

The Church's

Authority and Responsibility



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(Ephesians 1:21-22)

Sermon by
Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim



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Chapter 1.

Christ is the Head **of the Church**

(Ephesians 1:21-22)

Sermon by

Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim



We confess that Jesus is the head of the church. Our such confession is for highly honoring Jesus; however, it may sometimes fall far short of the glory He deserves. This is because many Christians tend to view the church itself as an insignificant part at the edge of the world. If we hold such a small perception of the church, how can we truly grasp the greatness of Jesus, who is the head of the Church? Even if the people of the world disregard the church, it is truly unfortunate that even Christians perceive the church so lowly.

To accurately convey the reality, prior to emphasizing Jesus as the head of the church, we must first clarify that Jesus is the head of all things. The statement that Jesus is the head of all things signifies His sovereignty over all things. Regarding this, Paul said “He put all things under His feet.” This implies heaven, earth, and all beings within them submit to Jesus Christ who has received glory. God gave this exalted One to be head over all things to the church.

How elevated is the One who reigns over all things? This One came to be the head of the church. Is the seemingly unremarkable church outwardly such a great presence? Has the sovereign over all things truly become the head of the Church? Yes, it is true! The church is the glorious presence as much. Jesus is the One to whom all creation should kneel and worship; even the holy angels should submit to Him. It is the church that must be led by Him and represent Him before all creation.

Why has God given the One who is the head of all things to the believers of the church? Are they exceptionally remarkable individuals? Do these individuals far surpass

others? No, that is not the case. Instead, they fully understand that they are sinners above all; thereby they recognize that they cannot survive without the grace of God. This truthful repentance has granted them the opportunity to serve the One who has ascended to the heavenly throne and enabled them to be the representatives of the exalted One who surpasses any principality and power in heaven and earth.

Becoming members of the church as believers signifies that the One who reigns over all things personally governs and leads us. Similarly, as we belong to Him, the most crucial and fundamental problem in our lives has already been solved. Originally, those who were once destined for hell as belonging to the devil have now obtained the eternal inheritance with the Son of God. Accordingly, now what we must do is to take up the responsibility for the work of God. What has been given to us is not an opportunity to gain necessary resources for our worldly lives, but a glorious duty to serve the One who reigns over all things. Since God has called us and appointed us as the representatives of Christ, let us be the church that glorifies God, fully manifesting the nature of God who has granted us such great grace.

Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim

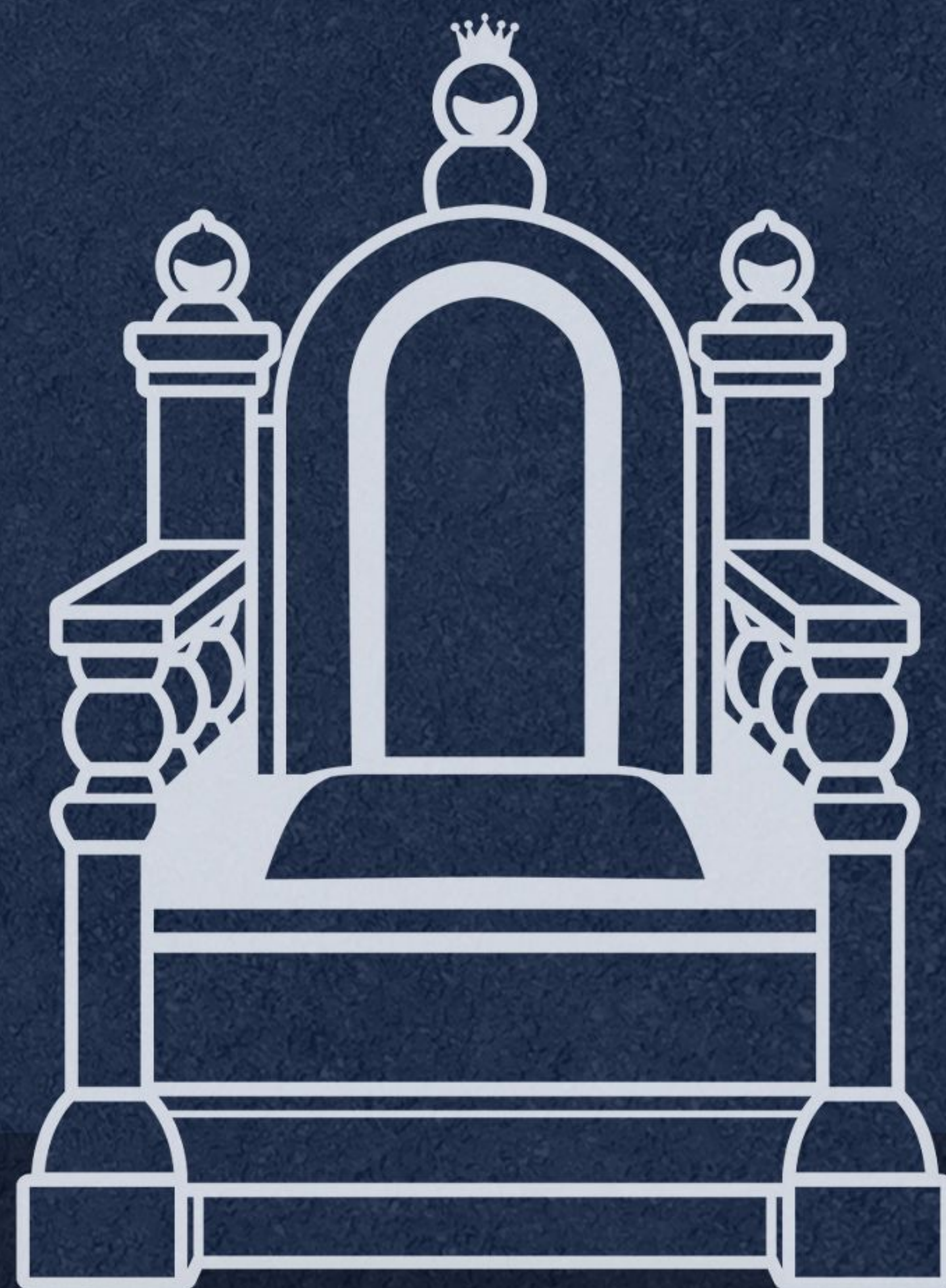
Sungrak Church Lord's Day Service on August 20, 2023

Chapter 2.

The Authority *to Resist the Devil*

(James 4:7)

in “Know Jesus and Suppress Deceiving Spirits”
Chapter 7



James 4:7 exhorts us to resist the Devil. This does not only pertain to the Devil himself but to all of his works. We are to resist all of his agents and strategies. Since Jesus came to destroy the works of the Devil, His command to us is also to resist the Devil. The name Devil is one given to the fallen angel as he acquired a legitimate authority. If the Devil possesses a legitimate authority, the authority to resist him must be legitimate also. Therefore, Christians must first understand the Devil's authority.

Many people deny the existence of the Devil and demons. This denial is the greatest weapon of the Devil against man. People cannot overcome the Devil because they do not know him. It would not be difficult to overcome the Devil if they clearly knew his identity. For example, a thief who is hiding in the village would escape to another place if the villagers discovered that a thief is in their midst. He would be scared of getting caught. In the same way, if the identity of a demon was revealed, it would tremble and leave immediately.

Before Jesus came into the world, demons worked with legal authority. People could not liberate themselves from their tyranny. But because of the works of Jesus, the demons have lost their authority. Now, the demons can only deceive the people. So not being deceived in itself is overcoming the demons. In order to be free from deception, we must know the truth.

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:32)

The angels that fell from Heaven are currently detained in this universe. The universe is like a time bomb; it will detonate and disappear once its purpose has been served. Within this universe, the Devil has the final authority. When he fell from Heaven, he was called Satan. This name belongs to the lawless one who revolted against God. But God allowed Satan to become the Devil. When he became the Devil, his actions within the universe became legal. However, when Jesus was crucified on the cross and resurrected, the Devil was condemned and his legal authority was eradicated.

Jesus came to this world to judge the Devil. Until that judgment, the Devil had oppressed people with his authority. This is why the Bible refers to the Devil as the tempter, murderer, prince of the power of the air, and ruler of the universe. After Jesus came, the works of the Devil became illegal because Jesus dethroned him.

Jesus came to this world not as a commoner but as the King of Heaven. When Jesus came into the world, the Kingdom of Heaven advanced against it also. This is why John the Baptist said, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matt. 3:2)

The Devil now executes illegal actions. Before the advent of Jesus, the Devil's illegal actions were perfectly legal, and he ruled the world through them. Thus, people thought the curses that the Devil performed were a normal part of their lives. Under the administration of the Devil, being raised from the dead was unimaginable. However, resurrection is normal to Christians today. We,

Christians, believe in the promise of resurrection.

No one understood the concept of resurrection until Jesus died and resurrected three days later. In a world ruled by the power of death, resurrection was impossible. However, Jesus advanced into this world with the powerful law and force called life! He came into the world that denied the power of resurrection, with the law that allowed man to live eternally like God.

The cross was where the ruler of the universe and the King of Heaven finally collided. The Devil killed Jesus with his authority. But God raised Jesus from the dead. Death had always prevailed before, but it was different with Christ. The Devil used his supreme power, but it was useless before Jesus. When the Devil opposed Him, Christ did not defend Himself or retaliate; He just quietly accepted the death sentence. However, God raised Jesus from the dead three days later. Through His resurrection, the Devil was judged, deposed, and his power of death became ineffective. The Devil used his best weapon against Jesus, but it was absolutely ineffective against His resurrection.

Jesus ascended into Heaven and sat at the right hand of God. This “right hand” is not an actual location but a place of authority. To sit at the right hand of God means possessing the royal authority of the Kingdom of Heaven. The Bible says that the Holy Spirit was not yet given before Jesus was glorified (John 7:39). The word “glorified” in this verse means to be crowned with royal authority. Consequently, Christians receiving the Holy

Spirit confirms that Jesus has already assumed His position in Heaven, crowned with kingly authority.

In addition, receiving the Holy Spirit means to obtain the official authority from the King who possesses the royal authority of Heaven. For the church that has received the authority of the Kingdom of Heaven, eradicating demons is completely normal. We are ministers dispatched by the King. So we have the authority of God to properly dispose of the condemned Devil.

Even though the Kingdom of God has come, the Devil is still violating the law with his deceptions. He has no right to condemn or accuse anymore. As believers, we have the full authority to stop his illegal activities. The Kingdom of God has already come, so we should no longer acknowledge the authority of the Devil. Though his existence cannot be refuted, the Devil’s authority must be denied.

In the past, the Devil legitimately reigned over the universe, but when the Kingdom of Heaven advanced in, his authority was obliterated. Jesus ascended into Heaven and received the royal authority, and the Holy Spirit descended with His angels into the world with that authority. So the authority that is governing this world is no longer the authority of death but the authority of the Kingdom of God. Christians are the ministers who possess this authority of God’s Kingdom.

Why does God allow people to remain on this depraved earth even after being saved? Why not just take them

directly into God's Kingdom? God sent the Holy Spirit to the saints, giving them the Heavenly authority to cast out demons, heal the sick, and preach the Gospel. In other words, saints are dispatched back into the world as ministers after they are saved. So then, would it be proper for the ministers commissioned by Heaven to fear the Devil or even desire the world?

We have to recognize and acknowledge the official authority we have as Christians. We also have to recognize that the duty to fulfill the ministry commissioned by Jesus is also embedded within this privilege. Christians are ambassadors sent by the Kingdom of God with His official authority. Do not just confess with your lips but use your rightful authority. As saints, you possess this official authority! I pray in Jesus' name that you will operate with this legal authority in the official ministry of God!

in "Know Jesus and Suppress Deceiving Spirits"
Chapter 7 : The Authority to Resist the Devil

Testimonies **of Blessings**

"I Have Found the Courage to Pray for Myself"

"The God Whom I Believe In"

"Even While Reading the Bible"

"The One Who is Originally the Head of All Things"

"The Modern Version of Gnosticism"



I Have Found the Courage to Pray for Myself

I thank God for leading me to the Sungrak Church. Two years ago, I received the Berea books from the Sungrak Church and learned incredible teachings. I came to realize that many of difficulties I faced were related to spiritual hindrances. In the past, whenever I encountered problems, I would seek out individuals who I believed had the ability to lay hands on me. However, after reading 'Know Jesus and Suppress Deceiving Spirits,' I gained the courage to pray on my own.

After reading the book, I experienced nightmares and headaches. However, following the book's guidance on driving out demons, my headaches disappeared. Soon after, I also drove out demons for my child, who used to frequently have nosebleeds, and since then, he hasn't had nosebleeds anymore. These experiences have enabled me to boldly overcome all difficulties through prayer.

Since receiving God's word from the Sungrak Church, I have accumulated many testimonies, making it challenging to put them all into words. Through these experiences, I am learning to live a life relying on God. I believe that everything works together for the good of those who truly love God and dedicate themselves to His will. Thanks to Sungrak Church, I have become a completely different person from my past, and I find great joy in serving God in His good will.

July 6, 2023

Rethabile

from Republic of South Africa

The God Whom I Believe In

I have come to realize that even while confessing my belief in God, I was simultaneously serving other gods and committing sins. However, the one and only God has revealed my true beliefs through Jesus Christ, exposing my sins and guiding me toward righteousness. I am deeply grateful for God's love and mercy.

Meeting Jesus Christ has changed every aspect of my life, and now I feel that I cannot exist a single moment without Him. Life without God lacks meaning. Moving forward, my desire is not to show my own kindness to others, but rather to manifest the presence of Jesus Christ within me and His boundless love.

I desire to share the message of my God with others. I strive to resemble Jesus Christ, and everyone remained healthy. I believe that the Lord protected them. Through this experience, I have been deeply reminded of the emptiness of our lives without God and the fearfulness of living without knowing Him.

I am resolute in my commitment to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ even more fervently, so that people do not continue living without God and without repentance. May all come to believe in Jesus Christ, the true God who is abundant in love, healing and protection. Amen!

July 16, 2023

Ollesha

from Russia

Even While Reading the Bible

In our church, people often ask each other, “Have you prayed recently? Have you read the Bible?” These questions are considered a measure of one’s spiritual engagement and closeness to the Lord.

A few days ago, I discovered my old Bible reading records. As I looked back, I realized, “I used to read the Bible so much,” but simultaneously, I lamented, “Why hasn’t my attitude changed?”

I have absolutely known that the Berea Movement is a movement to return to the Word but it remained more of an abstract concept in my mind. I pondered, ‘What initially drew me to the Berea Word?’ Vaguely, I recalled that prior to that, despite my fervent Bible reading, I couldn’t grasp the true meaning of the Word. It was only after hearing the Senior Overseer’s sermons that I truly came to know Jesus.

Many individuals read the Bible, each interpreting it differently. Some approach it from an economic perspective, others from a psychological viewpoint, and still others through the lens of education. So, what should I realize from the Bible? What have I gained from it? Upon deep reflection, I realize that although I claim to see Jesus in the Bible, I have been merely been observing a static, historical Jesus. What did Jesus say? What did He do? With these interests I read the Bible, but Jesus that I am observing is not related to me.

Thankfully, I recently made a profound discovery through the Word. It has become clear that the accomplishment of God’s will was not solely Jesus’ work; it is also my work because I dwell in Jesus. God’s will is not confined to the story of Jesus but extends to the fulfillment of His word within me, as I am in Jesus.

I am resolved not to approach the Bible from an outsider’s perspective any longer. I wholeheartedly understand that the Bible contains blessed words that pertain to me personally. I am committed to living a life united with Jesus, overcoming the world, and fulfilling God’s will.

June 11, 2023

Sister Lin from China

*Return to the Word,
Return to Jesus!*



The One Who is Originally the Head of All Things

Listening to the Lord's Day sermon(Christ is the Head of the Church), I have come to realize how highly God has exalted us. God has given the church the Lord, who is originally the head of all things. This realization has made me aware of the tremendous glory that we now enjoy from God. The fact that we can possess the honor of God and become representatives of the Lord fills me with gratitude and a sense of responsibility. Furthermore, I have also come to realize that I have been preoccupied with myself, driven by negative thoughts and lacking faith in God, not trusting that He has given me this valuable responsibility. With a humble heart, I desire to be someone who receives and delivers what has been given by God with gratitude and happiness.

Upon hearing that while the world may view the church as a minor social organization, the reality is that the church serves and represents Jesus, who is the head of all things, I feel compelled to stand boldly in the world without losing this faith. I believe we should stand courageously as those who possess the King's authority, rather than being discouraged even in the face of persecution.

I feel that, as an individual, I can hardly grasp the full glory of what God has given. Nevertheless, I am thankful that God has bestowed such grace upon me. I have resolved to live with a heart of gratitude and repentance. Instead of being consumed by negative thoughts and disbelief, I desire to be the one who praises the immense grace God has given to me with gratitude toward Him. Thank you so much!

*August 22, 2023
Sister Shin from South Korea*

The Modern Version of Gnosticism

I listened to the sermon titled "The Lord Resurrected in the Body, and the Disciples Loved Him in Their Bodies" by Overseer.

Apostle John warned against Gnosticism, and upon reflection, I recognize that I exhibited Gnostic tendencies. I pursued spiritual knowledge and considered myself superior to others, often disregarding them. I can now confess that I have indeed displayed traits of a modern-day Gnostic.

Furthermore, I vaguely recall having the mindset that it is not a problem if my body committed sins. This may have been a result of superficially learning the Berea Word.

I have come to realize that the attitude of Gnostic, where someone who has received the Holy Spirit becomes religious, torments their own body, or believes bodily life does not matter due to having received the Holy Spirit, is a serious form of depravity. I have learned that these behaviors align with the characteristics of Gnosticism and are associated with Antichrist.

If it were not for the correction from the Mother Church, I might have continued down the wrong path and become a Gnostic. Jesus sacrificed His body for us and gave us His own flesh and blood. Therefore, I sincerely understand that I should manifest true love for our Lord through my actions in my body, just as His disciples did, without being solely preoccupied with spiritual knowledge. I pledge not to forget that this is the essence of genuine spiritual life.

*June 26, 2023
Pastor Ma from China*

Fulfillment of Words **Recorded in the Bible**

(Luke 1:38-45)

in "Breaking Away from Mysticism in Faith Life" Part 6



“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her. At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

*Blessed is she who has believed that
what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!”*

(Luke 1:38-45)

There is a specific sequence through which humans encounter the works of God. Initially, we must hear the word of God and then go before God with faith. By doing so, we will eventually receive the evidence God gives and then possess His blessings. Primarily, hearing God’s word comes first, and believing follows. Therefore, even though God could work directly, He does not do so. Instead, He first gives His word in situations where it may be difficult to believe, and then He empowers individuals to believe. As a person believes in the word of God, they begin to experience it, and then the subsequent events will follow.

Even when God’s Son came to the world, to Mary, chosen to be the mother of Jesus, God first made her listen to His words and then believed. Despite being in the process of giving birth to a baby, she came to know about the baby’s

identity from the words of the shepherds, and she believed in it. How remarkable! Normally, it is typical for a mother to describe her own child, but Mary heard what the shepherds were saying, “Your child is this and that kind of child.” But then, where did the shepherds get this message from? It was not their personal realization; rather, an angel appeared and conveyed the message to them. They could have chosen not to believe, thinking, “Oh, was that just a dream? If it’s not true, just cut the nonsense!” However, they believed in the angel’s words and hurriedly conveyed this news to Mary. This clearly shows that no human can surpass this process of faith.

The essence of faith lies in believing in situations that seem unbelievable, rather than just accepting the obvious. If it is visible, would the concept of believing necessary? Faith is believing in things that remain unseen; for instance, we have not seen Jesus’ resurrection with our own eyes, but we believe in it, and that is what makes us blessed.

When Jesus’ disciples only heard the news of Jesus’ resurrection and believed it even though they did not see it. However, there was a disciple who attempted to believe only after seeing it, and then Jesus said, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Of course, believing after seeing is still commendable. Nevertheless, those who believe without seeing are even more blessed, so God anticipates all to have this faith.

God does not require us to believe after everything is perfectly prepared and organized. Instead, even in

situations that remain unchanged, God gives us His word and expects us to have faith. This is why it takes time. It requires the passage of time, along with patience, and also encountering persecution. However, when we endure until the end, God will acknowledge us and say, “You truly have faith.”

Nonetheless, the timeframe for acknowledgment of God might surpass the expectations of humans. Some people might become disheartened after only four days of effort and say, “It’s not working,” However, in the Old Testament era, God often required people to wait about 40 years. For instance, after making a covenant with Abraham, God finally acknowledged Abraham’s faith forty years later, saying, “Now I know that you fear God.” Similarly, God allowed Moses to endure hardships for 40 years before calling him and entrusting him with God’s ministry. There are many instances like this. The Israelites wandered for 40 years before finally reaching the land of Canaan. This prolonged duration is due to God’s demand for our faith to reach a level where He can declare, “Now, you are ready.” It is evident that faith requires endurance. However, our faith is not believing blindly; rather, it is believing in God’s word after first receiving God’s words. Then, where do these words originate? They are not insights we independently discover or notions that spontaneously arise; fundamentally, they are words recorded in the Bible. This forms the core of our belief, which never goes beyond the words recorded in the Bible.

Every aspect is being fulfilled according to the words

recorded in the Bible. As the angel departed after Mary answered, “I am the Lord’s servant, may your word to me be fulfilled,” we must acknowledge that we are servants before the Word. This is not about achieving salvation but rather being used by the Lord. Since we are already saved, we must become servants before the Word, who can say, “I am the Lord’s servant. Let Your command come to me.” When we encounter an undesirable task, the decision of whether to take it on or not lies in our hands. Yet, it is essential to make choices that lead to better outcomes. Even if you do not desire it, obeying with faith that God’s word will come true can lead to the best results. While persecution may come along, eventually, God will give you the greatest blessings. Undoubtedly, it would not be easy due to the many obstacles you may face. However, when you truly believe that the Lord Jesus has prepared a reward for you in heaven, then you will be able to obey it. So, the crux of the matter revolves around whether we believe in this or not. When the persecution impends, our decision hinges on belief in the reward promised by the Lord—whether we opt to remain faithful to the Lord or deny Him.

Upon hearing the news, Mary hurried over to Elizabeth’s house. The angel’s proclamation that she would bear a child proved to be quite a challenge for Mary to believe, considering her status as a virgin. However, the angel assured her by offering evidence, saying, “Your relative Elizabeth is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. I only let you know about this. She is not telling

anyone yet, but she's pregnant." Mary might have pondered, "How can this be? Can she truly be pregnant at her age?" Nevertheless, the angel assured her, "This is what God's doing. For no word from God will ever fail." Although this situation was unusual, did not something similar happen to Elizabeth?

Thus, Mary could have quickly confirmed the veracity of the message she received by confirming Elizabeth's pregnancy. With this in mind, Mary hastened to Elizabeth's house. While on her way, she might have contemplated, "If I ask her, 'Are you pregnant?' Elizabeth will be surprised because she hasn't told anyone."

Yet, the moment Mary arrived, Elizabeth spoke first. What were her words? "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is your womb." She already knew of Mary's pregnancy even before Mary even spoke. Moreover, Elizabeth exclaimed, "How is it that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" Mary was surprised by Elizabeth referring to her child as "the Lord." It's truly remarkable! Elizabeth continued to express her joy and said, "As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy." She explained that her baby responded with joy in the presence of the Lord. And then she added, "Blessed is she who has believed."

Elizabeth clearly recognized the significance of the child. She declared, "The Lord would fulfill His promises to her!" She already knew all the things that the angel had said to Mary. And she continued, "Blessed is she, for the

word of the Lord has fulfilled her." The two women were filled with joy and together praised the Lord.

As the time approached for both women to give birth, they each delivered sons. These two children, the one became the end of the Law, the other became the beginning of the Gospel. When these two women came together and shared their happiness, it symbolized the convergence of the Law and the Gospel, as they held hands in joy while recognizing each other's value. The Law, upon seeing Jesus, was overjoyed and exclaimed, "Wow, the awaited Lord is finally here!" And the Gospel, Jesus Christ rejoiced as the work of the Law came to fruition. Thus, the two finally became one. Elizabeth can be likened to the people of Israel, as she bore the Law. Meanwhile, Mary can be seen as a representation of the human spirit. Human spirit. This scene of the two pregnant women holding hands and joyfully dancing was spectacular.

All the promises made by God in the past have been fulfilled as it is. Like this, our faith rests upon what God first gives His word to us and then works on us to make it come true. Therefore, genuine faith is not about blindly following mere inspiration without any prophecies of the past. Rather, our faith is obeying and fulfilling the words recorded in the Bible. This is where true blessings lie. Just as Elizabeth recognized Mary as blessed because of the presence of God's word within her, we also can be blessed when God's word fulfills within us.

Then, when did this word begin to appear? It is the Word

from the eternity past. And God planted this word in Abraham, promised him a blessing, and then the blessing has finally come. That is to say, the blessing of Abraham has extended to the Gentiles through Jesus. It is to bear many fruits through Jesus. What is the root of this tree? Its root goes back to Abraham.

Imagine placing a bouquet of flowers into a vase; it is very beautiful and visually pleasing. But it has no roots, so it cannot bear fruit. Although it is beautiful itself, it cannot bear fruit or attract bees. Similarly, there are some people who claim to believe in Jesus but lack a true comprehension of what it means to have faith in Jesus. They do not know about the Law or Abraham. Without this understanding, their faith might be founded on their own ideas or convictions, not centered around Jesus that God commands us to believe in. Consequently, they will fail to bear fruit due to lack of direction.

It is just like placing a single dot. To establish a clear direction and form a straight line, at least two dots are needed. If we do not know where the root is, even if we believe in Jesus and have received the Holy Spirit, we will not know the direction we should take. This can lead to mysticism. The starting point is surely from Abraham. Abraham and then come to Jesus. A midpoint between Abraham and Jesus would be David. Once these three points are connected to form a straight line, we can see the direction clearly. It indicates the path ahead.

Yet, people without roots cannot see the path ahead, so they repeatedly ask God, “God, which is the way I should

go? What is Your will for me?” While these people might seem very spiritual and have a close relationship with God, in reality, they are not truly close to God. Instead, they act according to their own desires and wills.

Essentially, this represents anthropocentrism, which can easily grow in this kind of soil where actions are driven by personal desires. These people could stir up divisions and conflicts within the church. Can anthropocentrism and theocentrism be mixed with each other? Absolutely not. Ultimately, the root of all these issues lies in this question: Do you listen to the words of God recorded in the Bible, or do you pick and choose words based on your own emotions? I am not disregarding personal experiences inspired by God’s words. When the foundation of faith is solid, these hold significance. However, if that foundation is lacking, spiritual experiences could veer into mysticism and go beyond the Bible.

Even Jesus never went beyond the words recorded in the Bible!

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (John 19:28-30)

Even the reason behind Jesus saying, “I am thirsty,” was because it was recorded in the prophetic books. He intentionally sought out this sentence within the prophetic books, kept it in His mind, and then deliberately said it. This demonstrates how proactively Jesus fulfilled the words. His approach was very aggressive, as He proclaimed, “I will obey when the Lord says!” His purpose was to fulfill the words in the Bible. With the attitude of actively fulfilling the words, He meticulously fulfilled everything that had been foretold about Him. Therefore, He said, “I am thirsty!” to fulfill the words inscribed in the Bible. Even though He could have chosen to omit this sentence due to the potential embarrassment, He chose to do so in order to fulfill the words in the Bible. Despite being the Son of God, He did not dismiss the words of the prophets or the words spoken through human voices. He did not claim, “Oh, God told me directly.” Instead, He intentionally fulfilled everything recorded in the prophetic books through the spoken words of people, ensuring the fulfillment of God’s words. In this way, Jesus showed us an exemplary model of faith.

And now that we are united with Jesus, what is God’s expectation of us? His anticipation is for us to engage with and fulfill these words. God desires us to fulfill all the words in the Bible within Jesus Christ. Thus, there is no need to inquire, “Is this God’s will or not?” We are now endowed with a clear understanding of God’s will. The primary reason we cannot fulfill God’s word lies in the limitations of our human ability and our insatiable desires. Nonetheless, God desires that we give our

utmost effort to obey His words and accomplish as much as we can. Therefore, we must pray to seek more of God’s help.

Now, God commands us to fulfill His word! This implies that He has entrusted us with significant authority. He does not merely treat us as mere servants. Therefore, we should discard all the negative, passive, and mystical beliefs from the past and positively fulfill the words of the Bible together.

Because we are within Jesus, we can see a clear picture of where everything in the Old Testament and New Testament stands in Jesus. Thus, now, every word recorded in the Bible must be fulfilled in our lives. Let us pray that God please help us to respond to the words recorded in the Bible and to fulfill them actively.

Pastor Ki-Taek Lee
The Director of Sungrak Mission Center