

**Let Us Always Read the Word of God and
Meditate on It Day and Night.**

[Short Word Meditation (27)]

James Kim

We must not listen to false prophets.

We must not listen to false prophets
who say that they prophesy with words that are not from God,
but are made up on their own
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 18:21-22).

Fear, service, reliance, oath

We must fear our God, serve Him, rely on Him, and swear only in His name
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 10:20).

Pain and trials

Pain and trials are opportunities to cry out to God,
and also opportunities to be led by His great power
and amazing miracles through answered prayers.
The fulfillment of God's promises may come with pain and trials
(Ref. Deuteronomy 26:6-9).

We must remove from the community those who tempt us.

We must remove from the community those who tempt us
not to live according to the Lord's commandments
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 13:5).

There are good reasons why church members resent their church leaders.

Not only did they fail to verify the facts, but Joshua and the leaders of Israel
also did not inquire of the Lord about this matter before making a peace treaty with the Gibeonites.
As a result, all the people of Israel resented them for this (Joshua 9:14-18).
There are also valid reasons for church members to resent their church leaders.

Rather than pastoring to increase the number of church members ...

Rather than conducting ministry to increase the number of church members,
it seems necessary to consider whether the Lord may be reducing
the number of church members in building His church
(Ref.: Judges 7:2-7; Matthew 16:18).

We are committing spiritual adultery.

If we, unlike the forefathers of our faith, do not obey God's commands, abandon God, and also do not obey His servants, but instead idolize and worship money, then we are committing spiritual adultery (Ref.: Judges 2:17).

Therefore, our entire family, relatives ...

God especially loved my great-grandparents and, out of many families, chose all of us, their descendants, to be what we are today. Therefore, our entire family and relatives must obey God and not be stubborn (Ref.: Deuteronomy 10:15-16).

Therefore, we must love strangers.

The Lord our God is the highest God, the Lord who rules over everything, the great and mighty, awe-inspiring God who does not show partiality or accept bribes. He ensures that orphans and widows receive justice and loves the foreigner, giving them food and clothing. Therefore, we must love the foreigner (Ref.: Deuteronomy 10:17-19).

Once we receive an answer to our prayer and feel at ease, we ...

Once we receive an answer to our prayer and feel at ease, we should not go back to your previous life and follow your old bad habits and sin against God again, thereby making God angry (Ref.: Judges 2:19).

Clean fine linen

Having been justified by God,
we will participate in the wedding feast of the Lamb in the new heaven and new earth.
Revelation 19:7-8 says: "Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!
For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.
Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear"
(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints).
At this wedding feast, the groom is Jesus Christ, and the bride is us,
who believe in Jesus and have been justified.
The "fine linen" we will wear symbolizes justification,
which God has clothed us with
(Note: the verb in verse 8 is passive,
indicating that God has clothed us with the fine linen).
As the bride, which is the church, and those who have been justified by God,
we must prepare ourselves (Note: the verb in verse 7 is active,
indicating that we, the bride, must prepare ourselves).
This preparation involves the righteous acts of the saints.
In other words, as those justified by God,
we must prepare ourselves with "righteous acts" or "righteous deeds" (v. 8).
From the perspective of 1 John, "righteous deeds"
refer to actions performed by a righteous person like Jesus (1 John 3:7),
doing righteousness as "Jesus Christ the Righteous One" (2:1) does (v. 6).
Specifically, these righteous deeds are encapsulated in Jesus' twofold commandment:
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind"
and "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37, 39).

“Even if I live my own way, everything will be fine”?

Those who serve idols are like the roots of poisonous plants that bear poisonous fruit. Even after hearing the warning of the curse, such people rashly think, “Even if I live my own way, everything will be fine” (Deuteronomy 29:18-19).

The reason why I became arrogant and thought I was better than others was ...

The reason I had the arrogant feeling that I was better than others was because I did not properly learn to fear God through the Bible (Ref.: Deuteronomy 17:19-20).

He is doing amazing things to make us realize the great power of God.

The God who dried up the Red Sea also dried up the Jordan River, allowing the Israelites to cross over on dry ground. God performed this amazing things to make all the peoples of the earth aware of His great power and to ensure that we would serve our God with reverent fear forever (Joshua 4:22-24). This same God performs amazing things in our journey of faith, revealing His great power to us. Therefore, we must always serve God with reverence and awe.

May we serve God for generations to come.

I hope and pray that God will choose our family
to serve God for generations to come
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 18:5).

When we are harassed by our enemies because we have no strength to fight back ...

When we are harassed by our enemies because we have no strength to fight back,
we have no choice but to cry out to God. God will rescue us from their hands
(Reference: Judges 6:6-9).

Unclean habits?

We must not imitate the unclean habits of the people of this world
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 18:9).

It will be a trap!

Instead of following the religious practices of this world,
we must learn how to serve their gods so that we do not end up doing the same.
Because it will be a trap for us
(Deuteronomy 12:30).

We cannot love money and serve God with it.

When Joshua said to the Israelites,
"Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.
But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord,"
the Israelites responded without removing the foreign gods among them,
saying, "We will never forsake the Lord to serve other gods. ...
So we too will serve the Lord, because He is our God. ...
We will serve the Lord. ... We will serve the Lord our God and obey Him"
(Joshua 24:15-16, 18, 21, 23, 24).
We cannot love money and serve both God and wealth
(Ref.: Matthew 6:24).

We must keep it faithfully with all our heart and soul.

We must faithfully observe with all our heart and soul
the twofold commandment that Jesus gave us:
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind"
and "Love your neighbor as yourself"
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 26:16, Matthew 22:37, 39).

We must not change our hearts!

We must obey God's commands and love Him,
not change our hearts to disobey,
fall into temptation, and commit sins
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 30:16-17).

If our future generations abandon God And worship money as an idol ...

If our future generations abandon God and worship money as an idol,
God will be angry with them and will not be able to withstand all the enemies around them.
God will faithfully strike them as He said, and their suffering will be severe
(Ref.: Judges 2:14-15).

If our future generations do not know God ...

If our future generations do not know God and what He has done for us,
they will sin against God and serve idols
(Ref.: Judges 2:10-11).

If we had been wise and realized this ...

If we had been wise and realized this, we would have discerned our end
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 32:29).

If we disobey God ...

If we disobey God, we will not be able to rest
and we will be worn out, weary, anxious, and hopeless
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 28:65).

If we obey God ...

If we obey God, we will be blessed at home,
we will be blessed at work, our descendants will prosper,
and everything we do will be blessed and everything will go well
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 28:1-6).

If we hear and keep all of God's commands ...

If we hear and keep all of God's commands,
God will make us the head and not the tail, but will always exalt us
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 28:13).

What if God ...?

What if God turns away from us,
who are evil and unfaithful, and watches our end?
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 32:20)

Even through many disasters and tribulations ...

We must remember God's words of warning
even through many disasters and tribulations
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 31:21).

As God said and promised ...

God is a God who does what He says (Deuteronomy 26:18).
Our God is a God who acts upon us as He promised (v. 19).

The disaster God mentioned will also come upon us.

God will fulfill all the good promises He has made,
but likewise, if we violate the covenant that God commanded us
to keep by serving and worshiping other gods,
then the disasters He has spoken of will also come upon us.
In that case, we will quickly perish from the good land He has given us
(Ref.: Joshua 23:15-16).

We must keep our oaths and promises.

Though Joshua and the leaders of Israel entered into a peace treaty with the Gibeonites without inquiring of God or verifying the truth of their deception, they did not break the solemn oath they made with them in the name of God, nor did they violate the covenant they made with the Gibeonites (Ref.: Joshua 9:3-20).

When reflecting on this passage, we learn the lesson that even if church leaders err and make mistakes, causing resentment among the congregation, they should still uphold the promises made in the name of God and not break the agreements made with those who deceived them.

All evil must be eliminated.

We must eliminate all evil in our homes and churches (Ref.: Deuteronomy 17:7).

We shouldn't even subject ourselves to insults.

A judge must allow a guilty person to be punished, but must not subject the guilty person to public humiliation (Deuteronomy 25:1-3).

Without faith we cannot obey!

When God said to Gideon, "With the 300 men who lapped

I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands.

Let all the others go home," Gideon dismissed the rest of the men,
except the 300, as God had instructed

(Judges 7:7-8).

However, considering that "the Midianites, Amalekites,

and other eastern peoples had settled in the valley, thick as locusts.

Their camels could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore" (v. 12),

how was Gideon able to send 12,000 of the 22,000 Israelites home

according to God's word (v. 3), and then send the remaining 11,700 people home,
leaving only 300? (v. 8)

For Gideon to be able to obey God's word was an impossible task without faith.

He acted according to God's word because he believed in what God said,

"With the 300 men who lapped

I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands" (v.7).

If he had relied on his own understanding,

Gideon would never have been able to obey God's word.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight"

(Proverbs 3:5-6).

When we eat well and live comfortably...

When we eat well and live comfortably,

there is a high risk of serving idols, despising God,

breaking God's covenant, and sinning

(Ref.: Deuteronomy 31:20).

Ungrateful people?

After Gideon's death, the Israelites committed the sin of idolatry.

They did not remember their God, who had saved them from all their enemies on every side.

They also did not treat Gideon's family well for what he had done for Israel

(Judges 8:33-35). They were ungrateful people.

Are we perhaps ungrateful people too?

Must not abandon!

A man must not abandon his woman all his life

(Deuteronomy 22:19).

God who saves us even when we sin

Our God is a God who saves us

by appointing someone to rescue us

even when we sin again and cry out to Him in suffering

(Ref.: Judges 3:15).

That community will not be blessed.

If there are church members who murder their brothers and sisters because they hate them in their hearts, that community will not be blessed by God in all things (Ref.: Deuteronomy 19:13; 1 John 3:15).

The words must be clearly written

We must have all of God's words clearly written on the tablets of our hearts (Ref.: Deuteronomy 27:8). So, we must not sin against the Lord (Psalms 119:11).

It is a shortcut to unbelief.

Disobeying God's commands and failing God's test is a shortcut to unbelief (Ref.: Judges 3:1-7).

Marrying an unbeliever?

Marrying a non-believer may lead the non-believer spouse to believe in Jesus and have faith, but it may also lead us to unbelief (Ref.: Judges 3:6-7).

Although there are only a few members now ...

Currently, the Victory Community only has a few members, but I pray that God will later establish it as a large and strong community (Ref.: Deuteronomy 26:5).

Because a person can bear false witness ...

Because a person can give false witness, we should not judge a person as a sinner after hearing only one witness, but rather listen to the testimony of two or three people before deciding the case (Deuteronomy 19:15-16).

I pray ...

I pray that God will give us all a heart to understand,
eyes to see, and ears to hear (Ref.: Deuteronomy 29:4).

It is not too late to make a decision and take action after listening to what the other person has to say.

Before crossing the Jordan River, while still in the land of Canaan,
the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh
built a massive altar on the bank of the river.

When the remaining Israelites on the west side of the Jordan heard about this,
they gathered at Shiloh, prepared to fight against their brother tribes.

However, before any conflict arose, they wisely sent a delegation led by Phinehas,
son of Eleazar the priest, to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh
in the land of Gilead across the river to inquire about the purpose of the altar they had built.

Their purpose was not to build another altar outside of the one belonging to their God,
the Lord, in front of the tabernacle, with the intention of abandoning
or rebelling against the Lord by offering burnt offerings, grain offerings, or any other sacrifices.

Rather, it was to ensure that the descendants of the Israelite tribes
remaining on the west side of the Jordan in the future could
not say to the descendants of the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh,
"You have no share in the Lord our God."

Upon learning of this purpose, the priest Phinehas said to them,
"Now we know that the Lord is with us. You have not rebelled against the Lord;
instead, you have saved the Israelites from the Lord's punishment!"
(Joshua 22:10-31).

Reflecting on this passage, we come to appreciate the importance of dialogue.

It reminds us not to jump to conclusions and start fighting over misunderstandings,
but rather to listen to the other person's story first. It's never too late to make a decision.

It's wise to listen to the other person's reasons or motives for their actions
before making a decision and acting on it.

When the other person is speaking angrily ...

When the other person is speaking angrily,
rather than responding rationally or logically,
it might help to acknowledge, praise,
and elevate them with a humble heart,
considering them better than yourself.
This could help to calm their anger
(Ref.: Judges 8:1-3; Philippians 2:3).

We should feel ashamed.

If we live in refusal to fulfill our Christian obligations,
we should feel shame
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 25:7-9).

The secret to victory

The secret to victory is
that God delivers our enemies into our hands
so that we can overcome them
(Ref.: Judges 3:10).

Even if that prophecy comes true ...

The false pastors not only predict that miraculous events will occur,
but even if those prophecies come true, we must never fall for their temptations.
God uses such false pastors to test whether we truly love Him with all our heart and soul
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 13:1-3).s

The sword of judgment

God will sharpen the sword of judgment
and take revenge on His enemies and those who hate Him
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 32:41).

If we help generously and don't be stingy ...

If we generously help our poor brothers in our community
and do not harbor a stingy heart,
our God will bless everything we do
(Deuteronomy 15:7-10).

**No matter how much a beloved wife, child, sibling,
or even our closest friend subtly tempts us ...**

No matter how much a beloved wife, child, sibling,
or even our closest friend subtly tempts us,
we must not fall for their persuasion, listen to their words,
or be swayed by affection to pity or protect them
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 13:6-8).

We need to verify if what you have learned is true.

Joshua and the leaders of Israel verified the fact
when they realized they had been deceived by the cunning trick of the Gibeonites
(Joshua 9:16-17). We also need to verify if what we have learned (heard) is true.

Hold on to the word of promise!

Caleb held onto Moses' promise for 45 years
that the land he had walked on would be his and his descendants' possession
(Joshua 14:9-10).

I received the promise of the five loaves and two fish from John 6:1-15
during the Victory Presbyterian Church college retreat in May 1987,
and I have been holding onto it and praying for 33 years.

One who made a promise, one who received a promise

One who made a promise must keep his promise,
and one who receive a promise must bear his responsibility
(Ref.: Joshua 2:17-18).

Something like a monument that will forever remind us?

There should be something like a monument in our hearts
that will forever remind us of the amazing miracles God has already done
(Ref.: Joshua 4:7).

We must have spiritual discernment.

We must have spiritual discernment to distinguish
between those who will go with us to fight this sinful world
and those who will not
(Reference: Judges 7:4).

Grace and blessings given when defeated and victorious in spiritual warfare

When we are defeated in spiritual warfare,
the grace and blessing are that God makes us realize our sins and leads us to repentance.
When we are victorious in spiritual warfare,
the grace and blessing are that God makes us realize the battle belongs to Him
and that He leads us to victory according to His strategy
(Ref.: Joshua 8:1-7).

Victory in spiritual warfare is ...

Victory in spiritual warfare is God's presence with us and our obedience
(Ref.: Joshua 7:12).

A spiritual leader ...

A spiritual leader must exhort those who follow him with confidence in victory in the Lord,
And say 'Do not be afraid, do not be afraid, do not tremble, or be dismayed,
for God will go with us to fight for us and give us victory.'
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 20 :2-4).

‘Oh Lord, send someone else to do it.’

In the deliverance of the Israelites from the hands of their enemies, the Midianites, Gideon seemed to feel unworthy of the task God had given him.

He thought he lacked the qualifications because

- (1) he questioned, "How can I save Israel?"
- (2) he mentioned, "My clan is the weakest in Manasseh," and
- (3) he referred to himself as "the least in my family"

(Judges 6:14-15).

This brings to mind what Moses said to God when He called Moses to send him to Egypt:

"O Lord, please send someone else to do it"

(Exodus 4:13).

Let us engage in spiritual warfare with faith, relying solely on God, having confidence in the victory of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and fearing only God.

When the kings west of the Jordan River gathered to fight against the Israelite army led by Joshua, the Gibeonites from the Hivites felt threatened for their lives and, in order to find a way to survive, devised a cunning plan to make a peace treaty with the Israelites (Joshua 9:1, 4, 14, 24).

Reflecting on this passage, I recall how Rahab in Jericho also feared the Israelites and hid the two spies Joshua sent, and as a result, she and her family were spared (Joshua 2).

When considering this, I believe it is a precious grace that both Rahab and the Gibeonites had a heart that feared God and His people.

In spiritual warfare, I think it's necessary for us to reach a point where we feel threatened in our spiritual health and well-being.

And in the face of such threats, our only way to survive is to fear God alone, rely solely on Him, have confidence in the victory of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and engage in spiritual battle with faith.

As the whole church fights a spiritual war together ...

As the whole church fights a spiritual war together,
it may be better to let those who are weak in faith, doubtful,
fearful, anxious, or complaining go home
(Ref.: Judges 7:3).

A snare

We must not commit the mistake of becoming a snare
for ourselves and our homes
(Ref.: Judges 8:24-27).

We must remove them among us.

We must remove the stolen goods from among us
so that God will be with us and we will be able to withstand our enemy the devil
(Reference: Joshua 7:12-13).

If there are poor people in our community ...

If there is a poor person in our community,
we should not be too stingy with him but lend him what he needs
(Deuteronomy 15:7-8).

We will all suffer.

If we take anything offered to God, we will all suffer
(Ref.: Joshua 6:18).

Let our children ...

We should teach our children to listen to
and learn God's word and the gospel of Jesus Christ,
so that they may serve God with a reverent heart
and live according to His word
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 31:12-13).

Leaders must be determined and courageous.

Leaders must be firm in heart and take courage.

The reason is that God is always with us, never leaving us nor forsaking us.

And we must lead the flock that God has entrusted to us
to obtain the eternal kingdom of God, the true promised land

(Ref.: Joshua 1:5-6).

Not because we deserve to be sent!

When God sends us, it's not because we are qualified,

but because He chooses and appoints us within His sovereignty,

promising to be with us when He sends us

(Ref.: Judges 6:14-16).

When we become fat and prosperous ...

When we become fat and prosperous,

there is a great risk that we will forsake the God

who created us and despise the Rock of our salvation

(Ref.: Deuteronomy 32:13-15).

We are victorious ...

We are victorious because God gave us victory.

(Ref.: Joshua 24:12).

When we do not fully believe in God and are afraid ...

God knew that Gideon was afraid to attack
the camp of the Midianites according to God's command.

So, God wanted to give Gideon the courage to attack, and He said to him,

"Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands"
(Judges 7:9).

Therefore, Gideon took his servant Purah and went down
to the edge of the enemy camp, just as God had instructed.

When they arrived, they heard a man telling his friend about a dream he had:

"I had a dream: A loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp.
It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed" (v. 13).

His friend replied, "This can be nothing
other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite.

God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands" (v. 14).

After hearing the dream and its interpretation, Gideon worshipped God
and returned to the camp of Israel, shouting, "Get up!

The Lord has given the Midianite camp into your hands!" (vv. 9-15).

When I reflect on this passage, it seems to me that our God,
knowing our weaknesses well, encourages us

when we are unable to fully trust in God and His promises and are afraid.

Therefore, we receive the lesson that we should obey God's word in faith
with the courage that God gives us.

I hope that what we do will be received with gladness.

We pray that God will give us holy strength
and receive what we do with gladness
(See Deuteronomy 33:11).

We must be strong-hearted and courageous.

We must be strong-hearted and courageous.
We must not fear our adversaries or tremble before them.
The reason is because our God is with us
and will not leave us or forsake us
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 31:6).

We must always be fair and honest.

We must always be fair and honest.
We must not conduct unfair or biased trials, and we must not accept bribes.
This is because bribery blinds the eyes of wise men and silences the statements of righteous men
(Deuteronomy 16:19-20).

In spiritual warfare

We must help our brothers and sisters in spiritual warfare

(Reference: Joshua 1:14).

We are the holy people of our God.

We are a holy people of our God

(Deuteronomy 14:1, 2, 21).

Therefore, we should not mourn like hopeless people

for those who have already fallen asleep (dead) in the Lord

(1 Thessalonians 4:13).

We need to know better.

We need to know.

We must be well aware that all the good things God promised have come true

(Ref.: Joshua 23:14).

We are truly blessed people.

We are truly blessed people.

Are there people like us who have been saved by God?

God is our shield and sword, protecting us and giving us victory

(Ref.: Deuteronomy 33:29).

We are those who are loved by the Lord.

We are those who are loved by the Lord.

May the Lord protect us all day long and protect us in His arms

(Ref.: Deuteronomy 33:12).

We need to reflect on the past.

We need to reflect on the past.

We must consider all the history of the past.

God chose us as His children, protected and watched over us

like the apple of His eye in this wilderness-like world,

guiding and helping us alone

(Ref.: Deuteronomy 32:7-12).

We must serve God.

We must fear God and serve Him with integrity and sincerity
(Ref.: Joshua 24:14).

We can keep God's word.

God's word is not difficult to keep or beyond our strength.
It is right beside us, in our mouths and in our hearts,
so that we can obey it (Ref.: Deuteronomy 30:11, 14).

One man will be able to withstand a thousand enemies.

Because our God fights for us as He promised,
no one can withstand us, and in the future one man will be able to
withstand a thousand enemies
(Ref.: Joshua 23:9-10).

Like Caleb, we too ...

Like Caleb, we must follow God completely
(Ref.: Joshua 14:8, 14).

When we move forward with confidence in victory ...

The two spies who had scouted out Jericho came to Joshua and said,
"The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands;
even all the people are melting in fear because of us"
(Joshua 2:23).
In my opinion, the confidence of these two spies comes from
the assurance they gained through Rahab,
whom God had arranged for them to meet in Jericho.
I think this because the two spies said to Joshua,
"They all trembled with fear when they heard
how the Lord had dried up the water of the Jordan before you"
(Joshua 2:23), which indicates that Rahab had informed them,
"We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea" (v. 10).
This is based on the statements made in verse 9,
"All the people in this land are melting in fear because of us,"
and verse 11, "When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear."
It was Rahab's conviction that instilled confidence in those two spies.
When we advance with confidence in victory,
we can also serve as instruments to instill confidence in our brothers and sisters around us.

God who fights for us and gives us victory ...

The God who fights for us and gives us victory
is the God who makes sure that no one dares speak against us
(Ref.: Joshua 10:21).

God has done great and wonderful things for us.

God is the one we should praise, our God,
and the one who has done great and wonderful things for us
just as we purposed (Ref.: Deuteronomy 10:21).

He will gather us back from all the churches where He has scattered us.

We, our children, and our descendants must return to our God
and keep His commands with all our heart and soul.
Then our God will take pity on us and gather us back
from all the churches where we were scattered
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 30:2-3).

The reason why there are still people who cause us distress, hurt, and pain is ...?

The reason why there are still people in our lives who cause us distress, hurt, and pain might be that God is testing us to see whether we obey His commands or not (Ref.: Judges 3:1-4).

God who gives us victory

God causes our enemies to be defeated and gives us victory (Ref.: Joshua 10:12).

Something fatal to us?

What is fatal to us when we are constantly being harassed by our enemies is thinking that we no longer have God's miraculous guidance (deliverance) and having no hope of salvation in the thought that God has abandoned us (Ref.: Judges 6:13).

When our suffering is too much to bear

I think that perhaps when our suffering is so severe that we cannot bear it,
God sends a man of God to comfort us and help us bear it
(Ref.: Judges 2:15-16).

Why are our enemies stronger than us?

The reason our enemies are stronger than us
may be because God made our enemies stronger than us
because we sinned against Him
(Ref.: Judges 3:12).

God has removed our shame.

God has removed our shame from being slaves of sin in Satan's kingdom
(Ref.: Joshua 5:9).

Although God gives the opportunity and time for us to confess our sins ...

God gave time for Achan, who had stolen things
that the Israelites were not supposed to take, to confess his sin.
This time span ranged from the time immediately
after the Israelites captured the city of Jericho to their defeat in the battle against Ai.
Furthermore, it extended to the next morning after God spoke to Joshua.
Even further, it extended to the morning after that,
when God made each tribe, each family, and each household come forward
until the guilty party was identified by tribe, household, and family.
However, Achan did not confess his sin until the end
when, after his family was singled out, one by one,
and he was identified as the perpetrator, Joshua said to him,
"My son, give glory to the Lord, the God of Israel, and honor him.
Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me"
(Joshua 7:19).
It was then that Achan admitted and confessed,
"Indeed, I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel" (v. 20).
When reflecting on this passage,
I think that God gives us the opportunity and time to confess our sins,
but we often fail to confess them until God points them out to us.
This reminds me of 1 John 1:9,
"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

May God prove us truthful ...

May God prove us truthful as He tests us.

We pray that we can obey the Lord's commands and keep His words,
even ignoring our parents, brothers, and children

(Ref.: Deuteronomy 33:8-9).

Our responsibility is to obey God.

After receiving the word of promise from God,
our responsibility is to obey God

(Ref.: Joshua 5:6).

Our greed ...

Our greed leads us to disobey God's commands.

In the end, it can even cause distress to those who are with us

(Ref.: Joshua 7:21-26).

Is there any god like our God?

Is there any god like our God?

God comes down majestically from heaven to help us.

The eternal God is our refuge, and His eternal arms uphold us

(Ref.: Deuteronomy 33:26-27).

We must not mistake ourselves for doing this through our own strength!

God, who hates pride (Proverbs 8:13) and hates those with proud hearts (16:5),

thinks that because our church has so many members,

we have done God's work (evangelism, missions, relief, etc.) in our own strength.

It is God who prevents pride (Ref.: Judges 7:2).

A dangerous and painful existence?

We must take care of ourselves and love our God.

If we become one with the people of the world, marry, and associate with them,

they will become dangerous to us, like a snare or pitfall, and painful,

like a whip in the side or a thorn in the eye

(Ref.: Joshua 23: 11-13).

What a great grace and blessing this is!

Because of God's love for his people,
all saints are protected by God and are taught under God's feet.
What a great grace and blessing!
The Word of God is our precious heritage
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 33:3-4).

When I think of this abundant grace of God ...

Even though I have not faithfully kept all that God commanded
and have not loved my God with all my heart and soul, serving Him wholeheartedly,
God has graciously provided help according to His timing, making me abound in blessings
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 11:13-15).
When I think about this abundant grace of God,
I want to work even harder in the Lord's service through the power of His grace
(Ref.: 1 Corinthians 15:10).

Is this the way to repay God?

Aren't we Christians now corrupt and doing evil?
Aren't we flawed and crooked people? Is this the way to repay God?
Aren't we foolish people?
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 32:5-6)

I hope we can make this confession.

May all Christians be able to make this confession:

“I obeyed the Lord my God and did everything he commanded me”

(Deuteronomy 26:14).

I think this relationship is valuable.

Rahab helped the two spies of Israel and showed them kindness, so they also showed her grace by promising, in the name of their God, to spare her and her family and relatives when Jericho was conquered, and requested a trustworthy sign of their pledge.

At that time, the two spies said, "If you don't betray our mission, we will risk our lives to save you and your family when the Lord gives us this land.

We promise to treat you with kindness and faithfulness"

(Joshua 2:12-14).

The relationship where one helps those in crisis with kindness and the helped one shows grace to the helper, assisting them sincerely, is precious.

We must not serve like this.

We must not serve our God as we serve idols

(Deuteronomy 12:4).

God who fought for Israel ...

The God who fought for Israel
caused the sun and moon to stand still at the prayer of one person
(Joshua 10:14).

The same loving and rejoicing God refused the prayer of Jesus Christ,
His only begotten Son, when He cried out loudly on the cross,
"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
(Matthew 27:46).

The reason is to answer our prayers made in the name of Jesus,
for He said, "And I will do whatever you ask in my name,
so that the Father may be glorified in the Son"
(John 14:13-14; 16:24).

What are the consequences of deceiving our neighbor?

Those whose consciences are so numb
that they do not regard deceiving their neighbors as sin,
and church members who are proficient in lying,
may only come to realize the magnitude of their deceitful sin,
considered as cursed by God,
when they receive the curse as a result of their deceit.
It is then, in that moment of being cursed,
that God may extend His grace, causing them to recognize
the gravity of their deceitful sin even in the slightest
(Ref.: Joshua 9:23).

A man who has just gotten married ...

A man who has just married should not move into his parents' house and live with them, but should be free to stay in his own home for a year and live happily with his wife
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 24:5)

When looking back on life, amid great crisis and adversity ...

When looking back on life,
I pray that we remember the lessons
learned from the direct experiences of God's presence
and the works He has done during great crises and adversities,
and that we always love God
and faithfully keep all the commandments He gives us.
If we do so, God will strengthen us and surely fulfill His promises to us,
allowing us to live long and enjoy His blessings
(Deuteronomy 11:1-3, 7-9).

Helping you complete your mission

It is better to help the other person complete a task
than to refuse help because the task is not yet completed
(Ref.: Judges 8:8-9).

If we accumulate a lot of wealth ...

If we accumulate a lot of wealth,
there is a high risk that our hearts will turn away from the Lord
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 17:17).

The judge must decide ...

The judge must decide what is right and what is wrong,
so that those who are innocent are freed and those who are guilty are punished
(Deuteronomy 25:1).

We may take a path we have never been on before?

As we follow the Lord's guidance,
we may take a path we have never been on before
(Ref.: Joshua 3:4).

As the Lord is with our church ...

As the Lord is with our church,
I pray that word of the church spreads everywhere
(Ref.: Joshua 6:27).

We must serve the Lord and rely on Him.

We must follow the Lord, fear the Lord,
keep the Lord's commands, listen to the Lord's voice,
serve the Lord and rely on Him
(Deuteronomy 13:4).

As we have done so far ...

As we have done so far, we must follow and serve only our God.
And we must strive to keep God's commandments written in the Bible
and not deviate from them at all (Ref.: Joshua 23:6, 8).

A leader ... (1)

A leaders must realize that he can no longer lead his followers in God's time, and appoint someone to become a new leader as God said (Ref.: Deuteronomy 31:1-3).

A leader ... (2)

A leader should not be afraid or discouraged. The reason is because God himself will guide him and be with him, and will not abandon him or leave him. Therefore, he must strengthen his heart and have courage (Ref.: Deuteronomy 31:7-8).

Leaders should not be afraid or fearful.

Leaders should not be afraid or fearful. The reason is because our God is with him wherever he goes (Ref.: Joshua 1:9).

If we faithfully follow ...

If we faithfully follow God's covenant words,
what we do will prosper
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 29:9).

Do not delay payment of wages but pay it on the due date.

Do not abuse a poor employee.
Rather, do not delay paying wages to a poor employee
because he or she needs the money right away.
Be sure to pay the wages on time
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 24:14-15).

We must no harbor ...

We must not harbor evil thoughts in our hearts
(Deuteronomy 15:9).

If we do not serve God when we are abundant ...

If we do not serve God with a joyful and cheerful heart when we are abundant,
we will lack everything (Ref.: Deuteronomy 28:47).

We must do what is right in God's eyes.

If we do what is right in God's eyes,
we and our descendants will be blessed forever
(Deuteronomy 12:28).

We must live blamelessly before God.

We must drive out from among us those who do unclean things that God hates.
The reason is that we must live blameless before our God
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 18:12-13).

We must become people who offer complete worship to God.

Pastors must teach God's word to God's people
and become people who offer complete worship to God
(Reference: Deuteronomy 33:10).

Let us be responsible for carrying out what God has commanded.

The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the eastern half-tribe of Manasseh kept the commands given by Moses and obeyed all the commands of Joshua. They did not abandon their brothers (the nine tribes and the other half-tribe of Manasseh) for a long time and faithfully carried out the tasks that God commanded. As a result, God gave their brothers peace, just as He had promised (Joshua 22:1-4).

Similarly, we should pray that by obeying the commands of God's servants that align with God's commands and by faithfully carrying out the tasks God has given us, God will grant peace to our brothers and sisters.

God will surely accomplish what He has promised.

If we do all that God commands us,
loving our God and always living according to His will,
God will surely fulfill what He has promised
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 19:9).

May God bless us ...

May God bless us and allow us to lend money
to many people but not to borrow
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 15:6).

What God requires of us ...

What God requires of us is to fear Him, live according to His will,
love and serve Him with all our heart and soul,
and keep His commands and decrees,
which He gives for our happiness
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 10:12-13).

God himself will discipline us with love.

Anyone who does not listen to the word of God
delivered through God's servants
will be disciplined by God himself with love
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 18:19; Hebrews 12:6).

God listens to our cries of sorrow because of the pressure and suffering we face from them.

When we are suffering greatly from our enemies as a result of our sins,
God listens to our cries of sorrow
because of the pressure and suffering we are under from them,
takes pity on us, and raises up a man of God who takes pity on us.
Through people, He saves us from the hands of our enemies
(Ref.: Judges 2:18).

God will also see this as a good deed.

If we lend something to a poor person and he gives us his coat as collateral,
we should not keep it overnight but return it to him at sunset
so he can sleep in it and be grateful.
Our God will also see this as a good deed
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 24:10-13).

Because God loves us ...

Because God loves us,
He does not listen to false pastors like Balaam
and turns curses into blessings for us
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 23:5).

Those who tempt us to leave God

Those who tempt us to leave our God,
who delivered us from the kingdom of Satan, are evildoers.
We must stay away from them
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 13:10-11).

Christians who believe in God have assurance in victory.

Rahab the prostitute (Joshua 2:1) believed that Jericho would be conquered by the Israelites (v. 12). The reason was that she believed that the God of the Israelites, Jehovah, was the greatest God in the world (v. 11). Christians who believe in the greatest God in the world have the assurance of victory.

If we love God, live according to His will, and be faithful to Him ...

If our entire family and church members faithfully keep all that God commands, love our God, live according to His will, and remain loyal to Him, God will drive out all sinful things of the world from our family and church. He will defeat people who are much greater and stronger than us and will surely fulfill the promises He made to us (Ref.: Deuteronomy 11:22-23).

We must love God, live according to His will, and obey His commands.

When God's servant gives us commandments that are consistent with God's commands, we are to faithfully observe those commandments, love our God, live according to His will, and obey His commands. We must be loyal to God and serve Him with all our heart and soul (Ref.: Joshua 22:5).

May God give us and our descendants an obedient heart.

I pray that God will give us and our descendants an obedient heart
so that we can love our God with all our heart and all our souls
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 30:6).

Shouldn't we record and teach songs of God's warning words?

Moses heard God say to him, "You will soon die.
But after you die, these people will enter the land
where they will live and worship foreign gods, forgetting me
and breaking the covenant I made with them.
Then I will be angry with them and abandon them,
turning my face away from them, and they will be destroyed.
When many disasters and troubles come upon them,
they will realize that these things are happening to them
because I, their God, am not with them.
Because they worship other gods and do evil,
I will turn my face away from them."
And Moses received the word from God,
"Write down this song and teach it to the Israelites and have them sing it,
so that it may be a witness for me against them."
"So, on that day, Moses wrote down the song and taught it to the Israelites"
(Deuteronomy 31:16-22).

Reflecting on this passage made me wonder how Moses must have felt.
Shouldn't we, like Moses, also write down and teach God's warning song
with the perspective of our own mortality?

Christians who always remember God's grace of salvation ...

A Christian who always remembers and lives by God's grace of salvation shows kindness to foreigners, orphans, and widows
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 24:17-18).

Our heart and attitude when listening to the word of God?

I hope that our hearts and attitudes towards listening to God's word would be like this:
'Whatever the Lord commands us, we will do,
and wherever the Lord sends us, we will go'
(Ref.: Joshua 1:16).

Let us always read the Word of God and meditate on it day and night.

We must always read the Word of God, meditate on it day and night,
and faithfully keep everything written in it without neglecting anything.
Then it will go well with us and we will be successful wherever we go
(Ref.: Joshua 1:7-8).

We must cherish God's commandments in our hearts ...

We must cherish God's commandments in our hearts
and teach them to our children.

If our entire family obeys these words,
God will fulfill His promises to us,
allowing not only us but also our descendants to live
and enjoy blessings for generations to come
(Deuteronomy 11:18-21).

God's Word of life

We must keep God's words of life in our hearts
and teach them to our children as well
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 32:46-47).

We must listen to God's voice.

We must acknowledge God, keep and practice His words,
and listen to His voice
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 26:17).

When I meditate on God's strategy of victory ...

In God's strategy for victory,
about 5,000 Israelite soldiers were ambushed
between Bethel and Ai to lure the people of Ai into a trap.
The main force of the Israelite army pretended to be defeated
by the king of Ai and his troops and fled toward the wilderness.
When all the soldiers of Ai pursued the Israelites and left the city far behind,
there were no remaining enemies in Ai or Bethel,
and the gates of the city were wide open, leaving it defenseless.
At that moment, Joshua raised his javelin
to signal toward the city of Ai as commanded by God,
and the ambushed Israelite soldiers rushed into Ai and captured the city
(Joshua 8:9-19).

Reflecting on this divine strategy for victory,
I believe there are several lessons we can learn:

- (1) God's strategy is ever-victorious.
- (2) God made the Israelite army's decoy operation successful.
- (3) The success of this decoy operation divided the Israelite forces into two:
while 5,000 soldiers were lying in ambush,
the rest of the main force pretended to be defeated
when the king of Ai led his troops out of the city.
They fled toward the wilderness, leaving Ai defenseless.
The ambushing Israelite soldiers stormed into the city,
capturing it and immediately setting it on fire.
Seeing the flames, the Israelite soldiers who were retreating to the wilderness
turned back and came out in a counterattack formation.
The ambushing Israelite troops inside the city also emerged
and attacked the people of Ai from behind.
Eventually, the people of Ai were completely surrounded and killed off
by the attacks from both sides of the Israelite army,
leaving no survivors as they tried to flee (vv. 20-22).
- (4) Arrogance is a deadly sin in spiritual warfare.

Because the king of Ai had won in the first battle against the Israelite army,
he presumed he would win again in the second battle.
He led his army out of Ai, leaving the city defenseless,
thinking they would triumph once more.
His arrogance led to his defeat in the war.
(5) Humility is crucial in spiritual warfare.
Trusting and relying solely on the God of victory
and obeying His commands is the key to success.

God's test?

God seems to use even our enemies
to see whether we obey His commands or not
(Ref.: Judges 2:22).

The servant of God ...

God's servants must purify themselves
and obey God's commands before His people
(Ref.: Joshua 3:6).

He will accomplish everything without leaving anything behind!

All the good promises of the Lord to us will be fulfilled;
not one of them will fail
(Ref.: Joshua 21:45).

We will not succeed in everything we do

If we do not obey God and keep His commandments,
we will not succeed in everything we do
(Deuteronomy 28:15, 29).

One person's disobedience ...

It seems that one person's disobedience
can cause the entire church to fail in spiritual warfare
(Ref.: Joshua 7:11-12).

'Koreans should not hate Japanese people.'

When the Bible meditates on the words,

"Do not hate the Egyptians, for you once lived in their land"

(Deuteronomy 23:7), it is applied as 'Koreans should not to hate Japanese people.'

We must rejoice together! (1)

We must rejoice that God has blessed us in everything we do

while eating with our beloved family before God

(Deuteronomy 12:7).

We must rejoice together! (2)

We must rejoice together in all the good things God has given to our neighbors.

(Ref.: Deuteronomy 26:11).

We must always learn ...

We must always learn to fear our God
(Deuteronomy 14:23).

The punishment should not be received by the innocent person ...

The punishment should not be received by the innocent person,
but by the person who gave false witness
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 19:19).

I want to confirm to be certain.

God allows us to confirm again and again,
so that we can be assured that He will certainly fulfill what He has promised.
He is a God who acts according to what we ask
(Ref.: Judges 6:36-40).

Do not be afraid by looking at the circumstances ...

We should not be afraid
by looking at the fearful circumstances with our physical eyes,
but instead, we should look with faith
at the unseen God who is with us and not be afraid
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 20:1).