

About Our Child's Marriage

[Short Word Meditation (25)]

James Kim

As wives, as daughters of God ...

As wives, as daughters of God,
you must place your hope in God, live a holy life,
and do good deeds without fear of anything
(1 Peter 3:5-6).

It's not "because" of my wife, it's "thanks" to my wife!

Because of his fear for his own safety,
Abraham, afraid he might be killed because of his beautiful wife,
told his wife Sarai to say to the Egyptians, 'You are my sister.'
Thanks to his wife, he was well-treated by the Pharaoh of Egypt,
receiving sheep, cattle, donkeys, male and female servants, and camels
(Genesis 12:11-16).

The lesson here is that as husbands, we should not think or say
'because of' our wives, but 'thanks to' our wives.

The reason is that even though we husbands might sometimes think or say
'because of' our wives, the Lord, who is the master of our households,
wishes to bless us through the wives He has paired us with (vv. 1-2).

Wives must make themselves beautiful on the inside.

As wives, you should not focus on outward adornment
but should instead beautify your inner self with a gentle and quiet spirit,
which is of great worth in God's sight.

And as wives, you should adorn yourselves
by being submissive to your own husbands.

When you obey your husbands, even if they do not believe the word,
they may be won over without words by your behavior
when they see the purity and reverence of your lives as you serve God
(1 Peter 3:1-5).

A husband who fails to nurture his wife well with the word of God and does not rebuke her with love.

The woman succumbed to the most cunning temptation of Satan
and ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
Her husband had clearly received the command from God,
"You are free to eat from any tree in the garden,
but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,
for when you eat from it, you will certainly die."
However, it seems that he did not properly nurture her with God's word.
Consequently, the woman picked the fruit and ate it.

Then, when she gave the fruit to her husband, he should have said to his wife,
"Didn't God tell me, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden,
but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,
for when you eat from it, you will certainly die'?"

However, the man also ate the fruit. Instead of leading his wife with God's word,
he was led by his wife who had fallen into Satan's temptation, and together they sinned against God
(Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1, 6; Ephesians 5:29).

The wife's resentment and the husband's fault?

Sarai said to her husband Abram,

"The Lord has kept me from having children.

Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her."

As a result, Hagar conceived and became proud, despising her mistress Sarai.

Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering.

I put my servant in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me.

May the Lord judge between you and me."

As a result, Sarai mistreated Hagar, so Hagar fled from her

(Genesis 16:1-6).

When considering the three people in this story—

Abram, his wife Sarai, and Sarai's maidservant Hagar—

it's clear that Sarai's words and Abram's response to them

led to a relationship between Sarai and Hagar

that ended in contempt and mistreatment.

Personally, I see Sarai's statement,

"You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering," in two ways:

- (1) Sarai resented her husband Abram
because she tasted the bitter fruit of her own words and actions.
- (2) Abram should not have followed Sarai's suggestion, so in that sense,
her claim that it was his fault is valid.

Thanks to his beautiful wife Sarai ...

Because of his beautiful wife Sarai, Abram said to the Egyptians,
"Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake
and my life will be spared because of you" (Genesis 12:13).

Similarly, in Gerar, he also referred to his wife Sarah as his sister.

Consequently, King Abimelek of Gerar, unaware that she was already married,
sent for her to bring her to his palace.

Thus, Sarai nearly caused Abram's death, but because he acted with a clear conscience,
God intervened to prevent him from sinning against Him.

Ultimately, because of his wife Sarai,

Abram received sheep, cattle, male and female servants,
and a thousand shekels of silver from King Abimelek
(Genesis 20).

No matter how much I love my family ...

No matter how much I love my family,
do I have to put in all my effort, suffer so much, and work so hard
for that person who makes unreasonable demands on me,
deceives me, and treats me as if I have done something wrong
and am guilty of something?
(Genesis 31:36)

No matter how much they love each other, jealousy is ...

Jacob, who loved the beautiful Rachel (Genesis 29:17-18), became angry with his wife Rachel, saying, "Am I in the place of God, who has kept you from having children?" (30:2) The reason for this was that when Rachel could not bear children for Jacob, she envied her sister Leah, who had already borne him four sons (29:32-35), and said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I'll die!" (30:1). Thus, jealousy, even in the midst of love, can be enough to cause conflict in marital relationships.

No matter how much we may find ourselves in situations or circumstances that seem impossible for God's promises to be fulfilled...

Abram, whose wife Sarai was unable to conceive, and who was over 75 years old, received a promise from God: "I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted" (Genesis 11:30, 12:4, 13:16).

Receiving this seemingly impossible promise, Abraham did not waver in unbelief or weaken in faith. Instead, he grew stronger in faith, giving glory to God and being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised (Romans 4:18-21).

Like our ancestor of faith, Abraham, we too, no matter how much we may find ourselves in situations or circumstances that seem impossible for God's promises to be fulfilled, should not waver in unbelief or weaken in faith. Instead, we should stand firm in faith, giving glory to God and being fully convinced that what God has promised, He will surely fulfill.

How did father Jacob feel? (1)

Father Jacob, who heard that his daughter Dinah had been raped by the foreigner Shechem (Genesis 34:5), later heard that his eldest son Reuben had slept with his concubine Bilhah (35:22). How did father Jacob feel?

How did father Jacob feel? (2)

Upon hearing the news that their sister Dinah had been raped by Shechem, the sons of Jacob were filled with astonishment and anger at the disgraceful and wicked act. Therefore, they could not restrain their emotions. Consequently, they deceived Shechem and Hamor, the men of their city, by proposing to take Dinah as their sister in marriage on the condition that all the men of the city undergo circumcision. At that time, the most influential figure in Hamor's household, Shechem, wasted no time in fulfilling this condition. The reason was that he loved Jacob's daughter Dinah (Genesis 34:13-19). Just as their father Jacob had deceived (and had been deceived by his uncle Laban) his brother Esau, Jacob's sons also deceived Shechem and Hamor. Jacob worked for seven years to marry the beautiful Rachel whom he loved so much that those seven years felt like just a few days (29:20). Similarly, while Shechem was deceived by Jacob's sons, he loved Dinah, which is why he promptly fulfilled the condition of circumcision that they demanded (34:19). In all these situations, what might Jacob have felt? Seeing his sons deceiving others like himself, and seeing Shechem, who loved Dinah like Jacob loved Rachel, being deceived, Jacob's feelings would likely have been complex.

A child loved by a father, a child loved by a mother?

Father Isaac loved his eldest son Esau
because he was a skillful hunter and brought him tasty game to eat,
while mother Rebekah loved the quiet second son Jacob
who preferred to stay at home
(Genesis 25:27-28).

It's quite intriguing!

A father who enjoys the outdoors and hunting,
therefore favoring a son who brings him game
(perhaps because the father enjoys eating meat),
and a mother who prefers the quiet son who stays indoors
(perhaps because she enjoys cooking and conversing with him at home).

Abraham and Isaac, God the Father and His Only Begotten Son Jesus

When I think about Father Abraham, who loved his son Isaac,
and who took wood for the burnt offering and put it on his son Isaac's shoulders,
while he himself carried the fire and the knife, and together they went up to Mount Moriah to worship,
and when Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood,
then bound his son Isaac and placed him on the altar on top of the wood,
and when he reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son (Genesis 22:5-6, 9-10),
I am reminded of how God the Father, who loves and delights in His only begotten Son Jesus Christ
(Mark 1:11, John 3:16), laid upon Him the burden of all our sins (Isaiah 53:6, 12)
and went up to Golgotha, also called the Place of the Skull (Matthew 27:33),
to worship together.

But instead of sacrificing His Son Jesus on the accursed tree (Deuteronomy 21:23, Galatians 3:13),
God the Father provided a lamb for the burnt offering (Genesis 22:8),
His own Son Jesus Christ, and after the soldiers had nailed Jesus to the cross,
God the Father pierced His Son Jesus Christ's side with a spear (John 19:34).

We learn a lesson through the prayer of Abraham's old servant.

We learn from the prayer of Abraham's old servant:

'Lord, if it is your will, let me succeed in what I want to do for you'

(Genesis 24:42).

Abram should not have followed Sarai's suggestion.

Sarai should not have said to her husband Abram,

"The Lord has kept me from having children.

Sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her."

And Abram should not have followed Sarai's suggestion.

The reason is that not only Eliezer, but also Ishmael, born to Abram through Hagar, was not to be Abram's heir, but the son born to Abram's own body, Isaac, would be his heir (Genesis 15:2-4; 16:2; Hebrews 11:18).

God even hears a child's cries.

God, who even hears the child's cries, lifts the child up, comforts him, and is with him as he grows (Genesis 21:17-18, 20).

The teachings of Balaam, who loved wealth obtained through evil methods

We must not follow the teachings of Balaam (2 Peter 2:15),

who loved wealth obtained through evil means.

His teachings were designed to entice God's people

to eat food sacrificed to idols and commit sexual immorality (Revelation 2:14,).

God uses even our bad human relationships?

When Jacob said to his wives Rachel and Leah about their father Laban,
"I see that your father's attitude toward me is not what it was before ...
Your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times" (Genesis 31:5, 7),
Rachel and Leah replied to Jacob, "We have no share in the inheritance from our father.
He has treated us like foreigners, selling us, and he has spent all the money he received for us.
All the wealth that God took away from our father now belongs to us and our children.
So do as God has instructed you" (vv. 14-16).
Looking at how Leah and Rachel, Laban's daughters, told their husband Jacob,
"He has treated us like foreigners, selling us, and he has spent all the money he received for us" (v. 15),
it seems that the relationship between the father and his daughters was not very good.
Feeling like they were treated as foreigners by their father and also thinking,
"He has spent all our money," Leah and Rachel might have felt even more distressed
upon hearing from their husband Jacob that their father Laban had deceived him
and changed his wages ten times. Their feelings could have been a mixture of betrayal, frustration,
and perhaps a sense of being used and manipulated. In the end, they said to Jacob,
"Do as God has instructed you." So, Jacob prepared to return to his father Isaac in the land of Canaan,
taking his wives, children, and all the possessions and livestock
he had acquired in Mesopotamia (vv. 16-17).
When considering how God sovereignly used even bad relationships
between Laban, Jacob, and Laban's daughters Leah and Rachel
to eventually lead Jacob back to the land of Canaan from Mesopotamia,
it reminds us that even our bad human relationships
can be used by God to fulfill His will and plans.

Countenance

Cain became very angry, and his countenance fell (Genesis 4:5).
When Laban's countenance changed toward Jacob, not being as it had been before (31:2, 5),
their countenances reveal their inability to hide their sins but rather confess them (Isaiah 3:9).

‘It’s all right. Don’t be afraid.’

When Jacob's nine sons, along with their youngest brother Benjamin, came down to Egypt and stood before Joseph, he instructed the steward of his house, "Take these men to my house, slaughter an animal, and prepare a meal; they are to eat with me at noon" (Genesis 43:16).

So, the steward did as Joseph directed and led them to Joseph's house.

However, Joseph's brothers were afraid and said,

"It's because of the money put back in our sacks the last time that we're brought here.

He wants to overpower us and seize us as slaves and take our donkeys" (vv. 15-18).

An interesting point is what the steward, who managed Joseph's household affairs, said to Joseph's brothers: ‘It’s all right. Don't be afraid.

Your God, the God of your father, has given you treasure in your sacks’ (v. 23).

While meditating on this passage, I was reminded of when Jesus, after sending the disciples ahead in a boat, walked on the sea toward them when they were struggling against the waves in the middle of the sea, around four in the morning.

When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, thinking he was a ghost.

But Jesus reassured them, saying,

"Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid"

(Matthew 14:24-27).

Additionally, the statement made by Joseph's steward to Joseph's brothers,

"Your God, the God of your father, has put treasure in your sacks for you"

(Genesis 43:23), is intriguing.

How could this steward, who was likely an Egyptian, make such a statement?

Could it be that he came to believe in Joseph's God through Joseph's influence?

He thought it would be safe.

Thinking they would be safe, Lot fled to the town of Zoar.
But afraid to stay in Zoar, he went up to the mountains with his two daughters and lived in a cave.
The daughters, seeing no other men around,
thought the world had ended and decided to get their father drunk
so they could have children through him and continue their family line.
The older daughter had a son named Moab, who became the ancestor of the Moabites,
and the younger daughter also had a son named Ben-Ammi,
who became the ancestor of the Ammonites
(Genesis 19:30-38).
Ultimately, Lot, fearing for his safety,
went up to the mountains and lived in a cave with his daughters.
They got him drunk and through him, they became pregnant and bore sons.

Because of what I know by instinct, like an unreasonable animal cursing what I don't know ...

People who are ungodly and misuse the grace of God to live a debauched life,
who claim that they do not know the Lord Jesus Christ,
our only Lord, who have lost their reason, defile the flesh, ignore authority,
and curse glorious heavenly beings.
They curse at what they do not know and, like animals without reason,
perish because of what they know by instinct
(Jude 1:4, 8, 10).

May grace and peace increase with knowledge ...

We, who have received precious faith through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ,
hope that grace and peace will increase for us through the knowledge of God and our Lord Jesus Christ
(2 Peter 1:1-2).

Even if we face hardships in the future ...

Even if we are insulted and suffer by Satan's group in the future, we should not be afraid.
Even though we are tempted by the devil and suffer,
we must be faithful to the Lord until death.
Then the Lord will give us the crown of life
(Revelation 2:9-10).

What thoughts and feelings did Jacob have when he did that?

Rebecca, the mother, made her son Jacob the deceiver,
fearing not only that he might receive a curse from his father Isaac instead of a blessing
but also offering to take the curse upon herself.
She brought Esau's best clothes and prepared delicacies for Jacob to present to his father Jacob.
What thoughts and feelings did Jacob have when he did that?
Was it the overwhelming (foolish) love of his mother that he couldn't resist?
Or did he want to win over Esau in competition?
Did he desire to receive his father Isaac's blessing instead of his brother's?
How could he even lie to his father Isaac when he asked,
"How did you manage to bring the game so quickly?"
He lied to his father by saying,
"Because the LORD your God brought it to me"
(Genesis 27:12-20).

This is because both my parents obeyed the Lord and are still obeying Him.

Father Abraham also faced a severe famine in the land of Canaan where he was residing, so he migrated to Egypt (Genesis 12:10). Similarly, his son Isaac encountered the same famine in the land during his father's time, and Isaac went to Gerar, where Abimelech, the king of the Philistines, resided (26:1). However, the difference lies in God's command to Isaac, instructing him, "Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land where I tell you to dwell. Live in this land, and I will be with you and bless you. For to you and your descendants, I will give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven, and I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed, all the nations of the earth shall be blessed. Because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws" (vv. 2-5). Father Abraham went down to Egypt, where, thanks to his wife Sarah, he received generous treatment from Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Not only did he receive favorable treatment, but he also received sheep, cattle, donkeys, male and female servants, and camels (12:16). However, when it came to his son Isaac, God commanded him not to go down to Egypt but to stay in the land of Gerar. God promised to bless Isaac if he dwelled in the land of Gerar and assured him that He would be with Isaac and bless him, granting him all the land. The reason for this was that just as Abraham obeyed God and kept His commandments, so too did God promise to bless Isaac. I am enjoying such great grace and blessings because my both parents have obeyed the Lord and are still obeying Him.

How could a holy and just God bless Isaac who lied?

How could God, who is holy and just, bless Abraham, who lied,
and then also bless his son Isaac, who also lied,
so that his crops would yield a hundredfold,
and he would gradually prosper and eventually become a very wealthy man?
(Genesis 12:16; 13:2, 6; 26:12-13)

How can those who do not believe in God ...?

How did King Abimelech of Gerar and his men, who did not believe in God,
clearly see that God was with Isaac? (Genesis 26:28)

How did Potiphar, an Egyptian who was a servant of King Pharaoh of Egypt
and captain of the bodyguard, see that God was with Joseph and made everything he did prosper? (39:3)

Do non-believers around us clearly see that the Lord Emmanuel is with us?

So, do we know that the Lord makes everything we do prosper?

How can praise and curse come from one mouth?

With one mouth and one tongue,
they praise God and curse people who were created in the image of God.

How can praise and curse come from one mouth?

This should not happen

(James 3:9-10).

We must prevent foolish people from speaking ignorantly.

God's will is to do good works
and to prevent foolish people from speaking ignorantly
(1 Peter 2:15).

Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.

On the wedding day of the Lord the Lamb,
the bride, the Church, will be groomed and clothed in shining, clean linen.
Here, the linen clothes represent the righteous deeds of our saints.
Blessed are those who are invited to this wedding feast of the Lamb
(Revelation 19:7-9).

Jacob was unable to clearly draw healthy boundary in his relationship with his mother Rebekah.

It was his mother Rebekah who made Jacob a deceiver on his father Isaac
(Genesis 27:12-13).

In other words, the mother made her son a deceiver to his father.

A son who listens carefully to his mother's words and does as she tells him to deceive his father,
in a relationship with his mother who is willing to go to the extent of being cursed for him.

Jacob wasn't able to clearly draw healthy boundary with his mother Rebekah.

A child who listens carefully to his mother and does as he is told.

As Father Isaac,
who was old and didn't know when he would die,
had become blind and could not see well,
he intended to bless his beloved eldest son Esau last.
However, he was deceived by his second son Jacob.
The mastermind behind this scheme
was none other than Jacob's mother, Rebekah,
who loved him dearly.
Rebekah overheard what her husband Isaac said to Esau,
and while Esau was out hunting,
she called Jacob and instructed him to listen carefully to her
and do as she said
(Genesis 25:28; 27:1-8).
It was the mother
who orchestrated the situation to ensure that the second son,
who listened well to her words and obeyed her commands,
ultimately received the father's blessing,
which was originally meant for the eldest son.

Perhaps mother Rebekah's love for Jacob ...

Rebekah, overhearing her husband Isaac speaking to his eldest son Esau (Genesis 27:5), ultimately became the mastermind behind orchestrating the situation to ensure that her beloved younger son Jacob received the blessing instead (27:5-30).

Upon hearing Esau's muttered words about intending to kill Jacob after their father's death (27:41), Rebekah said to Jacob, her beloved younger son (27:42):

"Your brother Esau is consoling himself by planning to kill you.

Listen to me, my son, and do as I say. Flee at once to my brother Laban in Haran.

Stay with him for a while until your brother's fury subsides.

When he forgets what you have done to him, I will send word for you to come back from there.

Why should I lose both of you in one day?" (27:42-45).

As a wife and mother in the household,

Rebekah not only overheard the words Isaac spoke to his beloved eldest son Esau but also listened to Esau's muttered words, and she showed love to Jacob.

How do you think about such maternal love?

Perhaps Rebekah's love for Jacob stemmed from remembering the words that God spoke to her when she was pregnant with the twins Esau and Jacob:

"Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger" (25:23).

Therefore, despite being deceived by Jacob,

his father Isaac ultimately blessed him with these words:

"Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed.

May God give you of heaven's dew and of earth's richness—an abundance of grain and new wine.

May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you.

Be lord over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you.

May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed" (27:27-29).

Maybe our relatives won't see God be with us and bless us and make everything we do prosper ...

Laban's sons accused Jacob of taking away their father's property,
but Jacob claimed that God had taken away Laban's livestock and given it to him (Genesis 31:1, 9).
Jacob's relatives, Laban's sons, did not recognize that God was with Jacob, blessing him.
However, Potiphar, an official of Egypt and captain of the guard,
saw that everything Joseph did prospered because God was with him (39:1-3).
Perhaps, even if our relatives do not recognize that God is with us,
blessing us in all we do, non-believers who are with us might see it instead.

“Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?”

Why did God allow the famine to worsen to the point of affecting the land of Canaan even more severely,
prompting Jacob to go down to Egypt and eventually making his descendants into a great nation there
(Genesis 43:1; 46:3)? Why didn't God, like with Jacob's father Isaac (26:2-4),
just let Jacob stay in the land of Canaan and make his descendants into a great nation there?
When reflecting on these words, I recall the incident when Jacob's mother Rebekah
urged him to flee to her brother's house in Haran (27:43-44).
During his twenty years there, Jacob took two wives and two concubines,
and he fathered eleven sons and one daughter (29:30).
When God prospered Jacob in Haran and eventually led him back to his homeland and relatives,
He said, "I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand of the sea,
which cannot be counted" (32:9, 12). In fulfilling this promise, God caused Jacob
to bring his entire family down to Egypt, which consisted of a total of seventy people (46:27).
Yet, as God had promised to Abraham, He made Jacob's descendants endure slavery
and oppression in Egypt for four hundred years (15:13),
eventually making them a nation of over six hundred thousand (Numbers 11:21).
This brings to mind the words of Numbers 23:19:
"God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind.
Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?"

One day, God will expose that lie.

While Isaac lived in Gerar for a long time,
he discovered to Abimelech, king of the Philistines,
that Rebekah was his wife and not his sister
(Genesis 26:8-9).

If we live a lie for a long time, one day God will expose that lie,
even through people who don't believe in Jesus!

After suffering for a while ...

After we have suffered for a while in resisting the devil,
the God of all grace, who called us in Christ to share in eternal glory,
will himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish us
(1 Peter 5: 9-10).

It's not that it's gone, it's that it's been eliminated, isn't it?

Joseph's ten brothers did not recognize the Egyptian governor standing before them as their brother Joseph.

They said, "We are all sons of one man, twelve brothers in all, living in the land of Canaan.

The youngest is now with our father, and one is no more" (Genesis 42:8, 13).

But is that "one" truly no more? Didn't the brothers sell him to the Ishmaelites?

So, Joseph was not "no more"; they had made him disappear.

As the twelve sons of Jacob, the man living in the land of Canaan, how could they have disposed of one of their own brothers, Joseph?

Could it be that they did this because Joseph, at 17 years old, reported their wrongdoings to their father? (37:2)

Was it because their father Jacob loved Joseph more than them? (v. 3)

Was it perhaps because they heard Joseph's dreams and mocked him, saying,

"Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?"

and hated him even more because of his dreams?

Could it have been out of jealousy toward Joseph? (v. 11)

Like Enoch ...

Like Enoch, I want to live in deep fellowship with God, give birth to children, and then be called by God and be embraced by the Lord (Genesis 5:22-24).

We can't help but feel anxious for a while due to various trials.

Although we cannot help but feel sorrow for a while due to various trials, the reason why we are greatly rejoicing is because the pure faith that has gone through trials is more precious than gold, which perishes even if refined by fire, and will receive praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ comes again (1 Peter 1:6-7).

We must not be deceived by various strange teachings.

We must strengthen our hearts with the grace of God and not be deceived by strange teachings (Hebrews 13:9).

They may find us strange and criticize us.

Before we believed in Jesus, we engaged in debauchery with worldly friends. But after we believed in Jesus, when we no longer engage in debauchery, those friends may find us strange and criticize us (1 Peter 4:4).

They are like a dirty spot on the feast you share with love.

Those who followed Cain's evil path, ran to Balaam's wrong path for money,
and, like Korah, disobeyed God and are heading toward destruction,
eat with you without any hesitation and are like a dirty spot on the feast you share with love.
They are self-seeking shepherds, clouds that do not rain
but are carried around by the wind, and fruitless autumn trees that die and die and are uprooted.
They are like the rough waves of the sea spewing out their shame like foam,
and they are stars that have lost their orbits and will wander in darkness forever
(Jude 1:11-13).

A strong love for women

Lustfulness, exploration, or a strong love for women
is a denial of the Lord and causes the way of truth to be slandered
(2 Peter 2:1-2).

"The Lord Provide"?

"God was 'The Lord Provide' to Abraham. That is, God provided a ram as a burnt offering
in place of Abraham's only son, Isaac, on the mountain of the Lord.

So, Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering instead of his son
(Genesis 22:8, 13-14).

However, God the Father did not become 'The Lord Provide' for Himself.

That is, God the Father did not prepare a lamb to be offered as an atoning sacrifice on the cross
in place of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, on the mountain of the Lord.

Instead, God the Father directly prepared His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, the Passover Lamb,
to be an atoning sacrifice on the cross to atone for our sins (1 John 4:10).

After all, living faith is ...

The Hittites regarded Abraham, a stranger and foreigner living among them, as a great leader among them. So, when Abraham's wife Sarah died, they asked Abraham to sell them some burial ground, and they said to him, "Choose the best of our graves and bury your wife. You said you would bury your dead wife, but there is no one among us who would spare his own grave." "There is none" (Genesis 23:1-6).

When I meditate on these words, we say that Abraham is the 'father of faith,' and I think that living faith means being respected and loved even by those around us who do not believe in Jesus.

We will not be unfruitful.

If we are fully equipped with faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love, we will not be lazy or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:5-8).

Saints who preach the eternal gospel

Saints who spread the eternal gospel to all peoples of the world, transcending all nations, races, and languages, must fear God, give glory only to God, and worship only God (Revelation 14:6-7).

They became examples by being judged with eternal fire.

The Lord destroyed the unbelievers.

The Lord has bound the angels who did not keep their position and sinned by leaving their position, and have bound them with eternal chains and kept them in darkness until the day of judgment. Sodom, Gomorrah, and the cities around them also became examples by being judged with eternal fire for engaging in all kinds of sexual immorality (Jude 1:5-7).

May glory and power be with Jesus Christ forever.

May glory and power be with Jesus Christ, who was the first to be resurrected from the dead and rules over the kings of the world, and who made us a kingdom of priests to serve God the Father (Revelation 1:4-6).

‘What happened to the promise that Jesus would come again?’

We believe that in the end times, people who live according to their own lusts will rise up and laugh at us, asking, 'What happened to the promise that Jesus would come again? Has not the world remained as it was created since our ancestors died?' (2 Peter 3:3-4)

Jesus is a useless stone to unbelievers.

To us who believe in Jesus, Jesus is the most precious living stone, but to unbelievers, he is a useless stone, a stone that stumbles and a rock that causes people to stumble. They stumble because they disobey the word of God (1 Peter 2:6-8).

We were saved by the blood of Jesus.

We have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, sanctified through the Holy Spirit, obedient to Jesus Christ, and saved by His blood (1 Peter 1:2).

We who participate in the tribulation, kingdom, and patience of Jesus

We who believe in Jesus are brothers and sisters in the Lord who participate in Jesus' tribulation, kingdom, and patience (Revelation 1:9).

God's children who believe that Jesus is the Christ ...

God's children who believe that Jesus is the Christ not only love God the Father, but also love their brothers, who are God the Father's children, according to God's commandments (1 John 5:1-2).

When Jesus appears, we will become like Him and see His true face.

We became God's children through Heavenly Father's great love. We don't yet know what will happen to us in the future, but when Jesus appears, we will become like him and see his true face. Therefore, we who have this hope in Christ must keep ourselves clean like Jesus (1 John 3:1-3).

Even when Jesus comes again

The people of the world when Noah lived were very evil and corrupt in the eyes of God, and the world was full of sin (Genesis 6:11). When Jesus comes again, the world will be the same as it was in Noah's time (Matthew 24:37)

Like Jesus ...

God's children who want to become like Jesus and see His true face when He comes again keep themselves clean like Jesus and do not commit the sin of breaking the law. If we continue to sin, we have not seen Jesus and have not known Him (1 John 3:2-6).

If only we, like Jesus, could lay down our lives for our brothers ...

If, like Jesus, we can lay down our lives for our brothers, we can have many possessions and help our poor brothers. However, if we have a lot of wealth but do not help our poor brothers, we cannot say that we love God (1 John 3:16-17).

If it is only the Lord's will, we will be able to live tomorrow and do this and that.

Even though our intention is to go to some city tomorrow and do business for a year and make money, we don't know what will happen tomorrow. If it is only the Lord's will, we will be able to live tomorrow and do this and that. Therefore, we should not be vain and boast about tomorrow. We must remember that we are not subject to a mist that appears for a moment and then disappears (James 4:13-16).

It will be accomplished only according to God's sovereign will.

When Jacob's father Isaac was old and blind and could not see clearly, he tried to bless his eldest son Esau, but was deceived and blessed his younger son Jacob (Genesis 27:1-29).

Joseph's father Jacob was also old and had already lost his sight.

When it was dark and he could not see clearly (48:10),

rather than placing his right hand on the head of Joseph's eldest son Manasseh,

he placed it on the head of his second son Ephraim and blessed it (vv. 14-15).

So, when Joseph saw his father Jacob's right hand being placed on Ephraim's head,

he was displeased and wanted to move his father's hand from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.

He took his hand and said, "Father, don't do that. This is the eldest son.

"Put your right hand on the child's head." But Jacob refused.

Jacob intentionally placed his right hand on the head of Joseph's second son, Ephraim, and blessed him.

Jacob's father, Isaac, tried to bless his eldest son, Esau,

but was deceived into blessing his second son, Jacob.

Jacob then intentionally blessed Joseph's second son, Ephraim. Why did they do that?

Genesis 48:19 says: "Son, I know it. Manasseh will be the father of a nation and will become great, but his younger brother will be even greater than him, and his descendants will become a people."

As I thought about what Jacob said to Joseph, I thought of Genesis 22:25:23:

"And the LORD said to her (Jacob's mother Rebekah), 'Two nations are in your womb; two peoples are in you. They will be divided in the womb;

one nation will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger'."

God's sovereign will was for the older brother, Esau, to serve his younger brother, Jacob.

So even though Isaac tried to bless his eldest son Esau, he ended up blessing Jacob.

Joseph wanted Jacob to place his right hand on his eldest son, Manasseh, and bless him,

but Jacob intentionally blessed his second son, Ephraim,

and placed Ephraim ahead of Manasseh (48:20).

Jacob said that Ephraim would become greater than Manasseh

and that his descendants would become many nations.

When we meditate on these words, when we pray as parents,

we pray that God will bless our children,

but it will only happen according to God's sovereign will.

All kinds of greed

Satan, the most cunning of all, causes all kinds of greed in us
(Genesis 3:1, 6; Romans 7:8).

Complete faith

Complete faith involves obedience to the word of God
(James 2:21-22).

Why was there a change in Joseph's heart?

Joseph said to his ten brothers, "Send one of you to bring your brother, while the rest of you stay in prison. I will test your words to see if you are telling the truth." Then he put them all in custody for three days. On the third day, he said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God: If you are honest men, let one of your brothers stay here in prison while the rest of you go and take grain back for your starving households. But you must bring your youngest brother to me, so that your words may be verified and that you may not die" (Genesis 42:16-20). Why did Joseph change his mind? Why did he say, "Send one of you to ..." (v. 16) and then change to "Let one of your brothers stay here in prison ..." (v. 19)? Originally, only one person was supposed to return, and the other nine were supposed to remain in prison. However, in the end, only one person was imprisoned, and the remaining nine were allowed to return to the land of Canaan. It seems that Joseph had a change of heart while his ten brothers were in prison for three days. Initially, he intended to send only one person back, but then he decided to keep only one person in prison. Perhaps this change was because he was thinking of his father Jacob, or maybe his heart softened towards his brothers, leading him to forgive them.

Why did God ...?

Joseph said to the chief cupbearer,

"In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your position, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand, just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer."

Then Joseph pleaded with him, saying,

"But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison.

For I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon"

(Genesis 40:12-16).

Why did God allow the chief cupbearer, who had committed a crime (v. 1), to be restored to his position within three days after interpreting his dream, while Joseph, who was unjustly imprisoned without any wrongdoing, was only released from prison two years later?

Why did God leave Jesus, who was innocent of any sin, in the tomb for three days and then reconcile and restore us, who were sinful enemies of God?

Why did God fulfill King Pharaoh's dream quickly, but not Joseph's dream?

Pharaoh of Egypt dreamed twice, which meant "God has decided this matter, and He will promptly carry it out" (Genesis 41:32), while Joseph's dream, which he dreamed twice (37:5-10), took about 22 years for God to fulfill.

I think that Joseph did not realize the meaning (interpretation) of the two dreams he dreamed at the age of 17, and it wasn't until about 22 years later, at the age of 39, when he became aware of their significance [30 years old when he became the prime minister of Egypt (41:46) + 7 years of plenty (v. 29) + 2 years of famine (45:6) = 39 years old]. Why did God fulfill King Pharaoh's dream quickly, but not Joseph's dream?

Why does God give (allow) a famine in life so severe that it makes us forget all the prosperous times of life?

If the famine in our lives is so severe,
we will not remember the abundance of our previous lives.

This extreme famine in life makes us
forget all the times of abundance
(Ref.: Genesis 41:30-31).

Why does God give (allow) a famine in life so severe
that it makes us forget all the prosperous times of life?

Perhaps, like the prodigal son, in poverty, with a heart of repentance for his sins,
Is it to bring God back to his Father?
(Luke 15:13-20)

Why did God cause a famine in the abundant land of Canaan,
flowing with milk and honey, during the time of Joseph?

Perhaps God hated Joseph (37:8) and tried to make him repent of the sins of his brothers,
who tried to kill him (v. 20) and sold him to the Ishmaelites (v. 28)?

Could it be that God is trying to make us think again
of the abundant grace He has given us in the past and to make us feel thankful to Him?

Perhaps the poverty we experience due to life's famine
is a good opportunity to experience God's great salvation? (45:5, 7)

Why did God immediately let Joseph know about King Pharaoh's two dreams ...

When Pharaoh told Joseph about the two dreams he had, Joseph said,
"The two dreams mean the same thing. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do"
(Genesis 41:25).

When meditating on this passage, I recalled the two dreams Joseph had
when he was 17 years old (37:7-9). Was it a coincidence? I don't think so.

Under God's sovereignty, Joseph was made to have these two dreams,
revealing to him what is about to happen.

However, no one (neither Joseph's brothers who heard about his dreams nor his father Jacob)
was there to interpret or explain his dreams (Ref.: v. 15),
until God Himself revealed it to Joseph later on.

So, Joseph later said to his brothers who came from Canaan to Egypt:

"I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt.

Do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here,
for it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you ...

So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God.

He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt" (45:5, 7-8).

When meditating on this passage, I believe that Joseph's dreams (two dreams),
or the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker, or Pharaoh's (two) dreams were not coincidences,
but rather, under God's sovereignty, God revealed to Joseph what He was ultimately going to do.

I believe that the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer or Pharaoh himself were merely used as tools by God in
the process. They were ultimately given to Joseph by God to fulfill His purpose.

And the essence of those dreams was God's plan to save Joseph's family.

Interestingly, Joseph knew that Pharaoh's two dreams meant one thing
and that they were what God was about to do (41:25),

but he did not know the meaning (interpretation) of the two dreams he had
at the age of 17 until he was 39 years old [when he became the prime minister of Egypt
at the age of 30 (verse 46) + 7 years of plenty (verse 29) + 2 years of famine (45:6) = 39 years old].

Why did God make Joseph immediately aware of Pharaoh's two dreams,
but did not reveal the meaning of Joseph's two dreams to him when he was 17,
waiting until he was 39 years old?

**Joseph cried. Jesus wept.
“Weep with those who weep.”**

Joseph wept. After their father Jacob died,
Joseph's brothers sent a message to him, saying,
"If Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back
for all the wrongs we did to him, what then?"
They sent this message because they were afraid of Joseph.
But Joseph reassured them and spoke kindly to them, saying,
"Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God?
You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish
what is now being done, the saving of many lives.
So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children."
And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them
(Genesis 50:15-21).

Jesus wept.
Jesus saw Mary weeping over the death of her brother Lazarus
and, along with the Jews who had come with her,
He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.
"Where have you laid him?" he asked.
"Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept
(John 11:33-35).
The Bible tells us to "weep with those who weep"
(Romans 12:15).

Desire and greed

The desire and greed for pleasure that fights within us causes us to fight and fight, and prevents us from receiving answers to our prayers from God (James 4:1-3).

Greed!

We are tempted because we are drawn and tempted by our greed.
When greed arises, it gives birth to sin, and as sin grows, it gives birth to death.
Therefore, we must be very wary of greed
(James 1:14-15).

False teachers among us ...

False teachers among us are secretly introducing destructive heresies, denying the Lord who bought them, and inviting imminent destruction upon themselves (2 Peter 2:1).

We husbands must listen carefully to our wives.

Why did Isaac tell Jacob not to marry Canaanite women? (Genesis 28:1)
Could it be because Isaac was troubled in his and his wife Rebekah's hearts
by Esau, his favorite son, marrying two Hittite women? (26:34-35)
Could it be because Rebekah said to him,
"I'm disgusted with living because of these Hittite women.
If Jacob takes a wife from among the women of this land,
from Hittite women like these, my life will not be worth living"? (27:46)
Husbands should listen to their wives
when it comes to the subject of their children's marriages.
Especially if our wives, like Rebekah, have prayed to God
and received the word of promise as an answer,
we should listen even more carefully (25:22-23).

We must prove the truth of our words with our lives.

Joseph instructed his ten brothers to return to the land of Canaan
to bring back their youngest brother to him in Egypt,
in order to prove the truthfulness of their claim that they were not spies.
He assured them that if their words were proven true, they would not die.
At that time, Joseph's brothers did as he commanded
(Genesis 42:20, 33-34).
We should not only be truthful people but also speak the truth,
and furthermore, demonstrate the truthfulness of our words through our actions.

Let us all go up to the 'house of God' (meaning of "Bethel").

Let us all go up to the 'house of God' (meaning of "Bethel")
and worship the God who hears our prayers in our times of trouble
and is with us wherever we go
(Ref.: Genesis 35:3).

We are all enemies of God who have sinned against the Lord.

Certainly, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, who were servants of the king of Egypt, committed a crime against their master, the king of Egypt.
However, even though they each had different dreams, as interpreted by Joseph, on the third day, which happened to be the king's birthday, the chief cupbearer was restored to his former position and allowed to serve the king again, while the chief baker was executed by hanging (Genesis 40:1, 5-22).
Why then, if we have all sinned against the Lord, who is the King of kings, has our relationship been reconciled with God, and has the sinless Son of God, Jesus Christ, been crucified on the cursed tree (Deuteronomy 21:23; Galatians 3:13)?

God our Father is with us.

Even if the attitude of our father-in-law (mother-in-law) changes for the worse, God our Father is with us. Even if our father-in-law (mother-in-law) deceives us many times, God blocks our father-in-law (mother-in-law) from harming us
(Ref.: Genesis 31:5-7).

**There are times when our souls are so distressed
that they refuse to be comforted by anyone.**

Especially when a beloved family member dies,
even if all family members comfort us, it may be of no use
(Ref.: Genesis 37:35).

When we are in trouble, there are times when our soul is so distressed
that we refuse to be comforted by anyone (Psalms 77:2).

Therefore, we desperately seek God, and only God can comfort us.

When we hear that our children are living in the truth ...

As parents, we cannot help but be very happy when we hear that our children
are living in the truth according to God's commandments that we have received
(2 John 1:4, 3 John 1:4).

**We will enter abundantly into the eternal kingdom
of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

We should make every effort to add to our faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;
and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance,
godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

Moreover, we should make every effort to confirm our calling and election.

If we do these things, we will never stumble, and we will receive a rich welcome
into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

(2 Peter 1:5-7, 10-11).

**If any of us is deceived and is turning away
from the truth and going astray ...**

If any of us is deceived and is leaving the truth and going down the wrong path,
we must bring that sinner back to God and save his soul from death.

His many sins will be forgiven

(James 5:19-20).

**Our Heavenly Father clearly knows who the true children of God
are and has bestowed upon us
all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ.**

Father Isaac asked twice, "Who are you?"

Once, he asked his younger son Jacob, who was deceiving him,
and the other time, he asked his beloved eldest son Esau.

Jacob's response was, "I am Esau, your firstborn son"

(Genesis 27:18, 32).

Esau's response was, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau" (v. 32).

Because Isaac was old and his eyes were dim,

he could not see well and could not discern who his real beloved firstborn son was (v. 1).

Especially since his two sons, Esau and Jacob, were twins,

it would have been even more difficult to discern (25:24).

Thus, Father Isaac blessed without discerning who his real beloved son was.

However, our Heavenly Father knows clearly who are the children He loves,

and in Christ, He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places

(Ephesians 1:3).

We need to keep in mind what our brother says.

Even though Joseph was already receiving special love from his father Jacob, when he dreamed twice and shared the dreams with his brothers, they not only hated him more but also envied him.

However, Jacob, who rebuked Joseph, kept his words in mind (Genesis 37:3-11).

When our siblings receive more love and praise than us, we may feel enough hatred and jealousy toward them.

However, we may need to keep in mind what our siblings say to us because it could be God speaking to us through them.

We must hold fast to what we have.

The Lord will come soon.

We must hold fast what we have
so that no one can snatch our crown
(Revelation 3:11).

Something we never dreamed of

The God who blesses us as He promised
is the God who does things we never dreamed of
(Genesis 21:1, 7).

When we run away from someone we fear ...

When we run from someone we fear,
God appears to us and blesses us
(Ref.: Genesis 35:1, 9).

The reason we place our faith and hope in God ...

The reason we place our faith and hope in God is
because we believe in God through Christ,
whom God glorified by raising him from the dead
(1 Peter 1:21).

A place that seems safe in our eyes may not be a safe place in God's eyes.

The angels told Lot, "Escape to the mountains,"
but Lot was afraid he might encounter disaster along the way and be killed,
so he asked if he could flee to a nearby small town called Zoar instead.
The reason Lot made this request to the angels was
that while the angels saw the mountains as a safe refuge,
Lot believed that the small town of Zoar would be a safer option.
So, in accordance with Lot's request, the angels did not destroy Sodom and Gomorrah
until Lot and his family had fled to Zoar, sparing the town from destruction
(Genesis 19:17-22).
The fear of encountering disaster and dying prompts us to seek what appears safe to us.
However, the place we consider safe may not be safe in the eyes of God.

If we knew what love is ...

If we have truly come to know what love is through Jesus giving his life on the cross for us, then we too should lay down our lives for our brothers like Jesus (1 John 3:16).

If we love one another, God's love will be perfected in us.

God dwells in us who acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God.
God gave us the Holy Spirit, so we live in God and God lives in us.
Therefore, if we love one another, God's love will be completed in us (1 John 4:12-15).

The reason why we must fight this spiritual fight ...

We must contend earnestly for the faith once given concerning the salvation we enjoy together. The reason we must fight this spiritual battle with all our might is because people who are ungodly, abusing the grace of God, living dissolute lives, and claiming to not know our only Lord Jesus Christ have secretly crept into our midst (Jude 1 :3-4).

Before, we lived according to all kinds of greed without knowing it, but now ...

Before, we lived according to all kinds of desires without knowing it,
but now we must obey God like obedient children and become holy people in all our actions,
just as the God who called us is holy. The reason is because God said, 'Be holy, for I am holy'
(1 Peter 1:14-16).

How we know we are in the Lord ...

The way to know that we are in the Lord is
to see that God's love is truly made perfect within us
by keeping the Word of God
(1 John 2:5).

The reason we are not confident that we know the Lord ...

The reason we are not confident that we know the Lord
is because we are not keeping God's commandments
(1 John 2:3).

The reason we know these are the end times ...

The reason we know that it is the end times is
because we have received the Holy Spirit from holy God
and know that many of Christ's enemies have already appeared
(1 John 2:18, 20).

We continue to ...

We must continue to love our brothers and remember to show hospitality to guests
(Hebrews 13:1-2).

We focus our attention on the eternal kingdom of our Savior Jesus Christ.

This is from 2 Peter 1:11: "For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly
into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

What we are focusing on is the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Though we are currently living in nations of this world, akin to wilderness,
the kingdom we long for is the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We are merely pilgrims sojourning in this world (Hebrews 11:13).

We long for a better country, a heavenly one (v. 16).

"God has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has translated us
into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Colossians 1:13).

Therefore, we seek first his kingdom and his righteousness (Matthew 6:33).

As we persevere, when the Lord calls us,

we will enter into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, we must strive even more to make our calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10).

Then we will not fall (v. 10) and will enter fully into the eternal kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ (v. 11).

We must not abuse that freedom.

We are those who gain freedom through the truth (John 8:32).

Therefore, we must live like free people who have been freed from the law.

But we must not abuse that freedom. We must use that freedom only to serve God
(1 Peter 2:16).

We must rejoice, be glad, and give glory to God.

God's servants who fear God must praise God.

'Hallelujah, our Lord God Almighty reigns!'

We must rejoice, be glad, and give glory to God
(Revelation 19:5-7).

We will be able to face the day of judgment with pride.

When God's love is perfected in us

because we know and believe in God's love for us and love one another,

we will be able to face the day of judgment with pride

(1 John 4:12, 16-17).

We ought to love God.

By the great love of God the Father,
who has made us His children,
we ought to love God.

Loving God means keeping His commandments.
His commandments are about loving one another.
Keeping God's commandments is not burdensome
(1 John 3:1, 23; 5:1-3).

We should not give Satan and his minions any opportunity..

Satan and his minions, like spies (Genesis 42:9, 14),
look for our weaknesses (42:12).

If they see any cracks

['It will fall!'] The Hebrew word for 'fall' in Tobiah's taunt
means '(the wall's) cracked or broken place' (Nehemiah 4:3)]

or faults in us (Daniel 6:4),

they will use these to attack us (Genesis 14:15).

Therefore, we must not show any weaknesses to Satan and his minions.

The reason is that they are always looking for such opportunities.

However, when I look at myself, I see so many weaknesses.

I confess that without God's grace and protection,

I would not have made it this far.

We do not pay attention to riches obtained by deceit.

This is Proverbs 21:6 from the Modern Korean Bible:

"A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare."

The reason we do not focus on wealth obtained through deceit is because such wealth is like a disappearing mist and a deadly trap.

Even within the church, members are deceiving and defrauding one another to steal money.

Clearly, the Bible states that God gives us the ability to produce wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18), but as people try to become rich by their own strength and ability (v. 17), they go so far as to deceive others to gain wealth.

We must mourn, lament, and cry.

When we draw close to God, God will draw close to us.

At that time, we must cleanse our past mistakes, repent of our double-minded sins, and purify our hearts.

We must mourn, lament, and cry.

We must turn our laughter into mourning and our joy into sorrow (James 4:8-9).

**We may be unfaithful, but the Lord is always faithful
and cannot break His promises.**

Sarai, Abraham's wife, did not trust in God's promise
and, after ten years, gave her Egyptian maidservant Hagar to her husband
as a concubine to bear a child through her (Genesis 16:1-3).
Even though God had clearly promised to bless Sarah
and give Abraham a son through her (17:16, 19), when God said,
"I will surely return to you about this time next year,
and Sarah your wife will have a son,"
Sarah, listening at the entrance to the tent, laughed to herself and thought,
"After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?" (18:10-12).
When God asked, "Is anything too hard for the LORD?
I will return to you at the appointed time next year,
and Sarah will have a son," Sarah, afraid,
lied and said, "I did not laugh" (vv. 14-15).
But God, being faithful to His promise, blessed Sarah,
and she conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age
at the very time God had promised (21:1-2).
"If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot disown Himself"
(2 Timothy 2:13).

**We believe in God, who called us out of darkness
and into wonderful light.**

We are a people chosen by God, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
and a people owned by God to widely praise God,
who called us out of darkness and brought us into amazing light
(1 Peter 2:9).

We focus on the eternal Holy Trinity God.

God, who is Spirit (John 4:24), is eternal.

God the Father is eternal

(Romans 16:26).

The Son, Jesus Christ, who is eternal life, is also eternal

(1 John 1:1-2).

And the Holy Spirit is referred to as the eternal Spirit

(Hebrews 9:14).

We do not focus on ourselves but on this eternal Triune God.

We focus on Jesus, the source of eternal salvation.

Here is Hebrews 5:9:

“And having been made perfect,

He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.”

Although Jesus was God’s Son,

He learned obedience through what He suffered and was made perfect (vv. 8-9).

Thus, Jesus became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him (v. 9).

Therefore, we focus on Jesus, the source of eternal salvation.

We focus on the everlasting gospel.

Look at Revelation 14:6:

“Then I saw another angel flying in midair,
and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—
to every nation, tribe, language and people.”

What is the gospel?

The gospel is about God’s Son

(Romans 1:2).

It is about Jesus’ birth (v. 3), Jesus’ death, and Jesus’ resurrection (v. 4).

The gospel is the virgin birth of Jesus Christ

(Matthew 1:18).

Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin,

Jesus died on the cross to redeem our sins—

that is the gospel (Romans 1:4).

And Jesus, who rose from the dead on the third day, is the gospel (Romans 1:4).

Jesus’ humanity and divinity are the gospel (vv. 3-4).

The Apostle John called this the “eternal gospel”

(Revelation 14:6)

because Jesus, who is eternal life, is the eternal God

(1 John 1:2; cf. Romans 16:26).

We are chosen for this gospel

(Romans 1:1).

Therefore, we must share this gospel with both believers and non-believers.

We should not be ashamed of the gospel,

for it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes (v. 16).

This is because we are indebted to all people to share the gospel (v. 14).

Do you and I truly believe in the power of the gospel?

Do you and I truly not feel ashamed of the gospel?

Are you and I truly spreading this gospel of Jesus Christ?

We focus on eternal love.

The eternal God loves us eternally

(1 Kings 10:9).

Jesus, who is eternal life and loves us with everlasting love, demonstrated God's love for us by laying down His life on the cross

(1 John 3:16).

God confirmed His love for us in this way

(Romans 5:8).

The eternal Holy Spirit, who produces the fruit of love

(not the fleeting love of man, which is like a vanishing mist,

but God's eternal love), enables us to love God

with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves

(Galatians 5:22; Matthew 22:37, 39).

The eternal love of this Triune God is better than life itself,

and because of this, our lips cannot help but praise Him

(Psalms 63:3).

We focus on eternal life.

We do not focus on our lives, which are like a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

The reason is that we are focused on the eternal life

promised to us directly by Christ (1 John 2:25),

the eternal life given to us by God through faith in Jesus Christ (John 3:16).

Therefore, like the Apostle Paul, we can also confess in faith,

"If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord.

So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord" (Romans 14:8).

We focus on eternal atonement.

Hebrews 9:12 says: "He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption."

The term "atonement" translates the Hebrew word "kaphar" and the Greek word "katallage," meaning "to cover," "to remove," or "to take away a fault."

It refers to the act of making amends for sin (Internet).

In the Bible, "atonement" specifically refers to the work of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who shed His blood and died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

In the Old Testament, a sin offering was required to atone for sins.

This offering, called a "sin offering," aimed at forgiveness of sins and the restoration of the broken relationship with God due to those sins.

This practice symbolized the atoning work of Jesus Christ (Internet).

We were once placed under the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2).

To receive salvation from the law of sin and death, we needed a sin offering.

Therefore, we had to offer a sin offering to God.

Because we were enemies of God (Romans 5:10), reconciliation required a peace offering.

The Father, God, appointed His Son, Jesus Christ, as "Himself" (Romans 8:3) to be both the sin offering and the peace offering (Chang Seh Kim).

Now, no longer with the blood of goats and calves, but with the blood of Jesus Christ,

He achieved eternal redemption once for all by entering the Most Holy Place (Hebrews 9:12).

"If the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean, how much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!" (Hebrews 9:13-14).

Therefore, it is through Jesus Christ, the mediator of the new covenant, that we, who have been called by God, receive the promised eternal inheritance, as He atoned for the sins committed under the first (old) covenant by shedding His blood on the cross (Hebrews 9:15).

Therefore, we focus on the eternal atonement of Jesus Christ.

We focus on eternal glory.

2 Corinthians 4:17 in the Modern Korean Version says:

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."

We do not lose heart.

Though outwardly we are wasting away,
yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day (v. 16).

Even though we may face trials in this world (John 16:33),
we consider these troubles as light and momentary
(2 Corinthians 4:17).

The reason is that the troubles we endure now
are incomparable to the glory that will be revealed in us
(Romans 8:18).

"Therefore, I endure all things for the sake of the chosen ones,
so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus,
along with eternal glory" (2 Timothy 2:10).

We endure all hardships while focusing on the eternal glory.

We focus on all the righteous laws of the eternal Lord.

Psalms 119:160 in the Modern Korean Version says:

"All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal."

Therefore, we pay attention to the righteous truth of the eternal Lord's words and laws,
and because we love His words and laws (v. 163), we meditate on them day and night (1:2).

Additionally, like the psalmist, we confess, "I will always obey your law, forever and ever" (119:44).

We focus on the eternal King.

Jeremiah 10:10 in the Modern Korean Version says:

"But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King.

When he is angry, the earth trembles; the nations cannot endure his wrath."

The Lord is the true God, the living God, the eternal King (v. 10).

Who is the King of glory? The Almighty God is the King of glory

(Psalms 24:10).

He is the King of righteousness and the King of peace

(Hebrews 7:2).

As He is the great King who rules over all the earth,

we should fear the most high God

(Psalms 47:2).

This great and exalted King, God, humbled Himself,

taking on the form of a servant and being made in human likeness,

He lowered Himself and died on the cross

(Philippians 2:7-8).

The eternal King (Jeremiah 10:10) who became eternal life (1 John 1:2),

Jesus, was nailed to the accursed tree, the cross

(Deuteronomy 21:23; Galatians 3:13).

When He was nailed to the cross, the inscription on the charge against Him

read "The King of the Jews" (Mark 15:26).

The chief priests and scribes mocked Jesus together, saying,

"Hey, you who are called the King of Israel,

come down from the cross now, and then we will believe in you."

Even the thieves who were crucified with him also insulted him

(Mark 15:31-32).

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering.

Like one from whom people hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases, yet we considered him punished by God,

stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions,

he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him,

and by his wounds, we are healed

(Isaiah 53:3-5).

In this way, Jesus, who is the King of kings, humbled himself to receive mockery and condemnation, and by giving his life as a ransom for us (Matthew 20:28), we received forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:14) and salvation.

We who have received salvation are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own possession.

This is so that we may proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).

Therefore, we praise "My God the King": "My God the King, I will exalt you and praise your name forever" (Hymn: "My God the King"). "At the appointed time, God will bring about the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords" (1 Timothy 6:15).

Before the appointed time, the ten kings Apostle John saw had not yet received their kingdoms, but they will receive authority as kings along with the beast for a short time.

They will have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.

They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb, who is Lord of lords and King of kings, will triumph over them because He is the true and faithful witness, and with Him will be His called, chosen, and faithful followers (Revelation 17:12-14).

Therefore, let us give everlasting honor and glory to the only God, the eternal King, the immortal, invisible, and only God. Amen (1 Timothy 1:17).

We focus on eternal comfort.

Thessalonians 2:16-17 says:

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father,
who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope,
encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word."

There are times when, like the psalmist,
we may refuse to be comforted when our souls are troubled (Psalms 77:2).
Just as Jacob mourned and wept inconsolably
when he thought his beloved son Joseph was dead,
despite the attempts of his other children to comfort him (Genesis 37:35),
there are moments when we may feel such intense pain
that we reject any form of solace, especially when we have lost a loved one.
It is precisely at such times that God,
the God of all comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3), comforts us.

Our God, who loves us, provides us
with eternal encouragement and good hope through His grace.
God the Father comforts our hearts with eternal encouragement
and sustains us in times of distress (2 Corinthians 1:4),
not only enabling us to endure suffering (v. 6)
but also empowering us to comfort others who are in any kind of trouble (v. 4).
Furthermore, God comforts us with eternal encouragement,
even when we are discouraged (7:6).

Especially, God comforts us
with the hope of the resurrection and the return of Jesus Christ,
so that we do not grieve like those who have no hope
when we are in anguish over our deceased loved ones
(Matthew 5:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

God speaks to us in secret to comfort us (Job 15:11).
God's word is a comfort to us in our distress. The Lord's word saves us (Psalms 119:50).
Therefore, we pay attention to God's eternal comfort.

I pray that the God of all comfort may comfort you with eternal consolation.

We focus on eternal joy.

People should be able to enjoy life.

This is because there is nothing better in this world than to eat, drink, and be merry.

However, this joy must be found in working hard

during the life God has given us in this world (Ecclesiastes 8:15).

But somehow, we seem unable to enjoy life.

Right now, it seems that we are not experiencing joy (Ecclesiastes 6:3).

In other words, it seems that we have no joy.

It's like there is no one rejoicing and being glad even in fertile land and vineyards.

It seems that all sounds of joy have ceased (Isaiah 16:10; Ref.: Jeremiah 48:33).

It seems that the joy of the people has disappeared (Joel 1:12).

What could be the reason for this?

Perhaps the reason all sounds of joy have ceased is

that worry in our hearts is breaking our spirits and drying up our bones (Proverbs 15:13, 17:22).

Perhaps it is because we are only thinking about

the visible pleasures in front of us (Ecclesiastes 7:4).

Perhaps it is because we are ignoring God's warnings and advice (Ezekiel 21:10).

The joy of the ungodly is always fleeting (Job 20:4).

We must find our joy in the Lord (Isaiah 58:14).

We must make God our delight (Psalms 35:9).

This is because those who seek God find joy (Psalms 105:3).

This is because our God gives joy and gladness

instead of sorrow and praise instead of worry to those who mourn (Isaiah 61:3).

We should receive God's words like delicious food

because His words bring joy and delight to our hearts (Jeremiah 15:16).

The teachings and laws of the Lord are our delight (Psalms 119:24, 77).

The knowledge of God's word and of God Himself brings us joy (Proverbs 2:10).

May God cause our sorrow and sighing to disappear,

leaving us with everlasting joy and gladness (Isaiah 35:10).

Therefore, may those whom God has delivered return to His temple

with songs and experience eternal joy and gladness (Isaiah 51:11).

We focus on eternal blessings.

This is Psalms 21:6 from the Modern Korean Version:

"You have granted him eternal blessings
and made him glad with the joy of your presence."

The Lord fulfills the desires of our hearts and does not reject our requests,
giving us strength (vv. 1-2).

Additionally, the Lord grants us victory (vv. 1, 5),
enhancing our glory and bestowing upon us fame and majesty (v. 5).

The Lord gives us eternal blessings and has blessed us
with every spiritual blessing in Christ in the heavenly realms
(Ephesians 1:3).

Therefore, as those who already possess eternal life
(1 John 3:14),
we live focusing on God's eternal blessings,
not on the temporary and perishable blessings of this world.

We focus on praising forever.

Psalms 111:10 from the Modern Korean Bible says:

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

All who follow His precepts have good understanding.

To Him belongs eternal praise.”

Our God is worthy of eternal praise.

We should praise Him for His marvelous works and His greatness (Psalms 150:2).

We should give thanks and praise to God, singing:

"God is good, and His love for us endures forever!" (Ezra 3:11).

God is good, so we should praise Him

and sing praises to His beautiful name (Psalms 135:3).

Wisdom and power belong to God,

so we should praise His name (Daniel 2:20).

We should thank the Lord daily and praise Him forever (Psalms 145:2).

We should praise our God of salvation who daily bears our burdens (68:19).

We should sincerely praise God for saving us (71:23).

Because the Lord has come and redeemed us from sin,

we should praise the Lord God (Luke 1:68).

We should praise God because He has strengthened us,

His people, and those who draw near to Him (Psalms 148:14).

We should praise the Most High God who has given us victory (Genesis 14:20).

As the Lord teaches us His laws, we should always praise Him (Psalms 119:171).

We should not forget all of God's grace and praise Him (103:2).

We should trust in God and praise His word (56:10).

We should always have hope and praise the Lord even more (71:14).

Because the steadfast love of the Lord is better than life, we should praise Him (63:3).

We should praise God because His love for us is great

and His faithfulness is everlasting (117:2).

We should praise God now and forevermore (41:13; 115:18).

From now and forevermore, the name of the Lord will be praised (113:2).

While we live, we will praise the Lord

and sing to our God all our lives (146:2; Ref.: 104:33).

We will boast in God all day long and give thanks
and praise to Him forever (44:8).

My God and King, I will exalt You
and praise Your name forever and ever (145:1).

Our God, we give thanks to You
and praise Your glorious name (1 Chronicles 29:13).

Our God, may You be praised forever (v. 10).

"Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name"

(Gospel Song "Praise the Lord, My Soul"; Ref.: Psalms 103:1, 22).

We do not focus on our love.

Hosea 6:4b from the Modern Korean Bible says:

"... your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears."

Our love is like the morning mist that appears briefly and then quickly vanishes.

Our love is never eternal.

Therefore, if we focus on love that is like the morning mist
while building relationships in marriage or with others,
we will inevitably be disappointed.

If we are loving our family and neighbors with temporary,
false love instead of God's eternal, authentic love,
such love will not stay in our hearts for long.

It will quickly vanish from our hearts like the early dew.

Therefore, we do not focus on this kind of love.

We do not focus on our lives.

James 4:14 from the Modern Korean Bible says:

“You do not even know what will happen tomorrow.

What is your life?

You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”

Since we are not just passing mist but valuable to God,

we do not worry about what we will eat or drink

or what we will wear for our bodies

(Matthew 6:25, 31).

The reason is that we trust that our heavenly Father knows

that we need all these things (v. 32).

Also, we believe Jesus’ words,

“Whoever wants to save their life will lose it,

but whoever loses their life for me will find it”

(Matthew 10:39; Ref.: 16:25).

Therefore, we do not focus on our lives.

We are those who are willing to lose our lives for Jesus and the gospel

(Mark 8:35).

We do not consider our lives precious at all in our endeavor

to complete the task we received from the Lord Jesus,

to testify to the good news of God’s grace

(Acts 20:24).

We must be honest people.

Joseph's ten brothers stood before Joseph, who was the prime minister of Egypt, and said, "We are all sons of one man. We are honest men" (Genesis 42:11).

But were they truly "honest men" as they claimed?

Of course, they were not spies, but that doesn't mean they were honest.

The reason is that about twenty years earlier,

when Joseph was seventeen years old, they had plotted to kill him,

threw him into a pit, and then sold him to Ishmaelite traders for twenty silver coins.

They also stained his coat with goat's blood and presented it to their father Jacob,

claiming that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal (Genesis 37:20, 28, 31-32).

They had faced a crisis of honesty within their own family.

Their father Jacob had deceived their grandfather Isaac,

and they themselves had deceived their father Jacob.

Clearly, they were not the honest men they claimed to be.

We must strive to be honest individuals.

In order to avoid sinning

We must send text messages, KakaoTalk messages, emails, or phone calls to each other in order to avoid sinning (Ref.: 1 John 2:1).

We are those who serve the Lord.

Even when Joseph was unjustly accused and imprisoned in Pharaoh's dungeon (Genesis 39:6-20), he paid attention to the chief cupbearer and the chief baker of the king, who were also prisoners (40:1-4). We are those who listen to the Lord, no matter what situation we are in. And just as we listen to the Lord, we should also listen to our neighbors.

We must submit to all civil institutions, rulers, and officials for the Lord's sake.

We must submit to all civil institutions, rulers, and officials for the Lord's sake. Here, officials are people sent by the ruler to punish bad workers and commend good workers (1 Peter 2:13-14).

We must persevere according to the Lord's commands.

We must persevere according to the Lord's commands. When we do that, the Lord will also protect us from suffering that will befall the whole world to test those who live on earth (Revelation 3:10).

We focus on the eternal authority of the Lord.

Daniel 4:34 says:

"At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High;

I honored and glorified him who lives forever.

His dominion is an eternal dominion;

his kingdom endures from generation to generation."

King Nebuchadnezzar, while walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, said,

"Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?" (v. 30).

Before he finished speaking, a voice from heaven proclaimed,

"King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken:

The kingdom has departed from you, and you will be driven away from human society and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox.

Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge

that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth

and gives them to anyone he wishes" (vv. 31-32).

The word spoken to King Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled,

and after seven years had passed, he looked up to heaven, and his sanity was restored.

Then he praised and worshipped the Most High,

the eternal and living God, in this way (Daniel 4:34):

"His dominion is an eternal dominion;

his kingdom endures from generation to generation" (v. 34).

In Daniel's vision, he saw that authority, glory, and a kingdom were given to the "son of man" by God, so that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away,

and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed (v. 14).

The authority of the Lord is an eternal authority.

This eternal authority is the authority given by God the Father

to His Son, Jesus Christ, to rule over all peoples.

Through this authority, the Lord gives eternal life to all whom the Father has given him (John 17:2).

Therefore, we pay attention to this eternal authority of the Lord.

We should be either cold or hot.

We should not be lukewarm.

If we are lukewarm, then the Lord will spit us out of His mouth.

We must be either cold or hot (Revelation 3:15-16).

We are happy people blessed by God!

The Bible refers to those who have obtained God's salvation as "blessed people" (Deuteronomy 33:29).

Even those who have not obtained God's salvation can clearly see that God is with us and say to us, "You are blessed by the Lord" (Genesis 26:28, 29).

We belong to God and have overcome the false prophets.

We belong to God and have overcome the false prophets.

The reason is because the Holy Spirit within us is more powerful than the devil in the world (1 John 4:4).

**We belong to God,
and the whole world is under the control of the devil.**

We who believe in Jesus Christ, the true God and eternal life, belong to God,
and the whole world is under the control of the devil.

We must guard ourselves from all kinds of idols
(1 John 5:19-21).

We must eagerly wait for God's Day to come quickly.

The day of the Lord will come like a thief.
On that day, the heavens will disappear with a roar,
the elements will be destroyed by fire,
and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.
Since everything will be destroyed in this way,
what kind of people ought we to be?
We ought to live holy and godly lives
as we look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.
That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire,
and the elements will melt in the heat.
But in keeping with his promise,
we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,
where righteousness dwells
(2 Peter 3:10-13).

We focus on God's eternal power.

Romans 1:20 in the Modern Korean Bible says:

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse."

From the time God created the world, his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen and understood from what he has made (Romans 1:20).

Therefore, we must proclaim this eternal power of God (Psalms 68:34).

Every generation should praise the works of the Lord and proclaim his mighty acts (Psalm 145:4).

God, who preserves all things by his powerful word, cleansed our sins with the blood of Jesus and sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven (Hebrews 1:3).

God has done these remarkable deeds to make all the nations living in the world aware of his great power and to make us serve our God with a fearful heart forever (Deuteronomy 4:24).

The Lord, who prays for us at the right hand of God, abundantly exceeds what we ask or think through the power that is at work within us (Ephesians 3:20).

We should pray to that Lord, saying,

"O God, your power is great, so be exalted.

We will sing and praise your great power" (Psalms 21:13).

That's because the Lord is mighty, and his power is great (89:13).

We are the people led out by the Lord's great power and strength (Deuteronomy 9:29).

We are all your servants, the people you rescued by your great power and might (Nehemiah 1:10).

And now we live by the truth of your word and your mighty power (2 Corinthians 6:7).

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen"

(Ephesians 3:20-21).

We focus on God's eternal plan in Christ Jesus the Lord.

Ephesians 3:11 in the Modern Korean Bible says:

"This was according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord."

This plan of God is referred to as a mystery plan (v. 3),

through which we come to understand God's mysterious plan by his revelation (v. 3).

Now, this plan has been revealed to the holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit (v. 5).

The mystery of this plan is that through the gospel the Gentiles

are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus (v. 6).

We have become workers who proclaim this gospel

by the power of God working within us, the gift of grace given to us by God (v. 7).

Therefore, we pay attention to the eternal plan

that God has established in Christ Jesus our Lord,

wishing that his plan, which has already been accomplished in heaven,

will also be fulfilled on earth (Matthew 6:10).

We focus on our eternal home in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:1 in the Modern Korean Bible says:

"For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed,
we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands."

God the Father has loved us and chosen us (Ephesians 1:4),
and by believing in Jesus Christ (2:8),

He has graciously given us the gift of eternal life
(Psalms 135:12; John 3:15-16).

This eternal gift is eternal life (Romans 6:23).

In other words, God, who has chosen us,
has granted us salvation in Christ Jesus with eternal glory (2 Timothy 2:10).

And the eternal God who has given us this eternal life (Romans 16:26)
leads us on the path of eternity (Psalms 139:24).

God loves us with an everlasting love
and leads us with unfailing kindness (Jeremiah 31:3).

God will richly provide us with entrance
into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:11).

When our earthly tent, our body, is destroyed, we will have a building from God,
an eternal house in heaven (2 Corinthians 5:1).

This is according to the eternal plan
that God has fulfilled in Christ Jesus our Lord (Ephesians 3:11).

In this way, the Lord has blessed us with eternal blessings
and rejoices with us, granting us endless joy (Psalms 21:6).

When we possess the eternal house in heaven,
there will be no more sorrow or sighing,
only eternal joy and gladness (Isaiah 35:10, 51:11).

At that time, God will be our everlasting light,
and our days of sorrow will come to an end
(Isaiah 60:20).

We are blessed people.

We are blessed people if we are insulted in the name of Christ because the Holy Spirit of God, the Spirit of glory, remains in us. (1 Peter 4:14).

We must have assurance.

We must have assurance that we have a good conscience and desire to live righteously in all things (Hebrews 13:18).

We esteemed Him not.

Joseph, who was sold to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver (Genesis 37:28), giving his younger brother Benjamin three hundred shekels of silver (45:22) is intriguing. If Joseph's brothers thought his value was only twenty shekels when they sold him to the Ishmaelites, the fact that Joseph gave Benjamin three hundred shekels of silver gives us a glimpse into the heart of a brother towards his sibling. However, our Lord Jesus, who was a disciple of Judas Iscariot, was sold to the chief priests and elders for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 27:3). This reflects the words in Isaiah 53:3b: "... we esteemed him not."

We too must be patient like Job and receive blessings from God.

We have heard about Job's patience and we know about the blessing that God eventually bestowed upon him.

Like Job, we also need to endure patiently in order to receive God's blessing (James 5:11).

The blessing that God gave to Job was not only greater than all his previous possessions, but in his later years, he received even more blessings than before, and he came to see the Lord with his own eyes, whom he had previously only heard with his ears (Job 42:5, 10, 12).

God makes us laugh too

God, who made Sarah laugh, makes us laugh too, and makes those who hear what God has done for us laugh with us (Ref.: Genesis 21:6).

If we taste the goodness of God ...

Joseph's brothers didn't just send a messenger to Joseph; they came themselves and fell before him, saying, "We are your slaves."

At that moment, he comforted them with earnest words:

"Do not be afraid. Can I take the place of God?

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children" (Genesis 50:18-21).

Since their father Jacob had died, Joseph's brothers were afraid that Joseph might hold a grudge and seek revenge against them.

To reassure them, Joseph said, "Do not be afraid ... So then, don't be afraid"

I'm reminded of Isaiah 41:10:

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Joseph didn't just passively forgive his brothers who had intended to harm him but actively cared for them and their children until he died at the age of 110 (Genesis 50:22, 26).

Joseph was able to do this because although his brothers had intended to harm him, God turned it into good, enabling Joseph to save many lives.

In other words, Joseph tasted God's goodness (Psalms 34:8)

and therefore not only forgave his brothers but also cared for them until his death.

Similarly, when we taste God's goodness,

we can forgive those who have harmed us and serve them with love.

God who enables us to do God's will

God provides us with every good thing
so that we can do his will and work in us
to do what is pleasing to him through Jesus Christ
(Hebrews 13:21).

He makes us afraid.

The more we are harassed and abused, the more God prospers us,
causing those who harass and abuse us to fear us
(Ref.: Exodus 1:12).

Those who hate us, envy us, and hate us even more ...

Those who hate us, envy us, and hate us even more
may plot to deceive us, even if they are family members
(Ref.: Genesis 37:4, 5, 8, 11, 18).

The fiery trial that comes to refine us.

We should rejoice in the fiery trials that come to refine us because they allow us to participate in the sufferings of Christ (1 Peter 4:12-13).

The God of Bethel who speaks to us and blesses us

God appears (presents) to us when we come up to the 'house of God' ("Bethel"), speaks to us, and blesses us. Among those blessings, if it is God's will, I hope that many pastors and missionaries will come from among my descendants (Ref.: Genesis 35:3, 9, 11, 15).

We must follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, who set us an example.

We must follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, who set an example for us by suffering for us. Like Jesus, we should not swear when we are insulted or threaten when we suffer. Rather, we must leave everything to God, who judges only righteously. (1 Peter 2:21-23).

The more we suffer in our lives ...

Shouldn't the more we suffer in our lives,
the more we prosper and become more powerful disciples of Jesus?
(Ref.: Exodus 1:7, 11-13)

God even uses our deceptions to fulfill his promises.

Jacob, who worked for seven years to marry Rachel,
eventually ended up marrying not only Rachel but also her sister Leah.
Additionally, he took their maidservants, Bilhah and Zilpah, as concubines,
and through these four women, he fathered children (Genesis 29:20-29, 30).
This was in accordance with the blessing from his father Isaac,
"May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful" (28:3),
and the promise from God to Jacob,
"Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth" (v. 14),
which God fulfilled in this manner.
God used even Laban, Jacob's uncle, deceiving him
to ultimately fulfill the blessing Isaac had prayed for Jacob's descendants.
The faithful God works through human fallibility
to accomplish the fulfillment of His promises.

The word of power that can save our souls.

When God implants in our hearts the word of power that can save our souls,
we must humbly receive His word.
And we must also rid ourselves of all filth and evil
(James 1:21).

Because our souls receive salvation through faith ...

Because our souls receive salvation through faith,
we love Jesus Christ, whom we have not seen,
and even though we do not see him now,
we believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy
(1 Peter 1:8-9).

Our righteous spirit will be tormented and we will inevitably suffer greatly.

Like righteous Lot, we also live among wicked people,
like those in Sodom and Gomorrah, who are lawless
and indulge in depraved behavior day after day.
When we see and hear their lawless deeds and immoral conduct,
our righteous souls are distressed and tormented by their lawlessness
(2 Peter 2:6-8).

God's guidance that we cannot understand with our intellect

Certainly, because God made a covenant with Abraham and gave him the word of promise, Abraham obeyed in faith and left his homeland, relatives, and household to go to the land God directed him to, Canaan.

There, he built an altar for God and worshipped Him.

However, a severe famine struck the land of Canaan (Genesis 12:1-10).

Why did God lead Abraham in this way?

Why did God, through the prophet Elijah, clearly state to King Ahab that there would be no rain for several years without the word of God, and then command Elijah to go to the brook Cherith where the water would certainly dry up (1 Kings 17:1-3)?

After some time, when no rain fell on the land, the brook dried up as well.

How did God lead Elijah to the widow of Zarephath, who was preparing to make the last meal for herself and her son? (vv. 7-12).

Isn't God's guidance beyond our understanding?

This reminds me of Proverbs 3:5-6:

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

Meetings at the well

When Abraham sought a bride for his only son Isaac,
he sent his oldest servant, who managed all his possessions, to his relatives in his homeland.

The old servant went to Mesopotamia and arrived at the city where Nahor lived.

There, by the well outside the city, he met Rebekah (Genesis 24:1-28).

Interestingly, Isaac's son Jacob, following his father's instructions,

went to the house of his maternal grandfather Bethuel

to marry one of the daughters of his uncle Laban (28:2).

Jacob also went to Laban in Mesopotamia (v. 5),

and there, at a well in the field, he met Rachel (29:1-9).

When I meditate on these words, I am reminded of the story in John Chapter 4
where Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:5-30).

The gospel song 'Like the Woman at the Well' comes to mind:

'Like the woman at the well, I sought for vain and vain things.

Then the Lord said: Come to my spring and drink the living water.

Many, many people have sought it.

Confessions of vain and vain things hidden in the Lord.

I cannot be compared to the things of this world.

Fill me, O Lord. I raise my cup high. Fill me with the bread of heaven.

Fill me to overflowing. Come back from there, my friend.

With the wide embrace of my Lord, my Lord,

you will welcome me and embrace me in that wide embrace.

Fill me, O Lord. "I lift my cup high,

fill me with heavenly bread, fill me to overflowing.'

We must cry and wail.

In the end times, rich people who hoard wealth, enjoy luxury and pleasure, and only satisfy their greed should weep and wail when they think of the misfortune to come (James 5:1-5).

If possible, don't talk inside the house.

When we are together inside the house, we might overhear our spouse's siblings speaking negatively about us. Similarly, they might hear our thoughts when we discuss what we overheard with our spouse. Therefore, it might be better not to speak about it inside the house. Instead, we should call our spouse outside to talk (Ref.: Genesis 31:1, 4).

They will be thrown into the lake of fire burning with sulfur.

The cowards, the unbelievers, the abominable, the murderers, the sexually immoral, the sorcerers, the idolaters and all liars will be thrown into the lake of fire with sulfur (Revelation 21:8).

They are carnal people and do not have the Holy Spirit.

In the last days,
there will be people who will mock you
and live after ungodly lusts.
These are carnal people
who are divided and do not have the Holy Spirit
(Jude 1:18-19).

Because we can stop sinning when we experience physical pain.

Although before we believed in Jesus,
we lived like the people of the world,
indulging in debauchery, lust, drunkenness,
orgies, carousing, and idolatry,
after coming to faith in Jesus,
we must not live the rest of our lives
for human desires but for the will of God.
To achieve this,
we may need to endure physical suffering
because when we experience physical suffering,
we can cease from sinning
(1 Peter 4:1-3).

People who live according to the lusts of the flesh and despise God's authority

People who live according to the lusts of the flesh and despise God's authority
find pleasure in reveling in broad daylight.
They are filthy people who deceive
and indulge in pleasure while sitting at the banquet with you.
Their eyes are full of adultery, constantly sinning.
They entice unstable souls, having hearts trained in greed.
They are accursed children.
They have left the straight path and gone astray,
loving the wages of wickedness,
and are rebuked for their wrongdoing.

We must overcome the lust of the flesh.

We are like strangers and strangers in this world.
Therefore, we must overcome the lusts of the flesh, which fight against the soul
(1 Peter 2:11).

These are children given by grace.

Children are a gift that God graciously gave us
(Genesis 33:5).

Do we completely believe in God who gives grace?

When his brother Esau offered to guide him, Jacob declined.
Even when Esau suggested leaving some of his men to help Jacob,
he replied, "There's no need for that, my lord. Your kindness is enough for me."
Although Esau warmly welcomed him,
it seems Jacob was still afraid of his brother
(Genesis 33:10-15).

Did Jacob, who knew of God's grace,
truly trust in the God who grants grace?
Do we, who have received the grace of salvation,
believe that if we confess our sins,
God, who is faithful and just, will warmly welcome us,
forgive our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness?
(1 John 1:9).

He gives grace.

God gives grace to those who fear Him
(Ref.: Exodus 1:20).

Blessed are we who suffer for righteousness' sake ...

We, who are blessed to suffer for righteousness,
should sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts and always be ready
to gently and respectfully give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope we have.
We must live with a clear conscience,
so that those who speak maliciously against our good behavior in Christ
may be ashamed of their slander
(1 Peter 3:14-16).

Anyone who prays to God in doubt ...

A person who doubts while praying to God amid trials of faith
is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.
Such a person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.
They are double-minded and unstable in all they do
(James 1:5-8).

When we meditate on these words, we as servants of the Lord ...

The oldest servant responsible for managing Abraham's household property, after pledging to carry out his master Abraham's instructions, put his hand under his master's thigh and swore to do as his master commanded.

He then loaded ten of his master's camels with various good things and set out for Mesopotamia to Nahor's city (Haran), Abraham's homeland.

The place he chose for seeking a wife for Isaac, Abraham's son, was by the well outside the city. Additionally, he chose the timing to be around evening, when the women came to draw water. Here is the content of the prayer he offered to God:

"Lord, the God of my master Abraham, make me successful today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. May it be that when I say to a young woman, 'Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too'— let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master" (Genesis 24:9-14).

"If she says, 'Drink, and I'll draw water for your camels too,' let her be the one the Lord has chosen for my master's son Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master." Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milkah, who was the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor.

The woman was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had ever slept with her.

She went down to the spring, filled her jar and came up again.

The servant hurried to meet her and said, "Please give me a little water from your jar."

"Drink, my lord," she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink.

After she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels too, until they have had enough to drink."

So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, ran back to the well to draw more water, and drew enough for all his camels.

Without saying a word, the man watched her closely

to learn whether or not the Lord had made his journey successful.

When the camels had finished drinking, the man took out a gold nose ring weighing a beka and two gold bracelets weighing ten shekels.

Then he asked, "Whose daughter are you?"

Please tell me, is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?"

She answered him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milkah, whom she bore to Nahor."

Then she said, "We have plenty of straw and fodder, as well as room for you to spend the night" (Genesis 24:14-25).

"I praise the Lord, the God of my master Abraham,

who has not abandoned his kindness and faithfulness to my master.

As for me, the Lord has led me on the journey to the house of my master's relatives."

In other words, he praised the God of Abraham

who led him straight to the house of his master's relatives to seek a bride for Isaac.

When meditating on this passage, as servants of the Lord, we learn the following lessons:

- (1) We must pledge obedience to the Lord's word.
- (2) We should pray for the ability to successfully accomplish the tasks entrusted to us by the Lord.
- (3) We must wisely carry out the Lord's work in His time and His way,
at the place and in the manner that He desires.
- (4) We should silently observe to see if the Lord's guidance is successful.
- (5) With faith and humility, we must worship the Lord,
acknowledging His guidance with confidence, and give glory to Him.

When Abram heard this promise, he believed in God.

When God promised Abram a great reward,
Abram questioned what good a reward would be
since he had no children and no one to inherit his property.
It seems that Abram desired children more than the reward from the Lord.
Knowing this, God took Abram outside and said,
"Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.
So shall your offspring be."
Upon hearing this promise, Abram believed in the Lord.
He did not doubt God's faithfulness but grew stronger in faith,
giving glory to God and being fully convinced
that God could fulfill what He had promised.
Therefore, because of his faith, God regarded him as righteous
(Genesis 15:1-6; Romans 4:20-22).

I hope we will imitate Jesus.

We must obey the Almighty God
and live blamelessly before Him (Genesis 17:1).
Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who knew no sin,
obeyed God unto death, even death on a cross
(2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:8).
May we aspire to emulate Jesus Christ.

**Anyone who participates in this first resurrection
is a blessed and holy person.**

Those who bore witness to Jesus and proclaimed the word of God
but were executed as martyrs, and those who did not worship beasts or their idols
and did not receive the mark of the beast on their foreheads or hands,
will come to life and reign with Christ for a thousand years.

This is the first resurrection.

Blessed and holy are those who share in this first resurrection
(Revelation 20:4-6).

This too is God's grace!

Unable to bid farewell with kisses to his grandchildren and daughters,
Laban, who had been deceived and chased after his son-in-law Jacob,
finally caught up with him.

In the end, Laban was able to kiss his grandchildren and daughters and bless them
(Genesis 31:20-23, 28, 55).

I also consider this as God's grace.

**With this, we can distinguish
between the spirit of truth and the spirit of lies.**

Those who belong to the world listen to the false prophets who speak the world's words.

But we, who know God, belong to God and listen to His words.

Through this, we can discern the spirit of truth from the spirit of falsehood

(1 John 4:5-6).

This is the fruit of our lips giving thanks to the name of Jesus.

Through the suffering and shame endured,
and by shedding His blood on the cross to sanctify us,
Jesus Christ has made it so that we should always offer to God the sacrifice of praise.
This is the fruit of our lips that confess gratitude to His name
(Hebrews 13:12-13, 15).

This is what the angels want to know too.

The salvation of your souls, which is the ultimate result of faith,
is what pastors who speak about the grace to be brought to you eagerly search and deeply investigate.
They strive to understand when and how the events they speak of,
concerning the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow, will occur,
as revealed by the Holy Spirit within them.
This ministry of pastors is not for their own benefit but for yours.
And the truth they study has been revealed to you
by the help of the Holy Spirit sent by God to proclaim the gospel.
Even angels long to look into these things
(1 Peter 1:9-12).

This is commendable.

When we suffer unfairly while doing good deeds,
we must think of God and endure our sorrow.
This is praiseworthy before God
(1 Peter 2:19-20).

This should be the basis for our choices.

Lot, who chose Sodom, was captured in the middle of a war and all his wealth was plundered (Genesis 14:12).

Rather than trying to protect our wealth, we must protect our faith.

This should be the basis for our choices.

What could this be but God's grace and blessing?

Father Abraham, knowing that his wife Sarah was indeed a beautiful woman, feared that the Egyptians would kill him if they saw her and desired her, so he instructed her to say that she was his sister (Genesis 12:11-12).

Similarly, Isaac, fearing that the Philistines might kill him for his wife Rebekah's beauty, also referred to her as his sister when asked about her (26:7).

It's amusing to think that both father and son were afraid of being killed because of their beautiful wives and thus couldn't bring themselves to call them wives but instead said they were sisters!

Nevertheless, it's remarkable that despite these circumstances, God blessed both Abraham and Isaac (12:16; 26:12-13).

Even though we may tell lies, the faithful and truthful God promised us blessings through Jesus Christ, so what can this be but the grace and blessing of God!

What else could this be but the grace bestowed by God!

When Jacob heard the news that his brother Esau was coming to meet him with a group of about 400 people, he was greatly afraid and distressed (Genesis 32:6-7). However, when Esau warmly greeted him, Jacob said, "To see your face is like seeing the face of God" (33:10). Although Jacob had prepared to flee, thinking Esau was coming to kill him (32:8), the warm reception and offer of guidance from his brother must have been nothing but the grace of God bestowed upon Jacob (33:11-12).

Does this make sense?

Does it make sense that you have to pay a price to sleep with your husband?
(Genesis 30:16)

We must not become these people.

We must not be people who complain, live according to their own desires, boast about themselves, and flatter others when it is advantageous
(Jude 1:16).

Patience is needed in times like these.

Saints who keep God's commandments and faithfully believe in Jesus need patience in times like these (Revelation 14:12).

We must not imitate these evil practices.

People like Diotrephes, who love to be first in the church, do not hesitate to slander God's servants with evil words. Not only that, but they also refuse to welcome missionaries. They even stop those who want to do so and expel them from the church. We should not imitate such evil deeds (3 John 1:9-11).

This type of sacrifice pleases God.

Not only should we remember to entertain guests, but we should also remember to do good and share with others. These sacrifices are pleasing to God (Hebrews 13:2, 16).

Isaac didn't know, but Jesus did.

Carrying the wood for the burnt offering with his father Abraham,
Isaac did not know that he himself would be offered as the sacrifice, not an innocent lamb.
So he asked his father Abraham, "The fire and wood are here,
but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"
And Abraham replied to his beloved son Isaac,
"God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son"
(Genesis 22:6-9).

However, Jesus, who went out carrying the cross to a place called Golgotha
(which in Aramaic is called Golgotha), knew that he himself would be crucified
on the cursed tree as the Lamb of God, bearing the sins of the world
(John 19:17; John 1:29).

He knew that he would die on the cross, the cursed tree
(Deuteronomy 21:23; Galatians 3:13), as the sacrificial lamb for our sins
(1 John 2:2).

They lose their reason, defile their bodies, and ignore authority ...

Those who secretly slip in among us are godless individuals
who misuse the grace of our God to indulge in a life of sensuality.
They deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.
These people are like brute beasts, irrational creatures, defiling themselves,
disregarding authority, and blaspheming the glorious beings of heaven
(Jude 1:4, 8).

We must store up during times of abundance in our lives, and be frugal during times of scarcity in our lives.

In other countries, famine struck, causing starvation,
but throughout Egypt, there was an abundance of food.
The reason was that Joseph, filled with the Spirit of God, was wise and discerning.
During the seven years of plenty, he stored vast quantities of grain,
so much so that it was impossible to measure the amount.
When the years of famine came, Egypt had more than enough food to sustain itself
(Genesis 41:38-39, 47-49).
In times of abundance in life, it's important not to waste but to store up,
and in times of scarcity, it's crucial to be frugal.

We must remember when we intentionally try to forget.

In these last days, when those who live according to their lusts
willfully try to forget what is written in the Word of God,
we must remember what the Lord has commanded us (2 Peter 3:2, 3, 5).

The price of work

Jacob worked for his uncle Laban's household for about a month without receiving any wages.
So, Laban said to his nephew, "Just because you are my relative, should you work for me for nothing?
Tell me what your wages should be." Jacob loved Rachel, Laban's younger daughter,
who was beautiful and had a gentle nature, so he answered,
"I will work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel as my wife."
Jacob worked for Rachel's hand in marriage for seven years,
but because he loved her, the time seemed like only a few days to him (Genesis 29:14-20).
It's clear that even among relatives, what must be done should be done clearly.
Jacob chose the person he loved over material compensation for his work.

‘If I lose, I will lose.’

When famine became even more severe in the land of Canaan and the food brought from Egypt was all gone, Jacob, along with his other sons, sent Benjamin to Egypt" (Genesis 43:1-2, 13).

As he sent them off, Jacob said, "May the Almighty God grant you mercy before that man, so that he will let your other brother and Benjamin return to you.

As for me, if I am bereaved, I am bereaved" (v. 14).

Considering Jacob, who already thought he had lost Joseph, his beloved son, and now sending Benjamin, the son of his other beloved wife Rachel, to Egypt with the attitude of "If I lose, I will lose," it reminds me of what Esther said, "If I perish, I perish" (Esther 4:16).

However, when our Heavenly Father sent His beloved and joyful Son, Jesus Christ, into this sinful world,

it wasn't with the attitude of "If lost, then let it be lost" or "If I perish, I perish."

Instead, He actually sent Him to be lost and to die on the cross.

The purpose was to save us (1 John 4:9), who were spiritually dead because of disobedience and sin (Ephesians 2:1).

It's the words of Jesus:

"For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it"

(Matthew 16:25).

A person who is deceiving himself?

A person who hears God's word but does not practice it is deceiving himself (James 1:22-23).

When it comes to marriage, we must pray with faith, speak with faith, and act with faith.

Abraham, in seeking a wife for his son Isaac, instructed his oldest servant, who managed all his household affairs, saying, 'Go to my homeland and to my relatives, and find a wife there for my son Isaac.

The LORD, the God of heaven, will send his angel ahead of you to help you in this mission' (Genesis 24:1, 4, 7).

Indeed, even in matters of children's marriages, we should pray, speak, and act in faith.

We should keep pace with our children.

Parents should keep pace with their children and lead them slowly (see Genesis 33:14).

About our children's marriage ...

Abraham instructed his oldest servant, who managed all his household affairs, not to let his son Isaac marry a Canaanite woman (Genesis 24:2-3).

Likewise, Isaac told his younger son Jacob, "Do not marry a Canaanite woman" (28:1).

While it's important whom our children marry, it's equally important whom they should not marry.

False teachers trying to satisfy their own greed

False teachers among us will exploit us
with deceptive words to satisfy their own desires.
Many will follow their depraved conduct,
and because of them, the way of truth will be maligned
(2 Peter 2:1-3).

The reason we think we have not committed a sin and that we are not guilty is ...

The reason someone may think they have not sinned
and furthermore believe there is no sin is
that although they intellectually know God's word and truth,
they do not have them in their hearts
(1 John 1:8, 10).

We should not blindly trust people who call themselves “pastors.”

We should not blindly trust people who call themselves “pastors.”
We must test them and find out their lies
(Revelation 2:2).

Goodbye

Even if we want to say goodbye, we may not always be able to
(Ref.: Genesis 31:28).

The elders should take care of the flock that God has entrusted to them.

The elders should take care of the flock that God has entrusted to them
with sincerity, joy, and a willing heart, according to God's will.
They should not do it simply for a salary, nor should they try to dominate them.
Instead, they should be examples to the flock.
Then, when the Chief Shepherd, Christ, appears,
they will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away
(1 Peter 5:2-4).

Even through disaster

We must repent of what we have done, even through disasters
(Revelation 9:20).

Almighty God blesses us too ...

Isaac, the father, blessed his younger son Jacob, saying,
"May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful
and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples.
May he give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham,
so that you may take possession of the land where you now reside as a foreigner,
the land God gave to Abraham" (Genesis 28:3-4).
In accordance with this blessing, God Almighty blessed Jacob,
making his descendants numerous.
Jacob became the ancestor of the twelve tribes and the nation of Israel.
God gave Jacob and his descendants the blessing promised to Abraham,
allowing them to possess the land of Canaan given to Abraham.
May God Almighty also bless us, making our descendants numerous
and making us ancestors of faith like Abraham.
May He grant us and our descendants the blessings promised to our forebears in faith,
so that we may fully enjoy these blessings.

Weren't they held captive like prisoners of war?

Rachel and Leah said to their husband Jacob
that their father Laban treated them like foreigners.
Meanwhile, Laban said to his son-in-law Jacob,
"Why did you deceive me and carry off my daughters like captives in war?"
(Genesis 31:15, 26).
But wasn't Laban actually treating Jacob like a war captive?
He deceived Jacob, who had worked with all his might for him,
and changed his wages ten times (vv. 6-7).

The best thing to do is to treat and send them sincerely.

Gaius does well by showing love and faithfully caring for the itinerant preachers, sending them off in a manner worthy of God.

We should also show love and faithfully care for itinerant preachers, sending them off in a manner worthy of God.

(3 John 1:5-6).

Even after I leave this world ...

I believe it is right to remind all of you of the word of truth as long as I live, so that even after I have left this world, my beloved family, church members, and all of you will be reminded of God's word at any time.

(Ref.: 2 Peter 1:12-15).

The most painful and difficult time to be deceived?

Jacob, who had deceived his father Isaac and his brother Esau (Genesis 27), was deceived many times by his uncle Laban (Ch. 31).

However, the most distressing and painful deception he suffered was probably being deceived by Joseph's brothers, who brought Joseph's robe dipped in goat's blood, making Jacob believe that his beloved son Joseph had been killed (37:3, 31-34).

Sufficient grace, unbearable grace!

God's sufficient grace is more than we can bear in the slightest
(Genesis 32:10; 2 Corinthians 12:9).

By forcefully interpreting eschatology, we are bringing about our own destruction.

Ignorant and weak-minded people distort the teachings of eschatology,
just as they do with other Scriptures, to their own destruction.
Knowing this, we must always be careful and steadfast in our faith
to avoid being led astray by the deceit of wicked people
(2 Peter 3:16-17).

They even frame innocent people and kill them.

The wealthy people who hoard riches to indulge in luxury and pleasure
even go so far as to frame innocent people and kill them who do not resist them.
(James 5:1-6).

What if we say we are without sin? What if we say we have not sin?

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we claim we have not sinned, we make God out to be a liar and His word is not in us

(1 John 1:8, 10).

Even though sin wants to rule over us ...

If we do not do good, sin will lurk and sit at the door of our hearts.

Even though sin wants to rule over us, we must overcome it

(Genesis 4:7).

Jesus, who had no sin ...

Jesus, who had no sin at all, came to this world to take away all our sins,

took on all our sins, and died on the cross, so that we were forgiven of our sins

(1 John 2:12, 3:5; Ephesians 1:7).

If we cannot overcome sin and are ruled by it ...

Cain, by not doing what was right, allowed sin to crouch at his door,
and eventually, he was overpowered by it.

As a result, he belonged to the devil
and took his brother Abel out into the field and killed him.

Why did he kill his brother?

Because his own actions were evil,
while his brother's actions were righteous.

When one cannot overcome sin and is ruled by it,
they end up hating their brother and committing murder.

(Genesis 4:7-8; 1 John 3:12, 15).

In order to lead us, sinners, to God ...

In order to lead us, sinners, to God,
Christ, who had no sin, physically died on the cross for us, sinners
(1 Peter 3:18).

Doing well in the sight of the Lord

Doing well in the eyes of the Lord means hating what the Lord hates
(Revelation 2:6).

The fellowship of brothers and sisters in the Lord ...

The fellowship of brothers and sisters in the Lord
is a fellowship that we share while living in the light,
just as God is in the light
(1 John 1:7).

We will be victorious with the Lord.

The true saints who have been called and chosen
will be victorious with the Lord, the Lord of lords and the King of kings
(Revelation 17:14).

We must be rebuked by the Lord and repent.

If there are people who do not hate the actions of the Nicolaitans, whom God hates, but rather follow their teachings, they must be rebuked by the Lord and repent (Revelation 2:6, 15-16).

[Note: The term refers to a faction within the Church founded by Nicolaus, one of the seven deacons elected in the early Church of Jerusalem.

Nicolaus is said to have formed a faction with those who followed his new doctrine, and they have been referred to as the 'Nicolaitans' from the earliest days of the Church.

Nicolaus is known for advocating the doctrine that separates the soul from the body in matters of salvation, asserting that physical sins have no effect on salvation.

It is claimed that those who have received spiritual salvation through Christ are not excluded from salvation even if they sin physically.

Such new doctrine would have gained great popularity among those who had not yet repented or among some of the Buggamos who had not fully departed from the practices of pagan religions.

This doctrine is a heretical teaching, lurking in the deceptive temptations of Satan.

It claims that even if a saved person commits adultery or worships idols, it cannot separate that person from salvation.

It also asserts that even among the Gentiles, those who continue in immorality or idolatry can still believe in Jesus and obtain salvation.

This is undoubtedly a temptation from Satan, leading God's people into the path of sin, much like the teachings of Balaam.

This heretical teaching of the Nicolaitans has infiltrated the Buggamos church, tempting its members, and many have emerged who adhere to the teachings of the Nicolaitans. (Internet)].

We will be rebuked by the Lord.

If we tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and fall for the lure of her teachings and commit sexual immorality and eat food sacrificed to idols, we will be rebuked by the Lord (Revelation 2:20).

Christians who know what the Lord has planned ...

Christians who know what the Lord has planned understand that it is not up to them to decide this way or that. They simply act according to the word of God. (Ref.: Genesis 24:50-51).

The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid.

We should confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?” (Hebrews 13:6)

When the Lord comes with countless saints and judges ...

When the Lord comes with countless holy ones to judge,
he will expose all the ungodly deeds that ungodly people have done in their ungodliness,
and all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him
(Jude 1:14-15).

The Lord gives victory to those who have faith ...

The Lord will allow those who are victorious in faith
to eat the fruit of the tree of life in God's paradise
(Revelation 2:7).

He will help us know that the Lord loves us.

The Lord will cause those in Satan's lying group
to bow down at our feet and know that the Lord loves us
(Revelation 3:9).

The Lord turns our sorrow into joy!

Because Joseph spoke to his brothers through an interpreter
when he was the prime minister of Egypt,
his brothers didn't realize that Joseph could understand
what they were saying to each other.

They said to one another, "We are being punished for what we did to our brother.
We saw his deep distress when he pleaded with us for his life, but we wouldn't listen.
That's why we're in this trouble now."

Reuben, the oldest brother, said to them, "Didn't I tell you not to harm the boy?
But you wouldn't listen. Now we must pay the price for his murder."

Joseph, after hearing these words, left them for a while and wept.

Then he came back to them.

Later, when they returned to Egypt with their youngest brother Benjamin,
Joseph saw him and was deeply moved.

He hurried out and looked for a place to weep.

He went into his private room and wept there.

Later, when Joseph heard his brother Judah's words,
he could no longer control his emotions in front of his attendants.

He cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!"

So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers.

And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him,
and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh's palace. It's a world filled with sorrow.

However, we look to Jesus in faith, who bore our sorrows for us
(Isaiah 53:4).

When we do, the Lord will turn our sorrow into joy,

remove our garments of sorrow,
and clothe us with garments of joy

(Psalms 30:11).

The Lord will come like a thief.

The Lord will come like a thief.

Blessed is he who watches and guards his clothes,
so that he does not walk naked or show shame

(Revelation 16:15).

The Lord examines even the deepest thoughts of people.

We must know that the Lord searches even the deepest thoughts of people

(Revelation 2:23). Therefore, we should not take lightly committing sins with our thoughts.

The Lord knows all of Satan's deepest secrets.

The Lord not only searches the deepest thoughts of people,

but also knows the deepest secrets of Satan

(Revelation 2:23-24).

The Lord will come soon.

The Lord will come soon.

Therefore, we must keep the words of prophecy in this book.

We must continue to do what is right and live holy lives.

The Lord is coming soon and will repay each person according to what they have done.

(Revelation 22:7, 11-12, 20).

The Lord knows.

The Lord knows our works, our love, our faith, our service, our perseverance,

and He knows that we are doing more now than we did at the beginning

(Revelation 2:19).

The Lord is patient for a long time.

It is not that the Lord's second coming is delayed, but that the Lord is patient.

The reason is because the Lord does not want anyone to perish,

but for everyone to repent and be saved

(2 Peter 3:9, 15).

The Lord gives us the opportunity to repent.

The Lord gives us the opportunity to repent.
However, if we do not try to repent of our fornication,
the Lord will throw us on a sickbed and cause us great suffering
(Revelation 2:21-22).

Blessed are those who die believing in the Lord.

Blessed are those who die believing in the Lord.
They will rest from their painful toil,
and their works will follow them
(Revelation 14:13).

Suffering for the Lord is ...

Suffering for the Lord is a true grace of God
(1 Peter 5:12; cf. Philippians 1:29).

Missionaries who go on missionary trips for the Lord

We must help missionaries who go on missionary trips for the Lord who do not receive any help from people in the world. Then we will be workers together with them for the truth (3 John 1:7-8).

The day of the Lord will come suddenly like a thief.

Even though scoffers will mock us, saying, "Where is this 'coming' he promised?" we must not forget that with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day, the heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. (2 Peter 3:3-4, 8-10).

The word of the Lord exists forever.

We were born again through the eternally living Word of God. Although all humans are like grass and their glory is like the flowers of the field, the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever (1 Peter 1:23-25).

The Lord's judgment is truly fair.

Holy and Almighty Lord, who was and is, your judgment is truly fair.

The Lord paid blood to those who killed the saints and prophets, and this is their due price (Revelation 16:5-7).

Is it time to hear the voice of the Lord, time to leave, or time to return?

When Laban's sons claimed that Jacob had taken away all their father's wealth and left, and when Jacob realized that Laban's attitude toward him was not what it had been before, God said to Jacob, "Go back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you" (Genesis 31:1-3).

In relationships with loved ones, changes in attitude and words may occur, perhaps when it's time to leave them or return to where you were before.

It may be precisely at that moment that you hear the voice of the Lord and realize it's time to obey His word.

The day of the Lord's coming is near.

Just as a farmer patiently waits for the precious fruit, enduring the autumn and spring rains, we too must patiently endure and stand firm in our hearts until the Lord comes again.

The coming of the Lord is near (James 5:7-10).

The plan to kill him gradually ...?

In their desire to see how Joseph's dreams would turn out, his brothers plotted to kill him when they saw him from afar, but eventually, at Reuben's urging, they decided not to kill Joseph and instead threw him into a pit.

Later, following Judah's suggestion, when Reuben was not present, they sold Joseph to the Ishmaelite traders.

These traders took Joseph to Egypt
(Genesis 37:18-28).

When thinking about Joseph, who was almost killed, then thrown into a pit, and finally sold to traders who took him to Egypt, one can see how his brothers' initial plan to kill him gradually weakened, eventually leading to him not being killed but instead going to Egypt.

However, I think of Jesus, who truly became like Joseph.

His own people, the Jews, gradually strengthened their plan to kill him until he was ultimately crucified on the cross.

The saints whose names are written in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain ...

Even though they speak arrogant words and blaspheme God's name, his dwelling place, and those who live in heaven, the saints whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life, the slain Lamb, must endure with faith
(Revelation 13:5-6, 8, 10).

Is it God's will for us to lie in order to live and not die?

When Abraham (Abram) went down to Egypt to live there because of the famine, as he approached Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai (Sarah),

"You are indeed a beautiful woman. When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but let you live.

Please say that you are my sister, so that it may go well with me because of you, and that I may live on account of you."

Was this God's will? (Genesis 12:10-13)

When Abraham lived in Gerar, he called his wife Sarah his sister, and Sarah also told Abimelech, the king of Gerar, that Abraham was her brother.

Was this also God's will? (20:1-5)

When Isaac, the son of Abraham, lived in Gerar, the people there, fearing that Rebekah his wife was beautiful and that they might kill him because of her, asked him about his wife.

He said she was his sister, thinking,

"I may die because of her." Was this God's will? (26:6-7)

Is it God's will to lie in order to live in the face of the fear of death?

The test we are facing now ...

The trial we are currently facing is a test of our faith, and this trial produces endurance.

If we endure until the end, knowing that endurance makes us complete and mature, lacking nothing, then we can consider the trial as a source of joy

(James 1:2-4).

We must keep it and follow it faithfully.

We must keep God's commandments and faithfully follow Jesus' testimony
(Revelation 12:).

A wise and intelligent person ...

A wise and intelligent person shows his wisdom and intelligence
through a good life and acts of wise humility
(James 3:1).

How to earn trust from people in the workplace?

The way we, as Christians, earn trust from people in the workplace
is by having God with us, making everything we do successful
(Ref.: Genesis 39:3-4).

All who know the truth truly love one another.

All who know the truth truly love one another
because the truth is within us and will be with us forever
(2 John 1:1-2).

For us who live in truth and love

We pray that God the Father and Jesus Christ
will give us grace, mercy, and peace as we live in truth and love
(2 John 1:3)

Because of our untruthful and dishonest Christians ...

Isaac, who believed in God, lied to Abimelech, the king of the Philistines,
saying that his wife Rebekah was his sister.
Because of this lie, Abimelech said to Isaac,
"One of my people might have slept with your wife,
and you would have brought guilt upon us"
(Genesis 26:9-10).

Reflecting on this passage, we Christians who believe in Jesus
sometimes act dishonestly and untruthfully,
causing those who do not believe in Jesus to be deceived.
In doing so, we not only sin ourselves but also lead others to sin.

Sincere heart and honest conversation

In order to silently carry out the work the Lord has entrusted to us,
we must love each other with a sincere heart and have honest conversations with each other
(Ref.: Genesis 24:49).

We must be truthful.

We must be truthful.
And we must be able to prove our sincerity
(Ref.: Genesis 42:15).

If we truly trust ...

If we truly trust someone,
we must leave everything to them
(Ref.: Genesis 39:4).

Jealousy and hatred seem to be the equivalent of murdering the other person in one's mind.

When thinking about Cain, who killed his brother Abel out of murderous jealousy (Genesis 4:8; 1 John 3:12), and Esau, who resolved to kill his brother Jacob out of murderous hatred (Genesis 27:41), we are reminded of King Saul, who sought to kill David out of murderous jealousy (1 Samuel 18:9). In this way, jealousy and hatred seem equivalent to having already murdered someone in one's heart (Ref.: Matthew 5:28, 15:19; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 John 3:15).

People who receive the mark of the beast and worship idols ...

People who receive the mark of the beast and worship idols will suffer plagues that burn with fire. Despite enduring unbearable pain, they will not repent or glorify God; instead, they will blaspheme His name even as they gnash their teeth in agony (Revelation 16:2, 8-11).

Truly foolish.

Why didn't Laban, who called Jacob truly foolish for deceiving him and fleeing without a word, realize that his own actions of deceiving Jacob, who had worked diligently for him using all his strength, and changing his wages ten times were truly foolish as well? (Genesis 31:6-7, 20, 26-28). It's truly foolish to criticize someone else's actions as foolish while remaining unaware of one's own foolishness.

Heavenly community

The heavenly community is maintained
by striving to uphold the unity of the Spirit,
where brothers and sisters, loving God
with all their heart, soul, and mind,
and loving their neighbors as themselves
according to Jesus' twofold commandment,
share true fellowship in one accord within the Lord
(Matthew 22:37, 39; Acts 2:42-47;
1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:3).

Tree frog Christian?

The Bible says, "Let no one be quick to listen, speak slowly, and do not get angry rashly."
Could it be that we are slow to listen, quick to speak, and irritable?
(James 1:19)

Pay enough price!

Although the Hittites suggested to Abraham,
who was seeking a burial site for his deceased wife,

"Choose the best tomb in our cemetery to bury your wife.

Among us, there is no one who would withhold their tomb from you
when you intend to bury your deceased wife,"

Abraham insisted on purchasing the cave of Machpelah from Ephron the Hittite,
paying a fair price, to establish it as a burial site for his family.

Ephron, however, initially offered to give Abraham the cave and field as a gift,
but Abraham insisted on paying the full price.

Ephron then quoted the price as 400 shekels of silver,
but Abraham agreed and paid the amount.

Thus, in the presence of the Hittites, Abraham purchased the field and the cave of Machpelah,
along with all the surrounding trees, from Ephron, making it his possession.

And then Abraham buried his wife Sarah in the cave of Machpelah
in the field facing Mamre in the land of Canaan.

When contemplating this passage, David came to mind.

The reason is that even though Ornan offered David his threshing floor,
saying, "Take it, my lord the king, and do with it whatever you wish.

I will even give you the oxen for the burnt offerings," David insisted,

"No, I insist on paying the full price. I will not take for the Lord what is yours,
or sacrifice a burnt offering that costs me nothing."

Afterward, he paid Ornan the full price of the threshing floor in gold, about seven kilograms.

When thinking about these two figures, Abraham and David,

we as Christians learn the lesson that even when something could be obtained for free,
we should still be willing to pay the full price.

Those who have suffered greatly and have washed their robes white in the blood of the Lamb ...

Those who have suffered greatly and have washed their robes white
in the blood of the Lamb will be before the throne of God
and serve the Lamb in the temple day and night (Revelation 7:14-15).

Those who fear God, who preserves life through great salvation

Egyptian king Pharaoh had a dream, and as Joseph interpreted through him,
after seven years of abundance, famine struck for seven years, causing starvation in other countries.
Consequently, people from other nations flocked to Egypt
to buy grain from Joseph, who was the prime minister of Egypt.
At that time, when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he told his ten sons,
"Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die of starvation."
Joseph recognized his brothers as spies when they came to buy grain.
Though they claimed to have come for grain, Joseph tested their honesty by ultimately saying,
"One of your brothers must stay here in prison while the rest of you go
and take grain back to your starving households. But bring your youngest brother to me
so I will know that you are honest men and not spies.
Then I will give your brother back to you, and you can trade in the land."
The reason is that Joseph, being a God-fearing man,
desired to preserve not only the lives of his brothers who had come to Egypt
but also the lives of their father Jacob and all their relatives in the land of Canaan.
Thus, Joseph, who feared God, was instrumental in preserving the lives of his father Jacob,
his ten brothers, his younger brother Benjamin, and all their families.
Later, when his brothers came down to Egypt a second time with Benjamin,
Joseph said to them, "God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth
and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God."
Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who is eternal life, was sent by God the Father
to a land like Egypt and preserved our lives with great salvation, giving us eternal life.

Special love, special revelation

Joseph, who received special love from his father Jacob and was adorned with a colorful robe given to him by his father (Genesis 37:3), also showed special favor to his younger brother Benjamin by giving him five times as much food as his other brothers (43:34). Reflecting on this, I was reminded of the special revelation of God's special grace for the Savior revealed through His Word, the Bible, and realized through the Holy Spirit (Internet).

Special love, special being

Jacob, who received special love from his mother Rebekah (Genesis 25:28), showed special love for Rachel over Leah (29:18), and also loved Joseph, Rachel's son and his child of old age, more than his other sons (37:3). Just as God the Father has chosen us out of many people in the world (Deuteronomy 10:15), He chose us in Christ before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1:4). Thus, we are special beings who receive God's special love.

We can be hated especially when we are loved.

Joseph, who received special love from his father Jacob, was hated by his brothers. As a result of God causing Joseph to dream, his brothers hated him even more (Genesis 37:3-5, 8).

We, who receive special love from our earthly father as well as our heavenly Father in heaven, can even be hated by our brothers.

Abundance?

Abundance can lead to strife
(Genesis 13:6-8).

Anyone who has love for God the Father ...

Those who have love for God the Father
do not love the world but do God's will
(1 John 2:16-17).

There is only one Lawgiver and Judge ...

There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy.
But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?
(James 4:11-12)

When we come to know God and our Lord Jesus ...

When we come to know God and our Lord Jesus,
who called us by His own glory and goodness,
Christ, through His divine power, has given us
everything we need for life and godliness
(2 Peter 1:2-3).

As we humbly worship God, are we inwardly distrusting His promises?

Abraham, who received God's promise, fell facedown,
but he laughed to himself and thought,
"Can a man be born when he is a hundred years old?
Can Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"
Then he said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"
(Genesis 17:17-18).

Are we also, after receiving God's promise, humbly
worshipping Him while inwardly doubting His promise?

What is the purpose of being chosen by God?

God chose Abraham so that he would direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord would bring about for Abraham what he had promised him (Genesis 18:19).

As those chosen by God, we must guide our children and descendants to do what is right and just, and to live godly lives.

If God blocks it, that power cannot be exercised.

No matter how much the other party (in this case, family) may have the power to harm us, if God blocks it, that power cannot be exercised (Genesis 31:7, 29).

We can do all things through Christ who gives us strength (Philippians 4:13).

God fills us with the Holy Spirit

May God fill us with the Holy Spirit and grant us wisdom and understanding so that we may act wisely in all things.

May He elevate us in the eyes of the world and use us as instruments to fulfill His purpose of salvation

(Ref.: Genesis 41:38-40; 1 Samuel 15:14-15; 18:5, 30; Daniel 6:3).

God will bless for us.

Just as God blessed the house of Potiphar for Joseph,
we hope that God will bless the house of the superior we serve for us
(Genesis 39:5).

Because of the dream God gave us ...

Because of the dreams God has given us,
those who are envious and hateful towards us—
even if they are family members—
may deceive us and plot against us,
wanting to see what will become of our dreams
(Ref.: Genesis 37:18-20).

I pray that God will be with us as well, working so that we can successfully accomplish everything we do.

Just as Potiphar trusted Joseph and put him in charge
of all his household and possessions without any concern (Genesis 39:4, 6),
the prison warden also entrusted Joseph with all the prisoners
and did not interfere with anything under Joseph's responsibility.
This was because the Lord was with Joseph,
enabling him to succeed in everything he did (vv. 22-23).
I pray that God will be with us as well, working
so that we can successfully accomplish everything we do.

May God bless our relatives wherever we go.

Jacob, who had worked for his uncle Laban, wanted to leave with the wives and children he had gained as wages and return to his homeland.

He desired to establish his own household.

At that time, Laban, wishing to keep his nephew Jacob from leaving, said, "Name your wages, and I will pay them."

The reason was that Laban had little property before Jacob came, but now, thanks to God blessing him because of Jacob, his wealth had greatly increased.

God had blessed Laban wherever Jacob set foot, and Laban was well aware of this fact

(Genesis 30:25-30).

I pray that God will bless our relatives wherever we go.

Because God so loved us ...

The God of love loves us and saved us
by sending his only begotten Son into this world
as a propitiation to atone for our sins.

Since God so loved us,
we also ought to love one another
(1 John 4:8-11).

Just as God instructed (command) ...

Abraham, who received the word of God's covenant, obeyed by faith, setting out for the land that God had promised to give him, even though he did not know where he was going.

He left his homeland, his relatives, and his father's house and journeyed to Haran, following God's command

(Genesis 12:1-5; Hebrews 11:8).

God is watching everything.

God sees that the earth is full of man's wickedness

and that the thoughts in his heart are always evil

(Genesis 6:5).

God save us from that fearful situation ...

Because Simeon and Levi, Jacob's two sons, killed all the men of Shechem, including Shechem himself and his father Hamor, due to their rape of their sister, Jacob said to his sons, "You have brought trouble on me by making me obnoxious to the Canaanites and Perizzites, the people living in this land. We are few in number, and if they join forces against us and attack me, I and my household will be destroyed."

However, God made the surrounding towns afraid of them, so no one pursued them (Genesis 34:25; 35:5). God knows when we are in a difficult situation (34:25), and He also knows what makes us afraid (Psalms 139:1-4).

Therefore, God rescues us from that fearful situation and makes the people we are afraid of fear us so that they do not harm us.

**Even though God has already forgiven us
and poured out abundant blessings upon us with love ...**

Joseph probably not only filled his brothers' sacks with grain with a heart already forgiving and loving them

but also placed each person's money back into their sacks.

Later, when they discovered their money returned to them, they trembled with fear, looking at each other and lamenting,

"Why has God done this to us?"

(Genesis 42:25-28).

Even though God has already forgiven us

and poured out abundant blessings with love,

could it be that we, like Joseph's brothers, tremble in fear and question,

"Why has God done this to us?" (v. 28).

**God knows how to keep the wicked punished
until the day of judgment.**

God knows how to keep the wicked

under punishment until the day of judgment,

especially those who indulge in the lusts of the flesh and despise authority.

They will receive even greater punishment

(2 Peter 2:9-10).

God did not forgive.

God did not forgive the sinful angels and the ungodly people of the old world, the days of Noah, and the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (2 Peter 2:4-6).

God exposes our sins.

God exposes our sins.

How can we plead our innocence and prove our righteousness?

(Genesis 44:16)

It is only through the bloodshed of God's Son, Jesus Christ, that we have obtained freedom and forgiveness of sins

(Colossians 1:14).

God is the first and the last and the Almighty.

The God who is, who was, and who will come is the first and the last and the Almighty

(Revelation 1:4, 8).

God saves us in His own perfect timing, through His amazing ways!

Having received hatred and jealousy from his brothers (Genesis 37:4-5, 8, 11),

Joseph, who was sold into Egypt by his brothers, said,

"God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance" (45:4-5).

So, he attributed his being sent to Egypt not to his brothers, but to God.

Reflecting on this:

- (1) Even though his brothers hated and envied him,
- (2) Even though they sold him to the Ishmaelite traders for money (37:28),
- (3) God sent Joseph to Egypt ahead of them by about 22 years
[becoming prime minister of Egypt at 30 years old (41:46) + 7 years of plenty (29)
+ 2 years of famine (45:6) = 39 years - 17 years (37:2) = 22 years],
- (4) God did so to save them and their descendants, saying,
"to preserve a remnant for you and to save your lives" (45:5).

It's not only God's amazing ways but also His timing that is intriguing.

Why did God prompt Joseph to reveal himself to his brothers after about 22 years and to explain the purpose for which God had sent him ahead of them to Egypt?

Perhaps the reason was not only because the famine in the land of Canaan had become even more severe, and their food supply from Egypt had run out (43:1-2), so unless they went back to Egypt to buy grain,

Jacob and his sons and their descendants would all starve to death (v. 8; 45:11), but also because there were still five more years of severe famine remaining.

Somehow, at a dramatic moment (timing),

I think God prompted Joseph to save

his brothers, their descendants, his father Jacob, and all his family.

Indeed, God saves us in His own perfect time and in His astonishing way!

Those who love God must also love their brothers.

If someone says they love God but hates their brother or sister, they are liars.

For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen,
cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

And he has given us this command:

Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister

(1 John 4:20-21).

Let us be used as a church that expands the kingdom of God!

May the Lord establish the Victory Church even more,
making it a church that extends the kingdom of God
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ with compassion for each soul,
expanding the kingdom of God!

(Matthew 7:35-36)

One who lives according to God's will

I hope that like Noah, you will receive God's favor
and become righteous, blameless, and live according to God's will

(Genesis 6:8-9).

Those who suffer according to the will of God ...

Those who suffer according to God's will must continue to do good deeds and entrust their souls to God, the faithful Creator (1 Peter 4:19).

God's will is ...

God's will is to suffer while doing good (1 Peter 3:17).

Was it God's will?

Was it God's will for Abraham to leave the land of Canaan and go to Egypt because of the severe famine in the land? (Genesis 12:10)

Was it God's will for Elimelech to leave the land of Judah and go to the land of Moab with his wife Naomi and two sons because of the famine in the land? (Ruth 1:1)

Was it God's will for the prodigal son, who had squandered his inheritance in a distant country living recklessly, to eventually return to his father's house after experiencing severe famine in that country? (Luke 15:11-20)

While meditating on the word of God ...

Isaac, during his evening meditation, met his wife Rebekah according to the guidance of the Lord and found comfort after the death of his mother Sarah by loving her (Genesis 24:63-67).

Similarly, during our meditation on God's Word, we should meet God under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we should find comfort by loving God.

We must not listen to the words of our wives (husbands) that make us disobey the word of God.

Adam disobeyed God's command by listening to his wife instead of obeying God's word (Genesis 3:17).

A husband who obeys God's word does not listen to the words of his wife that lead to disobedience to that word.

The souls of those who were killed while testifying the word of God

The souls of those who were martyred for testifying to the word of God cried out loudly from beneath the altar, saying, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (Revelation 6:9-10)

We who are called to receive and enjoy God's blessings ...

As those who have been called to receive God's blessing,
we are called to sympathize with one another, to love one another
like brothers and sisters, to be compassionate and humble.

We must not repay evil with evil or insult with insult,
but rather bless others

(1 Peter 3:8-9).

God's promises and our responsibilities

When Abram was 99 years old, God made a covenant with him.

God's promise was to make Abram greatly prosperous,
to make him the ancestor of many nations,
to change his name from "Abram" (meaning: great father) to "Abraham" (father of nations),
to give him many descendants who would become many nations,
to have many kings come from his descendants,
and that God would be the God of Abraham and his descendants.

The responsibility of Abraham and his descendants
was to keep God's covenant for generations to come.

(Genesis 17:1-9).

The Spirit of God vs. the spirit of the devil?

We should not believe every spirit
but should discern whether the spirits belong to God.
Anyone who acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh
has received the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God.
However, anyone who denies this has received the spirit of the antichrist,
the spirit of the devil.
(1 John 4:1-3).

We must have confidence in God's guidance.

Joseph had confidence in God's guidance.
He believed that God would surely lead
the descendants of Israel to Canaan, the promised land
(Genesis 50:24).
Here is a Bible verse about the assurance of God's guidance:
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."
(Proverbs 3:5-6).

It is unbelief to take lightly the fact that you have become a child of God.

How hungry must Esau have been after returning from hunting that,
instead of preparing the meat he had hunted
(or even asking his mother Rebekah to prepare it),
he said to his brother Jacob, who was cooking stew,
"I'm famished; please give me some of that red stew"?
Why didn't Jacob give his starving brother the stew without any conditions,
instead saying, "First, sell me your birthright"?
Could it be that Jacob coveted Esau's birthright?
And could it be that Jacob suspected Esau did not value his birthright highly?
How could Esau sell his birthright to his brother for a bowl of stew and some bread?
No matter how hungry someone is, who would ever think,
"What good is this birthright to me?"
(Genesis 25:29-34)
Esau sold his firstborn rights for a single meal.
The Bible refers to Esau as "a godless person"
(Hebrews 12:16).
Taking lightly the fact that we have become children of God
through believing in Jesus Christ, God's Son,
and receiving salvation by God's grace, is unbelief.

God's children do not continue to sin.

Because our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, protects us,
the evil one cannot harm us.
Therefore, as children of God, we do not continue to sin
(1 John 5:18).

How to clearly distinguish between God's children and the devil's children

The way to clearly distinguish between the children of God and the children of the devil is this: anyone who does not do what is right or does not love their brother is not a child of God (1 John 3:10).

God's children do not continue to sin.

God's children do not continue to sin.
Those who live in the Lord do not keep on sinning.
Those who continue to sin belong to the devil
(1 John 3:6, 8, 9).

God's children are peacemakers.

God's children are peacemakers.
Our happiness comes from sowing seeds of peace
and reaping a harvest of righteousness
(James 3:18; Matthew 5:9).

God's blessing and people's envy

Because God blessed Isaac, he became more and more prosperous until he became very wealthy, with many sheep, cattle, and servants. The Philistines, out of envy, filled all the wells that Isaac's father Abraham's servants had dug with earth (Genesis 26:12-15).

Reflecting on this passage, it seems that receiving blessings from God can sometimes provoke envy in those around us. Is it better to receive blessings from God and be envied by others, or is it better not to receive material blessings from God and avoid being envied by people?

What pleases God

The things that please God are believing in His Son Jesus Christ and loving one another as Christ commanded. If we truly believe in Jesus Christ, we will love one another as He commanded. If we do not love one another, we cannot truly say that we believe in Jesus Christ. And we are not doing what pleases God right now (1 John 3:22-23).

God himself is with the victors of faith

God will dwell with them; He will wipe away every tear from their eyes.
There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain,
for the old order of things has passed away
(Revelation 21:3-4, 7).

Because God is taking care of us ...

Because God cares for us, we must cast all our cares upon Him.
(1 Peter 5:7).

God will wipe away the tears from our eyes.

The ones who have come out of the great tribulation,
having washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb,
will never hunger or thirst again.
They will not be scorched by the sun or any heat,
for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd.
He will lead them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes
(Revelation 7:14, 16-17).

**He made it possible for us
to receive the blessings preserved in heaven.**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who in his great mercy has given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade.
This inheritance is kept in heaven for you
(1 Peter 1:3-4).

The wisdom from heaven ...

The wisdom from heaven is pure, peace-loving, generous and docile,
full of mercy and good fruits, and without prejudice or hypocrisy
(James 3:17).

How much more so if our Father in heaven

Egyptian King Pharaoh said to Joseph's father and brothers, who were appointed as governors:
"The best of Egypt will be yours" and "the best produce of the land of Egypt will be yours"
(Genesis 45:18, 20).

This reminds me of Matthew 7:11:

"If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children,
how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

If Pharaoh could give the best of Egypt to Jacob and his children,
how much more will our Father in heaven, who is in heaven,
give us even better things when we ask Him?

Isn't it true that the more they are abused, the more prosperous and powerful God's people become?

The Egyptians despised eating with Hebrews (Genesis 43:32), believing it would defile them (v. 32).

Furthermore, the Egyptians looked down on those who tended livestock (46:34).

However, Jacob and his sons were livestock breeders, like their ancestors (vv. 32-34).

Reflecting on this, why did God lead Jacob, his sons, and their descendants to the land of Egypt, whose people despised eating with Hebrews and looked down on livestock breeders?

Could it be because God wanted to fulfill the promise He made to Abraham:

"Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated" (15:13)?

Perhaps the reason was not to make the Israelites more prosperous and numerous, the more they were oppressed (Exodus 1:12, 20).

The ancestors of faith endured great hardship (Hebrews 11:37), as the Bible says.

Could it be that as believers, the more we endure persecution and suffering from our adversaries, the more God makes us prosper and become a stronger people of God?

Are we treated well rather than abused?

Shouldn't Christians prosper more the more they suffer persecution?

How is it that cults seem to thrive more the more they face persecution?

Could it be that today, rather than enduring persecution,

we as Christians receive more favorable treatment?

(Ref.: Exodus 1:12)

Endless blessings, endless joy

When we consider Abraham,
who obeyed God to the extent of not sparing his only son Isaac
and received boundless blessings from God (Genesis 22:16-18),
we see that just as God the Father did not spare His only Son Jesus Christ
but gave Him up for us on the cross (Romans 8:32),
and just as Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son,
obeyed the Father's will unto death on the cross (Philippians 2:8),
God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms
(Ephesians 1:3), enabling us to experience boundless joy (Psalms 21:6).

With the feeling of being trapped together

We must think of those who are trapped and those who are being mistreated,
with the feeling of being trapped together
(Hebrews 13:3).

Love only in words without action is dead love.

Faith without deeds is dead, just as love without actions is dead.
If we only profess love with words and do not act,
we have reason to be condemned, and we cannot have confidence before God
(James 2:17, 26; 1 John 3:17-20).

Vain piety

Vain piety is when you think you are pious,
but you bridle your tongue and deceive your heart
(James 1:26).

Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer.

Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer.
A murderer does not have eternal life. He remains in death.
Christians who truly have eternal life love their brothers
(1 John 3:14-15).

Why do we hate our brother?

Perhaps the reason we hate our brother
is because his actions are righteous and ours are evil
(1 John 3:12).

If we love our brothers and ask anything according to God's will ...

We who believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, already possess eternal life.

And because we have eternal life, we love our brothers and sisters.

By loving our brothers and sisters according to God's commandments
and asking anything according to His will,

we have confidence that God hears our prayers.

Moreover, we know that we will receive whatever we ask for

(1 John 3:14, 23; 5:13-15).

Are we perhaps hesitating now?

Before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the angels urged Lot to hurry,

but Lot hesitated and did not quickly leave with his wife and two daughters.

Eventually, the angels took Lot, his wife, and his two daughters by the hand
and led them out of the city, because God showed mercy to Lot

(Genesis 18:15-16).

As the Lord urges us to hurry, could it be that we are hesitating now?

Why are we hesitating?

If we have become sick because of sin ...

If we are sick because of sin,

we should fight sin with faith while struggling with illness and repent,

so that we may receive forgiveness for sins and also be healed from the illness

(James 5:14-16).

God hears even when I murmured to myself

In Genesis, because Esau hated Jacob for receiving their father Isaac's blessing, he murmured to himself, "As soon as my father is gone, I will kill Jacob" (Genesis 27:41).

About twenty years later, Jacob heard

that Esau was coming to meet him with four hundred men.

He was greatly afraid and distressed, so he divided the people who were with him, as well as the flocks, herds, and camels, into two groups, thinking,

"If Esau comes and attacks one group, the other group may escape" (32:6-8).

One person muttered about killing his brother,

while the other muttered about escaping from his brother.

It occurs to me that even the murmurs of brothers,

separated by about twenty years, were heard by God.

Therefore, I believe that our murmurs,

spoken alone, are also heard by our Heavenly Father above.

Be left alone ...

There are times when we must be left alone

and wrestle with the Lord in prayer

(Genesis 32:24).

This is not the attitude of one who repents.

When disobedient Adam blamed God and disobedient Eve blamed the serpent, we glimpse a picture of a couple unwilling to take responsibility for their disobedience (Genesis 3:12-13).

Blaming others instead of taking responsibility for disobedience is not the attitude of a repentant heart.

We have much stronger evidence.

In the hearts of God's children who believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, there is a much stronger testimony than the testimony of those who testified about Him. This testimony is that God has given us eternal life, and this life is found in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life (1 John 5:9-12).

He will make us stand without blemish and with great joy.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, the only God will keep us from falling and present us blameless and with great joy before his glory (Jude 1:24-25).