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*The Church  
United by  
the Holy Spirit*

Berean Webzine Blessing Channel #30



# *The Church United* by the Holy Spirit

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# The Church United

## by the Holy Spirit

1

*Humility:*  
The Sign of Those  
Who Have  
Redemption

(Ephesians 4:2)



*“with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love” (Ephesians 4:2)*

**“Arrogance?”** I do have my shortcomings, but they’re not as bad as you say. I am a quite humble person.”

Is that truly the case? Because the word “arrogance” has a nasty shape, most individuals believe they are unrelated to it. However, arrogance exerts a strong influence on nearly every aspect of human life, almost instinctively. It can sometimes hide within us in forms such as pride, self-satisfaction, and self-esteem. ‘How can I showcase myself?’ ‘How can I belittle others?’ These thoughts are not exclusive to certain individuals.

However, for this very reason, we must not neglect the arrogance within us. This is because arrogance is fundamentally incompatible with the Gospel. The Gospel requires humility. “He will save the humble, while those lacking in humility will be left to perish in their sins,” this is the proclamation of the Gospel. Even though someone accepts the Gospel, if they lack humility, their life journey as a Christian will not progress, for spirits without humility cannot receive God’s guidance. This is precisely what the devil desires. The easiest way for the devil to prevent our fellowship with God is to cultivate arrogance within us.

The source of arrogance is the devil. The devil fell into arrogance because he forgot his presence before God. In other words, humility stems from God-awareness. The more one is aware of God, the more they will realize that their own power, honor, experiences, or achievements amount to nothing. God is righteous, merciful, holy, and glorious; thus, those who are aware of such a God will recognize how unrighteous, arrogant, filthy, and foolish

they themselves are. This story is not exclusive to those outside the faith. Even if we repent and enter into Christ, the sinful nature within us does not disappear. Therefore, we must not lose the repentant heart until the day we meet the Lord.

Jesus Christ saved us with humility. He is equal to God, but He did not take it for granted; He lowered Himself and came to earth. On earth, He revealed Himself not as the status who enjoys authority and wealth, but as the status to be despised, with a weak appearance such that people could kill Him if they set their minds. It was because of His humility that the redemption for us could be fulfilled. However, if we who have received such grace now regard humility as worthless, what would be the state of the Lord's heart?

Just as the Lord's humility saved us, so too will our humility save others. In the coming days, all creatures will be united in Christ, but before this, the church should realize this on earth first. For this, the most important thing is humility. Originally, we lacked humility. Therefore, for humility, let us train ourselves every day. Let us not give up but persevere in training to restrain arrogance. Let us strive to preach and uphold the Gospel. "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." This is the essence of the Gospel.

*Sermon by **Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim**  
Lord's Day Service on February 18, 2024*

*With  
All Lowliness*

2

Christians  
Who Should Be  
*Meek and Meek*

(Ephesians 4:2)

*“with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love” (Ephesians 4:2)*

**Abraham** was a gentle person. After leaving his hometown, one day he came to realize that he could no longer stay with his nephew Lot. To avoid conflict, he approached Lot, saying, “Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen; for we are brethren. Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left.” Consequently, Lot chose the land with sufficient water. Abraham, however, did not claim, “I am the chosen one to fulfill God’s will and should therefore choose the good land first.” He believed that God, who is mighty and righteous, was looking at everything.

A gentle person treats others with warmth and kindness. In doing so, they often have to waive their own rights. Saying “I want to be gentle but I will defend my own rights” is contradictory. A gentle person has the personality to avoid conflict with others. Even when attacked, they are not prepared to retaliate aggressively. Therefore, they often suffer losses in various situations. They make this choice consciously, with willingness and self-control, not out of incompetence.

The reason a gentle person can consistently show a warm and soft attitude is due to their possession of a kind and obedient heart, that is, a meek inner nature. Without meekness, maintaining a gentle appearance is unsustainable in the long run. Therefore, beyond merely performing acts of gentleness, we must strive to integrate meekness into our inner nature. Of course, this change cannot happen overnight. However, rejecting change by saying “I am naturally rough” is completely different from being aware of



the value of meekness and striving for it.

A meek person can be perceived as timid and shy. However, this is not the case. Moses was such a warm and meek person that he was regarded as meeker than any other man on the face of the earth, demonstrating warmth and meekness. For this reason, the Israelites might have taken him for granted and ignored him. However, he powerfully fulfilled God's work. He tolerated personal attacks, but he firmly took a stand against any insult and contamination of God's name and His holy work.

God desires for us to become meek people. In the world, meekness is often overlooked. However, if we belong to heaven, we should rightly be meek. Meekness serves as a safeguard against the corruption of spirits freed from sin. For the church to be fully preserved, the meekness of its saints is necessary. Meekness is also vital for preaching the Gospel. In some respects, preaching the Gospel is conveying God's gentleness and meekness. To fulfill God's will, let the entire church be united. Let us become gentle and meek Christians.

*Sermon by **Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim**  
Lord's Day Service on February 25, 2024*

and  
Gentleness

3

## The Share of *Longsuffering* Given to Believers

(Ephesians 4:2)

*“with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love” (Ephesians 4:2)*

**Longsuffering!** This is a responsibility entrusted to us by God from the moment we become Christians. Longsuffering is also an essential element in accomplishing God’s work of redemption. In the world, it’s taken for granted to immediately retaliate when personal interests are invaded, rather than to endure. Of course, patience is also emphasized in the world, but strictly speaking, it’s merely a strategic choice to maximize personal interests. The unconditional patience required of Christians has no place in the world. Yet, Christians cannot adopt the goals and methods of worldly lifestyles. This is because Christians and worldly people have different reasons and purposes for their existence.

The terms ‘longsuffering’ and ‘patience’ used in the New Testament have similar meanings, yet they differ. “Patience” refers to enduring adverse conditions, while “longsuffering” specifically means forbearing the evil deeds and faults of others without immediate retaliation. We have experienced such longsuffering from God. Our salvation in Christ, rather than perishing in sin, was made possible because of God’s longsuffering. God has entrusted the burden of longsuffering to those He chose and used, just as with the prophets in the Old Testament and the apostles of the early church. And now, He desires that we who are in Christ also bear this burden together.

A certain man owed a great debt to the King but was unable to pay it. Accordingly, the King commanded that the man, along with his wife, children, and all his possessions be sold to repay the debt. The debtor pleaded, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.” Moved by compassion, the King



forgave the entire debt. However, this man, upon his release, found a fellow servant who owed him a small amount and, refusing to show the same patience, had him imprisoned. When the King knew this, he summoned him, saying, “Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?” Yes, this is true. The longsuffering of God made us alive; thus, we, too, must practice longsuffering towards others.

If we can extend longsuffering towards someone’s imperfections, our efforts should not stop there; we should also be able to bear them in love. To forbear means to cover other’s faults, not to justify wrong actions, but to prevent their sins from becoming more widely known than necessary, thereby giving them an opportunity for repentance without discouragement. Of course, such effort must not be misused within the church. While we should be patient with those who have the will to repent and change, we must prevent the spread of leaven throughout the whole loaf by clearly warning and reproaching those who intentionally commit evil acts and harm the church.

When a saint practices longsuffering and forbearance in love, it signifies an acknowledgment that they were saved by God’s longsuffering, as reflected in their behavior. We yearn for and can practice this life because God has loved us, and because He is cultivating His unique love within us. Just as God has loved us unconditionally, let us love the Lord’s people without any reason. As God waits for our repentance and return with longsuffering, let us fulfill the work of God with longsuffering.

Sermon by **Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim**  
*Lord’s Day Service on March 3, 2024*

With  
Longsuffering

4

## Endeavor to *Preserve the Unity* of the Spirit in Peace

(Ephesians 4:3)

*“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:3)*

**“Endeavor to keep** the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” “Pastor, I understand. However, I’ll do it later. I have my own life to deal with, and overcoming the challenges I face is not easy.” “That is unacceptable. Make haste to preserve the unity of the Spirit. Do not merely show concern momentarily and then stop; continue to passionately dedicate yourself to keeping it.” Yes, this is true. To keep the unity of the Spirit, or, in other words, to keep the unity of the church is not a task to be done only when one has spare time. It is a priority responsibility for all the saints who were saved, and it also serves as the way in which each saint protects their spirit.

The unity of the church is not man-made. The Holy Spirit has already granted it to us. The very existence of the church is impossible without the unity of the Holy Spirit. This oneness is on a completely different level from the unity the world speaks of. As evidenced by Jesus’ prayer in Gethsemane, “You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us,” the oneness that the church experiences originally existed between God and His Son.

How does the Holy Spirit unify the church? It does so by binding saints with the bond of peace. The antithesis of peace is sin. In the Old Testament, war was often highlighted as the opposite concept to peace, but fundamentally, war originates from sin. In a spiritual perspective, the opposite of peace is sin. Because of sin, discord arose between God and humans, and conflicts arose among humans. Particularly, Jews and Gentiles could never be irreconcilable, yet through the merits of the cross, a new humanity emerged – neither Jew nor Gentile.



These individuals have been reconciled with God and no longer have a need to engage in conflict with others.

Since they have found not only the meaning of life through the Gospel but also received the promise of an eternal future, they are at peace. They can endure any hardships and trials with joy, restrain their freshly desires according to altruistic motives, and tolerate others while remembering grace they have received. Thus, instead of division, unity governs their lives. However, within the church, there are those who exploit selfishness. The Peace that should govern the church is broken by them, and cracks of division appear everywhere. Those who have been redeemed and given a new life should follow the way of new life, however, they entrust themselves into the worldly way that they are accustomed to. Most concerning of all is these elements of disbelief can contaminate others, leading to more frequent conflicts and struggles as their numbers increase.

Divisions will only deepen if the church fails to present and train the way of life the Lord commands, and souls tainted by discord will be unable to fulfill the responsibilities bestowed by heaven. As those truly called, we must make peace to maintain and manifest the church's unity. This requires humility, meekness, longsuffering, and tolerance for one another in love. By doing so, peace can be preserved, and the church can stand united, not only overcoming the power of sin but also preparing for heaven. Therefore, let us diligently preserve the unity of the Spirit. If even the slightest seed of division stirs within our hearts, let us not ignore it but quickly eliminate it.

Sermon by **Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim**

*Lord's Day Service on March 10, 2024*

Make  
Every Effort  
to Keep the Unity

# The Changes

## Manifested in Individuals Who Have Received the Holy Spirit

*from Chapter 10  
of 'Let Us Know the Holy Spirit'*

**What** happens to those who have received the Holy Spirit? First, they have fellowship with God. As stated in 2 Corinthians 13:14, “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.” Those who have received the Holy Spirit definitely have a sincere communion with God. Also, they have an automatic and natural fellowship of love with brothers and sisters in the church.

Second, they have the seal of approval and ownership by the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:13 declares, “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,” and Ephesians 4:30 further says, “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” Additionally, 2 Corinthians 1:22 states, “Who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”

Third, the Holy Spirit testifies from within that we are children of God. Romans 8:16 says, “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”

Fourth, they bear the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23 says, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

Without the help of the indwelling Holy Spirit, Christians cannot possess these fruit. These characteristics do not come through much discipline and hard work. They might sound similar but the world does not and cannot have these fruit. Only those who are filled with the Holy Spirit can have this internal transformation.

Fruit do not appear until the branches grow out. Likewise, no one can truly love without the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” No one can accomplish this command without the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.” The joy that Jesus hoped to be in us is possible only by the Holy Spirit.

A person who was with me passed away in Sadang-dong, Korea in the earlier days of my church. When I sent information to the bereaved family that their member passed away, they did not want to make any funeral arrangements. In those days, transportation, communication and even funeral arrangements were costly and difficult. I wanted to win the surviving family members to the Lord. So I carried the body from out of town and walked over 30 miles to Shingil-dong. I wanted to use transportation, but no driver wanted to load a dead body into his car, so I just walked. Along the way, brown liquid kept dripping from the corpse’s mouth onto me. Also, the body was very heavy, so I had to take some breaks along the way.

In the middle of the journey, I passed a ditch. Because the road was very slippery, I fell to the ground together with the body and then corpse’s head hit the back of my head. The pain was so unbearable that I was dizzy for a while and the pain later lasted for two days. When I arrived at Shingil-dong, I went to the daughter of the deceased. Her husband blocked the door and accused me of using their home as a mortuary. I had no other option, so I brought the body to the son. He came out and said, “You know my wife and her temper.” In the end, I had to carry the body back to the church office and take care of the funeral arrangements.

I did all this with joy because at the end, I wanted to perhaps gain one more soul to Christ. Yet, this joy was not my own but of the Holy Spirit.

There was another occasion when a relative of a believer died of lung cancer and I was asked to prepare the body for burial. At the time, no one in his family was yet a believer. (This was during the 1960s when Korea did not have proper funeral arrangements. The poor families would just prepare their own burials.) When I was preparing the body, blood squirted out of the mouth and hit my face. Without causing a scene, I just wiped off the blood and continued to prepare the body. I could have reacted in disgust and anger but I wanted to show respect to the family of the deceased. I was hoping to gain them to the Lord. The family members saw this and later became Christians. One participant from another church was also there. He was greatly touched and decided to help us. He later joined our church and brought 153 new souls to the Lord in one year! No matter how much we want new believers to come to our church, we cannot do this by our strength. This was possible because of the Holy Spirit. With my normal mind and strength, I could not have done any of these things. The Holy Spirit operates true love in us.

Christians who have the indwelling Holy Spirit will bear the fruit of peace. Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” Without the Holy Spirit’s help, people cannot make peace. Some people saw the sick being healed in our church and said, “Healing is not everything. You must also bear fruit of the Spirit. It is nothing if there is no love, joy, and peace.” If they actually said these words to sincerely edify the church, then we would have definitely received them in our hearts. However, they act so divisively in the church that it is difficult for

anyone to be edified. Love, joy, and peace operate only when the Holy Spirit indwells believers.

Christians who have the indwelling Holy Spirit will bear the fruit of patience. Jesus said, “By your patience possess your souls!” and said, “But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” Who can enable us to stand firm to the end? Only the Holy Spirit can help us to be patient to the very end.

Christians who have the indwelling Holy Spirit will bear the fruit of kindness. God said that He desires mercy and not sacrifice. It is the Holy Spirit who enables us to possess the kindness and mercy that God desires.

Christians who have the indwelling Holy Spirit will bear the fruit of goodness. Romans 2:7 says, “Eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality,” John 5:29 says, “Those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation,” and Matthew 12:35 says, “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.”

Christians who have the indwelling Holy Spirit will bear the fruit of faithfulness. There are many duties in the church. Some people quietly do their duties, whether or not others pay attention to them. On the other hand, there are others who stop working because no one notices them. They will still grumble even though the pastor recognizes their work. Those who have received the Holy Spirit will faithfully carry out their duties, even if no one acknowledges them.

Christians who have the indwelling Holy Spirit will bear the fruit of gentleness. Jesus said, “Blessed are the meek,

for they shall inherit the earth.” Also, Galatians 6:1 says, “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.” Only the Holy Spirit can perfect gentleness in us.

Christians who have the indwelling Holy Spirit will bear the fruit of self-control. Whether it is the duty of an overseer or a deacon, a man must have self-control if he wants to serve in the church. 1 Corinthians 9:25 says, “Everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.”

*from Chapter 10 of  
'Let Us Know the Holy Spirit'  
Written by Ki-Dong Kim*



## Testimonies of Blessings

from Uganda, Russia,  
Colombia, Ghana, ...



## “The Way Was Not Visible”

For many times before I asked myself what I was doing on earth, why God was still keeping me alive and what my purpose was in life. Life felt like everyone else except me knew the way to go, and most times I was confused. “It would be painful to die,” I thought but it was more painful to live. How long will I keep on living, until when?

I kept asking myself when life never seemed to hold any purpose for me. I kept seeking my identity and the position in life I should be in but I never seemed to fit in anywhere. I felt I was alone in this world with no one else like me that I could ask how they felt with a similar life like mine.

But now I realize that I wasn't alone, many people faced the same troubles I had behind fake smiles. Through the word I have found a way and I don't have to hold my smile any longer because I found joy beyond what anything could provide and now, I don't need any other reason to be happy when I find the answers I've been looking for so long and couldn't find them anywhere else but in the books that were delivered to me. This has greatly changed my life and I don't even know how to explain it.

# *"The Way Was Not Visible"*

I was suffering because of ignorance. I didn't know. But after I knew, my life was never the same as it used to be. And for that wonderful experience, I can't resist sharing what transformed my life. I don't have to die in silence anymore or live every day pretending everything was fine when actually deep within, nothing was fine at all.

I thank the lord for this message and for letting it happen. I can now explore God's love for me with confidence, hope, courage, and strength, something I never used to have. Of all the books I had ever read since I was a child, it was that one book that changed my life. Sometimes I look back at that moment and I'm filled with laughter and wonder. How grand God's plan is!

Ever since then, my attention has been diverted to Christ as I learn each day and grow in faith. I feel like a child, no longer like a stranger for I know I'm receiving God's love all the time. My perspective was changed everything about me was changed, even my mind has never been the same. I had never thought that words written on paper would ever change my physical reality. I'm still amazed. I even sleep comfortably.

Through this sermon, I have learned the responsibility of a priest. I'm one of those people who think that a priest is someone who leads the church services. That's what we're taught from childhood. Knowing that everyone led by the Holy Spirit is a priest has made me even long so much to receive the Holy Spirit. Part of my efforts was to befriend the priest at church and I worked physically towards it. I once thought it would bring me closer to God and make me known before God, but many times I was disappointed and frustrated when it didn't happen as I thought it had to be.

But now I know I can become one through the Holy Spirit. I'm imagining how wonderful it would be to heal the sick, forgive sins, and even perform wonders and signs like Christ did. A life free from wrong choices, full of guidance and power!

*Sister Caroline*  
*from Uganda*  
*March 5, 2024*

# “Now, *the Only Thing I Desire*”

I listened to the overseer's sermon, 'Christians Who Will Be Filled with the Fullness of God.' Ah, so that's why the Holy Spirit came! To enable us to do God's work! The Holy Spirit not only empowered me but also desires that I be filled with God's love.

For this, I too want to empty myself and remove sin so that Christ can work comfortably within me. I want to be filled with God's fullness. The One who was filled with God's fullness was Jesus Christ. Now that I have become a part of His body, I realized through this sermon that I too must be filled with God's love. I want to resemble God's Son and come to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

I've also learned that there are necessary steps to achieve this: my inner person must become strong so that Christ can dwell in me comfortably, I must be rooted in love, and only when I come to understand and know this love can I truly be filled with God.

I am grateful to the overseer for guiding the direction of my life and teaching me how to walk this path. I truly desire to become like Christ, filled with God. Until now, I lived for myself and failed to fully welcome God into my life. I trusted people more than God. I repent for not obeying God.

I am thankful for the overseer's guidance and patience.

*Sister Tatiana*

from **Russia**

February 2, 2024

# “I Have Taken on *Responsibility*”

Upon hearing the sermon on ‘longsuffering,’ I’ve come to realize how I’ve neglected my responsibilities. At the beginning of his series on Ephesians, our overseer explained that the church is a mystery hidden from the beginning of time by God. This made me think, ‘Ah, the church holds such a high position. As a member of the church, how great is the glory I possess.’ My heart was filled with joy and overwhelming emotion. Although I thought about the need to worthy change of this glory, it seemed there was no great burden on my heart.

However, as the overseer spoke in Ephesians 4, my heart began to feel heavy and burdened. Humility, gentleness, longsuffering... Initially, the absence of these qualities in me was distressing and guilty. But then, the overseer said, ‘The responsibility of longsuffering is shared among all the saints,’ leading me to realize that my true anguish and repentance should be for having neglected the responsibility that comes with the grace I’ve received.

What God has given us is beyond my imagination, a God’s life that I could not acquire no matter how much I desired it. God made sacrifices and fulfilled His responsibilities to give us this life. I received this life without paying any price. God bestowed such immense

grace upon me, not asking for anything impossible in return but simply a sincere heart and will to respond to this grace. I am deeply ashamed and sorry for feeling burdened even by this.

Frequently and casually speaking of grace, I began to take it for granted, gradually becoming ungrateful. I neglected the responsibilities that come with receiving grace, always looking to receive more from God. Now, I must consciously strive to overcome this selfish sinful nature. I intend to deepen my understanding and appreciation of what God has already given and to bear witness to it. Remembering the patience the Lord has shown me, I will also try not to judge others by mere human emotions but to patiently await their change.

*Brother Lee*  
**Sungrak Church**  
March 8, 2024

# “The Seat of *the Scornful*”

The words from the Bible come to mind, saying that the blessed do not sit in the seat of the scornful. My insincerity stems from pride, leading me to dominate others from above, proclaiming, "I am the best," and taking the highest seat. This belief that I must be superior to others results in constant comparison, refusal to acknowledge those I perceive as better, and belittlement of those I see as inferior.

Even in my ministry, I've acted to prove my superiority rather than out of genuine heart and dedication, realizing it was just a means to elevate myself based on my standards.

Blindly following what others do to satisfy my vanity, without understanding the evil in it or refusing to acknowledge and be jealous of praiseworthy behaviors that I should learn and strive for, seems like I've sat in the seat of the arrogant without truly making an effort to change but merely imitating the appearance.

I've come to realize how deeply my pride has hindered my growth and obstructed my ministry. God has said He will destroy pride, which is of the devil's nature, and the Lord said that the humble will enter the kingdom of heaven, commanding, "Be humble as I am humble."

Though I've suffered due to my pride, I thought it could

just be ignored because it is the nature of sinners and I resisted change. Not sitting in the seat of the scornful but continually offering my heart to the Lord in truth and following His guidance step by step is the more perfect way to fight against pride requires a struggle to the point of shedding blood.

Though my emotions may not always align, I am determined to despise pride and practice humility, valuing others above myself, and work sincerely. I've felt ashamed for pitying my family, who doesn't understand me, thinking, "I am doing something valuable, and you are living a life of failure."

I repent for treating the souls entrusted to me by the Lord lightly, judging them carelessly, and dealing with them mechanically instead of with true blessing. As one who has received the Gospel's grace of the Lord, who values a single soul more than the whole world, I will strive to treat these souls with genuine respect, consistently and truthfully serving them.

I am thankful for the grace of being entrusted with work, for the patience, and for the teachings, despite being such a proud person.

*Sister Kim*

**Sungrak Church**

*February 18, 2024*

# *“The Word of Life Reaching Out to Colombian Prisons and Many Souls”*

The Berea books sent from Sungrak Church have truly been a great blessing for our study of the Word and in carrying out our prison and community evangelism projects.

All the books sent last year were distributed to numerous brothers and sisters, including those in Colombian prisons. They have learned a lot about the Holy Spirit and also how to stand against the works of the devil.

As our ministry continues, we would be grateful if you could send more books. We particularly wish to share the "Let Us Know the Holy Spirit" book with more people. We have realized the importance of properly introducing the Holy Spirit working in our lives to newcomers of our community. Indeed, this book challenges newcomers to open their hearts to the workings of the Holy Spirit.

We hope that the books you send in 2024 will continue to have a life-changing impact on many souls. We are thankful for the interest and efforts of Sungrak Church in supporting this book, and we bless your lives. May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

*Pastor Arismendi*  
from **Colombia**  
October 18, 2023

# “I Never Knew *the Importance of Meekness*”

Last week, following humility, gentleness seemed like a foreign word to me. I knew it appeared in the Bible but didn't pay much attention. However, listening to this Lord's Day sermon, I found it quite challenging. It wasn't that I didn't understand what was said about gentleness or that there were parts hard to comprehend; I wondered why the sermon felt so difficult.

Reflecting on it again made me realize the reason. The overseer said, 'Wanting to be gentle but also defending my rights' is contradictory. However, I discovered I was full of reluctance to give up my rights, unwilling to accept what the overseer was saying.

And when explaining about Abraham, he mentioned that Abraham did not have an attitude of "Why should I go? When? Why do I have to go?" Yet, I see that attitude is plentiful within me. It's not just about saying those words; I was stubbornly refusing to go. Moreover, when the overseer spoke about the person who desires to keep their rights by saying "I have to succeed in God's work, so I must take the good land for myself," I laughed inwardly, realizing that was exactly what I had thought.

Hearing that a gentle character could come from trusting in God made me realize that people with this trait might suffer losses due to their kindness but have the belief that "God knows my deeds." It made me see that my lack of interest in meekness was not only due to a lack of trust in God and belief that He knows everything but also because I scarcely had the desire to "be gentle."

Finally, I was surprised to hear that gentleness is an absolutely necessary element in preserving the church. Jesus described Himself as gentle and humble, and it's mentioned in the Beatitudes... I had thought the church needed charismatic figures rather than gentleness, so I didn't pay attention to it.

I'm thankful to have been enlightened now. I hope not to be someone who only pretends to be gentle on the outside but becomes genuinely meek from within. I hope to equip myself with meekness not for self-fulfillment but for the success of the ministry. Thank you for leading me with the word today.

*Sister Ihm*

**Sungrak Church**

*February 25, 2024*

## “Always with Sungrak Church, Even from afar”

My wife is undergoing cancer treatment, and her headaches have worsened, leading to frequent hospital visits. Yet, I am at peace. God has always saved me in my difficult times. The only thing I can confess in my life is the grace of God.

Still, I enjoy reading the books you've sent and writing my sharing every week. Living a life of faith in Togo is challenging, but I am overjoyed to share our faith and the Word together like this.

I watched all the videos shared by Sungrak Church. Especially through the 'On 3 Minutes' series, I receive a lot of grace. And every Lord's Day, I join the worship service on YouTube from start to finish, feeling as though I am always with Sungrak Church in my faith journey, even from afar. Sungrak Church is helping me grow and guiding me.

Hearing the words of the Overseer here, I too wish to aid not only my spiritual growth but also that of the souls with me.

Also, I am willing to serve joyfully whenever you need me. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to translate the Sungrak Church slogan into French. It brings me joy to be able to do something for Sungrak Church.

*Brother Nicholas*  
from **Ghana**  
December 2, 2023

the best," and taking the highest seat. This belief that I must be my  
constant comparison, refusal to acknowledge those I perceive as better  
than I see as inferior.  
stry, I've acted to prove my superiority rather than out of genuine  
ing it was just a means to elevate myself based on my standards  
g what others do to satisfy my vanity, without understanding the  
nowledge and be jealous of praiseworthy behaviors that I should learn  
es before I asked myself what I was doing on earth, why I  
ne alive and what my purpose was in life. Life felt like a  
w the way to go, and most times I was confused. "It would  
" I thought but it was more painful to live. How long will  
when?  
myself when life never seemed to hold any purpose for me  
identity and the position in life I should be in but I never  
ere. I felt I was alone in this world with no one else like  
w they felt with a similar life like mine.  
alize that I wasn't alone, many people faced the same tra  
smiles. Through the word I have found a way and I don't  
my longer because I found joy beyond what anything could  
don't need any other reason to be happy when I found the  
g for so long and couldn't find them anywhere else but  
delivered to me. This has greatly changed my life that I do  
o the overseer's sermon, 'Christians Who Will Be Filled with the Full  
e why the Holy Spirit came! To enable us to do God's work!  
irit not only empowered me but also desires that I be filled with Go  
o want to empty myself and remove sin so that Christ can work co  
o be filled with God's fullness.  
was filled with God's fullness was Jesus Christ. Now that I have bee  
ged through this sermon that I too must be filled with God's love.  
emble God's Son and come with the same love.

# Add to Your Faith Virtue

(2 Peter 1 : 1-11)

from Part 7 of

*'The Messenger Running in Hurry' Series*

**“Simon Peter**, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,  
To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by  
the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Grace  
and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God  
and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us  
all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the  
knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by  
which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious  
promises, that through these you may be partakers of the  
divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the  
world through lust. But also for this very reason, giving  
all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,  
to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to  
perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness,  
and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours  
and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the  
knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these  
things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten  
that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren,  
be even more diligent to make your call and election sure,  
for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so  
an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the  
everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

(2 Peter 1:1-11)

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“Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,  
To those who have obtained like ...” (2 Peter 1:1)

Peter clearly knew that he was a bondservant of Jesus. He  
was certain that he was an apostle, the one who was sent  
by God.

“... Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious  
faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior  
Jesus Christ:” (2 Peter 1:1)

And he wrote the letter to those who received precious faith like him. He fully understood the value of this precious faith. Though he briefly referred to it as “precious faith,” indicating that it was received through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ, this word carries deep meaning.

*“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,” (2 Peter 1:2)*

“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.” This signifies that God does not repay us according to our sins, but instead, He deals with us graciously, leading to our reconciliation with God. Therefore, such peace is attained through knowing God and our Lord Jesus.

To receive abundant grace, we must seek knowledge. To obtain peace, understanding is necessary. Knowing God and our Lord Jesus is essential. It all comes down to the same word. Knowing God means knowing Jesus, and knowing Jesus means knowing God. We are aware of this. Thus, ultimately, we must know Jesus. In essence, we should understand the picture of God’s will, which is also to know the truth. We must comprehend the will of God, or, in other words, understand the work God has accomplished.

*“as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, ...” (2 Peter 1:3)*

Then, who is He? “as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3). He has given us all things related to life and godliness. Life, which is God’s life, signifies eternal life. Godliness refers to the eternal relationship between the one who serves and

the one who is served. He has given us everything concerning the eternal life of God and our relationship with Him, all through His divine power.

*“... through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,” (2 Peter 1:3)*

To pertain to life and godliness, we should know Him. And He is “the One who called us by glory and virtue” (2 Peter 1:3).

God is the One full of glory. That glory belongs to God. With that glory, He has called us. In other words, He, who is full of glory, has called us.

Additionally, what has He called us with? By virtue. He possesses not only glory but also understanding. Consider this situation: a person has a lot of money but is also very selfish. What would you think of such a person? However, He, being full of glory, is also abundant in virtue. So, what is His purpose? He is willing to give. He aims to give His glory through His virtue.

He intends to give His glory to the Son and to all humanity within the Son. Yet, the Son questions, “Father, is such an extent necessary? Salvation alone would suffice for them. Do you truly intend to bestow upon them Your own glory, to those who misuse Your name and scorn You, even to the point of having Your Son crucified?” Even Jesus, the Son of God, could not understand this situation. Thus, Jesus cried out, “Why have you forsaken me?” but He obeyed Father’s will, saying, “Yet not what I will, but what You will.” Jesus carried out Father’s will according to the virtue of the Father. Jesus truly admires the Father and sincerely loves Him, thinking, ‘Why is the Father willing to give?’ As He

observes what the great Father does, He absolutely obeys and surrenders Father's will and carries it out.

So, it could have been displeasing for Him, as the glory was originally His, and everything from the Father was meant for Him. However, He was to share it with others. He obeyed the Father's word, made all people blessed, and He loves. He determined, "I have not lost one of those that Father gave me."

He resolves, "On the last day, I will resurrect everyone because I am not just a shepherd but one who sacrifices my life, not a hired hand." He has a purpose to save all the sheep entrusted to Him by the Father. Such nature was first observed in David, who, when a lion seized a sheep, did not simply give up. Instead, David chased the lion, fought it, tore open its mouth, killed it, and rescued the sheep. Even more fervently, he would recover the sheep's carcass to return to his father. God looked closely at David's attitude. And He considered him as the parable of Jesus Christ. Therefore, Jesus came to be the Son of David. Jesus carried out this work to save the Father's sheep to the end.

Everything begins with the virtue of the Father. So, since such God has bestowed upon us His Spirit, what kind of character should we possess within us?

### **Add to Your Faith Virtue**

Firstly, we receive glory through faith.

How do we receive the glory of God? We receive it through faith. Then, after you are saved, what is the next? There are knowledge, self-control, and godliness. However, what enables them before anything else is a virtue. Therefore,

2 Peter 1:5 says, "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge." When we receive glory through faith, then we should have virtue. It means we enjoy good things with others after receiving them. It is natural to think that we should deliver them fast when we have good ones.

Even lepers consider others after being satisfied, so we should not be worse off than lepers. Therefore, we are willing to give what we have received. If you have something good, continuously share it with others. If you receive grace, extend that grace to others. If you are healed through prayer, spread the news and pray for others' healing as well. When the word is good, it should not end there; we should let more people know. In doing so, we should embody virtue.

### **Add to Virtue Knowledge**

If we are full of virtue, then we are willing to give something we have received. However, when we know nothing, how can we share? We should first know in order to give. Therefore, we strive to learn and acquire knowledge.

Of course, no matter how much knowledge we accumulate, it is in vain without virtue. It is like a tree without roots. Without virtue, knowledge can be misused for personal gain, harm others and spread anything as they please.

Therefore, if someone starts the Berea Academy solely focused on accumulating biblical knowledge or building up their own ministry without any heart to convey good things for souls, fleshly desires including the desire for honor or self-achievement arise. There is no virtue, but knowledge is entered into it, good fruit cannot be borne. Consequently,

the knowledge acquired from the Berea Academy with such a mindset can be useless.

Likewise, without virtue, even abundant knowledge is of no use. However, it should not be that we only have virtue without knowledge. We should strive to learn.

### **Add Self-control to Knowledge**

As much as we know through learning, self-control should follow. If we become aware of deceiving spirits, we should be cautious even in small matters. Without knowledge of deceiving spirits, one might think, "It's okay to miss worship once in a while or to be ten minutes late." However, after understanding deceiving spirits, we should not take such matters lightly. Why? Because once deceived, temptations will grow larger. Just as a thief who steals a needle will eventually steal an ox, so too must we restrain ourselves. If you acquire knowledge, practice self-control. If you realize the importance of prayer, pray fervently. If you understand the significance of angels, seek angels to God. If you recognize the importance of the Holy Spirit's power, pray in tongues and seek His fullness.

### **Add Perseverance to Self-control**

Practicing self-control is indeed challenging; it is not something that comes easily. There are many elements to endure. Therefore, patience is essential. Perseverance is an indispensable element of faith life. We must be patient to exercise self-control and to maintain it.

### **Add Godliness to Perseverance**

If a person continues to practice self-control, they can develop self-discipline. For example, they may set goals

like "I should read one chapter of the Bible," or "I should pray for an hour." With patience, they diligently pursue these goals. However, as they do so, a sense of self-achievement may arise. This can lead to a religious life centered on personal effort, rather than a relationship with God. They may focus solely on their own actions, such as attending early prayer meetings, without considering their true fellowship with God. Similarly, when they pray in tongues, they may become preoccupied with meeting a set time requirement rather than genuinely communing with God. This shift in focus leads away from true fellowship with God and towards self-discipline. As a result, the emphasis should be on adding godliness to perseverance.

Godliness always has an object. In the Bible, godliness refers to being cautious of that object. Why should we be cautious? When we are alone at home, we are not cautious. However, when someone else is present, we become cautious. Moreover, if there is someone difficult, we become even more cautious, especially in our speech. There are people who feel at ease in their manner and people who are always nervous. So, is it possible to be at ease before God? At home, we are at ease before our family, but how can we be at ease when there is a guest or an elder? We immediately become cautious and speak carefully. Therefore, if we are mindful of God, we will always be cautious. Be cautious and possess godliness.

### **Add Brotherly Kindness to Godliness**

And add brotherly kindness to godliness. Because if we only focus on God, it can be easy to disregard relationships with people, saying, "Serving God is the best, and nothing else matters. I will only serve God." However, if we love God, we will love one another. When we love one another, we treat

each other well. For example, suddenly, someone new may join the group. Then, some might say, "Oh, I don't like it. It was fine as it was. When there were fewer people, we used to go out and enjoy delicious meals, but now we can't." Due to such situations, they start to dislike. The overseer also expressed a similar situation. When there were only 50 church members, they enjoyed each other's company, but as the number of members grew, some began to complain that the past was better. In the past, they were close to the pastor, shared meals, and felt like family, but as the members increased, they had fewer opportunities to interact with the pastor, leading to dissatisfaction. This should not be the case. With open hearts, we should possess virtue.

### Add Love to Brotherly Kindness

Thus, it is said, "add love to brotherly kindness." And this love refers to love for everyone.

*"For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins." (2 Peter 1:8-9)*

Therefore, "For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins" (2 Peter 1:8-9). This means we forget the grace that we have received. Since we forget how much grace we have received, we lack these qualities. However, those who remember well always recall that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

*"Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:10-11)*

Consequently, "make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2Peter 1:10-11) When we possess these qualities, we do not need to worry about whether we can be saved or not. We will abundantly enter into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This means we will abundantly enter into the glory.

### Virtue is the Foundation

We should possess all these qualities, but what is the root? Instead of calling it a root, it is more akin to the bottom joint of a single tree. If the bottom joint breaks, the entire tree above it will break and disappear. So, what is the bottom joint? It is a virtue. There must be virtue to obtain glory. Only then can knowledge arise, perseverance be practiced, self-control be exercised, brotherly kindness be shown, and love for many people be done. That is how it works. Therefore, there must be a virtue that desires to share and distribute what good things we have received.

### Possessing Virtue

My grandparents were rich in their town. When I was young, there were many fields. I did not live in prosperity but there were many fields in my house. At that time, there were ancestral rites more than once a month, all people in

that town came here to share the food. On the traditional day, when we made food, all people came to my house. My grandparents called all of them and shared food. Thus, my parents were called virtuous people. For that reason, most sons went well and they did not have any difficulties. They were virtuous.

## **Be Filled with Virtue**

Comparing it with God's virtue may seem awkward, but if God is full of virtue and His Spirit dwells within us, then virtue will be abundant. Let us pray to be filled with virtue so that we do not become boastful or hesitant to share something good with others, regardless of the situation.

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