn't God's grace but self-inflicted suffering in our own foolishness.

(Prov. 22:3)

We should be very careful to love the Lord our God.

We should be very careful to love the Lord our God (Josh. 23:11).

We should be careful to obey the Word of God without turning aside to the right or to the left (v. 6).

We shouldn't associate and get close to the worldly people around us

And set up our own snares and traps for us (vv. 12-13).

We must only hold fast to the Lord our God (v. 8).

We should be very careful to love the Lord our God.

We should be very careful to love the Lord our God.

We shouldn't ally ourselves with the worldly people and live in conformity with them.

Otherwise, they will become our snares, traps, whips on our backs and thorns in our eyes

And we will be disciplined by God (Josh. 23:11-13).

We should be very careful to love our God.

We should be very careful to love our God (Josh. 23:11).

In other words, we should hold fast to our God (v. 8)

And be careful to obey all that is written in the Scripture (v. 6).

If we don't, then we will go close to the world and commit sins against God.

A fool who considers himself wise

A fool who considers himself wise in his own eyes is indeed his foolishness.
There is no hope for him. (Prov. 26:5, 12)

He who considers himself wise ...

He who considers himself wise (Prov. 3:7, 26:12) likes to teach others the Word of God
But doesn't teach himself (Rom. 2:21).
There is no hope for such man (Prov. 26:12).

“I will become even more undignified than this”

The great joy in our hearts due to God's grace and love
Makes us to celebrate before the Lord
Even we become more undignified than this and are humiliated in our own eyes.
(2 Sam. 6:12-22)

We shouldn't sin at the cost of our lives ...

Maybe we are sinning at the cost of our lives. (Num. 16:38)

Envy and hate

If we envy, we quarrel (Gen. 26:14, 20).

If we hate, we send him (v. 27).

We even try to kill him if we hate him (27:41).

Mount Sinai and Mount Calvary

On Mount Sinai, God commanded Moses to go to the Israelites and consecrate them

And put limits for them around the mountain so that they might not be put to death.

(Exod. 19:10, 12)

On Mount Calvary, Jesus died on the cross in order to cleanse us and to make us live forever

And destroy the boundary with God.

(Heb. 9:22; Eph. 2:14)

The church shouldn't have any attraction.

Although Jesus Christ had no beauty or majesty to attract people to Him,

Nothing in His appearance that people should desire Him (Isa. 53:2)

But His church is now trying to draw the attention of this world

By pursuing its' own beauty.

That's why the church is filled with carnal Christians.

King Solomon, whose beginning was increasing greatly but whose ending was insignificant?

One of the Bible verses that is well known to us Christians is Job 8:7 –

“Though your beginning was insignificant, Yet your end will increase greatly.”

But when I think about King Solomon, I think his beginning was increasing greatly

But his ending was insignificant.

The reason I think this way is because King Solomon loved many foreign women

along with the daughter of Pharaoh and he let them turn his heart away (1 Kgs. 11:1-4),

even though he received his name “Jedidiah” (mean ‘loved by God’) (2 Sam. 12:25)

and “a wise and discerning heart” and “both riches and honor” from God (1 Kgs. 3:12-13).

He didn’t keep God’s covenant and His statutes (v. 11), his heart was turned away from the Lord (v. 9)

and did what was evil in the sight of the Lord by worshiping idols (vv. 5-6).

How could he, who was loved by the Lord and followed Him at the beginning,

Loved the foreign women who served idols and worshiped the foreign idols?

Trials to test

As long as I can accept “various trials” as ‘the testing of my faith’

so that I can let endurance have its perfect result ... (Jam. 1:1-4)

Obedience even through tests

God gives us difficult tests in our lives

in order to make us not to rely on our own understanding and to disobey God’s commands

but to trust in God and to live our lives of obedience to Him. (Gen. 22; Prov.3:5-6)

Trust and meditation

Those Christians who trust God meditate His Word day and night.

The more they meditate His Word, the more they cannot help but to trust God.

(Cf.: Ps. 1, Jere. 17)

I will walk faithfully with silence of trust.

In hearing God's Word and obeying Him in His presence,

I want to walk faithfully with silence of trust as I worship God with thanksgiving,

Believing and assuring that God will accomplish His promised Word in His time and in His way,

Toward the eternal promised Kingdom of God.

[After hearing the Word of God of Joshua 6:8-14 during the first day of 2019 Fall Revival meeting]

Even our close friends we trust

Even our close friends in whom we trust and share our hearts and lives
can be against us and attack us.

Then we can fall. But our friends cannot win over us.

The reason is because we know that our Lord is pleased with us
and He will uphold us in our integrity.

(Ps. 41:9-12)

Have faith in the Lord!

If we have faith in the Lord even in the midst of a great crisis, we will be upheld.

If we have faith in His servants, then we will be successful. (2 Chron. 20:20)

We can't trust him.

We can't trust him who is hunger for riches and power. (Cf.: Prov. 28:20)

(As I was reading George M. Schwab's "The Book of Proverbs")

The Church of the Bride must be a pure virgin.

The Church of the Bride must be a pure virgin to be presented to "one husband" Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 11:2).

The pure virgin Church must have purity of devotion to Christ (v. 3).

But Satan is constantly deceiving the Church by his craftiness to go astray

From the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ (v. 3).

Satan is preaching "another Jesus"

and trying to make us to receive "a different spirit" and "a different gospel" (v. 4).

Hasten and don't delay.

When I consider my ways and realize that I am far from the Word of God

I must turn my steps to His Word.

I must be hasten and not delay to obey His commands. (Ps. 119:59-60)

The Christian life

It is extremely normal that the more we live Christian life,

The more we become aware of and deepen our sense of sin (1 Tim. 1:15).

It is very natural that the more we live Christian life,

The more we become conscious of God's grace and less our sense of merit
(1 Cor. 15:10; Lk. 17:10).

The more we live Christian life, the more we become humble.

Look at Apostle Paul:

1. "For I am the least of the apostles ..." (1 Cor. 15:9).
2. "To me, the very least of all saints ..." (Eph. 3:8).
3. "...sinners, among whom I am foremost of all" (1 Tim. 1:15).

Some evidences that I am living wrong Christian life:

1. I am (or It seems I am) becoming increasingly insensitive to sin (Eph. 4:19).
I don't regard sin as sin (Rom. 5:13).
2. I am becoming more and more tied to merit (Lk. 18:11-12).
I think more of what I do for the Lord and His church rather than what He does for me (Mt. 25:44).
3. I am becoming more and more proud (Prov. 21:4; Ezek. 28:5).
I like to reveal my own glory rather than the glory of God (Jn. 12:43).

One thing that is essential in the life of faith

One thing that is essential in the life of faith,

The one thing we must do so that we are completely immersed is to meditate on the Word of God.

When we meditate on the Word we need to keep our composure.

The reason is because we can't meditate on His Word properly with impatient mind.

We should enjoy meditating the Word of God without rushing (Ps. 1:3).

(As I am reading Eugene Peterson's "As Kingfishers Catch Fire")

Laziness of faith

Laziness of faith is matter of heart. The problem of heart is that we lack the understanding of God's love.

(Cf. Prov. 24:30)

(As I am reading George M. Schwab's "The Book of Proverbs")

Even on the downhill path of faith

"If I should say, "My foot has slipped," Your lovingkindness, O LORD, will hold me up.

When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Your consolations delight my soul" (Ps. 94:18-19).

When I am going down on a slide rather than up, when I am anxious,

When my heart is in great pain that it refuses to be comforted,

I experience deeply God's eternal love holding me.

I give thanks to God because the Lord's comfort makes my heart rejoice

And makes me to praise Him and exalts His name on high.

What is faith?

Faith is putting complete trust in the Lord and enjoying peace of heart in steadfast of mind.
(Isa. 26:3)

Our actual life ...

Although we say we want to follow Jesus closer with our lips (Mt. 16:24)
Our actual life is following Jesus at a distance (Lk. 22:54).

The steps of righteous that do not slip

The steps of righteous don't slip. The reason is his mouth utters wisdom, his tongue speaks justice,
And the law of his God is in his heart. (Ps. 37:30-31)

We have to take it seriously!

When righteousness and justice aren't practiced in the church
The hearts of the righteous will suffer with deep wounds.
Then the righteous and just Judge the Lord, who is the head of the church,
will rebuke, give warning and discipline His church in love.
Before we receive His discipline, we should take His rebuke and warning seriously in fear of God.

The poor in spirit Christians ...

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Mt. 5:3)

The poor in spirit Christians ...

1. Know themselves that they are sinners.
They know that they are chief sinners.
2. Acknowledge that there is nothing good in themselves.
They know that they cannot do good by themselves.
They acknowledge that the indwelling Holy Spirit does good works in and through them.
3. Know that they cannot save by their own good deeds.
They acknowledge that they are saved by only what Jesus has done on the cross.
They believe that they are saved only by God's grace.
4. Rely on God completely.
They don't rely on their own understanding but trust in God.
They pray to God always.
5. Are humble.
They don't boast themselves and seek their own glory.
They only boast the Lord and live for His glory.

[As I read Iain M. Duguid's "Hero of Heroes"]

The Christian whose mind is steadfast

The Christian whose mind is steadfast trust in the Lord forever.

The reason is because the Lord is the Rock eternal.

The Lord will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast. (Isa. 26:3-4)

The righteous in severe suffering

The righteous who is in severe suffering can envy the wicked

When he sees the wicked who is prosperous. (Ps. 73:3, 14, 16)

Thought that is oppressive to us?

Each one of us may have questions that we think and ponder enough to be in pain.

For example, the psalmist Asaph had thought 'Why the wicked are prosperous when the righteous are suffering?'

And this thought was oppressive to him (Ps. 73:16).

He realized the answer to that question when he entered the sanctuary of God (v. 17).

"the stumbling block of the cross"

Trying to be justified by keeping law is to be fallen from grace

And preaching like that is "the stumbling block of the cross" (Gal. 5:4, 11).

“a vessel for the smith” ... “the furnace of affliction”

The Lord has tested us in “the furnace of affliction” (Isa. 48:10)

In order to “Take away the dross from the silver” and to make us “a vessel for the smith” (Prov. 25:4).