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Blessing Channel

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# Unconditional Love



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01

# Love the Lord Sincerely

Mark 14:1-9

Sungrak Church  
Lord's Day Service  
on January 9, 2022



**"I will give half my possessions to the one who loves me."**

If a rich man declares this, will he really be **sincerely loved**? If someone hears this and chooses to marry him, was their decision based on **sincere love**?

The most important thing for Christians is their **sincere love** for the Lord. **"If you love the Lord, you will receive glory."** **"If you live by faith, you will receive power to overcome the world."** These words are correct, but they are not the essence of the truth. Should you love the Lord to gain some benefit? Should you offer yourself to gain some reward? Can we call this **sincere love**?

When God made mankind, He expected something from them. It was for them to **love God**. But mankind became corrupt, so they lost what was originally expected of them. They should have shown their love for God, even if they offered everything they owned. But mankind first considers **the reward they will receive** when they love God. This is how we behave.

Of course, God also talked about the rewards we will receive when we love Him. Yet this was to motivate and encourage us to love Him instead of set our affections on the world. He was not talking about the essence of the truth. The world is **where the Son of God was killed**. God wants to take us from this sinful place, not help us **defeat the world's competition** by trusting in God.

The world is sick and this sickness is impossible to cure. All mankind became corrupt and we are the same. However, we can at least turn **our hearts so that we restore our love** for God. There is no person who does no evil at all. But we should root out the desire to cause trouble for the church whenever it grows. We should seize this **last chance to love the Lord**.

A few days before the Lord suffered, He stayed at the house of Simon. A woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume. She broke it and poured it on the Lord's head. Judas Iscariot witnessed this and scolded her, yet the Lord said she did it **to prepare for His funeral**. This woman's actions were a **great comfort and encouragement to the Lord**, since He walked on a lonely path to save mankind.

Though this woman sensed that the Lord was going to die, she did not think He would return to life. Nonetheless, she broke the jar in the Lord's presence and showed her gratitude and love. She did not act to be rewarded by the Lord. Though the Lord's death signified His failure - she wanted to **thank the Lord for what she received** and express her sincere love. This may have been the last chance for her to honor the Lord, so **she poured her soul to Him** together with the perfume.

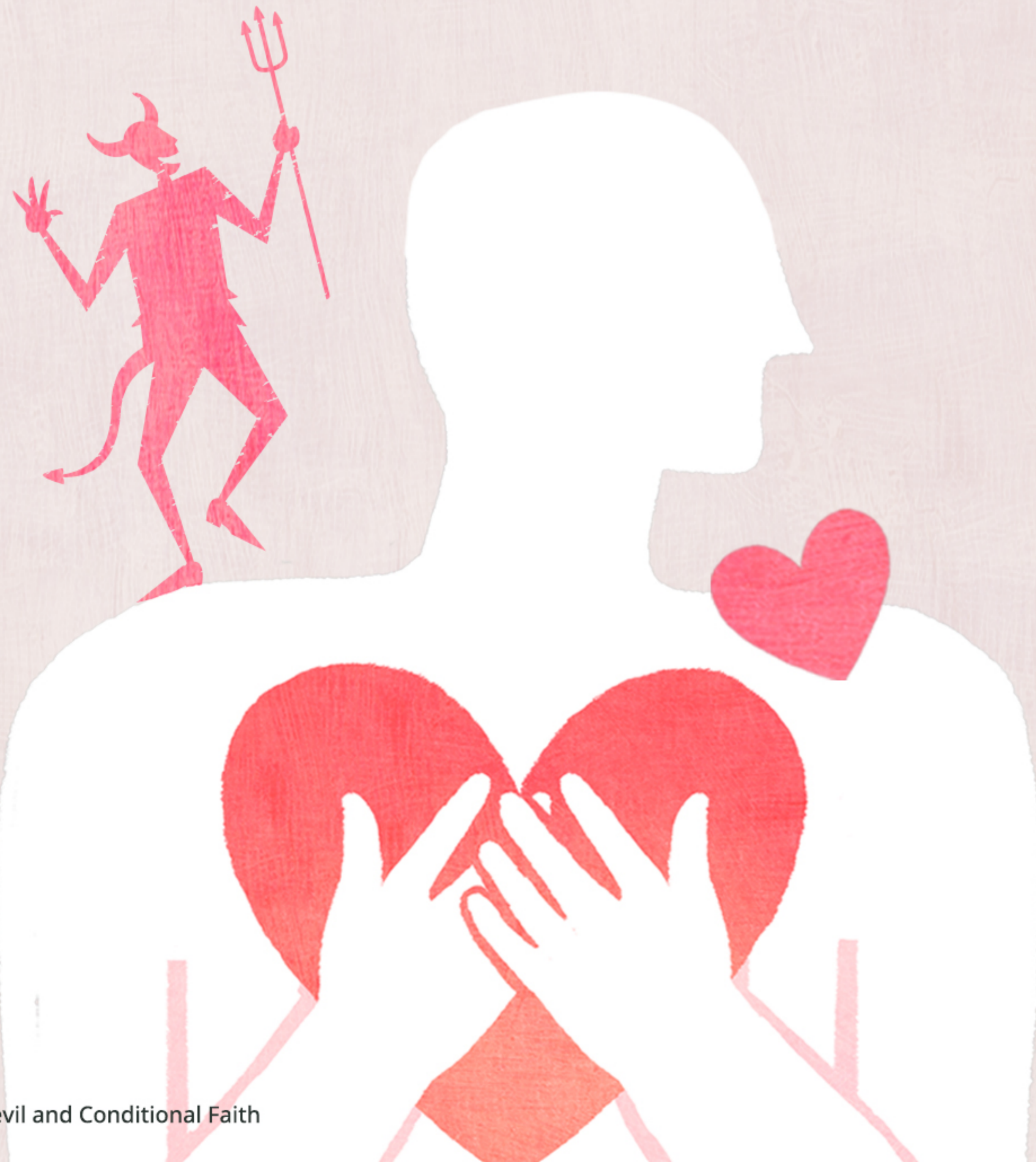
The time we have is our last chance to love God. We cannot suddenly return to how God expected us when He created mankind, but our greatest joy is our ability to love God and worship Him. Like the woman who broke the jar of perfume, let's worship the Lord without fussing about conditions. Let's **love Him sincerely** without

*Sermon by  
Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim*

02

# The Devil and Conditional Faith

in KNOW JESUS AND SUPPRESS DECEIVING SPIRITS  
by Semuon



Satan penetrates into the assembly of God's people and attacks them with different temptations. It is a grave error to think that Satan cannot work within a church. Satan can even bombard a spiritual place of grace where children are standing before God and cause much temptation and confusion.

A person named Job was among the sons of God standing before Him. Satan asserted that Job only feared God because the conditions were right, but if God brought failure to Job and his works, then Job would no longer fear Him. However, God was confident that Job loved Him not because of some conditions. God knew that Job's faith was unconditional. God allowed Satan to strike Job so that Satan would fall into his own trap since He knew that Satan's accusations are unwarranted. Satan destroyed Job's possessions in the blink of an eye.

Not fearing death itself, Job confessed that he would keep his faith before God. No matter how tormenting his wounds were, he would never take his own life. Until the day that God takes his life, he would never abandon his faith before God. With this confession from Job, Satan's accusations were proven to be lies.

Satan roams the face of the earth seeking those who have conditional faith. Since the unbelievers are going to join him in eternal perdition anyways, Satan leaves them alone. However, Satan has vehement jealousy against the saints who have resolute faith; he seeks opportunities to tempt them. Conditional faith gives victory to Satan, but genuine faith condemns him. Satan does not meddle with people who do not have any zeal before God. He can cause the businesses of diligent Christians to come to sudden ruin and bring them unexpected hardships.

During the early years of my spiritual life, I ran a chicken farm and it was very successful. I made much money while I still maintained a fervent spiritual life. The success of my chicken farm came to a sudden halt on the morning of December 23rd. The same people who had envied the success of my farm were looking at me with pity and

their attention was embarrassing me. I just wanted to hide somewhere. However, I acted as if nothing happened the next day and coordinated the Christmas performances at my church as the secretary of the young adult's group. I'm pretty sure that Satan was very disappointed.

When God saw my unconditional faith towards Him, I believe that He made up His mind to make me a great revivalist, and even the overseer of a great church.

Conditional faith becomes a good meal for the Devil to enjoy. We must always remember that the Devil stands in the midst of God's children. The Devil roams the face of the earth seeking his prey and when he finds zealous saints, he destroys their environments trying to show that their faiths are conditional. Conditional faith brings joy to the Devil but disappointment to God.

Religious faiths or mystical faiths are variations of conditional faith. People who just attend the nearest church simply because they need religion in their lives are just religious. People who attend the church because they want to improve their chances of success in life are nothing but mystics. These believers invite the pastor to pray for their businesses to succeed just as how secular people perform Buddhist or Shamanistic rituals. The desire to worship even without true faith is a proof that mysticism has gripped one's heart. People with a mystical faith immediately forget about God once their problems are solved. When their problems are solved, they stop coming to church. Conditional faith is exactly what Satan wants to see. Job 2:3 explains the faith God desires.

Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause."

The faith that God could proudly boast to Satan is one that is genuine, upright, fearing God, and turn away from evil. The one who possesses this unconditional faith can surpass all of the Devil's schemes.

03

# Testimonies of World Berean

Testimony  
from Ian's first meeting  
to attending Berea Academy



2020

Dear Sungrak church,  
I would like to have  
the book LET US KNOW JESUS. How can I buy it?

November 16

I am searching for readings about Jesus in  
Instagram, Facebook and Youtube.  
I've read some writings from Sungrak church in  
Instagram, which is very "unusual" compare to the other  
churches I knew. The teaching to return to the Words so  
much different from all churches I've attended all this time.  
I am catholic since I was in primary school, but not  
real catholic. I went to several Christian churches as well  
but never get interested. I do not have peace of mind.  
They yell for fortune or wealth. When I read yours,  
it touched me deeply. Awesome, praise God.

November 17

2021

I thank you for the opportunity. I overjoyed.  
But I think I'm not qualified to have  
an Online Berea Academy. There's rule for everything.  
I should respect it. Maybe next academy year I will get  
a chance for it. Meanwhile I have a lot to learn  
God's will from the sermon available in IG or FB or Utube.

February 27

Pre-course of Berea Academy is online  
as well? Great. Thank you so much.

March 13

I am grateful that up to now God keep me save and  
healthy. It is worse currently in Indonesia.. not getting  
better yet. We're home lock. Sad to hear friends and  
families died of covid. This pandemic is surely devil's  
work, right? I am so blessed that I have the opportunity  
to know Sungrak church and learn about Jesus.  
This book gave me has lots of knowledge of the bible.  
That I've never have thought before. It opens my  
religious mind and heart. I never know before that I have  
the power and authority given by Jesus. To cast out  
demons, heal sicknesses and preach the gospel.  
How worthless I am, like a trash to be burnt at the end.  
But God's grace saved us, and promised eternal life,  
forgive our sins and even send us the Holy Spirit.  
This is the reason to rejoice and thankful. But we live in  
devil's world, the hades. And they tempted man, deceive  
and kill. And they are so many (deceiving spirit and  
demons) How can we survive? A lot of times we do not  
aware that we are being deceived. Like I thought that it is  
my bad attitude of being. Angry, stressful, hatred.  
How stupid I was. It is their works, to separate us from  
the love of God. That is the reason for praying  
continuously. So I have lots to learn. I feel my life have  
purpose now. Like written in liverpool fc logo: you will  
never walk alone. I have Jesus. I am not alone. I still have  
my questions list. I understand one thing, that we must  
worship in spirit and in truth. It means, we do not use  
our Emotions, worldly knowledge, that is inside our soul.  
With our brain we can never understand the bible  
(only with the Holy Spirit) We worship in spirit where the  
Holy Spirit is to guide us, And in truth, according to  
God's Word, the bible. Thanks for your kindness to help  
me learn the bible. I sincerely pray you're protected  
always with God's love.

July 7, 2021



2022

I really need to be able to evangelize and save souls. So to be chosen for the first resurrection. So I need to learn the Words of God through Berea Academy. However, the fees could not pay in full at once. Thanks for your kind attention and consideration.

February 20

February 28

I'd like to share something about it. I pray a lot for berea academy because I don't think I can pay the fee. On Chinese New year (early Feb) I received some amount of money just enough to pay the fee. Praise God. Thanks to you too.



04

# Add to Your Faith, virtue

Rusted Nail's column.



God is the God of glory. Glory is uniquely God's. It is not easy for us to fathom why God gave His glory to us, sinners. Why God has done, that is something we find difficult to understand no matter how hard we try. It can only be explained that it is out of His virtuous nature that He decided to share His everything, which is good to us.

People generally like to have exclusive possession of things that seem good to them. However, God likes to share the good things He has. He knows so well how ungrateful beings we are, and yet He gladly showed His kindness to us. He treated us with honesty and kindness; He empathized with our suffering; He showed consideration to us; and He served us. And for this, He humbly lowered Himself, exercised self-control, and sacrificed Himself.

By coming to know God who called us through His glory and virtue, we have come to enjoy everything that belongs to His life and godliness. God desires for us to no longer live according to the desires of the flesh but be partakers of His nature.

Our own merits have nothing to do with how we came to possess the glory of God. It was only by faith. And for us who have received this great grace, God expects us to have virtue above all else. He wants us to take after His nature and demonstrate that. In the same way that God did to us, we need to be honest before others, we need to show kindness, know how to empathize with their pain, and be considerate and serve our neighbors. Yet these things cannot come forth naturally. We would have to lower ourselves, exercise self-control, make sacrifices, and be disciplined. Otherwise, the people in the world who are worn down by lies will not open their hearts towards us.

Though we may have virtue, without knowledge, we cannot share the glory of God we possess to others. Hence, we ought to have precise knowledge regarding the truth as well as the spiritual world. We are unlike the people of the world to lead others without having the right knowledge is like the blind leading the blind. On the contrary, regardless of how knowledgeable one may be, without virtue, it is meaningless.

For a person without virtue, having knowledge is the path to arrogance.

If knowledge is unable to restrain one's body and actions, that is not true knowledge. If one knows that the church is the body of Jesus, he ought to serve the church; if he knows that praise is offered to God, he must sing with all his heart; if he knows that tithes belong to God, he ought to give it to God properly. In this way, perseverance is needed in order to continue a life where the word takes control over our bodies and actions. We need to be cautious, however, that perseverance will not lead to self-cultivation that goes on to please oneself. We have to be mindful that we are in God's presence always and never lose godliness.

A pursuit of godliness in our lives should not be demonstrated as indifference and apathy towards the members of the body. True godliness and holiness cannot overlook love and consideration towards the faith community. Love between members is the new commandment Jesus gave as the foundation to the church's survival and growth. Love between members of the church should not become closed and a "league of their own". We need to expand the horizons of brotherly love even to the sinners who do not know God and thus fulfill the will of God who wants to make us a source of blessing.

People who overlook these may self-claim to have faith, but they are the blind who do not understand spiritual mysteries. They will soon forget the fact they were sinners who were doomed to hell. On the other hand, those who practice the above mentioned will never fall, and finally, be more than able to enter the eternal kingdom of Jesus Christ. He who possesses the glory of God must have knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. But virtue must precede first and foremost.

*Pastor Ki-Taek Lee*  
*The Director of Sungrak Mission Center*