

The Miracle of Miracles

[Short Word Meditation (26)]

James Kim

May God grants us the ability to teach others well.

May God grant us the ability to teach others well

(Ref.: Exodus 35:34; 1 Timothy 3:2; 2 Timothy 2:24).

Our responsibility is to teach God's Word in a way
that people can understand it, without any hindrance

(Ref.: Mark 4:33; Acts 2:20, 18:11).

Moreover, we must first practice what we teach before instructing others

(Ref.: Matthew 5:19; Romans 2:21).

And we must devote ourselves to teaching

(Ref.: 1 Timothy 4:13).

Complaints against God's servants should not be taken lightly.

God has heard your grumbling.

'Who are we, that you should complain against us?'

'When you grumble, it is not against us but against the Lord'

(Exodus 16:7, 8).

Complaints against God's servants should not be taken lightly.

Even though we may think we are trapped and wandering around

Even though we may think we are trapped and wandering around,

God rescues us even by turning the sea into land and reveals His glory

(Ref.: Exodus 14:3-4).

Even when we encounter challenges that seem far beyond our ability to handle ...

Even when we encounter challenges that seem far beyond our ability to handle, from our human perspective, we must remember how God has rescued us from the greatest crises in our past and not be afraid.

The reason is that the God who saved us from the most difficult crises in the past will surely save us from the difficult challenges we face now that seem insurmountable (Ref.: Deuteronomy 7:17-19; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 13:8).

A church session worse than an ant?

I thought that the session of the Presbyterian church [the pastor and elders] was worse than ants because there are conflicts and disputes instead of cooperation with one heart and one mind.

The reason is that ants work diligently and cooperatively on their own, even without a supervisor (Proverbs 6:7).

Gershom and Eliezer

The world we live in is a foreign land to us, and we are strangers here (the meaning of "Gershom," the firstborn son of Moses and his wife Zipporah).

While we live as strangers here,

God helps us ("Eliezer," the name of their second son, means "God is my help") and saves us from Satan and his forces

(Exodus 18:2-4).

Humility and faith

Perhaps through the many difficulties we face,
God humbles us and brings us to a state of need to teach us
that man does not live by bread alone
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 8:2-3).

Enduring continuously

Despite witnessing the terrifying plague
that killed all the livestock in Egypt while none of the livestock of the Israelites died,
Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, continued to resist and did not let the Israelites go
according to God's command (Exodus 9:2, 7).
Continuing to resist and disobey God's command,
even after experiencing His powerful intervention,
is a persistent test of God's patience.

The chase continues.

Satan continues to pursue us because he regrets letting us go from being enslaved to sin.
(Ref.: Exodus 14:5-6).

A righteous judge ...

In court, a judge must not show favoritism to a poor person in a lawsuit.

A righteous judge must not deliver an unfair verdict just

because the case involves a poor person

(Ref.: Exodus 23:3, 6).

A troubled heart

Because the Israelites were complaining to the point of weeping at the entrance of their tents,

God became very angry, and Moses was troubled.

He said to God, "Why have you brought this trouble on your servant?"

Why have I not found favor in your eyes, that you have put the burden of all these people on me? ...

Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me,

'Give us meat to eat!' I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me.

If this is how you are going to treat me, please go ahead and kill me—

if I have found favor in your eyes—and do not let me face my own ruin"

(Numbers 11:10-15).

Reflecting on these words, we can consider the troubled heart of the leader Moses:

- (1) A troubled heart does not lead us to recognize God's grace
but makes us feel the burden (responsibility) God has placed on us even more heavily.
- (2) A troubled heart makes us focus more on the realistic situation rather than looking to Almighty
God in faith. It leads us to think in human terms and feel helpless
due to the seemingly impossible circumstances.
- (3) A troubled heart makes us feel like we are alone.
- (4) A troubled heart makes us think that the Lord is not treating us as we desire.
- (5) A troubled heart makes us see our situation as miserable
and leads us to ask the Lord to take us to heaven instead.
- (6) A troubled heart prevents us from recognizing the grace
that God bestows, and instead, we wish for the grace we want from God.

Pride and greed lead to deception.

Korah, Dathan, Abiram, On, and 250 well-known leaders of the Israelite community rebelled against Moses, the chosen servant of God.

They confronted Moses and Aaron, saying, "You have gone too far!

The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is with them.

Why then do you set yourselves above the Lord's assembly?"

When Moses heard this, he fell facedown and prayed to God

(Numbers 16:1-4).

Reflecting on this passage, I have a few thoughts:

- (1) There can be people who oppose God's servants.
- (2) Those who oppose may not realize they are overstepping their bounds and may accuse God's servant of overstepping theirs (v. 3).
- (3) The reason for this is that they do not value the honor of being set apart by God to work in His tabernacle and serve on behalf of all the people. Instead, they regard it as a small matter (vv. 9-10).
- (4) Thus, they formed a group to grumble against Moses and Aaron, which was actually rebellion against God (v. 11).
- (5) Dathan and Abiram complained to Moses:
"Isn't it enough that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to kill us in the wilderness?
And now you also want to lord it over us?
Moreover, you haven't brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey or given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards.
Do you want to treat these men like slaves? ..." (vv. 13-14).
- (6) In their complaint, saying that Moses intended to deceive them entirely, shows that they did not realize they were being deceived by Satan.
- (7) Pride and greed lead to deception.

A proud person or a humble person?

Because of their lack of humility,
Miriam and Aaron criticized Moses for marrying a Cushite woman
and said, "Has the Lord spoken only through Moses? Hasn't he also spoken through us?"
Moses, who was more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth,
seemed to remain silent despite hearing his sister and brother's criticism.
But the Lord heard what they said (Numbers 12:1-3).
A humble person can remain silent in the face of criticism
because they trust that God hears it all and place their complete trust in Him.
However, a proud person, who cannot fully trust God,
tends to criticize the Lord's servant recklessly.
Additionally, a proud person seems unaware
that God is listening to their criticism of His servant. This is dangerous.

The labor of the proud

The labor of the proud will be in vain and fruitless.
(Ref.: Leviticus 26:19, 20).

Even though the church members argue with the pastor, the pastor...

Even if church members argue with the pastor,
the pastor must fight Satan and his forces for the sake of the church members
(Ref.: Exodus 17:2, 9).

It would not be okay if church service became forced labor ...

Is it truly wise to act by making the threat itself the threat when feeling threatened, as in something like forced labor, which is used to oppress those who perceive it as a threat? (Ref.: Exodus 1:9-11).

Those who are proud in the church ...

Within the church, arrogant individuals may incite the congregation, fostering evil intentions towards the servants appointed by the Lord, opposing and troubling them, causing disturbance and turmoil (Ref.: Numbers 16:19; Jeremiah 43:3; Acts 13:50, 14:2, 17:13, 24:5).

When church work goes wrong ...

We must take responsibility when we do something wrong in the church (Reference: Numbers 18:23).

The God of salvation saves us.

Pharaoh's daughter, the princess of Egypt, adopted Moses as her own son, naming him "Moses," saying, "I drew him out of the water" (Exodus 2:10).

God used Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, parting the Red Sea so they could walk on dry land and be saved (3:21-22).

God used Moses according to the meaning of his name.

Similarly, God used His son Jesus according to the meaning of His name, "Jesus," which means "the Lord saves" or "Savior"

(Matthew 1:21), to save us.

When Peter, walking on the water towards Jesus,

became afraid and began to sink,

he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him, rescuing him (Matthew 14:29-31).

The God of salvation rescues us.

When He leads His redeemed people

The Lord reveals His mercy and His strength

as He guides His redeemed people

(Exodus 15:13).

Then we will see face to face!

When Moses asked God, "Please show me your glory," God replied, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. ... But you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live. ... You will see my back; but my face must not be seen" (Exodus 33:18-20, 23, New International Version). When reflecting on this passage, I thought of 1 Corinthians 13:12, which says, "For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."

I think those numerous difficulties are valuable.

If the many difficulties we are experiencing
are indeed the discipline of God the Father's love,
then I believe that even through that discipline,
if we keep God's commandments and live according to His will,
learning to fear Him, those many difficulties are valuable
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 8:5-6).

To quickly depart from the Word and commit sin is ...

After going up to the house of God in the temple on the Sabbath and receiving the word of God,
if one returns home and quickly departs from that word to commit sin,
it is seen by God as a stiff-necked and stubborn act
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 9:6, 13, 16).

**We may be used as an instrument of God
in His work of salvation to save our brother.**

When we pray for our beloved brother who is in great crisis,
expecting how God will rescue him from that great ordeal,
and as we watch from afar with anticipation,
we may also be used by God as instruments in His salvation work
to deliver our brother at the right time
(Ref.: Exodus 2:4-9).

It will be a trap for us.

If we live together with the people of this world,
it will be a trap for us
(Ref.: Exodus 34:12).

We must keep it as is.

We must keep what God commands
(Leviticus 19:19).

Then we will live!

God's servant must diligently teach the saints so that they may keep His word.
The saints must listen to and obey God's word through His servant
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 5:27, 31).
'That way you will live and it will go well with you,
and you will live long in the land you will possess' (v. 33).

We need to celebrate and have a festival!

Through Jesus Christ, the true Lamb of God,
God led us out of the kingdom of Satan, such as Egypt, with great power.
Therefore, we must commemorate the day
we came out (escaped) from that kingdom of Satan.
We must celebrate a festival to the Lord
(Ref.: Exodus 13:3-6).

We pray (1)

We pray: 'Lord, please reveal Your great power as You have already spoken.'
(Numbers 14:17).

We pray (2)

We pray: 'Lord, forgive me with your great and unfailing love,
just as you have forgiven me from the time I was born'
(Ref.: Numbers 14:19).

We must remember!

We must remember that in the past, even in the midst of great crisis, God rescued us with greater power, guided us, and showed us His great love (Ref.: Deuteronomy 5:15).

A miracle of miracles

When we pray to God the Father for our beloved family members who are at a crossroads between life and death, we pray for miracles. This miracle is rising from the threshold of death. Therefore, we earnestly pray to God the Father to save our loved ones. However, the greatest miracle among miracles is not just the raising of Lazarus from the dead (John 11), but that we, who were spiritually dead because of sin and transgression, have been regenerated (reborn) by God's love and complete grace. We have been spiritually resurrected (first resurrection). This is truly the miracle among miracles. This miracle is something we, who believe in Jesus by God's grace, have already experienced. However, there is still the greatest miracle among miracles that we have not yet experienced. It is the day when Jesus comes back to this world (Second Coming), and those who have fallen asleep (the dead) in the Lord rise again (second resurrection), meet the Lord in the air, and enter the new heaven and new earth to live with the Lord forever. We will experience this greatest miracle among miracles in the future.

Even a stubborn, justified sinner like me finds favor with God

God warned that if He were to go with the stubborn Israelites even for a moment, He might destroy them completely, so He said He would not go with them to the land of Canaan (Exodus 33:3, 5).

In response, God's servant Moses pleaded with Him:

"If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.

How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us?

What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" (vv. 15-16).

God responded:

"I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name" (Exodus 33:17).

Reflecting on this, I'm reminded that the grace of God, who always accompanies stubborn children like me, leading them to heaven, is solely due to the merit of the cross of Jesus Christ.

Additionally, like Moses, I'm reminded that it's only when God is with me that I am set apart from others in the world.

As a sinner who has obtained righteousness through stubbornness, I'm grateful for God's grace, knowing that He knows me best and fulfills my requests.

All I can do is express gratitude for God's great love and abundant grace.

I should not become corrupted ...

When I live for a long time in this land of America, having children and grandchildren,
I should not become corrupted and create idols and do evil before God
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 4:25).

I might think it's impossible, but God says, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

I find myself in a conflict between my thoughts and God's words
when I think something is impossible,
but God says, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"
So, I experience trials in the midst of this clash
between my thoughts and God's words.
In the process of this trial of faith,
I will pray for what I consider impossible to be made possible by God,
but it seems that God, before making the impossible possible,
makes me fully realize who He is through this trial of faith
and makes me trust Him with all my heart
(Ref.: Genesis 17:1, 18:14; Proverbs 3:5).

“I am unskilled in speech.”

God instructed Moses to go to the Israelites, who were not listening to the word of God, or even to the king of Egypt, Pharaoh, and proclaim the word of God.

Moses responded,

‘If the Israelites will not listen to me, why would Pharaoh listen to me, for I am unskilled in speech?’

(Exodus 6:6-12).

We are to obey God's command and go to those whom He sends us to, whether they listen to the word of God or not, and deliver His message (Ezekiel 2:7; 3:11).

The reason they do not listen to the word of God coming from our mouths is not because we speak poorly.

As a father ...

As a father, my loving wife's job is to help me carry out my duties to the three children whom God has temporarily entrusted to me (Ref.: Numbers 3:8-9).

Spread bad rumors

A person who does not trust God with all his heart
but relies on his own knowledge to think, feel, and speak based on appearances
spreads bad rumors among others (Proverbs 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Numbers 13:32).
The words of someone who spreads bad rumors are like delicious food,
so people love to swallow them (Proverbs 18:8, 26:22).
As a result, they complain and complain (Numbers 14:27).

Our elders

We must respect our elders and hold them in high esteem
(Leviticus 19:32).

We must not be discouraged.

Because we do not truly follow God,
we should not discourage our brothers and sisters in the Lord
who truly follow God
(Ref.: Numbers 32:1-12).

We should not slander others.

We should not go around slandering others
(Leviticus 19:16).

“Pierce my ears.”

As a slave, if a man serves his master for six years
and the master gives him a wife during that time,
and she bears him sons or daughters,
the woman and her children will belong to her master,
and the man must leave alone in the seventh year as a free man,
even if his master has given him no other option to buy back his freedom.
However, if the man declares that he loves his master and his wife and children
and doesn't want to go free, then his master must take him before the judges.
Then he shall take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl.
After that, he will be his servant for life
(Exodus 21:1-6).

What's intriguing is that the servant didn't just express love
for his wife and children but also for his master.

Applying this to husbands,
it means dedicating oneself not just to loving our wives and children
but also to loving our Lord, committing to being His servant for life.

This brings to mind the English gospel song "Pierce My Ear."

“Pierce my ear, oh, Lord, my God, Take me to Your door this day
I will serve no other God, Lord, I'm here to stay
For you have paid the price for me, With Your blood You ransomed me
I will serve You eternally, A free man I'll never be.”

"Certainly I will be with you"

When God called Moses, Moses responded,
"Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"
At that moment, God assured Moses, "Certainly I will be with you"
(Exodus 3:9-12).

During my tenure as an associate pastor at Victory Presbyterian Church,
after exactly one year of ministry, feeling deeply disappointed, I expressed to God,
"I can no longer build Victory Presbyterian Church," and fled to Korea, much like Jonah.
However, about two years and six months later,
during a Church Renewal Pastors' Association (CRPA) training session, through a guest pastor,
I heard the words of Jesus in Matthew 16:18, 'I will build My church,'
and through the powerful work of the Holy Spirit,
I was not only convinced of the promise that Victory Presbyterian Church
is the Lord's church and that He Himself will build it, but I was also compelled by that word.
Consequently, on December 21, 2003,
I was led back to Victory Presbyterian Church in the United States and appointed as the senior pastor.
Like Moses, I once questioned,
"Who am I that I could build Victory Presbyterian Church?
I can never do it," and fled.
To the one who said, 'Indeed, James, you can never build My church.
I will build My church,' the Lord who made this promise has been with me
for more than 20 years, leading me
and allowing Victory Presbyterian Church to come this far.

I will praise God!

I will praise God, my strength, my song, my salvation, my Heavenly Father, for he has won a glorious victory (Exodus 15:1-2).

‘You will not bear the burden alone.’

God heard the contents of Moses' troubled heart and responded.

The core of God's response was "You will not bear the burden alone."

In other words, God helped Moses

by appointing seventy respected leaders among the Israelites

to share the responsibility with him

(Numbers 11:16-17).

Reflecting on this, it's comforting to know that when we feel burdened by heavy loads,

God provides people who can share the burden with us.

Moreover, before we become overwhelmed,

before our responsibilities feel too heavy,

it's wise to seek the help of others who can work alongside us,

sharing the responsibility.

Persisting in working alone, thinking it's easier and more effective,

until the burden becomes unbearably heavy is not wise.

**“Now you shall see
whether My word will come true for you or not.””**

We think it won't work, but God is saying,

"Is there anything I can't do?

Now you shall see whether My word will come true for you or not”

(Numbers 11:23).

‘How dare you criticize him without fear?’

When God heard the murmuring against Moses by his sister Miriam and brother Aaron,
who criticized Moses for marrying a Cushite woman,

He suddenly summoned all three of them to the tent of meeting.

Coming down in a pillar of cloud,

God stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam.

He said to them, "Listen to my words:

When there is a prophet among you,

I, the Lord, reveal myself to them in visions,

I speak to them in dreams.

But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house.

With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the Lord.

Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?"

(Numbers 12:1-8).

Reflecting on this passage, one realizes that God, humbly but sternly,
rebukes those who rashly criticize His faithful servant in His Church,
saying, ‘How dare you criticize him without fear?’

‘Consecrate yourselves and sanctify yourselves.’

God is saying to us Christians, "Consecrate yourselves and sanctify yourselves.

I am the Lord your God. You shall keep all my commandments.

I am the Lord who sanctifies you’

(Leviticus 20:7-8).

We must not accept bribes.

We must not accept bribes

that blind us and silence the statements of righteous men

(Exodus 23:8).

It is important not to marry anyone and not to have someone marry you.

Who we or our children marry is indeed very important.

But it's also crucial not to marry someone to whom one shouldn't be married

(Ref.: Deuteronomy 7:3).

Let us all run towards heaven together and enjoy all the blessings together ...

As we, believers in Jesus, journey towards the true promised land, the true Canaan, which is the kingdom of heaven, I earnestly pray that our beloved family and friends, believing in Jesus together with us, may run with us towards that heavenly realm, and together, enjoy all the blessings

(Ref.: Numbers 10:29-32).

Instead, he struck his only begotten son, Jesus.

Even though God, through Moses, warned the Israelites,

"Set limits around the mountain and be careful that you do not approach it.

Anyone who touches the mountain will surely be put to death,"

(Exodus 19:21)

and even though Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel saw God and yet ate and drank, He did not raise His hand against them (24:9-11).

By sacrificing His only Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross,

God accomplished eternal atonement through Jesus' blood

(Hebrews 9:12),

so now, through the blood of Jesus,

we are able to boldly approach God without fear

(1 Peter 3:18).

Until we think it's impossible ...

God waited patiently until the situation seemed utterly impossible to us, then He revealed Himself to us, showing that He is Almighty God, and demonstrating that nothing is impossible for Him (Genesis 17:1, 18:10, 14; Romans 4:18, Hebrews 11:12).

We should not marry our children to worldly people who love money.

We should not marry our children to worldly people who love money. If we do this, our children will follow her example and love money and serve it (Ref.: Exodus 34:16).

Equal treatment

If a master bought a female servant to take her as his son's wife, he was obligated to treat her as a daughter and provide her with equal rights (Exodus 21:9).

God the Father, in His mercy, adopted us as His children through the sacrificial death of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who became our Redeemer even though we were once enemies, slaves to sin. Therefore, God the Father treats us with the same dignity and love as He does Jesus Christ, His Son. This is because Jesus is our eldest brother, and we have become His siblings (Romans 8:29; Hebrews 1:6; 2:11).

A heart full of fear and resentment?

How terrified and resentful must the Israelites have been to the point of threatening to stone Joshua and Caleb, who spoke with faith?

(Numbers 14:10)

It seems that a heart filled with fear and resentment can lead to unpredictable and threatening acts of disbelief.

There is no need to be afraid.

We who fight spiritual warfare must not be afraid.

The reason is that our God will fight for us

(Ref.: Deuteronomy 3:22).

Another reason to complain?

Why did the Amalekites come and fight with the Israelites precisely when the Israelites were quarreling and testing God, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

(Exodus 17:3, 7-8)

From the perspective of the Israelites, who were already complaining about the lack of water, this could have provided yet another reason to complain.

However, from God's perspective, might it not have been to make it more evident that He was indeed among them?

We disobey again.

After receiving answers to our prayers
and being delivered from difficult and challenging situations,
we become stubborn once again.
We deceive God and ourselves,
disobeying God's word once more
(Exodus 8:29, 33).

The same sin

We must not further aggravate God's wrath
by doing the same thing as our ancestors did
when they sinned against God
(Ref.: Numbers 32:14).

Because we want it in our hearts ...

We must give it to God because we want it in our hearts.
We must be moved in our hearts to give to God willingly and joyfully
(Ref.: Exodus 35:5, 21, 29).

Are we continuing to sin, even in our hearts?

The Bible says, "Do not hate your brother in your heart.

Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt"

(Leviticus 19:17).

But if we do not resolve our grievances with the brother we hate,
aren't we continuing to sin in our hearts?

Just like a father takes care of his children ...

Our God has taken care of us and guided us
through this world full of toil and sorrow,
just as a father cares for his child in the wilderness.

Therefore, we should not be afraid or fearful

(Deuteronomy 1:29-32; Psalms 90:10).

If pastors and elders do not follow the Lord ...

If pastors and elders do not follow the Lord, the Lord will discipline us,
and we will be held responsible for the suffering of the congregation caused by our actions
(Numbers 32:15).

If we idolize money and serve it ...

If we idolize money and serve it, it will become a trap for us
(Ref.: Exodus 23:33).

We may say, “What will we eat for a living if we can’t work on Sundays?”

We might say, "How can we survive if we don't work on Sundays?"
but God tells us, "Do not worry."
God blesses us during the six days we work
so that we may have abundance and rest on the seventh day, the Sabbath (Sunday)
(Leviticus 25:20-21).

God killed his firstborn son?

God killed Pharaoh's firstborn son
because he refused to let Israel, God's firstborn son, go to serve Him
(Exodus 4:22-23).

By sacrificing His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross,
God saved us from the kingdom of Satan, akin to Egypt,
making us His children and enabling us to worship Him.

If we don't do it after we say it ...

If we say we will first fulfill our duties to our family (or while fulfilling them) and then take the lead in fulfilling our duties to the church, but fail to do so, we will be sinning against God and will have to pay for that sin (Ref.: Numbers 32:16-23).

Be very wary!

What we must be very wary of is that our hearts become hard as stone by continuing to disobey God's Word (Ref.: Exodus 9:12).

A very serious offense?

When people who were used to eating meat and bread to their fill experience such extreme deprivation that they think they might all starve to death, it is understandable that they might voice complaints.

However, the content of their complaint—saying, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt"—to the Lord's servants, Moses and Aaron, is a very serious offense.

This is because blaming the servants whom the Lord appointed and sent to lead the Israelites out of Egypt is essentially blaming the Lord Himself.

Furthermore, saying they wished they had died by the hand of the God of life implies a desire for death at the hands of the One who is life itself (Ref.: Exodus 16:2-4, 8; John 14:6).

Be very careful!

When we have an abundance of food, build beautiful houses, and increase our wealth, we must be very careful not to become arrogant and forget God (Ref.: Deuteronomy 8:11-14).

From the perspective of an unbelieving boss who urges us to achieve our daily responsibilities ...

From the perspective of an unbelieving boss who pressures us to meet our daily workload, they might perceive our desire to worship God by going up to His house on Sundays (or just once a week) as laziness on our part. They might even think we are paying heed to lies. Consequently, they could put us in even more difficult situations to prevent such occurrences (cf. Exodus 5:7-19).

We have no choice but to bow our heads and worship God.

As we believe in the word of God through His servant, we can only bow our heads in worship when we hear that God has looked upon us and seen the affliction we endure (Ref.: Exodus 4:31).

The duty that must be fulfilled first is ...

The descendants of Reuben and Gad, who had a great number of livestock, approached Moses with a proposal.

They requested to settle on the east side of the Jordan River, where the land was suitable for livestock grazing.

They expressed their intention to first establish settlements for their families and then assist the rest of the Israelites in securing their inheritance west of the Jordan.

They vowed not to return home until every Israelite had received their portion of land.

Reflecting on this passage,

it seems that the Reubenites and Gadites were willing to fulfill their obligations as householders before assuming their responsibilities as members of the community of Israel (Ref.: Numbers 32:1-18).

If this is indeed the case, the lesson to be learned here is that we should faithfully discharge our first duties within our families before prioritizing our obligations as members of the church community.

We want to stay away from everyone.

We must avoid all people and everything in the world

that tempts us to idolize and serve money

(Ref.: Numbers 25:17-18; Matthew 6:24).

Only after going through all the bitter pain ...

As a consequence of committing evil in the sight of God and experiencing all the painful suffering,

we seem to return to God and obey Him with all our hearts and souls, seeking Him earnestly once again

(Ref.: Deuteronomy 4:29-30).

A pastor ...

A pastor must talk to God about the church members' problems, teach them God's laws and commands, and show them how they should live and what they should do (Ref.: Exodus 18:19-20).

Pastors must stand before God together with the elders.

God's response to Moses, the leader of the Israelites, in prayer was, "Go on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink" (Exodus 17:5-6).

So Moses did as he was instructed, in the presence of the elders of Israel. A praying pastor must act according to the prayer response received from God. They should go forth, not complaining, before the congregation they lead. The pastor should stand before God with the elders. Additionally, they should obediently believe in and act upon the miraculous command of God, as in the past, "Strike the rock with the staff." At that time, when God parted the Red Sea to make a way, He will also bring forth water from the rock for the congregation to drink. Those who believe in Christ, who is the Rock, will have streams of living water flowing from within them, just as the Scripture says (John 7:38).

Pastor, please convey the word of God as it is.

A pastor must preach the word of God as it is
(Ref.: Exodus 19:25).

Pastors should not handle donations carelessly!

Pastors should not dishonor God's holy name
by mishandling the holy offerings that believers give to God
(Ref.: Leviticus 22:1).

Rather than hearing the word of God through a pastor ...

It is better to hear God speak directly to us
than to hear Him speak through a pastor
(Ref.: Exodus 20:19).

Can a pastor marry a prostitute?

In Leviticus 21:13-15 of the Modern Korean Bible,

God says: "The high priest must marry a virgin.

He must not marry a widow, a divorced woman, or a prostitute,
but must marry a virgin from his own people.

Otherwise, his children would be defiled among their people.

I am the Lord, who makes him holy."

To the prophet Hosea, God said:

"Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her,

for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord"

(Hosea 1:2).

Shamans

We should not defile ourselves by seeking out shamans

(Leviticus 19:31).

What is better? (1)

Is it better to eat our fill of meat and bread in Egypt?

Or is it better to obey God's command and eat the manna

that God sends down from heaven in the wilderness,

as His word instructs? (Ref.: Exodus 16:3-4)

In this world, is it better to satisfy our desires with worldly riches,

or is it far better to be satisfied with Jesus, the true Bread of Heaven

who came down to this world, and to live in obedience to His word?

What is better? (2)

Is serving the Egyptians better than dying in the wilderness?

Isn't it better to die while serving God in the wilderness
than to be a slave to sin in a satanic country like Egypt?

(Exodus 14:12).

We must not kill a righteous person.

An innocent person should not kill a righteous person
by falsely reprimanding him

(Exodus 23:7).

When buying and selling things

We must not deceive one another when buying or selling

(Leviticus 19:35).

Being with a person who is thankful with faith ...

While being with many people who complain about the present
by bringing up the good times of the past,
it is far better to be with one person who is thankful with faith,
trusting in God, even in situations where there seems to be plenty to complain about,
and to be positively influenced to give thanks together
(Ref.: Numbers 11:4-6).

Those who live by faith ... (1)

People who live by what they see say,
'We cannot defeat them. They are much stronger than us.'
However, those who live by faith say,
'Let's go up and take possession of the land.
We can certainly conquer them'
(Numbers 13:26-31; 2 Corinthians 5:7).

Those who live by faith ... (2)

Those who live by faith are not afraid at all
because they are confident in God's promises, God's guidance, and God's presence
(Reference: Numbers 14:9).

If we live by what we see and hear instead of by faith ...

If we live by what we see and hear instead of by faith,
we will be quick to listen to words of unbelief rather than God's promises,
leading to a sin of complaining and grumbling in fear
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 1:26-28; 2 Corinthians 5:7; James 1:19).

We must let our children go in faith.

Moses' parents could no longer hide their three-month-old son, Moses,
so they got a papyrus basket, coated it with tar and pitch to make it waterproof,
and placed Moses in it. They set the basket among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.
Moses' sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him
(Exodus 2:2-3).

By faith, Moses' parents hid him for three months (Hebrews 11:23)
and then let him go in faith.

We must also let our children go in faith and watch from a distance
to see how God works in their lives by faith.

When we pray and wait in faith for our children ...

While praying for our children with faith, expecting and waiting,
God will deliver our children in His time and in His way
(Ref.: Exodus 2:2-6).

In faith, quietly wait for the fiery word of God ...

In the eyes of the Israelites,
the radiance of God's glory on top of Mount Sinai appeared like a consuming fire.
Moses went up the mountain, which was covered by a cloud,
and remained there silently before God for six days.

On the seventh day, God called to Moses from within the cloud
(Exodus 24:15-18).

Reflecting on this passage,
I believe that God's servant must humbly approach the glorious God
and wait in faith for God's fiery words
(Jeremiah 23:19).

The fruit of faith is obedience, but the fruit of unbelief is questioning, doubt and disobedience.

When God called Moses, his first response was, "Who am I that I should..."
and his second response was, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them,
'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?'
Then what shall I tell them?"
(Exodus 3:11, 13)

If the first response can be described as self-consciousness,
then the second response can be described as others-consciousness.

This others-consciousness begins with "suppose":

'Suppose they...'. Such hypothetical questions arise from a lack of full trust in the statement,
"I will be with you" (v. 12). The fruit of faith is obedience,
but the fruit of unbelief is questioning, doubt, and disobedience.

When we do not believe

God is a God who works diligently to make us believe
when we do not believe
(Ref.: Exodus 4:1-9).

We are the ones who have been blessed by the Lord!

God met the false prophet Balaam, who loved the wages of wickedness
and taught Balak, the king of Moab, to entice the Israelites
to eat food sacrificed to idols and commit sexual immorality.
God instructed Balaam on what to say to Balak,
preventing him from cursing the Israelites as Balak desired,
and instead making him bless the Israelites three times.
The reason is that the Israelites are a people blessed by the Lord
(Numbers 23:4, 5, 11, 16, 20, 25; 24:10; Psalms 37:22;
2 Peter 2:15; Revelation 2:14).
We are the people blessed by the Lord!
(Ref.: Ephesians 1:3)

Surely, the God of truthful salvation ...

From Moses' perspective, after receiving the Lord's call and speaking to Pharaoh in the name of the Lord, Pharaoh intensified the oppression of the Israelite people. Moses then cried out to God:

- (1) "Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people?"
- (2) "Why did you send me?"
- (3) "Since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and you have not rescued your people at all" (Exodus 5:22-23).

- (1) Why would God bring such difficulty upon His beloved children who are suffering?
- (2) Why did God send me to these suffering people?
- (3) Why does God seem to remain while my suffering brothers and sisters are left in their distress?

These "why?" questions pose a significant risk of leading us to resent God.

Certainly, we can pray to God, seeking to understand His "what?" in His will.

However, more than that, we must focus on the question, "Who is God?"

Surely, God, being good, must have a good, perfect, and joyful will in allowing His children to suffer.

To be included in God's sovereign will is grace and privilege, as we are chosen to serve Him.

Surely, the God of truthful salvation will, more than anyone else, deliver His beloved suffering children in His time and in His way!

We should not live according to our self-indulgent thoughts or greed ...

We must remember and keep all of God's commands,
never leave God or live according to our loose thoughts or desires,
but rather live holy before God
(Numbers 15:39-40).

May we live in prosperity ...

We pray that through serving God with reverence
all our days and keeping His commandments,
both we and our descendants may greatly prosper
and enjoy abundance and long life
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 6:2-3).

Even with a seemingly insignificant walking stick ...

The staff of God, which turned the Red Sea into dry land and brought water out of the rock,
enabled the Israelites to defeat the Amalekites.
With just an ordinary-looking staff, Almighty God, who is omnipotent,
is the God who saves us with infinite miracles
(Ref.: Exodus 14:16; 17:6, 9-11).

Rather than seeking blessings, it is about loving ...

It is to love the Lord our God with all our heart
and with all our soul and with all our strength,
by faithfully keeping all the commands
God has given us to receive His blessings,
and by doing what is right and good in His sight,
rather than just to fulfill His requirements
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 6:5, 17).

Gospel, God's guidance, gratitude

Instead of hearing bad rumors and resenting while doubting God's guidance,
it's far better to hear the good news of the gospel, be assured of God's guidance, and give thanks
(Ref.: Numbers 14:2-3; Proverbs 3:5-6).

We should be established first as worshipers, not volunteers.

When God sent Moses to Pharaoh in Egypt and led His people out of Egypt,
the purpose was 'that you may serve me on this mountain'
(Exodus 3:12).

The purpose of God's salvation is to serve God.
God sent Jesus Christ, who truly became Moses,
to die on the cross and rise from the tomb to save us,
with the purpose of making us worship God.
When we think about this purpose of God's salvation,
we should be established first as worshipers, not volunteers.

Parents must raise their children in faith.

At the time when Moses was born, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, commanded the Hebrew midwives Shiphrah and Puah, 'When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth and observe them on the delivery stool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live' (Exodus 1:16).

Nevertheless, despite this, the Israelites continued to multiply and become strong, so Pharaoh commanded his people, 'Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live' (vv. 20-22).

It was at this time that Moses was born, and when his parents saw that he was a fine child, they hid him for three months (Exodus 2:2).

When Moses was born, his parents saw that he was a beautiful child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

They hid him for three months by faith (Hebrews 11:23).

Parents should raise their children in faith.

This means raising them in obedience to God's commands, not fearing men but fearing God, and trusting in God.

Without faith, parents cannot raise the gift of children that God has given them according to God's will.

We must respect our parents and obey them.

Children should honor their parents and obey them in the Lord,
for this is right as believers in the Lord, and it will go well with us
and we will live long on the earth
(Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-3).

‘It won’t be enough’?

When God, through Moses, said to the Israelites,
'Therefore the Lord will give you meat to eat,
you will not eat it just for one day, or two days, or five, ten, or twenty days,
but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it—
because you have rejected the Lord, who is among you, and have wailed before him,
saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"'
(Numbers 11:18-22)

When Jesus saw a great crowd coming toward him,
he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"
(John 6:5)

At that time, Philip answered, 'It would take more than half a year's wages
to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!' (vv. 5, 7).

If we rely on our own knowledge, like Moses or Philip,
we can only say, 'It would not be enough.'

However, if we trust the Lord with all our hearts and acknowledge Him in all our ways
(Proverbs 3:5-6), the Lord will provide meat for the Israelites for a whole month
until it comes out of their nostrils, as He did in the time of Moses,
and perform miracles like the feeding of the five thousand.

The heart that complains in dissatisfaction

There is a great risk that a heart that complains in dissatisfaction will reject the Lord and live in regret
(Ref.: Numbers 11:20).

Unbelief relies on one's own knowledge ...

Disbelief relies on its own understanding, missing the time to obey God's command, and instead acts according to its own will, disobeying when it should obey
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 1:41-43; Proverbs 3:5).

It is disbelief.

We who believe in God must fear the word of God and act according to it. Ignoring the word of God and not acting on it is unbelief
(Ref.: Exodus 9:20, 21).

Distrust leads to a bad report, and a bad report lead to grumbling.

The ten spies who caused the Israelites to grumble died a plague before the Lord because they had brought a bad report about the land of Canaan (Numbers 14:36-37).

Disbelief leads to a bad report, and a bad report leads to grumbling.

There are responsibilities and consequences for bringing a bad report and grumbling.

Difference between complaint and gratitude?

Complaining is distrusting God, but gratitude is trusting in God (Ref.: Exodus 17:3, 7).

Complaining is distrusting God.

As believers, quarreling and complaining in times of poverty is testing God, asking, 'Is the Lord among us or not?' (Exodus 17:3, 7)

In other words, complaining is disbelief in God.

Complaining is unwise.

It is unwise to complain about current circumstances
while citing good things from the past
(Ref.: Numbers 11:4-6).

Are we like insignificant “staffs” in people’s eyes?

God said to Moses,

'Take this staff in your hand. With it, you shall perform the signs'
(Exodus 4:17).

Indeed, God instructed Moses,

"Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water
so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground" (14:16).

When Moses stretched out his hand over the sea,

the Lord caused a strong east wind to blow all night, turning the sea into dry land.

The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground,
with a wall of water on their right and on their left (vv. 21-22).

God can use seemingly insignificant objects like the "staff"

in the eyes of humans to perform miracles, just as He did with Moses.

When we are afraid of people ...

If we fear people, we will disobey God's commands,

and furthermore, we will become misunderstanding, resentful, and ignorant

(Ref.: Deuteronomy 1:26-28).

A fearful heart towards people?

If we have a fearful heart towards people,
we can only hesitate to obey God's word
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 1:20-21).

If we are afraid of people ...?

Leaders who judge in place of God should listen carefully
to the complaints brought before them and judge fairly,
without showing partiality to either the wealthy or the poor,
and without being afraid of anyone
(Deuteronomy 1:16-17).

When reflecting on this verse,
it suggests that fearing people and showing partiality
to the wealthy or the poor would hinder fair judgment.

We should not fear people, but fear God.

The Egyptians feared the Israelites, who multiplied even more as they were oppressed,
whereas the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, feared God
(Exodus 1:12, 15, 17).

We should not fear people but fear God.

Therefore, rather than obeying human commands and acting accordingly,
we should listen to God's word and obey it.

Clear boundaries must be set on all sides.

As God's holy people, we must set clear boundaries on all sides
and live a holy and distinguished life as saints
(Ref.: Exodus 19:23).

We must not commit murder. We must not hate.

We must not murder (Exodus 20:13).
Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer (1 John 3:15).

There is no pastor who takes after Jesus, the Good Shepherd ...

It would not be right for church members to become like sheep without a pastor
who takes after Jesus, the good shepherd
(Ref.: Numbers 27:17).

The Bible says, “You shall not commit adultery.”

The Bible says, "You shall not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14).
Jesus said, "But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:28),
and "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her.
And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery (Luke 16:18).

The Bible says, “Do not covet your neighbor’s house.”

The Bible says, "You shall not covet your neighbor's house" (Exodus 20:17).
It also says, "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife" (Deuteronomy 5:21).
We should not covet anything that belongs to our neighbor (v. 21).

The Bible says, “Do not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

The Bible says, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" (Exodus 20:16).
Bearing false witness against one's neighbor is like using a club, a sword, or a sharp arrow (Proverbs 25:18).
We should not give false testimony against our brother (Deuteronomy 19:18).

The Bible says, “You shall not steal.”

The Bible says, "You shall not steal" (Exodus 20:15).

God says, "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' In tithes and offerings"

(Malachi 3:8).

It must be cherished.

We must cherish God's sanctuary

(Leviticus 19:30).

It must not be neglected.

Marital relationships should not be neglected

(Exodus 21:10).

It will be ruined quickly!

If we quickly depart from the word of God,
quickly become corrupted, and quickly commit evil before God,
we will quickly perish (Ref.: Deuteronomy 4:25-26).

We only do things that seem possible and that we think are easy.

Faith relies on the all-powerful and impossible-for-God-to-fail God,
even for things that seem impossible, obeying God's word through faith.
However, unbelief relies on one's knowledge,
only doing what seems easy and possible
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 1:41; Genesis 17:1, 18:14).

No one can serve the Lord and money together.

It's either faithfully follow the Lord or idolize money and serve it;
there's no middle ground. No one can serve both the Lord and money simultaneously.
We should love the Lord and be loyal to Him
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 4:3-4; Matthew 6:24).

No matter how big a problem we face that seems insurmountable ...

Even when faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges in the eyes of the flesh, as God has promised, we are able to overcome those great issues (Ref.: Deuteronomy 9:1-3, 1 Corinthians 10:13).

No matter how many examples we give ...?

No matter how much we give and how much we offer to listen to everything we say, shouldn't we break God's word? (Ref.: Numbers 22:17-18)

Still

Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, did not yet fear God even after seeing a terrifying sight the likes of which had never been seen in Egyptian history (Exodus 9:24, 30).
Even though I experienced the death of a child,
something I have never experienced before in my life,
I still do not fear God. What a foolish person I am.

God, the Lord of the Sabbath...

God, the Lord of the Sabbath (Matthew 12:8), blessed the Sabbath and made it holy, so we must remember the Sabbath, keep it holy, and rest from work (Exodus 20:8-11).

As promised, He will give love to thousands of generations.

The one and only faithful God will show love to a thousand generations as promised to those who love him and keep his commandments (Deuteronomy 7:9).

As promised, God brings us out and guides us through our hardships.

The self-existent God looked at us and saw what had happened to us. And as promised, God brings us out and guides us as we struggle (Reference: Exodus 3:16-17).

No matter what difficult and heartbreaking news we hear ...

No matter what difficult and heartbreaking news we hear,
we must hear the good news (gospel) of Jesus Christ, the power of God,
and rejoice in the midst of tribulation (suffering) through faith
(Ref.: Romans 1:16, 5:3).

Perhaps the many difficulties that come our way ...

Perhaps the many difficulties that come our way are God testing our hearts
to see whether we will actually obey His commands or not
(Reference: Deuteronomy 8:2).

How long ...?

Perhaps the Lord is asking us, 'How long will you not obey me?'
How long will we continue to refuse to serve the Lord?
(Ref.: Exodus 10:3, 4)

'How long will you not believe in me?'

Even though God has performed so many miracles among us,
not believing in Him is to despise Him. God asks us,
'How long will you despise me?
How long will you not believe in me?'
(Ref.: Numbers 14:11)

How long will you disobey?

Even though God clearly said that they could gather the heavenly manna for six days
but there would be none on the seventh day, the Sabbath, some people still went out
to gather manna on the Sabbath and found none.
At that time, God said, "How long will you refuse to keep my commands and instructions?"
(Exodus 16:26-28, 30).
How long will we intentionally disobey God's commands,
refusing to rest on the Sabbath, and instead wear ourselves out
physically and mentally trying to gain something?

God chose a man who was foolish in many ways ...

I am not only slow of tongue but also slow of mind and heart.

Despite being such a foolish person in many ways,

God has chosen me to be His servant

and to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ

(Ref.: Exodus 4:10).

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 Modern Korean Bible says:

"Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called.

Not many of you were wise by human standards;

not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise;

God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—

and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are,

so that no one may boast before Him."

If a woman has become unclean by betraying her husband and committing adultery ...

If she has become unclean by betraying her husband and committing adultery,

she will feel bitter pain (Ref.: Numbers 5:27).

If we still hold out and do not obey the Lord,

If we still hold out and do not obey the Lord,
the Lord will bring a plague seven times more terrible for our sins
(Ref.: Leviticus 26:21).

A sin that still stubbornly persists?

When we see that the catastrophic calamity has ceased,
we must once again harden our hearts like stone and no longer sin against God
by stubbornly holding on to God's will (Ref.: Exodus 9:34-35).

It is easy to commit spiritual fornication.

If we eat and drink with heretics in response to their loving invitation,
we will end up serving their gods and it is easy to commit spiritual fornication
(Ref.: Numbers 25:1-3).

Families and churches that believe in Jesus

Families and churches that believe in Jesus are righteous families and churches that keep and practice God's word and attend God who is close to them every time they pray (Ref.: Deuteronomy 4:7-8).

If we misunderstand ...

If our non-believer bosses misunderstand that we are lazy and want to worship God, they may force and urge us to meet our daily responsibilities without reducing our workload in the slightest (Ref.: Exodus 5:8, 11, 13, 16).

Even through stubborn people

God reveals His glory even through stubborn people who change their hearts and harden them like stones (Exodus 14:4, 5, 8).

Why did they first confirm that they kept all their promises and then give them the land of Gilead?

Moses did not immediately grant the request of the descendants of Reuben and Gad. Instead, he waited until they had fulfilled their promise before giving them the land of Gilead. However, if they did not keep their promise, they would not receive the land of Gilead and would have to share the Promised Land of Canaan with the rest of the Israelites (Numbers 32:29-30).

As I meditate on this passage,

I wonder why Moses didn't trust the descendants of Reuben and Gad and give them the land of Gilead first.

Instead, he waited to confirm that they kept their promise before granting it to them.

I think the reason is that, as the leader of Israel, Moses prioritized ensuring that the descendants of Reuben and Gad kept their promise

to help conquer the Promised Land of Canaan, which God had promised to the Israelites, over granting them the land they desired.

The descendants of Reuben and Gad were required to fulfill their duties alongside the other Israelites before receiving the land of Gilead they desired, ensuring God's promise was fulfilled first.

If this understanding is correct,

it suggests that church leaders should prioritize ensuring all members fulfill their responsibilities together in the process of the Lord's promise to build His church (Matthew 16:18).

Foreigners?

We must not abuse foreigners living in our land, but treat them as our own and love them as ourselves (Leviticus 19:33-34).

We must not abuse foreigners.

We must know how foreigners feel and not abuse them
(Exodus 23:9).

Church leaders

Church leaders must believe in God and obey God's word,
thereby demonstrating God's holiness before the congregation
(Ref.: Numbers 20:12).

Church leaders are committing serious sins against their members.

Currently, the church leaders are committing a serious sin
of not properly preaching God's gospel and the word of truth to the church members,
so the church members are now wandering here and there,
suffering from spiritual hunger and spiritual malnutrition.
And I am very concerned that those precious souls may be the targets
of false pastors and heretics who are like a pack of hungry wolves,
dressed in sheep's clothing, but inside they are becoming food for the wolves
(Ref.: Numbers 25:4).

A spiritual epidemic spreading due to pastors?

What kind of spiritual epidemic is currently spreading
due to the great sins church leaders are committing against God and church members?

(Ref.: Numbers 25:1-9)

Is it possible that the spiritual epidemic of losing
the value of knowledge of Jesus Christ has already spread too widely?

(Philippians 3:8)

Is it possible that the spiritual plague of lack of knowledge of God is widespread?

(Hosea 4:6)

Even church pastors have abandoned the knowledge of God,
so isn't it that the more such pastors prosper, the more they are sinning against God? (v. 7)

As Jesus prophesied, isn't there a spiritual epidemic spreading so widely
that the love of many Christians is getting cold as evil is increasing?

(Matthew 24:12)

How can this be all!

I sincerely hope that God will take pity on pastors,
show mercy on us, and give us the grace of repentance.

We must not defile ourselves.

We must not defile ourselves
by following the evil customs of the people of this land
(Ref.: Leviticus 18:30).

Our God

When God heard the complaints of the Israelites,
He had them come near to Him and showed them His glory
(Exodus 16:9-10).

Our God, likewise, brings us, even when we are complaining,
close to Him and reveals His glory to us who complain.

When we go down a path we shouldn't take ...

When we go down a path we should not take, the Lord stops us (Numbers 22:32).
The Lord even walls up the way with thorns so that we can no longer find the way (Hosea 2:6).

Even though someone who knows well the hardships we have gone through ...

Even though the king of Edom was well aware
of the hardships the Israelites had endured in Egypt,
when Moses asked, "Please allow us to pass through your land,"
the king of Edom refused, saying, "You may not pass through our land"
(Numbers 20:14-20).

If someone who knows well the hardships we have endured
still refuses our small request that would not harm them,
we are left with no choice but to seek assistance from someone else.

When we think, 'I have become rich through my own power and the strength'...

When we think, "I have become wealthy by my own power and strength,"
God leads us into the wilderness to humble us,
reminding us that it is He who gives us the ability to produce wealth
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 8:16-18).

What happens if we speak well and the other person listens to us?

What happens if we speak well and the other person listens to us?
Rather, it is better if we are not good at speaking and the other person does not listen to us
(Ref.: Exodus 6:12, 30).
The best thing is for the other person to hear us
even though we are not good at speaking.
It is the work of God the Holy Spirit!

If we are afraid of people ...

If we fear people, we may miss out on the good things God gives us
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 1:25-26).

When we continue to sin ...

The fact that we continue to sin is evidence that we do not fear God
(Ref.: Exodus 20:20).

Even if we have committed a great sin against God ...

Even if we have committed a great sin against God,
we must rely on the merits of Jesus' cross and the power of His precious blood
to go to God again and ask for forgiveness for our sins.
Then he, God, will forgive our sins
(Ref.: Exodus 32:30).

'We will obey God's word and do it.'

God's servants must convey all of God's words and commandments as they are,
and God's people who receive those words 'will keep everything that God has said.'
Or, we must respond by saying, 'We will obey God's word and do it'
(Exodus 24:3, 7).

We must not follow the majority in doing evil.

We should not follow the majority in doing evil,
but follow the few in doing good
(Ref.: Exodus 23:2; Psalm 37:27; Romans 12:9).

We must not be afraid.

The great and powerful God of salvation is with us.
Therefore, we should not be afraid
(Deuteronomy 7:21).

We are the will of God who guided us from the kingdom of Satan.

In order to live among us and be our God,
God brought us out of Satan's kingdom, such as Egypt,
and brought us into the kingdom of God
(Ref.: Exodus 29:45-46).

During the days we live in this world ...

We must learn to fear God every day we live in this world
and teach it to our children
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 4:10).

We must keep and practice the heavenly commandment.

We have already learned the commandment of the heavenly kingdom,
where we will eventually enter and dwell forever, as the Lord has commanded us
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 4:5).

This commandment of the heavenly kingdom is
none other than the twofold commandment of Jesus:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your mind" (a vertical relationship with the Lord)
and "Love your neighbor as yourself" (a horizontal relationship with neighbors)
(Matthew 22:37, 39).

We must diligently keep and practice this twofold heavenly commandment
(Deuteronomy 4:6).

As we do so, our hearts, homes, and churches will gradually become heavenly,
allowing us to experience the joy and peace of heaven while living partially in heaven on earth.

We are those who have been blessed by God.

We are blessed by God

(Numbers 22:12).

We are really happy people.

The reason is because no one has been saved by God like us

(Deuteronomy 33:29).

We must give God what is best.

We must give God what is best (Ref.: Exodus 34:26).

We must never submit to God something unclean, blind, sick, or lame like an animal

(Malachi 1:7-8).

We must be confident that God will fulfill what He has promised (Romans 4:21).

When God called Moses, He gave a promise:

"I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people,

so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed"

(Exodus 3:21).

Just as He promised, God made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the Israelites, and they gave them what they asked for, so the Israelites plundered the Egyptians (12:36).

We must be fully persuaded that God has the power to do what He has promised

(Romans 4:21).

We are God's precious, holy people!

Just as an eagle protects its young with its wings,
God protected the children of Israel and led them to Himself.
He made them His treasured possession among all nations
by ensuring they listened to His words and kept His covenant.
Specifically, He made them a kingdom of priests and a holy nation
(Exodus 19:4-6).

We are precious and honored in God's sight, and He loves us
(Isaiah 43:4).

We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession.
This is so that we may declare the praises of Him
who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light
(1 Peter 2:9).

We must not spread false rumors and bad rumors.

We must not spread false rumors and evil rumors
(Exodus 23:1; Proverbs 26:22).

On the contrary, we must not only spread the word of Jesus more widely
(Luke 5:15), but also spread the word of our faith everywhere
(1 Thessalonians 1:8).

We too are at great risk of idolizing money.

If we become close friends with those who love money and serve it,
we run the risk of idolizing money when they invite us to do so
(Ref.: Exodus 34:15).

He is the God who protects us and blesses us.

The God who protected and blessed the Israelites
while they wandered in the vast wilderness for 40 years
is also the God who protects and blesses us
while we live in this wilderness-like world.
Therefore, we lack nothing
(Deuteronomy 2:7).

God who set us apart and made us His children

God is our God who has specially set us apart
from among many people and made us His children.
Therefore, we must be holy to God just as God is holy
(Ref.: Leviticus 20:24, 26).

He saved us, liberated us, and made us free people.

The God of the covenant delivered the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt with great power and judgments, setting them free and making them His people, with God becoming their God (Exodus 6:6-7).

Similarly, God has delivered us from the bondage of sin in Satan's kingdom, like Egypt, with great power and judgment, setting us free and making us God's children, with God becoming our God.

He makes them to fear us.

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

Even if our enemies hate us ...

Even if it is an enemy who hates us, if we see him in need, we are told not to just pass by but help him (Ref.: Exodus 23:4-5).

God who makes us stand upright and walk.

God is the God who breaks our yoke and makes us stand upright and walk
(Leviticus 26:13).

God who has guided us

The God who has guided us from the past to the present
is the God who will continue to guide us until death.
There is no other god than this God who guides us!
(Ref.: Exodus 32:1; Psalms 48:14).

There is no basis for us to be loved.

It is not because we have any reason to be loved
that God loves us and rescues us from slavery to sin in the kingdom of Satan,
but because God is love and loved us unconditionally first
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 7: 8; 1 John 4:8, 16, 19).

God is pleased to bless us.

God, who is pleased to bless us, wants us to fear Him
and faithfully keep His words and commands
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 6:24-25).

The ministry entrusted to us

The ministry entrusted to us is not because we are deserving of it,
but it is a gift from God given to us by His grace
(Ref.: Numbers 18:7).

Due to the person who becomes a trap for us...

Isn't our family or church falling apart
because of someone who is a trap for us?
How long will we be prevented from serving the Lord?
(Ref.: Exodus 10:7)

Even our hard hearts ...

Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, did not let the Israelites go until God struck the land with various signs and wonders with a mighty hand (Exodus 3:19-20).

Such was the hardness of Pharaoh's heart

(4:21; 7:3, 13, 22; 8:19; 9:12, 35; 10:20, 27; 11:10; 13:15; 14:4, 8).

Similarly, our stubborn hearts will continue to disobey God's word until He disciplines us with His mighty hand in various ways.

We pray that God will shatter our hardened hearts with His powerful word, like a hammer (Jeremiah 23:29), making them soft and receptive (2 Kings 22:19; Ezekiel 11:19; 36:26).

God who breaks our pride

God, who breaks our yoke, also breaks our pride

(Leviticus 26:13, 19).

Is rejecting our prayers also an answer to our prayers?

Moses was more humble than anyone else on earth

(Numbers 12:3).

He was a faithful servant in God's house.

Therefore, when God spoke to him, He spoke directly and clearly, not in riddles.

Moses even saw the form of the Lord (vv. 7-8).

Yet, when Moses pleaded with God, saying,

"Let me go over and see the good land beyond the Jordan—

that fine hill country and Lebanon," God responded,

"That is enough! Do not speak to me anymore about this matter"

(Deuteronomy 3:25-26).

This was because Moses did not trust in God

and rebelled against His command at Meribah,

failing to uphold God's holiness before the Israelites

(Numbers 20:12, 24).

Reflecting on this, I feel that when God refuses our prayers,

it can also be considered an answer to our prayers.

When our prayers are denied, instead of insisting on them before God,

it is more beneficial to take time for self-examination and introspection.

Even through our wounds

It seems that God allows us to hear His voice

even through our wounds when we cannot hear His voice

(Ref.: Numbers 22:22-25).

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?
(Reference: Exodus 1:7, 11-13)

We pray that the Lord will not look at our stubbornness and sin.

I pray that God, thinking of Jesus Christ, will not look
at our stubbornness and sin as children of God,
whom He led out of the kingdom of Satan and a life of slavery to sin
with great power and strength
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 9:26-27, 29).

God answers even our smallest groans

God heard the groaning and cries of the Israelites due to their hard forced labor,
and He remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

So, God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them
(Exodus 2:23-25).

This reminds me of the gospel song 'Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus':

'Those who long for God's love, those who seek God's peace,
the Lord who created all of you loves you so much.

Those who praise and worship God, those who resemble God's goodness,
the Lord who created all of you has made you His children.

God watches over you with loving eyes at all times.

God listens to you with gentle ears always.

He shines a bright light in the darkness and responds to your smallest groans.

Wherever you are, turn to the Lord and look to Him alone.'

Meetings at the well

When Moses fled to the land of Midian and sat down by a well,
he encountered the seven daughters of Reuel, the priest of Midian.
As a result, Moses married Reuel's daughter, Zipporah
(Exodus 2:15-21).

Similarly, Abraham's servant met Rebekah at a well
while seeking a wife for Abraham's son, Isaac,
leading to the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah
(Genesis 24:11-67).

Jesus also had a significant encounter at a well.

While sitting by the well, He met a Samaritan woman.
As a result, the woman believed in Jesus Christ and received eternal life.
Additionally, many Samaritans from that town believed in Jesus
because of her testimony
(John 4:6-42).

When I think about how God's amazing work often begins at a well,
I'm reminded of the gospel hymn 'Just As I Am':
(V. 1) Just as I am, without one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
(V. 2) Just as I am, and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
(V. 3) Just as I am, though tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
(Chorus) Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Those who are resentful ...

People who are grumbling try to elect their own leader
and do what they think is better, even though there is a leader appointed by God
(Ref.: Numbers 14:2-4).

It happened as they complained.

Speaking not by faith but by disbelief, and spreading even bad rumors,
the Israelites spent the night weeping and complaining against Moses and Aaron,
saying, "If only we had died in Egypt or in this wilderness!"
However, in reality, apart from Caleb and Joshua,
all those men died in the wilderness
(Numbers 13:32-33, 14:1-2, 26:65).

When crisis approaches

When crisis approaches, we must cry out to God for help.
However, we should not blame God.
The reason is that God will definitely help us
(Ref.: Exodus 14:10-12; Psalms 121).

Even if you have no inheritance or property ...

Even if we have no inheritance or property,
we must know that the Lord is our property and inheritance
(Ref.: Numbers 18:20).

Beneficial pain of conscience and shame?

Even though Miriam had leprosy and could not feel the physical pain,
she would have been ashamed. I believe that the pain of conscience and shame
that leads to repentance is beneficial
(Ref.: Numbers 12:10-14).

What if we fall into temptation and leave God?

What if I marry him, or if my children marry him,
they will be tempted by him and end up leaving God and serving other gods?
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 7:3-4)

**I think that feeling physical pain but not being able to realize
our sins because we do not feel pain in our conscience
is spiritual leprosy.**

Miriam and Aaron, though siblings,
were humble and faithful servants of God's house.

Yet they criticized Moses, who spoke directly
and clearly to God, blaming him.

So why did Miriam suddenly contract leprosy?

Why did Aaron not get leprosy?

Aaron, upon seeing his sister Miriam suddenly struck with leprosy,
pleaded with Moses, saying, "Oh, my lord, please do not punish us
for this sin we have so foolishly committed.

Do not let her be like a stillborn baby, already decayed at birth."

So, Moses cried out to the Lord, "Please, God, heal her!"

(Numbers 12:1-13).

Reflecting on this passage, the interesting point is
that while Miriam may have not felt the physical pain of leprosy,
Aaron, upon seeing his own sister afflicted, felt anguish in his conscience.

He realized the foolishness of their actions
(criticizing Moses) and pleaded with Moses for forgiveness.

This shows that even though one may not feel physical pain,
not experiencing anguish in one's conscience
despite sinning is a spiritual leprosy.

I can't deny that this reflects my own behavior at times.

God gives grace.

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

If we have these 4 assurances ...

If we have
the assurance that our God is for us (Romans 8:31),
the assurance of God's love (vv. 38-39),
the assurance of God's salvation (vv. 29-30),
and the assurance of God's victory (v. 37),
then we can be more than victorious
in all these things through him who loved us (v. 37).

**“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”
(Philippians 1:21)**

A. “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21).

1. “For to me ...” (Phil. 1:21a):
 - a. Apostle Paul's earnest expectation and hope was to not be ashamed in anything, but to be as confident now as ever, so that Christ may be honored in his body, whether by life or by death (v. 20).

2. “... to live in Christ ...” (v. 21b):
 - a. (Galatians 2:20) “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

3. “... to die is gain” (Phil. 1:21c):
 - a. (vv. 22-24) “If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.”

B. (2 Timothy 4:7-8) “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”

C. (Matthew 25:21a) “His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!’”

We must carry out.

We must be committed to carrying out what we promise
(Ref.: Numbers 32:24).

In the darkness of life ...

I hope that we will have the grace and blessing of being able to hear
the voice of God speaking from the midst of the fire in the darkness of life
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 5:24-26).

Once we know we have a chance to catch our breath ...

Once we know we have a chance to catch our breath,
we seem to become stubborn again
(Ref.: Exodus 8:15).

He who relies on himself and on his knowledge ...

Although a person who trusts God with all their heart believes in God and His word, someone who relies on themselves and their own understanding believes in what they see and also trusts their feelings
(Ref.: Numbers 13:16, 31-33; Proverbs 3:5).

Prayer for children

We hope that our children will be able to discern between good and evil
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 1:39).

We have to listen carefully and follow it ...

We must listen carefully to the teachings of God's word and keep it, without adding or subtracting anything from the word, and keep God's commands
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 4:2).

He told everything to his father-in-law.

Moses, the son-in-law, recounted to his father-in-law Jethro all that the Lord had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel's sake, and all the hardships they had encountered on the way, and how the Lord had saved them.

Jethro rejoiced and praised God for the great favor He had shown to Israel, rescuing them from the hand of the Egyptians and Pharaoh.

He said, "Praise be to the Lord, who rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and of Pharaoh, and who rescued the people from the hand of the Egyptians" (Exodus 18:8-10).

Reflecting on this passage, I remembered a time when my late father-in-law was hospitalized after surgery at Phoenix, Arizona. During his hospital stay, God turned the hospital room into His sanctuary (Ref.: Psalms 63:2) and poured out my heart in praise to God. It reminded me of the heartfelt confession I made to God regarding my feelings towards my father-in-law.

The trial must be fair.

The trial must be fair. Judges must not render unfair trials. They should not make a favorable ruling just because people are poor or because people are powerful (Leviticus 19:15).

I originally hated standing up in front of people to the point where I avoided speaking.

I used to dislike speaking in front of people to the extent that I avoided it.

But now, by God's grace, I am a pastor,
standing before the congregation and proclaiming God's word.

Without God's help, I wouldn't know what to say or how to say it at all
(Ref.: Exodus 4:10-12).

Those who follow the Lord with all their heart ...

Those who follow the Lord with all their heart are encouraged by the Lord
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 1:36, 38).

Because they don't have the faith to obey...

Because they do not have the faith to absolutely obey God's word
and continue to suffer damage from fatal disasters,
their superficial obedience is only a reluctant
and partial obedience to what they want
(Ref.: Exodus 10).

Fortunes

We must not look at fortunes
(Ref.: Leviticus 19:26).

The precious blood shed on the cross of Jesus Christ, the cleansing Lamb of God ...

Because the precious blood shed on the cross of Jesus Christ,
the cleansing Lamb of God, was sprinkled on us, we have been redeemed,
that is, forgiven of our sins, and have become clean and no longer unclean
(Ref.: Numbers 19:19-20; John 1 :36; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 1:3, 9:22).

Really stubborn people?

In God's eyes, those who are truly stubborn
always rebel against God and become corrupted,
quickly departing from what God has commanded,
making idols for themselves and serving them
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 9:6-7, 12-13).

'Who am I ...'

When God called Moses to go to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, to lead God's people out of Egypt, Moses' initial response was, "Who am I...?" (Exodus 3:10-11, NIV).

From Moses' perspective, he couldn't help but question God if he was capable of going to the king of Egypt and leading the Israelites out of Egypt.

Similarly, when the Lord called me through Pastor Ike Kim during the college retreat at Victory Presbyterian Church in May 1987, using the message of 'Two fishes and five loaves of bread' from John 6:1-15, the Holy Spirit worked powerfully in my heart.

Despite being nothing more than a person with only two fish and five loaves of bread compared to the 5,000 men, if I surrendered myself to the Lord in this way, believing that my life was in the Lord's hands like that boy, the Holy Spirit convinced me that the Lord would be able to perform miracles sufficiently through me.

Without such work of the Holy Spirit,

I would have had many doubts and questions, just like Moses, questioning,

"Lord, who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

If we commit a sin ...

If we commit a sin, we will have to feel bitter pain

(Ref.: Numbers 5:24).

May the Lord be beautiful in your sight ...

I hope that the community of Victory Presbyterian Church
will be beautiful in the eyes of the Lord
(Ref.: Numbers 24:5).

We must not walk down the path that the Lord blocks.

When the Lord blocks the path we should not take,
we must have spiritual sensitivity to discern it
and refrain from walking down the path the Lord is blocking.
The reason is that the Lord does not take pleasure in us walking that path
(Numbers 22:34).
Instead, we should follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit,
who opens the path that pleases the Lord
(Ref.: Acts 16:9-10).

The Lord is leading us to the place He has prepared.

The Lord has sent the Holy Spirit to protect us
along our journey and guide us to the place prepared by the Lord
(Ref.: Exodus 23:20).

We must do what the Lord has commanded us.

As God commanded Moses, the Israelites completed all the work,
and Moses himself did everything just as the Lord commanded him
(Exodus 39:42, 40:16, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 32).

The servant of the Lord must act according to what the Lord has commanded him.
Following this example, the saints in the church, who are the body of the Lord,
must also work together to do everything just as the Lord has commanded his servant.

Only what the Lord said ...

The Lord's servant is to speak only what the Lord tells him
(Ref.: Numbers 22:20).

When the Lord gave us the talent and wisdom necessary for our work

When the Lord gives us the talents and wisdom
necessary for the work of building His body, the church,
our responsibility is to willingly carry out all the tasks
just as the Lord has commanded
(Ref.: Exodus 36:1-2).

To contend with the servant of the Lord is ...

Quarreling with the servant of the Lord whom He has appointed
is equivalent to quarreling with God and testing Him
(Exodus 17:2, 7).

When the Lord's servant does the Lord's work ...

When the Lord's servant does the Lord's work,
he must not do everything on his own,
but must do what the Lord sent him to do
(Ref.: Numbers 16:28).

What is God's purpose in not saying anything more now?

When we were facing a great crisis in the past,
God spoke to us with a loud voice.
The reason He is now silent
is to personally inscribe His promises on the tablets of our hearts
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 5:22).

A leader must lead properly.

A leader must guide those who follow them according to God's word.
They should not allow wayward and stubborn followers
to become unruly and fall into great sin,
thereby becoming a mockery to the enemy, Satan
(Ref.: Exodus 32:21-25).

Must be appointed as leader.

When the Lord multiplies the number of church members several times over,
we must appoint as leaders those who are wise, knowledgeable, and experienced in all matters
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 1:10-15).

All members of a Lord-centered family with wisdom and knowledge

All members of a Christ-centered family, who are wise and knowledgeable,
should be of one heart and one mind in obeying the Lord's commandment.
This commandment, which we will follow in the eternal Kingdom of Heaven, is:
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind"
(vertical relationship with the Lord) and "Love your neighbor as yourself"
(horizontal relationship with others) (Ref.: Deuteronomy 4:5-6; Matthew 22:37, 39).

If you have become a thorn in the eye of your boss at work ...

The Israelites thought that Moses and Aaron had made them a thorn in the eyes of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and his officials, giving them an excuse to kill them. Therefore, they said to Moses and Aaron, "May the Lord judge and punish you for what you have done" (Exodus 5:21).

If we become a thorn in the eyes of our superiors at work because of our pastor, wouldn't it be understandable to resent that pastor?

True faith

True faith suffers for Christ's sake (Philippians 1:27).

True repentance? False repentance?

The fruit of true repentance is obedience to the word of God. However, the fruit of false repentance continues to be disobedience to the Word of God (Ref.: Numbers 14:39-45).

He is a jealous God.

Our God is a jealous God.

Therefore, we should not serve any gods other than God.

Rather, we must love God and keep His commandments.

Then, God will give grace to thousands of generations of our descendants

(Ref.: Exodus 20:3-6).

It's enough to scare you.

Satan can terrify us as we move forward confidently

(Ref.: Exodus 14:8, 10).

Even if there is a chance to receive a big reward ...

The Lord's servants should have the determination and practice of saying,

"I will not disobey God's command or do anything according to my own will,

but I will only speak what God tells me," even if there is an opportunity to receive a great reward.

However, we must consider whether we are merely saying this

with our lips while choosing the great reward in our hearts

(Ref.: Numbers 24:12).

A corrupted Christian?

A corrupted Christian rejects the guidance of the Triune God,
who has saved us from the kingdom of Satan.
Instead, they create their own god according to their own views
and claim that this god has saved them,
indulging in eating, drinking, and revelry
(Ref.: Exodus 32:1-7; Judges 17:6, 21:25).

God angry at corrupt Christians?

When we think of God's anger toward truly stubborn and corrupted Christians,
we should, like Moses, plead with God, saying,
"Please turn from your fierce anger and relent;
do not bring disaster on your people"
(Ref.: Exodus 32:9-12).

We must not covet!

We must not covet someone else's wife (husband)
(Deuteronomy 5:21).

The grave of greed

Those who are excessively greedy
will be buried in the grave of greed
(Ref.: Numbers 11:34).

**We must guard our hearts with care
so as not to forget them throughout our lives.**

We must be careful to never forget throughout our lives
the marvelous works of God that we have witnessed,
as well as His discipline, love, and grace that we have experienced.
Moreover, we should remember all these things
and pass them on to our children and descendants
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 4:9).

Those who are capable in the sight of God ...

In the eyes of God, powerful people are those who fear God,
are truthful, and hate unrighteous gain
(Exodus 18:21).

I am thankful to Heavenly Father.

I am thankful to Heavenly Father for loving the least of us,
choosing us as His children, and making us His holy people
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 7:6-7).

Heavenly Father knows that we are suffering greatly.

God saw clearly the suffering of the Israelites under oppression in Egypt
and heard their cries for deliverance from their cruel taskmasters.

He knows their pain.

Therefore, God came down to rescue them from the hands of the Egyptians
and lead them out of that land to the fertile and abundant land of Canaan.

This is why He called Moses from Mount Sinai

(Ref.: Exodus 3:7-10).

When meditating on these words, I find comfort
in the reminder that God is aware of the suffering of the oppressed Israelites.

Yesterday, I heard news that my beloved cousin, who is battling cancer,
is in so much pain and suffering. I believe that our Heavenly Father knows
how much His beloved daughter is suffering because of cancer.

So, we are praying to God, remembering her and lifting her up in prayer.

Let's also pray for healing for my cousin who is battling cancer.

When we come before God and remain silent ...

When the servant of God approaches God and quietly waits before Him,
God directly gives His words and commandments to His servant,
so that the servant may teach God's people
(Ref.: Exodus 24:12).

Parents who love God and the Word

We must love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and strength,
engraving His words in our hearts and diligently teaching them to our children
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 6:4-7).
When our children, who have been taught, look to us,
may they see how much we love God and His words.

We may think that worshiping God means stopping his work.

For God, our priority is to worship Him,
but for an unbelieving employer, our priority is to work for them,
fulfilling our daily responsibilities.
Therefore, from the perspective of an unbelieving employer,
they may perceive our worship of God as interrupting their work
(Ref.: Exodus 5:4-5, 13).

To the point where they can't worship God properly.

Isn't it the case that, to control the church's work (service) due to the increase in the number of parishioners, parishioners are burdened with even more church work to the extent that they cannot properly worship God, causing them to continue working hard in distress?
(Ref.: Exodus 5:4-9)

May God bless you and keep you.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord show you mercy and kindness.
May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace
(Ref.: Numbers 6:23-26).

Can we receive and enjoy what God has promised?

Even after witnessing the glory of God and the miracles He has performed, if one continues to test God and disobey Him, they will not be able to receive what God has promised
(Ref.: Numbers 14:22-23).

God fills us with the Holy Spirit ...

I pray that God fills us with the Holy Spirit
and grants us wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and various talents,
so that we may do the work of the Lord and serve Him
(Ref.: Exodus 35:31).

The reason why God defeats the wicked for us

The reason God defeats the wicked on our behalf
is not because we are righteous, just, or upright,
but because they are wicked and to fulfill the promise He made to us
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 9:4-5).

Because God is fighting for us ...

When God fights for us, we should not be afraid
but rather stand still and see with the eyes of faith what the Lord will do today to save us
(Ref.: Exodus 14:13-14; 2 Corinthians 5:7).

The reason why God blesses us with good things ...

The reason why God blesses us with good things is not because we are righteous. Rather, we are often stubborn and rebellious, continually opposing God, which provokes Him. Nevertheless, despite our shortcomings, God blesses us with good things to fulfill the promise He made to Jesus Christ.
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 9:5-8).

God has promised to help us.

When we are unsure of what to say because our tongues feel dull, we can trust and rely on God, who created human mouths, to help us speak. God has promised to assist us in such moments
(References: Exodus 4:12, 15).

God wants us and our descendants to be blessed forever.

God desires that both we and our descendants receive eternal blessings. The key to receiving God's blessings eternally is to always listen to what God says, to have a heart of dedication to obey His words, to fear God, and to keep all of His commandments
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 5:27-29).

God wins!

God overcomes those who act arrogantly toward His church
(Ref.: Exodus 18:11).

God gives to those who love Him and keep His commandments

God has promised to lavish His love upon those who love Him and keep His commandments,
extending it to their descendants for thousands of generations
(Deuteronomy 5:10).

With a heart longing for the fulfillment of this promise,
may we love God even more and keep His commandments diligently,
not only for my children Dillon, Yeri, and Karis but also for their descendants
until the return of Jesus, dwelling in the abundant love that God bestows.

God loves those who give with a cheerful heart.

God instructed the Israelites through Moses, saying,
"Accept from them every contribution
that they willingly present to me with a cheerful heart"
(Exodus 25:2).

The Bible says,
"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"
(2 Corinthians 9:7).

God extends love to thousands of generations.

Our God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. He extends love to a thousand generations, forgives wrongdoing and sin, yet does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation (Exodus 34:6-7).

God is self-existent. But not us.

If we summarize Moses's two responses to God's calling briefly, they are: (1) "Who am I?" and (2) "Who are you, God?" (Exodus 3:11, 13).

The biblical answers to these two questions are:

(1) God is "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14), and (2) Moses or we are not "I AM."

We are simply those who, when called by the self-existing God, obey in faith:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age"

(Matthew 28:19-20).

Understanding who God is

and who we are in our faith journey is crucial.

God loves us the most ...

God loves us the most, but how often do we do the evil
that He hates the most and make Him very angry
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 9:18, John 3:16, Romans 8:32).

God knows our weaknesses and shortcomings

Moses said to God, “Lord, I am not good at speaking.
Even after you spoke to me, I am slow of speech and slow of speech.”
He said, “Lord, please send someone else.”
God said, “Please send someone else.”
God appointed Moses' older brother Aaron to be Moses' representative
and speak to the Israelites on Moses' behalf
(Exodus 4:10, 13-16).
God is well aware of our weaknesses and shortcomings,
and He sends and attaches to us people
who can make up for our weaknesses and shortcomings.
The most important person among them is our spouse.

What are the consequences of rejecting God?

Rejecting God's word of promise is rejecting God,
and you will know the consequences of that rejection
(Ref.: Numbers 14:31-34).

Those who fear God ...

He who fears God does not deceive his neighbor
(Leviticus 25:17).

What is the difference between acting by faith in God and when we act by relying on ourselves?

When Moses was born, his parents hid him for three months
because they saw he was no ordinary child,
and they were not afraid of the king's edict
(Hebrews 11:23).

Although there was no immediate manifestation of valor, Moses,
when he had grown up, saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people.
Looking this way and that and seeing no one,
he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand
(Exodus 2:11-14).

Because Pharaoh tried to kill Moses, Moses fled from Pharaoh
and went to live in Midian (v. 15).

When we act in faith, it may seem hidden,
but when we rely on our own strength, what we tried to conceal,
God seems to uncover.

We must not test God, but rather cry out to Him.

When the Israelites, in their thirst,
quarreled with Moses and tested God,
saying, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt
to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"
Moses cried out to the Lord,
"What am I to do with these people?
They are almost ready to stone me."
In times of strife and complaint,
we should not test God together
but rather cry out to Him.
He will surely respond
(Exodus 17:1-6).

We may blame God.

Even when we seek help from someone who understands our suffering,
we may still face rejection and find ourselves in greater distress
when we attempt to ask others for assistance.
In such times, we might find ourselves unable to endure
the increased suffering any longer
and may even be tempted to resent God
(Numbers 21:1-5).

We must be careful not to forget God.

We must be careful not to forget the God
who led us out of bondage to Satan, sin,
and the ways of the world before we believed in Jesus.
And we must worship our God and serve Him
(Deuteronomy 6:12-13).

Even after seeing the power of God ...

Even after seeing God's power,
we are stubborn and disobey God's word
(Ref.: Exodus 8:19).

The habit of asking God's will

Let's get into the habit of asking God's will for all problems
(Ref.: Exodus 28:30).

The Word of God and the corruption of pastors?

Moses, the servant of God, went up to the mountain of God and stayed there for forty days and nights without eating or drinking, while receiving from God all the words of the covenant and the two tablets of stone on which these words were inscribed. Meanwhile, the Israelites who had come out of Egypt with Moses had fallen into corruption, forsaking what God had commanded and making idols to worship. However, these days, while the saints are fervently seeking God's word day and night, it seems that our pastors are corrupt, forsaking God's commandments and making idols to worship.

We who teach the word of God ...

We who teach the Word of God must be able to distinguish between the holy and the profane and the clean and the unclean (Ref.: Leviticus 10:10-11).

We must listen carefully to the word of God and obey it.

We must listen carefully and obey the word of God that the Holy Spirit makes us understand. We must do everything God says (Ref.: Exodus 23:21-22).

God's test?

God's test for the Israelites was to gather only enough manna for each day as God provided it like dew from heaven according to His instructions.

And on the sixth day, they were to gather twice the amount they gathered on other days in preparation (Exodus 16:2-5).

I think this test of God could not be passed without faith.

The reason is that from the perspective of the Israelites, who had eaten their fill of meat and bread in Egypt, the idea of going out every day to gather only the amount of manna needed for that day, as God commanded, would have required not only humility but also tremendous self-control.

And on the sixth day, they were supposed to gather twice the amount they gathered on other days in preparation, to honor the Sabbath as a holy day on the seventh day.

From the perspective of the Israelites, who should have gathered double the amount on the sixth day to honor the Sabbath on the seventh day, they might have been tempted to gather twice as much even on the first to fifth days.

Also, on the seventh day, they might have been tempted to go out and gather just as they did for the previous six days.

What is the test that God has given us now?

Are we passing through this test of God with faith?

I long for God's promise.

God had promised the Israelites,

"Today I will make all the nations and peoples on earth afraid of you.

They will hear reports of you and will tremble with fear and anxiety"

(Deuteronomy 2:25).

May the same God also give us this promise,

that all the people of the world may fear and be afraid of us,

trembling with fear and anxiety when they hear news about us.

The reason why God's word of promise is not heard is ...

The reason God's words of promise cannot be heard

is because one's heart is broken and one is suffering from harsh labor

(Exodus 6:9).

The lamb of God

Whoever believes in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God

who takes away the sin of the world, and receives forgiveness of sins

through His blood, will be saved

(Ref.: Exodus 12:7; John 1:29; Acts 16:31; Colossians 1:14).

It is God's grace and God's love.

Even though we are God's children who do not listen well to God's words and are stubborn, Heavenly Father forgives our sins and mistakes and accepts us as God's children. How grateful we are for this. It is God's grace and God's love (Ref.: Exodus 34:9).

The way God works is interesting. (1)

The infant Moses, who had been placed in a basket among the reeds by the banks of the Nile River, was only a few months old and had absolutely no ability to save himself. Someone had to rescue him, or else it would have been barbaric. That someone happened to be the daughter of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. When she went down to the river to bathe and saw the basket among the reeds, she heard the baby crying inside and took pity on him (Exodus 2:2-6). God saved baby Moses through the daughter of Pharaoh, who had commanded that all Hebrew baby boys be thrown into the river (1:22). While the father ordered all Hebrew baby boys to be thrown into the river, his daughter rescued just one of those boys, Moses. The way God works is interesting.

The way God works is interesting. (2)

Moses' mother, who sent him away in faith,
eventually ended up being paid wages by Pharaoh's daughter,
the princess of Egypt, as she brought Moses back to raise him
(Exodus 2:2-9).

It's astonishing and grateful enough that her child,
who could have died, was alive, but to be paid for raising him
adds another remarkable dimension.

The way God works is interesting.

We who long for God's presence ...

Those who seek God's presence must sanctify themselves with the blood of Jesus.
And we must establish clear boundaries between God and ourselves,
being careful not to approach those boundaries too closely
(Ref.: Exodus 19:10, 12).

We should be cautious when entering God's house.

While we draw near to hear God's word,
we must not open our mouths rashly or make hasty promises to God.
He is in heaven, and we are on earth,
so we should speak sparingly whenever possible
(Ecclesiastes 5:1-2).

Become the staff of God...

I hope that our humble staff will become God's staff
and be used as a precious tool to accomplish God's miracles
(Ref.: Exodus 4:17, 20).

Because they do not know who God is ...

Because they do not know who God is,
they do not listen to God's words
(Ref.: Exodus 5:2).

Are we satisfied with just Jesus, the bread of life who came down from heaven?

The bread of life that came down from heaven, Jesus (John 6:33, 35),
is not enough to satisfy if one complains about losing their appetite
and desires to taste again the things of the world before believing in Jesus
(Numbers 11:4-6). This
his indicates a failure to learn how to be content with oneself
and contradicts the spiritual state of being able to say,
"I can do all things through him who gives me strength"
(Philippians 4:11, 13).

It should not last longer than one night.

An employer must pay the wages of the workers he hires
on the same day and not more than one night
(Ref.: Exodus 19:13).

Are we treated well rather than abused?

Shouldn't Christians thrive more as they suffer persecution?
How is it that it seems like cults prosper more as they face persecution?
Could it be that we Christians today are receiving more favor than persecution?
(Ref.: Exodus 1:12)

God who gives unfailing love

Based on the fact that the only begotten Jesus Christ faithfully fulfilled all of God's will,
God has bestowed upon us consistent love and every spiritual blessing
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 7:12-13; Ephesians 1:3; Philippians 2:8).

Let's not complain carelessly.

God heard the complaints of the Israelites and did as they said
(Numbers 14:2, 27-29).

Always remember and keep in mind!

We must commemorate and always remember the day
when God brought us out of the kingdom of Satan with great power,
and we must keep in mind the word of God
(Ref.: Exodus 13:9).

Let us always believe in God.

When we hear everything that God has commanded us,
we should respond, "We will do everything the Lord has commanded."
God speaks to us so that we may hear His voice and always believe in Him
(Ref.: Exodus 19:7-9).

Therefore, we should sincerely praise,
"Apart from Your voice, there is no true joy,"
and "Please fulfill Your precious covenant
and be with us always when we follow Your commands."

We must not give false testimony or make false statements!

When testifying in court,
we must not assist the evil people of the public to give false testimony,
and we must not take the public's side and make false statements
(Exodus 23:1-2).

Likeable, great person?

Why did God instruct the Israelites to ask the Egyptians
for gold and silver articles when they left Egypt?
For this purpose, God caused the Egyptians to have favor toward the Israelites,
and He also made Pharaoh's officials and the Egyptians regard Moses as a great figure
(Ref.: Exodus 11:2-3).
But how could they consider Moses, the servant of God
who brought disaster upon himself and his people, as a great figure?

Trying to do too much on your own ...

Trying to handle too much work alone easily wears you out and leaves you speechless.
This is not right. It is right to share the burden together and make it lighter
(Ref.: Exodus 18:17-18, 22).

To future generations of leaders ...

I want to entrust the next generation of leaders
with a mission and encourage and strengthen them
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 3:28).

We need to rest.

We only have to work for 6 days and rest on the 7th day
(Exodus 23:12).