

**I will Always Hold Hope
and Praise the Lord More and More.**

[Short Word Meditation (15)]

James Kim

The most cunning snake, a very cunning man

Like the most cunning snake that deceived Eve (Gen. 3:1),

Jonadab was a very cunning man.

He made Amnon, David's son, commit a foolish act,

causing him to disgrace Absalom's sister, Tamar,

which should not have been done in Israel.

After forcing her into sexual relations, he hated her intensely, stating,

"Now his hatred for her was greater than the love he had felt for her before"

(2 Sam. 13:1-15).

The greatest suffering to the most excellent person?

Why did the greatest suffering befall Job,

who was the most excellent person among the people of the East?

Was it to grant him the greatest blessing?

(Job 1:3)

When we begin to give thanks and praise

When we trust in the Lord and praise Him with thanksgiving

for His eternal lovingkindness, the Lord acts

(2 Chron. 20:20-22)

The one who offers worship with thanksgiving.

The one who offers worship with thanksgiving honors God by doing what is right (Ps. 50:23).

However, the one who worships with complaints cannot honor God

because they do not do what is right.

Instead, they honor themselves.

It's just like a spider web.

The hope of the godless will perish;

their confidence is like a spider's web

(Job 8:13-14)

God delivers ...

The LORD helps the righteous and delivers them from the wicked;

they take refuge in the LORD

(Ps. 37:40).

No one can condemn us!

When we sin, Satan accuses and condemns us.

The reason is that we are wearing dirty clothes (Zech. 3:3).

But God rebukes Satan sternly.

The reason is that God has already forgiven the sins of us whom He has chosen, and He has taken off our dirty clothes and dressed us in beautiful clothes (v. 4).

God has already forgiven all our sins

through the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on the cross and stripped off our dirty clothes.

And God has justified us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ

and dressed us in beautiful clothes, namely the clothes of Jesus Christ (Rom. 4:25).

Through the robe dipped in blood of the only Son Jesus Christ (Rev. 19:13),

God has stripped off our dirty clothes (Zech. 3:3-4)

and clothed us in white robes (Rev. 7:13) or fine linen, bright and clean (19:8, 14).

Therefore, since God has justified us, who can dare to condemn us?

Certainly no one! (Rom. 8:33-34)

The devout servant of the Lord ...

The devout servant of the Lord

reveres His name with all his heart

(Ps. 86:2, 11).

We should receive a warning.

We should receive warnings through the word of God,
and realizing our hidden faults, we must repent of the sins we commit knowingly,
so that those sins will no longer rule over us
(Ps. 19:11-13).

Better is the success of the righteous, even with hardship, than the prosperity of the wicked without trouble.

In the success of the wicked, which might provoke jealousy,
there is no experience of the suffering, disaster, or pain
that people endure, leading to arrogance.
However, in the success of the righteous,
there is suffering, disaster, and pain, leading to humble obedience
(Ps. 73:3-6, 14, 16; Heb. 5:8).

The waves of suffering are constantly crashing in.

When I cry out, 'Will anyone listen to me when disaster strikes?'
'I cry out to you, God, but you do not answer.'
'I stand up, but you merely look at me.'
'I hoped for good, but evil came; I looked for light, but darkness came instead.'
The waves of suffering constantly crash upon me.
Therefore, 'My heart boils, and peace is gone'
(Job 30:20, 24, 26-27).

When in distress, even more so should one ...

When in distress, one should seek God even more and rely on Him.

However, instead, he is sinning against God even more

(2 Chron. 28:22).

We should not associate.

We must not associate with those who turn our hearts away from God

and lead us to worship idols (1 Kgs. 11:2).

One pastor from the church ...

When one pastor from the church sells himself to do evil in the eyes of God
and causes the congregation to sin,

God will be angry and bring disaster upon him

(1 Kgs. 21:20-22).

The workers who establish the church.

Those who participate in the work of the Lord in building the Lord's church (Mt. 16:18) should be helpers to one another, rejoicing together with glad hearts, and fully obedient to the word of the Lord (1 Chron. 28:21).

Rebuilding the church is a spiritual warfare!

Rebuilding the ruined church of the Lord is a spiritual warfare.

Our enemies are constantly striving and exerting themselves in every way possible to stop us from building the church, declaring that we will not be able to rebuild it.

They mobilize even the people near them to come and speak to us ten times to make us fearful.

At that time, we must remember this word of God:

‘Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, sisters, and for the church of the Lord’

(Neh. 4:10-14).

Salvation is not in us but in God!

Through the great adversity and crises that surround us, we come to realize deeply that we cannot save ourselves and that no one else can rescue us.

Our salvation is from the Lord

(Ps. 3:6, 8; Jon. 2:9)

Assurance of salvation?

Our salvation is 100% from God, so we can have confidence in our salvation.

If our salvation were 99.9999% God + 0.0001% us (works/deeds/efforts),
then we could not have confidence in our salvation.

The saints who are confident that salvation is from the Lord ...

The saints who are confident that salvation is from the Lord confess with faith,
'Lord, deliver me,' while declaring, 'I will not be afraid'
(Ps. 3:6-8).

We must strengthen our hearts in seeking ...

If we do not strengthen our hearts in seeking God,
we will inevitably do evil in the sight of God
(2 Chron. 12:14)

Because of that curse ...

Shimei continuously cursed King David who was fleeing.

Among the content of his curse were this word:

'You have shed blood and brought calamity upon yourself.'

Of course, Shimei, as a relative of Saul,

was referring to David shedding the blood of all of Saul's descendants.

However, I thought of David covering up his affair with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, one of David's loyal soldiers, and shedding his blood.

As a result, I think David brought calamity upon himself, considering that his son Absalom sought to harm him.

David said, 'Let him curse, for the LORD has told him to.

It may be that the LORD will look upon my misery and restore to me his covenant blessing instead of his curse today' (2 Samuel 16:5-12).

God, through the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, who became the cursed tree, bestowed salvation upon us.

The grace of that Lord is ...

When we cry out to the Lord in times of trouble,

His response in prayer is to bestow grace upon us.

The grace of that Lord is to make us experience His great mercy towards us (Ps. 86:3, 5, 7, 13, 16).

They do not change and do not fear God.

They do not change and do not fear God.

They oppose me and criticize me.

They are not my enemies or those who exalt themselves against me.

They are indeed my companions, my friends, and my close allies.

We used to enjoy pleasant conversation together and walk together in the house of God.

Therefore, because I am not at ease due to my distress

and my heart is deeply troubled within me,

I entrust my burden to the LORD through prayer.

I cry out to God. The LORD will deliver me.

God will sustain me and not allow the righteous to be shaken

(Ps. 55:2, 4, 12-14, 16-18, 22).

The love of Christ in marital love.

When husband and wife love each other with the unbreakable love of Christ,
their marital love is as strong as death.

Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate

(Song. 8:6; Mt. 19:6; 22:39; Rom. 8:35; Eph. 5:21-31).

Prayer and action

David didn't just pray, "O Lord, turn Ahithophel's counsel into foolishness," but he also sent his friend Hushai back to the city of Jerusalem, causing Ahithophel's counsel to be defeated on his behalf (2 Sam. 15:31-37).

The priority of prayer?

Before praying to God to escape from the pain while in distress, let us pray not to stray from God's truth and way (Ps. 86:11).

When I don't even want to look at myself ...

When I don't even want to look at myself, my soul looks only to the Lord, who is my hope and my strength (Ps. 18:1; 42:5, 11; 43:5).

Are we serving the Lord faithfully like a donkey?

Balaam saw the Lord's angel standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, but when his donkey spoke to him, Balaam said, "If I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now" (Num. 22:23, 29).

The donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with a drawn sword and tried to save its master by disobeying Balaam's commands, even enduring being struck three times with a staff (vv. 23-27).

Yet Balaam, who had served his master faithfully all his life (v. 30), said to the donkey, "If I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now" (v. 29). Balaam was worse than his donkey.

Jesus, for us who are worse than animals, rode on a donkey and entered Jerusalem (Mt. 21:7-10).

The donkey Jesus rode was not like Balaam's donkey, which did not try to save Jesus.

Instead, it obeyed and carried Jesus, the Son of God, the Passover lamb, who was obedient to the Father and resembled a lamb led to the slaughter (Isa. 53:7).

Are we truly serving the Lord faithfully like the donkey ridden by Balaam and the donkey ridden by Jesus?

**I will always hold onto hope
and praise the Lord even more and more.**

Since my youth, I have been taught your statutes,
and even to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.
Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God,
till I declare your power to the next generation,
your mighty acts to all who are to come
(Ps. 71:5, 6, 14, 15, 17, 18).

“Your kingdom come.”

I offer the prayer that the Lord taught us: “Your kingdom come” (Mt. 6:10).

We pray in the name of Jesus that the kingdom of God the Father,
which He rules and reigns over, the kingdom of God
that submits to the authority of Jesus' word (His twofold commandment),
and the kingdom of God that experiences the powerful work of the Holy Spirit,
may come within us, within our homes, and within our churches.

Amen!

When my enemies deceive me without cause ...

When my enemies, who hate me fiercely, deceive me without cause,
I look to the Lord and trust in Him,
for the Lord will show me His ways and teach me His paths.
He will guide me in His truth and instruct me
(Ps. 25:2-5, 19).

Wouldn't the God who loves me the most give me what is best for me right now?

The Creator God who formed and made me knows me best (Ps. 139:1-4).
The God who is with us, Immanuel, is always with me (vv. 7-8; Mt. 1:23).
Even the God who gave His only Son Jesus on the cross loves me the most
(Ps. 139:17-18; Jn. 3:16; Rom. 8:32).
Wouldn't that God give me what is best for me now?

The thoughts of God toward me are ...

The thoughts of the loving God toward me
are more numerous than the grains of sand on the seashore,
beyond counting (Ps. 139:17-18).
God loves me to that extent and has great interest in someone like me.
But how much do I love God in return?
How much attention do I really pay to God and live each day in accordance with His will?
How many thoughts do I have toward God?

My earnest pray

I earnestly pray that the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, speaks through me,
and that the word of God always remains on my tongue
(2 Sam. 23:2).

Only God's plan prevails over my plans.

God,
nullify my plans and invalidate my thoughts.
May only Your plan stand forever
and Your thoughts prevail throughout generations
(Ps. 33:10, 11).

Even through my suffering

It is my instinct to conceal my sins, the faults I want to be forgiven for,
and the sins I wish to be covered up.
However, even through my suffering,
You, Lord, lead me to acknowledge my faults and sins,
so You forgive my wrongdoing (Psalm 32:1, 4, 5).

My prayer must be pure.

The more intense the pain and suffering,
the more my hands are free of violence,
and my prayer is pure it should be
(Job 16:17).

The reason for my joy

The reason for my joy is that I always set the Lord before me,
because in His presence there is fullness of joy
(Ps. 16:8-9, 11).

All my desires are before the Lord.

When my sin causes my bones to ache and my guilt overwhelms me,
like a burden too heavy to bear, when I am exhausted and completely crushed
and my heart is in anguish, with no peace —
even if it seems like God is rebuking and disciplining me in His anger,
all my longings lie open before you, Lord.
'My sighing is not hidden from you'
(Ps. 38:1, 3-4, 8-9).

My blessing, all my joy

Lord, outside of you I have no blessing.

All my joy is for the noble saints

(Ps. 16:2-3).

My hope is ...

I have no basis for hope in myself, so I confess my hope is in the Lord

(Ps. 39:7).

Because of my sin ...

Even though I am in pain like a broken vessel because of my sin,
the grace bestowed upon me by God is what leads me to confess in faith,
'Yet I trust in you, Lord, and you are my God'

(Ps. 31:9, 10, 12, 14)

**"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Ps. 23:6).**

Our God is good (Ps. 86:5).

The will of God toward us is also good (Rom. 12:2).

God works all things together for good (8:28).

Because of God's good hand upon us (Neh. 2:8, 18),

His good will shall surely be accomplished on this earth.

Therefore, we must taste and see that the Lord is good (Ps. 34:8).

Because of God's goodness surely following us,

we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever (23:6).

God is love (1 Jn. 4:8, 16).

God loved us before the foundation of the world (Jn. 17:24; Rom. 8:29; Eph. 1:4).

He chose us before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4),

sent His only begotten Son into the world to give us eternal life (Jn. 3:16),

and confirmed His love for us by allowing Jesus to be crucified for our sins (Rom. 5:8).

Because of this love of God's salvation (His mercy),

Which surely follows us, we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Ps. 23:6).

When we are discouraged and anxious

When we are discouraged and anxious, we should place our hope in God,

Our souls should thirst for the Lord,

And our souls should long for the living God.

In doing so, God will help us,

And we will still be able to rejoice with songs of joy and thanksgiving

(Ps. 42:1-5).

The Lord who carries our burdens daily

Though the Lord tests and refines us,
He binds difficult burdens on our backs,
Yet that Lord is the "God who carries our burdens daily"
And He is our salvation
(Ps. 66:10-11; 68:19).

A sharp sword-like, deceitful tongue.

A deceitful tongue that acts like a sharp razor,
loving evil rather than good,
and loving falsehood rather than speaking the truth,
delighting in harming others with every word
(Ps. 52:2-4).

Stranger

When all my familiar friends have become strangers to me,
I will not regard my eyes with him, my Redeemer who lives, as a stranger
(Job 19:13, 25, 27).

My eyes shed tears towards God.

My friends who scoff at me are with me
and my eye gazes on their provocation.
So my eyes weeps to God
(Job 16:20; 17:2).

The Lord who gives joy to my heart.

When I worship the God of my righteousness and trust in Him,
calling out to Him, He hears my prayer and gives joy to my heart
(Ps. 4:1, 3, 5, 7).

The writings of my meditation...

The meditation of my heart and the words of my mouth
May they be acceptable to You, my rock and my redeemer
(Ps. 19:14).

Make my eyes see the retribution of my enemies.

Save me, O God, by your name; vindicate me by your might.

Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth.

Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me.

Let evil recoil on those who slander me;

in your faithfulness destroy them

(Ps. 54:1, 4, 7).

My house and the house of the Lord.

May the Lord preserve my house and the house of the Lord forever before God

(2 Sam. 7:16)

Even if my hope should be uprooted like a tree

Though God seems to block my way, and casts darkness upon my path,

and surrounds me with destruction, and uproots my hope like a tree (Job 19:8-10),

Yet in discouragement and anxiety, I will place my hope in God (Ps. 42:5, 11; 43:5).

And I will see God (Job 19:26).

Those useless comforters who make me feel 'I am inferior to you.

Friends like worthless comforters may speak to console us in our suffering,
as if for the sick, but their words only make us feel
'I am inferior to you,' both in feeling and in thought
(Job 12:3; 13:2, 4).

What I can still be indifferent to is ...

What I can still be indifferent to is that my heart is not afraid
because the Lord is my light, my salvation, and the strength of my life
(Ps. 27:1, 3).

The reason I can lie down and sleep peacefully is that ...

Even though many people surround me and oppose me, causing me distress,
the reason I can lie down and sleep peacefully is that God is the one who sustains me,
and He alone ensures my safety and well-being
(Ps. 3:1, 5; 4:8).

I will not be shaken. (1)

Because I always keep the Lord before me;
since He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken
(Ps. 16:8).

I will not be shaken. (2)

My heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.
For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.
You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
Therefore, I shall not be shaken
(Ps. 16:8-9, 11).

When I am shaken, I rely solely on the love of the Lord.

How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?
How long will You hide Your face from me?
How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?
How long will my enemy triumph over me?
But I trust in Your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in Your salvation
(Ps. 13:1-2, 5).

I have rebellious thoughts and anxiety within me, but...

I have rebellious thoughts and anxiety within me
because of the calamity I have endured,
but since God knows the way that I take,
I believe that after He has tested me, I will come forth as gold
(Job 23:2, 10)

Everything belongs entirely to the Lord. Everything is His. Everything is in the Lord's hands.

Greatness and power and glory and victory and majesty belong to the Lord.
Everything in heaven and on earth is His.
The kingdom is also His, and He rules over everything.
Riches and honor come from Him alone.
People become great and powerful only because of His mighty hand
(1 Chron. 29:11-12).

The righteous will see clearly!

The righteous will see clearly when the wicked are cut off;
they will see it happen
(Ps. 37:34).

God who transforms Mara into Naomi.

God is the one who transforms
"Mara" (bitterness) into "Naomi" (pleasantness)
(Ruth 1:19-20).

A person who harbors sin in their heart while praying.

Rather than declaring the deeds that God has done for their soul,
those who proclaim their own deeds for God
while harboring sin in their hearts and praying to God,
the Lord does not listen to their prayer but rejects them
(Ps. 66:16, 18-20).

What the humble heart seeks

The prideful seek elevation before God's people for themselves
(King Saul, 1 Sam. 15:30; Ref.: 1 Kgs. 3:11),
but the humble seek to serve God's people, asking for a discerning heart and wisdom
(King Solomon, 1 Kgs. 3:7-11).

If one's heart is filled with pride ...

If the heart is filled with pride,
one does not repay the grace received from God
(2 Chron. 32:25).

The difference between the proud and the humble in heart?

The proud in heart seek their own glory (2 Chron. 14:10),
while the humble pray, "Not to us, LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory"
(Ps. 115:1).

The shield of the upright in heart.

The righteous God who examines hearts and minds is the shield of the upright in heart
(Ps. 7:9-10).

People with truthful hearts

People with truthful hearts towards each other
should work diligently together for the Lord
(2 Kgs. 10:15-16).

Success in all things

Blessed is the one who delights in the word of God
and meditates on it day and night,
for they will be successful in all things
(Ps. 1:1-3).

If God is for us ...

If God is for us, who can be against us?
Who dares to accuse us whom God has chosen?
Who dares to judge us as sinners?
Who can separate us from the love of Christ?
(Rom. 8:31-35)

Many things can lead to sin.

King Solomon, not only the wisest king in the world,
had many chariots, many wives, and much gold and silver,
which he should not have had as a king
(Deut. 17:16-17; 1 Kgs. 10:23).

As a result, he had to fight and overcome the temptations
of many chariots, many wives, and much gold and silver with his abundant wisdom.
However, in his old age, his many wives turned his heart away,
causing him to sin against God by following other gods
(1 Kgs. 11:4).

Let's listen to the word and strengthen our hearts!

We must listen to the word of God and strengthen our hearts,
removing all abominable sins among us,
and rebuilding the altar of the Lord to restore worship
(2 Chron. 15:8).

They will be ruined.

The way of the wicked, those who follow the counsel of the wicked,
will perish like chaff blown by the wind
(Ps. 1:1, 4, 6).

All things work together for good!

To those who love God, who are called according to His purpose,
all things work together for good.

The reason is that the Spirit helps us in our weakness,
interceding for us according to God's will,
with groans that words cannot express
(Rom. 8:26-28).

Is it God who blocks every avenue of help?

God does not block every avenue of help in this world.

Instead, He enables us to acknowledge in faith that

"My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth"

(Ps. 121:1-2).

The duties of a pastor and the covenant with a pastor?

Am I not now defiling the duties of a pastor
and breaking the covenant with a pastor?

(Reflecting on Nehemiah 13:29)

As a pastor, I ...

As a pastor, I should speak only what God tells me,
and not say what other false pastors say
just because it is pleasing to people
(1 Kgs. 22:13-14).

The shepherd's prayer

The shepherd should pray for wisdom and knowledge from God
for the sheep entrusted to him by God,
and not seek wealth, riches, and glory for his own benefit
(1 Chron. 1:10-11).

Rebuild the fallen church!

My God has put in my heart what I will do for the Lord's church.
I have not told anyone what my God has put in my heart,
but together with a few others, after examining the fallen church,
I have shared with the church leaders the distress we are facing
and proposed rebuilding the desolate church so that we may no longer be ashamed.
I also told them about the good hand of my God upon me and the words he had spoken to me.
When they heard this, they said, 'Let us start rebuilding.'
So they began this good work with great determination.
However, some who had faced opposition and ridicule from
those who despised us opposed the work we were doing.
But our church leaders believe that the God of heaven will make us prosper
(Neh. 2:12-20).

The righteous nearly slipped, and the wicked were almost at a loss.

The pure in heart were nearly slipping and almost stumbled when they saw the prosperity of the wicked and felt envy toward the arrogant. However, they came to understand the end of the wicked only when they entered the sanctuary of God. They realized that the Lord truly set them in slippery places and cast them down to ruin (Ps. 73:1-3, 17-18).

It's interesting that the pure in heart, who were nearly slipping, came to realize that the Lord indeed placed the wicked in slippery places.

Salvation of present crisis for salvation in future crisis

It seems like God is using us as instruments to rescue our neighbors who are currently in crisis, with the intention of saving us from the future crisis that awaits us (Ezek. 2:19-23).

Let's rely on the Lord alone with faith.

Those who trust in the Lord, the author and perfecter of faith, are strong and courageous (Heb. 12:2; Ps. 31:24).

"Ba'al Berith"

"Ba'al Berith".

God has scattered my enemies like scattered water before me
(2 Sam. 5:20).

Even amidst opposition, we must open our hearts for God to work.

The crowds who hear of our rebuilding the ruined church are greatly angered, questioning, "What are these feeble people trying to do?

Are they trying to fortify themselves, offer worship, finish the work in a day, or revive the church with their meager resources?

They mock, saying the church will soon collapse.

Therefore, we pray to God:

"Lord, hear us. We are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads.

Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight,

for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders."

Then we set our hearts to the work

(Neh. 4:1-6).

It will surely be accomplished.

I understand.

The promises that God has made to me and to the church (Jn. 6:1-15 & Mt. 16:18)

will not fail to be fulfilled, not a single word will fall to the ground,

and it will surely be accomplished (1 Kgs. 10:10).

A friend blinded by rewards?

If someone comes to comfort a friend who is suffering, but instead of comforting, they criticize the friend in order to gain rewards, then their descendants will be blinded (Job 17:5).

A friend blinded by rewards is worse than a friend blinded by love.

Blessed people

Those who pursue wise leaders are blessed individuals.

The reason being they can always receive wisdom from that wise leader (1 Kgs. 10:7-8)

Lacks nothing

The one who reveres the LORD, who is the Shepherd, lacks nothing in all good things (Ps. 23:1; 34:9-10).

To envy those who do wrong is ...

To envy those who do wrong is evidence of not knowing their end

(Ps. 37:2; 73:17-20).

It is also evidence of not delighting in the God who fulfills the desires of my heart

(37:4).

Hearing the voice of complaint?

God even heard the cries of complaint and resentment from the Israelites,

as they shed tears (Num. 11:12, 20).

As a pastor, God's servant, I find myself unable to even hear the complaints of the saints,

as I am busy defending myself ...

Insults may hurt my heart and fill me with sorrow, but ...

"The one who hates me without reason" and "serves with zeal for Your house" insults me,

so "I endure scorn for Your sake." Thus, "insults hurt my heart and fill me with sorrow,"

yet You, Lord, "know my insults, shame, and disgrace."

Therefore, "I pray to You, O God, in Your great kindness and mercy, answer me with Your saving truth."

(Ps. 69:4, 7, 8, 13, 19, 20).

At a time when wickedness is exalted among people's lives ...

At a time when wickedness is exalted among people's lives,
the wicked are rampant everywhere.

They deny the God who governs their lips, saying,

'We have power; who can lord it over us with our tongues?'

They speak with flattering lips and boastful tongues,
telling lies to their neighbors with deceitful lips and double hearts.

In such times, the righteous who believe in our Lord Jesus,
even though the devout and faithful may be cut off from among the living,
believe that the Lord will cut off every flattering lip and boastful tongue.

They trust that the Lord will place the poor and needy in safe places
and listen to His word, pure and refined seven times in a crucible of clay.

God will guard us and preserve us from this generation forever (Ps. 12).

Experience the power of God within the sharp sting of my own weakness!

In the face of the great crisis and adversity we are facing,
as we keenly feel our own weakness and helplessness,
if we only look to the Lord, we realize that this great crisis and adversity
does not belong to us, but to the Lord.

When we fully trust and rely on Immanuel God,
the only thing we can do is to bow down and worship God,
and we will praise God like this: "Give thanks to the Lord,
for his steadfast love endures forever" (2 Chron. 20:12-21).

The pride of man's heart ...

When Haman was elevated in rank by King Ahasuerus
and saw that Mordecai did not kneel or pay him homage,
he became filled with rage and resolved to destroy all the Jews,
the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus (Esth. 3:1-6).
Despite his intense anger, Haman accepted Queen Esther's invitation
to attend a banquet she held with King Ahasuerus.
Although he was pleased and happy and went out that day joyful and glad of heart,
his joy turned to fury when he saw Mordecai at the king's gate,
yet he restrained himself and went home (5:1-10).
How could Haman contain such great rage, considering he was so furious
that he had planned to annihilate all the Jews, Mordecai's people?
In my opinion, the reason lies in his great wealth and many sons
and the fact that no one but Haman had been invited to dine with the king and queen (v. 11).
Despite these factors, Haman was still dissatisfied
when he saw Mordecai at the king's gate (v. 13).
His pride and desire for personal glory drove him (3:2),
and he wanted to boast of his great honor (5:11).
The result was that he was ultimately hanged
on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai (7:9-10).
"Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall"
(Prov. 18:12).

Assurance in love, Accurance in victory!

Because of the assurance of love, there is also the assurance of victory
(Rom. 8:35, 37, 39).

May love always remain unchanged.

God, grant us hearts that are always dedicated,
And may our love for You, Lord, never waver
(Prov. 29:18).

My three beloved children ...

My three beloved children pray that they may love the Lord whom I love,
and that they may keep and follow the commandments of the Lord that I keep
(Ref.: 1 Kgs. 3:3).

A person who should not be loved.

A person who should not be loved, a person one should not marry, and
one should not marry and love, so that there will be no turning away from God
(1 Kgs. 11:2).

The person we should love and the person we should be careful loving?

In the north, King Ahab of Israel hated the true prophet Micah,
who always prophesied only bad things about him, never anything good
(2 Chron. 18:7).

However, in the south, King Jehoshaphat of Judah loved Ahab,
who was described as the one who hates the Lord (19:2),
and he formed a family relationship with Ahab's dynasty by marrying into it (18:1).

We should love the true shepherds who rebuke us with love,
and be cautious about loving those who hate the Lord.

Satan has reversed the objects of love and hatred.

Satan has turned our objects of love and hatred upside down
(Rom. 1:23, 25, 26).

He makes us hate our neighbor, whom we should love
(1 Jn 3:15, 23),
and also makes us love what we should hate,
everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life
(2:16).

Satan's 'without reason' and 'without doubt'

Satan does not think that we believe in God 'without reason.'

Satan says that the reason we believe in Jesus is to receive material blessings from God.

So Satan attacks all our possessions under God's permission.

Then Satan says that we will 'without doubt' curse the Lord (Job 1:9-11).

The powerful words, prayers, and love of the Triune God.

Since God speaks to us with powerful words,
the Lord intercedes for us with powerful prayers,
and the Holy Spirit works within us with powerful love,
how then can we not stand firm in faith, strong and courageous!

What does "a new creation" mean?

The word that says 'We who believe in Jesus have become "a new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17)

Means that we became new existences in a new heaven and a new earth (Rev. 21:1).

At the crossroads of life and death ...

Even if we do not receive God's grace at the crossroads of life and death,
Even if God says, 'I do not delight in you' (2 Sam. 15:25, 26),
The servant of God who is pleasing to God's heart (Acts 13:22)
Humbly says, 'Do to me according to what seems good to you, Lord God,' (2 Sam. 15:26).

All things that are mixed must be separated completely!

We must listen to the word of God and completely separate all that is mixed within us.

We must remove all impurities.

Within our impure mixed faith, not based on the word of truth,
we must separate and remove all impure false beliefs.

Within our impure mixed love, not of God but of human sinfulness,
we must separate and remove all worldly and superficial fake love.

Within our impure mixed hope, apart from our hope in Jesus Christ,
we must separate and remove all worldly, fleeting, fake hope.

Within our impure mixed character, not becoming like Jesus but like the world,
we must separate and remove false truth and false humility.

Within the motives of our impure mixed hearts,
if we claim to serve for the glory of God, His kingdom, and His church with our lips,
yet harbor impure motives seeking our own glory and selfish ambitions,
we must separate and remove all impure motives.

(As I was meditating on Nehemiah 13:3)

The legacy of mixed faith?

The legacy of faith that parents who believe in Jesus want to leave to their children may not be a faith that purely reveres only God. Just as the Israelites claimed to fear God but also revered and served the gods of other nations according to their customs, we may also claim to fear God while worshipping and serving money in the ways of the world. This is not truly fearing God in the sight of God. The reason is that in the sight of God, we are not obeying His commandments. What God commands us is to "Fear only the LORD your God" and to "Keep the decrees and commands I gave you; do not follow other gods" (2 Kgs. 17:27-41).

Let's pray according to the Scriptures.

When he was living on earth, Jesus Christ offered prayers and requests with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death. He was heard because of his devotion to God (Heb. 5:7). Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us (Rom. 8:34). Jesus Christ, who died and rose again according to the Scriptures, now intercedes for us before God's throne. Jesus Christ intercedes for each one of us individually, understanding our circumstances and needs perfectly, and continues to intercede for us at the right hand of God. The Holy Spirit, who helps us in our weakness, intercedes for us in accordance with God's will, making groans that cannot be expressed in words (vv. 26-27). Therefore, we must believe in this reality and pray to God according to the Scriptures. In other words, we should pray according to the leading of the Holy Spirit, in accordance with God's Word or His will.

The Spirit himself ...

The Holy Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

And the Holy Spirit also himself intercedes for us according to God's will with inexpressible groans (Rom. 8:16, 26, 27).

Temple construction

King Solomon built the temple, holding onto the promise of God's word,
"He shall build a house for My name,"
and the time was when "the Lord my God has given me rest on every side;
there is neither adversary nor misfortune"
(1 Kgs. 5:4-5).

Prayer for three children

I pray that God will give my three children great wisdom and discernment and even a broader mind
so that their reputation for wisdom may spread to many people around them
(1 Kgs. 4:29, 34).

More than Solomon's thousand burnt offerings ...

King Solomon offered a sacrifice of 1,000 burnt offerings (2 Chron. 1:6),
but his father King David offered a sacrifice of 3,000 burnt offerings (1 Chron. 29:21).

The false gospel of countless false pastors

Countless false pastors, who have received the deceptive spirit of lies,
are now preaching false gospel, and how many false believers
who love to hear this false gospel are currently inside the church?
(1 Kgs. 22:1-23)

More than hundreds of false comforters ...

One person who rebukes me truthfully, saying that bad things will happen to me in the future,
is better than dozens of false comforters who tell me that only good things will happen to me,
while I am not repenting of my sins before God
(1 Kgs. 22:8-13).

Let us seek more than fine gold.

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.
The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.
The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous.
They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb
(Ps. 19:7-10).

The secret of victory and confidence.

The secret of being more than conquerors in victory is through Him who loved us.
The assurance of victory in being more than conquerors
lies in the fact that no one can separate us from the love of Christ,
and nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord
(Rom. 8:35, 37-39).

Why the reality and the result are different?

In reality, Ahithophel's plan was superior to Hushai's plan, but the result was that Absalom and all the Israelites concluded that Hushai's plan was better than Ahithophel's plan.

The reason was that God commanded to thwart Ahithophel's good plan in order to bring disaster upon Absalom (2 Sam. 17:14).

In our life plans, the reason for the difference between reality and the result may be because God has commanded it so.

"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" (Prov. 19:21).

There is no stumbling.

The steps of a righteous person who has the law of God in his heart do not stumble (Ps. 37:31).

Intense suffering

When we see the prosperity of the wicked while the righteous suffer, it can become intense suffering for us as we try to understand why.

(Ps. 73:1-16).

To find relief from this intense suffering,

we must enter the sanctuary of God and understand the end of the wicked.

Their end is destruction, sudden ruin, and utter destruction (vv. 17-19).

Very

Jonadab was a very shrewd man, and Amnon hated Tamar with a very great hatred, and David was very angry (2 Sam. 13:3, 15, 21).

We should not only avoid listening to the words of a very shrewd person like Amnon but also not get close to that person.

We must not hate that person with a very great hatred even after forcefully lying with a beloved woman.

We should not become like David, who was very angry at Amnon but did not discipline him and did not comfort Tamar either.

A very shrewd man Jonadab

Jonadab, the son of David's brother Shimeah,
was a very shrewd man (2 Sam. 13:3).
He was a friend of Amnon, another son of David (v. 1),
who loved Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom, (v. 1)
but knew that she was a virgin and that he couldn't do anything about it (v. 2).
Knowing that she made him ill with frustration (v. 2),
Jonadab advised Amnon cunningly (v. 5),
ultimately leading Amnon to commit a foolish act (v. 12)
and forcibly lie with Tamar (v. 14).
After these events, Jonadab, the very shrewd man,
when two full years had passed (v. 23),
devised a plan with Tamar's brother Absalom to have only Amnon killed.
When the news reached King David
that all the king's sons are dead, and not one is left (v. 30),
Jonadab said to King David:
"Do not let my lord suppose that they have killed all the young men,
the king's sons, for only Amnon is dead.
For by the command of Absalom
this has been determined from the day he forced his sister Tamar (v. 32).
In the end, because of the very shrewd Jonadab,
Amnon forced Tamar to lie with him,
leading to Tamar's brother Absalom committing
the sins of adultery and murder by killing Amnon,
which occurred in David's household.
This happened as a consequence of King David's earlier sin
of committing adultery with Bathsheba
and orchestrating the murder of her husband Uriah to cover it up,
which his two sons, Amnon and Absalom, later committed.
However, there was still the intensely cunning Jonadab by King David's side (v. 32).

O God, who transforms the Valley of Achor into a door of hope!

God transforms the "Valley of Achor" (Valley of Trouble)
into the "Valley of Beracah" (Valley of Blessing)
(2 Chron. 20:26).

If a wife is very lovely ...

If a wife is very lovely,
wouldn't you want to grant her wishes, fulfill her requests?
(Esth. 5:2-3)

No matter how severe the pain ...

No matter how severe the pain, we should not sin with our lips.
Even if our spouse curses God and tells us to die,
we must, like Job, firmly maintain our integrity (Job 2:3, 9, 13),
saying, 'Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?' (v. 10).

Have no ability to reject evil.

The wicked have no fear of God and thus have no ability to reject evil
(Ps. 36:1, 4; Prov. 8:13)

Life, which comes naked and departs naked.

Life, which comes naked and departs naked,
since all possessions (family, material goods, etc.) are given and taken away by God,
we have no choice but to praise the name of the Lord
(Job 1:21).

How can I receive comfort?

When friends who come to comfort me in the midst of severe pain
are unable to understand my situation and instead trouble me with endless empty words,
how can I receive comfort and find relief from my distress?
(Job 16:2-5)

How can the God of love ...?

God is love (1 Jn. 4:8, 16).

God's commandment is to love one another (Jn. 13:34).

He even commands us to love our enemies (Mt. 5:44).

However, the Bible also states,

"Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated" (Mal. 1:3; Rom. 9:13).

Furthermore, the Bible says,

"If anyone comes to me and does not hate

father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—

yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple" (Lk. 14:26).

How can the God of love both hate and command us to hate?

How can I comfort you?

How can I console and comfort a friend in severe pain?

What do you think about being with someone

who is crying, weeping together, and not saying a word?

(Job 2:11-13; Rom. 12:15)

How can I say that to a friend?

Job feared that his children might have sinned in their hearts and cursed God, so he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to their number, to sanctify them.

Job's custom was always this (Job 1:5).

However, all his children died (vv. 18-19).

What's perplexing is that Job's friend, Bildad, came to him and said,

"Your children sinned against the Lord, and because of their sin, he abandoned them" (Job 8:4).

How could someone who built a temple for God end up building a shrine for idols?

Solomon, the king who built the temple for God in Jerusalem, when he was old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and he built shrines for detestable gods—Moabite god Chemosh, Ammonite god Molek, and for all his foreign wives, high places to worship their gods (1 Kgs. 11:4, 7, 8).

How could someone who built a temple for God end up building shrines for idols?

A brief reflection on Parents' Day

As parents, we should strive to embody a consistent faith from the beginning to the end of our spiritual journey, gradually becoming more like Jesus Christ and reflecting the heart of the Lord more and more.

In doing so, we can continue to speak of Jesus to our children even after we pass away (Heb. 11:4).

May God make our children even more noble (Ps. 71:21).

I pray that God will deepen their faith and increase their love for the Lord, the church, and the gospel.

May God enlarge the hope of our children, preparing them to live a life of faith while eagerly anticipating the return of Jesus Christ.

God has used me to instruct my three children from their youth (v. 17).

The instruction I imparted to them is encapsulated in the hymn "Jesus Loves Me."

The refrain of the hymn says,

"Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

As a father, I want to demonstrate to Dillon, Yeri, and Karis the love of Jesus, as described in the Bible, so that they may know that Jesus loves them.

Therefore, I fervently pray that even after my passing, when Dillon, Yeri, and Karis commemorate me, they will vividly recall the love of Jesus.

May the Lord continue to sustain our children from the womb (v. 6)

and enable them to experience God's immeasurable grace even in the midst of severe trials, ultimately reviving and delivering them (vv. 20-21).

Perhaps that time is ...?

When I'd rather choose suffocation and death
over enduring the excruciating pain that gnaws at my bones,
When I don't cherish life and desire not to live forever,
When I proclaim my life as meaningless and declare that I'll soon lie down in the dust,
Perhaps that moment is when I realize
why God values humanity so dearly, pouring abundant attention upon us,
examining us every morning, testing us at every moment.
Why He never takes His eyes off me even for a moment,
why He never leaves me alone even for a second,
It could be a precious opportunity to grasp
even a glimpse of the profound love of the Lord ...
(Job 7:15-19)

“Why does your face look so sad?”

Why does your face look so sad? asked King Artaxerxes to Nehemiah.
And King Artaxerxes said, “This can be nothing but sadness of heart”
even though Nehemiah wasn't ill.
Recognizing the sorrow in Nehemiah's heart despite his physical health,
King Artaxerxes remarked, "This is nothing but sadness of heart" (Neh. 2:2).
Nehemiah's heart was burdened
because he had heard about the plight of the people of Judah and Jerusalem.
Specifically, he learned that those who remained in the land of Judah
were facing great trouble and disgrace, and that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down,
and its gates had been burned with fire and had not been rebuilt since then (1:2-3; 2:2).
When our loved ones are going through great difficulty and suffering,
it's natural for us to feel sorrow and sadness in our hearts and on our faces.
In those times, what we should seek and long for from God
is His grace that His good hand may be with us (2:8, 18),
for when the good hand of our God is upon us, He will make us prosper (v. 20).

The one who loves the Lord is faithful.

The one who relies on the Lord confesses, 'You are my God.'

The one who loves the Lord is faithful.

Those who hope in the Lord are strong and courageous

(Ps. 31:14, 23, 24).

I will praise the Lord forever.

The Lord is a mighty one (Ps. 89:8).

The Lord has made a covenant with the church He has chosen (v. 3).

He strengthens us with His mighty hand (v. 21).

With His powerful arm (v. 13), He makes us strong (v. 21).

He increases strength to the one who has power (v. 19).

Since He is building His church (v. 11),

As His servants, we will forever sing of the Lord's lovingkindness

And proclaim His faithfulness from generation to generation

(v. 1; Ref.: vv. 2, 5, 24, 33, 49).

David, who said that the Lord forbid to lift hand against the anointed of the Lord.

David, fearing to strike down Saul, the anointed of the Lord whom he knew it was forbidden by the Lord to harm (1 Sam. 24:6, 10; 26:9, 11), refrained from harming him even though he had the opportunity to do so on two occasions (24:10; 26:8, 23) and spared his life (24:10, 12; 26:23). Instead, David showed mercy to Saul, despite being persecuted and targeted by him (24:17; 26:21), and valued his life dearly (26:21, 24). However, an Amalekite, a foreigner's son (2 Sam. 1:13) found Saul dying in agony on the battlefield and, seeing him in distress, killed him when Saul asked to be killed (1 Sam. 31:6-10). In the eyes of this Amalekite, Saul was already dying and unable to be saved (vv. 6-10). David rebuked the Amalekite, saying, "Your blood be on your own head! Your own mouth testified against you when you said, 'I killed the Lord's anointed one'" (2 Sam. 1:14, 16). Ultimately, the Amalekite faced the consequences of his actions and was killed (v. 15).

There can be no such comeback!

After great distress, fasting, weeping, and crying out, and having lain in sackcloth and ashes, countless Jews eventually went forth to enjoy honor, gladness, joy, and dignity (Esth. 4:3; 8:16).

It cannot be anything but a reversal!

Haman, not only said, "Who else but me does the king wish to honor?" but he also was the one who harbored in his heart the intention to kill, destroy, and annihilate Esther and her people. However, the outcome was that King Ahasuerus honored Mordecai instead of Haman, and it was the enemies of the Jews who suffered death, destruction, and annihilation. It cannot be anything but a reversal! (Esth. 6:6, 10; 7:5, 10; 8:1-9:1)

Strength experienced within weakness

Even in the midst of great suffering and crisis resulting from sinful choices, we must keenly feel, recognize, and acknowledge our weaknesses. In doing so, we rely on the Holy Spirit, who helps us in our weakness, even when we do not know what we ought to pray for, as stated in Romans 8:26. By believing and trusting in this verse, we will experience the divine intervention of God, who gives strength in weakness (2 Cor. 12:10).

The Christian will not be shaken forever.

The Christian who dwells in the sanctuary of the Lord will not be shaken forever, for he walks uprightly, practices righteousness, speaks truth in his heart, and does not slander with his tongue (Ps. 15).

Spiritual immunity and spiritual muscles

We can cultivate spiritual immunity and spiritual muscles through God's word and prayer (Acts 6:4), enabling us to combat the viruses of sin and the temptations of the world and emerge victorious.

An individual who believes in Jesus ...

An individual, a family, or a church that believes in Jesus should understand that the purpose of being lifted up by God is for the sake of God's true people, the true Israel (1 Chron. 14:2).

I only hope in the Lord.

When those who love me, my friends, and my relatives keep their distance from my affliction,
when those who seek my life and those who wish to harm me lay snares
and speak of wickedness and devise deceit all day long,
then I am like the deaf, I do not hear; I am like the mute, I do not open my mouth.
But I trust in you, Lord; I say, 'You are my God'
(Ps. 38:11-15)

I thought I was the only one left, but ...

When it seems like I am the only one left, serving the Lord diligently all by myself, it can be a time of great despair and exhaustion amidst significant challenges and threats. However, this is precisely the opportunity to enter into the wilderness and stand before God, where we can hear His gentle voice. God often leaves many others, reassuring us that we are not alone (1 Kgs. 19:1-18).

The one who relies solely on their wealth.

The one who relies solely on their wealth and boasts about their evil desires, loving evil rather than good, falsehood rather than speaking the truth, loves to harm others with their deceitful tongue, and delights in every form of slander (Ps. 52:2-4, 7).

Let us place our hope solely in God!

We are but travelers passing through this land for a brief moment. Our days in this world are like a shadow, with no hope (1 Chron. 29:15). But hope that is seen is no hope at all (Rom. 12:12). We should not place our hope in fleeting riches but only in God (1 Tim. 6:17), For our hope comes from God (Rom. 15:13). Therefore, we should always have hope and praise the Lord even more (Ps. 71:4).

The faith that trusts in God alone.

When I say, 'I trust in God alone, and I do not trust in my pastor, who is God's servant,' it may seem like faith, but it is not biblical faith.

"... Put your trust in the LORD your God, and you will stand your ground.
Put your trust in His prophets, and you will succeed"
(2 Chron. 20:20).

The one who does only the will of God

The one who does only the will of God lives forever (1 Jn. 2:17).
When we love one another according to God's will,
we realize that we possess eternal life (3:14)
and also partially enjoy eternal life in heaven even on this earth.

Instead, it only creates evil.

When you're filled with anger and refuse to let it go,
when you keep complaining, it only creates evil
(Ps. 37:8).

Why did it happen like that?

Why did Mordecai not kneel or bow down to Haman and reveal that he was a Jew?

The result would have been not only his own demise

but also the destruction of his people (Esth. 3:1-6).

However, an interesting point is that Mordecai instructed Esther

not to reveal her people or kindred (2:10, 20).

It was only when Mordecai and his Jewish people were in great peril

that he urged Esther to go before King Ahasuerus and plead earnestly for their sake

(4:8).

Why does it break the love between spouses?

The love of Christ is unbreakable, but the love between spouses breaks.

The reason is that husbands and wives do not love each other with the unbreakable love of Christ

(Mt. 22:39; Rom. 8:35).

Why did God allow Satan ...?

Why did God allow Satan to afflict Job so severely, causing him intense suffering, even though Job was described as blameless and upright, fearing God and shunning evil?

Why did God permit Satan to strike everything Job had, except for his life?

(Job chapters 1-2)

Why don't I listen to God's warning words?

Why don't I listen to and ignore God's warning words?

Is it because God's discipline is slow?

Is it because I do not fear God?

Is it because of my foolishness?

(1 Kgs. 11:2)

When feeling lonely and distressed

When feeling lonely and distressed, I seek the grace of the Lord.

When my heart is burdened with worries,

I seek the deliverance of the Lord who rescues me from trouble.

In times of hardship and distress, I pray for the Lord to forgive my sins

(Ps. 25:16-18).

Believers like Job ...

The faithful like Job, who believe that after God has tested and refined them, they will emerge like pure gold, are those who trust that if it is God's will and what He desires, He will do it.

With faith, they tremble before Him, considering all things, fearing Him.

In doing so, they follow His steps closely, not deviating from His path, not disobeying His commands, but esteeming His words more than their necessary food (Job 23:10-15).

The rebellion of the unforgiven

Absalom, David's son,
who had not received genuine forgiveness from his father, David,
did not see his father's face for five years
(1 Sam. 13:38; 14:23-24, 28).
Absalom orchestrated acts of rebellion (15:12),
stealing the hearts of the men of Israel
[lit. "the heart of the men" (13)], which eventually led David,
along with his family and servants, to flee from Jerusalem (vv. 14-18).
Previously, Absalom had fled to Geshur after killing Amnon (13:38),
but now, fearing he might be killed by his son Absalom, David fled (15:14).

An unforgiving heart

King David,
who had yearned for his son Absalom for three years
(2 Sam. 13:38-39),
why did he instruct Absalom,
who had brought him back to Jerusalem after three years,
to return to his house and not see my face for two more years? (14:23-24, 28)
How could David's earnest longing for his son Absalom
result in him preventing his son from seeing his face?
In my opinion,
while King David may have felt earnest longing toward his son Absalom,
it seems that he lacked a forgiving heart.

The love of God in our Lord Jesus Christ

The love of God in our Lord Jesus Christ is the love that God foreknew
(the love that God loved before creation),
the love that God predestined
(the love that God chose before creation),
the love that God has called us with,
the love that God has justified us with,
and also the love that God has glorified us with.
Therefore, we can be assured that no one and nothing
can separate us from the love of God
that is in Christ Jesus our Lord
(Rom. 8:29-30, 35, 38-39).

When we are in trouble or facing adversity

In the day of my calamity, the Lord was my support
He brought me out into a spacious place; he saved me because he delighted in me
(2 Sam. 22:19-20).

When we are in trouble, we know that God alone is my support.
I must be confident that He guides me and saves me because He delights in me.

The great difficulty we face ...

We do not have the ability to handle this great difficulty and problem we face, nor do we know what to do. Therefore, we look only to the Lord (2 Chron. 20:12).

The reason we do not experience the power of God

The reason we do not experience the power of God is that we do not wholeheartedly turn to God and rely on Him. Instead, we depend on people, material things, or other sources apart from God (2 Chron. 16:7-9).

We do not fear.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea (Ps. 46:1, 3).

As parents ...

As parents, we should strive to maintain
a consistent faith from the beginning to the end of our spiritual journey.
As time passes, our understanding of the Word should deepen,
leading us to become more like Jesus and to reflect the heart of the Lord more closely.
In doing so, we can set an example for our children to follow,
even after we have passed away, so that they too may continue to speak of Jesus
(Heb. 11:4).

We know.

We are confident that in all things God works for the good of those who love him,
who have been called according to his purpose.
For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,
neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us
from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord
(Rom. 8:28, 37).

God who humbles us.

When the church greatly sins against God,
God lowering the church is a great grace and blessing (2 Chron. 28:19).
However, if the church continues to exalt itself greatly while sinning against God,
and if God just leaves the church alone, I believe that would be a great judgment from God.

Why do we have people opposing us?

The reason why there are people opposing us might be because we have turned our hearts away, disobeyed God's commandments, and departed from God due to our disobedience.

It is possible that God has allowed those people to become our adversaries (1 Kgs. 11:9, 14).

Through the Triune God who loved us ...

The Father God who loves us predestined us, called us, justified us, and glorified us.

The Holy Son Jesus Christ who loves us came into this world in the likeness of sinful flesh to condemn sin in the flesh, and died on the cross to enable us to walk according to the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit God who loves us raised our mortal bodies to life, freed us from the law of sin and death, not only guiding us but also enabling us to cry out to God, "Abba, Father," testifying that we are children of God, helping us in our weakness and interceding for us with groans that words cannot express.

Through the triune God who loves us, we are more than conquerors in Christ's love, against Satan and every hardship, distress, persecution, famine, danger, sword, death, life, angels, demons, present or future, powers, height, depth, or any other created thing.

Let's focus on the God who loves us!

Let us all focus not on the peril of death
that we may face throughout our lives for the sake of the Lord,
but instead, let us fix our eyes with faith on the God who loves us,
who enables us to overwhelmingly conquer
even in the face of all these dangers of death
(Rom. 8:36-37).

The Lord who sees and knows our suffering.

The Lord sees my affliction and knows the distress of my soul.
Therefore, I rejoice and delight in your lovingkindness, for you have seen my affliction
(Ps. 31:7).

Let's entrust our path to God.

When we trust in God and commit our path to Him,
He will establish our path and delight in our way
(Ps. 37:5, 23).

God who helps us.

The Lord who created the heavens and the earth,
who is "my help," becomes "my shade"
(Ps. 121:1, 2, 5).

For the disobedient Jonah,
When Jonah sought to have his own way rather than obeying God's will,
God provided "shade" for his head, thus relieving him of his distress
(Jonah 4:6).

Our helpful God provides "shade" even for someone like me, like Jonah,
so that we may escape our distress. It cannot be anything but God's grace and love.

Our hearts have not been discouraged.

All this has come upon us, but we have not forgotten you, Lord,
and we have not violated your covenant.
Our hearts have not turned back; our feet have not strayed from your path
(Ps. 44:17-18).

The God who avenges us.

God, who avenges our insult.

He repays our humiliation, so that we do not engage in evil deeds,
thus prompting us to praise Him (1 Sam. 25:39).

Our eternal homeland

We have an eternal homeland to return to in the Lord.

There, we will dwell in glory forever, rejoicing and glad.

This eternal and sure hope fills our hearts with joy.

Though we currently live in this sinful and sorrowful world,

we can rejoice in the Lord today with faith,

knowing that we have a heavenly homeland to return to

(Heb. 11:15-16).

The Lord who delights our souls.

The Lord who delights our souls by answering our cries in distress,

and who delights in forgiving our sins, thus bringing joy to our souls

(Ps. 86:3-5).

Our strength?

We must make God our strength and forever rely on His lovingkindness
(Ps. 52:7-8).

The great name?

Because it is God's will, we must make our name great,
but trying to make our name great according to our own will amounts
to blasphemy against the name of Jesus (2 Sam. 7:9).

Dangerous two individuals

When someone thinks that everything can be done with money,
and another person believes that everything can be done with power,
their alliance is truly dangerous
(1 Kgs. 21:1-16).

Profitable suffering and affliction?

When God tumultuously brings various troubles upon us, even if we become deeply wounded, if we return to God and seek Him, then encountering God through seeking Him, those troubles and afflictions become beneficial (2 Chron. 15:4, 6).

Putting distance between bodies seems better than putting distance between hearts.

Absalom, the son who did not receive genuine forgiveness from his father David, did not see his father's face for five years.

He spent three years in Geshur [while fleeing (2 Sam. 13:38)] and another two years in Jerusalem after returning [(14:23-24, 28)].

Absalom made efforts to see his father (vv. 29-32).

Listen to what he said to Joab:

"Why have I come from Geshur?

It would be better for me to be there still" (v. 32).

Absalom's sentiment suggests that he considered it better to have lived in Geshur for three years without seeing his father's face, whom he couldn't genuinely reconcile with, rather than living in Jerusalem for two years.

Perhaps living apart from each other while longing for reconciliation in the heart could be better than living under the same roof but maintaining emotional distance and lack of forgiveness (13:38-39).

Meaningless numbers, meaningful obedience

To God, numbers are meaningless.

He values obedience to His commands.

It is far better for a small group of people to obey God's commands,
making themselves prosperous, than for a large number of people

to resist God's commands and abandon Him,

thus leading to their own ruin

(2 Chron. 24:20, 24).

The little that the righteous have is better than the wealth of many wicked.

The little that the righteous have is better than the wealth of many wicked.

For the power of the wicked will be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous.

Though they stumble, they will not fall, for the Lord upholds them with his hand.

The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously

(Ps. 37:16, 17, 20, 24).

This also cannot be anything but a reversal!

Haman, who had been elevated in status by King Ahasuerus, was greatly enraged
because Mordecai did not kneel or pay him homage.

Eventually, in a turn of events, Haman, deeply distressed,
went and fell at the banquet table where Queen Esther,

Mordecai's cousin who had been elevated by God as queen, was seated, pleading for his life.

This also cannot be anything but a reversal!" (Esth. 3:1-5; 7:7-8)

How thankful and joyful should we be for this!

If we are so grateful and joyful for being raised from physical death, how much more should we be thankful and joyful for being spiritually dead because of our trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1), and yet being made alive through the sheer grace of God the Father, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, thus obtaining eternal life?

This great adversity does not belong to us.

There is no need for us to fear or be dismayed by this great adversity we face because it does not belong to us; it belongs to God.

All we can do is to rely on God, who is with us, to deliver us (2 Chron. 20:15, 17).

We must be very cautious of such people.

People who attend church but do not listen to sound doctrine and instead follow their own desires are those who want to have their itching ears (2 Tim. 4:3).

They believe the pastor who speaks favorably to them (2 Chron. 18:12) is a true pastor and will follow and obey that false pastor. We must be very cautious of such people.

God who listens to the desires of such people's hearts

God listens to the desires of the heart of those who rejoice in the strength of the Lord,
and He does not deny their requests from their lips,
but grants them according to the salvation of the Lord, bringing great joy
(Ps. 21:1-2).

Doctrine of retribution?

The doctrine of retribution is the belief that only sinners suffer while the righteous are spared from suffering. This belief often leads to the condemnation and reproach of the righteous when they experience hardship, attributing their suffering to their sins. However, God allows the suffering of the righteous as well to guide them towards mature faith.

(While reading the commentary on the Book of Job)

When experiencing the bitterness of life ...

When experiencing the bitterness of life,
there were individuals like Ruth, a Moabite woman,
who firmly resolved and said to Naomi,
"Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay.
Your people will be my people and your God my God.
Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried.
May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely,
if even death separates you and me" (Ruth 1:16-18).
Similarly, there was a commander of the Philistines named Ittai,
who pledged to King David, saying,
"As surely as the Lord lives, and as my lord the king lives,
wherever my lord the king may be, whether it means life or death,
there will your servant be" (2 Sam. 15:21).
Do we have individuals like Ruth or Ittai
when we are experiencing the bitterness of life?

During life's crises ...

During life's crises, those who bring joy to God
receive His grace and guidance (2 Sam. 15:25-26),
turning once again to the Lord's temple (Jonah 2:4)
and seeking the presence of the Lord (2 Sam. 15:25).

Reasons for not obtaining the favor of people?

As self-proclaimed Christians,
the reason we might fail to obtain favor from people around us
could be perhaps because we fail to resemble Jesus Christ,
or even fail to be human enough...

(This thought arose as I revisited 1 Samuel 15:13.)

Undivided heart and all my heart!

Those who receive instruction from the Lord and walk in His truth,
revere His name with an undivided heart and praise the Lord with all their hearts,
giving glory to the Lord's name forever
(Ps. 86:11-12).

Let's rise up and stand firm!

The ones who trust in anything or anyone other than God stumble and fall,
but those who trust in God and boast in His name rise up and stand firm
(Ps. 20:7-8).

Yourself ...

Rather than becoming a rich person who considers himself wise,
You must become a poor person with understanding who examines yourself thoroughly
(Prov. 28:11).

A man's life and death

It is hard to understand that a man who runs away for his life when it is threatened
now seeking his own death before God (1 Kgs. 19:2-4).

If you are heartbroken for your children...

When church members are heartbroken for their children
they can stone the pastor
(1 Sam. 30:6).

Through my children ...?

There are two promises the Lord gave me:

(1) John 6:1-15 (to me) and (2) Matthew 16:18 (to my church, Victory Presbyterian Church).

(1) The first word of promise is,

When I offer my life to the Lord like a boy who offered his 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread to Jesus, it is a promise that the Lord will use me as a tool to feed 5,000 men alone.

(I struggled with the Word for over 20 years, not knowing what it meant.

What I came to realize a little was that when I meditated and shared the words of Jesus, who is the bread of life, day and night.

It seems that the Lord uses the words of meditation as His tools),

(2) The second word of promise is

that the Victory Presbyterian Church where I serve as senior pastor

(a) It is the Lord's church, and (b) it is the promise that the Lord will build His church.

As was reading 1 Kings 8:15,

The thought that came to my mind was that

the Lord will fulfill His words of promise

not only through me but also through my children as well.

A parent's hearts toward their child?

A forgiving heart for your children is

more important than an eager heart for your children.

(2 Sam. 13:39; 14:24, 28).

Small cloud, heavy rain

I look and look, but there is no sign of an answer to my prayer.
Only on the seventh time did I see a small cloud the size of a man's hand.
And that small cloud eventually brought down a heavy rain
(1 Kgs. 18:43-45).

Let us not give up and pray persistently until we receive an answer to our prayers.
And don't focus too much on the heavy rain.
Let us be thankful with faith and take action even for the small cloud.
The reason is that before God sends us a heavy rain
He will show us a small cloud first.

There may be weeping in the evening, but joy will come in the morning.

When my soul seems to be going down to Sheol, to the grave,
because of my enemies, we cry out to God.
Though weeping may last in the evening,
joy will come in the morning.
The reason is that God's anger is temporary, but His favor is lifelong
(Ps. 30:1-3, 5).

Let us walk the Lord's path with our whole heart.

When we walk in God's ways with our whole heart,
asking Him and doing His commandments.

God will be with us and strengthen our families and churches through us
(2 Chron. 17:1-6).

The deep grace of God experienced in the midst of despair?

The deep grace of God experienced in the midst of great despair
is the truth that the Lord is my hope
(Ps. 71:5).

Gradually gaining strength

The righteous man whose hands are clean
gains strength more and more as he perseveres in the path that Jesus walked
(Job 17:9).

Honest Word of God and honest righteous people

The God of true love spoke honest word, and it came true.

He commanded, and it stood firm.

Therefore, the upright and righteous rejoice in God.

With gratitude, he gives praise to God as He deserves

(Ps. 33:1, 2, 4, 5, 9).

God who saves a little?

When we are sinning against God (2 Chron. 12:2)

by abandoning the word of God (v. 1) and abandoning God (v. 5)

even though we deserve to be abandoned by God (v. 5)

God handed us over to the world and allows us to suffer as a result of our sins (v. 5).

As a result, we humble ourselves and confess that 'God is righteous' (v. 6).

Then God saw that we humbled ourselves.

He does not punish us fully but saves us a little (v. 7).

God does not pour out enough wrath on us (v. 7).

The reason is that God has already poured out all his wrath on his only begotten son, Jesus.

This cannot be anything other than God's great grace.

We must be careful, very careful.

Because of walking with God and enjoying great wealth and honor,
one must be careful, very careful.

However, King Jehoshaphat of Judah

formed a close relationship with the evil Ahab dynasty of Israel
when he greatly expanded his wealth and honor.

This happened through the marriage of his son Jehoram to Ahab's daughter Athaliah,
thus forming an alliance with King Ahab (2 Chron. 18:1).

As a result of this, King Jehoshaphat received this reprimand from the prophet Jehu:

"Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord?

Because of this, the wrath of the Lord is on you" (19:2).

We must not form relationships with people we should not.

We must not help the wicked.

We must be very careful about loving those who hate God.

We need to feel it deeply and profoundly understand it.

Even in the midst of severe suffering,

we must deeply feel and profoundly understand our helplessness,
saying "My help is not within me" (Job 6:13).

Only then can we confess with faith,

"My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth"

(Ps. 121:2).

A good person shares good news.

Just as a good person shares good news (2 Sam. 18:27),
a Christian living a life worthy of the gospel (Phil. 1:27)
proclaims the gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ.

It's a sin.

Not raising children in faith is a sin (Rom. 14:23).

Lord, do not leave us to the will of our enemies.

Lord, do not leave us to the will of our enemies.
Our enemies speak evil against us, plotting
that we may perish and our name be forgotten forever.
They make pretense of friendliness towards us,
but inwardly they spread malicious gossip, going about and spreading it.
They harbor animosity towards us,
muttering against us, plotting evil schemes to harm us.
Even our close friends, with whom we shared bread, turn against us.
Lord, have mercy on us and grant us your grace to repay them.
May it please you, Lord, to make our enemies unable to overcome us.
Lord, uphold us in integrity and set us forever before you.
In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen (Ps. 41).

The Lord tests us and trains us ...

The Lord tests us and trains us, “He catches us in the net,
He has put burdens on our backs and made people carry them on our heads.
Finally, the Lord brought us out into a place of abundance
(Ps. 66:10-12).

If the Lord hides His face...

When we prosper, it feels like we will never be shaken.
Even though we seem to be established as mountains by the grace of God,
if the Lord hides His face, we have no choice but to be sorrowful
(Ps. 30:6-7).

The weak who relies on the Lord will win.

Although in human eyes, the weak cannot defeat the strong,
in terms of faith, the Lord gives victory to the weak
who relies on the Lord and seeks His help
(2 Chron. 14:11).

The poor of the Lord

The king who possesses the ability to judge
with righteousness the poor of the Lord
is one who judges your afflicted people
with righteousness and delivers the needy
and shows compassion to the poor and needy
so that he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper,
and he breaks the oppressor.

Therefore, the righteous shall flourish,
and peace shall abound until the moon is no more
(Ps. 72:1, 2, 4, 7, 12, 13).

I come to love the Lord's salvation even more.

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who long for your saving help always say,
'The Lord is great!'
(Ps. 70:2).

The blessed of the Lord and the cursed ones.

Those who hope in the Lord, the meek, shall inherit the land as the blessed of the Lord, but those who do evil, the wicked, shall surely be cut off as the cursed ones of the Lord (Ps. 37:9-11, 22).

Grant us your judgment, Lord.

O God, grant your judgment to me, a pastor,
so that I may bring justice to your people and righteousness to your afflicted ones.
May your people enjoy peace as they are blessed with your justice and righteousness
(Ps. 72:1-3)

You must be vigilant day and night.

Upon hearing that the Lord's church is being rebuilt with the gaps being closed up, the enemies of the church are greatly enraged.
They conspire together to fight against the church and cause a disturbance.
Therefore, we must pray to our God and set (spiritual) watchmen because of them, keeping watch day and night (Neh. 4:7-9).

Do not hide your face from your servant.

Because I am in distress, I am poor and sorrowful;
I myself also come to know my foolishness that you, Lord, know,
and I also realize the sins that I cannot hide from you, Lord,
So shame covers my face,
I look to God alone and seek God.
Do not hide your face from your servant
(Ps. 69:5-7, 17, 29, 32).

Words to say to children before dying?

When David was about to walk the path that all people in the world must take,
he not only told his son Solomon to be strong and become a man
but also taught him the key to success.

The key to success is to keep the commandments of God and walk in his ways (1 Kgs. 2:1-3).
Like David, when I am about to walk the path of death that all people in the world must take,
what will I say to my three beloved children?

At that time, I will go and the Holy Spirit will teach me what I should say,
but perhaps one of those things will be the content of my prayers for them
as their father from the time they were born until the end of their lives.

Even death cannot separate us from the love of Christ!

The reason that even death cannot separate us from the love of Christ is that Jesus Christ, who is eternal life, gave us eternal life according to the Scriptures by laying down his life on the cross and rising again from death according to the Scriptures (Rom. 8:35; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; 1 Jn. 1:1-2; 3:16).

The Lord who desires truth in the innermost being.

The Lord, who desires truth in the innermost being, teaches us wisdom in secret, causing us to repent and turn away from our sins with a contrite and humble heart. He prompts us to pray, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" (Ps. 51:5, 6, 10, 17).

The reason for having the strength to offer with a joyful heart.

The reason we have the strength to offer with a joyful heart to the Lord is that everything has been given to us as a gift of grace from the Lord. Therefore, we only offer back to the Lord what we have received from Him (1 Chron. 29:14).

What is Jesus interceding for us from the right hand of God at this moment?

What is Jesus interceding for us,
who believe in Jesus, from the right hand of God?
(Rom. 8:34).

In my opinion, right now Jesus is praying for the completion of our salvation.
The reason I think so is because we have already received salvation (Jn. 19:30),
but 'not yet' received it (Rev. 21:6).

In other words, Jesus has 'already' come (First Advent) and saved us,
but He has not yet come (Second Coming).

Therefore, I believe that Jesus, who is at the right hand of God,
is interceding for the completion of our salvation that we have already received.

To put it more specifically, I think Jesus is praying for us to be glorified (Rom. 8:30).
The reason I think so is that although God has already glorified us,
we have not yet been fully glorified.

In other words, I believe that Jesus, who is at the right hand of God,
is interceding for us to be presented as a holy and blameless glorious church before God,
without spot or wrinkle (Eph. 5:27).

Furthermore, I think that Jesus, who is at the right hand of God,
is interceding for us (the church) to be united (Jn. 17:11, 21, 22).

In other words, I believe that Jesus is interceding for us
to become one, just as the Triune God is one.

Although the Holy Spirit has already made us one (Eph. 4:3),
we have not yet become fully one.

We will become fully one when Jesus returns.

Until then, Jesus, who is at the right hand of God, will intercede for our unity.

A wise person

Father David thought that his son Solomon was a wise person (1 Kgs. 2:9).

I know that God has granted wisdom to my beloved daughter Yeri

by answering my prayers, even if only a little.

People who claim to love truth but enjoy lying.

A truthful pastor is one who speaks exactly what God tells him,

but among those who hear his words, some fear that their sins will be exposed.

They dislike hearing the true words of God and prefer to hear false words of comfort instead.

They even tell the pastor that his words are not true while asking for the truth to be spoken

(1 Kgs. 22:14-16).

It is not truly fearing God.

The Bible says that fearing God is hating evil (Prov. 8:13),

but we fear God while loving evil

(2 Kgs. 17:32-33).

During praise, we must rely on and trust in the Lord who is present.

Even when we may feel abandoned in the midst of trials,
to the point of crying out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
(Ps. 22:1),
we must rely on and trust in the Lord who is present,
even when it feels like God is far away and not helping us.
Though it may seem like God is not assisting us,
we must still rely on and trust in the Lord who is present during praise,
so that we may receive deliverance and salvation from Him (vv. 3-5, 11).

Praise is what we ought to do.

The righteous, who have obtained justification through faith in Jesus by the grace of God,
rightfully offer praise to God, delighting in Him as upright individuals
(Ps. 33:1).

We should be able to distinguish between a true pastor and a false pastor.

A pastor who speaks what God says is a true pastor (2 Chron. 18:18),
but a pastor who speaks pleasant words like other false pastors,
aiming to please the itching ears of churchgoers who do not listen to sound doctrine
but instead follow their own desires, is a false pastor (2 Tim. 4:3).

We can wait patiently with faith.

As we come to understand the breadth, length, height, and depth of His love,
we realize more and more that we can patiently endure,
anchored in the assurance of salvation and victory through His unfailing love.
With hope for the glory to be revealed in us,
which cannot be compared with the present sufferings,
we can wait patiently with faith
(Rom. 8:18, 25, 37, 39; Eph. 3:18).

The discouraged person who even fails to receive sympathy from friends.

The discouraged person is even fails to receive sympathy from friends.
Instead, those friends are ready to criticize and rebuke me when I am discouraged,
So my hope collapses, and I can only feel discouraged (Job 6:14, 20, 25, 26).

When hearing slander that pierces like a sword

When our adversaries speak slander that pierces like a sword into our bones,
we must speak to our rock, who is God
(Ps. 42:9-10).

A person greatly respected and loved.

Among God's people, those greatly respected and loved by their brothers and sisters in the church are those who work for the benefit of God's people and provide for their well-being (Ezra 10:3).

A leader filled with greed

A nation's leader (or couple) filled with greed, desiring the property of a citizen, abuses and exploits the power given to them, and resorts to manipulation to seize the citizen's property, even to the extent of causing the citizen's death (1 Kgs. 21:1-16).

I thought for sure he would curse ...

Satan struck all of Job's possessions, fully expecting Job to curse the Lord without a doubt. However, Job did not sin or resent God for all these things. Instead, he fell to the ground and worshiped God, saying, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:11, 20-22).

God who grants peace.

God is the one who delivers us from our adversaries,
grants us peace, turns our sorrow into joy,
and transforms our anguish into prosperous days
(Ezra 9:22).

The great joy of God the Father

God the Father greatly rejoices when He sees us, His children,
walking in the truth according to the commandments He has given us
(2 Jn. 1:4; 3 Jn. 1:3, 4).

Let us be silent and wait patiently before God.

Do not fret because of those who do evil or be envious of those who do wrong;
instead, be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him.
For those who do evil will be destroyed,
but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land
(Ps. 37:1-2, 7)

Walk in the right path before God.

When we walk in the right path before God, we will become stronger and stronger
(2 Chron. 27:6).

We must walk before God.

King David, as the husband, danced before the Lord with all his might,
rejoicing in his position as ruler of Israel, which God had appointed him.
However, his wife Michal, seeing him in such a state,
despised him in her heart and criticized him, saying,
"How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today,
going around half-naked in full view of the slave girls o
f his servants as any vulgar fellow would!"

Even if we humble ourselves more before God and appear lower in the eyes of others,
we should still act in accordance with God's standards.

No matter how close or beloved someone may be,
if they view us with contempt in their hearts and regard us as shameless,
we must remain steadfast before God

(2 Sam. 6:16-22).

We must be blameless and pure before God, but ...

When we are in distress,
we should set all of God's words before us
and not discard them but rather keep them even more diligently.
Therefore, we must guard ourselves against doing evil and avoiding sin,
so that we may be blameless and pure before God
(2 Sam. 22:21-24).

Saints who trust in God and His servant.

The saints who listen to God's word and trust in Him will stand firm.
Those who trust in God's servant will prosper
(2 Chron. 20:20).

Since God values and treasures it ...

The reason we value the life of those who seek to harm us is because God values our lives.
We pray that God delivers us from all afflictions
(1 Sam. 26:21, 24).

God will strike him.

Even though the LORD has forbidden striking the anointed of God,
if one still does so knowingly, would there be no guilt? God will strike him
(1 Sam. 26:9-11).

Because God has forbidden it ...

Because the Lord has forbidden it,
even if King Ahab offers me a more beautiful vineyard than my ancestral inheritance,
or even if he offers to pay its value in money,
I cannot give my ancestral inheritance to the king
(1 Kgs. 21:1-4).

If it is something forbidden by God, like in the case of Naboth,
no matter how high the position or how immense the power of the person who desires it,
anyone should be able to firmly refuse to do what is forbidden by God,
out of obedience to Him ...

According to what God has spoken ...

God desired that King Solomon would be wholehearted before Him like his father David.
Therefore, God had previously given a warning to the descendants of Israel.
However, King Solomon, the king of Israel,
disobeyed and acted against these words by loving foreign women.
As a result, as God had spoken,
these women turned King Solomon's heart away, leading him to follow other gods
(1 Kgs. 11:1-4).

The saints who love the righteousness that God loves.

The saints who depart from evil and do good,
loving the righteousness that God loves, will not be forsaken by God.
They will receive eternal protection and live forever
(Ps. 37:27-28).

Even if God were to lift his hand and cut me off ...

Even if God were to lift his hand and cut me off,
"I would still take comfort and rejoice in unrelenting pain
because I have not denied the words of the Holy One"
(Job 6:9-10).

God blesses our children with peace.

May God make our children even more glorious (Ps. 71:21).
May God enlarge their faith,
and increase their love for the Lord, the church, and the gospel.
May God enlarge the hope of our children,
and enable them to live a life of faith while preparing for the coming of Jesus.

God is instructing my children.

God has instructed my three children through me from an early age (Ps. 71:17).
The instruction is the hymn "Jesus Loves Me."
In the chorus of that hymn, it says, "Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so."
What God has taught through me to Charis, Dillon, Yeri, and Karis is
that "the Bible says Jesus loves you."
As a father, I want to show Dillon, Yeri, and Karis
the love of Jesus according to the words of the Bible.
Therefore, I earnestly pray that even after I pass away,
when my beloved Dillon, Yeri, and Karis remember (commemorate) me,
they will be reminded of the love of Jesus.

The person who walks with God is ...

The person who walks with God becomes stronger and stronger
(2 Sam. 3:1; 5:10).

God, you know me thoroughly, but ...

God, You know me thoroughly (Ps. 139:3),
but how well do I truly know God and how familiar am I with His word?

We must wait for God.

We must wait for the Lord with faith, being strong and courageous,
firmly believing that we will see His goodness
(Ps. 27:14).

The meek who hope in God.

The evildoers who do wrong will be cut off and perish,
but those who hope in the Lord, the meek,
will inherit the land and enjoy abundant peace
(Ps. 37:9-11).

We should not deceive God.

If I had set my hope in money and trusted in it,
If I had ever been happy with my wealth,
If my heart was secretly seduced by money and worshiped it
to the point of loving it more than God,
I have deceived and betrayed God above
(Job 31:24-28).

I want to praise God.

When people realize that God has given them wise children,
I want to praise God for giving them wisdom,
rather than praising my children
(1 Kgs. 5:7).

Let us seek God.

If we seek God with all our heart and all our soul,
God will meet us and give us peace
(2 Chron. 15:15).

I am in a situation where I have no choice but to blame God ...

Even though I have every reason to resent God in this situation, through it all I have not sinned but rather continued to worship and praise God, like Job, who without cause feared God and was without doubt a child of God, even to the extent that God himself commended Job to Satan (Job 1:6-22).

As it is in God's heart...

A servant of God who does what is right in the eyes of God does whatever is in God's heart (2 Kgs. 10:30).

When the word of God pierces me like the arrow of the Lord ...

When I confess my faults and sins and do not repent, the word of God pierces me like the arrow of the Lord, and the hand of the Lord presses hard on me day and night. Because there is no peace deep in my heart, and it feels like a heavy burden on my heart that I cannot bear. In the end, I confess my faults to God and mourn my sins. Because I told the Lord my sins and did not hide them, the Lord forgave my sins. (Ps. 32:1-5; 38:2-4, 18).

Why do we who are loved by God continue to tolerate it?

We, who are loved by God, do not take as wives those who do not believe in Jesus.

By doing all these great evils we are sinning against our God.

Why do we continue to tolerate it?

(Neh. 13:26-27)

The purpose of God's love

The purpose of God knowing (loving) us in advance

(before the creation of the world) is

that we are sinners who are enemies of God and are weak.

It is to conform us to the image of the Son of God,

imitating Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is glorified.

(Rom. 5:6, 8, 10; 8:29, 30; cf. Eph. 1:4).

God's work is interesting. (1)

God's work is interesting.

Haman came to ask King Ahasuerus to hang Mordecai on the tree he had set up.

King Ahasuerus asked Haman, who was in the outer court of the palace, to honor Mordecai.

He asked, "What shall he do to a man whom the king wishes to honor?"

(Esth. 6:1-7).

God's work is interesting. (2)

Haman thought that the one King Ahasuerus wanted to honor was Haman himself.

But King Ahasuerus told Haman that he would not kneel or bow to him.

Haman, who was sitting in the palace gate, made him very angry.

He commanded that Mordecai the Jew be honored

(Esth. 3:2, 5; 6-10).

Help us realize and enjoy God's immeasurable grace.

The Lord sustains our children from their mother's womb (Ps. 71:6)

Even in the future, despite many severe hardships,

help us to realize and enjoy God's immeasurable grace.

Because you bring him/her back to life and deliver (save) him/her again.

I pray for comfort (vv. 20, 21).

He teaches God's chosen path.

God blesses those who fear God with His intimacy.

He teaches God's chosen path

(Ps. 25:12, 14).

God's sure salvation, assurance of my salvation!

Because of the sure salvation of a loving God
I have no choice but to have assurance of salvation.

(As I was listening to the retired pastor's proclamation of Romans 8)

A community loved by God

The community that God loves is created by God raising wise leaders.
He allows us to practice justice and righteousness
(1 Kgs. 10:9).

Those fools who say there is no God...

The fools who say there is no God
are without understanding, not seekers after God, but workers of iniquity.
Because of ignorance, they have become unclean together,
and not one of them does "good"
(Ps. 53:1-4).

We must obey with the wisdom and knowledge that God has given us.

King Solomon, in disobedience to God's command in Deuteronomy 17:16-17, which prohibits kings from accumulating many horses, chariots, or gold and silver, gathered a great number of chariots and horses and made silver and gold abundant in Jerusalem (2 Chron. 1:14-15).

We should obey God's word with the wisdom and knowledge that He gives us.

The secret to success and becoming exceeding great

God's presence is the secret to success (Gen. 39:2, 3, 21, 23)

It is also the secret to becoming exceedingly great (2 Chron. 1:1).

We must go into the wilderness alone.

When we are in a very difficult and difficult situation,

Even when we see our lives being threatened.

We may run away because we want to escape the situation for our lives.

At that time, we must go into the wilderness alone.

The reason is that we expressed our discouragement and desire to die to the Lord in the wilderness.

Because it can be poured out through prayer.

And because we can experience the caress of the Lord.

Therefore, we must gain strength both spiritually and physically to follow the path of the mission given to us.

We will be able to keep walking

(1 Kgs. 19:1-8).

Wicked people who speak peace but have malice in their hearts

When we suffer because of evildoers who speak peace to their neighbors
but harbor malice in their hearts,
our hearts find strength and refuge in God, who is our strength and shield.
Therefore, our hearts greatly rejoice, and we sing praises to God
(Ps. 28:3, 7).

Affliction

Affliction causes our souls to turn to the Lord, making us realize that among the gods,
there is none like Him, and no deeds compare to His.
Therefore, we confess that the Lord is great and performs marvelous deeds;
He alone is God (Ps. 86:4, 7, 8, 10).

When we spend each day without hope ...

When living day by day without hope,
When my life seems fleeting like a breath, and my eyes may never see happiness again,
We break the silence and speak out because of the anguish of my spirit;
I will complain because of the bitterness of my soul
(Job 7:6-11).

The powerful voice of the Lord

The powerful voice of the Lord gives us strength
To Him, who bestows upon us the blessings of peace,
We must give glory and power and worship
(Ps. 29:1, 2, 4, 11).