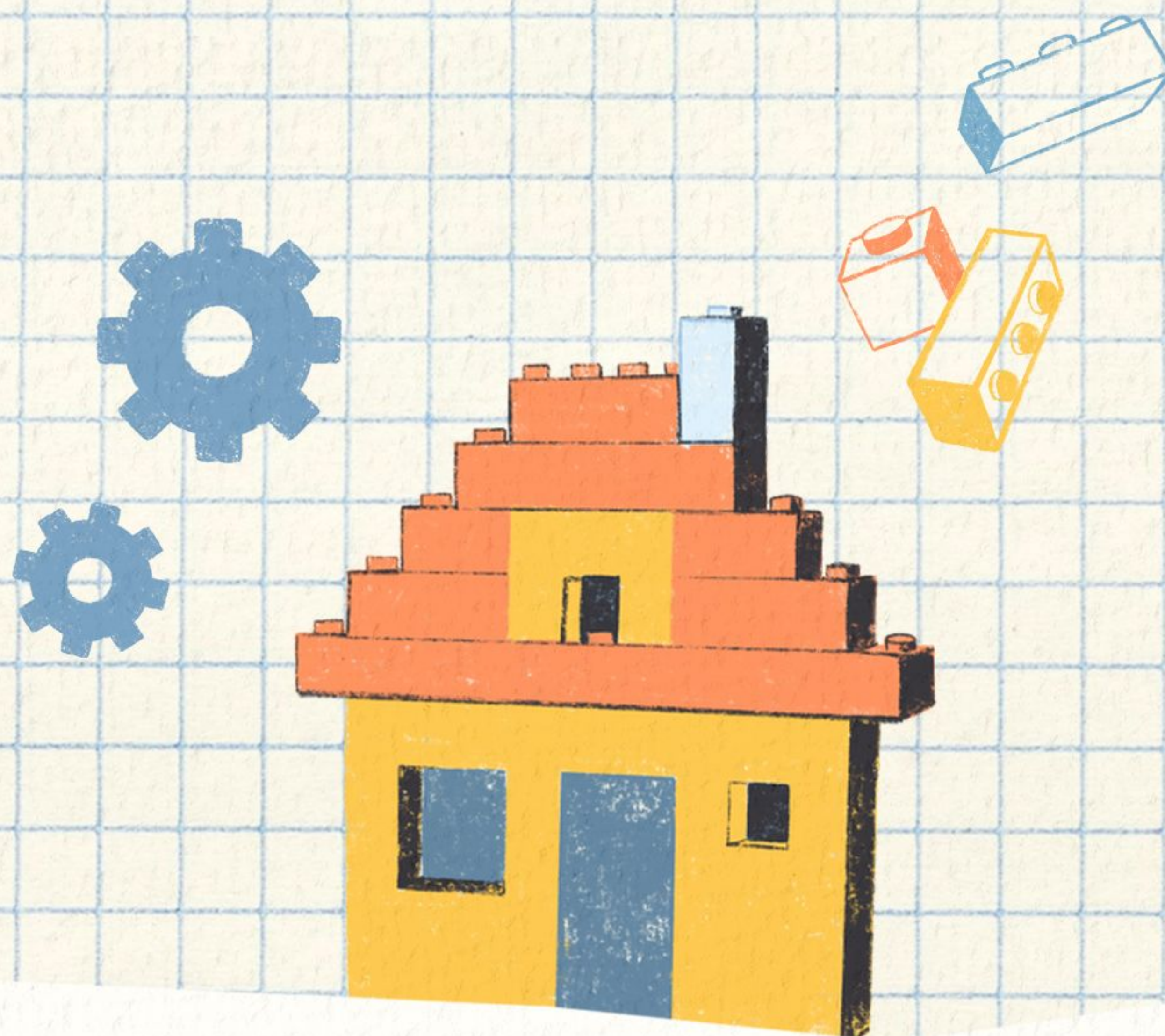




The **Way of God**
to **Build Up** *the* **Church**

Part. 1 The Way of God to Build Up the Church

(Ephesians 4:11-15)

Sermon *by* Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim

"He Gave the Shepherd
Tending the Church as a Gift"

"To Equip, To Serve, To Become the Lord's Body"

"The Church Maturing to Fullness
by Unity of Faith"

"The Church That Is Not Carried About
by Every Wind of Doctrine"

"The Church Speaking the Truth in Love"



Part. 3 Testimony of Blessing



"Thank You for Initiating a Life Guided by Truth"

"The Cause of the Unending Conflicts"

"This Self-Sacrificial Love Is Only Possible
Through Jesus' Love"

"It's as if I'm Being Compelled
to Translate This Book into Luganda"

"Love Conveyed Even During War"

"Through 'Word for the Week' of Sungrak Church,
Peace Comes to Our Family"

Part. 2 Jesus Clearly Entrusted His Sheep to the Pastor

in *Let Us Know the Holy Spirit*

Chapter 2 "The Leading of the Holy Spirit"



Part. 4

One Who Is Sent (Acts 20:23-24)

'The Messenger Running in Hurry'
Lecture Series 1



Part 1

The Way of God to Build Up the Church

Sermon _1

He Gave the Shepherd Tending the Church as a Gift

(Ephesians 4:11)



It was while we were sinners that we were saved. We were not saved by our deeds. This indicates that our salvation does not validate our actions as right. Our words, deeds, and thoughts cannot break free from the ways of the world, and, moreover, each person's values and thoughts differ greatly. If we engage in the Lord's work in such a state, it is unlikely that we will produce the fruit that the Lord expects of us. Therefore, the Lord wants each of us to set aside our own and unite within His will. This is why it is necessary for us to be interfered with, reproached, and taught within the church.

However, people generally dislike being told what to do. Conversely, if someone advocates for their own positions and supports their desires, they are naturally liked. In such a state, what would happen if church members could elect their overseer? Would the elected one be able to speak what the church members might not want to hear? Could he reproach the church members when led astray by false teachings? And could the members, nurtured in such an environment, safely reach heaven? Fortunately, God has not allowed church members to elect their overseer.

The overseer of the church is a gift that God has granted to the church. While God grants strength and power as gifts to each individual He saved, He also particularly bestows gifts upon the church as well. In the letter to the Ephesian church, Paul wrote, "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors, that is, teachers." Among these, after the era of apostles and prophets ended, the highest form of leadership became that of the pastor. Their most

significant role, teaching the Word so that believers may be corrected into a new man, led to the specific designation of pastors as “a pastor, that is, teacher.”

In the New Testament, a pastor is also referred to as an elder or overseer. Nowadays, we primarily use the word ‘pastor’ when referring to the overseer of a church, but in the New Testament, the term ‘elder’ was more commonly used. For example, Paul instructed Timothy in his letter, “Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honors, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.” In understanding this scripture, we must be cautious not to confuse the elder as used mainly in the Presbyterian Church. It should not be assumed that the responsibilities of governing the church, deciding its policies, teaching the Word, and occasionally exhorting and refuting church members are also assigned equally to today’s nominated elders as well as pastors.

An overseer is a special gift God has given to the church. If Christ had not come into the lowest parts of the earth and suffered death, and if He had not been resurrected and ascended into the highest heavens, this gift could not have come to us. Moreover, without God’s earnest desire for everything to be united in Christ, we would not have been able to receive this gift. To refuse this precious gift and to appoint an overseer with our own hands is a behavior to directly oppose God. Let us treasure the gift God has given us. Let us be thankful to God who has bestowed upon us this necessary gift and glorify Him.

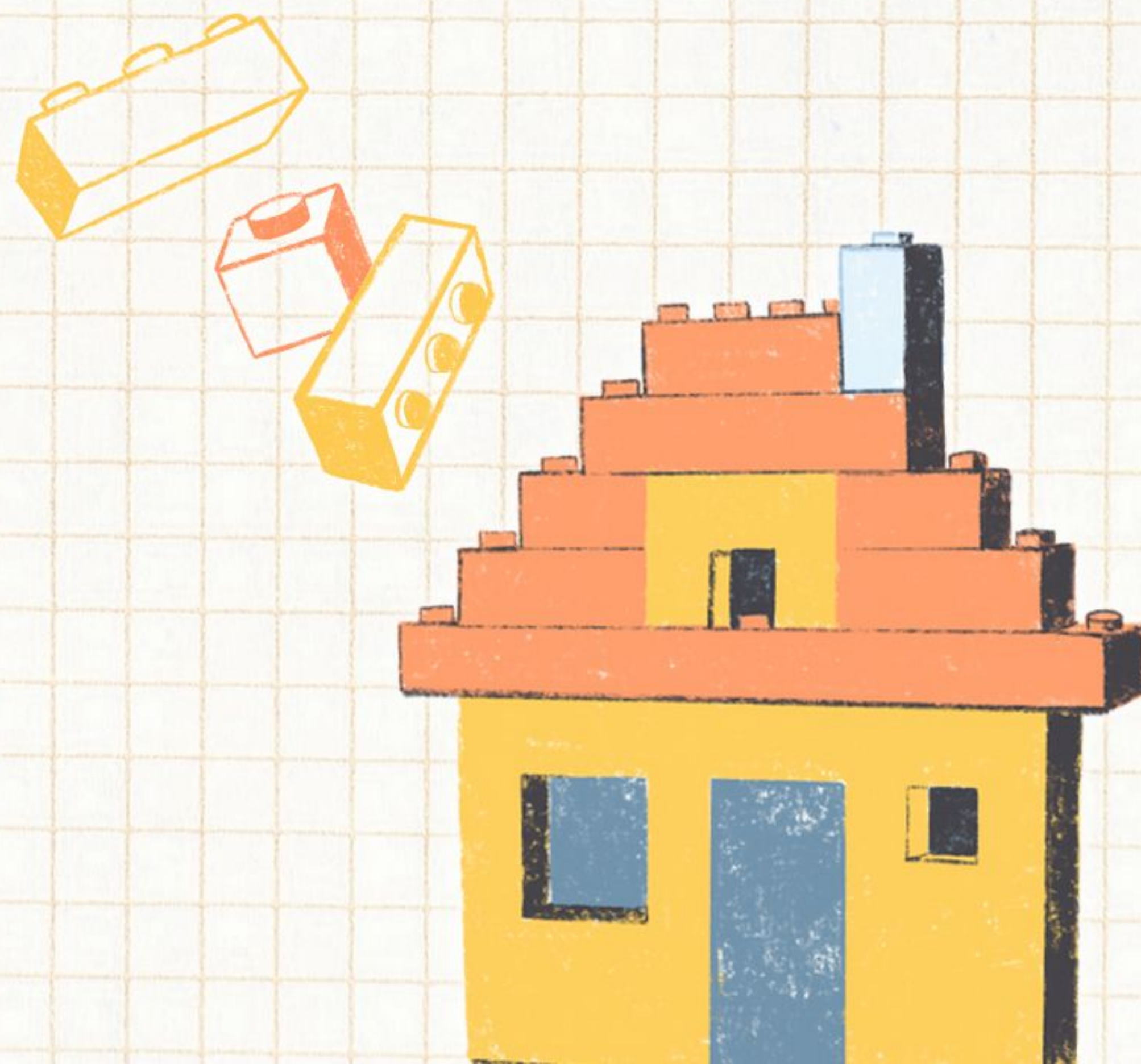
*Sermon by **Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim**
Lord’s Day Service on May 12, 2024*



Sermon _2

To Equip, to Serve to Become the Lord's Body

(Ephesians 4:12)



Many people view the church as just one of the numerous gatherings in the world. Their scattered comments about the church indicates that they are inclined to apply the same standards used for worldly gatherings to the church as well. However, the church is guided by God in His way. Anyone who truly desires for God's will to be fulfilled through the church and who hopes for heavenly blessings to be bestowed upon it must first recognize that the church should be operated according to God's way.

God has given each church a shepherd as a gift to guide it according to His will. The work of the shepherd is to equip the saints, enable them to serve, and thereby solidly build up the church. Regarding this, Paul wrote in his letter to the Ephesians Church: This is for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

Equipping means preparing someone to take on a certain role" and "restoring damaged parts to make something usable." Thus, the role of the shepherd is to make people in a fallen state aware of their tragic circumstances and to help them rely on the Savior, thereby enabling them to do the work God desires. To achieve this, the shepherd teaches the word, trains, and sometimes reproaches them based on the Bible. While some may focus only on gaining new knowledge from these teachings, and others may disregard the shepherd's authority, the shepherd must persist in these efforts, in season and out of season, to fully equip his people.

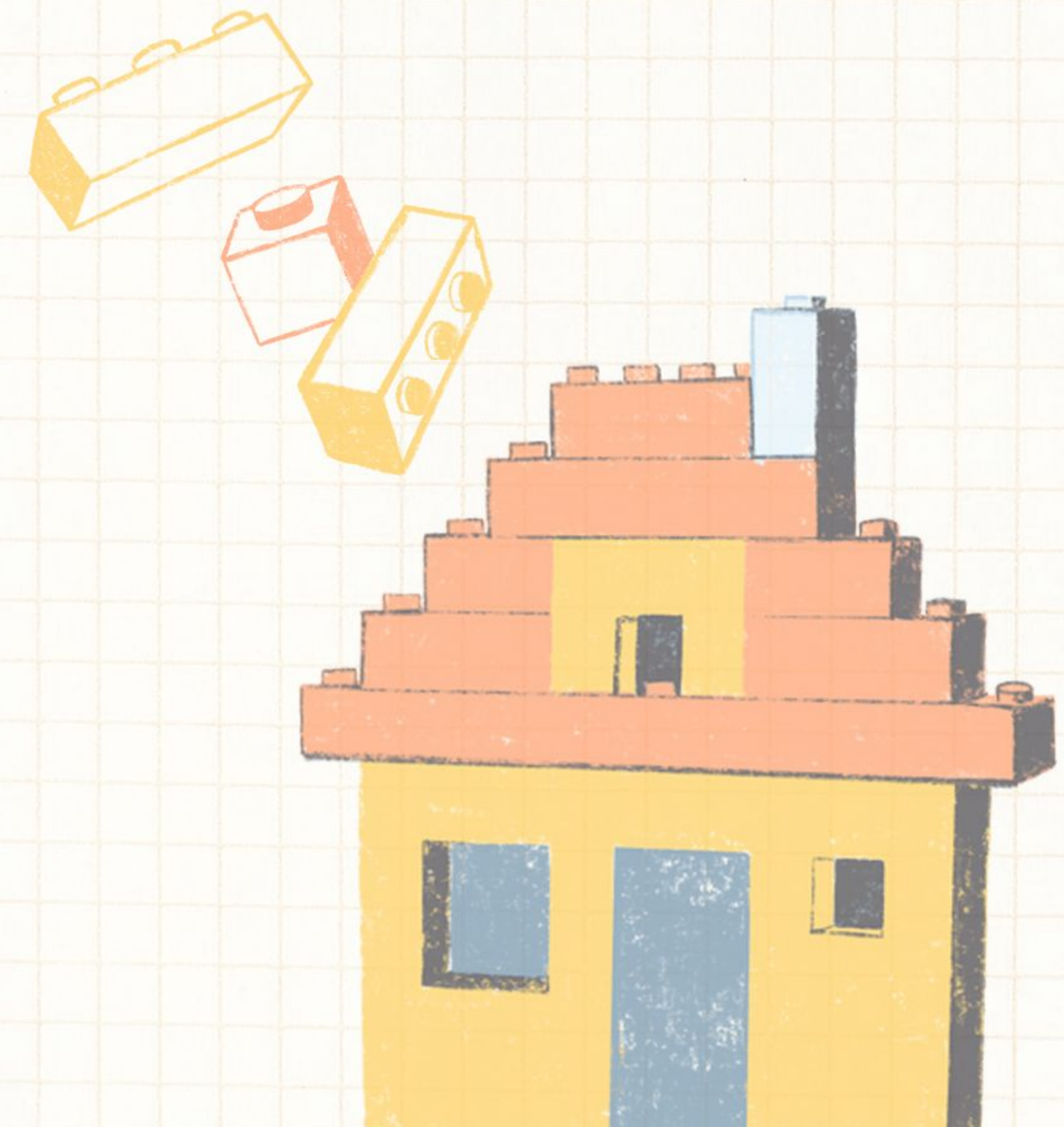
Those who are equipped under the guidance of a shepherd are enabled to serve within the church. Serving does not mean engaging in activities merely to accumulate personal experiences, nor does it involve pursuing

positions to earn spiritual merits. It is about serving; it is God's way. While anyone in the world may view sacrificing and suffering loss for others as undesirable, in the church, it is a blessing. This is because God remembers these sacrifices and will reward them with eternal blessings.

Likewise, those who are equipped can engage in service, which inevitably leads to building the church, the body of the Lord. While a physical building may retain the results of the work done so far even if construction pauses, the spiritual church is different. If the enthusiasm for building the church stops, even what has been built can be compromised, so the effort to build the church must continue. Building the church goes beyond simply increasing the number of members; it involves becoming internally stronger. This internal change is the key to building up the body of the Lord. A church composed of individuals who are indifferent to embodying the Lord's nature can collapse like a row of dominoes at the slightest touch.

The church is not just a place to gather for acquiring knowledge or receiving services. It is where those who listen to the word and change their hearts by repentance, those who manifest the proof of that change through good deeds, those who come to increasingly resemble Christ through correction, exhortation, and reproach, and those who serve with gratitude and joy! The church is the kingdom of God formed by these people. God's plan for the church is still operating, and the plan will surely succeed. Let us join in this success by aligning with the Lord's will in His way.

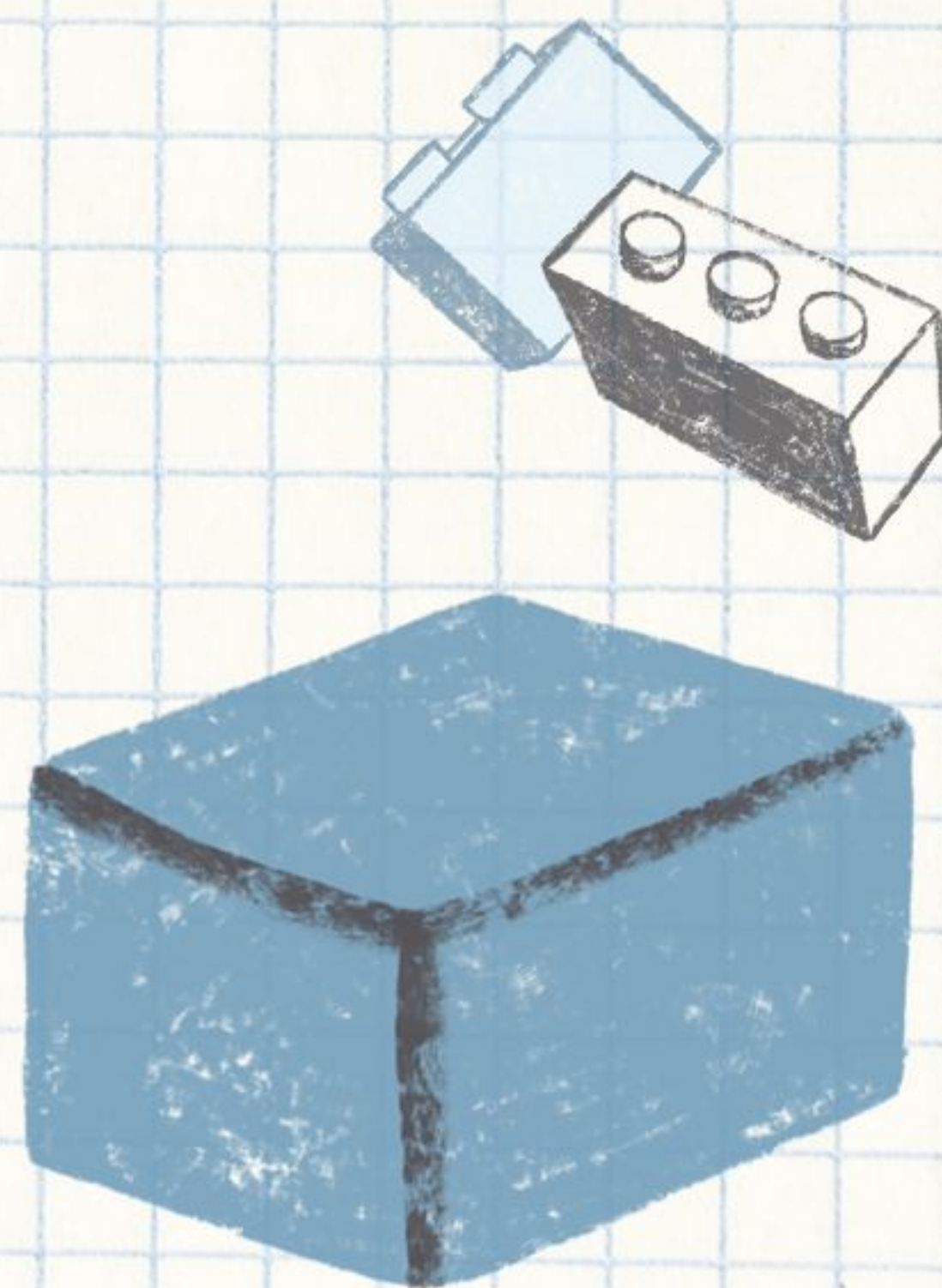
*Sermon by **Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim**
Lord's Day Service on May 19, 2024*



Sermon _3

The Church Maturing to Fullness by Unity of Faith

(Ephesians 4:13)



God has bestowed a pastor upon the church for equipping the saints, for the work of ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ. Then, what should Christ's body, built up in this way, look like as a result? In other words, what is the specific goal that pastors and saints should accomplish together to build up the church according to God's will? Regarding this, Paul says in his letter to the Ephesian Church, "till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

Above all, the church should be united in the "content of faith." For this, we must be cautious of any doctrinal assertions or interpretations that deviate from the Gospel handed down by the apostles. As evidenced by the division in the Corinthian Church, disregarding or thoughtlessly distorting the Gospel preached to all nations by the apostles ultimately leads to the church's division. Therefore, we must humbly accept Paul's exhortation to the Corinthians Church: "Now, I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

The church should also be united in "knowing the Son of God." This does not merely mean having the same knowledge about salvation. In the Bible, the term "knowing" often refers to a deep understanding exemplified by the relationship between husband and wife. However, when it speaks of being united in knowing the Son of God, it refers to an even more accurate, precise, and full knowledge. This knowledge is gained through a life that faithfully learns and thoroughly obeys God's word. Importantly, this life of deep

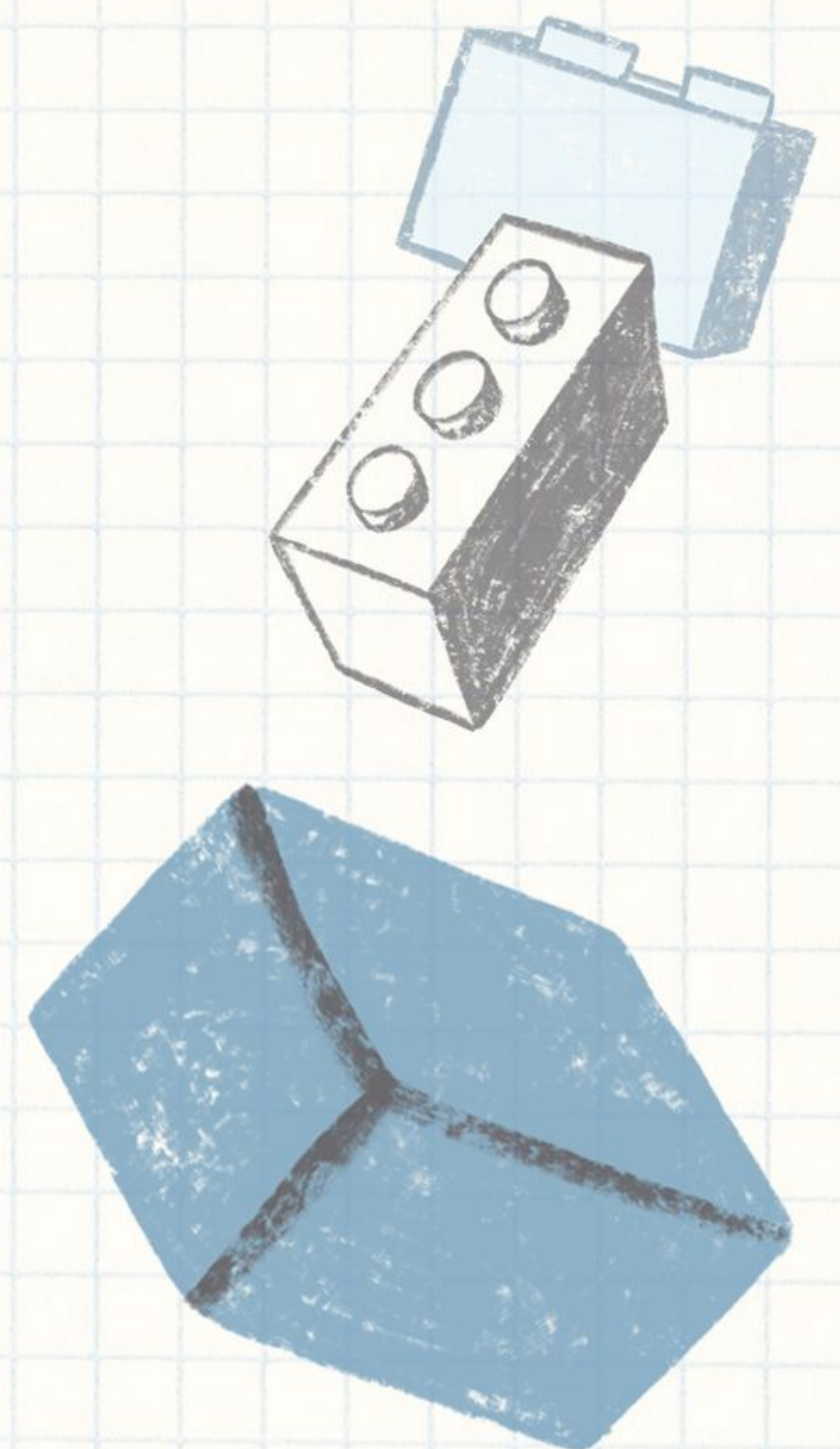
fellowship with the Lord is not separated from a life of deep fellowship with saints. Fellowship with saints within the Gospel is a necessary condition for fellowship with the Lord.

The church should be united in the “work of achieving spiritual growth” as well. The meaning of accomplishing spiritual growth is not merely accumulating spiritual knowledge but emphasizing that growth, which cannot be achieved by human power, must be accomplished through the power of the Holy Spirit. The goal of this growth is to reach the measure of the stature of the fullness of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ’s goodness and kindness, His unwavering righteousness by sin, His truthfulness and faithfulness, and His lack of variation—these are what we should strive to embody. Of course, we may not perfectly resemble the Lord in these aspects. However, the Lord desires us to make every effort towards this goal.

“Lord, I have nothing. I haven’t done anything well until now, and I have nothing left.” The Lord says to us, “You possess heavenly blessings. They have already been given to you. Christ’s fullness is within you. Do not give up until it grows and bears fruit!” The Lord never gives up on us either. Though our pace may be slow, the Lord walks with us every day. He knows we cannot do it with our abilities alone, so He is with us and helps us. Let us not stop taking steps to resemble the Lord. Let us fulfill God’s will, which plans a perfect ending with perfect power.

*Sermon by **Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim***

Lord’s Day Service on May 26, 2024



Sermon _4

The Church That Is Not Carried About by Every Wind of Doctrine

(Ephesians 4:14-15)



There is God's pattern for building up the church. It involves equipping the saints through the shepherd, enabling them to serve, which results in the stable building up of the Lord's body. What happens to a church that follows this pattern? Firstly, saints become united in the "content of faith." Secondly, they become united in fellowship with God. Thirdly, they become united in the "fulfillment of spiritual maturity." Moreover, there is an even more important characteristic: the saints solidly stand on the truth of the Gospel.

One of the greatest threats to the church is believers being deceived by the false gospel preached by false teachers. Such deception not only destroys an individual's spirit but also contaminates the entire church. Paul wrote in his letter to the Ephesian Church, "till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and from and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful potting."

Trickery of men! Deceitful scheming! This false teaching, which deceives people like a trickster, leading their spirits to destruction and throwing the church into confusion, has never stopped until now since Eve was deceived by the serpent. If saints cannot anchor themselves in the truth, or if they constantly seek something new rather than obeying the truth because they have itching ears—if they cannot grow beyond the spiritual level of children—when false teaching penetrates, they will be unable to discern or resist it. Consequently, they will be shaken like a paper

boat swept away in a rapid stream, regardless of their own will.

What is the reason that such false teaching arises? It can occur when an individual who interprets the Bible lacks sufficient knowledge. Such incidents also happen due to those who neglect the responsibility to study the Bible within the theological framework shared by Christians over the past 2,000 years. Above all, what is most serious is that it occurs when false teachers arbitrarily interpret the Bible to benefit themselves and preach it, leading to a new fad. Initially, the distortions of truth by these false teachers may seem to have little impact. However, since our doctrinal system of faith has been organically connected and composed through various teachings, distortions in one part can eventually lead to a corruption of the entire doctrine over time.

To protect the church from such threats and make saints grow into perfect individuals who never waver in any situation, God has established a shepherd in each church to teach them. Therefore, saints should strive to grow solidly within the truth of the Gospel by receiving the shepherd's teachings. We should all cherish the church's efforts over the past 2,000 years to fight to protect the Gospel from false teachings. Let us unite our hearts to perfectly hand down the truth that has been preached to us to generations to come. Let us protect the body of Christ, united within the truth.

*Sermon by **Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim***

Lord's Day Service on June 2, 2024



Sermon _5

The Church Speaking the Truth in Love

(Ephesians 4:15)



God has bestowed a shepherd upon the church as a gift to equip the saints for the work of ministry, and for building up the body of Christ, the Church. God wants the saints of the church to come to unity in faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, and He hopes for their spiritual growth. In a church where God's will is fulfilled, the saints are not swayed by human trickery or cunning craftiness. Instead, by speaking the truth in love, they grow to resemble Christ in all aspects.

Speaking the truth is a duty for anyone who was saved through it. However, it is crucial to keep one thing in mind when doing so. When speaking the truth, it must be done in love. Many individuals treat the truth as knowledge. They may claim to learn it, but they fail to receive God's love; they may claim to speak it, but they fail to manifest God's love. Truth and love are inseparable. When the truth is embodied, what appears is a life to walk in love. Where truth is separated from love and treated as knowledge, the power of God to save sinners cannot be manifested.

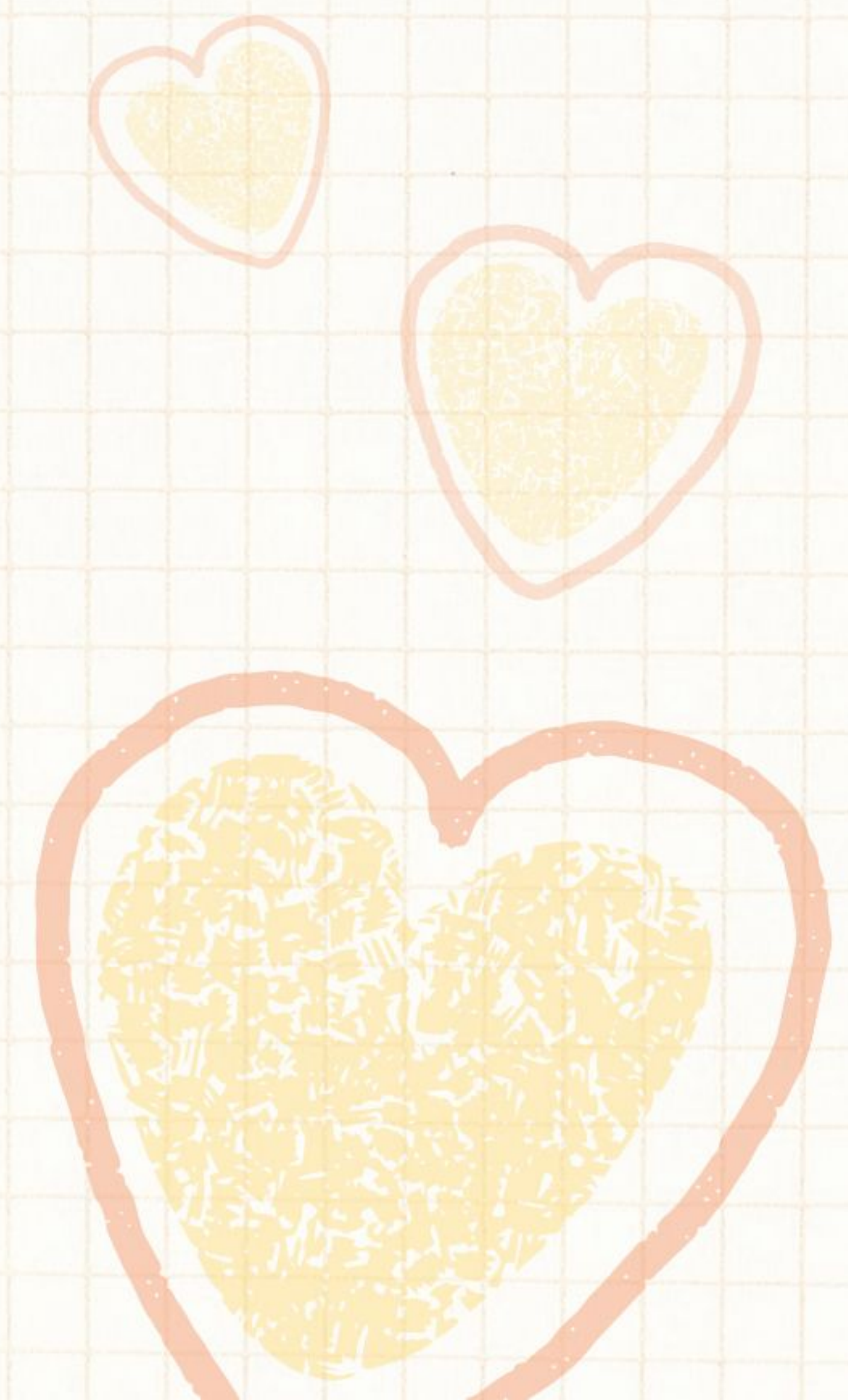
If someone asserts that they know God yet simultaneously argues that love is not important, they truly do not know God, because God is love. The love that God has revealed to us is a love that has never been in the world. God confirmed His love for us by sacrificing His own Son while we were still sinners. Now, having been given life through that love, what we must do now is share it, and this work goes beyond mere words. In our deeds and lives, God's nature must be reflected, and through us, people should come to meet the God of love.

In a church that achieves growth according to God's will,

such efforts will continue. Traditionally, church growth has been associated with an increase in the number of members. However, the Bible defines church growth not as quantitative but as spiritual. In other words, the church and the saints who comprise the church should resemble God, which is the core of the church's growth. Neglecting spiritual growth while focusing on quantitative growth can lead to serious problems. As the number of members increases, so too might the number of those who continue to pursue worldly desires. Without internal growth, these individuals can contaminate other saints, thereby putting the entire church at risk.

The church should continuously strive to resemble Christ. Those accustomed to employing human trickery and cunning craftiness must abandon such practices upon joining the church. Those who previously regarded truth merely as knowledge should come to deeply understand God's love through their church life and demonstrate that love in their own lives. Let us now forsake the desire to overwhelm others with profound knowledge. Let us humbly offer ourselves so that the love of God bestowed upon us does not fade but is faithfully conveyed to others. Let us speak the truth in love so that people can meet the God of love through us.

*Sermon by **Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim**
Lord's Day Service on June 9, 2024*



Part 2

Jesus Clearly Entrusted His Sheep to the Pastor

in *Let Us Know the Holy Spirit*

Chapter 2 “The Leading of the Holy Spirit”

Obedying the Holy Spirit is essential not only for our spiritual lives, but also for success in the pastoral ministry. Every Christian is called to be in a church and under the leadership of a pastor. When the church breaks apart, it affects the spiritual community and the individuals in it. God has anointed pastors to shepherd the flock, which is the church (Acts 20:28). The Holy Spirit leads the church through the pastors that He has ordained. Thus, if the pastors rely on the Holy Spirit, their churches will flourish in the way the Holy Spirit desires.

How the pastor should depend and follow the Holy Spirit can be the model for how anyone should follow the Holy Spirit. Because the Holy Spirit is concerned with raising a church, His interaction with the pastor is very important to understand.

Relying on and following the Holy Spirit is not as easy as it sounds. Pastors encounter so many difficulties in their work that sometimes, they are guided by concerns rather than the Holy Spirit. They often cannot tell whether they are actually praying or just worrying. Worrying cannot develop the faith to receive answers to prayers. Praying by the Holy Spirit develops the faith to be bold because they have completely trusted God in all situations.

A pastor is one person who has earned the trust of his church members. Though their trust is important, he cannot compromise his ability to discern the leading of the Holy Spirit. Many times, what the Holy Spirit wants through the word of God will conflict with the ideas of the members. When the pastor sides with what God wants, some members will be displeased. They might even complain directly to the pastor and cause him much grief. They do not realize that pastor carries the most burdens when it comes to the church.

There may be many workers in the church, but the role of a pastor can hardly be replaced. He carries the burden of the

entire ministry as one who must give an account to God at the end. Everyday, a pastor is as nervous as a new army recruit or a newlywed bride first learning her household chores under her mother-in-law's scrutiny. There is a Korean saying: "The mother of the bride, concerned about her daughter, would rather become the bride herself on the wedding day." The pastor is so concerned with the church that he does not hand over his burdens to others.

Obedience to God does not necessarily mean that everybody will be happy. Though he follows the leading of the Holy Spirit, the pastor can still clash with some members and be accused of being a tyrant. However, the church has to acknowledge that Jesus clearly entrusted His sheep to the pastor. As much as the sheep cannot lead the shepherd to the green pastures, the church members cannot instruct their pastor. Yet today, many people do not understand the shepherd-sheep relationship, but instead consider the church as a business. Thus, they say that the church should not be managed by the pastor alone, but by a board or a committee.

Some insist that a church should organize a budget and be managed like a business. However, such an operational method may trigger the moral downfall of the pastor and lead to financial loss for the church. I have seen many cases where pastors aimlessly poured money into unnecessary areas just to fulfill a previously agreed upon budget plans. The Lord desires a church where the priority is placed on the pastor's obedience to the Holy Spirit and the members' trust in their pastor. What is reasonable or practical in the business-world does not necessarily apply in the church.

As the church grows, a pastor encounters many difficulties. While he strives to rely on the Holy Spirit, some members try to tempt the pastor into just managing the church. If he

succumbs to the pressures and separates the Holy Spirit from his work, God will not entrust new souls to the church. The size of the church will then gradually shrink. On the other hand, if the pastor insists on relying on the Holy Spirit, though the disgruntled members may leave, God will bring in more dedicated members.

God has entrusted pastoral work to overseers (Acts 20:28). The ministry is at times like a spiritual combat; it requires different strategies. The overseer from time to time may need to quietly initiate discreet operations. Even Joshua had to send spies secretly to check out Jericho before conquering the land. This operation was not known to all the Israelites to agree upon. Even Jesus did not reveal Himself to anyone before it was the right time. Instead, He quietly went about and completed His work (John 7:6). If people knew that He was the Son of God, they would not have killed Him. Then, God's plan could not have been accomplished. Similarly, there are times when the pastor needs to deal with some matters quietly.

However, there are no secrets between the Holy Spirit and the pastor. None of us should have secrets with the Holy Spirit where we do things without consulting and depending on Him. Since the Holy Spirit is the one who positioned the pastor to lead the body of Christ, all the more pastoral duties and the Holy Spirit are inseparable. If the pastor ignores the Holy Spirit, his work will not be successful. He must rely on the Holy Spirit, pray by the Spirit, and consult the Holy Spirit on all issues. However, some church members request that the pastor to consult with them on different issues. No doubt, the pastor should always take the concerns of his members into consideration. Yet, if he only follows the members' advice, then the pastor will lose the guidance of the Holy Spirit regarding the ministry.

*in Let Us Know the Holy Spirit,
Chapter 2 "The Leading of the Holy Spirit."*

Part. 3

Testimony of Blessing

from Malawi, China, Sierra Leone,
Uganda, Ukraine, and Zambia

“Thank You
for Initiating a Life
Guided by Truth”

Every day, I read the Bible and the Berea books with the saints, encouraging one another and striving to ensure that the church stands firm.

I opened a document file to write my sharing after listening to a sermon at Sungrak Church, but surprisingly, although I thought I had understood the word while listening, I was at a loss when I actually tried to write. I realized that although I have discussed the word verbally, I have never deeply meditated on it or reflected on myself in light of the word as one would in a mirror.

I discovered that I had been treating the word as mere knowledge, always trying to fill myself with more. While writing my sharing, I realized that I was created to desire the eternal, but in reality, I often focus on the immediate difficulties, becoming discouraged and failing to look to God.

Through my reflections, I want to strive to respond to God sincerely in the presence of His word. I am grateful to Sungrak Church for starting me on a life guided by truth.

Pastor Macdonald
from Malawi
March 24, 2024

“The Cause of the Unending Conflicts”

Dear Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim,

Hello, Overseer, I pray that God's happiness and joy are abundant in you and your wife. You have shared your life with us in flesh and blood, allowing our personalities to meet yours, and enabling us to have the heart of God. Despite the slow pace of our growth, we strive to achieve completeness under your guidance!

Overseer, thanks to your teachings, we were able to have a proper understanding of the church. Previously, we prioritized healing the sick and casting out demons. And such an attitude seemed to imply that everyone was connecting directly with God, as if there were no church or shepherd to guide us. This led to constant disputes among us, causing pain not only to me but also to the saints, as we struggled to understand why we behaved in such a manner.

Through your sermons, Overseer, we realized that we lacked the Word within us. Previously, we treated the Word as mere knowledge, and we were busy judging each other with pride and self-centered attitudes. However, after listening to your sermons, we have come to have personal fellowship with you, and your heart has touched ours. Now, we no longer treat the Word as mere knowledge.

In the past, I thought that the ability to cast out demons and heal the sick was a sign of being spiritual and full of the Holy Spirit. When I first read Matthew 7:21-23, I was afraid. ‘Why would the Lord say He does not know me, even though I preached, drove out

demons, and performed miracles and healings in His name?’ That was my question. At that time, I tried to reassure myself, thinking, ‘Oh, that must not be a message to the Bereans, but to other religious people.’ Now I understand that the individuals the Lord asserts He does not know are those who exploit God for their own purposes, resist surrender to the Lord, uphold a self-centered faith, fail to elevate the Lord, and believe that they are directly connected to Jesus, as if they did not need a shepherd to guide them.

I have now come to understand. I hope that my faith will not be merely a slogan, and that repentance and transformation into the likeness of the Lord will follow upon receiving the Word. I have realized that if there is no change, there is no faith. If we are one with the Lord, how could we possibly think and act differently from Him?

Thank you to Overseer, who truly loves us. In you, I see the likeness of the Lord. I am moved by your character, full of faithfulness, humility, and compassion, and I too wish to resemble these personalities. Hallelujah!

Lord, please protect our mother church, Sungrak Church, like the church of Jerusalem, on its spiritual journey. Make all our enemies flee in shame. Let all the Bereans around the world follow Your authority and prevent them from becoming those without a Master. Keep us from becoming those whom You do not recognize. Reverse our circumstances so that our mother church may be restored. Bring comfort to our overseer's heart. Accomplish Your will in surprising ways beyond human imagination! Hallelujah!

Evangelist Wang
from China
December 26, 2023

"This Self-Sacrificial Love is Only Possible Through Jesus' Love"



Meeting Sungrak Church in my life has been a great blessing. I am joyful and thankful that you have sent me God's word. The sacrificial ministry of sending books and sermons that help me and the people here grow spiritually is only possible because of Jesus' love. I pray that Sungrak Church can continue this ministry through God's infinite power and grace.

Pastor Patrick
from Sierra Leone
May 4, 2024

"Love Conveyed Even During War"

Oh! It's a greeting message from Sungrak Church!' I wanted to call as soon as I checked the message, and I am happy we could talk right away.

I have safely received the books Sungrak Church sent. I plan to take it with me to my next mission site.

As a military chaplain, I hardly have the chance to preach from the pulpit in the current war situation, but I am spreading God's word to the soldiers as I move through the trenches.

The soldiers are filled with questions: Whom is this war for? Why must people die? Is God truly alive? Their hearts do not open by rational theories or customs.

When I talk with them, I convey God's love, which I have come to understand through the Berea books and the word of Sungrak Church. I also want to demonstrate my faith through my life and actions.

I have also sent books to people in the western region, and they too have rejoiced in God's wonderful works. Next time, I would like to send you a photo with them.

Thank you for extending such love to us. I hope we can talk again soon. Until then, take care!

Alexe
from Ukraine
April 18, 2024

"It is as if I'm Being Compelled to Translate This Book into Luganda"

I have received the books you sent, and I will always remember the love from Sungrak Church.

After reading 'Let us Know the Holy Spirit' and 'Know Jesus and Suppress Deceiving Spirits,' I began translating them into my native language, Luganda, for those who do not understand English. If they can read English, I give them the book; if not, I preach in Luganda.

With a desire to provide translated English works, I recently began a two-year translation training course. While reading these books, I felt that many people needed them. The books give the impression that a servant of God proclaims the word directly to us. The teachings are so well-organized that they are easy to understand, making it impossible not to share them further. I feel as if I'm being compelled to translate these books into Luganda.

We evangelize and hold meetings in villages, and we have an evangelism plan for May. After completing our training at the training center, we will carry out evangelism work. There are six training centers, each with about 45 students. If possible, I would like to receive books matching the number of students.

Since encountering Sungrak Church, I have felt true happiness and joy. I continually reflect on the love I have received. I sincerely thank and love the overseer and everyone involved.

*Pastor David from Uganda
April 24, 2024*

"Through 'Word of Week' of Sungrak Church, Peace Comes to Our Family"

Praise the Lord! Bless Sungrak Church!

Our family, which was breaking apart, is changing after listening to the teachings of Sungrak Church. Recently, I had a big fight with my husband when he told me to respect him as he is the elder. After that, I would help my husband angrily, and I scolded him when he was alone.

However, one Lord's Day, I listened to a sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim at the church. The overseer preached the sermon, 'Christians Who Should Be Meek and Meek (Ephesians 4:2),' saying, 'A meek person treats others warmly and softly.' After the sermon, while reading the printed word for the week, I reflected on how I had treated my family as someone who has received grace.

I recognize that I receive a lot of help from my family, and I am very grateful for this. I hope that my family and I continue to attend church and serve the Lord well.

Thanks to the overseer Sung-Hyun Kim's teaching, our family has found peace. Thank you for enlightening us with precious words.

*Nambulembo
from Zambia
April 12, 2024*

Part. 4

One Who Is Sent

(Acts 20:23-24)

‘The Messenger Running in Hurry’

Lecture Series 1



"except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."

(Acts 20:23-24 NJKV)

People told Paul that when he goes to Jerusalem, he will face tribulations and warned him not to go. But Paul went. Despite the warning of things that could happen to him, he went. Who's warning was that? It was the Holy Spirit's warning. Though many prophets and people told him of the words of the Holy Spirit, he still went to Jerusalem. Why? Because he had a calling. He went because he was called by the Lord. He said, "I must finish the race and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus." What is that ministry? The work of testifying to the gospel of the grace of God. He did not cease the work halfway through but instead said he does not count his life dear when it comes to finishing this work. He did not hold his life dearly.

Here is the word "Sa-Myung(使命)," ministry (διακονία). In Korean, if we break down the word "Sa-Myung," "Sa(使)" carries the meaning to use. "Myung(命)" can be divided into two meanings: "command" and "life." Thus, this can be interpreted as "using one's life." So, ministry can be understood as work that requires the dedication of one's life not sparing one's life for this mission. However, this is only a literal interpretation, originally, it means that one who is called to ministry is a messenger who is charged with a command. The servant, that is, the messenger receives a command and follows it according to the commands.

This is ministry. This can also be called duty, responsibility, or commission. Some Bible versions call it "task." So, what is the important thing about ministry? The first thing to note is that a person called to ministry is one who is sent. He is sent. This is very important.

From yesterday at the Chinese worship service, I started preaching with the topic of "The Messenger Running in Hurry Series." I do not know how many weeks I will be preaching on this topic but the first key point is this. "Being sent." One who is called to ministry is sent. Before even devoting his life, he is sent. A person who is sent. In that sense, what is an Apostle? We say that we have apostolic power, right? Believers of Jesus are all at different levels. The word we have truly enables us to possess apostolic power. It does not merely make us believe; the Berean teaching leads us to have apostolic authority to work like the Apostles. Therefore, we heal the sick, drive out demons, and lead souls. If we have apostolic authority, this in other words means that we have been sent. Jesus appointed the twelve and then finally sent them out. He told them to make disciples. Teach others to keep everything I have taught you. The word "Apostle" originally has the meaning of being sent, and this does not only apply to those twelve apostles but to all believers.

Of course, not every believer is receiving this as the word given to them. However, faith is not limited to any particular person. Ever since Jesus Christ came, anyone who received the Holy Spirit, anyone who is called can receive the command and be called to ministry. Hence, a true disciple is one who is called to ministry. Not only are certain pastors called to ministry but anyone who is a true disciple.

There is a Korean song called "Sa-Myung," calling. The song has the plaintive sound of a minor key. I see people carried away by the music and shedding tears. These reactions show that people misunderstand the concept of 'mission' as a sad and extreme journey.

Recently, some people visited from China and they insisted that they have to visit Pastor Lee's home. And I told them, "We won't have time to do that. You won't be able to come." Yet, they kept insisting. Every day when I met them in the morning, lunchtime, and evening, they nagged me to let them visit my home. So, I had no choice but to let them. It was on the last Lord's Day of their visit that we had time. Even on that day, they came to me asking if they could visit my home. Since it was not only once or twice they asked but persistently to the end, I thought I should give them a chance and brought them to my place. When they came and saw my place, they were about to cry. I did not know why they were getting teary. They said, "How do you live like this?" Our bed frame legs were broken, so we put the mattress on the floor in the living room. And when they saw that they were in tears saying, "How can you be living like this?" I was quite surprised at the reaction. Is it that bad? Because we do not really mind it. And although I told them not to take photos, they did. They must have shown that photo to someone when they went back to China because they sent me a photo of a sister crying while looking at their photos. I was so embarrassed. Perhaps to them, it looked that bad. I never thought of it like that, but they probably were feeling sorry for me. In this way, it may appear sad to others and they might perceive it as a life of hardship, but the people affected do not feel like that at all. Although it is a little inconvenient we are not bothered so much by the inconvenience.

When people think of the path of calling, they immediately think of the path of suffering at which they weep. However, what a joyful path it is, a glorious path that not just anyone is able to follow. Hence, one should take pride in it. It is not something to mourn about and cry. Furthermore, nobody forces anyone to take that road. The simple fact that one is sent brings great pride. Because who is it that sent them? It is the King of heaven. Since they are sent by the King of heaven, they will have great pride in the path they are walking. For this reason, it is imperative that one has the faith to believe that he is sent, regardless of what work he is doing and how he is doing it.

Who was among those who had a mission? It was Jesus Christ. Every time He spoke, He said, "I did not come to do My will but the will of Him who sent Me." The One who sent Me. John paid careful attention to those words of Jesus and wrote them down. Hence, the phrase "The Father who sent Me" appears dozens of times in the Gospel of John. It is because we do not look closely but He does say that dozens of times. Also, whenever Jesus speaks of the Father, He refers to Him as "Holy Father." But the most frequent phrase is "the Father who sent Me."

Let us have a look. John 3:17, "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." Here it says that God sent His Son to the world. Let's look at another one. "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God."

In Chapter 5 verse 24, "Most assuredly I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life." Receiving eternal life is the most important

but what do you have to believe to attain it? You have to believe that there is One who sent Jesus.

Verses 36 and 37, "But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish - the very works that I do - bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me. And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form."

In Chapter 6:38, "For I have come down to from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of him who sent Me."

In Chapter 6 verse 44, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Verse 57, "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me."

So, throughout the entire Gospel of John, Jesus is saying that the Father sent Him. In Chapter 12 verse 49, "For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak."

In Chapter 13:20, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

In Chapter 14:24, "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me."

In Chapter 15:21, "But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me."

In Chapter 16:5, "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?'"

In Chapter 17:25, "O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me."

In this way, this is what the gospel is about. Jesus is the One sent by God. Thus, Jesus' life was a life of testifying that God sent Him. That was His work. So, what did He say was His food in John chapter 4? Chapter 4:32, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." And verse 34 says, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."

He said His food is to do the will of Him who sent Him. Therefore, He certainly knew who sent Him. Also, He did not work according to His own will but according to the will of Him who sent Him. Although He Himself did not want to carry the cross, since it is the will of Him who sent Him, He prayed that the Father's will should be done.

What would have happened if He kept the whole Law and fulfilled the whole Law but the One who sent Him did not acknowledge Him? It would be meaningless. Hence, He did everything in accordance with the will of Him who sent Him. And it is because He carried out that ministry, that we came to know God. Even if He had done good works, if they were not done according to the will of the One who sent Him and if He had never revealed that to us, we would not be able to know God. But in everything He said and did, He did in accordance to the will of the One who sent Him. And He said, "As the Father sent Me, so I send you also." He said, "I send you out, as the Father sent Me." So what shall we do? We should have the same attitude as Jesus - that we have One who sent us.

Therefore, whenever we heal the sick, what must we disclose? That we heal them by the power of the One who sent us. Hence, we do not get paid after healing the sick, do we? Why is that? Because the One who sent us healed them. When miracles and wonders are done, we have to remember that the One who sent us has done them. We have to keep this rule. There is One who sent me. This is the rule in the spiritual realm. The devil does not uphold this rule. The glorious was the devil? When Luciel was serving God in heaven, he was the most splendid and magnificent angel. But he lost sight of the fact that he was sent. He was very clever and magnificent. But because he thought he could do better, which is why he left his position and decided to do something that was irrelevant to the will of the One who sent Him. He wanted to do better. In his eyes, the angel of Jehovah did not seem smart enough. So, he decided he should help him out. And the moment he left his position of duty, that became corruption. The moment he did not acknowledge the One who sent him, he fell. From his point of view, he was only trying to do better. However, when he despised the One who sent him and forgot that he was sent, he became corrupted.

People who are deceived by that devil will do the same work in the church. They act out without being sent. Some people go out of the church. But they are not leaving the church because they were sent. If they are going to leave the church, it should be by being sent out. I am not saying that leaving a church is altogether wrong. One may leave. One might plant his own church. One might leave to try to live a better faith life. But when they do go, they should be sent to go out. In many cases, however, people cut off the roots themselves and leave. It is like cutting off the umbilical cord and leaving. Such a person is not sent. Whatever we do, wherever we go, whether you are in the US or in China, if you are sent, you will stay connected. And because you are connected, you can survive.

We must never forget that we have been sent. I have been sent. When zeal goes too far, you could lose sight of the fact that you were sent and work out of your own zeal. People who are working in mission areas particularly have that tendency. In many cases, people who are from mission areas feel uncomfortable when they come into the church. In the mission fields, every moment is pressing and fast-paced. But they feel frustrated in Korea because everything is slow. The process of organizing support for the mission takes time. So, those who are in the mission fields get frustrated and decide to act in their own ways or ignore the procedure. And when they go ahead of the church like that, they end up being disconnected from the roots and left alone.

At first, they start off in Berea, but in the end, they decide not to have any relations with Sungrak Church and do their own thing. There were some people with such tendencies and most of them came to similar ends. They do that out of impatience. King Saul needed to offer sacrifices and the people pressed him to. The war was about to start. He was waiting for Prophet Samuel to come quickly and offer the sacrifices but Samuel did not come yet. He could not contact Samuel, they did not have mobile phones either. He had no idea as to when Samuel would arrive. If he was told the whereabouts of Samuel, he would at least wait, but there was no way for him to find out. So, he went ahead and offered the sacrifices himself. That was seen as a profane act in God's eyes and he was forsaken. Likewise, in the mission areas, they feel impatient. "We're not able to do holy communion at our church and souls are leaving. We have to do holy communion." Some people are only lay Christians and yet they insist they must administer baptism because souls are going to leave for another church. So, we tell them to wait just a few more months, but they cannot wait and start doing holy communion and even administer baptism. By doing so,

they sever themselves from their roots and leave Berea. From then on, they cannot be reached. Some of them are completely disconnected from Berea.

Therefore, it is important that we do not become spiritual orphans like them by fully acknowledging that we are sent. The works which we are doing currently is not done because we have zeal. When zeal goes too far, we can make these mistakes as I just mentioned. We have to always recognize our position. That is how we can be used for a long time and the work we do can continue in order to follow the greater flow. In the sea, the waves move and they splash towards the land. But still, there is a great flow in the sea as well, and the water keeps flowing according to that current. The ocean water does not get mixed anyhow but there is a path, a current that moves around the Pacific and then somewhere else and then to the North Pole and around. There is a path it follows. So, even if radioactive materials leaked from nuclear power plants, they do not disperse in the water, they follow the current. So, although we are right next to where the leak happened, it has to make a full round trip to get to us, which means we are not as polluted as other areas. Likewise, there is a great flow. There is a great flow in the work of God. Now, am I going to stay moving up and down like the waves of the sea, or do I want to move along with the big current? The person who follows his desires will be like the waves. The current is flowing that way but the waves come in this way. The waves go in the opposite direction. Waves splash only a short time; it cannot become a great current. We definitely have been sent to follow the great flow of God's work.

There is a certain pastor working in China who goes around the mission areas. He is able to call it his own ministry, but he always says that he was sent to do the work, that he was sent

by Seoul Sungrak Church. So what happens? A person from China called us last time saying he wanted to give offerings. We do not even know who he is. We were wondering why the stranger wanted to offer such a large amount of money. So we asked, "Who are you?" And he said he received grace. What grace did he receive? Apparently, a pastor came to his area and led a crusade. He was a Berean pastor and this person received grace at this crusade that he wanted to give offerings. So, we asked why he did not give the offerings there and instead wanted to send the offerings to us. And the person answered that the pastor said he was sent to work by Seoul Sungrak Church so that if anyone wanted to give offerings, he should contact Seoul Sungrak Church about it. Hence, this person contacted us. How noble is this pastor that he said this in his mission fields? Wherever this pastor works, the people there become closer to Sungrak Church so that they take after Sungrak Church and their church ultimately grows. In this way, it is very important to work with the mindset of the one who is sent.

Some people perceive this negatively and speak ill about it. They say that this pastor goes around telling people that he is a representative of Sungrak Church. You can see how different it is depending on the angle of speech. These people perceive him as someone who claims to be a representative of Sungrak Church. These are what haters say. You will be able to know from his good fruits.

When I was working in China, if I had not thought of myself as one who was sent, I would have come back to Korea much earlier. It was very difficult at one point that I wanted to return to Korea. I was really having doubts about the work when I was in Shanghai. The living standards of the people in Shanghai are higher than us Koreans. The average living standard in

Shanghai is much higher than that of people in Shingil-dong. When Koreans were just starting to have mobile phones, people there already had them. I did not have one at that time. The way they dress is ahead of us. They all speak English too. A lot of people work in foreign companies there and everyone speaks English and even have English names. I had only interacted with Chinese people by their Chinese names. So, when they used English names and spoke to me in English, I started to lose confidence. They gave us clothes they used to wear saying we looked too shabby. I felt like I was a loser and that was the time I had doubts about being there. If I did not have the sense of calling that I was sent in those moments, I would have been very miserable. I would have been heavy with the idea that I was a loser.

Although I had those moments, I had such definite testimonies that I was sent. And having those testimonies is vital. Otherwise, you start to question yourself. I had many testimonies but one of them was that when I decided to go to China, I wondered what would happen to my family and parents. Who is going to preach to my unbelieving parents? But in a month, they all believed. Things like these were the testimonies I had so I could go to China. My heart was lightened and it spurred up my calling. There were many miracles and signs like them. So, the assurance that there was One who sent me and that I was sent was very helpful in pushing me to advance forward without stopping.

Later, when I returned to Seoul Sungrak Church and worked as a lay pastor while attending the seminary, I was again in distress because of the financial hardship we faced. Again, I felt like a loser. I do not know why I felt like that. Because I did not have anything and I kept comparing myself to others, I felt like a loser. If I did not have the sense of calling, I would have

fallen in those moments. There is One who sent me. I am going through ordeals right now, but God sent me and He knows everything. I have got to endure it. I have to get through it. Because of my faith in the One who sent me, I was able to keep going without giving up. Moreover, while I was working in the church, I was not being commended for doing a good job. Rather, I was under attack and persecuted by others while doing the work. But I believed there was One who sent me, which held me to the end. We have to have that. We need to overcome with the faith that there is One who sent us. Otherwise, if it is the work you started yourself, you will give it up anytime.

That is how you know if you have been called to ministry or not. If you are ready to give up, it proves you were not called, regardless of how hard you worked in the past, because you are doing whatever you want. However, we do not give up when we feel like it. Each of us needs to have the faith that we have been given the mission. Others will not know whether you have the calling or not. How will they know? Only you will know. It is a promise between you and God. We have to make sure that in the end we are proven to be those called to ministry. People can work for thirty years and never have the calling. Some people said as a habit, "I have been a disciple of Semuon for thirty years." But after those thirty years, they left the church on their own without being sent. This proves that they were not called to the ministry. Even thirty years worth of work cannot fool God. We have to be those called to ministry. We must be sent, therefore. "Lord, have You sent me? If so, help me to have the faith, determination, and resolution of One who has been sent!" Let us pray.

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