

Without God's Grace and Powerful Intervention

[Short Word Meditation (21)]

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For new believers ...

New believers need to hear words of encouragement
and words that strengthen them often
(Acts 15:31-32).

**We must strive to overcome differences in thoughts and work
towards the harmony of the church
and the building up of one another's virtues.**

In the church,
there are various people with diverse thoughts,
so there can be diverse expressions.
However, as servants of Christ,
we should not only please God
but also be people who receive praise (recognition) from one another.
To achieve this,
we must strive to overcome the differences in our thoughts and work
towards the harmony of the church and building up one another's virtues.
We must not let the issue of differences
in our thoughts ruin the work of God
(Romans 14:14-20).

The gift of helping one another

Among the workers in the church,
there are those who have the gift of helping one another
(1 Corinthians 12:28).

It is commendable for us to assist many people
like our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the Lord
and a helper of many, including Apostle Paul.
Such sisters should be warmly welcomed in the Lord
with the love of the saints,
and whenever she needs help,
we should assist her generously in any way we can
(Romans 16:1-2).

Members who can sympathize with each other.

A person who harbors a proud heart
and considers himself superior cannot sympathize with others.
However, the reason why humble-minded individuals,
who associate with the lowly and humble,
can share their hearts with one another
is because they are able to sympathize with each other
(Romans 12:16).

We should accept each other instead of criticizing recklessly.

Strong believers, who have faith to eat anything,
should not look down on those who are weak in faith
and believe they should only eat vegetables,
nor should they criticize their opinions recklessly.

Similarly, those who are weak in faith,
who eat only vegetables, should not criticize those who eat anything.

The reason is that God has accepted both the strong and the weak in faith.
Therefore, in the church, strong and weak believers should accept each other
instead of criticizing each other recklessly
(Romans 14:1-3).

Through each other's faith ...

The reason I want to meet with you
when the opportunity arises in accordance with God's will
is to mutually encourage one another through the sharing of spiritual blessings,
deriving comfort from each other's faith
(Ref.: Romans 1:10-12).

They instigated and drew them to their side, and eventually ...

Even within the church, among the church members who disbelieve even after hearing the word of the Lord through the Lord's servant, there are a group of people who incite other church members to join their side and eventually throw "stones" at the Lord's servant (Ref.: Acts 14:2, 19).

Not being able to overcome preconceptions and blocking opportunities for change with your mind is disbelief.

If we still hold prejudices against individuals whom the Lord has instructed us to go and seek (Acts 9:11), we will not be obedient to His command. If we cannot overcome our preconceptions based on our old memories of the person whom the Lord has already met and transformed, we will not obey His word to go and find that person. Asserting that such a person, like "Saul," can never become "Paul," and blocking opportunities for change in our hearts is not placing full trust in the Lord (Proverbs 3:5).

What is good vs. What is evil

We should be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil (Romans 16:19).

We should not imitate what is evil but what is good (3 John 1:11).

It is better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil (1 Peter 3:17).

Failure to practice good deeds

The reason I want to do good things but cannot put them into practice is because there is nothing good in my old nature (Romans 7:18).

I hope you gain faith and eternal life through the words of the Bible.

The purpose of recording the Gospel of John is "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31).

We should believe in the Son of God, Jesus Christ, through the words of the Scriptures and obtain eternal life in his name.

We should testify about the Lord Jesus Christ with the Bible.

We must boldly and without hindrance proclaim the kingdom of God
and teach and testify about the Lord Jesus Christ with the Bible
(Ref.: Acts 28:23, 31).

The conclusion of the Bible is ...

The conclusion of the Bible
is that a person is justified not by observing the law but by faith
(Romans 3:28).

The conclusion regarding Abraham
is that he was justified not by works but by faith in God,
who justifies the ungodly,
and his faith was credited to him as righteousness (4:2-3).
Therefore, the person who is credited as righteous by God
apart from works is blessed (v. 6).

I hope it may bring joy to the saints.

I pray that my service may be a source of joy to the saints
(Ref.: Romans 15:31).

A hired pastor trying to win the favor of his congregation?

It is very wrong for a pastor to do what he wants to please the believer(s) instead of doing justice and righteousness like the Lord (Ref.: Psalms 99:4; Acts 24:27; 25:5, 9).

The saints

The saints (Colossians 1:2) refers to the redeemed believers. The literal meaning in the original Greek is 'separated ones'. Biblically, "the saints" refer to those who are 'holy and set apart'. In other words, the saints are those whom God has set apart (separated) from the world. In other words, the saints are those who are set apart for God's purpose and service. According to the King James Version Bible Commentary, the saints are true lovers of God (Psalms 31:23), witnesses of Jesus (Revelation 17:6), those who praise God and give thanks to His holy name (Psalms 30:4), those who pray (Revelation 5:8), those who practice righteous deeds (Revelation 19:8), those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the faith in Jesus (Revelation 14:12), and those who rejoice in glory (Psalms 149:5).

This shows that we have already failed as believers.

When a dispute arises within the church, a believer sues a believer, appeals to a worldly court, and is tried in front of unbelieving worldly people. This shows that he has already failed as a believer (1 Corinthians 6:1-7).

Being filled with the Holy Spirit vs. Getting drunk

As they observed the 12 apostles filled with the Holy Spirit,
some mocked, saying, "They are drunk with wine!"

They interpreted their being filled with the Holy Spirit as being drunk with wine
(Acts 2:13, 15).

It reminded me of Ephesians 5:18:

"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery.

Instead, be filled with the Spirit."

When the Holy Spirit blocks the path we want to take ...

When the Holy Spirit blocks the path we want to take,

He can make known to us someone who is seeking help in various ways.

At that moment, we need to pray and,

guided by the wisdom and understanding given by God,

determine if the person seeking help is the one the Lord has called us

to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with and obey

(Acts 16:9-10).

With the power given by the Holy Spirit ...

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit

and do the Lord's work with the power given by the Holy Spirit,

we may end up doing things we do not even know about

(Ref.: Acts 2:4).

The Holy Spirit also helps us in our weaknesses.

The Spirit also helps us in our weakness.

For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought,
but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us
with groanings which cannot be uttered.

And He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is
because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God
(Romans 8:26-27).

Moreover, when we do not know how to love,
the Spirit produces the fruit of love within us
so that according to God's will,
we may love God and our neighbor
(Matthew 22:37, 39; Galatians 5:22).

The Holy Spirit penetrates even the deep things of God.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God
(1 Corinthians 2:10).

May the God of glory, our Father,
grant us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation,
so that we may know Him better
(Ephesians 1:17).

The amazing work of the Holy Spirit ...

The amazing work of the Spirit leaves us bewildered, astonished, and marveling, making us ask, 'What does this mean?' and 'What is happening?'
(Acts 2:6-12).

I want to convey spiritual truth through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual truths should be explained in spiritual words,
not with persuasive and lofty human wisdom.
Spiritual truths should be conveyed through the power of the Holy Spirit,
not through human abilities
(Ref.: 1 Corinthians 2:1, 4, 11, 13).

The will of the Holy Spirit must become our decision.

If the Holy Spirit's will is not to burden new believers
with anything other than a few necessities,
then that should be our decision
(Acts 15:28).

We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and have spiritual discernment to follow the correct guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In the context of evangelistic missionary work for the gospel of Jesus Christ, what should we do when the Holy Spirit blocks or does not permit the ministry location we intend to go to?

When the Holy Spirit prevents us from going in a certain direction, we believe that there is undoubtedly a path that He opens for us.

However, how can we distinguish between the hindrance and permission of the Holy Spirit?

When the Holy Spirit blocks the path we intend to take, even if we claim to have a righteous purpose of preaching the gospel, if we do not humbly submit to the Spirit's hindrance and instead try to observe our right intentions, is that not pride?

Furthermore, if the Holy Spirit has opened a path for us to take, yet we continue to pray for it to be opened, without discerning it, is that not our folly?

It seems that merely having the right purpose and a right heart's motive is not enough.

It requires the fullness of the Holy Spirit and spiritual discernment to follow the right leading of the Spirit (Ref.: Acts 16:6-10).

We must immediately obey in faith and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

When the Lord's angel said to Philip,

"Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza,"

Philip got up and went.

On his way, he met an Ethiopian eunuch,

an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake.

The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet (Acts 8:26-30).

At that moment, the passage the Ethiopian was reading was this:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth" (v. 32).

Then Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

He replied, "How can I, unless someone explains it to me?"

So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

The Ethiopian eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture (Isaiah 53:7), and Philip began with that very passage and told him the good news about Jesus (Acts 8:35).

We must promptly obey in faith according to the leading of the Holy Spirit and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I want to become an evangelist burning with a sense of mission to proclaim the gospel according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The gospel worker who bears the burden of preaching and missionary work according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit knows one thing as they go to the mission field led by the Holy Spirit: that they can expect imprisonment and hardships along the way (Acts 20:22-23).

The evangelist burning with a sense of mission does not consider even their own life precious in order to fulfill the task of testifying to the grace of God's gospel (v. 24). I want to become an evangelist burning with a sense of mission to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

A preacher filled with the Holy Spirit.

A preacher filled with the Holy Spirit is one who, upon hearing the word of God, is filled with rage from head to toe, yet does not look at the people in front of him, but gazes up at the sky, beholding the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God (Acts 7:54-55).

Baptism, obedience to commandments

A church member who has not been baptized
but keeps God's commandments
is better than a baptized church member
who knows God's commandments well but breaks them
(Ref.: Romans 2:26-27).

I pray that the God of hope will make you overflow with hope.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit
(Romans 15:13).

It is better to suffer loss or be deceived.

It is better for believers to suffer loss or be deceived by each other
than to have a case against one another in front of unbelievers
(1 Corinthians 6:6-7).

With pure love ... (1)

Love must be sincere.

Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Be devoted to one another in love.

Honor one another above yourselves

(Romans 12:9, 15).

With pure love ... (2)

I pray that we will help the poor believers with sincere love

and that we will work hard to welcome guests

(Romans 12:9, 13).

Church members who love the Lord's church with pure love

Those who love the Lord and His church, which is His body,

with sincere love and without deceit,

use the different gifts they have been given by God's grace

with humility, faithfully maintaining unity as one body in Christ

(Romans 12:5-9).

Just because we have the freedom to drink alcohol ...?

Just because we have the freedom to drink doesn't mean it's all beneficial.

And just because we can do something doesn't mean it's good for us.

We should be concerned about the good of others, not just the good of ourselves

(Ref.: 1 Corinthians 10:23-24).

A church that digs its own grave?

The church that digs its own grave

is setting up its officials wrongly

(Ref.: Acts 6:1-6).

Try to establish our own righteousness.

The zeal for God that is not based on correct knowledge,

that is solely on God's grace, and being made righteous by believing in Jesus Christ,

ultimately relies on and tries to uphold the law,

seeking to establish its own righteousness

(Romans 10:2-3).

We are deceiving ourselves.

The wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight.

Therefore, anyone who thinks they are wise by worldly standards is actually deceiving themselves.

To truly become wise,

one must become a fool in the eyes of the world

(1 Corinthians 3:18-19).

It should not be used to show off.

We should use the gifts of grace that God has given us

to build up the virtues of the church, not to boast in ourselves

(Romans 12:6, 16; 1 Corinthians 14:4).

They pretend to be wise, but in reality they are foolish.

Suppressing the truth by their wickedness, these people,

although they knew God, did not glorify Him as God or give thanks to Him.

Instead, their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Claiming to be wise, they became fools

(Romans 1:18-22).

Because of the sins we know and commit habitually ...

Our conscience is becoming weak and dirty
due to the sins we know and commit habitually
(Ref.: 1 Corinthians 8:7).

Jealousy

The Jewish leaders, the high priests and the Sadducees who were with him,
were so jealous of the apostles that they arrested them and imprisoned them.
Eventually, they also became jealous of Jesus
and handed him over to the Roman governor Pilate to crucify him
(Matthew 27:18; Acts 5:17-18).

We must not be jealous.

We should not be jealous of those who practice injustice
(Psalms 37:1).

We should not have jealousy and quarrels among us
like people in the world who do not believe in Jesus
(1 Corinthians 3:3).

Where there is envy and strife, there is confusion and every evil work
(James 3:16).

God even uses jealousy to save us.

God had told Abraham that his descendants would be foreigners in a land not their own, where they would be enslaved and mistreated for 400 years.

In the process of fulfilling this promise,

God also used the jealousy of Joseph's ten brothers, which eventually led Joseph to be sold into slavery in Egypt.

God's primary purpose in sending Joseph ahead to Egypt was to save Joseph's brothers and ensure the survival of their descendants (Genesis 45:5, 7; Acts 7:8-15).

Ultimately, God preserved and rescued the descendants of Jacob's sons through Joseph during a severe famine.

Our God is the God of salvation!

God who helps us withstand trials.

When we are tested, God, who is faithful,

gives us the ability to endure the test

or provides a way to escape it

so that we can endure it

(1 Corinthians 10:13).

When one feels that they can no longer bear the trial, reaching the limit of human endurance

When we feel that we can no longer bear the trial we are facing,
reaching the limit of human endurance,
God, in His own time and His own way, opens a way of escape for us.
At that moment, we must discern, guided by the Holy Spirit,
the path that God opens for us, and walk in faith along that path
(Ref.: Acts 16:6-10; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Corinthians 5:7).

Faithful brothers ...

The Modern Korean Bible translates the term
"faithful brothers" (Colossians 1:2) as "brothers who believe in Christ."
In other words, "faithful brothers" are those who continue to faithfully believe in Jesus Christ.

"Faithful brothers" are:

- (1) Full of faith,
- (2) Trustful and trustworthy,
- (3) Loyal to Christ (KJV Bible Commentary).

"Faithful brothers in Christ" are those who are loyal to Christ
and serve as faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:5),
following the Lord honestly in everything (Psalm 101:6),
being faithful in even the smallest things (Luke 16:10),
remaining faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10),
and receiving both the praise from the Lord (Luke 19:17)
"Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little"
and the crown of life from Him (Revelation 2:10).

With someone who is respected by believers

When Paul saw that Timothy,
who was highly respected by the believers,
had joined him in the ministry,
he realized the importance of working together in evangelism
with those who are respected by the believers
(Acts 16:1-2).

Let us become people with a steadfast mind.

The person with a steadfast mind,
whom the Lord keeps in perfect peace,
does not waver in seeking people's favor
(Ref.: Isaiah 26:3; Acts 24:27; 25:9).

Intense debate and sharp disagreement

Paul and Barnabas, who had engaged in intense debate
with certain individuals teaching unbiblical doctrines of salvation,
took John Mark and returned to the places
where they had preached the word of the Lord
to see how the believers were doing.
However, due to a sharp disagreement over Mark, they parted ways
(Acts 15:1-2, 36-41).

Is it a beautiful church or a glamorous church?

Is it a beautiful church in the eyes of God,
striving to maintain unity amidst diversity,
or is it a church that only promotes its glamour amidst various issues?
(Ref.: Psalms 133:1, Acts 6:5; Ephesians 4:3)

"Amen. Lord Jesus, come quickly," is the only response possible.

God will send Jesus Christ, whom He predestined for us, once again"
(Acts 3:20).

Jesus said, "Yes, I am coming soon"
(Revelation 22:20).

On the day when Jesus Christ comes again,
God, who foreknew them in advance,
predestined them to be like His Son Jesus Christ,
called them, justified them, and glorified them
(Romans 8:29-30).

He will transform our lowly bodies
so that they will be like His glorious body
(Philippians 3:21), making us like Jesus (1 John 3:2).

Therefore, in response to the Lord's declaration,
"Yes, I am coming soon,"
we can only say, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus"
(Revelation 20:20).

Even though we know that it is impossible to hope for anything...

We should not waver in unbelief regarding the impossibility of anything, even though we know and believe in God, who raises the dead and calls into existence things that do not exist. Instead, we should remain strong in faith, giving glory to God, being fully convinced that what He has promised, He is able to perform (Ref.: Romans 4:17-21).

No one can boast. We have nothing to boast about.

No one can boast. We have nothing to boast about. The reason is that we have received salvation by believing in Christ solely through God's grace. Salvation is solely by faith, which is a gift of God's grace, and it is never accomplished by our own strength or our deeds (Ref. Romans 3:24-28; Ephesians 2:8-9).

No matter how righteous purpose is in proclaiming the word of God ...

No matter how righteous our purpose is
in proclaiming the word of God for the Lord's sake
through preaching the gospel and missionary work,
we must obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
The reason is firstly that we are weak beings,
and secondly, because the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness,
praying for us and guiding us according to the will of God
when we do not know where to go
or how to engage in preaching the gospel and missionary work
(Acts 16:6-10; Romans 8:26-27).

No matter how intellectually superior one may be in the eyes of the world ...

Although Sergius Paulus, the proconsul of the island of Cyprus,
was described as a very intelligent man,
it seems that he did not realize that his friend,
a Jewish sorcerer named Bar-Jesus, was a false prophet
(Acts 13:6-7).

No matter how intellectually superior one may be in the eyes of the world,
one can still be unaware that a friend, such as a pastor
who performs miracles of healing, might be a false prophet deceiving people.

Do not be defeated by evil, but overcome evil with good.

In order not to be overcome by evil but to overcome evil with good,
we must hate evil, do not repay evil with evil,
and belong to good and pursue good deeds
(Romans 12:9, 17, 21).

Christians who hate evil and do good

Christians who hate evil and do good
do not repay evil for evil to anyone
but always seek to do good
(Romans 12:9, 17).

They approve of those who practice evil.

Those who suppress the truth by their wickedness
not only know God but also know His law,
yet they not only do evil themselves
but also approve of those who practice evil
(Romans 1:18-19, 28-32).

Those who block the truth with evil actions ...

Those who block the truth with evil actions
change God's truth into lies and worship and serve
the things created by the Creator God more than the Creator God
(Romans 1:18, 25).

No one and nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

When God is for us, no one can be against us.
Since God has chosen us, no one can accuse us.
Since God has declared us righteous, no one can condemn us.
No one, nothing at all, can separate us from the love of Christ
(Romans 8:31-35).

No one can stop the work of God!

The circumcised believers who had criticized Peter,
unaware that it was God's doing,
listened to Peter's detailed explanation of what had happened,
and their doubts were dispelled.

They praised God, acknowledging that God had granted even the Gentiles
the opportunity to repent unto life
(Acts 11:1-18).

To our brothers and sisters who criticize us
without knowing what God has done,
we should be able to say,
while explaining everything that has happened from the beginning,
"Who am I to stand in God's way?" (v. 17).

There may be people who try to stop the work of God, which we cannot prevent.
However, if God has worked through us,
then that work is not ours but God's,
and what we have done is not our own,
but what God has done through us.

Therefore, we should pray to God with boldness and humility,
having faith that what God has accomplished in heaven,
His will, is also fulfilled on earth.

We should pray, 'Lord, do not glorify us ...

Let all people give glory only to You'

(Psalms 115:1).

How should we send off the servant of the Lord as he leaves for the gospel mission field?

When bidding farewell to a servant of the Lord
who obediently responds to His call and departs
to fulfill their mission in preaching the gospel and missionary work,
even though it may be deeply saddening and bring tears to our eyes
knowing that we may never see the face of that servant again,
after kneeling together in prayer to God with the departing servant,
we should bid farewell to each other and send them off in faith
(Acts 20:36-38; 21:4-6).

We must always serve with humility and tears.

A pastor must serve the Lord with humility and tears,
even amidst various trials
(Acts 20:19).

How beautiful and joyful!

How beautiful and joyful it is
when brothers and sisters meet with one mind in the Lord
and share table fellowship with joy and sincerity!
(Acts 2:46; Psalms 133:1)

“Ephphata!” (Be opened!)

While Jesus' disciples were gathered together
with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders,
Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb and saw
that the stone that had blocked his tomb had been moved.
Jesus' tomb was open, and Jesus' disciples had the doors locked
(John 20:1, 19).
I remembered Jesus' words, “Ephphatha” (meaning: “Be opened”)
(Mark 7:34).

Those who were destined for eternal life ...

Those who are destined for eternal life
hear the word of God, believe in Jesus Christ,
rejoice, and praise the word of the Lord
(Acts 13:48).

Rather than having a spiritual teacher and spiritual mentor ...

Rather than having a spiritual teacher and mentor,
we should have a spiritual father
(Ref.: 1 Corinthians 4:15).

A spiritual leader ... (1)

A spiritual leader
should not covet the material possessions of their followers
(Acts 20:33, Modern Bible).

The spiritual leader
must not accept bribes that blind his eyes
(1 Samuel 12:3).

A spiritual leader ... (2)

A spiritual leader
must lead by example in all things.
And the spiritual leader must remember what Jesus said,
“It is more blessed to give than to receive,”
and work hard to help the weak
(Acts 20:35).

**The pastor, knowing that Jesus Christ is the foundation,
deeply roots oneself in him, builds life on the foundation,
Jesus Christ, and stands firmly in faith as taught,
living a life overflowing with gratitude.**

Knowing that Jesus Christ is the foundation,
rooting deeply in him, constructing life upon the foundation, Jesus Christ,
and standing firmly in faith as taught,
the pastor, living a life overflowing with gratitude,
dedicates oneself to sowing the gospel of Jesus Christ to the saints,
who are God's building, strengthening the foundation of their faith
and establishing them as mature Christians
who feed on solid food upon that foundation.
However, pastors who fail to do so
dedicate themselves more to external things
like church buildings rather than to God's building, the saints,
and also demand such dedication from the saints themselves
(Ref.: 1 Corinthians 2:6; 3:11-12; Colossians 2:7; Hebrews 5:14).

When we are justified and reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ

When we have been justified through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ
and have made peace with God,
God has given us the Holy Spirit
and poured out his love into our hearts
(Romans 5:1, 5).

With zeal not arising from the sound knowledge of Jesus Christ ...

Before believing in Jesus,
Saul thought that opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth
was something worth pursuing vigorously.
He even went to Jerusalem to personally engage in this endeavor.
He received authority from the chief priests
to imprison many saints and consented to their execution.
Furthermore, he went from synagogue to synagogue,
punishing them and compelling them to blaspheme Jesus.
Moreover, consumed with rage against them,
Saul pursued believers even to foreign cities,
causing them trouble
(Acts 26:9-11).

At that time, Saul thought,
"They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me"
(John 16:2).

Saul's zeal for God was not based on the sound knowledge
(Romans 10:2).

Similarly, there may be more Christians like Saul in the future,
whose zeal does not come from a correct understanding of Jesus Christ,
persecuting and even killing those who hope for the return of Jesus.

**Christians who are growing in faith
by diligently listening to the words of Jesus Christ**

Christians who are growing in faith by diligently listening to the words of Jesus Christ spread the words and enable many people to hear the words of Christ (Romans 10:14, 17; Philippians 1:25; 2 Thessalonians 1:3).

We must become evangelists who spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We must set the salvation of one soul as our clear goal.
In order to win that one soul,
we must become his servants and become people like him
and become evangelists who spread the gospel of Jesus Christ
(1 Corinthians 9:19-27).

For the gospel of Jesus Christ!

For the sake of the gospel,
we must be like people with weak faith and warmly welcome
and accept those who are weak in faith,
not criticizing and despising them
(Romans 14:1-10; 1 Corinthians 9:22-23).

As we look ahead to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

As we look ahead to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ,
we believe that those who die as believers in Jesus Christ will be resurrected first,
and then those who survive will be caught up together with them in the clouds
to meet the Lord in the air and be with the Lord for eternity
(Acts 2:31; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17).

A pastor who is a servant of Jesus Christ ...

A pastor, who is a servant of Jesus Christ,
remember the flocks entrusted to him by the Lord
and prays without ceasing, giving thanks to God
for the believers' faith being widely known throughout the world
(Romans 1:1, 8-9).

As witnesses of Jesus Christ

As witnesses of Jesus Christ,
we live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ,
so people in the world cannot deny that we are Christians when they see us,
and that they should have nothing more to say ...
(Acts 4:14, 16; Philippians 1:27).

As witnesses of Jesus Christ, we ...

As witnesses of Jesus Christ,
we must spread the forgiveness of sins to people through Jesus.
We must proclaim that there is forgiveness of sins through Jesus
(Acts 1:8; 13:38).

We must be proud in Jesus.

We should be proud of our service to God in Christ Jesus
(Romans 15:17).

Jesus is the Son of God and the Christ!

The transformed Saul (Apostle Paul) proclaimed that Jesus is the Son of God
and also testified that Jesus is the Christ (Acts 9:20, 22).

Apostle John said that whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ
is born of God (born again/regenerated).

Furthermore, he declared that whoever is born of God
overcomes the world through faith (1 John 5:1, 4-5).

Apostles Paul and John proclaimed
that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Christ.

Those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God and the Christ
are indeed born of God [born again/regenerated ones, and children of God (vv. 1, 4),
and they are victorious over the world through faith.

The story of how the Gentile came to believe in Jesus

Even in the process of addressing serious issues that led to intense debates due to non-biblical teachings, Paul and Barnabas, on their way to Jerusalem, stopped here and there to share stories of how the Gentiles had come to believe in Jesus, which brought joy to all the believers there (Acts 15:1-3).

We should recognize teaching non-biblical soteriology within the church as a serious issue and, if necessary, engage in intense debate to resolve it with correct biblical teachings.

However, even in that process, we should bring joy to our brothers and sisters by sharing with them the work of salvation that God has worked in Christ.

Who would have thought that the person who was looking for the body of Jesus would testify about the resurrected Jesus ...

After seeing Jesus' empty tomb, Mary Magdalene ran to Simon Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him" (John 20:1-2, 18).

Eventually, she went back and told the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" and she also relayed to them what Jesus had said to her.

Mary Magdalene, who was searching for Jesus' body in the empty tomb, ended up bearing witness to the resurrected Jesus to His disciples.

What lesson does this fact teach us?

Due to ignorance and disbelief about who Jesus is...

From the perspective of the Jews
who betrayed and killed the righteous Jesus Christ,
when Stephen proclaimed, "Look! I see heaven open and the Son of Man
standing at the right hand of God!" they covered their ears,
yelled at the top of their voices, and rushed at him together.
They dragged him out of the city and stoned him
(Acts 7:52-58).

The reason is that those Jews not only did not believe that Jesus was the Christ,
but also because they did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God and God himself.
Therefore, they crucified Jesus for blasphemy
(Matthew 9:3; 26:65; Mark 14:64; Luke 5:21),
but Stephen said that the Jesus they killed for these reasons
was standing at the right hand of God.
Even now, due to ignorance and disbelief about who Jesus is,
we continue to persecute the Spirit-filled servants of our Lord
(Acts 7:59).

What Jesus commands us to preach

What Jesus commanded us to preach
is that God has appointed Jesus as the judge of the living and the dead.
We must testify that anyone who believes in Jesus
receives forgiveness of sins in His name
(Acts 10:42-43).

The purpose of Jesus' birth

The purpose of Jesus' birth was to die on the cross,
and the purpose of Jesus' death was to save us who were spiritually dead
(Ephesians 2:1; 1 John 4:9).

Because the old self died with Jesus ...

Our old self was crucified and died with Jesus.
As a result, our body of sin dies and we are no longer enslaved to sin.
We are people who have already died to sin and have been freed from sin
(Romans 6:6-7).

It is only to spread the gospel.

Christ sent us to preach the gospel,
not with words of human wisdom,
lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.
For the message of the cross
is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God
(1 Corinthians 1:17-18).

We must become servants to one another only with love.

Just as Christ became a servant of the circumcised Jews for the truth of God,
we too must become servants to one another only in love for the truth of God
(Romans 15:8; Galatians 5:13).

Only those who believe in Jesus are justified.

We cannot be justified by the law of Moses
(Acts 13:39).

If we try to be justified by keeping the law,
we have been cut off from Christ;
we have fallen away from God's grace
(Galatians 5:4).

No one will be justified in God's sight by observing the law
(Romans 3:20).

We know that a person is not justified by observing the law,
but by faith in Jesus Christ.

So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus
that we may be justified by faith in Christ
and not by observing the law,
because no one will be justified by observing the law
(Galatians 2:16).

Through Jesus everyone who believes is set free from every sin
(Acts 13:39).

The righteous shall live only by faith!

In this gospel, which is the good news,
it is revealed that only through faith can one have a right relationship with God.
The righteous person who hears this gospel and believes in Jesus Christ by faith
lives only by faith (Romans 1:17).

We must only obey the word of God!

When we hear parents or pastors speaking words
that contradict the Word of God in the Lord,
we must remember that our ultimate obedience is to God alone,
and that the word we must obey is solely the word of God
(Acts 5:29; Deuteronomy 33:9).

Aren't we actually harming and deceiving our brother?

The Bible says that it is better for believers
to suffer losses or be deceived than to fight and sue each other.
But aren't we actually harming and deceiving our brothers?
(1 Corinthians 6:7-8)

As the whole world is struggling with the coronavirus pandemic ...

As the whole world is suffering from the coronavirus pandemic,
let us believers decide to help our brothers in need
as much as we can and put this into practice
(Ref.: Acts 11:28-29).

We must have the right judgment.

Those who are quick to listen
to the words of men rather than the word of God
do not listen to the word of God,
but listen to the threats and warnings of people in the world.
Those who are quick to listen to the word of God
have the right judgment to think about the things of God
rather than the things of men
(Matthew 16:23; Acts 4:17-19).

Why do you try to determine and pay the price of the gift ourselves?

Even though we receive it through faith as a free gift
of justification and salvation (eternal life) by God's grace,
why do we try to pay for the gift by putting a price on ourselves?
(Ref.: Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:8-9)

‘Why did you make me like this?’

A lump of clay cannot question the potter,
‘Why did you make me into a valuable vessel rather than a common one?’
The reason is because it is the potter's prerogative.
The potter made the vessel as he desired.
Yet, despite this, we, as creatures, challenge the authority of the Creator,
asking, ‘Why did you make me like this?’
It can only be the stubbornness of us humans,
who refuse to humbly accept the authority of God,
who is the potter
(Romans 9:20-21).

Why do the tests I face seem so big?

Why do we perceive the trials we face
as so significant when they are common to all people?
Perhaps the reason is that we are not looking at the great God with faith.
Those who look at the great God with faith consider even great trials to be small.
However, those who perceive trials as significant with their earthly eyes
are regarding God as small
(Ref.: 1 Corinthians 10:13).

Why don't we change?

Why don't we change? Why don't we become new?
Why do we still live imitating the ways of this world?
Perhaps the reason is that we have not truly repented before the Lord.
Because we have not repented, our sins remain unwashed.
Therefore, we do not truly understand
what is good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.
Consequently, we do not live according to God's will,
nor do we pray according to God's will.
Instead, we live and pray according to our own will
(Acts 3:19; Romans 12:2; 1 John 2:17, 5:14).

Why the cross?

The Jewish leaders could have stoned Jesus to death themselves,
as they did with Stephen the deacon (Acts 7:58).
However, despite this, they sought the help of Roman authorities
(Governor Pilate and Roman soldiers) to crucify Jesus (Acts 2:23).
The reason is that from their perspective, stoning Jesus to death,
which was the Jewish method of execution, would not suffice,
considering Jesus as a great sinner.
Their reasoning was that Jesus had committed the grave sin of blasphemy
by claiming to be the Son of God, and therefore, he should have been crucified
according to the Roman method of execution for criminals.
This reasoning was based on Deuteronomy 21:23:
"... anyone who is hung on a pole is under God's curse."
From the viewpoint of these Jewish leaders,
Jesus was rightfully under God's curse for committing the sin of blasphemy,
and therefore, he should have been crucified on a cross.
Hence, they sought the assistance of Roman authorities to crucify Jesus.

Why do we think we can't bear the trials we face?

Certainly, the Bible states,

"God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear ..."

So why do we think we cannot bear the trials we face?

What is the reason we lack the ability to endure?

Could it be that we do not believe in the faithful God who gives us the ability to endure?

Could it be that we are not living by faith but by sight?

(1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Corinthians 5:7)

Are we Christians like propagators of a foreign god, the Jewish Jesus?

The joyful news we proclaim about Jesus and His resurrection

may seem like the preaching of a foreign deity,

Jesus, to worldly-wise elite individuals,

who may consider us mere promoters of a foreign religion

and perhaps even gossipers

(Ref.: Acts 17:18).

A church being neglected?

I wonder if not only the people of this world but also God are turning away from the church.

I wonder if we are now rejoicing in the idols we made with our own hands

(Acts 7:41-42).

There are things that can never be tolerated in the eyes of those who diligently follow the law of hypocrisy.

For those who zealously kept the law,
the teaching of the Apostle Paul to forsake Moses,
not to practice circumcision, and not to follow Jewish customs
was something they could never tolerate.
However, it was only a rumor (Acts 21:20-21).
Paul did not forsake Moses, and he could not agree with the teaching
that circumcision was necessary for salvation (Acts 15:1-2).
Instead of teaching not to follow Jewish customs,
he followed Jesus' teaching (Mark 7:8-9)
that it was wrong to abandon God's commandments
and instead uphold human traditions.
Even now, within the church, it seems that
those who zealously adhere to the external observance of the law,
like the Pharisees, perceive certain things as unacceptable.
Especially, based on unfounded rumors or ignorance of the truth of the gospel,
they judge and condemn the Gospel teachings of Jesus Christ
and the fitting life of the Gospel.
They may even condemn them in their hearts.
If such attitudes are found within us, we need to repent.

Tendency of our ears?

The Roman officials, who only listened to the words of the owners of a demon-possessed slave girl but ignored the words of Paul and Silas, joined the owners in condemning them.

They tore off Paul and Silas's clothes, beat them with rods, and threw them into prison

(Acts 16:20-23).

We must overcome the tendency of our ears to listen only to certain individuals, to pay more attention to the words of the crowd than to the minority, and to be more sensitive to their criticism.

We must listen to and lean into the truth, believing that the Lord will make it possible.

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free"

(John 8:32).

What we all need most!

When people come to us for help, we must recognize that their greatest need is the gospel of Jesus Christ (Ref.: Acts 16:9-10).

Because of the hope within us ...

Because of the hope of Jesus' return
and the hope of resurrection that we have in the Lord,
we may even face difficulties and persecution
from those who oppose the gospel
(Acts 26:1-8).

At that time, we must always be prepared to give an answer
to anyone who asks us about the reason for the hope that we have in Christ,
with gentleness and respect, keeping Christ the Lord in our hearts
(1 Peter 3:15).

Our old nature instinct is to want to seek direct revenge on our enemies ...

Our old nature instinct is to want to seek direct revenge on our enemies,
but the Bible says, "Do not take revenge, my dear friends,
but leave room for God's wrath"
(Romans 12:19).

"For it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,'" says the Lord
(Romans 12:19).

Furthermore, the Bible instructs us,
"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty,
give him something to drink"
(Romans 12:20).

The Bible goes beyond our old instincts
and even commands us to love our enemies
(Matthew 5:44).

South winds and typhoons blowing through our lives

In our lives, there are times when we feel things are going well because of the gentle south wind blowing.

But there are also times when we encounter major crises in life due to the sudden onslaught of a typhoon, and we struggle to move forward.

There are also times when there is a timely south wind, and we can move forward riding on that wind

(Acts 27:13-18; 28:13).

Through loving discipline through the power of our Lord Jesus...

The church, gathered in the name of our Lord Jesus, must discipline those who commit sexual immorality through the power of our Lord Jesus, so that their flesh may be destroyed but their spirit can be saved on the day of the Lord's return (1 Corinthians 5:4-5).

Who are we to ...

Who are we to oppose God's will or question him?

Shall the created say to the Creator, "Why did you make me like this?"

Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?

(Romans 9:19-21)

The greater the trial we face ...

The greater the trial we face,
the more we should humbly acknowledge
that we do not have the ability within ourselves to bear it,
and we should approach God in prayer,
asking Him to grant us the strength to endure.

It is a good opportunity for us to realize
that the ability to endure trials is not within us
but comes solely from God

(Ref.: 1 Corinthians 10:13).

Things like the amazing miracles of God that we witness and experience

The amazing miracles of God that we witness and experience
serve as evidence of God testifying to us about Jesus Christ.

Therefore, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved
(Acts 2:21-22).

The spiritual leader we should imitate.

The spiritual leader we should imitate
is he whose teaching in the church aligns with their actions in Christ Jesus
(1 Corinthians 4:16-17).

The word of faith we proclaim

The word of faith we proclaim is this:

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord
and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved"
(Romans 10:9-10).

Spiritual worship we offer to God

The spiritual worship we offer to God
is to present our bodies as a holy sacrifice, pleasing to God,
and to renew our minds to discern
the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God
and live accordingly
(Romans 12:1-2).

If we are to obey God's word ...

In order to obey God's word,
first, the legalistic and hypocritical prejudices within us must be broken down.
Only God can break down these legalistic and hypocritical prejudices
(Acts 10:28).

When we strive to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ ...

When Saul gained more strength, he boldly preached the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Jews, however, made efforts to kill Saul.

At that time, other disciples of the Lord made efforts to help Saul escape

(Acts 9:22-30).

When we exert ourselves to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ,

the forces of Satan will also exert themselves to oppose us.

Nevertheless, the Lord will use His disciples to exert themselves to rescue us!

We are ...

We are among the many people of the world

who have been called as belonging to Jesus Christ.

We have received the grace of God's love and are called to be saints.

We are those who believe in Jesus Christ, who is the gospel of God,

and are obedient to Him

(Romans 1:1-7).

We are Christ's people.

We are Christ's people.

The Spirit of Christ dwells within us.

We are those who are under the dominion of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, we have no choice but to obey God's word and continue to obey it.

The reason is that we are children of God.

God's children, who are under the dominion of the Holy Spirit, please God

(Romans 8:7-9, 16).

**We should not only refrain from making excuses
but also should not be able to do so.**

When we realize, through God's holy word,
that we are living in darkness, committing sin,
and merely lying if we claim to live according to the truth,
we should not only refrain from making excuses
but also should not be able to do so
(Romans 3:19; 1).

We cannot help but speak of what we have seen and heard.

In this world dominated by the devil,
although we, who belong to God, are commanded not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus,
we cannot help but speak of what we have seen and heard
(Acts 4:18, 20; 1 John 5:19).

We must obey God rather than our parents and pastors.

While we should obey our parents at home and our pastors at church,
we must obey them in the Lord.
If our parents or pastors speak words contrary to the Lord's,
we must obey God rather than humans
(Acts 5:29; Ephesians 6:1).

We must obey the Lord's word even if it means disregarding our parents and pastors
(Deuteronomy 33:9).

We are people living in new life.

Because Christ was raised to life
by the glory of the Father from among the dead,
we too have been made alive into a new life.
Therefore, we must not continue to live in sin,
just as those who were spiritually dead
because of disobedience and sin
(Romans 6:2, 4; Ephesians 2:1).

We are Christians who live according to the Holy Spirit.

We are no longer people who live according to the flesh.
Now, we are Christians who live according to the Spirit.
Therefore, we focus on the work of the Spirit.
Such spiritual thinking signifies life and peace
(Romans 8:5-6).

We preach Christ crucified.

We preach Christ crucified.
Christ is the power and wisdom of God to those who are called
(1 Corinthians 1:24).

We must know.

We must know that our beloved brother,
who was at the crossroads of life and death,
now stands before us completely healthy
in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,
whom God raised from the dead among those who were dead
[Thinking of our beloved Tim
lying in the intensive care unit due to cardiac arrest
(Ref.: Acts 4:10)].

As witnesses of Jesus ...

As witnesses of Jesus,
we must not only proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ
but also strengthen the hearts of believers,
encouraging them to always live in faith,
and telling them that "we must go through many hardships
to enter the kingdom of God"
(Acts 14:21-22).

**We must not live according to the flesh
and be controlled by the flesh.**

The Holy Spirit dwells within us
who believe in Jesus Christ.
Therefore,
we no longer live under the domination of the flesh
but under the domination of the Spirit.
Consequently, we must not live according to the flesh
but through the Spirit,
put to death the deeds of the body.
This is because we are God's children
who are led by the Spirit
(Romans 8:9, 12-14).

We cannot help but receive praise from the Lord's servant.

Remembering the servants of the Lord who imitate Christ,
and by faithfully keeping the teachings
passed on to us by these servants,
when we become imitators of both
the Lord's servants and the Lord Himself,
we cannot help but receive praise from the Lord's servants
(1 Corinthians 11:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 1:6).

We exist in God.

We live, move and exist in God
(Acts 17:28).

We must always be in God's grace.

As followers of Jesus and His disciples,
we must always be in the grace of God
(Acts 13:43).

Therefore, we should have a strong sense of grace
(rejecting a sense of merit).

And we must labor much by the grace of God
(1 Corinthians 15:10).

As disciples of Jesus,
we should diligently listen to and learn from God's word
(Acts 13:43-44; Jeremiah 12:16).

We too must suffer and be raised from the dead.

Just as Jesus Christ suffered and rose again from among the dead,
so too, as disciples of Jesus Christ,
we must surely suffer and surely rise from among the dead
(Acts 17:3).

Just as God, who raised Christ from the dead, will also raise us
(1 Corinthians 15:15).

And since the Spirit of God,
who raised Jesus from the dead, dwells in us,
the same God who raised Christ
will also give life to our mortal bodies
through His Spirit who dwells in us
(Romans 8:11).

At the sound of the last trumpet, in the blink of an eye,
the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will all be changed
(1 Corinthians 15:52).

When the Lord descends from heaven with a cry of command,
with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God,
then the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive, who are left,
will be caught up together with them in the clouds
to meet the Lord in the air,
and so we will always be with the Lord
(1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

We may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.

The Lord has appointed us as witnesses of Jesus
so that we may bring salvation to the ends of the earth
(Acts 1:8; 13:47).

Will God not establish us and demonstrate His power?

If God demonstrated His power by establishing even the wicked and stubborn king Pharaoh of Egypt, would He not also establish us and demonstrate His power? (Ref.: Romans 9:17, 18).

‘There is nothing wrong with us.’

When preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, there may be people who oppose us and hurl insults at us. At that time, even if they come to ruin, it is their responsibility, and we are not at fault (Ref.: Acts 18:6).

This is from Ezekiel 33:7-9:

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to the wicked, 'You wicked person, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved."

Our lies reveal God's truth.

Our unfaithfulness reveals the faithfulness of God,
and our unrighteousness reveals the righteousness of God.
But God is never unfaithful or unrighteous.
Instead, God is faithful and righteous
(Romans 3:4-5).

A God of truth who uses even our lies?

The God who is true uses even our lies to further reveal His truth,
and thus He receives glory
(Ref.: Lies of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob)
(Romans 3:7).

Lord who turns away our fears and give us peace and joy

When the resurrected Jesus came to His disciples while they were afraid,
He said to them, "Peace be with you," and showed them His hands and side
bearing the marks of the nails and the spear.
Therefore, the disciples of Jesus rejoiced when they saw the Lord
(John 20:19-20).
The Lord not only turns away our fear and gives us peace and joy.

Our hearts cannot help but be happy.

Our hearts cannot help but be happy
when we hear the good news of our brothers and sisters in the Lord
who are living in obedience to the Lord
(Romans 16:19).

We should glorify God with our bodies and not commit sin by defiling our own bodies.

Since God has paid the price and redeemed us,
our bodies are not our own but are received from God
as the members of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit.
Therefore, we should glorify God with our bodies
and not commit sin by defiling our own bodies
(1 Corinthians 6:15-20).

Our example?

We should not desire evil things as our ancestors did, whom God was not pleased with.
Let us not become like them, who received God's discipline as examples for us,
but heed God's warning and refrain from enjoying evil things as they did
(1 Corinthians 10:1-6).

Our unbelief cannot nullify God's faithfulness.

Our unbelief cannot nullify God's faithfulness.

The reason is because even though we are all liars, God is true

(Romans 3:3-4).

God who works beyond our thoughts.

The Jewish thought was that Jesus was a man deserving of God's curse,

but God made this Jesus both Lord and Christ

(Deuteronomy 21:23; Acts 2:36, Galatians 3:13).

Our stubbornness and unrepentant heart.

We should not disregard the riches of God's kindness, tolerance, and patience

with our stubbornness and unrepentant hearts.

Instead, may the abundance of God's kindness lead us to repentance

(Ref.: Romans 2:4-5).

Since Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed ...

Since Christ, our Passover lamb,
has been sacrificed, we are indeed unleavened.
Therefore, let us keep the Festival,
not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness,
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth
(1 Corinthians 5:7-8).

Our duty is ...

Our duty is to pay our taxes well
(Romans 13:6-7).

Our existence

We exist for one God, the Father, who created all things,
and for one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things exist
(1 Corinthians 8:6).

Our mortal bodies will also be raised to life.

If the Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in us,
then the same God who raised Christ from the dead
will also give life to our mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in us
(Romans 8:11).

Our responsibility

We are servants of Jesus Christ and messengers of God's good news,
set apart for Jesus Christ.

Our responsibility is to lead all people of every nation
to believe in Jesus Christ and obey Him
(Romans 1:1-5).

Our great crisis can become a great opportunity, through which God's great power can rescue us, making us strong and mighty individuals.

In the midst of great affliction and severe oppression,
even to the point of killing their children,
God made Israel into a great nation and with great power led them out of Egypt
(Exodus 1:11-22, Acts 13:17).

Our great crisis can make us into strong and mighty individuals (Exodus 1:20),
offering a significant opportunity for God's great power to deliver us.

The person who used to persecute others ended up being persecuted by those whom he used to persecute.

Saul, who persecuted believers in Jesus Christ

even going on missions to different regions

(Acts 22:4-5),

became a disciple believing in Jesus Christ.

Afterward, Jews came from different regions to persecute the apostle Paul

(14:19; 16:13; 21:27).

It is the case, the person who used to persecute others

ended up being persecuted by those whom he used to persecute.

When receiving God's help in the midst of crisis

In the midst of crisis experiencing threats to his life,

the Apostle Paul received God's help.

He proclaimed the light of salvation to the people of Israel and the Gentiles,

testifying that Christ suffered and was the first to rise from the dead among the deceased

(Acts 26:21-23).

When receiving God's help in the midst of crisis,

we should seize the opportunity to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

To offer a prayer of thanks to God in times of crisis is to ...

In a crisis situation where life and death hang in the balance,
offering a prayer of thanks to God is impossible
without the assurance of faith in God
and the certainty that what God has spoken to me
will surely be fulfilled
(Acts 27:22-25, 35).

Crisis is a great opportunity to be led by the promises of God's word.

Crisis is a great opportunity
to hear God's voice in the midst of desperate spirits.
Our responsibility
is not only to believe in the faithful God
who has given us His promises
but also to have the conviction
that "what God has spoken to me will surely be fulfilled"
and to be courageous
(Acts 27:23-25).

Turning crisis into an opportunity for preaching the gospel ...

Even amidst crises where his life was threatened by crowds,
the Apostle Paul proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ through his testimony
(Acts 21:27-22).

The reason being that Paul considered his life of no value to him,
but only as a means to complete the task he received from Jesus,
the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace (20:24).

With a sense of mission like that of the Apostle Paul,
those who are willing to sacrifice their lives for Jesus and the gospel
(Mark 8:35) continue to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ
even in the face of threats to their lives.

Even if they are hypocritical church leaders ...

Even if they are hypocritical church leaders,
we should strive to obey, recognizing that the Bible records
'Do not revile the ruler of your people'
(Ref.: Acts 23:3-5).

Those who live according to the flesh ...

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires;
but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.
The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.
The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.
Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God
(Romans 8:5-8).

Why realizing sin through the law is a grace and blessing

The reason why realizing sin through the law is grace and blessing is because it leads us to recognize and acknowledge that we cannot be justified before God by observing the law, and simultaneously, it leads us to recognize and acknowledge the truth that we can only be justified before God by faith in Jesus Christ alone (Ref.: Romans 3:20, 28; Galatians 2:16; 3:11).

A person who lavishly uses grace without measure.

A person who lavishly uses the grace that God has given him is at risk of undermining the unity of the church because he may be more concerned with displaying himself rather than building up the church (Romans 12:6).

There is a need to intentionally cut the rope of the rescue.

While we should all live together in community, to overcome the instinct to grab hold of the rope of rescue that we believe will allow us to live alone, we need to cut that rope of rescue (Ref.: Acts 27:30-32).

A righteous person vs. an unrighteous person

A righteous person lives only by faith,
but an unrighteous person blocks the truth with evil actions
(Romans 1:17-18).

A righteous person ...

A righteous person is one who understands, seeks God,
walks with truth, is profitable, does good deeds,
is genuine, and experiences success and happiness wherever they go,
knowing what true peace is and fearing God
(Ref.: Romans 3:10-18).

As a mark of acknowledgment of righteousness.

We, who have been justified by faith in Jesus Christ solely by the grace of God,
are marked as recipients of that acknowledgment of righteousness.

As such, by the grace of God in Jesus Christ,
we should walk in righteousness
(Romans 4:11, Ephesians 2:8).

While we practice righteousness (1 John 3:10),
we should love one another (v. 11) as Jesus did (2:6),
according to the Lord's commandments (vv. 3, 4).

There are times when we wonder and doubt ...

We often find ourselves wondering inwardly and doubting God's guidance when we observe the things God does in our lives and wonder what His will is. However, when we obey God's word, we will see the work of God's salvation and His glory (Acts 10:17, 20, 44-48).

What amazing love and grace of God!

Joseph, a 17-year-old boy (Genesis 37:2, 20), who was hated even more by his ten brothers (vv. 4, 5, 8) and was almost killed because of their jealousy (v. 11), narrowly escaped death when he was almost thrown into a pit (v. 18). However, about 13 years later, at the age of 30 (41:46), he eventually became the prime minister of all Egypt (v. 41). Joseph, who received hatred and jealousy from his ten brothers (Acts 7:9), eventually gained the trust of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and Pharaoh appointed Joseph as the governor of the entire nation and overseer of his palace. God exalted Joseph, who was in the pit, to the point of becoming the prime minister of Egypt. Similarly, Jesus Christ, who is God, came to this lowly and humble earth and lowered Himself even to the point of dying on the cursed tree of the cross. The reason He humbled Himself to such a lowly state was to elevate us, who were eternally doomed in hell, to the new heaven, new earth, New Jerusalem, and the kingdom of heaven. How amazing is this love and grace of God!

What amazing grace and love of God!

The sinner who once lived according to the flesh,
obeying the futile things of the past, subject to decay,
has now, by God's grace alone, believed in Jesus Christ alone
to become a child of God, enjoying the freedom of glory.
How amazing is this grace and love of God!
(Romans 8:20-21).

How wonderful is our God!

While Joseph was not trusted
but rather envied by his ten brothers,
God caused him to receive
the trust of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt
(Acts 7:8-10).
How wonderful is our God! Haha.

As Christians who should be encouraging salvation in this corrupt generation, we find ourselves, instead, emulating the ways of the world and becoming corrupted...

As Christians who should be urging salvation in this corrupt generation, instead, we find ourselves emulating the ways of the world and becoming corrupted. Surely, the Lord will sigh deeply in His heart about this (Mark 8:12; Acts 2:40; Romans 12:2).

According to the Lord's words, we must strive to become blameless and pure, shining as stars in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation (Philippians 2:15).

What can we say about this salvation of God?

What can we say about this salvation of God, who predestined, called, justified, and glorified those whom he loved in advance, and made them into the image of Jesus? (Romans 8:29-31)

This hope does not disappoint us.

But we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us (Romans 5:1-5).

This is not acting out of love.

While it is true that food itself is not unclean,
some consider it clean and eat it,
while others consider the same food unclean and abstain from it.
The Bible says, "But if anyone regards something as unclean,
then for that person it is unclean."

In this case, the brother who considers the food unclean
may criticize the brother who eats it.

And the brother who eats may cause stumbling to the brother
who considers the food unclean by eating it in front of him,
thus causing him to sin and distress.

This is not acting in love.

We should not let food destroy the brother
for whom Christ died
(Romans 14:13-15).

What could this be but the grace of God?

God, by raising Jesus from the dead, has not only brought us,
who were spiritually dead, to life but also given us eternal life as a gift.

What else can this be but the grace of God!

(Acts 3:15; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1)

Because we are convinced that it is heresy.

Those who oppose us consider us to be heretics
because they are convinced that we are troublemakers
who incite people against them,
even though all we do is preach the gospel of Jesus Christ
out of love for Him
(Ref.: Acts 24:5).

If such a co-worker were with us ...

Priscilla and Aquila, fellow workers who worked with Paul
for the sake of Christ Jesus, risked their own lives for him.
Therefore, Paul and all the Gentile churches were grateful to them
(Romans 16:3-4).

How great a grace and blessing it would be for us
if even one fellow worker who does not spare their own life
for the sake of Christ Jesus were with us.

We must be careful and stay away from such people.

Be on your guard against those who cause divisions
and create obstacles contrary to the teaching you have learned; avoid them.
For such people do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites,
and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naïve
(Romans 16:17-18).

In these difficult times of the coronavirus pandemic ...

In these difficult times of the coronavirus pandemic,
I hope and pray that God's word will spread more and more
and the number of believers will increase
(Ref.: Acts 12:24).

We must be wary of people like this.

We must be wary of people who on the outside pretend to want to know more about us,
but on the inside they are trying to harm us
(Ref.: Acts 23:15).

Let's not minister like this.

We should not minister with the intention of gaining favor from the saints
and seeking to receive money from them by trying to please them,
but rather we should strive to live before God with a clean conscience
and do our best to minister without watching for their reactions
(Ref.: Acts 24:16, 26-27).

To this extent, we do not believe in what the Lord is actually doing.

When Peter was being rescued by the angel,
he thought he was seeing a vision,
not realizing that it was actually happening.

Meanwhile, many people had gathered at the house of Mary,
the mother of John (also called Mark), praying.

When a servant girl named Rhoda came to announce
that Peter was at the door, they said to her,

"You are out of your mind!"

But she insisted that it was Peter.

Still, they did not believe her and said,

"It must be his angel"

(Acts 12:9, 14-15).

In this way, many who were praying
did not believe the actual events unfolding.

Similarly, we often fail to believe in the real work the Lord is doing.

Now they have become no longer amazed.

People should be awed by the amazing works of the Lord performed through pastors.

But instead, because of the sinful deeds we commit,

they have become no longer amazed

(Acts 2:43).

**Because our character is not refined,
we are slow to resemble Jesus.**

Saints who lack the hope of participating in God's glory
are unable to rejoice in suffering and make the suffering useless,
so they are unable to learn patience and their character is not refined,
so they are slow to resemble Jesus
(Ref.: Romans 5:2-4).

Moses had two-thirds of his time preparing for one-third of his life.

At the age of 40, one day in Egypt,
Moses, having reached the age of 40,
saw an injustice done by an Egyptian to one of his fellow Hebrews.
After spending 40 years in Midian, one day near Mount Sinai in the wilderness,
amidst the burning bush, Moses witnessed the appearance of an angel.
He led the Israelites out of Egypt, and for 40 years in Egypt,
through the Red Sea, and in the wilderness,
he performed amazing works and miracles
(Acts 7:23-24, 30, 36).
Before performing these amazing works and miracles for 40 years,
God prepared him for 80 years in Egypt and Midian.
Looking at Moses' 120-year life,
he had two-thirds of preparation time
to carry out God's work for one-third of his life.

A deep dark period in our life?

It is interesting that during the process in which the Lord saved and called Saul, it is mentioned that he did not see anything for three days and did not eat or drink (Acts 9:9).

The Lord told Saul, "Go into the city, and you will be told what you must do" (v. 6), and he also appeared in a vision to a disciple named Ananias in Damascus, instructing him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.

In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight (vv. 10-12).

In between these two events,

Saul went for three days without seeing anything, and he did not eat or drink.

Perhaps Saul was fasting and praying.

However, what's intriguing is that he did not see for three days.

This reminds me Matthew 12:40 -

"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

Perhaps there are times in our lives when we need a deep period of darkness, whether it resembles being in the belly of a huge fish for "three days" (not literally) or being in the heart of the earth, where we can't see anything, feeling helpless and powerless, unable to ask for help from anyone.

It's during these times that our ego needs to be thoroughly broken, shattered, and crushed, experiencing our human incapacity and helplessness to the bone.

Only then, I believe, do we fully and wholeheartedly rely on and trust in the Lord for salvation.

It's at that moment that, as those called and commissioned by the Lord, we are transformed into people who are willing to give up our lives for Jesus Christ and the gospel

(Mark 8:35).

When struggling through the storms of life.

Even when we are struggling through the storms of life,
we still need to eat food to survive,
no matter how unappetizing it may seem
(Ref.: Acts 27:33-34).

He causes them to fall into their own devices.

God causes cunning people in this world
who think they are wise to fall into their own devices.
(1 Corinthians 3:18-19).

Paul's love for the people who abandoned him

The apostle Paul, rejected by his own people, the Jews,
and having done no wrong against the Jewish nation or their customs,
was arrested as a sinner in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans.
Interestingly, although the Romans tried to release Paul after questioning him
and finding no grounds for the death penalty,
just as Pontius Pilate had attempted to release Jesus
because he found no basis for a charge against him
(Luke 23:4, 14-15, 22), the Jews opposed it (Acts 28:17-19).
Nevertheless, despite facing opposition and even death threats from his own people,
the heart of the apostle Paul toward the Jewish people was as follows:
"I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.
For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ
for the sake of my people, those of my own race" (Romans 9:2-3).

A person who thinks he is standing?

Anyone who thinks they are standing by saying,
'I do not idolatry, I do not commit adultery, I do not test the Lord,
nor do I complain' must be careful lest they fall
(1 Corinthians 10:7-12).

We must not abuse our freedom.

Even if we have freedom in doing it
because it does not affect our relationship with God at all,
we must be careful not to let that freedom become an obstacle
that causes our brothers and sisters who are weak in faith to stumble
(1 Corinthians 8:8-9).

Even though we have the freedom granted to us, a wise Christian...

Even though we have the freedom granted to us in the Lord,
a wise Christian becomes a servant to all,
in order to win as many people as possible
(Proverbs 11:30; 1 Corinthians 9:19).

Rather than listening to the words of the self-proclaimed wise, we must listen to the gospel of Jesus Christ!

The self-proclaimed great one (one who boasts of their greatness) and even Simon, who performed magic and was perceived by people as someone who had received God's great power, believed and was baptized after hearing Philip preach about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. Afterward, Simon followed Philip closely, amazed at the signs and 'great power' he saw (Acts 8:9-13).

Instead of listening to the words of those who claim to be 'great pastors' or appear to have received God's 'great power' like pastors, we should listen to the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:16; see also 2 Timothy 4:3).

The big problem in the Presbyterian Church is the elders (pastors who are teaching elders and ruling elders).

The big problem in the Presbyterian Church is the elders (pastors who are teaching elders and ruling elders).

Problems persist in the Presbyterian Church because the pastor, who plants, and the elder, who waters, are unable to work together as one.

This is because the elders lack awareness of God's grace, lack humility, and lack wisdom (Ref.: 1 Corinthians 3:5-10).

I think just staying single without remarriage would be happier.

A wife is bound to her husband while he lives.

But when her husband dies, she is free to marry any man she wants.

However, she must marry a believer.

However, in my judgment,

she will be happier if she remains alone and does not remarry

(1 Corinthians 7:39-40).

‘That pastor is a man who has received great power from God’?

When I think about the passage from Acts 8:9-10,

where it talks about Simon, who amazed the people of Samaria with his sorcery

and boasted of his greatness, and how everyone, from the least to the greatest,

paid attention to him and said, 'This man is the divine power

known as the Great Power of God,'

I can't help but wonder if there are still false pastors like Simon today,

who deceive many church members with false miracles.

They make people admire them, saying,

'That pastor is a person who has received the great power of God.'

Are there not false pastors like Simon in this age,

who satisfy and captivate church members with their sorcery-like abilities

rather than the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

It breaks my heart.

There is no comparison at all.

The glory we will receive with Christ in the future
is in no way comparable to the suffering we suffer with Christ now
(Romans 8:17-18).

The greatest danger is thinking that we have chosen the right path.

The path we choose may not only cause great harm in the eyes of the Lord,
but it may also be a path that poses risks to our very lives.
Yet, despite knowing this, when we choose and proceed along that path,
the greatest danger lies in thinking that we have chosen it well
(Ref.: Acts 27:10, 13).

Religious issues? Law issue? Soul saving issue?

From the perspective of the Jewish high priests and elders,
the defendant Apostle Paul would have been deemed deserving of a guilty verdict and execution
(Acts 25:3, 11, 15).

But from Paul's perspective,
although the prosecution brought various charges against him,
they could not present any evidence.

Moreover, from the viewpoint of the Roman governor Felix,
the accusations he suspected were not substantiated at all,
and the only issue seemed to be their religious dispute regarding Jesus,
whom Paul claimed had risen from the dead (vv. 7, 18-19).

To the Gentile Roman governor Felix,
it was a matter of religion; to the Jewish high priests and elders,
it was a matter of the law; but to Apostle Paul, it was a matter of salvation of souls.

People who are very religious?

Religious people who spend all their time
talking or hearing new things are worshiping “an unknown god”
(Acts 17:21-23).

The more we become aware of our sins, the more ...

The sins in my darkness continue to be revealed through God's holy word.
But the more I become aware of those sins,
the more abundant God's grace is
(Ref.: Romans 5:20).

To be called a criminal without any crime

Believing in Jesus Christ, who is without any guilt or sin,
we, as Christians, have received forgiveness for all sins and have been justified.
However, Satan continues to try to make us believe that we are 'sinners' ourselves,
and he endeavors to make us slaves to guilt,
constantly trying to burden us with the label of criminal.
This is not right
(Ref.: Acts 25:27).

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit of our God ...

Among us were also some who were sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers,
men who practiced homosexuality, thieves, greedy people, drunkards, abusers, and swindlers.
But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God
(1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

**“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved,
you and your household” (Acts 16:31).**

God freed Paul and Silas, who had been awake in the middle of the night,
praying and praising God, from the depths of the prison.
When the prison guard woke up and saw the prison doors open
and thought the prisoners had escaped,
he pulled out his knife and was about to commit suicide.
God saved him not only physically, but also his soul.
Not only did God save him by believing in the Lord Jesus,
but the jailer's entire family also believed in God and were saved
(Acts 16:25-34).

The Bible says,

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household” (v. 31).

‘Lord, please help me, who has no faith, to have faith.’

In their prayer, 'Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.' (Psalms 115:1), Jesus' disciples, when people marveled at them as though by their own power or godliness they had made the lame man walk, said, 'Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?' (Acts 3:12).

And they went on to say, 'By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see' (vv. 13, 16).

I admire the faith that comes through Jesus.

Lord, 'Help me overcome my unbelief'
(Mark 9:24).

He who boasts in the Lord ...

Those who boast in the Lord boast in Christ who was crucified to save us and pay the price for our sins to justify and sanctify us, while at the same time, from a human perspective, they boast of their own foolishness, weakness, lowliness, and contempt.

We boast our insignificance

(1 Corinthians 1:26-31).

The blessing of meeting brothers and sisters in the Lord ...

The blessing of meeting brothers and sisters in the Lord
is to strengthen each other's faith, gain strength from each other's faith,
and bear beautiful fruit in the eyes of the Lord
(Ref.: Romans 1:11-13).

Pastors and elders who are nothing before the Lord but feel like they have become something in front of church members who praise them.

Before the Lord, we are nothing, yet in front of praising congregants,
some pastors and elders mistakenly think they have become something,
not serving the church, the body of the Lord, as commanded by Him,
but rather pandering to people's perceptions.

Due to such pastors and elders, the church buildings may appear grand in people's eyes,
but the saints themselves, guided by blind pastors and elders,
become blind followers, and both will fall into a pit
(Reference: Matthew 15:14; 1 Corinthians 3:5-7).

Lord, please protect the elders.

We must ask the Lord in whom we believe to protect our elders
(Acts 14:23).

The Lord is preaching the living word of God in the wilderness church.

Just as Moses was with the church in the wilderness
and delivered the living word of God to the Israelites,
the Lord, who is the true Moses, is with us, the church,
and is still delivering the living word of God to us
(Acts 7: 38).

I dare not speak of anything other than what the Lord has done through me.

I do not dare to speak of anything
other than what the Lord has done through me
by fulfilling the promises He gave me
(Ref.: John 6:1-15; Matthew 16:18; Romans 15:18).

The Lord deserves the glory alone!

When Stephen was martyred while proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, Saul, who approved of his death (Acts 8:1), wrote to the saints in Corinth, 'People should regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed' (1 Corinthians 4:1).

The one who had deemed Stephen's martyrdom in proclaiming the gospel of Christ as 'appropriate' now declared that he and others should be regarded as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries entrusted by God. Just as it was fitting for the Lord who transformed Saul into Paul to receive all the glory, it is fitting for the Lord who transforms us into workers for Christ and proclaimers of the gospel to receive all the glory!

To those who love the Lord with all their heart, soul, and mind ...

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally, the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying (John 20:1-10).

Until I see the Lord face to face

Jesus, who showed Himself to those who desired to see
and allowed those who wanted to touch Him,
said that those who believe without seeing are truly blessed
(John 20:20, 27, 29).

Knowing our weak nature that refuses to believe without seeing with physical eyes,
the Lord tells us that those who believe without seeing Him are truly blessed.

When the Lord comes again to this world, we will see Him face to face
(1 Corinthians 13:12).

Until then, we must live not by sight but by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7).

‘Even though I see no evidence with these eyes, I will always walk by faith.

Even though I hear no sound with these ears, I will stand upon God's promise.

Walk on, walk on in faith, leave doubt behind.

Walk on, walk on in faith, no signs in sight’ (Korean hymn).

There should be no discrimination within the Lord’s church.

Within the church of the Lord, there should be no discrimination.

The reason is that our Lord, who is one,
becomes the Lord of all believers (Romans 10:12).

Furthermore, the reason is that anyone who believes in Jesus Christ
receives recognition from God as righteous, without discrimination (3:22).

Also, the reason is that God does not show partiality but treats everyone equally (2:11).

Therefore, we should not discriminate against people based on appearances
(Colossians 3:25).

Additionally, we should not judge people with evil thoughts
by discriminating against them (James 2:4).

Even after witnessing the false pastor who continues to obstruct the way of the Lord facing the punishment of the Lord ...

The highly intelligent proconsul Sergius Paulus,
who had desired to hear the word of God,
encountered the Holy Spirit-filled Paul.
Addressing the magician and false prophet Bar-Jesus,
Paul said, "You son of the devil,
full of all deceit and fraud, enemy of all righteousness,
will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?
And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you,
and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time."
Immediately a dark mist fell on him,
and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand.
Witnessing this, Sergius Paulus was amazed at the teaching of the Lord
(Acts 13:6-12).
Even the intellectually astute individuals in the world,
upon witnessing the false pastor who persistently obstructs the way of the Lord
and receives the punishment of the Lord, can still believe in Jesus.

If the members of the Lord's body do not love each other and are divided while eating the Lord's Supper ...

If the body of Christ, which is the church, eats the Lord's Supper
symbolizing the body of Jesus Christ torn on the cross,
but the members of the Lord do not love each other and are divided,
can that communion be considered a true communion in the sight of God?
(1 Corinthians 11:18-20)

James, who has been empowered by the grip of the power of the Lord's word, rises again like a roly poly.

The beggar who used to beg from Peter and John found himself walking in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. As he walked with Peter and John into the temple, he praised God by walking and leaping and remained close to Peter and John (Acts 3:1-11).

Whenever I was spiritually depressed to the point where I could not rise and walk on my own, like the beggar unable to rise and walk, the Lord revived my heart with the promise of the five loaves and two fish from the Gospel of John 6:1-15, and He restored me again (Isaiah 57:15, Psalms 119:107).

Thus, being empowered by the grip of the power of the Lord's word, I have risen again like a roly poly.

I not only hold fast to the promise of His word but also pray to be even more captivated by His word and guided by it.

As the word of the Lord continues to spread powerfully ...

As the word of the Lord continues to spread powerfully, many believers not only fear God and praise the name of the Lord Jesus, but also confess and repent for what they have done (Ref.: Acts 19:17-20).

Disciples of the Lord who are used as instruments of comfort by the Lord

A disciple of the Lord, like Barnabas,
who is utilized as an instrument of the Lord's comfort,
not only refrains from approaching transformed individuals
with old prejudices held by other disciples,
but also effectively mediates to bring together
the transformed individuals and other disciples.
Even in moments of hesitation or rejection due to fear,
such a disciple of the Lord, who is utilized as an instrument of His comfort,
performs the role of mediation well by making known to other disciples
the work of the Lord in the transformed individual's life
and the work of the transformed individual for the Lord
(Ref.: Acts 9:26-28).

Those who oppose the Lord's workers?

Within the church, there are those who oppose workers of the Lord,
such as Stephen, who are filled with God's grace and power.
They rise up, gathering other church members as well,
spreading false rumors about these workers and inciting people,
even going as far as persuading false witnesses to testify against them
(Ref.: Acts 6:8-14).

The Lord's servants must be able to boldly preach the Lord's word.

Even if people from the world outside the church
or worldly church members inside threaten us,
the servants of the Lord should boldly proclaim His word:
"Now, Lord, look upon their threats and enable your servants
to speak your word with great boldness"
(Acts 4:29).

We must not criticize (judge) the servants of the Lord rashly.

We should not criticize (judge) the servant of the Lord rashly.
The reason is that he is the Lord's servant,
and the Lord will take care of whether he stands or falls
(Romans 14:4).

Why refute and slander what the servant of the Lord says?

The reason they refute and slander what the Lord's servant says
may be because they are full of envy
(Ref.: Acts 13:45).

The Lord's commissioning message

Resurrected Jesus came to the disciples
who were gathered in fear with doors locked and said to them,
"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you"
(John 20:19, 21).

It's interesting that the Lord's commissioning message came
to the disciples while the doors were locked.

This reminds me of Moses' response
when God intended to send him to Egypt:
"Please, Lord, send someone else"
(Exodus 4:13).

The church of the Lord that the Lord builds ...

The church in Antioch had various workers, but they served the Lord together,
obeying the word of the Holy Spirit, and sent out Barnabas and Saul (Paul)
(Acts 13:1-3).

The church built by the Lord sends out workers (commissioned ones)
who are centered on the Lord while maintaining unity within diversity as they advance.

When the Lord comes, he will be praised by God.

Those faithful workers of Christ who lay down their lives for Jesus Christ and the Gospel know that only the One who judges them is the Lord. Therefore, they do not consider being judged by anyone else as significant, nor do they judge themselves. They wait without judgment until the final judgment, when the Lord comes. When the Lord comes, they will receive praise from God (Mark 8:35; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5).

The Lord who sends "Here I am" to "Who are you, Lord?"

The Lord instructed Saul, who asked, "Who are you, Lord?" when called, to go and find Ananias, a disciple who responds, "Here I am, Lord," when called (Acts 9:5, 10-11).

Even just for one day on Sunday

Although we may not be able to do it "every day," I hope that we will "strive to gather together in the temple with one mind" at least on Sundays (Acts 2:46).

Even if we have to die ...

Even if we have to die,
we must not let the Jesus Christ we boast about be in vain
(1 Corinthians 9:15).

**Rather than “I can’t forgive you even if I die!”,
I forgive you until I die.**

People belonging to the current age, dominated by the evil one,
may say, "I will never forgive you!"
However, the people of God's kingdom, belonging to the coming age (heaven),
forgive even until death, just as Jesus forgave until He died on the cross
(Luke 23:34; 1 Corinthians 15:40, 48, 49; Philippians 3:20; 1 John 5:19).

Kill and destroy

The crowd not only said to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor,
"Crucify him" regarding Jesus (John 19:15), but also shouted "Away with him!"
to the Roman tribune concerning the apostle Paul (Acts 21:36).
The ignorant crowd's goal was not only Jesus Christ but also to kill and destroy His disciples.
Even now, the goal of Satan's minions is to eliminate Jesus Christ,
who preaches the gospel, and those who live for the gospel, proclaimers of the gospel
(Mark 8:35).

A preacher of the gospel who was prepared to die

No matter how much they are discouraged,
gospel preachers who are prepared to die for Jesus and the gospel (Mark 8:35)
and are determined to go to the mission field to spread the gospel cannot be stopped.
Therefore, with a heart that wishes to align with the will of the Lord,
we should no longer discourage them (Acts 21:12-14; Ref.: Jonah 1:13-14).

Even though they didn't even commit a sin worthy of death ...

Those who oppose Jesus Christ and the gospel
plot and even carry out schemes to kill Jesus and His disciples,
even though neither Jesus nor His disciples have committed a sin worthy of death
(Luke 23:4, 14, 22-46; Acts 9:29; 20:3, 19; 23:16, 30; 25:3, 11).

The one who kills is subject to being killed ...

Saul, who used to kill those who believed in Jesus, underwent a transformation.
When he testified that Jesus is the Son of God and the Christ,
the Jews were not only amazed but also perplexed.
Then these Jews not only made plans to kill Saul but also tried to kill him
(Acts 9:20-24).

The one who used to kill those who believed in Jesus
ended up facing the threat of being killed himself because of his belief in Jesus.

They couldn't find a sin worthy of death.

The Jews accused Jesus and the Apostle Paul to the Romans,
but the Romans could not find any sin worthy of death in Jesus or Paul
(Luke 23:14, 15, 22; Acts 23:29).

The powers of Satan, who falsely accuse innocent people and conspire to kill them,
even strive to kill believers in Jesus with their false religious beliefs.

It seems like there are too many worldly people in the church right now.

It seems like there are too many worldly people,
even infants in Christ, in the church right now.

They lack the ability to digest solid food.

They are unable to discern good and evil through the use of their senses,
continually needing training.

Therefore, they still need milk.

They are in need of relearning the basic principles of God's Word.

Consequently, infants in Christ are living like worldly people.

Thus, there are jealousy and strife in the church right now.

What is urgently needed is for infants in Christ to become mature in faith
(Ref.: 1 Corinthians 2:6, 3:1-3; Hebrews 5:11, 14).

One of the reasons why the current church is not like a church is ...

One of the reasons why the current church is not like a church is because we Christians are neglecting the things that we Christians should continue to do, such as receiving the teachings of God's Word, truly fellowshiping with one another, and taking the Eucharist and praying (Acts 2:42).

How am I spreading the word of God as a pastor now?

If I were now preaching God's word as a pastor using noble words or persuasive human wisdom, then the faith of the saints in our church would rely on human wisdom. But if I have resolved to know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified, and if I am preaching God's word through the power of the Holy Spirit, then the faith of the saints in our church will rely on the power of God (Ref.: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

Now we ...?

Isn't it true that God's name is being blasphemed
among the unbelievers because of us Christians? (Romans 2:24)
Aren't we dishonoring God by living lives contrary to the Gospel
while claiming to preach it? (Romans 2:23; Philippians 1:27)
Aren't we participating in the deeds of darkness
while considering ourselves as the light of the world,
children of God's light? (John 8:12; Romans 2:19-20; Ephesians 5:8, 11)

What are we fervently praying and expecting from Almighty God right now?

The beggar who used to sit at the temple gate,
begging from those entering the temple,
probably expected to receive silver or gold
when he begged Peter and John as they were entering the temple.
But he probably never expected to walk in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ
(Acts 3:1-8).

What are we fervently praying and expecting from Almighty God right now?
(Job 31:2, Luke 24:21).

Even though there may be nothing in this world to hope for (Ecclesiastes 11:8),
if we look to Almighty God, who does more than we could ask or imagine (Philemon 1:21)
with faith, our earnest expectation and hope will not put us to shame,
but will give us courage, whether we live or die, to exalt Christ as always
(Philippians 1:20).

Even now, the Holy Spirit ...

Even now, the Holy Spirit is empowering us
to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in the languages of many nations
to people around the world, through the power that the Holy Spirit gives.
Therefore, they are hearing about the wonderful works of God in their own languages
(Ref.: Acts 2:4-11).

The reason why the Lord continues to diligently send His servants to us even now.

The reason why God continues to diligently send His servants to us even now
is to turn us away from our evil ways and to bless us
(Jeremiah 32:33, 35:15; Acts 3:26).

The wise people

The wise believers judge for themselves what the Lord's servants say
(Ref.: 1 Corinthians 10:15).

A true encounter with Jesus Christ makes one not a destroyer of homes or churches, but a builder of homes and churches.

While Saul, who once went about destroying the church like a madman, going from house to house and dragging off both men and women who believed (Acts 5:42), encountered the risen and ascended Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus, and repented and received his calling (9:3-7), from then on, he bore the responsibility of ministering, going from house to house, urging everyone to repent and turn to God and to believe in our Lord Jesus Christ (20:20-21), and building the church of the Lord.

If we have truly encountered the Son of God, Jesus Christ, then we are not destroyers of homes or churches, but builders of homes and churches.

We should not only testify to the gospel of Jesus Christ with our lips but also live lives worthy of the gospel (Philippians 1:27) as we build up homes and churches.

Jesus Christ, the true Moses and Joseph

Through Old Testament Joseph, God, who caused Jacob and all his relatives, totaling 75 people, to go down to Egypt (Acts 7:14), also caused New Testament Joseph to take baby Jesus and His mother Mary down to Egypt (Matthew 2:13).

The purpose of this was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my Son' (Matthew 2:15, Hosea 11:1).

The same God, who becomes the true model of Joseph, sent Jesus Christ into this world to rescue us from the kingdom of Satan, akin to Egypt, and to lead us into the true Promised Land, the kingdom of God.

God is a God who does not discriminate...

God does not show partiality between Jews and Gentiles,
and He cleanses the hearts of the Gentiles through faith.
However, the hypocritical Pharisees,
prioritizing their traditions over the commandments of God,
burdened them with heavy loads to test God
(Mark 7:8-9; Acts 15:9-10).

True Christian, True Baptism

Simply being born into a Christian household does not make one a true Christian,
and merely receiving baptism does not make one a true baptist.
Rather, true Christianity is found in those who have experienced
genuine transformation in their hearts, brought about by the Holy Spirit.
The baptism of the heart by the Holy Spirit is the true baptism.
Such individuals receive praise not from people but from God
(Ref.: Romans 2:28-29).

These people are truly foolish.

When many guilty people gang up to attack one innocent person
and there are others who take the side of those guilty ones,
defending their claims as true and joining in the attack against the innocent person,
those who attack the innocent person along with them are truly foolish
(Ref.: Acts 24:9).

A Christian who avoids responsibility?

Just as those who were responsible for killing Jesus on the cross did not take responsibility, those who are responsible for killing people are avoiding responsibility even now (Acts 5:28).

This is our reward when we go to heaven.

When we spread the gospel of Jesus Christ freely and without using our natural rights, we will receive our reward in heaven (1 Corinthians 9:18).

It is also important to live thoroughly wisely.

It is important to live with a thoroughly good conscience before God. But it is also important to live with thorough wisdom before others. The reason is that there may be people who prepare thoroughly and try to secretly attack me from behind (Ref.: Acts 13:2, 20-21).

We must show thorough patience.

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

God loves us (John 3:16).

Love is patient (1 Corinthians 13:4).

Jesus Christ shows us thorough patience (1 Timothy 1:16).

Therefore, we should show each other thorough patience and endurance in the love of Christ.

In abundant faith ...

In abundant faith,

there is sufficient adversity

(Ref.: Mark 15:23; Philippians 1:29).

From corrupt character to divine character ...

God sent his Son in the likeness of sinful humanity to deal with our sin.

By placing our sin on Jesus Christ,

we are not only liberated from the bondage of sin and death,

but also blessed with the amazing grace of having our corrupted nature transformed into the nature of Jesus Christ ('the divine nature')

(Romans 8:2-3; 2 Peter 1:4).

He never abandons His chosen people.

God loves first and will never abandon his people
whom he chose in Christ before the foundation of the world.
Even now, there remain people who have been chosen by God's grace
(Romans 11:2, 5; Ephesians 1:4; 1 John 4:19).

If you welcome us with special sympathy and treat us sincerely, then ...?

If people who are completely unknown to us
welcome us with special sympathy and treat us kindly,
and if they sincerely host us for several days, how would our hearts feel?
(Acts 28:1-10)
'Do to others as you would have them do to you'
(Luke 6:31).

A church that has lost the ability to judge and handle situations?

The arrogant church has lost the ability to judge and handle situations,
even though there is a leaven of evil and wickedness, like yeast, within the church,
inflating the entire lump of dough.
Despite this, they have lost the ability to judge and handle situations,
so they do not drive out such evil people from the church.
Instead, they even associate with such people, eating together with them
(1 Corinthians 5:6-7, 11-13).

As usual ...

As usual, I will meditate on the word of God
in a quiet place with a quiet heart during quiet times,
and with a heart eager for the miracles of the Lord,
I will continue to meditate on His word,
sharing it with brothers and sisters in the Lord.
I pray that, like the Bereans who received the word eagerly
and examined the Scriptures daily, my brothers and sisters will be raised up
to study the Scriptures daily
(Ref.: Acts 17:1-2, 10-11).

A beautiful church in the eyes of God?

A church that maintains the unity of the church
despite the diversity of its officials is a beautiful church
(Psalms 133:1; Acts 6:5; Ephesians 4:3).

It is truly beautiful in the eyes of God.

The feet of those sent by the Lord to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ
are truly beautiful in the sight of God.
(Romans 10:15).

He is truly blessed in the sight of God.

The person who is deemed righteous by God solely through faith in Jesus Christ, not by any merit of their own but solely by the grace of God, is truly blessed in the sight of God.

The reason is that he has received forgiveness of sins, and God has covered his sins.

The reason is that the Lord not only does not acknowledge his sins

but, instead, declares him righteous

(Romans 4:5-8; Ephesians 2:8-9).

When one does what they believe is right in the sight of God by faith ...

The person who does what they believe is right in the sight of God

by faith without feeling guilty is a blessed person

(Romans 14:22).

Have I lived before God?

Have I truly lived with a thoroughly good conscience

before God until this day?

(Ref.: Acts 23:1)

I entrust them to God and His gracious words.

I can only entrust my beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord
to God and His gracious words.

His words can firmly establish their faith
and impart the blessings of the kingdom of heaven to them
(Ref.: Acts 20:32).

I do so for the Lord because of gratitude to God.

While there may be differences in the maturity of faith
among those strong or weak in faith within the church,
a commonality is that everything should be done
not for oneself but for the Lord,
and also with a heart of gratitude to God.

We all must live for the Lord and die for the Lord
(Romans 14:6-8).

When we try to pray to God ...

Apostle Peter went up to the rooftop to pray
and, through a vision, heard the voice of the Lord.
He then met Cornelius, his relatives, and close friends,
and preached the gospel of Jesus Christ to them.
As Cornelius and his household received baptism in the name of Jesus Christ
(Acts 10:9-48),
Apostle Paul, wondering if there was a place for prayer,
went outside the city to the riverside.
There he met Lydia, and the Lord opened her heart to heed Paul's message.
Eventually, she and all her household were baptized together (16:13-15).
When we pray to God, He orchestrates such encounters,
enabling us to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ
and accomplish the work of salvation!

While zeal for God is commendable, ...

While zeal for God is commendable,
if this zeal does not stem from proper knowledge
and is not tempered by sound judgment,
such unbridled zeal can pose a risk of causing issues within the church
and undermining its unity when serving the Lord with such zeal
(Romans 10:2; 12:11; Philippians 3:6).

To give glory to God ...

Just as Christ has welcomed us in order to give glory to God,
so too within the church, strong and weak believers should welcome one another
in order to give glory to God (Romans 15:7).

In order to give glory to God, we should warmly welcome one another,
making each other joyful, beneficial, and virtuous,
and with one heart and one mouth, glorify God
(Romans 15:2, 6).

Those who seek to harm the church without giving glory to God will be punished by God.

King Herod, who killed James, the brother of John,
with a sword in an attempt to harm some of the church members,
did not give glory to God.

Consequently, immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down,
and he was eaten by worms and died
(Acts 12:1-2, 23).

Those who seek to harm the church without giving glory to God
will be punished by God.

Those who are born again from God as Christians ...

Christians who are born again from God
practice what God's commandments require with a new nature.
Therefore, their actions demonstrate
that what God's commandments require is written on their hearts,
and their conscience also bears witness to this truth
(Ref.: Romans 2:14-15; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 1:3; 1 John 5:1, 4).

While God patiently waits ...

While God patiently endures,
in the past, He overlooked our sins, leading us to repentance,
but now He demonstrates His righteousness
by solving the problem of our sins through the blood of Christ Jesus
(Romans 2:4; 3:25).

The witnesses chosen by God in advance for Jesus ...

The witnesses chosen by God in advance for Jesus
testify to the fact that people crucified Jesus
and that God raised him from the dead three days later
(Acts 10:39-40).

The purpose for which God exalted Jesus to His right hand, to be King and Savior.

The purpose for which God exalted Jesus to His right hand,
to be King and Savior, is so that we may repent and receive forgiveness of sins.
Even now, Jesus intercedes for us at the right hand of God,
constantly praying for us to repent and receive forgiveness of sins
(Acts 5:31; Romans 8:34).

That God demonstrates His love through us ...

While there may be someone who would dare to die for a righteous person,
in reality, there are very few who would actually die for a genuinely righteous person.
However, Christ died for us while we were still sinners,
demonstrating God's love for us by dying on the cross
(Romans 5:7-8).

That God demonstrates His love through us
means dying for enemies who cannot be replaced,
which is more humane or reasonable
than dying for a loving family who could reciprocate.
The only one who can actualize this idea through us
is the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us."

The reason why God unfailingly fulfills the promises He has made to us is..."

The reason why God unfailingly fulfills the promises He has made to us is not because we keep God's commandments, but solely because of God's grace, recognizing that we are justified solely by faith in Jesus Christ (Ref.: Romans 4:13; Ephesians 2:8).

God does not necessarily have to respond to our prayers in our own time.

God actually fulfills the prayer of parents who have prayed to receive God's grace and to be able to work for God through their children (Acts 7:46-47).

God does not necessarily have to respond to our prayers in our own time. If it is God's will, He will surely fulfill it through our descendants.

To the servant of God whom God has chosen ...

God enables His chosen servant to know His will and see the righteous Jesus Christ, and hear the voice coming from the mouth of Jesus Christ.

The reason is that God appoints His servant to be a witness of Jesus Christ, to tell everyone what he has seen and heard
(Acts 22:14-15).

We are witnesses of Jesus Christ (1:8).

We should tell everyone what we have seen and heard
(Ref. 1 John 1:1-3).

Such a person is recognized ...

Anyone who loves God will be humbly building virtues within the church where the Lord's love is present.

Such a person is recognized not only by brothers and sisters in the Lord but also by God
(1 Corinthians 8:1, 3).

God can strengthen you in your faith.

I pray that God will strengthen you in your faith through the message I proclaim about the gospel and Jesus Christ, and through the words we share about Him
(Ref.: Romans 16:25).

Why do we praise God?

When God shares through our ministry the things He has done among people, brothers and sisters in the Lord, who have heard our words, can only praise God within the Lord. (Acts 21:19-20). We should offer praise to God with hearts that remember and commemorate the things God has done."

We who have the hope of resurrection toward God...

We who have the hope of resurrection toward God must do our best to live with a clean conscience before God and people (Acts 24:15-16).

We must lay the foundation of God's building, the saints.

By the grace of God, as pastors, we are called to become wise and skilled architects who lay the foundation of God's building, which is the saints. This foundation is Jesus Christ, so we must faithfully preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the saints. If we fail to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, we are currently building God's building on the ground without a foundation. When the flood comes, such churches will soon collapse and be greatly destroyed (Luke 6:49; 1 Corinthians 3:9-11).

God's commandments and baptism

If we keep God's commandments, our baptism is valuable,
but if we break the commandments, it is as if we had not been baptized
(Ref.: Romans 2:25).

God's method and purpose of salvation

God saves (e.g. Israel) through judgment (e.g. Egypt),
and the purpose of salvation is to worship and serve God
(Ref.: Acts 7:7; John 4:22-24).

People who believe in the Lord through God's miracles and amazing works.

People who believe in the Lord through God's miracles and amazing works
are respected by others as those who strive to gather together with one accord
(Acts 5:12-13; Hebrews 10:25).

It is an action that goes against the will of God.

To regard as unclean someone whom God has made clean,
discriminating against them, avoiding fellowship and closeness with them,
is an action contrary to the will of God who desires to save that person
(Acts 10:15, 28, 44-48).

To devote one's strength solely to the task of preaching the word of God.

As we engage in team ministry with co-workers,
we must enable the pastor to devote their strength solely
to the task of preaching the word of God
(Ref.: Acts 18:5).

Does it align with the word of God?

No matter how much we call it the pastor's sermon,
we must be able to verify whether that sermon aligns with the word of God
(Acts 15:15).

Rejecting the word of God is ...

Rejecting the word of God
is deeming oneself unworthy of obtaining eternal life
(Acts 13:46).

Do not eat or drink for the glory of God.

I am free and have no qualms in my conscience about eating.
But if eating a particular food would cause someone else to stumble,
then I must refrain from eating it for the sake of their conscience.
If my freedom causes someone else to be judged by their conscience,
and if I am criticized because of that food,
then for the glory of God, we should not eat it
(Ref.: 1 Corinthians 10:25-31).

Without the grace and powerful intervention of God ...

The legalistic tendencies and superficial prejudices within us
make us discriminate against those whom God does not discriminate against,
and also prevent us from accepting those whom God accepts.
Without the grace and powerful intervention of God,
we cannot even clearly realize this fact
(Ref.: Acts 10:34-35).

Led by God's kindness, Christ-followers who come to repentance are ...

Christians who, led by God's abundant kindness, forbearance, and patience, do not disregard, are guided to repentance.

They persistently pursue good deeds, seeking glory, honor, and immortality, so God will repay them with eternal life

(Romans 2:4, 7).

Congregants who think about human matters instead of God's work.

Congregants who think about human matters instead of God's work do not even realize that the pastor's plans and actions are from God. Instead, they consider them as plans and actions originating from human thoughts.

They oppose these plans and actions, becoming adversaries of God and causing actions that cause the Lord,

who is the head of the church, to stumble

(Matthew 16:23; Acts 5:38-39).

This behavior is what Satan delights in, never something that pleases the Lord.

Parents who think about human matters instead of God's work ...

Parents who, under the dominion of Satan, the one who causes stumbling even to Jesus, think about human matters instead of God's work, are improperly guiding their children by loving them while not being led by God's Word.

Consequently, they speak words contrary to God's Word to their children, leading them astray (Matthew 16:23; Acts 5:29; 1 John 5:13).

You will not be able to escape the judgment of God's righteousness.

Those who do not seek to know God
engage in wickedness with corrupt hearts,
filled with all kinds of dishonesty, evil, greed,
malice, envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice.
They gossip, slander, hate God, display arrogance, pride, and boastfulness.
They devise evil schemes, disobey parents, demonstrate stubbornness,
lack acknowledgment of God, and show no mercy (Romans 1:28-31).
Judging others for such wicked deeds
while engaging in the same actions oneself
leaves no excuse for claiming not to be a sinner,
and one cannot escape the judgment of God's righteousness (Romans 2:1-3).

Invite God's servant to your home ...

It is better to invite a servant of God into your home
and long to hear the word of God, which is just one thing you need,
than to be busy trying to entertain that servant,
worrying and worrying about many things
(Luke 10:38-42; Acts 10:22, 33).

You will be saved from God's wrath.

Only those who believe in Jesus Christ and receive forgiveness of sins
through Christ's blood, being declared righteous, will be saved from the wrath of God
(Matthew 26:28; Romans 5:9; Ephesians 1:7).

For the truth of God ...

For God's truth,
we must strive to keep our promises to one another
(Ref.: Romans 15:8; Numbers 30:7)

**God's blessings are not received just
because people want to or try hard.**

God gives grace to those who are gracious and pities those who are pityful.
Therefore, God's blessings are not received because people want to or try hard,
but only when God shows mercy
(Romans 9:15-16).

Shouldn't we be thankful for God's abundant grace and mercy?

Can the vessel of wrath rightfully question the potter,
"Why did you make me like this?" Can the vessel of mercy question the potter,
"Why do you show patience with vessels prepared for destruction?"
Instead, shouldn't the vessel of mercy express gratitude to the potter's abundant grace and mercy,
for choosing to show compassion to a vessel destined for destruction,
in order to be made a vessel of mercy for glory?
(Ref.: Romans 9:20-23).

Instead of obeying out of fear of God's punishment ...

Instead of obeying out of fear of God's punishment,
one should also obey for the sake of conscience
(Romans 13:5).

A free gift of grace from God

Through God's free gift of grace,
we, who were sinners, were justified and received eternal life,
which is the gift of God's abundant grace and righteousness
(Romans 5:16-17).

When God is with us and pours out His Spirit and power upon us like pouring oil ...

When God is with us and pours out His Spirit and power upon us like pouring oil,
we can go about doing good deeds and be used as instruments of the Lord
to heal those oppressed by the devil
(Ref.: Acts 10:38).

The Judge of the heavenly court, God, has already rendered His verdict ...

The holy Son of God, Jesus Christ, who is without sin,
took upon Himself all our sins and died on the cross.
Therefore, in the eyes of the Judge, God, the accused, us,
have not only no sin worthy of death but have already been declared righteous.
Yet, the plaintiff, Satan, continues to cry out to the Judge, God,
insisting that we should be put to death and keeps accusing us before God.
The plaintiff, Satan, who refuses to accept the verdict already rendered
by the Judge of the heavenly court,
deserves to receive the punishment of eternal destruction
(Ref.: Psalms 7:11; 50:6; 82:1; Isaiah 33:22; Acts 10:42; 25:23-24;
Romans 3:24; 6:7; 8:30, 33; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; 2 Timothy 4:8; James 4:12).

Be firmly united in one heart and one mind.

Everyone, please do not be divided,
but come together and unite with one mind and one purpose.
(1 Corinthians 1:10).

There is no unnecessary person.

When God placed various different members in the body of Christ, which is the church, as He desired, there is no unnecessary person.

Therefore, we should not think of ourselves as

"I am not needed in this church," nor should we say to others,

"You are not needed in this church"

(1 Corinthians 12:18-21).

One person can cause a disturbance.

When a person who was living well due to a successful money-making business sees their hope of making money disappear,

they may gather other business owners and employees facing the same situation.

They might portray a fellow Christian

who threatens their money-making business as a dangerous person,

even suggesting that their mere presence could devalue the idols they worship.

When they are filled with anger, it can lead to uproar in an entire city,

with crowds gathering without even knowing why,

engaging in unruly behavior and possibly facing legal consequences.

It can be difficult to calm such reckless crowds.

This is the kind of disturbance that can be caused by one person

who, after losing hope of making money despite previously living comfortably,

incites unrest (Acts 16:16, 19; 19:24-36).

This scenario can also occur within a church.

To win a soul ...

When the apostle Paul intended to embark on a missionary journey with Timothy, who was respected among the believers,

Timothy's mother was a Jewish believer, but his father was a Greek.

Due to the knowledge of the local Jewish people,

Timothy was circumcised first before accompanying Paul

(Acts 16:1-3).

Although Paul knew that salvation was not obtained by keeping the law of Moses

(Acts 15:1), he did this to win over the Jews

according to the principle of his gospel preaching ministry:

"To the Jews I became like a Jew to win the Jews.

To those under the law I became like one under the law

(though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law"

(1 Corinthians 9:20).

We also need wisdom to apply the principles of this apostle Paul's gospel preaching ministry to actual evangelism in order to win souls.

We must broaden the scope of table fellowship for the salvation of one soul.

In preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of one soul,

we need to overcome legalistic tendencies within us

and the inclination to prioritize man-made laws over God's commandments.

We must broaden the scope of both our target audience

for evangelism and our fellowship at the table

(Ref.: Acts 11:1-3; Matthew 15:1-9).

He serves God's will throughout his lifetime and die.

The person who pleases God
serves God's will throughout their lifetime and dies
(Acts 13:22, 36).

A community that shares together?

The church, as the community of the Lord,
is a fellowship of sharing and also a community of sharing
(Acts 2:44-46).

Are we truly getting along well together in our church right now?

Are we truly sharing the love of the Lord in our church?

Perhaps a community that does not come together
with one heart in the Lord may be scattered by Him,
and a church that does not share genuine love with one another may fall apart.

You are piling up punishment on yourself.

Because they do not seek to know God, they engage in wickedness with corrupt hearts
(Romans 1:28).

Those who are stubborn, unrepentant, selfish, disobedient to the truth,
and follow injustice will heap up punishment for themselves
on the day of God's righteous judgment.

Therefore, they will face God's wrath and anger, experiencing distress and pain
(Romans 1:28; 2:5, 8-9).

We must share it with our brothers and sisters.

We must share with our brothers and sisters all that God has done with us as He walked alongside us, and when He opened the door of faith to us when we proclaimed the word of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 14:27).

Repentance must be demonstrated through actions.

We must repent and turn back to God, demonstrating our repentance through actions (Ref.: Acts 26:20).

God who uses great difficulties brought on by a famine.

In the days of Jacob, God also used great difficulties brought on by a famine throughout Egypt and Canaan, causing such a severe lack of food that it led to great hardship.

This was done in accordance with the promise made during the time of Abraham, the grandfather of Jacob.

As a result, Abraham's descendants, including Jacob and his twelve sons and their descendants, became foreigners in the land of Egypt, enduring slavery and persecution for 400 years (Acts 7:6, 11-14).

I believe that God will fulfill His promise to my great-grandfather pastor, not only in our three generations but also through our children and future generations, in His own time and in His own way.