

Embody the word

2011

No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. 1 Corinthians (9:27)

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ANBI / All Nations Bible Institute 201101

# Ephesians

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# CONTENTS

chapter 1.	4p.
chapter 2.	18p.
chapter 3.	27p.
chapter 4.	37p.
chapter 5.	47p.
chapter 6.	55p.
chapter 7.	65p.
chapter 8.	74p.
chapter 9.	84p.
chapter 10.	94p.
chapter 11.	102p.
chapter 12.	110p.
chapter 13.	121p.

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# Ephesians

## chapter 1.

The Ephesian Church was very close to a perfect church in history. It was definitely one of the churches that the Lord desired and had a plan for. It was such a powerful church to cut off the idol Artemis that had a strong influence in Asia Minor from the face of the planet. Beware that churches in this age are facing the tremendous spiritual battle with Satan. So far Satan has been using 10% of his power to annihilate the churches but now he is using 100%. This is the same in Korea and the world.

I have received a word of prophecy going through the Revelation. God is going to bring a world-wide revival just before the end. In the past the revival has been limited to certain areas but there will a world-wide revival once. God is therefore seeking churches to prepare for the revival. However, it is not going to be like previous revivals like the conversion of the unbelievers. Rather, it will revive the grains within the churches. Who are the grains? We don't know that, but we do know the time will come to revive the grains and seal them with the glory of God to prepare for the end. That's the prophecy!

I have been running for the last 18 years of my spirituality to prepare for such revival. That's the reason for my existence. The strong work by few cannot change the situation. We have passed beyond the time where we can bring about change by our own efforts because the corruption of man and churches are at the extreme. I am optimistic person but I can't be optimistic about the current situation of the church. What God shows to me puts a sense of despair in me because the corruption of this generation is worse than the Roman Empire at the destruction, especially Korea. There are so many churches and yet the corruption fills the nation. It proves how powerless the churches are today.

I have shared a story of a woman who had an affair for 18 years and she still served passionately in the church for all those times. When she had come from countryside and started to work in a company, she began her affair with her boss. When she married a man, she continued the adultery for 8 more years. In the meantime, she attended the church diligently. She was born into a Christian family and she served well all along in the church. This is the reality of today's churches. Today's church cannot lead this adulterous woman to repent with the word of God. That's how powerless churches have become. While I was ministering her, anger arose inside of me. I was so angry at the churches of God. That was not my anger but the anger of the Lord. That's the reality of the today's incompetent church full of a mob. It is a church that can't even handle a single soul. We should put an end to this in our generation.

Ephesian Church had started with 12 people and what was the principle that led to such a powerful church? Paul recorded the Book of Ephesians when he was at the peak of his revelation. What is the revelation? It is ecclesiology. Book of Ephesians must be in-

terpreted through ecclesiology. That's the intention God is giving us through the Book of Ephesians. There is God's will for recording each of 66 books in the Bible. Therefore, we should not preach out of our pastoral intention or personal intention.

I have been praying over the Ephesians. The more I prayer over it I realize how amazing it is. I have gone thorough books in the Bible with expository preaching some more than a few times, but no other book is more refreshing and amazing than the Book of Ephesians. Why? Because the revelation of Ephesians is so deep.

What kind of church is Ephesians Church? Let's look at verse 21 and 23. God authorized all His authorities onto Jesus Christ who become the head and the church became the body. In turn the body rules the all things in universe in this vertical relationship. This is church. It is not the will of God for the church of God to be broken, smashed, in conflict, hurt, and influenced in such a way. God – church – all things in universe align vertically and that's how the universe is run. Church runs the universe.

When the church of Almighty God experiences the lack of resources, it means the church is losing its image as the church of God. It is the same thing with the lack of power in the church. The church of God does not have the limitation of power. It is not a matter of whether we can do it or not! It is a matter of whether it is the will of God or not! That's the important question. The church of God should not fear, despair, or be scared in any circumstance of suffering and pain. Furthermore, a church of God should not suffer from lack of wisdom. God knows all things, so when He lets us know we can know anything.

In our church website there are vast volumes of expository preaching that I have done over the last four years. If I had studied or read books for the preparation and illustrations, my head would have been split in half. It may not be 90% but I received at least 80% of the messages from God directly. What I received and understood was confirmed through some routes and the necessary books were revealed to me. The necessary information came to me.

Alvin Toffler in the Third Wave said that whoever has the most information will win. However, in the book of the Fourth Wave by Pastor Minho Kim contends that whoever has the most accurate information in midst of vast information will win. That will decide the outcome. We should filter everything through God. God is omniscient! If a church suffers from a lack of wisdom, that's not a church. The image of church is disappearing. A church of God does not suffer from a lack of resources, either.

For example, there are some people that drive the underground economy of America. I don't know exactly who they are but I know them as God leads me to pray for

them. They are Jews. The price of oil of OPEC increases and decreases dependent upon them. When they put in the money and take it out, the economy like Japan is shaken up. In case of Malaysia and Thailand, they experience IMF. They command 10 trillion US dollars. Are they going to side with Satan at the end time or with God? This is a critical matter. God told me to bind them and pray for them. I know some pastors find it difficult to accept this “what are you talking about?” This may sound too spiritual, so I don’t want to go too deep. However, do you know why God delayed Bush’s plan to attack Iraq by eight months? God told me to bind the plan and pray for it. Bush was not supposed to invade Iraq out of haste according to God’s plan of management of universe. The newspapers had reported that Bush was going to hit them today. We pray for things like this and minister them. Church is omnipotent.

Satan makes his move by government, authority, and power. He uses the system we call “world.” A church moves this system even more so in the background. A church brings down government and authority on their knees. What I pray for now is that the mayor and the Congressman of Siheung will come out of our church. I expect that to happen in a couple of terms later. Yes, the mayor and the Congressman will come out of this church. Once a church decides, the Congressman of Siheung is also decided. This is not my word but the ecclesiology. The appointment of kings by Pope in the Middle Age was a natural course of action out of ecclesiology. Now, politics and religions are separated so a church may not directly appoint the government officials; however, when the true leaders are raised up by the churches of God, they are supposed to lead government, politics, culture, education, mass communication, and all other spectrums of society. This is the ordinary church! When a church is established, it should have such influence upon the nation and the people. When we become such glorious church, what are we going to do through this church? What will God prepare through these leaders that will arise out of Zoe Ministry Network?

Like I prophesied the last time, Korea is not going to be a super power. Nevertheless, it will be elevated to be able to cast a deciding vote amongst powerful nations. Look! Now, America has the absolute authority; however, in the end time USA can be like non-existent in the world. Look at California! It is an example that USA is no longer a Christian nation but the secular nation. It will lose the authority and the third power will emerge to reign over the world. For example, Muslims can rise up to power. Suppose Muslims come to power and exert pressure on nations like Korea and say, “Become a Muslim nation!” When the leaders of churches stand up and exert influence on Korean government, resist the Muslims, defend Korea as a Christian nation, they can cast a deciding vote given it already established as a strong nation. This scenario is not possible unless churches are

established. I see those visions as I train the leaders in our church. That's the reason I can't take the church members lightly.

Ephesians is written in a form of poetry of praise. Ephesians records how much Paul was moved to praise God after receiving the revelation further resulting in a prayer. Paul records the amazing revelation of blessings of God given to church, he saw, from 3-13. It is so great and out of realization of this great blessings Paul begins with the praise in verse three. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Paul begins these great blessings from God with the praise out of much thanksgiving. He could begin with thanksgiving but he chooses to open up with the praise. Let's look at the eight blessings given to a glorious church from verse 4 to 14.

Before we look at the Eight Blessings in detail I want to point out "God has blessed" us with every spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ in verse 3. The spiritual blessings will not be given as we move forward. Blessings are already given to every institution that bears the title, church of God. What is the difference between receiving it at the end/on the way and having received it already? The difference is greater than the difference between heaven and earth. If I know what I have in my Christian walk, then my focus is utilizing what I have. Suppose my father is a millionaire. Since my father is a millionaire, all I have to do is receive proper education to later use the money. Children of owner of big companies go to USA to study not to make money. They prepare themselves how to manage their companies. The conclusion of our life at the end is not the concern. For too many people corrupt their faith life/Christian walk because their focus is only on the end. However, since we already have the conclusion because God has already given it to us, the process of getting there is important. Let us take one genuine step at a time.

Another difference is that it is a matter of confirmation. When you finally get there, it may not be there at the end. You may also get lost and end up somewhere else. There can be lots of factors. It is totally different from the perspective of faith. All I need is a confidence to utilize what I already have. It is the same with pastoral ministry. If we think a pastor will be completed on our way, then the followers/church members will be anxious like being in a park filled with a thick fog not knowing where they are going. However, we have them already. All we have to do is move forward. We have that confidence. For the believers who believe they have all things in their Christian walk, their focus in life is on the purity and holiness. The conclusion of life is not the concern. God has already given us every spiritual blessing from heaven.

Let's look at the first blessing in verse 4 "just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love." The



first blessing is the holiness. The characteristic of eight blessings in one word is predestination. In verse four we have “God chose” and in verse five we have “He predestined.” In Ephesians, “chose” and “predestined” are treated equally. What do we mean by predestination? We don’t mean that certain people get saved and some people get blessings. Predestination is the stubbornness of God. This is something God will absolutely do. “I chose you. You are my child so I want you to live in such a way.” It must be done! “Chose” and “predestination” mean the same. God made up His mind to bless His churches with these eight blessings. God is resolute to bestow His blessings upon His churches. God’s determination is great. My daughter Sarah was a little peculiar growing up. She would wear short sleeve shirt in winter and long sleeve shirt in summer. My wife then would always take off the wrong shirt and put on the right one. Why? Because she loves her. Love is monopoly. It is so exclusive. It is the same with God. God predestined us. It must be done. How great is the blessing? You can’t live on your own. Whether God will beat you or coax you, you are bound to follow God’s predestination.

What’s the predestination? It is being holy and blameless. It is a big mistake to think that ministry is all about saving others. Salvation itself is not the goal of God. No parent would set a goal to just give a birth to a baby. A parent desires his/her baby to become mature and pure in her spirit and to become a pride of her family and nation. It is the same with God. God’s will for you is to become mature, pure and holy in your spirit since the day of salvation.

Do you know what happens to a church that loses the life of God? She eats the tree of knowledge of good and evil. What is this tree? You have sinned 10 times and I have only sinned 9 times. So I am more righteous than you. That’s what the tree of knowledge of good and evil does to us. Judgment gets ahead of all things in a church. Now, how about a church that’s filled with life? The only sin I commit is everything. You develop a spiritual flow in which you strive toward the fullness of God. God is determined to raise you up to be holy and blameless soul. This is God’s stubbornness.

When a new member joins our church, he/she should become holy and blameless without exception. That’s the church we see in Ephesians 1:23; church that fills the world with the fullness of Jesus. The spiritual loss of any member’s loss of holiness should become a pain of whole congregation. This is all about being a member of one body.

Your single sin should be felt bigger than 100 sins of others leading your eyes to see the perfection of God to cry and beat your chest. That’s what we want to see in churches: the work of repentance. Do you think it is good to have a lot of new people come to your church? If the principle of pastoral ministry according to Ephesian principle

where holy and blameless believers fill the church is, then there is no reason to rejoice over big crowd to join church membership. When they do come, I have joy because I train them as my children but at the beginning I have burden. Pouring out all you have for each soul is pastoral ministry. Do you think God will let go of His stubbornness that we should be holy & blameless and invite everyone in His ministry? No! The first blessing is the major blessing. How blessed are we that God predestined us to be holy and blameless in His stubbornness!

In verse 5 we see the second blessing “He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will.” We see the predestination here and Paul is saying that God predestined us to be His sons and daughters. We can interpret “sons” as tetrarchs. We are tetrarchs which means that we are heirs. Once we become heirs, we are given spiritual, personnel, material, and natural authorities. Where do we want to raise the spiritual maturity to in a church? Look, God loves everyone! However, God does not entrust glory to every child of God. When a new person joins a church, we want him/her to reach this heir stage through the spiritual system in a church. In my message I have shared analogy with regard to the spiritual growth. There are five stages in spiritual growth. Slave – servant – son – friend – bride. This is a figure of speech. When we first believe in Jesus and accept Him as Savior and Lord, we are in slave stage. God would simply tell us what to do, for example, “sweep the floor.” As slaves we simply obey God and do not know why we need to sweep. If we have many slaves in church, we simply work a lot. We are merely workers. We work hard and receive salary. Second stage is servant. Servant asks a question “Lord, why do you want me to sweep the floor?” God would answer “Prime Minister is coming over today.” God reveals just enough and we still work a lot. We want to reach the heir stage. Have you seen an heir work? Son receives inheritance! When a church is filled with tens of thousands of slaves and servants, it is nothing from the perspective of glory. On the other hand, the presence of one heir is priceless. In the Major League Baseball (MLB) we may have hundreds of players who receive minimum salary but with just one player who receives tens of millions of dollars can support tens of people. If we take on the perspective of glory, the value differs greatly. Some churches are dirt cheap and some churches are magnificent.

It is the same with prayer. Let’s suppose we have thousands of children of God in this village. When all thousands of them pray to God at the same time, God never has any conflict of “who should I answer first?” Why? Because God can simply answer starting with the spiritual first place. “The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective!” All God has to do is to answer starting with the prayer of the righteous. The prayer of one heir is more powerful than the prayers of a church mostly filled with 10,000 slaves. Can you

imagine the power of church when the majority of congregation reaches the heir stage?

I know of one Lutheran Church in Iowa. There are only 300 members but they sponsor a high school that's in top 5 in the world. The budget of that high school was more than the budget of Seoul National University of Korea when I was there in Iowa. I shared a story about this poor village in northern India. The average wage of this village was 1 dollar 75 cents per month. This village sent 400 missionaries to the world. How is that possible? The power comes out of the authority of heir. When a church has the authority of heir and sees the glorious church, it doesn't matter where a church is located. Its influence goes forth to the rest of the world. We should become an heir of God and receive inheritance instead of becoming a worker to remain as a salary man. We want to become a saint that can live with the authority over spiritual matters, people, resources, and nature.

Our desire is to reach the friend stage. Like Amos 3:7 "Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets" we want to become a friend of God with whom we have no secret. Next is to reach the bride stage. There are many women but Solomon enters the bedroom of Shulammitte bride. Like Solomon we are to enter the bedroom with God and have an intimate fellowship with Him. As we mature in our spirituality the obedience should become so much easier so we become friend and bride. We don't want to stop at the son stage but reach the next stage and beyond. This is the powerful church.

Paul speaks in verse 7, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace." As we move along the Eight Blessings, each blessing is explained in detail. What about the holy and blameless? That is the son stage. Son has the authority of forgiveness of sin. The forgiveness of sin means "divorce." We have divorced sin. It is total separation from sin. Son has increasing authority of forgiveness of sin. The authority of forgiveness of sin means that the purity of believers has reached a high standard. More accurate meaning of it is that the believers fundamentally have a strong immunity against sin. We can't help but to sin but we don't easily become corrupted by sin in a church. We have the strong immunity against the infiltration of sin. It is great to know the teaching of Calvinism that we are justified and have become children of God in our status. However, the sanctification the Methodists contends that not only the outside is made righteous but also the inside.

The forgiveness of sin Paul speaks of in Ephesians is more than the teaching of Calvinism and Methodist. According to 2 Corinthians 5:21 Jesus became a lump of sin Himself and in turn we became a lump of righteousness. Suppose there is a nail and when you pull out the nail, there is no mark of nail. That's how pure and righteous we became. Paul is

speaking to us that a church is supposed to get to that point. When the grace of the blood of Jesus Christ touches us, that's how cleansed we become. It sucks out all sins. This is how pure a church is supposed to be.

Why is Paul emphasizing on the purity of church in Ephesians and the forgiveness of sin? In Old Testament God said, "I will meet you in the mercy seat." Mercy seat is for those who are acknowledged as sinless by the blood of Jesus Christ to the point they never sinned before at all. A sinner will instantly die upon entering the mercy set/holy of holy. The power of Ephesians Church is that the majority of believers' faith life took place in the mercy seat. Their prayers and worship services took place in the mercy seat. We cannot say, "Since my goal of holiness is to such and such extent, I am pure. Since I worship to this degree, I am pure." Paul said painfully in 1 Timothy 1:15, "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst." Paul's smallest blemish or spot made him to painfully cry out in prayer in the presence of God. That's the church!

Our church members ask me, "Pastor, how far do we do this?" Our standard is to reach sanctification like Paul. They say, "Pastor, is that possible in our life time on earth?" It is written in the Bible because it is possible. "Be holy for I am holy and you shall be blameless before Me." Why would God record it in the Bible when it is not possible for us? If it was impossible for us to live in such a way, God would have said that you can be an average Christian and do this whole thing of becoming holy in heaven. The Book of Ephesians points out this is how far and how thoroughly we go with the purity against sin.

They may say, "Pastor, then how can we live as a saint/believer?" Like I said earlier repeatedly saints have true freedom when they are completely seized by God. Why don't you feel the freedom? Because you have conflict between God and the world. So, you don't have freedom. If you fall deeply into God, you have true freedom. When our authority of forgiveness of sin is elevated to this level, how free can we be? Paul said that whether he is beaten, fed, or hungry, whether he is unknown or well – known, whether it is Greek or Jew, he has learned to be content in any circumstance. He is a perfect free man. This is the principle of Ephesians setting our spiritual goal for us. This is how the Ephesian Church became so powerful!

Let us not give up easily after praying for little bit or for a couple of days. It takes endless beating on the chest on your knees, fasting, crucifying your ego before God, and dealing with more and more evil in you as they are revealed to you. If God saw your sins in the past through the magnifying glass, not it is more like through electric microscope. This would become a burden on you because you share God's insight into your sins. You

can't help but to repent over your sins. That should become a norm. When we say a spirit is alive, it means one is to keep pouring out through repentance.

Now, let's look at the fourth blessing in verse eight "which He lavished on us in all wisdom and insight." Church belongs to the omniscient God. God will fill us with wisdom and insight. When we address "wisdom," it is not that we become wise with it. Wisdom is hearing the voice of the Wise. Seeing and hearing are the same principle of revelation. God reveals the wisdom which He uses to run the universe to His church. Wisdom is hearing the voice of God.

Revelation is important. Let's look at 1:17 "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him." As we see Paul's emphasis on the revelation in Ephesian Church let me address the relationship between wisdom and revelation. Anyone can hear the revelation and anyone can see the revelation; however, everyone cannot hear or see it. Who can see the revelation? Revelation is revealed to those whose goal of life is God, whose motivation of life is God, and whose process of life is God. If you hear something while you are praying when your motivation, process, and goal of life are not God, it is not a revelation. Again, revelation is revealed to those whose motivation of life is God, whose process of life is God, and whose goal of life is God. When Moses had heard the voice of God to strike the rock, Moses knew exactly which rock to strike out of millions. "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God!" Revelation is the perspective that can always choose God and ears that can hear things of God. That's revelation!

What is wisdom? Wisdom is for those who see the choice of God and hear His voice over how to carry out His revelation. When there is no wisdom in a church and someone says, "Our church is filled with wisdom," then either he is lying or Satan has deceived him. Shift your soul's motivation of life, process of life, and goal of life to God. Only then you can clearly see the revelation and choose His revelation. Church is to hear the voice of King and move according to it. Without this revelation, the authority of God as King is not activated. Churches are operated by man's ways and tricks because they cannot hear the revelation. They keep running the programs in their churches because many say, "The revelation has ceased."

Hearing the voice of God is not something grandeur or mystical. When I look at my young son, I notice this. He began to recognize the voice of his mom after about 10 days of his birth. He might not understand "I will give you a bottle of milk," but he knows that's his mom. When we stand toward God all the time, we can recognize His voice and His revelation. The reason you are not sure is because you switch back and forth between

God and the world. You have a confusion of spiritual values, so you cannot distinguish between God's voice or your own voice or devils' voice.

Let's look at verses 9 and 10 "He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth in Him." "Summing up" is equivalent to "fullness" in Ephesians. What is the meaning of "summing up?" It is a surrender to the authority of King. Church is the one that has conquered and brought things in the heaven, things on the earth, and things under the earth on their knees before God. A church can "sum up" time, place, and people. All she needs to do is move when God makes His move. Although what believers have seems to be insufficient or even impossible at a moment, when God's time, place, and people have been filled, any church can rise up! How so? Church has the authority of God! Church can sum up (unify) time, place, things in heaven, things on earth, things below earth, and all things. This is the authority God has given to His church. Believers naturally must follow according to the authority of God.

I will address more about the authority of King. Modifiers all used for Jesus have a reference to king. Even Christ means king. Son of God also means king. Lord means king, too. Jesus is King! Jesus, the King, is the head of church. We respond and follow in His time. The authority of God is moving according to God's will, God's people, God's place and God' knowledge.

Let's turn our attention to verse 11 "also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will." God works all things after the counsel of His will. According to His will God prospers His children and their inheritance. Why? Because His children's business is His business. It doesn't matter how small a store/business a believer has. Since it is God's business, obviously it has to become a major corporation. So, if believers believe they are God's inheritance in faith, how should they run their businesses? They should run or manage their businesses according to God's principles. The other side of token is that the reason they fail to observe the Lord's Day, sell bad things for profit, rip off others and so on because they are running their own businesses. Our business belongs to God. Since God is the CEO the business is supposed to be run according to His principles.

I understand that some people have to work for public service like police officers and firemen. We can't help that. My desire is for them to change their profession if they can help it. I am talking about people who are trying to make more money and to increase their wealth not people who have to serve the public.

Your life itself is the inheritance of God, so your life should be offered up to God. If God tells you, “Make the necessary arrangement and go out to as a missionary,” then you go! All things in life such as children and experiences have been led by the principles of God. You gotta believe in the inheritance of God. Everything belongs to God and everything you have is God’s inheritance. Therefore, you should do things according to the will of God.

“Rich” is an important word to Ephesian Church. Church should be rich not limited to just materials. A church of God should be full of fun. Why? Because there is much richness! Let me give you an example of a wrong church. “Our church is only good in word!” When someone says that he is admitting that his church is dysfunctional. A church should not be good with just word but also with spiritual gifts, fellowship, love and more. They all should be rich in a church. A church should be able to do all things and fun because of its richness.

Let us now examine the glory Paul speaks of. We can look at from different angles but in the Book of Ephesians Paul speaks of riches of glory. A church that has seen the glory of God shows its characteristic which is riches. When the sun shines its lights upon the nature, it reveals the beauty of the nature. When a light goes through a prism, it reveals the rainbow colors. Likewise when the glory of God is shone, the riches are revealed. You go “Wow! God did this for me! This is beautiful!” We should enjoy the grace of God. Poverty and deficiency are not suitable for church. A church is supposed to be rich!

Not only Paul speaks of riches of glory but he also talks about the praise of glory in verse 12. This is the seventh blessing. It helps us to understand the identity and honor as a believer. Let me illustrate this blessing. Suppose there is ball in a ball room. Ladies and gentlemen are dressed up and they are dancing to the waltz. They are spinning and dropping a female partner if she is heavy. Everyone is having a great time. All of sudden a trumpet sounds and the music stops. Everyone turns their heads to one place. Who is on the scene? It is the prince. When the prince joins the ball, everyone stops dancing and pays him their attention. The praise of glory is like that. The Christian walk of believers should be filled with self-respect, pride, and honor like the appearance of prince. It should be impossible for believers to compromise with the world and to bow their heads down to the world. No not in the church. “Who am I?” I rather die of starvation than to compromise with the world. This precious identity attracts the things of God thus making a church powerful. Without the precious identity believers in a church cannot have a right Christian walk or use the things of God in a right way.

We are supposed to say to God, “You are the praise of glory,” but God has called

us “you are the praise of glory.” This is incredible proclamation. When I first came across it in Ephesians, I spent much time looking through Scriptures because of this single phrase. I was thinking that it cannot be true. I said to myself, “We are supposed to give praise to God. How can He call us that we are His praise of glory?” At the end God conclusively showed me that He is right in Zephaniah 3:17 “The Lord God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quite in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.” I really understood this by having babies. When I look at my son, sometimes I yell out of love. He is so cute that he makes me smile from ear to ear. I love him even in my sleep and I sing to him out of my love for him. It dawned on me that’s how God loves me. “Oh, my God love me so much like that. God is praising me!” Do you believe the Creator God is praising you?

Finally, let’s look at verse 13 “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation – having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.” What sealed the promise of God that He saves you according to His will in any circumstance and according to the messages of truth? The Holy Spirit sealed you! This is Holy Spirit approval! A glorious church that has the authority as heir of God receives immediate approval from God whenever it prays! God seals it with the signature of the Holy Spirit.

Let’s suppose I am a CEO and I have two people working for me. Mr. Lee doesn’t do a good job in whatever he does and his proposals are always in mess. He always seems to create problems and can’t seem to tie the ends. On the other hand, Mr. Cho is always on the top of the ball. He does a good job in all things and he makes lots of profit for the company. When both men submit their proposals, how would I handle it? I would tell Mr. Lee, “OK. You can put the proposal down over there. Please come back later” and I would not approve his proposal. However, when Mr. Cho submits his proposal to me, I would say, “Oh good! Come!” I would approve it right away! It is the same with God. When God sees a church that moves according to His will and in His glory, God seals it with the approval of the Holy Spirit. The speed, power, and depth of God’s works are different.

I have been praying for my church for the last seven years according to the principles of Ephesian Church. Now, when a new member joins our church, he/she becomes a minister no later than in six month. There is, of course, varying degree of levels but they gladly offer themselves up to become ministers. This is an example of how fast God works in a church that He approves. I pray immediately, “God, I pray in the name of Jesus,” then He replies “Ask whatever you want. I will fulfill it.” The promise of God that He answers our prayer 100% is fulfilled and through which we see that He is our guarantor of inheri-



tance. We just go “God really does fulfill His word.” He is our guarantor. He redeemed us. What does redemption mean? It means that He paid for our price to give us everything we have. All we have to do is praise His glory everyday “God, you did it!” God you did it! Just open your mouth to praise Him in awe.

It is true God has given us eight blessings we just looked at. Now, it is time to start using them and revealing them. We already have them in us. We just need to learn how to use them. Believe this word is embodied in you. This is not an option. This is not my philosophy of ministry. God has given this incredible blessings to churches that pursue the glorious church according to Ephesians.

What is the first blessing? We are predestined to become holy and blameless. The main flow of any church should be pure and holy. How do we embody this? First, we are sons and daughters of God. Let’s elevate the level of church members to be at least heirs whom have spiritual authority, personnel authority, and material authority. Such believers have an immunity against sin to the point that Jesus became a lump of sin and they became a lump of righteousness. That’s the goal to reach! We should become holy and blameless that we have glorious fellowship in the holy of holy, in the mercy seat/hilasterion. Your everyday prayer, worship, and life should take place in the mercy seat. In addition, with regard to wisdom and insight may God open up revelation for you and fill you with the wisdom to carry out His revelation to you. When you commit your motivation, process, and goal of life to God, you can see and hear the revelation from God and receive His wisdom. May God also fill your church with the authority of King that sums up all things! May God bless your life and your children to become His inheritance! Please do not forget your identity. You have holy identity that you are the praise of God’s glory. May you never compromise with the world! Don’t be a shame! Finally, God guarantees the inheritance of God by the immediate seal of the Holy Spirit of promise to His church. So, all we have to do is just praising Him. “God, you did it!”

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# Ephesians

## chapter 2.

In verse 15 we have “for this reason.” It is referring to how we can receive the eight blessings in the previous section and how love can fulfill them. Paul says that he prays for the eight blessings for the Ephesian Church in verse 16. I would like to give you an example. We have quite a bit of poor people in our church. Being poor is inconvenient but it doesn’t have absolute impact on the decisions they make. They have the attitude of “if we have it, we have it. If we don’t have it, we don’t have it.” We don’t have a wealthy church member that stands out. Nevertheless, we don’t lack to cause any financial hindrance to deter the work of God. That’s because of the church members’ generosity and the sacrifices they make. We don’t have a church budget but we do have a closing at the end of the year. We are amazed at how much the congregation makes financial contribution to the church. I have shared with you that many church members are poor. How is that possible? How can we spend so much in our ministry and yet we don’t lack at all? The reason is the eight blessings have melted down in to the life of church members. This is incredible blessing and God has given them all to the glorious church. I would like to encourage all the pastors to pray for eight blessings in the Spirit of God on daily basis so that the members can embody them.

There are some principal prayers Paul prays for with regard to the eight blessings. In verse 17 we have “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.” The first thing Paul prayed for is the revelation and the wisdom on behalf of Ephesian Church. For Paul the revelation is just about everything. Many theologians say that the revelation is dead, but that’s not true. It is true that 66 Books in the Bible are special revelation for us. They are also the completion of the revelation. However, the word of God is not fully revealed/ disclosed to the believers, so it remains as ordinary logos.

For example, British missionaries who went to Bangladesh for short term mission all drowned. When they had the flood, the leader of the missionary group said, “Let’s walk on water like Peter did!” So, they died trying to walk on water. This is a true story. What went wrong? That word was given to Peter as revelation not to the British missionaries. If that word was given to them as revelation, then they would have walked on water. The word of God should be revealed through pastors during the message time. When that happens through the messages, the response of the hearers would be “Pastor preached to me today!” Many people say that in Zoe Ministry conferences “God spoke to me today.” What that means is that the revelation came upon them. Charles Finney said that the revelation one receives an hour ago is not genuine. That’s a shocking word. The word that is meaningful at that time, in that place, and to those people should be proclaimed.

Revelation is the revelation of God when we give up our ways, our thoughts, and reason and rationality. In Exodus, God says “I am who I am!” There are several interpretations but the key word is “haya” verb which is eternal present. In order to meet the eternal present God, we must empty ourselves and receive the eternal present. Therefore, God and I meet in eternal present. God I met 10 minutes ago is a fake. God I met a minute ago is also fake. Only God I meet right at this moment is genuine.

It is almost identical to the doctrine of salvation in Book of John which is “already but not yet.” Salvation is already done but it not yet. It is not yet completed. John 1:12 states “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.” The salvation is receiving God who endlessly draws near. When we encounter God who comes endlessly, we surrender and receive Him. However, if we choose to receive the world, that’s the judgment. Meeting God in eternal present is the revelation.

Disciple should not have his/her possession, his ways, his plan, his goal, and his experience. Disciple should live by the provisions of God. Hellenistic ways are to know before the departure but the Hebraistic ways are to depart before the understanding. When we embrace the word of God and go according to it, then we will understand it later. There is a vast difference between believe, go and understand and understand and go. The way of believe and just go seems ignorant but this is the way of God. The revelation is opened up to those whose motivation of life is God. It is not opened up to those that are otherwise. The revelation is not spiritual gift. Another word, the revelation is for everyone but it is not for anyone. This goes with “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God” in Beatitude.

The wisdom steers the revelation. The wisdom is to hear the voice of God. Without the revelation there is no wisdom. If one hears of the wisdom, he surely has seen the revelation of God. That’s the relationship between revelation and wisdom. They are like the both sides of the coin. Those that stress on the wisdom without any revelation are dangerous. That wisdom can be a fake or it may not be the wisdom of God.

Paul is emphasizing the importance of revelation to the Ephesian Church. Why? Because the church must follow the command of the King who is God and it must know the will, plan, and intention of God. If the church does not know the will of God, it cannot do anything. It should just be still. Church must respond to the King, His word, His will and His plan. That’s why the revelation is so important in the church. If the word of God, logos, does not come as revelation, then it does not come with the authority of word to change the life of hearers. The restoration of the authority of God for us means the proclamation

of the word according to what He speaks to us. When I hear the sermons of those who are in the spiritual gift movement, I notice that they mess up in their messages. They don't address the meaning of the text most of the time. They jump from here to there and that's not the revelation. When we preach according to the revelation of God, the flow of the message is clear. There are clear introduction, main body, and conclusion. They are coherent. Revelational preaching is not always the expository preaching, but most of the time it would be. We should also clearly teach our church members what the revelation of God is as we understand the will of God through the revelation.

Let's look at verse 18. It states, "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what the hope of His calling is." The second prayer of Apostle Paul is that he would like for the Ephesian brothers to see the hope of their calling after their eyes are opened up to the revelation. When we look at the whole Bible, there are three types of calling.

When we first repent before the Lord and meet Him, God calls us, "You are My child." All the believers should repent and confirm their status as a child of God. That's the first type of calling. That's where they begin their growth as holy and blameless people of God. If you are not a child of God, you can't worship God. In order for the believers to worship God and begin their faith life, they must confirm their calling of God. This is the first calling.

Those that have been called to be the children of God, they should confirm their calling of church. Believers are transient in this generation. They move to another church when they don't like their church. They search for the right pastor that they like and move to his church. The reason they move the church is because they have not confirmed their calling to the church. When the new members come to the church, pastors should confirm their calling to their church or not.

How do we confirm the calling to the church? In order for the Spirit of God to seize the church, it must have the spiritual system from God. This spiritual system is based on the principles we find in Ephesians 4:11. The spirit of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor/teacher basically make up the system in the church. Those that are willing to come into this system and go through the training have the calling to our church. They should confirm their calling.

God has given us many visions. Those that respond and sacrifice for our visions have the confirmation of calling to our church. In another word, those that do not commit to the vision our church, they don't have the calling to our church.

Another clear indication of the calling to our church is evidenced by the willingness to die for the messages that are proclaimed on Sundays. Those that do not obey the words of God and live their faith life do not have the calling to the church. 99.9% of our church members are willing to die for the words that I proclaim and they live it out in the following week. They work on their spirituality, have the cell group meetings, share the messages, and live according to the word that is proclaimed on Sundays. As a result, we don't have any Bible study curriculum and everyone follows the word swiftly including the Sunday school. Directors and Sunday school teachers summarize my messages suitable to the children and preach them. Pastors should install such system to confirm the calling to the church. Both pastor and new member should confirm the calling to the church. It is not about individual pastor's influence in the church but the calling is for the whole system of the church. New member should have such confirmation "this is the church God is calling me to and I will die for it." We all should have this confirmation. Church should be able ask anything from those that have the calling to the church. When the church says, "Go as a missionary," then one should go. When the church says, "Give offering," then one should give. One that has the calling of Jesus should confirm his calling to the church. Why aren't the church members blessed? That's because they do not have the confirmation of the calling to the church. Blessing is not the money God gives to us. God blesses people through the church according to their commitment and sacrifice for the vision of church. Church members receive their blessings through the ministry of the church and through the congregation. The blessings are divided in the church. The confirmation of being a child of God takes care of the basic needs in life. However, being entrusted with many things and much blessings are a different story. God has given them to establish the church, so it is given to those who have clear calling to the church, commitment to the visions and the system of the church.

Third, those that have the calling to the church have the call to the missions. The community of church commissions the missionaries just like the early church laid the hands on Paul and Barnabas after the approval and commissioned them to Antioch while they were praying. It is possible for one who doesn't have the calling of the church to serve as a missionary. If one does have the calling of the church, then he/she can be used as either a minister or a missionary according to the will of God through the church. If he does not have the calling of the church, then he does not have the calling of the mission. When the church supports him and acknowledges him as a missionary, the whole community prays for him and the missions work. On the other hand, if the church does not bless his ministry/missions work and he goes alone to the mission field, he will encounter much difficulties.

The church members should have hope of these three callings. Pastors should

see to it that the church has a measure for the callings. What is the purpose of the calling? Through these three callings God will lead you to triumph. Colossians 3:15 states “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” Peace is shalom which means victory. God leads you to victory with the calling of Jesus, the calling of church, and the calling of mission. That’s what Paul prayed for.

God raises up the church members that come into the spiritual system to be the leaders, ministers and missionaries in our church. They commit to the visions with everything they have. They are willing to die for the truth that is proclaimed through me. They realize who they will be when the time comes within the spiritual system. They all have the hope of calling of God and they set a goal like “I will be a missionary. I will be a minister of church and so on.” They still need the confirmation from the church. This propels the church members to live a powerful faith life. This is the principle through which they receive the blessings. We can’t share the authority of blessings with those that do not have the calling to the church.

What is the rich of glory of inheritance in the saint? “God became my inheritance.” We talked about that earlier. There are some key words in Book of Ephesians and one of them is “rich.” We also have it in chapter two verse 7 “riches of His grace.” Paul talks about glory in his letters three times. “Praise of glory” is one of them.

In Romans chapter eight, Paul talks about “freedom of glory.” It means that if one sees the glory of God, he now has freedom from the bondage of darkness. When one is in the darkness, he falls down and there is no freedom. However, when one is seized by the light like in John 8:32 “the truth will set you free,” one is set free. Not only power needs the strength but also the speed. One will sink unless he fastens his faith life by fixing his eyes on Jesus. When the glory of God comes, there is freedom which is the speed. The speed comes from this freedom. The Korean churches cannot do anything right now because they are bound by the spirit of legalism. Legalism is living and doing things according to the self. When the church is bound by the legalism, it is basically saying that I will receive so much because I labored so much. The legalism does not lead to the heir. The characteristic of legalism is that the way of worldliness invades and takes over a large portion of the life of believers. Why? Because one earns as much as he labors in the world. The Ephesian Church is not about living by one’s efforts but it is about enjoying the riches in the church. When the freedom of the glory comes, people will also have the riches of glory. I had an opportunity to visit Alps. There were snows in the summer, lakes, and the lambs running around. I took a train to 3,000 meters up in altitude and I could not see the

beautiful sight because it was dark. Just like the beauty of the world is revealed when the glory of God comes, the riches are revealed through God in the church. The churches that have the riches will pursue great things in the life of believers. In short, God has not called us to the matter of eating and drinking but for the great life. When the glory comes, the church becomes rich.

Paul prays for riches of glory of Kingdom of God “don’t you pray for little things. Your calling for the glorious church is a great calling. God is entrusting the whole universe.” Believe it! The Zoe Ministry Network began with the vision of the glory of the greatness of God that He is the Lord of all things. We are about the church that can enjoy the riches of Kingdom of God. We should enjoy what God gives to us instead of receiving the wage like the workers who do not have the freedom of glory. God will give anything we ask for. “Seek anything. It will be given.” We have the principle of receiving 100%.

Paul says in verse 19, “And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might.” Paul prays for the power of God to work through our faith. The strength of His might! God is Almighty! Faith does not work in the human level when we look at the Bible. We see the faith of Abraham in Romans 4 that he believed God can resurrect the dead and create out of nothing. The despair and frustrations that we experienced in our ministries have become part of our being as unbelief. We need to break away from unbelief. There used to be a little cage or fence that people use to put around the little chicks so keep them in. After a while they remove it and they still stay within the old boundary. The reason is they already tried so hard to break out of the fence and they found out that they could not. They started thinking “this is how we are supposed to live,” and they are appeased. When we encounter a situation, we should ask “is this will of God or not?” Never doubt the Almighty God! We should not hesitate at all whether it is a demon, problem, healing or anything. The church of God should never suffer lack. Joshua prayed “Sun, stop,” and the whole solar system stopped. Believe you have the authority to do what Joshua did. If it is a will of God, then whatever the circumstance is we do it. We do not minister with what we do but with what God gives to us. We gotta believe in the power of God and this is what church is all about. Mark says in Mark 11:22, “Have faith in God!” We can move the mountain into the sea by the faith we have in God. Our attitude in heart should be “I will do according to Your level. I will serve according to Your will.” Paul prayed for the Father of glory to give the wisdom and revelation in the hearts of believers so they can have the knowledge of Him and to open their eyes. Paul further prayed that God would also clarify the three callings to the believer, teach them about the inheritance of riches of glory, and His mighty power.



Now what happens to the Ephesian Church with everything Paul prays for them? Paul says in verse 20, “Which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.” The great power of God is raising up the dead like He raised up Christ from the dead. As a result the Almighty God raised up Christ and He became the head of the church. That’s why we should never lose hope. Nothing in this world can kill us because Jesus Christ is the head of the church.

God seated Jesus at His right hand. It means a complete victory. When kings fought the battles a long time ago, the loser is knelt before the victor who sits on his throne and decides the fate of the defeated king with his thumb. Church won the complete victory. That’s the reason the authority of Hades cannot withstand the church. Jesus says in Luke 10:19, “Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you.” Paul says in Colossians 2:15, “Jesus disarmed the rulers and authorities.” 1 John 5:18 “The evil one does not touch him (who is born of God).” This is our authority. Don’t mess with the true church because it has the complete victory of God.

In verse 21 Paul says, “Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.” Jesus is the head who is far above all rule, authority, power and dominion. Just like Revelation 1:5 Jesus is the “ruler of the kings of the world.” Paul says in Philippians 2:10, “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth and under the earth.” This demonstrates how important it is that we do things according to His will and plan. God conquered and unified the systems in the world including raising the dead, authority, power, dominion and everything Satan rules in. Jesus leads the politics, economy, society and culture through the church. We should follow our head who is Jesus Christ just like the body follows what the brain says. The cells that do not respond to the commands of the brain are called cancer. The church dies as much as presence of the cancer cells in the body. Believers are blessed when they live with God who is the King and obey Him completely.

In verse 22 Paul says, “And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church.” Christ, church, and all things have a vertical relationship and that’s how God is running the universe. The church has the authority to rule over all things. It is not God’s will for the churches to get hurt by the world, despair and drown in the world. We should have the attitude that if we don’t make it in the world because we live according to God, then we will just die. If we fail in the world because we live by the will of God and His plan, let us have the faith “we will just live in the church.”

We should never compromise with the world and we never bow low to the world. Why? Because God runs the world with Jesus Christ – church – the all things relationship, so the world cannot dare to go against us.

Paul says in verse 23, “Which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” We can have two interpretations when we look at the Greek words. First, the church fills the world with what Jesus Christ fills the church. As much as the each believer is not filled, the church is reproached. If we are filled to 100%, then we can fill the world 100%.

Second, the church fills the world by the swift obedience to the commands of the Lord Jesus Christ. Everyone should be willing to lay down his holy and blameless life because God has given him the glory of the only Son. Let everyone be filled with Jesus to fill the world. That’s the type of church we strive for; the strong church that can change the world. I became a pastor when I saw the glory of the glorious church. “Church that bursts the heart” That’s the catchphrase of our church. We want to become a church that fills our hearts with excitement and fervor. May the glorious church of Ephesus be realized in your church!

I saw that church 18 years ago. Church that bursts the hearts of believers with excitement and fervor. Church that Jesus looks forward to so much. Church that prepares for the end time. Church that can completely reveal the power of Jesus Christ. Church that acknowledges the living God. I believe that this glorious church of Ephesus will come to Zoe Ministry Network. It is a matter of when. I believe we should all place our hope in God and fall down in prayer that the Holy Spirit will seize our church and turn it into the glorious church one step at a time.

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# Ephesians

## chapter 3.

In order to become a glorious church we should deal with five things on the cross as we see from 2:1-3:13. It comes down to repentance. Our ego should be torn in pieces on the cross to be pure and holy in order to establish the glorious church. Jesus is the Son of God and He Himself is God but Jesus deferred His divinity and took up on the flesh of man and lived on earth just like us. Jesus made Himself nothing according to Hebrews 5:7 and relied on the Holy Spirit. Jesus lived as a Man and yet He ministered by the power of Almighty God on earth. Furthermore, Jesus confirmed that He was Son of God by dying on the cross.

There is no other way to glorify the church of God and restore the authority of King but to repent. All the authors of 66 Books of Bible realized their substance according to their maturity and cried in tears to get to where God had shown them. The first thing to nail on the cross is “trespasses and sins” in verse 1 of chapter 2. The second thing to nail down on the cross is the world according to verse 2 “the ways of this world.” The third thing to nail on the cross is devil as we see in verse 2 “the prince of the power of the air.” The fourth thing to nail on the cross is the lust of the flesh. The fifth thing to nail on the cross is the Law. The believer is revolutionized when he tears apart these five things on the cross. The church will also mature and restore to the authority of King. That’s the secret for the great church. Just like Jesus confirmed His Kingship on the cross, the church also needs to confirm the Kingship on the cross. The church that does not have the cross does not have the glory. Church without repentance is incomplete and the revelation of God obviously is limited.

When the church removes the four things as we see from verse 1 to 10, they can move swiftly to the commands of Jesus Christ who is the head of the church. Just like all the cells in the body respond to the commands from the head/brain, the church must respond to the head of the church. God created the body to respond to the commands of the brain, so when the virus or bacteria invades the body, the brain commands the body to destroy them utilizing the power of self-purification/immune system. When the cells in the body do not respond to the commands of the brain, they are called cancer which keeps reproducing the cancer/non-responsive cells.

I studied the cancer and I noticed that when cancer patient dies, the cancer cells die with him. When you revive the cancer patient, the cancer cells are not revived. I just can’t practice this amazing treatment. The problem is bringing the dead cancer patient back to life after he dies. However, Jesus made that possible. The Bible says that we (Jesus and I) die together and we are revived together as well. Believer must die once and come back to life with Jesus. The cancer cells are now gone. This is how we remove the

cancer cells from the church and the church members respond swiftly to the commands of the brain. That's a powerful church! When the new members join the church, we wait until they are all dead.

I would like to address the four things to crucify. First, Paul says in verse 1, "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins." We are all dead spiritually if we have trespasses and sins. As much as sin prospers our fellowship with God will sever: thus, we can't pray. On one hand, when prayer is alive, sin dies. On the other hand, when sin is alive, prayer dies. That's the reason we should nail sin on the cross on daily basis.

How far does the church establish the standard of holiness? It should be up to the point of divorce from sin according to chapter 1. It is all the way to purity, sanctification, and holiness Paul experienced. Divorced from the sin means that Jesus became the lump of sin and you became the lump of righteousness according to 2 Corinthians 5:21. You can be holy to the point that your inner being is so white and this is the level of holiness in Ephesian Church. When you start thinking "I am all right now," that's the sign of interference of the legalism in your church. We see the effect of eating the fruit of tree of knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden in the church that the believers consider they are more righteous because they sin 9 times whereas others sin 10 times. We develop the attitude that compares to others and sin becomes relative.

When church is seized by the grace of God and eats the tree of life, sin is no longer relative but absolute. Your single sin all of sudden seems bigger than all the sins in the world. It leads me to the repentance. As we go deeper in our Christian walk, sin becomes absolute in our relationship with God. You should see your sin with the perspective of Jesus Christ and perhaps through a magnifying glass, so you can see how wicked you are to the point of screaming. There is no resurrection unless you have the confirmation of being dead to trespasses and sin. The dead needs life. Church members should confess "I can't help but to die because of trespass and sins." When they consider they are in some pain, they don't seek for life but some medicine. Why? Because they do not realize they are dead by their sins.

This prompts us to repent deeply. We should examine ourselves. Those who stand facing the Lord are sensitive with regard to sin: therefore, it is painful to have any black mark of sin. However, those that stand facing the world are careless about any black mark because they are already black. "I am dead in this sin, so I need life." They need such repentance and the confirmation of the blood. Those that say they need medicine because they think "it is too dark so let's lessen it" cannot have genuine repentance. To those that can't repent genuinely life will not be given and the blood of the Lamb won't be confirmed.

When you look closely at the priests and what they do, they are basically butchers. But God calls them holy. Why? Because Israel is sanctified by the butchers. Sometimes it seems that a butcher is at work in the church. The church is sanctified by the repentance of the church members. Churches that lack tears and spit/vomit in their ministry are rotting deep inside. Churches should continue revealing that they have inside and remove the elegant spirit. Without experiencing the death by sin we cannot receive life. The secret to daily renewal is to die every day. Pastors should be awake and pray that their churches are fully sensitive to sins. If we detect the disappearance of tears, notice that it is because of the hardened heart. This should prompt for the alarm. If the pastors are sensitive, the Holy Spirit will touch the church sensitively which will result in the deep repentance. Negligence of sin should never take place in the church.

One of the functions of the church is to repent of the sin. We see this in Leviticus in Old Testament. Israelites had peace offering through which they ate with the priests and had merry time. The five sacrifices they had were about removal of sin. The churches should likewise remove sins and deal with them. The Christian walk is all about dealing with sin. God can use us for anything as long as we become pure spirits. We don't want church members to make money and serve in the church and so on until they deal with this matter of sin. Christians should be equipped first to serve in the church. That's how they should build up the body of Christ. This order should be kept. When we try to have them serve before they are equipped, they can serve but they are not equipped. Pastors may say, "We don't have anyone else to serve!" If there is not anyone else to serve, then don't do anything. God uses the stone to make the descendants of Abraham. This is not to say that people are not important. The point is that it is impossible for a man to serve God without being equipped. If anyone wants to speak, let him speak like God. If anyone wants to serve, let him do so with what God supplies. If we do not do things with what God supplies, they are not the work of God. If our souls are bound by sins, then God won't supply us the power. Therefore, we should seriously treat sins in the church. That's necessary in the church. We need to have this system of seriousness & sensitivity to sin in place.

Second, let's look at "in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world." We are the praise of glory of God. We ought to deal away the world. It is impossible to for the believers to live deeply in the world. According to Habakkuk the world will be burned down tomorrow. As time goes on the world should look smaller to the eyes of believers and the heaven should be widened. Everyone lives in the world but they all should retire as soon as they can and focus on the work of God wholly. We should have this attitude "I want to retire soon and become the minister of church of God. I want to retire soon and become a missionary." Let us confirm the identity as the praise of His glory.

When the church is under the influence of the world, several things take place. First, the church loses the authority of the heir and become legalistic. Believers start to become workers and at the same time the heirs of God who inherit from Him start to decrease. When church is not covered with grace, it will naturally be filled with tendency to imitate the world.

Like the words of Apostle John, “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life is not from the Father, but is from the world,” that world is consisted of them three. The lust of the flesh is the wickedness that arises within us. All the people that belong to the world have the wicked desire to live by their own ways. The lust of the eyes is the wickedness that comes from the outside and it doesn’t arise within us. Wickedness plus wickedness is the boastful pride of life which lives by the life of the beast. That’s the reason the people in the world poke fun at church by saying, “Why do you fight? Do you think this is the church?” When churches fight, that’s the life of beast not the life of human being. This is all because we live by the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes.

Like Habakkuk’s definition of the wicked “their justice and authority originate with themselves.” Their standard of judgment is of themselves. If we live by the world, we have to live by our own efforts. That’s the reason if we like something, it is good for us. If we dislike something, it is bad for us. That’s the reason people go for power. The typical Christian of this age exhibits the strength in their Christian walk if they have money. If they don’t have money, they are powerless. For the wicked, his possession is his god. How many wicked people do we have in the church? If we do have many wicked in the church, then that is not a church but world.

Apostle John calls that the congregation of Satan. That’s not a church but a club. That’s an example of the church filled with the spirit of legalism and its worship service. That’s an example of the church that has been influenced by the world. Can we ignore the churches that are being infiltrated by the world? Of course not! That’s the reason we must live by the grace in every way. When a believer comes to the church, he must be trained to live by God for a while. God trains him/her to live by the provisions of God and what the ravens bring to him/her.

Apostle Paul was raised as the builder of the Kingdom of God after he had considered all his knowledge as rubbish and feces. Apostle Paul possessed many great things and yet he considered them as rubbish. Why? Because the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus is so great that Paul does not even think about peeking at other things. Once the problems of sin that prevent us to see the perfect God and all the worldliness are ex-

tracted from us we will finally know the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus. Then we will give up things on our own. We continue to move on until we get to that point as we work on our spirituality. Deal with your sins, come to understanding of the vanity and corruption of the world and further shake them up. When you finally lay them down, the Spirit of God will seize you. The Kingdom of God is not brought forth by the ways of man but by those that are seized by the Spirit of God. The church should never be led by the secular people. The church should be led by the ways of God and only then it will be pleasing to Him. We must crucify the worldliness.

When the church is infiltrated by the world, it will lose the authority of heir of God. The result is the change of the goal of Christian walk which is now about eating and drinking. Once the believers are dictated by the survival instinct, the church is dead. However, the ordinary and typical attitude of the believers is “if I die, I die. If I live, I live.” You may ask me how that can be possible. Once the spiritual system is established in the church the Spirit of God will seize the believers and train them in unimaginable ways. It is possible with the pure and holy believers.

Yulbang Church is a model and we live out the impossible Christian walk. Many church members are poverty stricken and they are willing to give up what they have for the Lord. Yes, they give up and offer to the Lord, but I am sorry to receive them. I tell them to hold on to it, but they sell and give up. They truly make a commitment to the church. They do it voluntarily. Once the Spirit of God moves in the system of pure and holy church, believers who are willing to die for God rise up all over the church. They touch my heart so deeply that I cannot do anything but cry and pray for them. When the church members start living according to the word that was proclaimed through my mouth, it strikes fear in me. Soon, the fear disappears and I start thanking for them and wondering why they listen to my words. Of course, it is not really my words but the words of God. This is a fellowship we develop for each other life for life. Believers give up their life because of the glory of God for they have received the life of God through the pastors. We give life for each other.

Third, Paul says “you formerly walked ... according to the prince of the power of the air.” Once we deal with sin and righteousness, Satan becomes insignificant. Our aim in our deliverance ministry is not so much to cast out the demon. John says in 1 John 3:8, “The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.” The Son of God did not appear to destroy the devil, but the works of the devil. We should take a note of it in our deliverance ministry. What is the difference between the devil and the works of devil? The works of devil refer to sin. On one hand, once I remove the garbage inside me, flies won't come. On the other hand, if I have flowers inside me, butterflies will come.



When we deal with Satan/devil, please understand that he won't die until the Great White Throne Judgment. Once I remove the garbage, Satan has nothing to do with me. In the original plan of God Satan was not supposed be in our life. When you hold on to yourself, Satan will intervene your life. When you die to yourself, God reigns in you.

Such saints substantiate the Luke 10:19 "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy." Evil spirits are nothing. Many have seen our deliverance ministry that when we blow at them with our breath, they are blown away! How is this possible? Holy Spirit is not limited because of our holiness and purity. Like Colossians 2:15, we can have the authority to completely disarm the enemies. The word of God which says that the enemies cannot even touch us is fulfilled in us. Once we trample over old ego and deal with the sins that enter us every time, Satan is nothing to us.

The function of Satan is to deceive us. When we sin, we are bound to hear the voice of deception. Without sin we don't hear the voice of deception and we only hear the voice of God. All we want to confirm is whether we are putting our foot on the functions of Satan who has the dominion. That's the reason we need the spiritual discernment, prophecy, and deliverance. Pastors particularly believe that they will outstrip the authority of Sheol and triumph against Satan in spiritual battle. However, this is impossible to do in a church that has not dealt with the issue of sin. Such church is bound to lose the inheritance of the church members, their children and so on. Let's deal with the one who has the dominion.

The characteristic of the one that has the dominion is that it is a spirit that works in the sons of disobedience. Ephesian Church encountered the work of this spirit at the time. It is known as Gnosticism. What is the spirit of antichrist? Antichrist is any spirit that denies Jesus as King and it is any spirit that does not confess that Jesus is from God. That is the work of evil spirit who has the dominion. The world is a big system and Satan has installed the worldliness in this big system. Satan has led the believers astray to obey the secular world under the influence of the worldliness more than the word of God. As a result, churches are now in disobedience.

Spirit is substance and when God created us He gave us the functions of the spirit: intellect, emotion, and will. In True Will we have two functions: power to resist God and power to embrace God. When you are seized by the Spirit of God, your will to resist God becomes zero. Therefore, you obey God immediately without any difficulty. However, when the spirit of worldliness comes in and begins to exert influence on you, it raises the level of resistance against God and reduces the level of embracing God. That's the reason

Adam only saw the tree of life in midst of thousands of tree of knowledge of good and evil when he hadn't sinned in the Garden. Adam didn't have any difficulty of eating the tree of life willfully before God. However, when sin entered him, Adam who would only look at the tree of life suddenly starts looking at the tree of knowledge of good and evil which now looks good for food, and is delightful to the eyes and desirable. When your spirit is filled with the Holy Spirit, your lifestyle is according to the original creation of God: therefore, there is no disobedience in your Christian walk. The problem begins as soon as the spirit of worldliness enters you and you will naturally be filled with the disobedience. This is spiritual order. The root of all is sin.

Fourth, let's look at "Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh." So, we deal with the lust of the flesh. NIV renders it as sinful nature. When self is eradicated, the lust of flesh is also eradicated. In Galatians 5:17 Paul says, "For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh." The desire of the flesh and desire of the Spirit cannot coexist. "Sets its desire against" means combat. It is a battle every day. Apostle Paul speaks in Romans chapter 8 that the root of desire of flesh begins with the mind in the body. On one hand, when the mind chooses the things of God, the function of new man is opened up and the new man prospers. On the other hand, when the mind chooses the sin, it opens the desire of the flesh and the old man prospers. What are we going to choose? The lust of the flesh? Or the desire of the Spirit? We should train our minds with excellence. The spiritual battle is the battle of the souls. What I mean by that is the functions of spirit are not corrupted by themselves. Why? Because the spirit is created by God. The spirit is corrupted when it continues to receive the things of the world instead of receiving the things of God. Receiving the right things in the mind leads to spiritual victory. We should train to fix our minds on the things of God. When our intellect, emotion, and will are filled with the Spirit of God, they become what they meant to be at the creation. Intellect, emotion, and will in turn interact to make up the mind. When intellect, emotion, and will are healthy, the mind also becomes healthy. We need to have a spiritual reflex to turn away from the things of the world, frustration, despair and things that are not from the will of God immediately when they try to enter us. Turn your spirit immediately to God. This is meekness in the Beatitude. Let us continue to embody the meekness.

The lust of flesh leads one to do what it desires in the heart. In short, it does what it wants to do. If one prospers the lust of flesh, only thing he will face is the wrath of God by nature. All the lusts that rise up inside must be dealt. They must be nailed on the cross on daily basis. When Apostle Paul says that we have the authority of forgiveness of sin, he is speaking of a stage where one can perfectly control the root of the lust of flesh.

In order to deal with the four things such as transgression and sin Paul says in verse 5, “Even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ.” God made us alive because He confirmed our death. Sin and sinner are not separable. Sin is bad but we can’t set the sinners free out of pity. Just like sin and sinner cannot be separated when Jesus died, we died with him. When Jesus resurrected, we resurrected with Him. We must crucify them on the cross. Church must die continuously and resurrect together.

In verse 6 Paul says, “And raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” Because we died with Him God seated us in the heaven. Please notice that it is all in past tense. Paul never intended to record the second chapter of Ephesians alluding to believe “I am saved because I believe in Jesus.” Paul is not speaking about the doctrine of salvation here but how glorious and pure the church of God is. “God seated us with Him in the heavenly places” is not confirmed in the life of someone who does not even have the confirmation of salvation and just say, “I am a child of God.” This is not for someone who has simply not nailed the sin on the cross. I differentiate “I am saved” and “I have the confirmation of salvation.” Of course we all repent of our sin and receive Jesus as Savior and Lord. We are forgiven of our sins and become the children of God with authority. However, confirmation of salvation in one’s life is a different issue. The confirmation of salvation takes place when one deals with sin through his life and his righteousness. Salvation and the confirmation of salvation may take place at the same time or not. However, in my experience of training others in spirituality they don’t take place at the same time, especially in Korea. Koreans have strong works of spirit of idolatry in the nation, so it is difficult to have salvation and the confirmation of salvation at the same time. They must first be released and repent beforehand. When Paul speaks of “God seated us with Him in the heavenly place,” he means that it is for those who are already completely dead to the sin and transgression. They are the ones that are seated in the heavenly place. Paul is speaking of the complete victory.

Paul says in verse 7, “In order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward in Christ Jesus.” Paul is emphasizing the riches of grace God has for His church in order that He might show to the ages to come. When we deal with sin and build the glorious church, such amazing grace will fill the church. This is not only for us but also for the churches to come. We are to be an example for them.

In verse 8 Paul says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.” “It” refers to the faith. Salvation is a gift as well as the faith. The gift of God in verse 8 refers to the faith.

Faith is the root. You may ask me “what is the difference between the gift being salvation and faith?” Once we believe salvation is the gift, and then we may think “I can build up my faith.” No, that’s not true. Because the root is faith as gift, faith is to constantly receive what God gives to us. Furthermore, we are saved through faith. The salvation in Christian walk is totally grace of God. Why? Because we don’t build up our own faith but rather receive it from God as gift. Since God gives us the faith as gift what shall we do to receive this faith? We should consistently renounce ourselves, give up and wait on God. This is the cycle we go through. The Christian walk itself is to do things by His provisions. Paul says in verse 9, “Not as a result of work.” We do not labor/work to build up the faith “that no one should boast.”

Paul further speaks in verse 10, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.” “Created in Christ Jesus” means that when God had created us, He created functions in us to live by His grace. However, man fell! So, God recreated us as the original creation in Jesus Christ. The remaining verse is “which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” God created us as His workmanship and instilled functions so that we can live by the grace of God. When man fell and corrupted, they were erased. However, now we have the work of recreation through Jesus Christ.

Nail down the four things on the cross. Through the cross we have amazing grace. The first step is that we receive faith as gift and that’s how it is built up. Through faith we can discern our salvation and the next step is to consistently empty ourselves, lay them down, and give up. That is the Christian walk in Ephesian Church. The focal point is nailing down the four on the cross. When we realize “we were dead in transgressions and sins,” our church can use the life. You alone cannot live every day. You can only die. When you realize that, this church can receive the life. I pray that you will completely crucify the sin, the world, devil, and the lust of the flesh.

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# Ephesians

## chapter 4.

The practical ways of building up the glorious church are recorded from chapter two to chapter 6:10. 6:10-20 is the conclusion of Ephesians. Paul speaks of how to become the glorious church from 2:1-3:13. It comes down to nailing down the five things on the cross: trespasses and sin, the world, the prince of the power of the air, the lust of flesh, and the Law.

We have looked at four things so far. Paul speaks about the Law from 2:11 to 3:13. The final piece to nail down to the cross is the Law. From Romans messages we know that Satan fishes the self through the secular world. The bait of the secular world is the Law. If the believers' Christian walk is not by grace, the church naturally becomes legalistic because of the Law. C.S. Lewis writes in his book that as long as the believers are heading to the hell because of their religious life, help them to be more successful in their religious life. This is the strategy Satan is directing the evil spirits. "Give them enough money. Give them enough power. Let them enjoy enough and pursue what is elegant. Help them to do that."

Therefore, I preach to the congregation that it is not the will of God for the believers to be under the influence from anything that is not eternal. Is money eternal? No, it is not eternal. "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and then He will add all these things." Jesus proclaimed it not to the riches at that time but to the poor who would starve to death if they don't eat fast. Jesus was speaking to the poor that if the goal of their life is for the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, then they don't have to worry about it. Instead of seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness first we are seeking what is limited and we allow it to affect us. That's not the will of God for the believers. How much the elegant bait, Law, has seized the churches in Korea! The strongest work of Satan in Korean churches is through the spirit of Legalism which turns the church into the center of religious life. They call upon the Lord with their mouth but they don't really mean it. It is the same as calling upon the name of Buddha. It does not make any difference. They have Bible in hands but if anything such as "magical book" bestows blessings on them, they will treat it like truth. That's how the believers are in this age. That's the reason they skip the worship service on Sundays and refuse to take a loss for the sake of God. It is the same for pastors, too. They don't lay down their life. I say this in Zoe Ministry Network, "We pastor to die not to live. Christianity is life not religion."

Paul speaks of the Law from 2:11 to 3:13. As we can see in the text, the constituent of the Ephesian Church is mostly proselytes. Since proselytes are big majority, it is not significant to address the Jew's commands, Law and Legalism. Paul explains it a different way.

So, what is the Law as Paul explains in Ephesians? Paul defines the Law as one's own effort to live his life. Paul addresses the gentiles in the world who live by the Law and reproofs them. For the Jews to live by the Law is legalism, but it is not for the Christians. Jewish Christians at that time contended believers to live by the Law. However, proselytes did not respond well to them. What is the Law to the proselytes? As Paul addresses this issue he puts a degree of emphasis on the Law. Paul uses "we," "both," and "the two" repeatedly to point out the separation of man from God, the separation of proselytes from Jewish Christians, and the separation of new man from old man in us. Paul is using "we" to signify those three meanings.

As we have seen in Galatians the legalism is one's own effort to live his life without the grace of God and not living by the things of God. As the worldliness enters many fail to live with the authority of the heir and live as a hired hand. Church is supposed to live by grace and enjoy life. However, over 90% of your 24 hour is used to train in the reason and rationality of the world and the Christian walk is infected by the legalism. People momentarily seek the Lord during the worship service but most of them lost any will to seek God because their souls are hardened by reason and rationality filled with legalism as they live in the world. They say, "We must encounter God," but deep inside they cannot encounter Him. Some people want to deny this. Why? Because they will only die if they encounter God, so they don't want to encounter Him. They know they can't skip worship service, so they come for an hour. That is today's church filled with the legalism. In another word, the worldliness is legalism in our case. The world is about what we do. It emphasizes on the deeds. You get return as much as you pay the price. Isn't that the world? It is the same with the Jews about the legalism. They become righteous or justified as much as they obey the Law. According to Romans 3 the Law is about doing things to become righteous.

Paul speaks of gentiles' lifestyle of legalism in the world and the evil influence of worldliness. The evil influence of worldliness is crucified on the cross. The conclusion of Paul is that you have been redeemed from the curse of the Law, so don't put on the yoke of Law again. The legalism of the gentiles is to live by the worldliness. The previous lifestyle of the gentiles before the conversion as they were not the children of God was the legalism. We can't bring that into the church. Paul is saying, "Pay the price for the worldliness that has taken over your body on the cross and destroy the legalism." Paul's focus is on the proselytes rather than the Jews and he is speaking out against the legalism of proselytes. The critical weakness of churches in this age is legalism and syncretism. When you look at closely legalism and syncretism, they go together. Legalism can be observed in two ways. One is exclusiveness. They praise God and shout "holy, holy, holy" with their mouth but they have their own way of life deep inside of them. This leads to the next point. The

believers of this age have worldliness in them no matter of their Christian walk. It is evidenced by the numerous examples of elders who have mistresses and run bars. Believers live a corrupted life that we are shamed to bring them up. This is syncretism.

Paul speaks in verse 11, “Therefore remember” and it goes with what author of Hebrews says in 2:1, “For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.” He also says in verse 12:2, “fixing our eyes on Jesus.” So, where do we focus? “Formerly you were the gentiles in the flesh.” From the perspective of Jews gentiles are people bound to be the firewood/fuel for hell. “Gentiles in the flesh” means that they have totally lost the relationship with God. Of course, the Law itself is not a curse: however, living by legalism cannot forge a relationship with God. One living by legalism may vaguely be aware of God, but his prayer seems to pray to God who is 5 million light years away. It will take 5 million light years to receive an answer from God. This is the characteristic of legalism. Gentile is cut off from God in terms of relationship. Gentiles are called “Uncircumcision by the so-called Circumcision which is performed in the flesh by human hands.” Circumcision is a mark of a child of God. Without it one does not have any relationship with God. The characteristic of the gentiles’ legalism is that they don’t live with a confirmation of God. They sometimes think it is God in certain circumstance and it is not God in other circumstance. Legalism is unclear about God.

Let’s look at verse 12 “remember that you were at that time separate from Christ.” Of course, gentiles were separated from Christ and they did not have relationship with Christ. “Separate from Christ” means they were under the wrath of God. Suppose there is fire in the field. The Indians are about to be burned to death. How can they survive? By burning the place where they are. In order to escape from the wrath of fire, they have to be in the place that’s already burnt. That’s how they can be liberated from the wrath of fire. Likewise God comes to the world as God of wrath. The only way to escape from the wrath of God is to be in Jesus Christ. Legalism deserves the wrath of God. Why? Because it advocates the righteousness by action.

Now let’s look at “excluded from the commonwealth of Israel.” What that means is they were not chosen by God. The legalism of gentiles has nothing to do with God. “They were excluded from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise.” They also don’t have the covenant of God. They don’t have goal in life, so they live in uncertainty. Next, “having no hope and without God in the world.” It is obvious they have no hope because they do not have goal/covenant. Legalism naturally promotes one’s own way of life: therefore, there is no room for God in one’s life. Once one becomes legalistic and he even speaks of God with his own mouth, he will accept anything if it can



bless him. The blessing does not have to come from Bible or God. They don't really care about where the blessing comes from.

In verse 13 Paul says, "But now Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." They had nothing to do with God before, but by the blood of Jesus Christ the gentiles who used to live by the legalism as outsiders not only have been brought near to God but they have become one with Him. When we live by grace and pray in the grace of God, we know God hears our prayers, immediately answers us, and already knows about what we pray about. "Believe you have already received" comes to us so closely. Furthermore, we have fear of God when we sin because we have strong belief that we are in His sight and God is watching us. However, for people with legalism God seems like 5 million light years away. They don't have any awareness of God because they think He is so far away, so they don't have any fear when they commit sin. Legalistic people feel that God is far distant. Neither do they sense the presence of God nor the watching eyes of God which further result in more sin. However, we have been brought near God by the blood of Jesus Christ. Exodus 25:22 God says, "There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat." The key word is hilasterion in Greek. When God says, "I will meet with you," the blood is sprinkled over the mercy seat and that's how people met the Lord. Now, we do not meet the Lord in the Court of Gentiles because of the blood of Jesus Christ. God meets us in the holy of holy where mercy seat is located and the cherubim as well. What an amazing grace? Only the high priest enters the holy of holy once a year on the Day of Atonement to atone for his sins and the sins of Israel. Now, we can enter hilasterion and live there. How great is that? It is ordinary to have Christian walk in the mercy seat. Our Lord unified the division of gentiles and made it one and how can we still live in the Court of Gentiles? We were all formerly far away from God due to legalism but we are brought near God by the blood of Jesus.

Paul goes on and speaks in verse 14, "For He Himself is our peace." Peace is shalom which means a complete victory. Like in verse 6 "And raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus," we can't be seated in the heavenly places without the complete victory. There can be no peace by the Law. Law is a complaint of sin. Consequently, anxiety, worry, unrest and uncertainty come after. However, Law is abolished and we live by grace, so we have a complete victory with God. This is peace. Jesus "made both groups into one." The separated gentiles and Jews have become one. The separated Court of Gentiles and Court of Jews have become one. The old man that was separated from God is dead and the new man is formed who in turn is united with God as one. Break down the legalism on the cross. Church should thoroughly live by grace. Church members are supposed to come to church filthy and messy, so they can't

stay the way they come. How can so dirty and filthy people with so many wounds inside love one another when they come to church? Because they are all covered with grace just like snow covers the earth. It is all white but what happens when snow melts away? All the garbage is revealed. It is the same with church. When the grace is gone, everyone is shocked “I didn’t know you were this dirty!” When the Law enters us and grace is gone, everyone starts seeing how dirty and messy others are. Grace is living by God’s provision. We need to have Christian walk in the church in which the Holy Spirit reigns according to the principles in the Ephesian Church and believers live by His provisions and wait for God’s time. Paul has multiple meanings in “two” in verse 14. Jesus “broke down the barrier of the diving wall.” Legalism builds up the barrier between man and God. Jesus broke down the barrier on the cross. Legalism naturally brings accusation and condemnation to God without exception. It is like building up barriers everyday which makes you feel distant from God. You can’t have relationship with God. Jesus completely abolished this characteristic of legalism.

Accusation of sin is the characteristic of legalism. Therefore, if we do not live by grace, it is only a matter of time before we have enmity against God. Paul speaks in verse 15, “By abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace.” Who are the “two?” They are gentiles and Jews, Court of Gentiles and court of Tabernacle of God, and God and us. Who is “one new man?” Through the Cross Jesus removed the barrier and forged a new man unifying the two who in turn reconciled with God. There is no other way to escape from the wrath of God but through the grace of God, cross. God has given us all these things by His grace and shall we continue to live by the legalism? In Romans 8: 13 Paul speaks, “For if you are living according to the flesh, you must die.” “According to the flesh” means can be several but Paul means that it is living a self-centered life.

If you want to resolve this, please listen to the exposition of Galatians. When the gospel of God becomes legalism and syncretism, it will naturally become a different gospel. In Galatians we see Paul curses that whoever preaches a different gospel, let him come down with AIDS. What is a different gospel? Pastor will preach a different gospel when he is tainted with legalism and syncretism. He is a servant of God. We are talking about the church of God. We are also talking about Jesus Christ. Yet, a different gospel comes out. From the perspective of God a heresy is not the object of God’s wrath. I am addressing the church of God and it does not preach the word of God, but rather it injects the Jesus vaccine to the congregation. It preaches Jesus who is dead just enough that it refuses the real Jesus Christ. Such churches are the object of God’s wrath. Why does the church preach

a different gospel? Because legalism has infiltrated the church. If not by grace, we can't preach the gospel even if we want to preach it. We hear the messages on the topics of self-effort, mind-control, well being, and give-your-best-shot you will succeed. There are so many sermons like them. In America and Korea we see the new trend of positive mind set. That is not the gospel. The fact that books and sermons like that are appealing to reason and rationality of believers is the evidence that the churches are becoming legalistic. The sermon of grace is rather difficult to hear at the beginning. It is bitter in the mouth but it is sweet in the stomach. There is not a moment we can choose anything beside God. If the nature of man chooses anything but God, man will immediately become legalistic. That is the curse of Adam. If the pastor does not live by grace, it is only a matter of time the church will become legalistic. Nail your ways, your attitude of "this is my church," and your experiences on the cross and be renewed. Paul spoke to Timothy in 1 Tim 4:15 "be absorbed in them so that your progress may be evident to all." We are also supposed to reveal our progress and renewal as we live by grace and let the church fly high.

Paul says in verse 16, "And might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity." Every separate thing from God reconciles with the Lord through the cross and the two become one. The confusion is gone. Verse 17 "and He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near;" Who are "you who were far away?" They are gentiles. Who are "those who were near?" They are Jews. Whether we have Jews or gentiles, one thing is clear. If we are in the Cross, we have victory. Legalism is defeat. Living by legalism is being bound. If we live by legalism, there is no power. No matter how strong a man is if he does not have speed, he does not have power. We don't want to be bound. Speed comes from the freedom. When the light of God's glory shines upon us, it will reveal freedom and rich. Only in the grace of God we have freedom and rich.

In verse 18 we see the result/blessing of breaking down the legalism and replacing it with grace. "For through Him" refers to Jesus and "we both" refers to gentiles and Jews. So whether it is gentiles or Jews "we have our access in one Spirit to the Father."

The first blessing is coming out to the Father. In Jewish sacrifice, they bring the sacrificial lamb to God and receive redemption of sin and restore the relationship with God. If not for Jesus Christ, we cannot come to God; especially it is impossible to enter the holy of holy. Coming to the presence of God is an occasion to receive something from Him. In the time of dynasty, a King does not just call up his servant to see his face. Whenever one comes to the presence of King, he receives something from King. In the pauper & prince story, when the prince became a pauper, he gave a knight special privilege "you can always

sit before me.” After he restored his kingship the knight came to the King and sat on the chair before him. The King told his servants, “Leave him alone. He has the right to sit before me.” Through Jesus Christ you have the right to come to the King. You have the special privilege to make your requests in the face of King. How special is such a privilege to submit your supplication to the King? How foolish is it that you have this special privilege and yet you do not use it? That’s what not praying is! Enter into the presence of God and the holy of holy every day!

Second, let’s look at verse 19 “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household.” Gentiles who used to live by legalism have now become a family of God through Jesus Christ. Since you have become a family of God, you now have the protection & love of the family. How grateful is that?

Third, let’s look at verse 20 - 21 “having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord.” You have become the temple of God. One thing we want to take notice is that who became the foundation of the temple of God? Jesus Himself became the corner stone in you who is the Sanctuary. Cornerstone is the foundation of any building project. Jesus is the corner stone! Who is the land? Verse 20 indicates that apostles and prophets are the land. This is important revelation Paul received with regard to the doctrine of church. You believe in Jesus Christ and through your exemplary Christian walk in Jesus the church is established. However, if you don’t have the foundation of apostles and prophets, it is like you the right to use the land but you can’t register it with the authority in your name. The building is yours but the land is not registered with the government. How anxious can it be? Many theologians contend that apostles and prophets are dead, but without the authority of apostles and the spirit of prophets there is no foundation of church. This is correlated to the Ephesians 4:11, the four systems of office, that without them a church has only secured the building and not the land. That would make many people very uneasy! With the authority and system of apostles and prophets we can lay the foundation of Jesus Christ and build the temple of God. Without the revelation of Jesus Christ that comes through the apostle and prophets, church is like having the access to the building only. Such church would be anxious. Churches in this age must restore the functions of apostles and prophets. There were apostles and prophets in the early church without any doubt. In the Book of Acts we see apostle, prophet, evangelist, and teacher. Some may say, “Didn’t prophet die out in the Old Testament?” My response to that question is “Is the church in Book of Acts in Old Testament or New Testament?” Church must have apostle and prophet. When a

church is established according to the system in Ephesians, many apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors/teachers will arise from the offices of believers. This is the foundation of church. Suppose an owner says, “I want my land back,” then we must either surrender the building to him or demolish it. That’s the reason church can’t be careless about the apostles and prophets.

Fourth, let’s look at verse 22 “in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.” The sanctuary is the dwelling place. Paul is trying to emphasize that the Tribune God dwells in us. The authority of God that reigns in the whole universe, history of world and humanity has come upon us. The flashy high-tech airplane the President of United States of America flies in is called the Air Force One. When he flies in the helicopter, it becomes the Air Force One. What is your privilege of becoming the sanctuary of God? The glory of Tribune God has come inside you. God who decides the history of the world and humanity has come inside you. Just understanding who you are is an incredible thing.

When I met the Lord 18 years ago, I quit both drinking and smoking at once. It was not intentional. I could not stand the smell of cigarettes and alcohol. Just thinking of them made me sick in the stomach. In addition, all the nicotine that was in my body for the past 15 years came out through sweat glands all over my skin. When I encountered 1 Corinthians 3:1 and 6:19 “you are a temple of God,” it blew me away. “Am I really a temple of God?” I thought “how can I have a fireplace/chimney in my body? How can I pour the alcohol into it?” I could not imagine doing it. Ever since that day I did not want to even smell the cigarette smoke and alcohol. Even now when I smell the smoke of cigarette, I get dizzy. I hope you understand the fact that you are a temple of God. “I am a dwelling place of God! The glory of the Tribune God is working inside me! The authority that moves the nations and the world is in me!” How can we limit the Lord? Live according to God’s will and obey by letting go of your thought, way, and plan. “Speak to me oh Lord!” That’s the attitude we need. This is the blessing given to those who break down the legalism and receive the grace of God. You will become a dwelling place of God, a temple of God, a family member of God. You can draw near to God!

What is the evidence of revival taking place? It is the resistance against the world. It is the attitude of “we will not live up to the demands of the world!” Church in this time should reach the peak of resistance against the world. In Korea, the examination to become public officials is offered on Sundays. What hurts my heart is that one of the young adults in our church is passing up on the test. He passed up four times already. I believe God will bless him. I never said not to take the test. As a matter of fact I told him “go and

take the test,” but he just does not take the test. I cry every time I think of him. What is he saying? “I will not live to the demand of the world!” We also have a deacon in our church who is in a certain position in public office and he makes a lot of money. It is customary to receive money from others and distribute to others. That comes with the job. However, it was painful for him to do it, so he told the boss to move him to a different position. People couldn’t understand it. He is now in a position that requires a hard work and he is so much happier. People say, “He is crazy!” He is saying, “I will not live my life according to the world!” I encourage my church members to become the highest tax payer. I also discourage them by saying things like this, “Do not make a dual account books. If you evade tax in your business, quit your business. If you run your business in honesty and go bankrupt, joyfully file for bankruptcy.” These things are taking place in our church. Our church members moreover do not engage in a business like a bar that the world favors. This is church!

Please take a look at how a church and its members, seized by the grace of God, live their life in this world. This is true revival! When our leaders mature and go into the politics, economy, society, and culture, we will hear the sounds of things breaking down. They may say, “Why are you so different? Why do you live like that?” Because we are the people of God. Such proclamation will rise up in all the dwelling places. We are in the Zoe Ministry to raise up such glorious church. The way to do that is doing away with the legalism and let the grace of God seize us. That’s the secret to stand tall as a glorious church. You can draw near to God. You are a child of God. Furthermore, you are a temple of God. You are a dwelling place covered by the glory of God who created all things. Who can say anything against us when we have God who moves the history of the world in us? Let’s make a commitment “I won’t live to meet the demands of the world!” I believe our vision of glorious Church of Ephesus will be fulfilled in all the churches in Zoe Ministry Network. I am not being an idealist of Christianity. This is the promise of God. Please do not treat this as a Christian ideal. This work of God will arise in us absolutely and the glorious church will arise to prepare for the end time. Let’s hold fast to the word and make a commitment “God, help me to break down the legalism and to live by Your grace!”

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# Ephesians

## chapter 5.

Paul spoke of the glorious church in chapter 1. He then explained how we can practically build up such church by crucifying five things from 2:1 to chapter 3. Paul goes on and speaks of how he became who he is now by the grace of God from 3:1-13. He is called to be an apostle to the Gentiles. A believer cannot understand the calling of God if not by grace. In the chapter 1 we saw the calling to Jesus Christ, the calling to the church, and finally the calling to the missions. The calling comes through the grace. So, can we not receive the calling apart from grace? The calling we have is not coercive like “if you don’t do it, you will die.” It is more like “I can’t help but to give all my life to the owner of this love” after realizing the amazing love of God. That’s the type of calling we have. In short, if the grace is not given whether it is a believer or a pastor, there is no calling.

When the church becomes legalistic, the sense of calling disappears. Furthermore, when believers come legalistic, their sacrifice and devotion become a sense of responsibility. I have ministered many believers and half of them are like that. They sing the famous hymn everyday ‘I must tell Jesus! I must tell Jesus! I cannot bear my burdens alone.’ Their service to God has become a sense of obligation and responsibility, so it becomes so heavy. They serve in several departments and do a lot in and for the church, but they are heavy burden. However, when a believer is filled with grace, the work of God becomes an inheritance. So, it becomes so exciting and fun. He is willing to die for it.

Apostle Paul by grace is called to be an apostle to the Gentiles. How does he take on the calling of God in grace? That’s what he shares next. Let’s look at the characteristics of grace.

First, in verse 1 Paul says, “For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles.” One of the difficulties we face in understanding of the Pauline Epistles is that Paul frequently puts double or triple meanings to a word in his letters. “Prisoner of Christ Jesus” means Paul is literally put in prison and it can mean that he is imprisoned in Jesus Christ because he is seized by grace. In 2 Timothy 2:4, Paul speaks to Timothy to train the believers as the soldiers, “No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life.” When we are sized by grace, we are imprisoned in Jesus so that we no longer do things according to our private thoughts, ways and plans. Being an apostle to the Gentiles is not a glorious position for a Jew. He could have received such position as a shame but Paul considers it as glory because the Creator called him and imprisoned him in grace. Every calling is glorious to Paul. Paul is called to be an apostle to Gentiles and has become a prisoner of Jesus: therefore, he is not interested in any other things beside what God has called him to do. He does not consider other things glorious and he also does not compare himself to others “how come I cannot do great things like



them?” What God has given us is everything to us.

Suppose you receive an imperial gift, a commode, from King. If you say, “That’s it?” then you get in trouble let alone peeing in it. You will go “this is imperial commode” and it will become a family treasure for generation after generation. That is the characteristic of servants who are called by grace and who have seen the glory. What God has given is everything. You cannot see anything else but what God has given you. Committing everything you are and everything you have for that alone is true devotion.

Do you think trying different spiritualities will deepen your spirituality? No, that’s not how you deepen your spirituality. Sacrifice is focusing on one thing. That is the characteristic of the prisoner of God. They cannot think of anything else. Paul thoroughly became an apostle for Gentiles as the prisoner of the Lord, so he never sought after other things on his own apart from God’s calling. When God tells him to go, he goes. When He tells him to come, he comes. That’s what Paul does, and is willing to die for it. That’s Paul’s dynamics that we, pastors, can learn from.

In Philippians 3:12 Paul says, “Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.” Paul always pressed on toward the goal. He didn’t think of anything else. From this perspective we see that the great men think alike. Famous Korean musician, Mr. Jung Hoon Myung, tell other young musicians “dig into music” and “hold fast to music alone, then money and glory will follow.” It is the same with us. Hold fast to God alone, then money and glory will follow. Without holding fast to God alone any attempt to grab money or glory will fail. Once you become the prisoner of God and focus on God only, God will take care of the rest. You do not need to bother with any of them. This is the characteristic of servant. Why do servants worry about food and other things? That’s why they are not dynamical.

Second, Paul can’t work with his own things since he is called by grace, imprisoned in Jesus, and focused on Jesus alone. Paul speaks in verse 7, “of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God’s grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.” Paul works according to the working of God’s power, not according to his own power or his will. Paul is living by the gift of God’s grace. Please do not try to pastor, pastors, with things that are not from God. Please do not preach the word God has not given to you and the word you haven’t obeyed. If you do, deception will flow in to the hearers.

There is not a single time the great work of God is done with the human resources.

God told Moses, "Part the Red Sea!" Moses cannot part the Red Sea with what he has or human resource. When Moses says, "I can't do anything," and raises the staff, God would do it. We should minister with the power God supplies. This doesn't just happen! It happens to those who have embodied this lifestyle of living by the early rains and late rains. People who live by the Nile River cannot live this lifestyle. What is Nile River? It represents things that you have on your own. What is the problem of Nile River? It can be corrupted or polluted anytime and it can be dried up anytime. However, no matter how dried up the land is or how terrible the situation is if you have the right relationship with God, God will send the early rain and late rain which will turn the parched land into rich soil.

Paul speaks of such characteristic starting in verse 2, "If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you." The stewardship refers to a plan. It is not just any plan but the plan of grace.

Paul also speaks in verse 3, "that by revelation there was made know to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief." Paul ministers according to the revelation exactly like what God told him, what God showed him, and what God revealed to him. That's the reason God reveals the mystery. Paul works exactly according to his understanding of the mystery. Paul did nothing on his own.

Let's look at verse 4 "and by referring to his, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ." "The mystery of Christ" is from God. Paul does all things with what God provides him; he never does things on his own. Paul always works with what God reveals to him. I pray that you will become a true servant like Paul. When I prophesy for the pastors, sometimes I say, "The circumstance is not good." What I mean by that is I want the pastor to discern the will of God, instead of allowing the circumstance to control, and minister accordingly. When the work of God is decided, other things will be filled. Pastors should live by this faith. When you make a decision and say, "Since I have come thus far I will make a decision accordingly," then that's not the work of God.

The characteristic of servants is humility because they don't minister with what they have originally. Paul says in verse eight, "To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ." If you live like a servant is supposed to live and live by the provisions of God, you will be filled with thanksgiving. Those that live according to their own plan reveal their own righteousness. Servant of God that lives by the provisions of God remains in humility always has tears. Their profession is "I didn't do it with what I have. God, You did it!" We are not arrogant because we minister with the provisions of God. If a pastor makes a decision inside of him "I won't be arrogant," says it to himself all the time, and yet minister with what he has, then he will

naturally become hardened and arrogant. That's the spiritual order. Once a pastor has more than 200 members in his congregation, he thinks no one is higher than him. If a pastor of a big church which has more than 1,000 members, do you think he would even come to this conference?

Finally, since Paul lives in the grace of God, he has the riches of God and thus he preaches the riches of God. We can clearly see the characteristic of church once the church is established according to the principles in Ephesian Church. Moreover, the clear blessing that we can minister in the name of Jesus Christ is that the church will be rich. In the Book of Ephesians we encounter "riches" numerously. In the latter half of verse 8 we see "to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ." If you pastors minister your church according to the Ephesian principles, your church will be rich. It will be lots of fun. Your church won't be good in just one thing but in everything. Let's take a look at the riches of Paul.

Paul says in verse 9, "And to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God, who created all things." Although we don't do thing with our own, the mystery starts to be revealed. The mystery of God who created all things is revealed through the church. God reveals the administration of the mystery and what is that exactly?

In verse 5 we see "which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit." The riches of God are revealed. "Other generations" refer to the Old Testament. "Sons of men" refer to the Gentiles in the Old Testament. The riches of God that were revealed through apostles and prophets in the Spirit had not been revealed to the Gentiles in the O.T.

Paul says in verse 6, "to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel." What is the rich? It is the rich of heirs. As the church matures in grace, Gentiles will inherit the riches of God; thus, they become "heirs and members of the body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus." The Gentiles become the heir of God and enjoy the same riches in the words of covenant that could not have been enjoyed outside of Israel. It is possible through the gospel. It is only possible when one lives in the grace. I want to emphasize that it is impossible to have the authority of heir when one is not in the grace of heir. In any given church the spiritual maturity of the majority of church members should be heir or higher. So they can naturally reveal the spiritual authority, personnel authority, material authority, and natural authority. They will also develop their inheritance and life

of their children within the realm they possess when they are either in the state of heir or beyond.

Second, what type of rich do we see? Paul says in verse 10, “in order that the manifold wisdom of God might be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.” Let’s look at the authority of wisdom in the church. “The church” in verse 10 has a definite article in front of church, so it is referring to not just any church but the Ephesian Church. In another word, the wisdom is not given to just any church but to churches like Ephesian Church which is filled with the fullness of Jesus which in turn fills all in all. So what’s the wisdom? The church teaches the wisdom of God to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

Angels receive the wisdom from God and obey the commands of God. Reversely, the church reveals the plan of God to host of angels and commands them. The almighty power of God includes commanding angels. Pastors who studied the traditional theology may say, “Why are you talking about angels?” The Bible is meaningless when Jesus is taken out. Angels do not have the same magnitude but once we take out angels from the Bible, lots of pages of Bible will go missing. If the church is to become glorious, it must reach the level to reveal the wisdom of God. When we address the authority of God, the predicament is not having the authority in the church but in not having faith in what God has given already and to seek and use them.

In our ministry many things take place that are beyond our imagination. Some people may attack me for it, but we move the host of angels. It is like a field commander who follows the commands of the headquarter but he also makes decision and acts accordingly on the field. God has given the title of tetrarch to church and He also has given a permission to command the angels directly. I can pray to God who receives it and gives a command to the angels accordingly. However, instead of praying to God I can command the angels to minister. Which way is faster? The latter is faster. Why? There are numerous instances to make a quick decision with regard to the work of God.

For example, the American soldiers have entered a street battle. Right in front of them someone pops up and they don’t know whether he is an ally or an enemy. Platoon leader must decide to shoot to kill or not. But he radios the headquarter and says, “Hey, Jim this is Iraq and I need to speak to the President.” The platoon leader goes on and says, “Hello, Mr. President, should I kill this man who just appeared right in front of us or not?” That would be too late. If the platoon leader kills this unidentified man and he turns out to be an enemy, then member of his platoon will live. If the unidentified man turns out to be a civilian and not the enemy, then America will be blamed for this incident. The platoon

leader must make this decision. It is the same. The true churches are in the front line of this spiritual warfare. They make the immediate decisions with the background of knowing the will and plan of God and of proper knowledge and experience. They can command the angels as they minister in the Kingdom of God. People don't know it because of their ignorance and because they have no idea about all this. When we command the countless hosts of angels, we can take on the great spiritual battles. Suppose the prayer of one million can bring about a great victory. We can use the power of God and take on the same spiritual battle with just ten people. In short, the authority to command the angels is included in the almighty power of God. Church can reveal the wisdom to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. Seek, discover, and use all the powers God has endowed the church with.

In verse 11 Paul says, "This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord." The rich is predestined. God is determined to endow His riches to the church. It is because God has given us His inheritance. This is His determination. This is not a matter of whether it will work or not. It must be done. We looked at the eight blessings in chapter 1. The blessings of believers will be given through the church.

In verse 12 Paul says, "In whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him." The Greek word of "boldness" is *parresian* which means "freedom of speech" and "not ashamed." It has dual meaning. Believers that live in the grace have the freedom of speech. They have the power to ask Him anything. However, those that live in legalism is uncertain of what to ask for "should I ask for this or that?" In the midst of uncertainty they waste time and thus can't pray. If you live in grace, you can draw near to God and with boldness "ask whatever you wish and it shall be done for you." We pray based on this principle of 100% answer from God. That's why when we do not receive an answer from God for once, we mourn and repent. "Lord, we are supposed to live by 100% answer to our prayers from You. How wicked am I that You cannot answer our prayer?" God didn't give/answer to our prayer because if He does, it will ruin us. That's why we repent. When my son does something wrong, he can't look straight up to my face in our conversation. On the other hand, when he studies hard and gets good grade on test, he says, "Daddy, buy me this and that." How confidently he speaks to me! I know then that he did something right. We all should be bold.

Long time ago when a slave or a servant is recognized for a great effort on behalf of a kingdom or dynasty, he would receive a reward from a King. When a slave of recognition proceeds to come before a King, he does not come as a slave or a servant. He is elevated to at least 8th degree government official (lower the better). When we say that we

can draw near to God, it means that we are elevated to the Lord's approval. When we live by grace, we are elevated to the office of heir so we can draw near to God. Furthermore, those that can draw near to God in confidence should not be meddled with. People have problems because they don't draw near to God in their Christian walk. They don't know what to do. The rich refers to the boldness and the right to draw near to God.

We see the conclusion in verse 13, "Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory." Now we live by the grace of God and spread the gospel, and are being established as a glorious church. So it is ok to go through tribulation. Paul doesn't care about it. He says that his tribulation will benefit you and others. Paul further says that the circumstance and conditions do not become hindrances in his ministry. Being called by God to serve as an apostle to Gentiles by grace of God is great for Paul that he is content in any circumstance. Whether he dies or lives, whether he possesses or dispossesses, and whatever happens, he is fine. In Colossians 1:24 Paul says, "...in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body (which is the church) in filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions." Just like Paul's confession I would like God to perfect such affliction and confirm it in me. That's the life I want to live... in the amazing grace of God. When we live by grace, the affliction/suffering becomes a catalyst to bring us closer to God much faster. So, that's how Paul fulfilled his mission... by grace.

In summary Paul is speaking to us three things. First, we are prisoners of Jesus Christ. We can't see anything else beside Him. We can't think of anything else beside Jesus. Second, since we live by grace of God, we do not do things with what we have. I hope pastors can embody this. We should always live by the provisions of God. Let's live by the late rain and early rain. I pray that you get "hit" by rain twice a day. Third, we preach the unfathomable riches of God. One characteristic of Ephesian Church is in the riches of God. They have plenty of everything. May God bless you to be the strong church that has the authority of wisdom and can command the host of angels! I am amazed as I pastor, work on spirituality, lead the Zoe Ministry, and reveal one at a time that how powerful the church can be. God says, "I am the church!" That's right. People speak of the Kingdom of God theologically and the Kingdom of God is church. Why? Because God reigns the all things through the church. That's why the Kingdom of God is church. God has entrusted this church to you pastors as servants who love His church.

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# Ephesians

## chapter 6.

Second prayer is in 3:14 “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.” Paul is talking about every group of Gentiles on earth. Ephesian Church is mostly made up of Gentiles and Paul is on his knees praying for all the tribes on their behalf. When I first read verse 14 and 15, I was deeply touched. For Paul prayed for Korea. Paul’s prayer includes any nation. Not only his prayer includes you but also this nation. I am grateful Paul prayed for us. That’s how deep his revelation was. Paul prayed for every family in heaven and on earth, us.

Two things stand out when Holy Spirit leads our prayer. One is greatness. You don’t want to adhere to your own way of prayer. Don’t insist upon your style of prayer. God will even give you things that He will do for the world. That’s what I mean by “I can see how the world is moving.” When you pray, God will reveal His hands that move all nations. In Amos 3: 7 Amos says, “Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets.” As you mature in spirituality, God reveals His work and leads you to dwell with Him. That’s the reason we don’t want to insist upon “my ways and my styles and so on.” We should pray for other churches and other nations. We should always pray for our nation and our people. The nation of Korea is severely corrupted with the immorality. Our nation’s immorality problem is worse than Japan. As churches are weakened the true leaders disappear. This is affecting this nation. Let us remember that when churches rise up as glorious church, we will have true leaders in the nation. We should pray for nation, people, and what is great. Furthermore, we should lift up a prayer like Daniel chapter nine to embrace their pains as ours. Daniel embraced the sins and pains of his nation and cried out to God in his prayer. The prayer Holy Spirit desires for us is like Daniel’s great prayer.

Not only the prayer of Holy Spirit is great but also it is in depth and detailed at the same time. He doesn’t lead us to pray with everything thrown in at the same time but rather He guides us to pray in detail and in depth. We would intercede for one person at a time and one’s hurt, pain and spiritual problems according to the guidance of Holy Spirit. God is pleased when we intercede for others. These are two characteristics of the prayer Holy Spirit guides us.

The victory of World War II is attributed to Liz Howard’s intercessory prayer team which bound Hitler completely and resulted in the Battle of Normandy. In this end time the intercessory prayers have been weakened so much that such prayers are disappearing. Paul, apostle to Gentiles, prayed for all the tribes of Gentiles and his prayers are the reason for the fruits we bear today. In short, Paul’s prayer transcends 2,000 years. Such a powerful prayer should arise in our generation. We don’t want it just for ourselves but we



want to be aware of the work of God which is so great that it is difficult for us to imagine. However, we must believe God and what He is doing. We must also believe our prayers affect God and in turn He is bringing about something surpassing time and space. Great fervor should fill our hearts as we pray. The prayer should not be self-centered but be expansive/inclusive. We know how God works in light of our prayers we lift up, so we believe in the vision of raising up a powerful 7,000 prayer intercessors crying out 24/7/365. In this Zoe Ministry Network we need a powerful intercessory prayer teams to lead the spiritual warfare to victory in this end time.

The commonality of spiritual people God desires in this generation is prayer. One good example is David Brainerd. Although David Brainerd was a 4th stage tuberculosis patient, he would pray on his knees on a mountain in Indiana. The presence of God was so strong that not even a single deer ran around in the whole mountain. His intercessory prayer was a direct reason God brought a revival through Jonathan Edwards. God sent such a powerful work of repentance into the hearts of many. I am sure Pastor Jonathan Edwards had a great spirituality but his son-in-law David Brainerd was in the background with prayer support. Powerful intercessors should arise in this end time. May you receive a power to lift up a powerful intercession.

The reason God considered Moses as the most glorious servant was because he had the most intimate relationship with Him. It is a fellowship of face to face. God said that I do not have fellowship with you in dreams and visions but with Moses it is face to face. Numbers 12:8 God asks, "With him I speak mouth to mouth, even openly, and not in dark sayings, and he beholds the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant, against Moses?" The reason God considers Moses as glorious is because they had such a deep fellowship of face to face. God also had such fellowship with David. David spoke to God while hearing His voice and he answered to God's question. This fellowship is not a supernatural thing or an empty theory of Bible. God will approach the holy and pure and speak to them. We can become the holy and pure as we work on our spirituality.

We want to hear the voice of God that is uttered every minute and second. Such a deep fellowship is our desire, isn't it? Being able to hear His voice, respond to Him, speak to Him as well and in turn He replies to us. Just like the intimate fellowship we see in Amos 3:7 "surely the Lord does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets," we should desire for an intimate fellowship with God even to the point of entering of council of the Lord. This is the passion for holiness. "I will rise up as a man of God that You would acknowledge in this generation!"

Moses desired to see more of God's glory although he had seen it countless times. That's because of his passion for holiness. God, May we become such servant to have a deep fellowship with You. In this time and age we should be filled with desire for the holy fellowship with God. When it comes to prayer, the presence of God should cover us and we have the promise of our God hilasterion 'there I will meet you.' Let us meet Him in His greatness, who moves the history of nations and the world with His fingers, and receive the prayer requests/topics from Him. As a servant of God let us embrace the hurts and pains of other souls and pray in depth and detail.

Let's look at Paul's prayer in verse 16 "that He would grant you according to the riches of His glory to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man." The first prayer of Paul is to strengthen the inner man. From the first chapter of Ephesians the word of God is fulfilled by the new man and new spirit not the old man. No work of God is done through the old man. The fiercest aspect of spiritual warfare is not the battle with the evil spirits but with the self. The battle between the desire of the flesh and the desire of the Spirit is the fiercest battle in spiritual warfare. I preached about this in the exposition of Romans that it is like handing you a knife and putting you in a small room with a Siberian tiger. It won't be over until either the tiger dies or you die. The possibility to coexist between old man and new man is zero. When new man prospers, old man dies. Reversely, when old man prospers, new man dies. It won't be over until one of them dies. This is the fiercest spiritual battle we have.

From the spiritual perspective in Old Testament we can see how God deals with Amalekites. God destroys Amalekites until they disappear from the face of earth on behalf of His children, Israelites. If we can't acknowledge the fierce spiritual battle, we can't win it. The root of old man in me should be taken out today and throughout. The work of God is not done by the prosperity of old man. The new man must prosper inside and receive the things of God and facilitate them into glory in us. There is not a single thing the old man can do for the glory of God. Paul's prayer for the strengthening of inner man (new man) on the behalf of glorious church is significant. That's the prayer to prosper new man in the Ephesian Church.

Paul has been speaking of "rich" in Ephesians and here we also encounter "the riches of His glory." Ephesian Church was rich. I have said before that when a church is normally established, it does not become a clinic but a major hospital. Whoever comes like one with broken arm, one with dysfunctional liver, or one with injury to head, church should be able to treat/embrace/heal them. When a church sails in a normal route, it will become a department store. When the glory of God takes place in the church as it should

in all the churches, they will be rich like department stores. A church that is only good with the word is a dysfunctional church. Another church that is only good with demonstration of power is also a dysfunctional church. Fellowship, love, prophecy and everything should be rich in church. That is the principle of Ephesian Church. Do you know the difference between college and university? University offers all the majors allowing every student to choose whichever he decides. Church should become like university. When the believers in church do not have riches in their Christian walk, their expectation in Christian walk will die out. Because of riches of God, the church members should have an expectation on the sermons of preachers. Believers should have an expectation on the Lord's Day because of riches of God in the church. It is the riches of God's glory.

Apple has unique taste of apple which is sweet and sour. Glory also has its own unique taste. When the glory comes upon the church, glory can be tasted. The taste is riches. How come we don't see riches in churches? That's because the glory hasn't come. When the glory comes, the church can taste it in riches and also the freedom of glory comes upon it according to Romans chapter eight. The taste of glory is freedom, riches and praise. This is Paul's definition of glory. Doxa is Greek word for "glory" which means light. It means the same as light and life in the Book of John. In summary, glory is the way of God's existence. When we talk about glory, we talk about God Himself coming down. The rich is beyond our description. Glory is the way of God's existence.

When Roman Caesar won wars and had triumphant return to Rome, his maids and servants would throw the money around Caesar. They also spread the flowers all around him upon his arrival. That's rich! Everyone is full of joy and fervor and have a great celebration upon his arrival. Glory can be expressed in different ways but it is the way of existence of God. Upon the glory of God come riches, freedom and praise. When the substance of glory of God comes upon church, it will be full of celebration every day. There are rich, fun, and freedom.

Wherever the Holy Spirit comes, there is holiness and freedom. Please do not be focused on the phenomena. In every work of the Holy Spirit, there is holiness and freedom. There is also the riches of God's glory in church in which everyone eats the riches of glory and their new man becomes strong and refreshed. However, when the riches of His glory do not come upon church, our new man cannot be strong. Again, new man feeds on the riches of God's glory.

That's the prayer of Paul for Ephesians and us as well. "God, give them grace to live in the riches of Your glory; grace to eat the riches of Your glory, so their new man can be strengthened and not old man." We have to pray for the riches of glory consistently.

In order for the glory to come upon us, we must deal with five things on the cross. As the principle of repentance continues in church, the riches of God's glory will come upon it. If we are not pure and holy, the riches of God's glory will not come.

Second prayer of Paul is seen in verse 17 "so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love." In 1 Timothy 1:5 Paul also says, "But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith." The nucleus of pastoral ministry in Ephesian Church is to pastor in love just like Paul told Timothy. It is fair to say that love is everything about the riches of God's glory. Love is everything. Pastoral ministry is not about power or spiritual gift. It is love. We all should mature to embrace whoever comes to us in the depth of love. It is critical to pray for love all the time. We should pull on the love to us through three pipes: a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. Once we establish a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith in us, our hearts can be filled with love.

The result of love is to keep commandments. When the community of God is filled with love, we will see obedience in the air of church. 1 Corinthians 12:31 Paul says, "But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way." Build the highway of love! Love is an excellent way according to Paul and we should build the highway of love. Furthermore, by applying the principles of Ephesian Church lay the pavement of a spirit of apostle, a spirit of prophet, a spirit of evangelist, and a spirit of pastor and teacher over the highway of love. Then anything can go and travel on it. You may have power and spiritual gifts and so on but you will not have any problem in the church. Church experiences problems because power comes upon it without the highway of love. Once we have the highway of love and pave it with four spirits, we have a terrific traffic.

We gotta build the highway of love in our church. In order to do that we gotta proclaim and observe a code of conduct of love according to 1 Timothy 1:5. For example, believers should not engage in give and take relationship like lending money for interest. The reason for that is in order to build a true community and fellowship of love in church we should comfort, encourage, and rejoice with each other and at the same time give up selfish behavior. That's the practical code of conduct of love we need in church. Suppose church takes off and 500 or 1,000 new members join at one time, it is not a good thing from the perspective of church doctrine. We build the highway of love by embracing one or two at a time crying with each other and rejoicing with one another.

Church must go through this construction of building a highway of love from five to eight years where everyone embraces each other and cries with one another, former church members who left the church return, and a pastor is hurt/wounded/frustrated/de-

spaired/restored/healed by God. As church goes through such time it paves over with the identity of Ephesian Church. It is not an easy task to pave over with the identity of Ephesian Church when a church hasn't had time to construct a highway of love. Church absolutely needs this time of suffering, labor and love.

“So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith” means to thoroughly live by faith. In John 15 Jesus speaks of “live in the word.” We should live by the word of God. Believers in their spirituality should never explore a possibility of existence apart from word, apart from faith, or apart from love. We cannot imagine living our life separated from the will of God that He has for us. Paul’s expectation on the Ephesian Church is to strengthen the foundation of love by faith and to allow love to take over the church. “God, May the brothers and sisters in Ephesian live by faith and live by love. That’s the type of church I want to see. Completely seize them so they can’t even imagine a life apart from You.”

That’s what happens to the believers, body of Christ, when the principles of Ephesian Church melt into it. Church will continue to be established in that system and the filth of world will be washed away. Moreover, heaven will become wider and the earth will be despised. The believers will no longer be corrupted by money or stumble over by little sum of money. They also do not feel pain any more. If they die, they die. If they live, they live. If they go, they go. If they don’t go, they don’t go. The life of believers is confidence and boldness. Paul’s prayer is for the believers continue to melt in the principles of Ephesian Church so they can stand strong (steadfastness) in faith and love to the point Jesus would completely seize them. That’s the life of believers and that’s what Paul prayed for.

In the Christian walk of believers, we want roots of faith and love to take place to eventually reveal the fruits. Church is not a place for theories but what I just have shared with you would be embodied in the life of believers as confirmation. This should take place in church. Believers in their Christian walk can’t help but to reveal the fruits. From this perspective believers in their Christian walk for over several years still have financial problems indicate abnormality. Of course not every Christian is going to be a millionaire; however, if a believer continues to suffer from materials, it is indication of spiritual problems. Probe and analyze “why am I living a so and so life? Why is my life so painful filled with misery?” As a result of their probe and analysis they should come to a conclusion and confirm their Christian walk (lifestyle) as they confirm their fruits of faith from God and of love. “Do you have faith? Confirm yourself.” We gotta confirm this word in our daily fruits. “I am seized by faith! I am seized by love!” Let us confirm it every day. Fruits are important to church.

According to the principles of Ephesian Church, church must be clear of three

things: Presence, Proclamation, and Persuasion. First, let's look at Presence. Our life must change according to the will of God so that people may say, "He was so wicked but he is totally changed!" That's the presence of God in our life. Second, we have Proclamation. We didn't have this authority of proclamation before, but now we do. The word that is proclaimed out of the mouth of believers does not fall to the ground. Church is supposed to reveal the way of existence of God. When a church reveals its expression of God in life, we see the three Ps in the life of believers who are already seized by faith and love. This is the prayer of Paul that the believers are seized by faith and love.

Third, Paul prays "you may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God." In Korean Bible, verse 18 and 19 are not divided like English translations. In short, believers ought to know the surpassing knowledge of love of Christ to deepen it and to be filled up to all the fullness of God. I talked about the love previously but Paul is further requesting us earnestly to deepen the knowledge of love of Christ and to heighten it as well.

I would like to address the knowledge of love. It is love that surpasses knowledge to be accurate. Paul's emphasis on the love that surpasses knowledge in Ephesians refers to revelation. He can't imagine love that is not from God. Paul is praying for a pure soul that can always receive and use the love from God and be ready for everything God will give. It is a prayer for a pure spirit that God loves. God is extending His intense love to everyone 100%; however, everyone differs on what he/she receives in His intense love. Some may receive 50%, 10%, or 100%. It is not because God's intensity of love differs based on people. God doesn't discriminate. It is matter of how pure your soul is to receive His love. If your soul is pure, you can receive the full intensity of God's love. Paul wants to see the continual growth of love in width, height, and depth. When Paul says "knowledge of love," he is speaking of revelation. In short, the epitome of revelation Paul received in Ephesians is the word of cross. Paul spoke of cross before but cross is all about understanding, forgiveness, sacrifice and love. They are supposed to go deeper.

Ezekiel writes in 1:10 "as for the form of their faces, each had the face of a man, all four had the face of a lion on the right and the face of a bull on the left, and all four had the face of an eagle." The first vision is about man. Cross represents the character of Christ which is the same as the word of cross. It is about sacrifice, love, compassion and so on.

Second, we see the vision of a lion. That's the boldness of cross. If you are willing to die for God, no one can stop you. Anyone that's willing to die for God he has confidence. You don't want to mess with anyone that has nothing to lose. When I was in

high school, students are numbered from 1 to 60; one being the shortest and 60 being the tallest. One day number one got into fight with number 60. They fought for a whole month and obviously number 60 won every time. However, at the end number 60 gave up and surrendered. This small teenager would challenge the biggest boy in class at the end of school every day, “hey, come out to the small hill!” Interestingly, he got beat up every time and he got black eyes. He had so much boldness in challenging him to fight. Number 60 about a month later got on his knees and begged number 1 to forgive him. Later, they became good friends. In cross we have such boldness which is the confidence of love. When the love of God comes upon us, we have boldness. Paul said in Romans 8:38, “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor thing present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Even if thousands surround him, he would not be afraid of them. When the love of God comes upon us, we are not afraid any more. We become bold. When we receive the climax of love, the word of cross, we become bold. That’s the vision of lion.

Third, we have the vision of cow. Cow represents sacrifice. It is like a nursing cow that carries the Ark on the way to Beth-shemesh with a calf following behind crying for mother’s milk. The nursing cow that’s carrying the Ark would not turn to the right, the left or cow and finishes the job all the way to Beth-shemesh. She fulfills her mission, cart is used as fire wood, and she is ultimately sacrificed as burnt offering. That is the sacrifice of cross. There is sacrifice in the love of God. That’s what the vision of cow is all about. There is a sacrifice a servant makes after laboring with extreme pain and yet calls himself “useless.” In this love of cross we are to repent every day. When the authority of King, our God, is restored, as believers we receive the characteristic of love of cross. When that happens, you are always joyful and your righteousness is not revealed no matter how much sacrifice you make for the church. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea stayed in the back and followed Jesus, but when they saw cross, they immediately said, “Give me the body of Jesus.” When you face and see the cross, you become bold. On the same token, when you have the love of God in you, you become bold.

Final vision is about the eagle. When the depth of spirituality goes through cross, the eye of the eagle turns into multi-vision. I am not talking about the multi-vision that is made up of tens of televisions hooked up together. When an eagle flies up high, with his multi-vision he can see even the back. Therefore, he can see everything. If you go through the cross, with multi-vision you can see all. You can see how the earth revolves/rotates. When we are cleansed through the cross, we have the word of cross, the knowledge of love.

Fourth, Paul speaks in verse 20, “Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.” What is Paul asking for? He is asking for the power of God to help with the prayer and thoughts. Once the believers forge a perfect relationship with God according to the principles in Ephesian Church, not only their prayer will be powerful but also the meditation in their heart would be same as God’s heart. They are in a level where their meditation in heart is lifted up to God. The power of God fills their prayers and their thoughts; thus, the presence of God fills them. In eighth chapter of Romans, Paul prays that God would seize the root of his soul which is his thoughts. May I remind you that once your thought is fixed on flesh, it will open up the fleshly desires further resulting in the prosperity of old man? On the other side, if your thought is fixed on God, you will have the desire of the Spirit and new man will prosper. What your mind decide to do is critical. It warrants the train over our thoughts fixing it on God. God answers even to what we think.

In conclusion, let’s look at verse 21 “to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.” According to the Greek grammar what comes in the front has more emphasis. Since Ephesians is the doctrine of church, “in the church” is more important than “in Christ Jesus” which comes after. Just like we saw in twelfth chapter of Hebrews, church, Jesus, God, general assembly of first born are on equal status. The unlimited authority and power of the Creator have come upon the church which in turn must raise itself up. That’s the reason Paul emphasizes the church and says that every soul will be together in church and Christ Jesus. May God bless your church with all the great works that already took place in Ephesians!

The history of the great work of Ephesian Church is not for just religious visionaries or our ambition, but it is the promise of God. It is only a matter of time a powerful church like Ephesian Church to appear in the end time. Even as I speak this word is being embodied in people and it is possible a church that’s even more powerful than Ephesian Church can appear. It is about time to start preparing for the end time and change the spiritual map of the world and Korean churches according to will of God. I believe, through the Book of Ephesians, God will raise up glorious believers who will reveal the Almighty God, His greatness, the love of Jesus Christ unto others, the deep spirituality the evil cannot touch, and the identity of praise of glory. Amen.



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# Ephesians

## chapter 7.

Beginning with chapter four we can see the big picture. The principle to become a powerful church like Ephesian Church is written from verse 1 to 6. The practical training is written starting with verse 7. The image of church that's ruled by the Holy Spirit and that has gone through training is seen from verse 9 to the end. The Ephesian Church is trained to become a glorious church to take on the spiritual warfare not just to defend itself from attacks but to take offensive approach. Joshua led Israelites into Canaan not to defend but to conquer. We will become a conquering church.

In order to become a glorious church we must first be united. Not only it refers to the individual churches to be united in their own communities but it also refers to all the churches to be united. The reason churches are divided is because we have become a victim of Satan's strategy. In this end time it is already tough to fight together against Satan. Not too long ago the Lord told me that Satan is using 100% of his influence to destroy church. It is not 10% anymore. Satan is utilizing all his influences to annihilate church. His biggest strategy is division of church. Some churches are divided into two groups: pastor's group and elder's group. They fight each other and it hurts me to see that. It is sad but division is wide spread throughout churches. I shared a story with a humor before. When I went to a dry cleaner, some people were fighting there. This man walks in, sees the fight, and says, "Why do you fight? Do you think this is a church?" That really hurt my heart!

If you look at the Greek text, the major verse is three "being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." This goes with the last prayer of Jesus we see in John chapter 17 that they may be one so the world will know they are His disciples. Why do people in the world know we are disciples by being one? That's because the world's way of management is by division. The principle of world is that "if I do not kill others, they will kill me." This is natural in all the spectrums in the world: politics, economy, society, and culture. The world does not understand when "we lift others up and let others live and I die in their place." However, this is what a church is supposed to do. That's why we gotta become one and die for others. When the people of the world recognize such church, they will naturally have the same expectation on the church as a matter of course. They will admire the greatness of church. Unity of church is separation from world. However, churches are divided further by the influence of the world.

In this end time God does not group churches to denominations. The era of denomination is over. American churches are becoming one through spiritual network. There are many denominations like Baptist and so on but it is not the concern anymore. Let me give you some examples of spiritual networks. Philemon's IC Prophecy, New Life Church, IHOP Community, and Care Free Church which has 8,000 churches in America.

They are all joined in their respective network. As I lead the Zoe Ministry Network I realize how difficult it is to be united. It is extremely difficult because our churches are so selfish.

We are in this generation in which we cannot handle the spiritual warfare alone and yet we participate only when it in our best interest. Such time is over. It is time to be united. One or two pastor's success in ministry will not bring about revival any more. The tough situation Korean Churches are in at the moment is not caused by mistakes of few pastors but rather it has spread wide to all the churches. God spoke to me "unite them" through Zoe Ministry, but I find the work of spirit of division very resistant.

The hope of Koreans lies on our churches. Unless we become one and develop leaders through glorious churches we have no hope. We must be united. In Ephesians we hear frequently "summing up of all things" and "fullness." In order to move in perfect order in the church as we see in Ephesians 1:23, we must be united as one by the command of God. We gotta become such a powerful church.

What is the characteristic of devil? It is a crack. Devil's characteristic is division. When the word of God proclaimed in the church, it must become one and move forward. This is the glorious church. Ephesians 4:3 "being diligent to preserve the unity" is in present continuous tense. God is not just telling us to become one but He is saying "be diligent to preserve it." God is emphasizing how important the unity is and preservation of it. This is not an option.

In Hebrews 4:11 the author says, "Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest." Just like we strive to live out Christian faith without much efforts and laboring by the Spirit of God, we should naturally become one. In church, you are not supposed to suppress others to voice your agenda; however, you are supposed to give up yourself/agenda to raise up others. This should not be difficult but be easy. In Philippians Paul says, "Consider others better than you." That's humility. If your goal is not achieved in church, should you, with the loudest voice, have the way all the time in church? We should consider others better than us. This is the true community of faith.

Let's look at verse 3 "in the bond of peace." This aligns with 2:14 "For Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall." Just like the dividing wall is broken down by the cross "in the bond of peace" refers to the "word of cross." The "word of cross" in chapter 2 alludes to peace which means shalom. Just like Jesus Christ had the perfect victory on the cross and unified (summed up) all things, churches should be one in shalom which is the perfect victory on the cross. It is the cross that bonds with peace. Whether poor or rich, learned or ignorant, no matter of

their class they must go through the cross in order to become one.

We will address the church as the body of Christ later. Anyone serving God with his/her gifts faithfully and matures in the presence of God; he/she should be equally honored regardless of her gifts/service in the church. For example, whether one uses his gift of contribution of 10 million dollars or another with the gift of cleaning up the rest room, both should be honored equally in the church as long as they are faithful with their gifts. This is not a theory! I heard of one humble elder who had given an offering of 10 million dollars for building project and left the church so the pastor and congregation wouldn't be burdened. After hearing of him I said, "Please come to my church. Even if you give 100 million dollars, there would not be any burden on anyone." Whatever we do, the hindrances in church must be removed. Everything is digested in the cross.

I spoke of "word of cross" and let me illustrate this to help your understanding. It is like out of extreme poverty you come to the Lord because the pain is too great to bear and as you lift up your head and see the cross you realize Jesus is even poorer than you. Consequently, your poverty disappears on the spot. You come to the cross because your body is so weak but you see Jesus is even weaker than you. So, your weakness disappears on the spot. In the cross everything becomes one. That's why Paul says in Galatians 6:14, "But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." I don't know what cross is biblically but the cross I met is all about breaking, shattering, and smashing. I thought I was rich and when I met the cross, it was nothing. I thought I was wise but when I met the cross, I was broken and I realized how foolish I was. I thought I was holy but after encountering the cross, my righteousness was shattered on the cross. Everything was broken down on the cross. "Word of Cross" is the bond of peace.

Everyone voices in a church because it has not gone through the cross. We don't need to voice up. Church that goes through the cross stands before it with the work of repentance on daily basis. That's why church should not be separated. It must become one. Koreans are excellent people and yet we should feel the pain of not becoming one. Church is responsible for that. May Zoe Ministry Network become one!

In order to become one, we must believe "there is one body" in verse 4. "One body" refers to the community of church. All the members in a church are one. "Summing up of all spiritual gifts" and "honor of saints" are all alluding to the "body." Whether they are rich or poor, Paul is addressing the whole community as the body.

Let's turn our attention to the Book of Acts. Hellenistic Jews file a complaint why church overlooks the Hellenistic widows with the daily serving of food. Everyone sold his/

her property and gave to the apostles and that's how the church was maintaining. Hellenistic widows were faithful to their mission of prayer and devoted themselves to the church. They were saying that they have the rights for the church to feed them. Everyone in church should be received with honor when he/she faithfully completes the mission and offers up devotion. The poor and ignorant should be one as well in the church.

Segregation is isolating or separating into certain groups. For example, this particular Korean Church advocates that academic level of their members is so high that it is difficult to understand its sermons unless they are college graduates or beyond. They bluntly say this to the public, so I listened to their sermons which can be understood by our children in elementary school. They think a sermon is difficult to comprehend when a preacher talk about theologians and what they say. The truly difficult message is that it should be sweet to the mouth but bitter to the stomach. That's the true sermon God desires. It should be easy to understand but painful to live it out. The body is one. All the members of the body is one. Whether one contributes 10 million dollars or another cleanses the restroom, as long as they do it faithfully the church should honorably embrace them equally. No one should be recognized as righteous for things he has done himself.

Next, "one Spirit" should be treated under the ecclesiology. "One Spirit" means church must be seized by the Holy Spirit. It is pitiful to pastor without know who Holy Spirit is. However, church God hates the most is one that takes advantage of Holy Spirit. We shouldn't use Holy Spirit in our ministry, either. We should put the Holy Spirit in the front. If the Holy Spirit moves, we move. If He doesn't move, we don't move at all. If the Holy Spirit says to do it, we do it. If He doesn't, we don't.

Apostles we see in the Book of Acts put forth the Holy Spirit. They responded to the voice of the Holy Spirit in obedience. When the Holy Spirit says go, they go. When He says come, they come. You have listened to the messages of Lord's Prayer & Beatitude. There are so many people who take advantage of the Holy Spirit in their life because they have not taken care of their ego on the cross. We should completely die to our ego and live according to the Holy Spirit. When He says go, we go; otherwise, we stop. Why do we experience burn out? Of course, it could be attributed to hard work but it comes down to doing things according to our own will when God is not doing it. Yes, it is true our body is tired because of heavy load of ministry; however, there is hardly any time when my soul is not filled with the Holy Spirit. Those who have not been living like this won't be able to do this over night.

Holy Spirit is the only Spirit. Why are lives ruined? Why ministries are difficult? When we follow the One and only God, we are not going to be confused. All we have to do

is just listen to His command and follow Him. When God does not seize you, the fact that He does not seize you is not the problem, but other spirits begin to work over you. There are so many other spirits like one that leads to dance and greed leads to so many others and so on. When you are exposed to so many spirits, they confound you to the point where you can't get anything done. Prayer is the same. When the Spirit of God seizes you, your body, spirit and soul become one so that you can pray for like 5 hours in a blink of an eye. However, when the spirit of distraction comes inside, all different thoughts arise in your mind like the plot of drama/sitcom. You can't succeed in life when these spirits distract you and drag you down. In short, we should be seized by the One and only God and live by the Holy Spirit. We gotta start this training. The reason we can't concentrate on the fellowship with God is because we are not seized by the Spirit of God. Another reason is because of our insensitivity toward the movement of the Holy Spirit and of our attempt to take advantage of Him.

Let's look at the calling "just as you were called in one hope of your calling;" This is in line with Colossians 3:15 "let the peace of Christ rule in your heart, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful." Peace is our calling. Suppose I appoint Pastor Hoon as a general and sends him to the battle field. The reason for that is to win the battle not lose. God also wants you to win the battle and be victorious. When God calls you, He desires you send you out. Pamper in Greek refers to a calling with a purpose. In this text the purpose of calling is peace. In Ephesians 4:1 Paul speaks "I entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called." We also see "calling" here in verse 1 along with Colossians 3:15. We are to live in a manner worthy of the calling. Let us take a look at the three types of calling we have. Believers must respond to them.

First calling is to encounter Jesus, repent, and become a child of God. Everyone who comes to the church community receive this calling. Second calling is to church. If you have received the calling of Jesus, you should also receive the calling of His body. The percentage of believers settling in one church is low due to lack of confirmation to the calling of church. How do we confirm the calling of church? There are two principles in Ephesian Church. First, whether you come into the church system or not is the verification. Second, if you agree to the church system, the next is whether you will devote to the vision of church or not. If you agree and accept two principles, then you as a believer have a calling to mission.

Let's look at "one Lord" in verse 5. Clearly the goal of church community is the glory of God. Whether you make money or study, this goal must be clear. Now let's look at "one faith." We are supposed to believe in faith and go forward and that's how we pre-

serve our relationship with the Lord. Break down the reason and rationality and respond in faith to Him. That's the life of believers. Faith that builds the relationship with the Lord is the point of Apostle Paul. Ephesians 2:8-9 addresses the faith and please refer to that.

Next, "one baptism" is a confirmation as a member of our church community after one receives Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and repent. The confirmation ceremony is what we call baptism. One that confesses Jesus as Lord receives baptism. His confession of Jesus Christ as Lord instead of Roman Caesar means he is willing to die for it. In another word, willingness to become a member of the church community is being willing to die for Jesus. This is not merely a theory but such confession of faith and work of faith are being revealed in church. The way for church is to restore the authority of the word.

Close to our church we have this church; church nonbelievers love. It is called sports church. Why do they turn a church into a church the worldly people love? We should build a church God loves. Why do we build a church that appeals to worldly people? Isn't that true? That's because they don't believe in the true authority of word. I strongly oppose a seeker service. To nonbelievers there is no such thing as worship. How can you ask those that do not have the Spirit of God to worship? Of course they try to evangelize and show performance but at the end they lead to the corruption of Korean churches and the world. That does not benefit church but brings corruption. Without the true authority of the word no church can reveal the glory. This is not a matter of method. We are witnessing the confession of faith and consequently the lifestyle of it among our church members.

Great works are done in God's church because He reigns and touches it. Paul speaks of Him in verse 6, "One God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all." God is One and He is over all things. I think it is better to translate "over" with "outside."

Next, God is through all and in all. What does this mean? It means God is everywhere in all creation in universe. Can you sail against wind and resist God who fills all in all? No, none of us can. We should be filled with God all the time.

God fills the universe. He is everywhere except in the heart of corrupted man. If God is not in the heart of man, there is no indwelling Spirit of God; consequently, no immanent Spirit of God. As much as the presence of indwelling Spirit of God we have the immanent Spirit of God upon us and church. When He seizes you 100%, wherever you go you have His presence 100%. God summed up all things.

Finally, the core of unity is found in verse 2 "the humility." Humility and servility are different. Humility in church is not lowering yourself as to beg because you are in

need, but rather you give up and yield to someone else although you are very capable and resourceful. Humility is like giving your water to the thirsty. Paul says in Philippians 2:5 to have this humble attitude in you which was in Jesus Christ. In the Greek grammar, author puts in front what he would like to emphasize. That's why Paul put humility there. God made everyone bend their knees before Jesus Christ because Jesus had obeyed to the point of death on the cross. Humility is the secret to victory and to excellence by the Spirit of God. Life does not come from the top of the mountain but from the valley. When we humble ourselves, the life comes to us.

Humility in Greek is *praus* which means longsuffering/perseverance. Our life is all about waiting on God. Longsuffering/perseverance is not just waiting for the bus to come but it is waiting for God to do His work. Longsuffering/perseverance is a time to become beautiful. Paul speaks in 2 Corinthians 12:12, "The signs of true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles." The first sign of apostle is not sign, wonder, or miracle but all perseverance. Pastoral ministry is also persevering for the souls and God. The soteriology in Book of John is receiving Jesus Christ who comes to us continuously. It is receiving Him who comes to us endlessly, forging a continual relationship with Him, and encountering Him in present tense. This is the state of salvation. Ignoring Jesus Christ who comes to us endlessly is in the state of judgment. That's the soteriology in John. I have been saved but it is not completed. That's the reason why I should continue to receive God. Let's learn to persevere and always wait upon God.

Let's look at tolerance. Tolerance and forgiveness are different. Tolerance means you accommodate. What is church? I should be critical of myself but be tolerant of other people in terms of applying the standard. In another word, when you don't pray, you can't point out others' lack of prayer. God may discipline us once out of like 30 times when we do something wrong. However, we tend to point out a single mistake/fault when we ourselves make 100 mistakes. That is not accommodating. Pastors should always be accommodating instead of rebuking the church members. Leave them alone. Let God deal with them. In most cases people don't change just because you speak to them. Just pray and persevere, then God takes care of all things. If you can't bear them, God usually let them go. Please tolerate them always. Please don't try to make your own move. Move by the prayer!

When a man speaks to another man, he gets hurt. It is the same in husband and wife. Of course there are times we address certain things and talk about them; however, if you would like to speak to your husband or wife over certain issue, do it after you pray. The approach is pray and wait until God makes His move. That's when you talk. When a



church member leaves, I do two things. First, I repent “I didn’t love him enough.” Second, I reflect on what I did such as “I gave what God wanted for him little bit too early or little too late.” I failed to give good things God had wanted to give to that church member in perfect timing. That’s what I repent of and examine.

May you restore the authority of word according to the principle of Bible! We must restore the revelation and wisdom. We want to be seized by the Spirit of God so we can restore the authority of God. We can truly love our church members and repent of failure to embrace them. It is unthinkable to be fearful of church members and their rebellion. When a word comes out of the mouth of a pastor, there should be nothing but obedience. He speaks the will of God not his will or heart. Church members respond and move because a pastor has the authority. I am talking about the essential authority of God’s word. Let’s us restore the essence of word in Ephesians so we can enter into the church system and change.

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# Ephesians

## chapter 8.

Beginning with chapter 4 Paul speaks of how we can be cleaved/crucified on the cross in great detail. First 6 verses are on the need for a church to be united. Like a principle that all separated things are unified in the cross Paul is addressing the importance of unity in a community. The practical method to achieve unity is in “with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love” according to Paul.

Paul addresses how to build a glorious church in detail from verse 7 to 16. Verse 7 smoothly begins that. First 6 verses are about how to build up a unified church and everyone is given grace according to the portion of gift of Jesus Christ.

The Book of Ephesians was written to build up the Ephesian Church because it had not been planted yet. It refers not only to the whole community of church but also mostly to build up each individual. Verse 16 Paul speaks “according to the proper working of each individual part.” We are to train each individual according to the highest working of each individual part that the Lord has given them. God has given them grace according to His gift. We see this in verse 11 again that He gave accordingly. Paul says in verse 11, “And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers.” Grace God gave to each member of the body can be seen as spiritual gifts. It can also be perceived as offices in a church like an office of apostle or an office of prophet.

I personally perceive it as a spirit. Why? Because a church must receive a spirit to do certain things according to the spirit. A spirit of apostle will empower one to be an apostle. Not only apostle existed on earth 2,000 years ago, but we also have the office of apostle in current churches. Of course the apostles are not the same as the twelve apostles of Jesus. We have apostles in this generation because the spirit of apostle came down upon them. Let’s look at verse 7 “But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” I also perceive this as a spirit. When God gives us these spirits, we can function as an apostle, a prophet, an evangelist and a pastor/teacher. God gave grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift to establish a church. Pastor is supposed to arrange the spiritual gifts in congregation and reveal them in the life of church members so they can use them as their official duties.

So, why does God give grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift? The answer is found in verse 16 “from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.” Connection, joint, part all become one. How do the parts become one? They become fitted and held together according to the proper working of each individual part causing the growth of the body for

the building up of itself in love. As soon as the individuals come inside the spiritual system and go through training, they will be established according to the full measure God gave them and they will be united to raise up a church. It is possible because a church is life.

As much as a member of the body becomes a “hole” it is a loss to the whole community. Therefore, we can’t help but to give all we have for each believer in church. Achan became a big “hole” that he halted/stopped the whole community of Israel.

A church is supposed to become a life not an organization. That’s how the Holy Spirit desires to build a church the best it can be. With the system of church completed everyone will grow and mature to a full measure and such believers with full measure will be united to become a community. Let’s look at “for the building up of itself in love.” I think it is better to translate “in love” with “by love” which is more suitable.

Let’s recognize the system. This system is not visible to our eyes. A good analogy is like how water comes out of the faucet in the bathroom traveling all the way from waterworks through the pipes. This network of pipeline is system. The Holy Spirit forms a network of pipelines in a church minimizing any loss. How this system is then formed in a church?

The senior pastor should recognize that you become a church the Holy Spirit reigns. He also should wait, pray and wait more for the Spirit to touch the church being aware that He reigns. That’s his life waiting for the Holy Spirit to touch the people through his prayers. It is yielding to the Lord so He can minister the church members and desiring Him to build up the church. Through this process the Holy Spirit builds up the system in a church. The important thing is that it is not like a building project in a secular world but it is giving the Holy Spirit a time to build up His church. Furthermore, it is admitting and laying down your hindering personality and your weaknesses through prayers so they can be supplemented. A church becomes great in the system established by the Holy Spirit. It is not made by man.

People say that in order for a community to become a community of love it needs spiritual gifts, power, and so on. However, that’s not how a church becomes great. Instead of revealing spiritual gifts and power, a church should let love reign in it mixing/ harmonizing them.

What do we see in the fourth chapter of Ephesians in terms of church? Like 1 Corinthians 12:31 love is a way. A church should build up a highway of love in her foundation. In order to build up a highway of love a pastor must proclaim the practical code of conduct of love to his church and the believers should live it out in their life. When believers

embrace each other sharing the pain and crying together, they can build up a highway of love in church. As wide and well made the highway of love is the more powerful a church becomes. No matter how fast a vehicle is without a road it cannot be driven. The spiritual infrastructure we call a highway of love should be established in churches. The reason Romans ruled the world was the infrastructure according to Shiono Nanami in her book *The Story of Romans*. As the depth of love increases the road becomes wider.

What is the spiritual system? It begs another question; what are you going to pave the road with? We want to pave the road with the system of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor/teacher. First, we build the highway of love. Second, build the system over the highway of love. Next, all the spiritual gifts, power and everything will travel over it. That's how we understand the relationship between love and system. In short, the most important element in a church is love which considers, serves, understands others. A church should become a community of love. Once we become such church every individual will become like Jesus, every family will become like Jesus and a society will also become like Jesus. In conclusion, God will wage a powerful spiritual warfare through such church. That's the conclusion of Ephesians.

Let's look at an office God gave onto this system. We see this in verses 8-10. In verse eight Paul says, "Therefore it says, 'When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.'" Not only in Ephesians but Paul praises Jesus Christ from time to time in his letters. Why? Because Paul was so touched while he was writing the epistle by the fact that God had created a church and given His grace. He restores the focus on Jesus. Paul praises the amazing grace of God for creating such spiritual system and points to Jesus Christ who is the Giver of such amazing grace according to the portion of our faith and grace. Paul speaks about Jesus Christ from verse 8 to 10. When Jesus ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.

Paul is quoting Psalm 68:18 and adapted little bit but he is making a point. In the past after kings won wars, they would seat on their throne, decide the fate of the prisoners, and distribute the spoils of war as the victor. Likewise God has given His all spoils to the churches according to the portion of their grace. At the end what should church do after receiving the power of God and spiritual gifts according to the portion of their grace? According to Ephesians 6:10 God has given them for the complete victory. A church is supposed to be victorious every day. Believe in the ultimate victory!

In the city of Siwha (Siheung) 30 new churches are planted and 30 churches close down every year. Why churches of God go "out of business" like the businesses in the world and disappear? That's the ultimate defeat of churches of God! How does that hap-

pen? The reason for the down fall of churches lies on the weaknesses of pastors. That's not the church of Almighty God.

In the gospel of Matthews Jesus speaks to Peter, "I have given you the authority to build a church on the rock." The rock refers to Peter and he will be built up on Jesus Christ. It is building a church on Peter himself. If Peter is not excellent, a church will fall out. God and we build up a church in partnership. God's essence (nature) does not fall out but if our essence falls out, a church will fall out.

Let's turn our attention to Ephesians 2:20 "having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone." A church is built up on the foundation of apostles and prophets. Jesus Christ Himself becomes the cornerstone. This is also adaptation of Paul. In ecclesiology the Rock, Jesus Christ, is the Foundation. We don't build a church up on Jesus but on apostles and prophets who are people. A church is built upon people. Without the authority of apostles and the spirit of prophets a church only owns the surface/building but not the land. The ownership of a building without the ownership of land leads to insecurity. Growth of church is dependent upon a pastor and his level.

Jesus gave us everything. Jesus ascended on high means He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth. This is the same thing. Jesus had triumphed on the cross and ascended "far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things." In short, Jesus incarnated and descended to earth, died on the cross, resurrected, confirmed the complete victory, and ascended to heaven to fill all things. We saw earlier in 1:23 that Jesus summed up all things through a church, had a complete triumph over His rule and ascended to His heavenly throne. It is simply Paul's recording of the ascension of Jesus and His sitting down on the throne. Paul's focus is on church's perfect victory and her authority to rule over the whole creation.

Jesus came to earth through incarnation, died, and rose again for a complete victory. According to Psalm 68:18 God gave all the spoils and likewise He provided all things to churches. Why? So they can sum up all things. "Fullness" and "Sum up" have the same meaning in Greek. Jesus did all of them to sum up all things. Do you believe the fate of whole universe depends on you? This is not a theory!

Let me explain the offices of apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors & teachers briefly. "Pastors & teachers" have an article in the original Greek. So I don't call it a system of 5 spirits but a system of 4 spirit. I call "pastors and teachers" just spirit of education. The spirit of pastors and teachers work together for the nurturing purpose. It really

doesn't matter to interpret it as 5 or 4. Why do we want the system? When a new member joins a church, this system of spirits function to raise him/her up and equip him/her through the system.

The system of 4 spirits can be revealed in a pastor or in all the church members. When the church members are raised up in this system, each will reveal one, two, or four spirits in them. When a new member joins a church, the authority of apostle begins to work. The authority of apostle is the proclamation of the truth. The authority of apostle begins to work so that a new member can repent in the truth. Through the sermons the authority of apostle works to extract, destroy, and give up one's false truth system leading through a painful process. Everyone must have a sculpture time by the authority of apostle which is given according to the will of the Spirit in a church.

After passing through the authority of apostle how do we build up the truth system? The spirit of prophet begins to work concurrently. It defines the new member's past, present, and future. In a pastor's sermon both the authority of apostle and the spirit of prophet work at the same time. As he listens to the message he realizes how painful his walk with God has been because of his roots from the past. When a spirit of prophet is strong in one person, he would define the past, present, and future through his prophecy. Of course he doesn't have to explain/loosen up one's whole life but whoever comes into the system in a church he doesn't suffer anymore due to uncertainties over his past, present, and future. When church members do not have a clear definition/explanation over their past, present, and future, their uncertainty leads to the lack of commitment and sacrifice. We have both apostle and prophet in a church. There is one important principle with regard to them. The authority of apostle goes before the spirit of prophet.

Next is the spirit of evangelist. After this time of pruning/sculpturing, renewal, establishment, and of acceptance of definition/explanation of past, present, and future there will be those who be corrupted in a church. The spirit of evangelist preaches "Repent! The Kingdom of God is near!" It can be revealed in one sermon or more. The important thing is that the members of body should urge the repentance by the spirit of evangelist.

I have mentioned this in Strengthening the Spiritual Gifts; the spiritual gifts differ according to which office is at work. It is not always true but based on my experience I have noticed that word of knowledge and prophecy on behalf of God fall into the office of apostles. Prophets usually use obviously prophecy and spiritual discernment. For evangelist the spirit of deliverance, spiritual discernment, and wisdom are the major ones. As a result, the urging of repentance should take place in the body. When the believers hear the sermons, they should beat their chest in the course of the message or as a result of the

message. The word of God should be a challenge to the listeners. This is the characteristic of a church that has the spirit of evangelist at work.

Next, let's look at the spirit of education/nurturing (henceforth the spirit of education). Here, I am referring to pastor and teacher. I believe teaching shepherd would be a good translation. The spiritual gifts listed in Romans 12 are powerfully used for the spirit of education. These spiritual gifts from Romans 12 should not be used without the spirit of education. The gift of exhortation is about embracing other believers, hugging them and healing them. It works within the parameter of a spirit of education. When a new member joins a church, he/she goes through this spiritual system and becomes an equipped saint. We should raise up people who have such characteristics out of our congregation. We need to recognize them, pray for them and wait on God.

How much of this spiritual system should be established to make things easy for a church? It is like a parable of sower we see in Mark 4 that a good soil will naturally bear fruits on its own. When a spiritual system is established in a church, the Holy Spirit touches His church according to the principle of good soil to a point of bearing its own fruits. When a pastor focus wholly on the word of God and prayer without any spiritual loss, a color of church will be very beautiful. A pastor should devote at least 90% of his energy to sermons and prayers. How can that be possible? When this system is established in the church, it is possible. This is the system that moved the Ephesian Church.

Paul speaks in verse 12 "For the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ." Why do we build up the body of Christ by such system? For the equipping of the saints and for the work of service. The order of it is important. Believers in a church should not serve first. They should be equipped first before they serve. If this order is reversed, a church will be damaged. Paul addressed with regard to the equipping of the saints in verse 13 "until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ." We are supposed to be equipped until we all attain the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God. We should be equipped with spirituality and intelligence.

In the Book of Ephesians when Paul speaks of knowledge, he means the knowledge of love. We see this in verse 15 "but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ." The believers can become great through several ways. The common denominator is that they can become great on their own. First, they can become great as much as they understand the portion of God's character. The knowledge of how much God loves me is expressed in the Greek word of *genosko*. It is an



experience. As much as the portion of knowledge of God's love for me grows, I become great.

As we see in verse 15 why don't we deeply understand the truth and what is right? Truth is the expression of God's character; therefore, as much as we don't receive His character, our level of understanding of His word becomes shallow. The knowledge Paul speaks of in Ephesians is the character of God. God speaks in Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Paul means the same that as much as we understand the portion of God's character, the truth enters us. As deep as the truth we grow to the fullness of knowledge of Jesus Christ; how much God loves me to send His only begotten Son; and to know the depth of love of Jesus Christ. A believer grows as much as his understanding of the love of Jesus Christ.

Believers in the Early Church had no doubt that Jesus was coming back before the generation passes because they loved the world just like Jesus Christ had loved it according to 1 John 4:17. Why can't we believe the word of God? Because we don't have the perfect love for God. What is the goal of pastors to build up the believers in churches through the spiritual system of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and education? The goal is for the believers to grow to the fullness of Jesus Christ which in turn is determined by their understanding of depth of God's love.

I shared this during the exposition of 1 John that Apostle John had a powerful revelation from God that he completed the revelation about the end time Daniel had opened up. John also amazingly understood all three heavens. In light of these great revelations John could only utter one thing, "God is love!" The revelation of God was opened up wide to Apostle John because he had a merciful heart even on the Romans' persecution and tyranny. If he had hatred in his heart, revelation wouldn't have opened up.

Church should lead the believers to the full measure of Jesus Christ and to the level of love by the spirits of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and education and by the amazing depth of love of Christ. This shouldn't become a theory. The difficulty of being a leader is to demonstrate what they teach in life for the followers to see. We want to be equipped with the full measure of Jesus Christ.

Paul says in verse 17, "So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith." He is saying the same thing that we build up a right relationship with God through faith. Paul also speaks, "and that you being rooted and grounded in love may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge that you may be filled up to all the fullness of

God.” The knowledge of love in verse 19 continues to grow in the breadth and depth of love.

“But speaking the truth in love” is also the same. We are to speak the truth which is the word of God. Speak the truth in love! We are also to grow up and mature in all things to the fullness of Jesus Christ who is our head. Since Jesus is our head, our love should elevate to the level of His love. Knowing the truth in love means obeying the truth in love. Therefore, if love is not supplied to the believers in a church, they cannot obey the truth. That’s how love is important. Love is obeying the commandments. Bible makes that clear and it never talks about love in abstract. When the believers are in love, they will thoroughly obey.

A good secret is found in verse 14 “as a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming.” Children are shaken up easily and they lack faith and knowledge. The reason believers are shaken up is that they are like children. If we don’t grow out of children, we will fall by the trickery of men, craftiness and deceitful scheming. The trickery means throwing up a dice in Greek and we should not be ripped off by tricks of others.

Let’s look at “every wind of doctrine.” Believers are supposed to cut off the words of the world and secular concerns. The spiritual battle of this age is not about who has the most information but who has the right information. Why can’t you hear the voice of God? Because you are listening to the sound of the world all the time. The craftiness of deceitful scheming refers to a false gospel. It is speaking of a different gospel. Pastors should proclaim the gospel as a matter of life and death. We shouldn’t vaccinate people with Jesus. If you vaccinate your people with Jesus that is half dead, they have strong resistance against real Jesus. So when real Jesus comes, this Jesus vaccine results in rejection of real Jesus. We should feed the people with real Jesus. When they eat the real Jesus, their constitution becomes so powerful. They can overcome any suffering and adversity.

Now, what does an equipped/prepared man do? He serves! The Greek word is diakonia which has five different meanings. We build up the spiritual system of four spirits and have the church members go through this system equipping them for the works of service, diakonia. A church is established through their service. When God commands His church a certain task/ministry, He will provide everything so she can complete the task. That’s a church of God. Does a church need money? Then God will provide it. Does she need people? God will provide them. Does she need power? God will give her the power.

Amen?

Let's look at five services. First, we have service of ministers. When a church member is equipped/prepared through the spiritual system of four spirits, he must make a commitment to become a minister. Second, we have service of worshipper or worship leader. When a believer is equipped, he should become a powerful worshipper. He would receive much blessings in every worship service. Third, we have service of missionaries. When a believer hears in his prayer "Go to Cambodia," then he should go out. If God speaks him to go to Bhutan, he should go to Bhutan. Fourth, we have service of authoritarian of word. An equipped man should live his life according to the word of God. Finally, we have service of contributor. An equipped man should serve with contribution. An ordinary Christian is supposed to receive the material authority except for those with a gift of poverty. He should serve with materials he has. He should have no possession. If God desires it, he should contribute all. Isn't that what we see in the Early Church? Isn't that the true church of God?

The fruit of saint/Christian is revealed through this five service as a result of the work of spiritual system of four spirits. There are ministry, service, mission, authority, and contribution. The evidence of the spiritual system is this five services. Whenever a new member joins a church, he should exhibit these five services.

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ANBI / All Nations Bible Institute 201101

# Ephesians

## chapter 9.

Paul addresses how the Lord trains each individual from verse 17 to 32 and all the way to 5:20. We can see about 4 things beginning with verse 17. First, Paul speaks “This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind.” He is saying not to walk in the futility of your mind. In another word, do not live by the ways of secular people live in the world. There are several characteristics of saints who were filled with the Holy Spirit and of the churches seized by the Spirit in church history.

First, a strong sense of responsibility for souls arose. They had the passion for the lost souls. They were very much interested in other souls. Second, they were decisive with regard to the world. They were not under the influence of the world and they didn’t compromise with them. In the exposition of Galatians we see two heresies: exclusivism & syncretism. Exclusivism is legalism. Syncretism means that a church is already under the worldly influence. In the pulpit of Korean churches both of them exist today. What is legalism? Those that are so diligent in their Christian walk are bound up that they don’t have any freedom. Consequently, personality destruction takes place. Let’s look at syncretism. A church is under all kinds of influence from the world like moral corruption, ethical corruption, and unspeakable adulteries. They are too numerous in today’s churches. There is nothing new under the sun. Churches are repeating the history of compromise.

Once a church is seized by the Holy Spirit of God, she never approves the world. She no longer allows the influence of the world to affect her. It leads to removing TVs from the homes of believers. A church decisively shuts down the worldly influence. That’s why we say, “Do not live like secular people!” However I am not saying to live completely apart from the world. We should work on our spirituality and train our folks so that believers are not under the influence of the world. I want to introduce spiritual filtering system. Osmosis is the movement of water from a low solute concentration to a high solute concentration. The high concentration of God sucks in the things of the world and turns them into things of God. However, your concentration of God is low where you rather flow out to the world which in turn fills you up. This is the reason why believers must train to cut off the worldly influence.

The word “futility” comes from the background of idolatry. If we live like Gentiles, we are supposed to become futile. According to the prophecy of Habakkuk the world is inheritance that will be burned down to nothing. It seems fun when you first drop down the anchor but your life will be vain more and more. We see the futile life in verses 18 and 19. In verse 18 Paul says that their understanding will be darkened. Ephesian Church’s focus is on all wisdom, understanding, and the spirit of revelation. We have looked at it in

chapter 1. What are they going to do with wisdom, understanding and the spirit of revelation? In one word, it is to know God. God created the whole universe with His word. If we know God, we know all. The fear of the Lord is beginning of wisdom. Likewise as much as know God we can know the world and how He reigns in the universe. I won't tell you to study and give your effort to learn but I will say that fundamentally everything opens up through His revelation and as much as you know Him.

Instead of interpreting the Scripture according to commentaries but fundamentally Scripture should be interpreted by the Holy Spirit. This is the secret to receive life. Pastors, once the main text is decided and you prepare sermons through the commentaries every time instead of receiving the revelation from God. Your spirit won't mature and life won't come out of your mouth. Fundamentally, we should hear the voice of God when it comes to Scripture interpretation.

Wisdom and understanding will become darkened if we don't live in the presence of God. Through wisdom and understanding we should acknowledge His love and character and discern what He likes, what He dislikes, what makes Him angry, and what pleases Him. We should acknowledge them through the Holy Spirit. In short, if we live in futility, first thing that goes is the wisdom and understanding. When our concern is over the world, our wisdom of God and understanding are closed off. One who used to know the will of God and obey accordingly may all of sudden experience darkness today. The reason for that is his soul was in the light and turned his eyes toward the darkness. The world is the darkness, isn't it? Once we turn our eyes to the world we experience the wisdom and understanding immediately closing off. When our relationship deepens with God, our souls will respond to the world with even more sensitivity. Let's cut off the secular influence!

Next, we should be holy! Holiness, in simple way, means responding to the word of God immediately. When God says, "I love you," we respond immediately with joy. When God says, "I dislike that," then we should immediately drop it. If God speaks to us "rejoice" when we are in sorrow, we should immediately rejoice. We need a quick spiritual reflex.

Second, we have ignorance. When understanding is in darkness, we lose the ability to discern what is right and wrong. We become ignorant of what is clean or dirty, what makes God angry or happy, whether to go left or right, when God's time is or not, and the place & people God desires or not. When our souls are out in the world, our wisdom and understanding are darkened and we become immediately ignorant. We lose the ability to discern God. It is a matter of how sensitive we are. As soon as you turn your attention

to the world, you will be darkened regardless of how wisely you have been choosing God previously.

Paul in Romans 8:13 states, “For if you are living according to the flesh, you must die.” It is a matter of where your thought is. If you are thinking of God, the desire of the Spirit will open up which in turn prospers new man. However, if your focus is on the world, your thoughts will open up the desire of flesh which in turn opens up the functions to prosper the old man in you.

After the ignorance comes the hardening of heart. Once you start focusing on the world your wisdom and understanding will be darkened, you will become ignorant and hardened. It is not an overstatement to say that at this point the Holy Spirit in you is almost suffocating to death. In the parable of sower the only field that yields any produce is the good soil. Unless we become a good soil we cannot bear fruits. What is a good soil? It is a field that is cultivated with the word of God every day. One scoop by an excavator won't make it a good soil. The beside-road is like a soil of your spirit that has become so hard like after a roller went over so it many times. There is no opening for a seed to penetrate. Your spirit is hardened by the philosophy of the world and the reason of the world. A seed takes a root in the rocky soil but it doesn't go deep. You stumble and fall immediately by suffering and hardship. The thorny soil also receives a seed which takes a root; however, the problem is that it also receives other seeds which suffocate the grain. Greed and temptation represent the thorny soil. In short, there is no soil that can yield produce. Only soil that is important to us is the good soil!

What is the good soil in Luke? It represents good heart! Paul speaks in Ephesians 5:9 “for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth.” Goodness is a humble heart that is so soft a seed falls right into it fully embracing it. Yes, it means a humble heart that can't even withstand the weight of a seed and embraces it. We should become a good soil. However, when our spirits turn toward the world, our wisdom and understanding darken and we become ignorant. If we further neglect our ignorance we will be hardened. Our hearts will not budge even when they are pierced and beaten. The hardening speed increases as much as you have received from God.

Jeremiah and Ezekiel prophesied the coming of the Holy Spirit. What is the grace of God when the Holy Spirit comes? It is the removal of the hardened heart. We should remove the areas of our life that God doesn't touch. Remove the areas of your life that you don't hear the voice of God about so that it should be possible for God to speak to you about anything!

Amos says in 3:7, “Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets.” We should become a bride of God and have such intimate relationship with God that He can speak anything to us. Your soul should be open to God in all areas where God can address them.

Paul speaks of the secret of God or secret of the gospel in the Ephesians. Why does he say “secret”? If everyone knows about it, then it is not a secret anymore. Paul is saying that he received it from God. Paul is implying that it was like this “Paul, I am revealing this to only you.” Paul was deeply moved when God revealed the secret of gospel to him. Likewise when you, pastors, get on your knees asking God and wrestling with the word and His revelation comes to you, you have the glory of secret of gospel.

Paul also speaks in Colossians 1:26 - 27, “That is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” The hope of Jesus Christ is the mystery of glory. Understanding of the mystery deeply moved Paul. When we preach the word of God, we should be also deeply moved by the mystery of glory.

In verse 19 Paul further speaks, “And they having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.” They have become callous, so they don’t have senses. They are dead. They have given themselves over to sensuality for the impurities with greediness. Your soul has been moving according to the will, plan, and word of God, but now you are opening up yourself to do things completely according to your own desires. What’s scary is that we can see many Christians like that in communities that have not been exposed to clear word of God and to the acknowledgement of the Spirit of God. I think this is especially true with Korean churches. If a believer has a sin, he should not be able to stand it in a church. The important lesson is that our souls should not face the direction of the world. If we don’t want God in our hearts, we have a debased mind. If we continue in that state, God may say that you live the way you want. Then, it is over. We should drive our souls toward God and His glorious light.

Let’s look at verse 20 “But you did not learn Christ in this way!” We should learn in a right way. What is teaching Jesus to others in a right way? Take a look at verse 21 “if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus.” We need a training of directly hearing from Jesus. Pastor’s job is to train the believers so they can become a people of God. Pastors are match makers. This is where the importance of revelation comes in. Like Apostle John says in 1 John 2:27, “His anointing teaches you about



all things,” pastors should let God directly minister the church members. They should experience God speaking directly to them through sermons. “If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus.” Jesus should minister directly. Holy Spirit should minister directly. Don’t let your church members be willing to die for you but to Jesus Christ.

The next question is how do we then learn Jesus Christ in the right way? We see the answer in verse 24 “and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.” We find several ways of putting on the new self beginning with verse 22 “that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit.” It is obvious that in order to put on a new cloth we must remove the old cloth. From the spiritual perspective it can be perceived as a battle against evil spirits and this is the first stage of battle. The real battle is between your old man and new man inside of you. This is a fierce battle. Those that know know this.

Shall we take a look at the characteristics of old man? Ephesians state “lusts of deceits” in verse 22. It means our concern over the world. If you expose your soul to the secular world, you will always fall into temptations. This is the first characteristic of the old man. We need to teach believers that those that have much concerns over the world, their old man is prospering inside. “Former manner of life” refers to the way of people live in the secular world. For example, people may bribe you saying, “This is a custom! This is not a bribe.” Things like this are examples of old man. Once God says, “No,” we should give up all things like that.

Next, we want to be renewed in the spirit of our mind according to verse 23. “Be renewed” means continue to be renewed. Don’t stop receiving the grace of God just once. Rather, we should be renewed every day before God. This is the principle of growth. Be renewed every day! This is important because our Christian walk is all about entering the Rest stage. This is a stage in which it is no longer difficult to live our Christian life. Hebrews 4:11 states “Therefore, let us be diligent to enter that rest.” Moreover, like Romans exposition we go all the way to where we no longer experience any difficulty of obeying the word of God like a space shuttle that enters the atmosphere in which it floats effortlessly. The old man should be chiseled, cut out and dead for good.

Now, what are some characteristics of new man? “And put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.” New man puts on the righteousness and holiness of truth. The righteousness and holiness of truth came from God and the righteousness and holiness are the attributes that came from

the truth of God. What this means is the willingness to die for the word of God. It is the same with the righteousness. The characteristic of new man is the willingness to die for whatever God says is right and the truth. In Joshua chapter 5 God commands Israelites to circumcise in front of their enemies. The situation of Israelites at the time was that they were all going to die had they chosen to circumcise all males. However, they demonstrated their willingness to die for the word of God. This is holiness. The willingness to die for the truth! Once we spiritually train our people like Ephesian Church, they should live like Joshua and Israelites.

Here is what we train our people. First, don't let them be contaminated by the world. This world will be burned down according to the prophecy of Habakkuk. We should train to increasingly look down on the world and realize the futility of it. Second, learn Jesus in the right way by taking off the old man and put on the new man. Be renewed in your soul every day, matured, and be willing to die for the word of God. Next is found in verses from 25 to 32. If you are not contaminated by the world and learn Jesus in the right way, you can take on the third training; the training of what we speak. In the exposition of Romans and Ephesians a church witnesses Jesus Christ in three aspects. First, you should testify Jesus Christ through your life. It is called Presence. Second, if you live that life style, it means you have already embodied the character of the Lord. So you have the authority of the Lord. We have a saying "Out of being comes the form!" This is Proclamation! A believer cannot live on without the authority of words of mouth. After the training the believers in your church should have the faithfulness with regard to words they speak and the authority of words. Everything we do in ministry we do them with the words of mouth. We cast out demons with the words and blessings are also done with words. Your words are the certificate that you are a faithful man of God.

Spiritual authority refers to a condition that not a single word falls on the ground. When you pastors speak in the pulpit, not a single word falls on the ground. Why do many proverbs, James, and other books in the Bible emphasize the words? That's because a spirit flows out of your words. You can't see it now but a spirit is flowing out of my words. Fire and anointing also go out and the blood of Jesus covers as well.

Let's take a look at the discipline of words in verse 25 "Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another." Pastors must deal with fake, hypocrisy, and false ego to the point of death. In Proverbs 3:32 "For the crooked man is an abomination to the Lord; but He is intimate with the upright." We should speak the truth. Whenever believers gather, they should share the truth with each other instead of chatting over the stories of the world and instead of

lies. “For we are members of one another!” Why does Paul say to lay aside falsehood and speak truth to neighbors? Because one lies to reveal himself even at the cost of innocent life of a neighbor.

When you carefully look at the reason for lies, you can find the root of it. The root is falsehood and boast. We lie for self-righteousness and to boast. We lie to reveal us at the cost of a life. What do we call devil? The father of lies! If pastors get contaminated with this spirit of lies, that’s a big trouble. We should crucify lies on the cross daily.

Paul says in verse 26, “Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger.” According to Galatians habitual temper (rage) is an evidence of the unsaved. Paul treats habitual temper and immorality the same in Galatians. If a pastor commits adultery with a church member, he is chased out. However, a church does not chase out a pastor that habitually blows up. I say a church should also kick him out because temper is evidence that he is not saved. When we act in a fit of temper (rage) toward our children and at home, we do not fulfill the righteousness. When we are in rage, we do not hear the voice of God. Remember to “suspend judgment” according to Beatitude. Do not react immediately in any incident or circumstance. If you discipline your children in rage and beat them, you anger them. Unless you can control your emotion do not lay your hand on them. When we can’t control our emotion, we make such false judgment which leads to regrettable results. “Be angry, and yet do not sin.” It means you can be angry like with righteous anger which can be controlled. “Do not let the sun go down on your anger.” Why? Because when a day passes with anger it becomes a part of your personality.

Verse 27 is “and do not give the devil an opportunity.” When you get angry, the devil immediately takes an opportunity not the Holy Spirit. In Greek Paul uses “topos” which is translated in NIV “foothold.” It can also mean a fortress. In another word, when your anger passes a day, Satan starts fortifying the fortress in you. It becomes your personality.

NASV renders “opportunity.” Satan uses your anger as an opportunity to seize you. Therefore, we shouldn’t rage/temper. We ought to be steady or practice motion in stillness. Those that are in the stillness of God do not blow up often. One pastor said, “If you get angry, you go to hell.” That’s a false theology. However, “if you habitually get angry, you will go to hell” is true. We should never throw temper tantrum. Proverbs 15:1 states “A gentle answer turns away wrath but a harsh word stirs up anger.” Proverbs 16:32 also states “He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty.” Likewise we must stop our temper.

Now, let's turn our attention to verse 29 "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear." We shouldn't tell dirty jokes but speak a word that is good for edification. Proverbs 27:21 "The crucible is for silver and the furnace for gold, and each is tested by the praise accorded him." People do not change when you point out their mistakes or bad things. God's principle is to prosper the grains to cover up the chaffs. His principle is not to pull the chaffs. We should always be ready to praise others and see their strengths. Upon hearing the words of pastors the souls should feel refreshed. They should also receive grace. Pastors, we should possess the authority of words of mouth.

"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God." Telling dirty jokes grieves the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit hates the dirty words and the secular words. Let us restrain from speaking any words that are offensive to the Holy Spirit, negative words, and any words that cause despair. Whenever we see others, we should be able to encourage and energize them with the constructive, visionary, and powerful words.

Verse 31 "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice." Bitterness, wrath and anger are alike. Furthermore, how destructive clamor and slander are to a church! The spirit of slander works with the spirit of deception and divide a church. They also work together with the spirit of unbelief and we should not tolerate them.

Proverbs 10:19 says, "When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise." Proverbs 18:8 also says, "The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, and they go down into the innermost parts of the body." It is true wherever a certain man goes, he causes estrangement and division. That's because he talks so many words that they become his personality in the belly. Let me illustrate this. When A and B meet up and talk bad about C, then it is estrangement. If they talk about C, then the conversation should be about praise of C. If they want to speak badly about someone or rebuke him, they should do it face to face. When the spirit of estrangement and the spirit of slander are rampant in a church, they will split the church.

Paul goes on in verse 32 "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." We should tolerate others on daily basis. Therefore, we stop speaking words of estrangement and slander and speak more words of toleration, encouragement, comfort and forgiveness.

In verse 28 Paul mentions "let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him

labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need.” Stealing is only mentioned in verse 28 and the point is to live a lifestyle of sharing with others.

In conclusion, the training of believers is not to open up their souls to the world. If we taught them Jesus in right ways, then their practical training is to prosper new man every day. Continue to renew the minds and crucify the former manner of life of old man. Train to decisively cut out the world, and then they will experience the authority of words through the training of their words of mouth.

How powerful is the prayer of saints who have the authority of heir gather to pray to God? The numerous pure souls’ single word becomes a powerful language to shake the heaven. Their word of prayer becomes mighty powerful. Believers are supposed to have the authority of words of mouth through spiritual training. Again, let’s do away with lies. Once we give up our lies, we will have the authority of words of mouth. Cut out the dirty words and we will have the authority of words. Do not speak the words of slandering and you will have the authority of words of mouth. May the people of authority rise up through the training of your people!

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# Ephesians

## chapter 10.

From chapter 5:1-14 Paul makes suggestion of how to train each believer to raise up the glorious church. Let's look at the introduction in verse 1 "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children." The goal of training the believers according to the Book of Ephesians is to imitate God. In another word, we want to reach the full measure of Jesus Christ. The imitators of Jesus Christ! One thing to take a note of is "as beloved children." Children are born as a result of love of a couple. Likewise we are born as a result of God's love. Children who are loved by parents grow up to be healthy, and love other people. If we don't accept the creation account out of God's love for us, we don't have His love. When we don't have His love, it is impossible to love others. We are born by the love of God. Just like the Lord loved us we ought to imitate Him with His love. That's the reason the base of a church should be the highway of love. The word "love" is not a theoretical word, especially when Apostle John firmly said, "Love is keeping the commandments." In order for the church community to truly serve one another and to consider others better, a pastor should present the action plans in detail. If love in a church is theoretical and unclear, then a church becomes like a park filled with a thick fog. Here are some examples of action plans that I present to my congregation. "Don't forge a give and take relationship. Don't do business with other believers in church!" Love is concrete not theoretical. The foundation of all ministries in a church is love. The members of a church should feel much love enough to confess their sins and reveal their weaknesses to each other. This should take a place at least in a small group or cell group they belong to. The true goal of a church is to become a community of love.

The reason for the collapse of Ephesian Church is the love grown cold. Satan is so clever with his strategy. Although Ephesian Church was so powerful according to Revelation, we see Satan's strategy in 2:4 "but I have this against you, that you have left your first love." They did not leave spiritual gifts or power but love. Next verse is more important "therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first." In order to restore their love Jesus instructs them to do the deeds they did at first. That means to restore or recover the concrete action plans of love. Jesus was implying like "You prayed so fervently when you loved me but your prayer has grown cold. Restore your prayer. Where is your devotion to help others and to save the poor by considering others better than you? You have embezzled and corrupted with greediness. Help the poor again." This is the first action plan of restoring love. The strong bond that holds up the Ephesian Church is the bond of love. Keep building the highway of love that runs underneath the Ephesian Church! Pave the spiritual system over it! Then, spiritual gifts and power can travel over them. However, if the road/highway is ruined, we can't do anything. Satan clearly knew how to bring down Ephesian Church. He used a strategy to grow the

love cold. The community we serve or a church is crippled when love grows cold and when grace grows cold. No matter how dirty the world is when snow covers it, it looks white and clean. Likewise when a church is covered with grace, everyone looks so beautiful. The members of a church say about their pastor, “He looks unique and he is neat.” However, when snow melts away, everything is revealed again. Everyone is surprised to see what is revealed. We are all dirty and filthy. If the grace of God does not cover us up and if the love lacks in a church, she will be ruined. On the other hand, more grace covers up more beautiful everything looks. Man having grace or not makes a world of difference.

Paul speaks in verse 2, “And walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us.” We can love others because we receive the amazing love of God. You cannot love someone by yourself. Since you receive love from God, you can love your children, your spouse, and the community with the love of God. Someone may say, “I love without the love of God.” That is impossible! It doesn’t work like that! Jesus Christ gave Himself up and offered the sweet aroma of sacrifice and offering to God out of His love for us. Jesus loved us so much that He gave up everything for us on the cross. It was like a burnt offering of lamb in Old Testament that lamb was thoroughly sacrificed. That’s how Jesus gave Himself up; He gave up everything He had. That’s the kind of love He loves us with. Hence, it is obvious for us to give everything we have for others. The fundamental of pastoral ministry is living for other people. We should exist for the sake of others. They should be blessed through us and the church members should see the ministry of their pastor. It is always giving, benefiting others, and blessing them; considering others better than me. That’s the direction of ministry. We simply give because we have received the love of God. We should make a habit of serving others.

Paul speaks of action plans in detail beginning with verse three. First, in order to live by the love of God, you must first “immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.” “Immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you” means that do not even think about it. Do not receive any type of worldliness which will in turn corrupt your structure of mind and spiritual system. According to Romans 8 if your mind is over the flesh, your desire of flesh opens up which will prosper your old man. This is how spiritual system works. Therefore, it is best to put your mind on God and focus on Him. When you do that, desire of the Holy Spirit will open up in your soul and it will also prosper your new man. It is important to always fix your mind on God. The reason you don’t hear the voice of God is not lack of skill to hear but because your mind is not fixed on God. Only when you focus all the aspects of your life, you can develop an ear to hear His voice. This is the first step of developing an ear that can hear the voice of God. When you read the Bible, when you pray, and when you discipline



your child, your focus on God should spread over all the aspects of life. Listen with your ears! When your soul focuses on God and hear the voice of God in all aspects of your life, your spirit will be filled and sensitive! If you haven't been listening to His voice, you can start asking God and focus on Him. You will naturally hear His voice. This is the reason why we shouldn't even think about immorality or greed.

The immorality refers to adultery and etc. Satan corrupts God's church with this problem. There is no good way to deal with the issue of immorality. No one is immune from this. All we can do is watch out for it. When solitude and loneliness come, the immorality always comes. Always be with your wife and love her. It is impossible to be in ministry when a couple doesn't love each other. In Book of Ezra Hebrews married Gentile women. However, upon the revival they kicked out their Gentile wives. It was impossible to do in ordinary times. How can a husband kick out a wife that gave birth to his children even though she is a foreign woman? However, that's what happened. They didn't have to go through this to begin with. They could have rejected whenever they see Gentile women and crucified the immorality. Time will pass and they will get old, too old to pay attention to women. Let us guard ourselves with purity and holiness.

Next, Paul speaks of greed. It is desire to live according to one's desire rather than relying on God. We shouldn't even think about doing that. That's how a saint should live out his life. What I mean by "a saint should live out his life" is that it is not a matter of choice. It is obvious! A saint should not even bother to think about it. Paul further speaks in verse 5, "For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God." People like that do not receive an inheritance. That means they will go to hell. We need a pure heart committed to live always by the provisions of God removing what is impure, what is immoral, and what is covetous from us. The best thing is purity.

Second, let's look at a second point in verse 4 "and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving thanks." Filthiness refers to dirty jokes, words of worldliness, and words that have nothing to do with Jesus. Whenever we gather, refrain from speaking words that do not have anything to do with Jesus. For example, "This new product is good. This department has a big sale going on. New model of refrigerator is good." We want to refrain from speaking these words. Whenever we gather, we should share the truth like "The message from last Sunday was very blessing to me. I am trying to live by the word and it is so difficult." Whenever we gather, speak about God. This is all about sharing revelation and fellowship. Next, silly talk refers to unbeneficial jokes. I make a lot of jokes myself and it is ok to joke to change the mood and

to stimulate others in positive ways; however, we should stay away from corny jokes that are so flat. What I mean by “corny jokes” is the jokes that are not beneficial to anyone but rather they hurt others’ feeling. Paul contends us to “rather give thanks.” That happens naturally when you talk about the grace of God in your life; thanksgiving overflows. “God did it! The Lord spoke to me like that!” These words should be the main words in our conversation with others.

Third, let’s look at verse six, which is still part of the training over words, “Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.” Paul is speaking against Gnosticism and the false teachers of it. We shouldn’t let people speak of false gospel and different gospel. For example, we shouldn’t say, “God does not give us suffering.” The cheap gospel without the cross is very dangerous. If it is will of God, we should choose the suffering, we should gladly sacrifice for God, and we should give up ourselves. In short, the followers of Gnosticism or the sons of disobedience are full of their will and ways to live rather than obeying God. Paul provides us with remedy in verse seven “therefore do not be partakers with them.” It is best not to associate with those who live with the false gospel. I am not even moved to give them the words of admonition. Again, it is best not to hang around with them. I spoke to you about three things so far. First, it is love. It is the goal of our training in this community to imitate Jesus by the love of God. We must first receive the love of God. Second, in order to imitate Jesus, we do not want to even think about immorality, impurity and greed. Finally, do not speak filthiness, silly talk or coarse jesting. Don’t let others deceive you with empty words! These are practical action plans.

Now we see the result of the training from verse eight to verse 20. It is better to see it as motivation, reason or conclusion not confining it to conclusion. Paul says in verse eight, “For you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.” Do not expose your spirit to the world and do not allow ungodly things corrupt your structure of mind. That’s darkness! Since you are the children of light, you should always see the light. You are supposed to be “Lordflower” (like sunflower) because your spirit faces the Lord all the time. In our spiritual training the most important first step is to always open our spirit and the structure of mind to God with all heart and soul. Like in the gospel of John we are supposed to open up our spirits to the Lord. John said in 1:12, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.” We should make all the preparations we need to receive Jesus who comes to us continuously. This is the alpha and omega of spirituality. The fact is the Holy Spirit builds up in us according to His plan. The primary problem of our spirituality is that we do not open our spirit to God but open up our concern to other things.

Please take time to examine your day with some questions. How much time out of 24 hours a day is my spirit is facing God? How much time am I listening to hear the voice of God asking Him questions? How much time am I taking to ask God what I should pray for? How much am I allowing the Lord of history of nations and individuals to use me through the prayers originated from Him to move them? How much time am I opening up my spirit to God out of 24 hours a day? It may not be much. You probably speak according to your thoughts without acknowledging God in many instances. I fellowship with God even in my sleep through dreams. You are distracted a lot. This is characteristic of legalistic Christian life. The most important thing is to focus on God. The rest is up to God and He shapes you as long as you open your spirit to Him!

Let's look at verse nine "for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth." Vegetables and fruit trees bear fruits when exposed to light. That's natural! The reason they don't bear any fruit is because they don't have sun light. When we are exposed to the Light, our fruits are goodness. It means a good heart; a humble heart. It cannot withstand the weight of a seed thus embracing it. It is a humble heart. It is a good soil. As you work on your spirituality you become good. You become soft. The difference between the suffering of a child of God and the suffering of a worldly man is that as a child of God suffers, he becomes soft. When you are weak, you are strong. Paul said in 2 Corinthians that through suffering he realized how weak he was which led him to thoroughly rely on God. On the other hand, the worldly man develops stubbornness as much as he suffers, so he becomes hardened. When you live with God, the first thing people notice is that you become good. The malice is removed. His eyes look like a little child. Those that let go of their own strength their eyes are filled with goodness. We are not looking at the condition of physical eyes. When we look at them spiritually, their eyes are good and there is no malice. When I touch them spiritually, they are so soft like the back of babies.

Now let's address the "righteousness" which is living by the acknowledgment of God. This is being willing to die for the truth. Righteousness means what is right is right and what is not right is not right! It is being just. When God says, "It is right," then it is right. If God says, "It is not right," then it is not right! That's the fruit of light. The reason you lie is because you are in darkness in which you can't discern what is right. If you live in light, you are righteous. Next, let's look at "truth." Truth is the standard of all aspects of life. It is living according to the truth because God spoke it. Paul speaks in verses 10 and 11, "Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them." In darkness without any light there is no fruit. You don't bear fruit by your own will and efforts. Bearing fruits depends on how much you are exposed to God. As much as it is possible do not make any area in you and in your per-

sonality where God can't touch. For example, do not abandon the area of finance, prayer, or wisdom where God can't touch. As much as you neglect and abandon them you won't hear the voice of God in those areas. You won't bear fruit in those areas. Keep your eyes open for those areas in your life and work on them. Be transparent! "Be exposed" in verse 13 have two meanings. One is to expose or reveal. The other is to rebuke. Rebuke because it is exposed. We shouldn't take lightly of things that God rebuke us.

Paul speaks in verse 12, "For it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret." We want to pay attention to the word "secret." When we live as children of God, we have no secret. Everything is transparent. Our lives and everything else should be transparent. We rot as much as things are hidden or covered. We should open up the life of a pastor and reveal how we live according to the word of God. That's the difficult part of ministry.

Let's move on to verse 13, "But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light." "Exposed" means rebuke and reveal. The reason things are revealed to God is because they are exposed by light so they become light. We are in this room right now and it is not dark. Since the light shines in this room, everything is light. If it becomes dark, it blocks off the light. There is no more light but darkness. All our life, personality, spiritual matters and everything should be always exposed to light. I shared with you the alpha and omega of spirituality is leaving one's spirit open to God all the time. However, this is extremely difficult to those who haven't done this. Open up your spirit to God 24 hours a day and ask questions to Him like "God, what is it? Please tell me. Can I do this or not? How will this work? This person responded in so and so way. Today such and such incident took place." We should open our spirit up to God every moment but it is challenging to those who do not live like this. This is all about entering the fellowship zone with God. There is intimacy with God! Suppose I have a child and she wants to do everything on her own. There is not much I can help her with. I would say, "Do whatever you want!" She doesn't discuss anything with me or ask for any advice. Children should discuss any matter with their parents like "Should I do this or not?" Children are supposed to have discussion with parents. We call those children who do things according to their will "undutiful child." In our relationship with God we should enter into the fellowship zone and live a lifestyle of asking God lots of questions. You may say, "I just can't hear the voice of God!" That's a lie. The reason you don't hear the voice of God and do not sense what He speaks to you is because you have not opened up your spirit to God 24 hours in your daily life. You will know what I mean if you try for 24 hours. God comes to those who desperately seek. God loves those who love Him.

Paul further speaks in verse 14, “For this reason it says, ‘Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’” The sleeper is not exposed to the light and thus he is still in darkness. We are supposed to wake our sleeping spirit up and face the light. During the daylight we can’t sleep because of the light. Likewise, if we live by light, our spirit won’t slumber but always stay awake. This is the alpha and omega of spirituality. If there is darkness and untransparentness, some things will absolutely rot. When the caring hands of God touch the church members, there is no rotting in them. If the light of God does not shine upon certain areas, then those areas will begin to rot. There will not be any fruit, either. This is also true with a church. As much as a church is not exposed to God there would be less fruit. For example, if a church is filled with greed, so God can’t touch this church with regard to the financial resources/material, then she will become poor. She will lose the material authority. In addition, the servanthood rots when God’s light does not shine on believers who are supposed to consider others better than them. The servanthood breaks down. The relationship among the believers in congregation breaks down. Thus, a church is filled now with the slanderers. The light of God should shine upon all aspects of church in the whole community. Furthermore, a pastor should also be able to see everything God shines upon including himself. His ministry should be transparent as well. When these things take place in a church, the believers continue to live in the light and produce fruits.

So, the conclusion is building the community of love and imitating God. It is loving each other as we love God. In order to do that we have to do three things. First, do not even think about immorality, impurity or greed. We have no lead way when it comes to immorality. Always be careful and put up a good guard so we wouldn’t fall by the immorality. Second, cut out filthiness, silly talk and coarse jesting. Dirty jokes, degusting words, any words that do not have Jesus in, and the worldly words have to stop in our conversation. “Empty words” refer to Gnosticism. Never allow false gospel and different lessons into the church. The church members should be willing to die for the truth. That’s how far we should train them. As a result, they are exposed to Light; thus, living as the people of Light.

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# Ephesians

## chapter 11.

Paul speaks from verse eight to 20 about “the fundamental and practical root of building up the glorious church of God.” Verses eight to fourteen are about opening our spirits up to God all the time. The alpha and omega of spirituality is opening up your spirit to God. We see several ways to help us to do that from verse 15 to 20. Paul says in verse 15, “Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise.” Paul is saying like listen up from verse 16 to 20 so we can live as the wise.

First, Paul says, “Make the most of your time because the days are evil.” In order to be the true church Paul has been addressing from 4:10 and on we should make the most of our time. We don’t want to be lazy. The glorious church and love according to Romans chapter 12 are supposed to be busy. Mother changes diapers of her baby and cleans her blankets and clothes because she loves her baby. Mother is so busy. When I look at my wife raising five children and getting involved in ministry, tear fills my eyes. I truly pray for her. She raises five children and ministers in our church for 80%. I only minister for 20%. When you are lazy, you can’t work on spirituality.

Laziness is like a city that is besieged by an enemy. They are in the middle of the thick battle and a dumb soldier opens up the gate of the fortress asking a question, “Who is outside?” Laziness is like that. When you are lazy, all the enemies come through the gate into your fortress. When you are full of the Spirit of God, you are bound to be diligent.

The word “making” out of “making the most of your time” means “redeem.” So, it means “redeem the time.” Why did Paul use that word? Redeem the time! It is about a diligent person working in God’s time, doing God’s work, in His place, and with the God’s chosen people. In another word, if you work on your own when God is not working, you are not being diligent before Him. That’s your work which is the reason you burn out!

“Time” in Greek is kairos which is not referring to physical time. Physical time in Greek is hora. Kairos refers to giving God what He desires in His time. Therefore, those that live in eternal time do not live by physical time but by kairos.

We can see this in the parable of fig tree. Jesus went to a city and he was hungry. He stopped at a fig tree and sought for a fruit but there was none. Afterward Jesus cursed the fig tree which dried up. We find an amazing account in the Bible. It records that it was not the season for figs. What does that mean? Can we perceive this as Jesus gone mad due to heat stroke? It was not the season for figs and Jesus cursed this poor fig tree. The tree dried up to death. We should be able to deliver when God desires it. That’s kairos. Be ready to give to God when He desires. When God comes to us, we should receive Him without any exception. This is kairos! Eternal life is living in kairos.

Spiritual people discovered many amazing things like “present life does not drift into the future for those that live in the eternity but rather the future drifts into the present.” This is not my saying but Augustine. This is a sharp revelation. Those that live in kairos do not drift into future from the present but the future drifts into the present. I hope you understand it.

Second, let’s look at verse 17 “so then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” The will of God should be the most important standard of your actions. You should never move if it is not the will of God. The time is important and the will is next. I speak this frequently “What matters to us is not whether we can do it or not but whether it is will of God or not!” A church should not be shaken, or fear anything even what seems to be impossible. Instinctively, ask God a question “What is Your will?” when something happens. Don’t say things like, “What am I going to do? Now, my business is over! Tithe doesn’t matter!” The important thing is “Is it the will of God or not?” If you don’t know the will of God, you become the unwise. I would like to stress the important point one more time. This is the reason Ephesian Church was willing to die for the revelation of God.

Let’s review the revelation. It refers to what God reveals. It can mean the reinterpretation of the word. We will address Rhema in chapter 6. All 66 books in the Bible should be heard as the word in your ears. We should not treat the Bible as “book from 2,000 years ago and that’s it!”

For Paul, the revelation in Ephesians means the reinterpretation of the word of God. Accurately, it is the word of God spoken to you. The Pauline theology is not established without revelation. I have heard that other theologians also spoke about that. I don’t know exactly what they said but the gospel of Paul begins with revelation. Of 27 New Testament books Paul wrote 13 of them. That’s about the half of New Testament. So, if you don’t understand the revelation of Pauline epistles, you don’t fully understand the N. T. In short, we should accept the revelation of principle of Pauline theology.

Without knowing the will of God we become the unwise. The unwise means the condition that has no life of Jesus. If you live holding onto the things that are not the will of God, you have no work of life of God. Thus, you are confused all the time. Only when the will of God is established, the work of Holy Spirit takes place. When the work of the Spirit of God takes place, the will of God is in progress. Where the will of God is not taking place or the will of God is not present, no progress at all of anything. It is just a man’s effort trying to get something done. About half the time pastors in churches minister without knowing the will of God. They go, “Ah, it is pleasing to God to witness!” I am not saying not to witness.



Let me give you an example. God says to some churches, “This is not the right time to witness to others. It is time for you get on your knees before Me!” If that is the will of God, everyone should stop witnessing and start getting on his knees. Let me give you another example. Paul was on his way to Asia from Macedonia but the Holy Spirit said, “Do not go there!” Paul could have said, “God is glorified through missions. Why should I stop?” Paul could have chosen to still go the Asia. Right? Paul, however, stopped his journey to Asia and turned toward Europe because that’s the will of God. Some of you say, “This is the work of God. He will be glorified through this.” No! Simply because some are the things of God they don’t automatically glorify Him. There are His will, His time and His intention. If you don’t catch them and receive them and continue in your walk, you will be in the middle of confusion. Your ministry will be in confusion. Your life itself is also in confusion. Be willing to die for the will of God. The will of God is important!

Pastors and pastors’ wives please take a moment to review your past ministry. “Why was my ministry so difficult? What did I lack?” I don’t think it is attributed to what you lack. From one perspective the reason your ministry didn’t go so well was because you did many things apart from God’s will. Whether you pray a lot or not is secondary. The first and foremost thing is to understand the will of God and receive it. That’s why the Book of Ephesians treats the revelation and the wisdom so precious and Pauline theology does not exist without the revelation.

I emphasize again that the revelation is not hearing something when you are praying in a mountain like spiritual guru. Revelation is reinterpretation of the word of God and the words given to you. Revelation literally means the revelation of God. In my church, this is the reason we are willing to die for God’s revelation. That’s how we understand the will of heaven, the work of God, the direction of God’s movement, and His will. What can a church do without understanding the will of God and His plans? Nothing! If you have the problem with the direction that God works over here and you work over there. You say that you are giving glory to God. That’s nonsense! That’s wrong. So, first, we catch the right time of God “is this the time to work or not? Second, “is this God’s will or not?” If it is not the will of God, we should not do it even if the world collapses.

Look at someone like Jeremiah! He was not in a circumstance to speak on behalf of God at the moment, but he was willing to die for it if it was the will of God. He proclaimed the word of God even if it meant for him to become a traitor of his nation. This is the characteristic of the servants of God. Please examine yourself that you call yourself a servant of God with your mouth but do you really have good characteristics of the true servant? You are a servant of God, but rather Jesus is your servant. Isn’t that true? We can’t

motion to Jesus, “Hey Jesus, follow me!”

Third, let’s look at verse 18 “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.” The third secret is to be filled with the Spirit. Getting drunk and be filled with the Spirit have some similarities. Some of you know what I am talking about if you used to drink quite a bit before accepting Jesus Christ. When you get drunk, you act by the power of the alcohol. When timid people drink, they become bold. They speak loudly by the power of alcohol and they also become honest to speak what’s on their mind. It is all because of the influence of alcohol. This is the same with the Spirit. Believers, we are supposed to live by the power of the Spirit. Just like we see in the Book of Acts “drunk with new wine,” getting drunk and being filled with the Spirit are similar.

Again, we are supposed to live by the power of the Holy Spirit. If you don’t live by the power of the Spirit, what you have inside will come out. We should always be filled with the Holy Spirit. Every denomination has a different perspective on being filled with the Spirit, but I agree with Dr. Altori (?). – Proof Reader (Please check the spelling of this man for me) He contends that there are indwelling Spirit, Spirit Baptism, and being filled with the Spirit. The Spirit Baptism is only once in a life time whereas being filled with the Spirit is continuation. It is in a present tense. Immerse yourself in the Spirit of God. Unless you are filled with the Spirit your own strength will come forth.

We can find secrets to be filled with the Holy Spirit in the Scripture. Of course, you can be filled with the Holy Spirit by praying for a few hours. This is out pouring from above. Instead of being filled with the Holy Spirit it is more accurate to say that we enter into the fullness of the Holy Spirit. This is closer to the original meaning of Greek. Rather than interpreting it as running over after being filled with Spirit, it is better to interpret it as entering into the Holy Spirit. Moreover, when you obey the will of the Holy Spirit, you should be immediately filled with the Holy Spirit. That’s right! If you obey the will of God, you will be filled with Him right away. For example, here is a good program on TV and God speaks to me, “Minho, let’s go and pray!” If I immediately turn off the TV and follow Him to pray, then I am filled with the Spirit immediately. So, when we talk about being filled with the Holy Spirit, “entering” is a closer interpretation of the original word. Please continue to train to enter into the will of the Holy Spirit. Don’t let your reason and rationality suppress the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Keep entering into the Holy Spirit.

Let’s look at it in more detail. Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit four times. In Luke 1:35 angel speaks to Mary, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.” Jesus was filled in the Spirit while He was in Mary’s womb. This refers to the

indwelling Spirit. The indwelling Spirit means the work of salvation. Since the indwelling Spirit signifies the salvation which leads to enough power to the confession of Jesus as the Lord and Savior. The confirmation of the salvation doesn't come by the indwelling Spirit. That's not enough!

Second, in Luke 3:21 - 22 "Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, 'You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.'" This is the second filling of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove. The Greek word for bodily is somatikos which means "substance." The plastic bottle of water is substance. The word of God is saying like the Holy Spirit came in bodily form of the plastic bottle. It makes sense. On this second time of filling of the Holy Spirit Jesus embodied the works of the Spirit of God. Again, on the second time of filling with the Holy Spirit, the power of the word of God is embodied in Jesus.

In Luke 4:1 Jesus is filled with the Spirit of God for the third time "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness." The third filling of the Holy Spirit is a stage where one is completely led by Him. It is like when the Holy Spirit says, "Turn left," then you turn left. When He says, "Turn right," turn right. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you do not oppose the will of the Spirit. Even death is possible for the Lord. The baptism of the Holy Spirit refers to a stage where word of God is embodied. The third stage of being filled with the Holy Spirit is being led by Him. If He leads you to suffering, you suffer. If He leads to tribulation, you go through it. If He tells you to die for Jesus, you die for Jesus.

We also see another instance of being filled with the Holy Spirit in Luke 4:17 "And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.'" The word for "upon" in Greek is epi which means "immerse." Luke records the filling of the Spirit twice in chapter 4. In verse 1, Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit. In verse 18, the Spirit of God is upon Jesus. When you are immersed in the Holy Spirit, you have the power for ministry like to preach the gospel to the poor. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, the door of ministry opens up. If you are not full of the Holy Spirit, please don't try to minister.

Pastors should come to the worship service on the Lord's Day always filled to the

max. Be filled with the Holy Spirit two hours before the worship and go up to the pulpit in the best condition. Through the pastor the Spirit of God will open up all the believers.

Suppose you were filled with the Holy Spirit, but as soon as you turn to the world the fullness of the Spirit disappears. Is there anyone who experienced the lightening of fire while watching TV? No. When you watch TV, you become cold and chilly. When you are not facing God or turn your eyes from Him, your fullness of the Holy Spirit disappears. The filling of the Holy Spirit is sensitive!

Third, after living with God consistently for a long time the filling of the Holy Spirit becomes your personality. Just like living with evil spirit for a long time results in the personification of evil spirit in you, maintaining the filling of God for a long time results in personification as well. Those that easily emit the characteristics of God have been living with God for a long time. Not only evil spirits personify in us but also the Holy Spirit personifies in us. For example, this associate pastor in our church personified Jesus in Him. Although his wife does not cook for him at home, he eats “California roll” without saying anything like “why don’t you cook?” Instead of yelling at her he simply eats the rolls of rice at a fast food restaurant. That’s because the Holy Spirit has personified in him.

Fourth, you must dispose your spirits. Extract the spirit of worldliness, the spirit of unbelief, the spirit of greed and so on. Be filled with the Holy Spirit daily. When it comes to ministry, it is like epi; minister when you are immersed in the Holy Spirit. Please refrain from healing ministry and prophetic ministry if you are not filled with the Holy Spirit. Please avoid it intentionally. You never want to do them on your own strength.

Finally, the question is “what happens when you are filled with the Holy Spirit?” We see the answer in verse 19 “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.” In short, when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you become a poet and a singer. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you naturally sing songs of praise to God. You become romantic! You turn into a poet and you read poems. David in Psalms always lived in the presence of the Holy Spirit which is why he spoke beautiful words to God like poetry.

In verse 20 Paul says, “Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.” You overflow with thanksgiving. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, the uncertainty of present, the agony of the past, and the uncertainty of the future become completely certain now. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, all the uncertainties are now certain in present. All the future events will become present and the past agonies will also become present healing you from them. Out of your heart will

overflow the gratitude. You become a poet and a singer who are filled with thanksgiving. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you are also filled with grateful heart. That's why we should be filled with the Spirit.

Through the four filling of the Holy Spirit in Jesus we just looked at the indwelling Spirit, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the filling of the Spirit. I have just shared with you about the spiritual growth and secrets to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Make most of your time. Please don't be lazy! Live the life of kairos and the eternal life. Be able to work with the people God desires, in a place God desires, and the work God desires. Be willing to die for the will of the Lord. We should always discern His will. Although it may be difficult and challenging, keep on trying to discern the will of God. If you don't know His will, don't do anything. The real problem we have is doing things ahead of God. We don't want to be work-oriented. Those that are focused on God make move when the pillar of clouds is lifted up and the pillar of fire is lifted up. If you alone make a move, you will either freeze to death or burn to death. Finally, be filled with the Holy Spirit. Immerse yourself fully in Him. May you personify the Holy Spirit! Amen!

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# Ephesians

## chapter 12.

Why do we address family, children, and relationship with parents, and social life in the middle of ecclesiology? Because the elements of family and social life are important to establishing glorious church. The reason for the fall of Roman Empire is attributed to the destruction of families. Family is formed before the formation of people and a nation. A family is a basic unit of society. It is also most fundamental and essential unit in a nation. The world cannot survive without families. According to Alvin Toffler's *The Third Wave* his prophecy about future points to the destruction of families. Focus on the Family has a strong influence in America although it is not a church. They advocate the restoration to protestant family. America is focusing on the restoration of families. The truth is Korean families are also breaking down. I suspect our divorce rate is higher than America. This is Satan's strategy. He is breaking down families in order to destroy churches. We cannot touch the painful areas in family and their wounds. However, I intentionally touch upon them. It is so sad to see the destruction of families.

The pastor's family is more significant because it serves as a model to all the families in a church. If a pastor's family is fighting all the time, then the church members' families will not have any peace in their home. I will speak more on this but pastors are poor in management of their energies. I am one of them but I am trying my best to do better job with it. Pastors do not allot their energies to their families. One pastor wrote "a pastor should die upon returning home and a husband must prosper." Pastors should not try to pastor in their family. I won't talk about pastor's wife today but focus on pastors. You can see this in the main text that the reason for the fall of family is attributed to husband. The wife can directly break up the family as it seems on the outside but the husband contributes to it on the inside. I am preaching with the repentant heart. When pastors come home, they should be just husband and father. Church members have their own husband and a pastor separately; however, for a pastor's wife the downfall of her pastor means the downfall of her husband and vice versa. Pastor's wife is admirable. She can't help but put everything on her husband because if her husband stumbles, her pastor stumbles, and if her pastor goes down, her husband goes down, too. A pastor's family is unique and important for that reason. The downfall of a pastor's family will result in the failure of his ministry.

I emphasize this again that when the family goes down, the ministry goes down as well. The reason is how can a pastor who can't share the love at home tell his believers to love? That is hypocritical! Suppose you spend 100% of your energy on ministry but your family is broken up. That's a failed ministry. We should divide our energy better. God desires us to see spending our energies 50 50 to nurture the beautiful family. In order to establish the glorious church we must form such a beautiful family. A church and a family

cannot be separated.

The first qualification of a pastor according to 1 Timothy is to be above reproach. A wife of a pastor should acknowledge him before anyone else. If a pastor's wife does not acknowledge him, then whatever or however he serves in his church and ministry they are all hypocrites. When a pastor is not acknowledged well inside and outside the church but his wife acknowledges him, then he is a good pastor. If his children recognize him like "my dad is a man of God," then a pastor is a great father. A pastor should be acknowledged at home. Let's look at how we can have a beautiful family.

Paul speaks in verse 21, "And be subject to one another in the fear of Christ." In the typical expository message a text is selected up to verse 21 and then another text is selected from verse 22. However, in the Greek text it ends with verse 20 and begins a new text from verse 21. In short, verse 21 begins with the text we have for today. It does not belong to the previous message. So, the last message ends with give thanks to God. So, today we begin a new message with "be subject to one another in the fear of Christ." What does this mean? The husband and wife relationship we have talked about up to now is summed up in obedience to each other. It is about serving each other. When a couple breaks up, the blame does not lie with husband 100% or with wife 100%. Both are at fault. I said earlier that the husband contribute to the direct cause of break up. Therefore, both are subject to one another.

The next part from verse 22 to 24 is about wife. Let's look at what Paul says about wife "wives, be subject to your own husbands as to the Lord." The duty of wife is unconditional obedience. It is obedience like unto the Lord. Pastors' wives, you don't like to hear that, do you? Nevertheless, it is your duty to obey. This is the order of creation. You may say this is the age of female dominance and so on, but the duty of wife is obedience. Please do not say directly, "No, that's not..." to your husband when you do not agree with him or the circumstance does not fit you.

Man is simple. When you treat him like that, he insists on his way knowing that he is wrong because of his pride. That's because he is simple. Man doesn't have the function. Man was created first. The earlier the product the simpler the function is. Some pastors think that man is superior. They are mistaken. Let's make a compare and contrast! What was man made with? Man was made with dust. What was woman made with? Rib! Does rib cost higher or dust? The last time I went to eat some rib in a restaurant, it cost \$30. Dust full of a truck doesn't cost \$30. We can't match woman even in quality. If you think you are superior when you are actually cheaper and oppress your wife, that's the beginning of your unfortunate life. Women are precious from the very beginning! This is the irony because



God wants the woman to obey her husband. This is unconditional obedience. Pastors' wives, this is your wisdom. You can't get along well when you oppose your husband every time. If you want to speak to your husband, please pray first and wait for God's time to speak your mind. Please do not try to control your husband with your mouth all the time.

There is a strong work of spirit among women; the spirit of Jezebel. This spirit of Jezebel controls men. The characteristic of this spirit is that it kills prophets. If pastor's wife controls the pastor, the word of God that's preached through him dies. That's why you have to be a wise wife of a pastor. Unconditional obedience is required of a virtuous wife. That's the duty of a wife.

Why does Paul say to be subject to your own husbands as to the Lord? He explains in verse 23 "For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body." Just like Jesus Christ is the head of the church the head of the wife is the husband. That's the reason for the obedience. It is the same whether it is a church or a family. The church is more so. The big picture of ministry should be set and carried out by the husband, the pastor. On the other hand, pastor's wife should recognize the big picture and take care of the fine details of the ministry. Those pastors that pocket the salary and use it according to them are demonstrating their determination to lose the material authority. Let the wife take care of them.

The reason for the obedience is because the husband is the head. Jesus who is the head of the church carries out everything through the church. It is also true from the perspective of education in the church. The whole congregation is educated within the big boundary through the pastor. However, pastor's wife should touch the fine details. This necessitates the spirituality on the pastor's wife. Furthermore, sister should deal with other sisters because there are many areas pastor cannot really touch upon. If the pastor's wife does not train on her spirituality, it is not 50% of ministry the church will lose out but 90%. I would like to remind you 1 + 1 is not 2 but it can be even 100. Ministry that lost the involvement of the pastor's wife will be lost.

The duty of a wife is obedience and the duty of a husband is love. Paul speaks in verse 25, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her." May I ask pastors, "Is love more difficult or obedience?" Love is much much more difficult. How far should the husband love? To the point of giving up his life! Love is giving up the life. When Jesus laid out the condition for divorce in the Bible, the premises of it was adultery. Jesus was saying that unless your wife becomes an adulterous woman or prostitute, do not divorce her. Why did Jesus say that? Who contributes to cause the wife to become a prostitute? The husband does! The secret for the pastor's wife to obey

the pastor is when he loves her.

It is so easy for the pastor's wife to obey when the pastor truly loves her. When you, pastor, love her, you will notice so many things begin to change. The food on dinner table... I don't need to say that. Just give her your love and everything will change.

I mentioned earlier that love is practical. What is love? It is obedience. The first gate of love is to hear what the wife says. Woman relieves herself through mouth. That's why you have to hear her out. If your conversation with your wife doesn't flow, she will start building stress inside. That's where love starts off. When I visit other churches to minister, I see so many of them that the last person to find out the ministry decisions is the pastor's wife. Such pastors are here. You share with deacons, elders and everyone else and who does your wife hear about them from? From other church members! She doesn't hear from the husband. This is why the stress builds up inside her. Communicate with her and hear what she has to say.

In my case, I am not very good at it, but honestly I have C average. I hear well what my wife says to me. Moreover, I made a vow to God before the marriage. I vowed "I will treat what my wife says to me as Your voice, God!" Yes, I made that vow and that's why I listen to my wife almost 100% of time. I don't have to mention that my wife is a wise woman. I don't like to write any letter but my wife writes letters frequently. She starts with "my beloved husband" and writes a letter about my faults and weaknesses. In short, we should communicate with our spouses.

This is critical! Why? Because it is related to the glory of God! Of course, loving the wife itself is important but we have a relationship with church that cannot be separated. You will see this later "this mystery is great" according to Paul. What did he understand? The relationship between the Lord and a church is the same as the relationship between the husband and the wife. In another word, the breakup of a pastor's family results in breakup of the church. This is the danger. This is the reason you communicate with your wife, hear her out, and do everything with her. Let me give you an example. Suppose you have decided something as a pastor and your wife does not agree with it. Don't do it! I am serious because a wife is a helper, the strong right arm of Jehovah. When the strong right arm of Jehovah doesn't help you and you proceed, that's how you fail. Again, your wife doesn't agree to your plans, it is better not to follow through. When the pastor's wife agrees, that's when you proceed. When a pastor truly loves his wife like this, the church becomes beautiful.

Some may say like this, "Pastor Minho Kim, are you in pastoral ministry to please

your wife? You are very ungodly!” However, please ask God whether the wife pleasing ministry glorify God or not. Ask Him!

What happens after you love in that manner? Let’s find it out in verse 26 “so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.” What does this mean? It means you will be cleansed when you love like that. The reason you are dirty is because you haven’t been loved. Moreover, the reason pastor’s wife is dirty is because she has not been loved. It is the same with children and church members. Every soul that’s not loved is going to be dirty. When a pastor loves his wife in that manner, she will be cleansed. Like the love of Jesus Christ cleanses the church, the love of pastor for his wife will cleanse her. The reason the wife pays attention to other things is because she does not feel her husband’s love. That’s why she is corrupted with other man, shopping, and self-realization. Let me tell you the wife that’s loved by her husband can never pay attention to worthless things. I said earlier that the corruption of a wife is caused by the husband’s fault. The first benefit of husband loving his wife is that she will be cleansed.

Pastor’s holiness and purity are not enough to sanctify the church. The pastor’s holiness and purity must be combined with the pastor’s wife’s holiness and purity to sanctify the church. The reason is that the part of church the pastor’s holiness and purity touch is different from the part of church his wife’s holiness and purity touch. For example, the pastor’s holiness and purity have a power to penetrate into the hearts of church members with the word of God. On the other hand, the pastor’s wife’s holiness and purity have a power to provide the energy for the church members to practically live according to the word. If the majority of the church members are not changing in their life, one of several reasons for that can be contributed to lack of appealing of holiness and purity of pastor’s wife. There is tendency in church that a pastor seems to be spiritual. In another word, the church members tend to focus on the words he preaches and his authority overlooking the life he lives out. They also focus on the life of the pastor’s wife instead of focusing on the life of the pastor. I will speak about this with regard to the children, but it is like this. When children need to be loved, they seek for the father. When they have needs like materials or so, they seek for the mother. It is the same principle. When a child scores 100 on a test, who does he want to show it off to first? It is the daddy. However, when daddy is drunk, and doesn’t come home, what will happen to the child? In summary, when children need love, they go to daddy. When children have needs, they go to mommy. Likewise, the direction of what the pastor’s holiness and purity do is different from the direction of what the pastor’s wife’s holiness and purity do. This is the reason the pastor’s wife needs to be loved by her husband and become cleansed.

Let's look at the second benefit in verse 28 "So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself." In conclusion, loving your wife means loving your pastors. If you don't love your own wife, then you are not loving yourself. Not loving yourself is rejecting the love of God. Not loving your wife is not just loving her but not loving yourself as well. That's abusing yourself and you can't do that before God. "He who loves his own wife loves himself." We are to love our wives. Seriously, if you, pastors, don't love your wife, please stop everything and repent over that.

Next, let's look at verse 29 "For no one ever hated own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church." In short, husband that loves his wife matures. Pastor who runs alone diligently in his spirituality accomplishes nothing. Loving the wife is essential for your spiritual growth. This is the reason we train with pastor's wife in Zoe Ministry Network. Loving your wife contributes to your spiritual growth.

What is evil? Evil doesn't even have its own place to stay. When a pastor's wife leaves the side of her husband, that's evil. The reason a woman becomes a bad wife is due to leaving her husband's side. As long as she lives right next to her husband she won't become a bad or wicked wife. It is all right to use different rooms to focus more on prayer but be united quickly after the separation. Have your wife always right next to you.

The practical secret of loving wife and obeying the husband is found in verse 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother." Leaving his father and mother means he is going to be independent head of a family. Husband must have a clear leadership to rule over his family. In Israel the leadership of father is considered as the leadership of God. In the Old Testament, the Israelites consider the father's leadership the same as the leadership of God. As long as children remember that they do not lose the leadership of God. Since we lose the leadership of father, children do not absolutely obey God. If we can't rule over a family well, we can't rule over a church according to 1 Timothy. How can a man that can't rule over his family, rule over a church? Father's leadership in his family is the basis of all his leadership in all his relationships.

"A man shall leave his father and mother" means a man, pastor, should be able to lead his family economically, spiritually, and intellectually. Please do not rely on others. Only person you can rely on is God. You are a head of your family and when you allow the influences from your parents and in laws on your wife, it will lead to the suffering of your wife. That's a big mistake. You should clearly draw the boundary and point out what's wrong to your parents and to your wife as well. Don't allow anything or anyone to divide you and your wife. This is very important.

That's the reason Paul is speaking "A man shall leave his father and mother and join his wife." "Join his wife" doesn't mean to be like her. It means union. Husband and wife are different but should acknowledge each other. They are different but they are supposed to become one. That's what husband and wife is all about. Although they are different, when they live together, they become alike. Otherwise, Jesus could have created everyone the same. Why would He create people differently? It is such a beauty to harmonize what is different or who is different for that matter.

"The two shall become one flesh." The couple should be healthy sexually. I bless my wife today that she will be healthy to have a sexual relationship beyond the age of 70. A pastor's sexual life is important. In one sense he is blocking out the work of immorality through his sexual relationship with his wife. A pastor should make his wife happy with regard to that. The wife has the authority over her husband's body whereas the husband has the authority over his wife's body. The work of immorality comes through the broken down sexual relationship between the pastor and the pastor's wife. Do not deprive one another!

I read an article about sexual life of a Christian on a Christian magazine that a woman experiences orgasm when she is filled with the Holy Spirit. When our spirit is filled spiritually, our physical sexual life also becomes good. When one is not filled with the Holy Spirit, he doesn't love his life, and he wants to sleep with her, she says, "Go away!" Isn't that true? When the wife feels that her husband loves her, then she will naturally receive her husband. When a husband is filled up spiritually, he loves his wife because he is full of the love of Jesus Christ. In short, when one loves his wife and he is filled with the Spirit of God, the couple's sexual life is supposed to be good. The sexual life, however, is only part of love. I sometimes see pastors treat it with shame and stay away from it but that's not the right mindset.

Why does the fervor of salvation disappear when we do not respond to the grace God has given us? That's because we have not acknowledged it in our life and stopped expressing it. It is the same with wife. You should talk to your wife "You are beautiful. How come you are more beautiful when you are getting older?" from time to time. You should also kiss your wife and express your love for her frequently. The sexual life of pastor's wife is also one of those things. You should express that for her. This is all important. I am not sure we have five children because we truly love each other but you should express your love for her in words and in physical ways.

God is also the same. Pastors, have you seen a sky in your ministry? Do you look at it every day and say, "You look so blue. How come you look so great in blue? Lord, forgive

me that my heart is not like the blue sky.” That’s how you want to look at all the creations of God and express your heart including your wife and your church members. When you make those expressions, the sense, that doesn’t lose the beauty inside of you, comes back alive. Those that can’t express well can’t hear the voice of God. That’s the reason we all should express the love to the wife.

This life of the couple is revealed in the ministry. Yes, it is revealed in the ministry. The church members can feel the love of pastor and his wife secretly. They become happy when they feel the pastor couple’s love for each other. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. What does “this mystery is great” mean? The relationship between the church and the Lord is the same as the relationship between the wife and the husband. Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

Next, let’s address the relationship with the children. “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right!” Children should obey the parents even when the parents are wrong as long as they do not go against the truth of God. I admit that I am not good at this, but I am supposed to do that. “Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise).” Children are supposed to obey the parents without any condition. So, when children obey the parents, they live long and they will be well. Children should obey their parents.

Let’s look at the parents “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” What’s scary is that Paul didn’t say “parents,” but “fathers.” Who is responsible for children’s education? Paul is saying that it lies with fathers. Fathers should get involved in children’s education.

I have brought a little note about what expert in prison ministry said about prisoners he worked with over the years. He said that he never saw an inmate who did not hate his own father. This is very scary! When a father messes up, his son also messes up, too. Gangsters come out of broken home or single parent family. This infamous boss of organized crime in Korea was also from a broken home. Pastors are supposed to spend his energy at home... I know it is difficult to do that, but we really need to. We gotta do at least the minimum like hugging children and talking with them. Let’s make a decision to do that!

In Book of Matthews, it is written “To Abraham was born Isaac; and to Isaac, Jacob; and to Jacob, Judah and his brothers.” What that means is that mothers don’t give birth to children but fathers do. This is important.

Fathers have the responsibility of children's education and the first standard of the education is that they should not provoke them. Instead of recognizing the children and embracing them fathers point out mistakes or faults to their children. It provokes the children. I admit that I do this quite often. Fathers should not discipline the children without controlling their emotion. Please do not discipline your children while you are raging. In my 18 years of living with God, God always speaks to me when I am so angry at my children, "Minho, forgive them. Minho, don't discipline them today. Minho, do it tomorrow." When I am raging, I can't hear God. But, He always speaks like that to me.

Next, Paul speaks, "Bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." In one word, Paul is saying that teach the children the word of God. Let them be filled with the word of God. Let them continue to live by the word of God. Don't just pressure the children with "study hard," but say like "read the Bible and pray" and so on. One of the children may say, "God, my father tells the church members to pray but he tells me to just study." Let's stop telling the children in pastor's family to "study and study."

Discipline includes correction and instruction means disciplinary action. In short, when we need to rebuke our children, we really should. Parents of this age have only one or two children, so they don't discipline their child/children. According to Proverbs 13:24 "He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently," we should be able to discipline our children.

Did you notice the word "again" in the beginning of verse 4? The reason for the insertion of "again" is to emphasize that in order for the father to properly educate his children he has to be an example to his children in his ways. When we obey our parents, our children learn to obey us. It doesn't work when we do not obey our parents. That's why we have "again." We need to be an example at all times.

According to Talmud when we receive more change after making a purchase, give it back in front of the children. It is teaching honesty to the readers. Parents should be a role model to the children all the time. In another word, children will learn from your model as the father and the pastor. This is what it means to be a leader all about! This is why fatherhood is difficult. We have to be a father and a husband; a pastor and a leader. It is heavy! That's why we can't do this alone. All the pastors can't help but to fall down before God. We cannot do it on our own!

Next up is the relationship with a boss. This is pretty simple. Paul speaks in verse 5, "Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ." Whatever you are entrusted with,

please do not do things paying attention to other people. This is important! In church we see some people who pretend to be busy when a pastor is around. It is also true with the prayer, too. Someone I know sleeps and snores during his prayer but wakes up when he hears my footsteps in the hall way and starts to pray. That's not good. We should do all things as if God is watching us.

Furthermore, Paul speaks in verse 6 – 7, “Not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With good will render service as to the Lord and not to men.” This is important for us. Paul continues in verse 8 “Knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening.” Masters/bosses, cease from threatening employees. The sermon is also the same that we are not supposed to omit a part of God's word. When God gives us the words to preach, we can't leave out any part of it. There are many instances when pastors skip when they come to sensitive topics. Preach all 66 books in the Bible. On the other hand, we are not supposed to add anything onto the word of God. If God didn't say it or the Bible, a pastor shouldn't say according to his intention. In short, we should be able to preach anything Bible talks about or God gives to us. However, we are not supposed to speak what is not spoken to us.

Our beloved pastors' wives, may God bless you to obey your husband. Now, beloved pastors, if you truly want to serve the obedient wife, truly love your wife. Please love your wife. Many pastors separate family from ministry, but this is not true. Family and ministry are not separated. Beautiful family will result in beautiful ministry. If you have beautiful ministry, it means you already have beautiful family. This is clear.

May God bless you to obey your parents! I know pastors do not have much time to serve the parents. However, let's make a decision to do the minimum. We may not do great things for the parents but let's do at least the minimum.

Furthermore, let's not provoke our children. Teach them the word of God and help them to live their lives in terms of all the relationships in the society that they are living their life before God. Business and relationship with coworkers at work are all important. Things like tax evasion are unthinkable. We don't even think about business that is not pleasing to God. Let's live our life as if we are before God.



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# Ephesians

## chapter 13.

In verse ten we see the word “finally.” It is begging a question of “When a church becomes the glorious church, what truly happens to it?” It becomes a church that takes on the spiritual warfare. When a church becomes powerful, it demonstrates its power through spiritual battles.

As a part of introduction to Ephesians, I addressed the 19th chapter of Acts which records the disappearance of Artemis from the face of the earth. Artemis at the time was rampant in the Asia Minor. Scholars studied about what had happened to Artemis and several years ago someone wrote a thesis over it in England. Artemis challenged the Ephesian Church and the idol was destroyed from the earth. In the city of Ephesus there was a temple of Artemis which was five times larger than Parthenon. It was growing so huge the priest of Artemis became arrogant and spiritually challenged the Apostle John who was at the time the bishop of Ephesian Church. He invited Apostle John to his temple that was five times larger than the Parthenon and cursed John by Artemis for half the day. John heard all the curses meantime and began to walk slowly and asked, “Are you finished?” The priest replied, “Yes, I am finished.” Then, John lifted both of his hands to the heaven and prayed, “Lord Jesus, reveal the honor of name.” Immediately, the heaven opened up and a hand came down from heaven and split the Artemis temple that was five times larger than Parthenon in half and the hand also split the Artemis priest in half. That is how Artemis was disappeared on the face of the earth. When the saints rise up in a church according to the principles of Ephesians, the characteristic of this church will be the spiritual warfare. In this end time our church should be established as an excellent church in the spiritual warfare.

From the perspective of spiritual battle we can see three stages of churches. First stage is the Egypt Stage Church. Egypt Stage Church is totally bound and it cannot do anything. It is a slave. The goal of this stage church is “Do not let anything happen (to us)!” Everyone is sleeping and it can’t do anything. When it awakes from the slumber, it moves on to the next stage, the Wilderness Stage Church. In Wilderness Stage Church, it engages on the spiritual battle sporadically, but it is mostly defensive. It defends itself from the attack.

What is the church we desire ultimately? It is the Rest Stage Church. Joshua enters the Canaan and annihilates the ten tribes of Canaan. It is the church on the offensive and it collects much spoil through spiritual battles.

It is our desire to grow and mature to enter or become the Rest Stage Church. We have looked at the whole book of Ephesians and we should crucify ourselves on the cross. It is about keep getting pure and holy, and letting the Spirit of God seize us 100%. Use the

four principles to be filled with the Holy Spirit and expose your soul to the light of God. Work on the Spiritual Disposal to extract the spirit of unbelief, the spirit of worldliness, the spirit of greed, and so on. Mature farther into the next stage for the deep fellowship with God. When a church enters into the Rest Stage as a whole, you can have the powerful spiritual warfare.

For example, one of the things I am still praying for is 300,000 missionaries. After the prayer missionaries are coming to us to this day. I also prayed for the people to study theology in America and now we have people still coming in. I also prayed for the leaders who can transform this nation in economy, politics, society, and culture. These leaders are now rising up. My eyes are seeing them and the church members are also seeing them coming up. People like them are being positioned in Zoe Ministry Network and they are preparing for the spiritual warfare. God speaks to me who needs to be prepared in what ways.

Verse 10 “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might” is the conclusion of Ephesians. The powerful church is the goal. So, what happens next? Paul says in verse 11, “Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.” Satan is incredibly strategic. Suppose Satan uses six different ways, God uses seven different ways. Therefore, Satan cannot act up against God. However, if we are not seized by God, the schemes of Satan are too great for any man. I have experienced evil spirits in my 18 years of ministry; the dumbest evil spirit has the IQ of 250. The territorial spirit usually is around 500. They are too much for man. Unless we abide in God and minister according to the strategy of God we are bound to get destroyed.

What is the strategy? In order to corrupt a man Satan not only gives suffering to him but he also gives him money to corrupt him, his family, and his church. If that’s the devil’s goal, then he will give that man much wealth. Pastors should be able to see such strategy. For example, someone is not devoted to God, praying and not walking with God and all of sudden he is making lots of money, his real estate sky rocks and gets blessed, that’s Satan’s strategy.

Spiritually speaking, when I go to certain areas that have churches involved in such spiritual battles, I can see the movement of the Spirit of God. On the other hand, when I go to areas that are not engaged in spiritual battles, I sense the movement of evil spirits. Satan moves strategically and tries to exhaust all the churches in the area. The Zoe Ministry Network needs to fan the stronger fire and fight the spiritual battles. The spiritual dynamics of any area are determined by the churches that are fighting the spiritual battles. “Strategy” in spiritual battle is very important. A church that has laid the system according

to the principles in Ephesians can move according to the strategy of God.

For example, politics, economy, society, and culture are part of “all rule and authority” in Ephesians 1:21 and they are under the authority of church. That’s the principle! “Next president is so and so. The economy will now shift in such and such direction. A very powerful hurricane will come next year.” This is how God prepares through His churches. In short, when a church is seized by the Spirit of God regardless of any age and generation, it will proclaim this is how God will do in politics, economy, society, and culture instead of addressing them afterward. As we move swiftly according to the powerful strategy of God we can bind up a strategy of Satan thoroughly. Freeze the Satan! That was the Ephesian Church.

In Korea there is a powerful challenge of evil spirits (spirit of idolatry) and no other spirit is greater at work than this. For example, Ye Hwa University which was founded by a missionary has an idol right in the entrance of it. This is not ordinary and it symbolizes the condition this nation is in. Just recently President Bush invited Dalai Rama and commemorated him with gold medal. This did not take place out of random. The celebrities, politicians, and rich people who are seized by Rama Buddhism used their influence to invite him in America. Satan just did a sealing ministry in America. China strongly opposed this, and think about this. What would America benefit from inviting this one monk? This is common sense! I look at the strategy in this spiritual warfare that Satan is moving America to bring forth the work of victory. See how many Buddhist temples will rise up in America with Dalai Rama receiving such recognition in America. Now, California has become a headquarter of the evil spirits. God shows the worldwide strategic movement through the church. This is not a power or perspective given to special pastors. When a church of God is seized normally by the Holy Spirit, God gives His perspective and reveals His strategy to prepare for what is coming up.

In small scale, instead of visiting and comforting a church member who is going through suffering, a pastor should ask “What is the meaning of this member’s suffering?” For example, when the influential church members make certain moves, you want to pray and ask “What is this strategy?” with regard to their moves. When God says, “Respond like this,” then you respond accordingly. Understand the strategy of God in all matters. This is the reason you should pray for the powerful work of prophetic spirit, wisdom, and understanding in your church and ask for the revelation and the wisdom Lord gave to the Ephesian Church to be full in your church.

In order to fight against the “schemes” we need the full armor of God. The offensive weapon and the defensive weapon must be clear. Paul speaks in verse 12, “For our

struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” We can fight well if we can see them with our eyes but we fight against the rulers, the powers, spiritual forces of this darkness, and the works of Satan who is controlling the system we call the “world” in the background. Satan is using politics, economy, society, and culture as a system to lure and bind us today. We should pulverize them (Satan’s attempts) so Satan cannot use the politics, economy, society, and culture. Instead, we should use them.

It is no longer true, but for a while America seized the nation in politics, economy, society, and culture by the Kingdom of God. Therefore, God moved politics, economy, society, and culture of America. However, a nation like Korea is becoming system that Satan has overtaken in education and mass media. The glorious children of God’s church should now reclaim them and control the system. We are supposed to prepare for that time. Let our churches prepare leaders that are willing to die for the word of God.

Our fight is not visible to our eyes but it is invisible. It is necessary to train our people to be more spiritual. If they don’t become spiritual, they are bound to lose spiritual battles in their life. It is said that what we see with our eyes is not the true hope but the true hope is invisible. Likewise, the Kingdom of God is not visible nor the battles against the evil spirits are. Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of thing not seen.” The binding and the release of bondages in spiritual world result in the real world. We should know the spiritual world for the benefit of the conclusive works in the real world. The focus of our training is not for the blessings on this earth but to become spiritual people who attain the power to release and combine spiritual things thoroughly. Becoming a powerful church is totally a spiritual matter.

Therefore, Paul speaks in verse 13, “Take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.” The evil day refers to the war Satan is raging and it also refers to the last battle of Parousia. Our Christian walk is a spiritual battle every moment. You are in spiritual battle even during this worship service. If you don’t understand this spiritual warfare, you can’t really have your faith life in the right way. Have you seen a movie “Saving Private Ryan?” How fierce is the battle? Do you know our spiritual battle is even fiercer? You have to understand this warfare and make all the necessary preparations to win this war. That’s the reason Paul says, “Put on the full armor of God.” “Put on” does not mean to be passive. You don’t just sit there waiting for it but rather you gotta go get it. As I proclaim for each piece of armor it (spiritual weapon) should attach it onto you.

The first piece of armor is the belt of truth. Paul speaks of it in verse 14 “Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth.” Paul is perhaps describing a Roman soldier. The belt of truth functions to simply gird up the long cloth.

What is the belt of truth? We want to be simple in our response to the word of God. The Satan’s strategy at the end time is to make things complicated. According to Daniel’s prophecy the life of believers are so complex, distractive, and busy. In Luke chapter two the reason Joseph and Mary lost Jesus was because they were too busy. If we are too busy whether in life of thoughts, we will always lose in spiritual battles. The simplicity to stay focused on God and to immediately respond to Him is necessary. If your head is heavy, you cannot be good in spiritual warfare. If you are full of your plans, your thoughts, your experience, and your ways cannot fight the spiritual battles. You will always get beaten up! On the same token, if you are easily confused and distracted, you can’t hear the voice of God. Simplified people will hear the voice of God. Becoming simple or simplified does not mean becoming a dumb. It is pruning the complex branches and focusing on Jesus Christ. This is the belt of truth.

Every pastor has faith. Which pastor doesn’t have faith? However, the reason some can’t practice faith is because they are complicated to the point they can’t receive the word of God. We immediately respond to the word of God. When God says, “Go,” we go. When He says, “Give,” we give. When God says, “Do it,” we do it. God told me to give/provide the airplane tickets for the missionaries for the conference, so we gave. When God says, “Do it,” there is no calculation of any sort. You need the simplicity to actively embrace the word of God. Churches like Ephesian Church are willing to die for the word of God. The focus of the church is to train the church members to respond immediately to the command of Jesus Christ.

The Kingdom of God is not built by your experience, your goal, and what you have. Even Apostle Paul said that he doesn’t serve God with his knowledge and he considers everything he has like rubbish. Paul had given up everything he had. When the Kingdom of God entered his heart, God told him to use them again. The knowledge, experience, and so on are useful to those who are simplified. They can only be a source of corruption to those who are not completely seized by God; who have not become simplified.

According to Hebrews 12:2 “fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith” we are reminded that all things are possible when we fix our eyes on Jesus. If we don’t fix our eyes on Him, we will lose the foundation of all situations we may find ourselves in. Open your eyes to see things from His perspective who is the author and perfecter (NIV renders originator and founder). Hear through Jesus Christ! Israelites did

not have the perspective of God, so when they saw Goliath, they called themselves “we are grasshoppers.” David, on the other hand, saw Goliath through the perspective of God, so David said to him, “You are my lunch.” We should see everything through the perspective of God. I mean everything! People in the world may say, “This is over,” but it may not be over when we see with God’s perspective. People in the world may also say, “What a blessing!” but we can see a curse when we see with God’s perspective. We definitely don’t want to be played by the standard of the world. We need simplification to see everything through Jesus. This is critical in spiritual warfare.

The simplification process is not achieved over night. There is a saying that one can see everything through one thing or one aspect. In short, we can see everything through Jesus. If you are not simplified, then you can’t do this. In spirituality some people try in many different ways and believe “the more the better.” However, the spirituality is seeing through just one. If you work on your spirituality in many different ways, you will be confused. If it is genuine over there, then you do it over there. If it is genuine over here, then you do it over here. The belt of truth requires continuous training.

Next, put on the breastplate of righteousness! The armor Roman soldiers put on is big and it covers from neck to thigh. The purpose of putting on the breastplate is to protect the heart. If an arm is cut off, you can still survive. However, if a heart is pierced, then you can’t survive. We put on the breastplate of righteousness to protect our heart. What is our heart? The breastplate of righteousness enables us to live a life that God considers righteous. If you can’t live your life according to the word of God, then Satan will capture you all the time. People say, “How can a deacon do that? How can an elder do that?” then, it is pretty much over. If your life are not holy and pure according to the word of God, then Satan takes hold on the ring of your life in spiritual battles. Satan will stir up everything. This is the reason we should be willing to die for what God considers righteous. The breastplate of righteousness refers to the life you live.

A believer reveals three things. First is Presence. It refers to the life we live. If we can’t live according to God’s words, then we can’t reveal Him. Second is Proclamation. A believer who lives his life according to God’s word has a power of proclamation. Third is Persuasion. A church consists of believers who have Presence and Proclamation have Persuasion. A church needs to have a power of persuasion. That’s right! A community needs to be persuasive. The whole church community should reveal God. That’s the reason I say that the breastplate of righteousness is life. We are supposed to believe in the word of God and bear the fruits as a result. Moreover, the faith we have, the righteous, and life must be satisfied at the same time in order for you to have the confirmation of salvation.

If you say, “I believe,” then through your faith you should become the righteous and live the righteous life. In Book of Daniel, there were three prime ministers and Daniel had “no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption.” In order to kill Daniel, they have to go through God. Satan cannot do anything against someone like Daniel who has no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption. If our life is in a mess, we can’t fight the spiritual battles.

The next piece of armor is the shoe of gospel of peace. Peace means shalom. After receiving the word of God, you should immediately do all you can to get ready to respond to the word of God. Paul speaks in Ephesians 4:12 “For the equipping of the saints for the work of service.” Let the believers be equipped first before they serve. The principle of church is to raise up believers who can always serve as minister, missionary, the authority of word, and contributor. Train the church members to put on the shoe of gospel of peace to go anywhere God wants to use them in. They are not trained to be used as a part of church like “we are preparing this man to become a choir member.” The believers in the church of God must become church. Specifically, if someone has gone through training in our church, he should be able to plant a church wherever he is sent to. He is not to be a part but the whole. This is the gospel of peace. It is training someone who can immediately go with the word of God. If God speaks to Mr. Choo, “Go to India,” then he goes to India and plants a church. Suppose God speaks, “Deacon Kim, quit your job and go to Nepal,” then he should go. The goal of discipleship training is not to become a part of church but the whole church. When the Church of Jerusalem sent Deacon Phillip, revival broke out in Samaria. A lay person builds up the church. This is now possible in Zoe Ministry Network.

Paul speaks in verse 16, “In addition to all, taking up the shield of faith which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.” Not only God has fire but also the evil spirits have fire. The fire of the evil spirits is a match fire. It is nothing; however, we still need to defend ourselves with the shield of faith. I am not talking about a small shield but a big one that can cover up the whole body.

You do not develop your faith, but rather God gives it to you as gift. In order to receive faith all you have to do is just empty yourself. The focus of faith life is keep emptying yourself. As much as you give up you will have bigger faith.

In verse 17 we have the helmet of salvation. The salvation Paul talks about in verse 17 is not a type of salvation like “if you believe, you will go to heaven.” The salvation Paul means is “deliverance out of all aspects of life.” Helmet is obviously for a head. The control over the thoughts is your fundamental savior in all of your circumstances. Proverbs



4:23 “Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.” You are supposed to control your thoughts. Romans 8 also states that if your mind is on God, the desire of the Holy Spirit will open up and the new man will prosper whereas if your mind is on the world, the desire of the flesh will open up and the old man will prosper. The mind is in neutral state. Satan can use it and God can also use it. Stand up in the direction of God, so God can use you. Regardless of how gigantic things happen, train yourself to fall down before God and ask “Lord, what is Your will?”

So far it has been about the defensive weapons but now let me address the sword of the Spirit which is the first offensive weapon. It represents the word of God. The word in Greek is not logos but rhema. This is an important revelation. Why is the word rhema? Ephesian Church was willing to die for the revelation and wisdom. When God gives you the word, it is rhema. It is hearing what is revealed to you. It is not encountering some sort of mountain ghost but rhema is reinterpretation of God’s word. Logos is not an offensive weapon. When you eat the Bible as logos all the time, your knowledge of God’s word will increase, but that word will not have the power to save you. Whenever you open the Bible, you should understand your mission, your wickedness, weakness, and sinfulness, and receive the word as what God is giving to you. This rhema becomes your offensive weapon.

Rhema should be vibrant in a church. Continue to ask the Holy Spirit, long for Him, and tries to listen to His voice and let go of your will and your ways. Do not move when He doesn’t move and don’t try to do anything when He is not doing anything. When you do them, the revelation will come alive in you. The Holy Spirit is a Person who has character; therefore, He will honor you and wait for you. He will move when you rejoice over His work and when you submit to work with Him. When you try to do things on your own, the Holy Spirit will never move.

However, when you submit your will to the Holy Spirit perfectly, you will immediately see His revelation according to “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” The pure in heart means one has already submitted one’s heart to God. All your thoughts should be simplified without any compromise and without any impurity like a pure alloy. Get hold of the sword of the Holy Spirit which is rhema.

I am not sure how many church members can have their own revelation, but it is impossible. A pastor must penetrate now to activate the revelation. That’s when the revelation will be vibrant in the church. The church members live by that revelation. I am not rejecting the Q.T., but if you continue to have Q.T. from your own perspective, you will end up with your own version of gospel. If I train the church members to read the word in their personal level, they will ruin themselves with their own version of gospel. It is true

with the pastors. If you read the Bible from the perspective of a pastor, your soul will be depleted. Please do not read Bible so you can pastor your church. Of course we all do that but at the same time pastors should read from critical level. In order to hear the will of God and the voice of God, your soul must be refreshed. In order to be refreshed, you must have time to eat the word. When pastors preach with the revelation and provide the frame of revelation, the church members have their Q.T. within that.

Prophetic inclination is not speaking about the future. It is speaking about what God desires in that particular circumstance and at that time. That's prophetic inclination! The praise, the word, and the prayer are done through prophetic inclination "what does God want in that time, in that moment, and in that circumstance?" You don't just lead the praise according to the contents you have prepared. If God's inspiration is spiritual warfare, then the praise should carry out the spiritual battle. If God's inspiration is healing prophecy, then the praise should be about healing. When it comes to the word of God, if there is anyone that needs to hear that message, then you preach that message. After the message, the church members would all say, "Pastor preached to me today!" That's what we want to hear. We don't just pray. Ask questions like "What is the Lord moving? What do I specially pray for in terms of what God is moving at the moment? What do I pray for the nation and my people? What is the circumstance of certain church members that the Lord of personal history is touching?" This is the prophetic prayer we want to lift up. Your Christian walk under the influence of such prophetic prayer makes the difference from two dimensional world to three dimensional world.

Finally, Paul speaks in verse 18, "With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints." Your prayer is the weapon. I call this prayer "missile." You want to possess this ballistic missile. So, when you pray for a certain area, your powerful prayer should reduce that area to ashes. It is like looking at the coordinate, telling the gunner "to the left so and so and to the right so and so," and hitting that spot with the artillery even before we make it there. May your prayer become powerful!

In order for the believers to rise up to the authority of heir, their prayer should be powerful. The sound of prayer should loudly echo in the church. It should be so loud in the whole neighborhood that the neighbors can't live there anymore. The younger son of Pastor Kang went to school as the first grader in elementary school and the classmate that sat right next to him, who doesn't go to church, said, "Hey, you go to Yulbang Church? Your church is so noisy. Move your church to other place." May the sound of prayer fill the air!

What is the characteristic of such prayer? Paul says, "Pray at all times in the Spir-

it.” You pray not according to your will, plan or ways but according to the Holy Spirit’s will, plan and ways all the time. When it comes to prayer, you should force yourself to pray. If you can’t pray, use any means necessary to revive the prayer.

I talked about Whitfield before that he had come up with 10 things to do in his daily life. On his list the top 1, 2, and 3 are about prayer. “Have I diligently labored in prayer? Was my prayer powerful? Did I give everything I had? Did I pray according to the time?” This is the top three things on Whitfield’s daily list. In short, when a pastor’s prayer dies out, the church will die out as well. When a pastor’s prayer is alive, the prayers of church members will be alive.

David demonstrated the power of prayer. David simply relied on God alone. It takes a faith that if God doesn’t do it for me; I am just going to die. If not by God, I am dead. You should totally depend on God. I know several pastors who are new to the pastoral ministry. My word of advice is that don’t focus on evangelism. Instead of passing out the church bulletin or advertisement, fall down in prayer first. That’s right! Prayer is more important. If you witness for one hour, pray for 10 hours. If you do, God will send you His chosen people. They are the genuine! God has to do it for you. When He does, He will send the prepared people to your church from all over the world. It is falling down in prayer. Do not let your prayer die. Let it live! Exert all your energy on the prayer.

Let’s make proclamation! Gird up the belt of truth! Put on the breastplate of righteousness! Wear the shoe of gospel of peace! Hold up the shield of faith. Put on the helmet of salvation! Hold the sword of Spirit in your hand! May God empower your prayer! Let this perfect weapon of spiritual warfare penetrate into your church and annihilate your enemy like the iron army that marched into Canaan and annihilated the ten tribes. God has clothed our ministry with His mighty power for the victory. Amen!

