

**September 2025 | Berean Webzine - Blessing Channel #36**

# *The Whole Armor of God*

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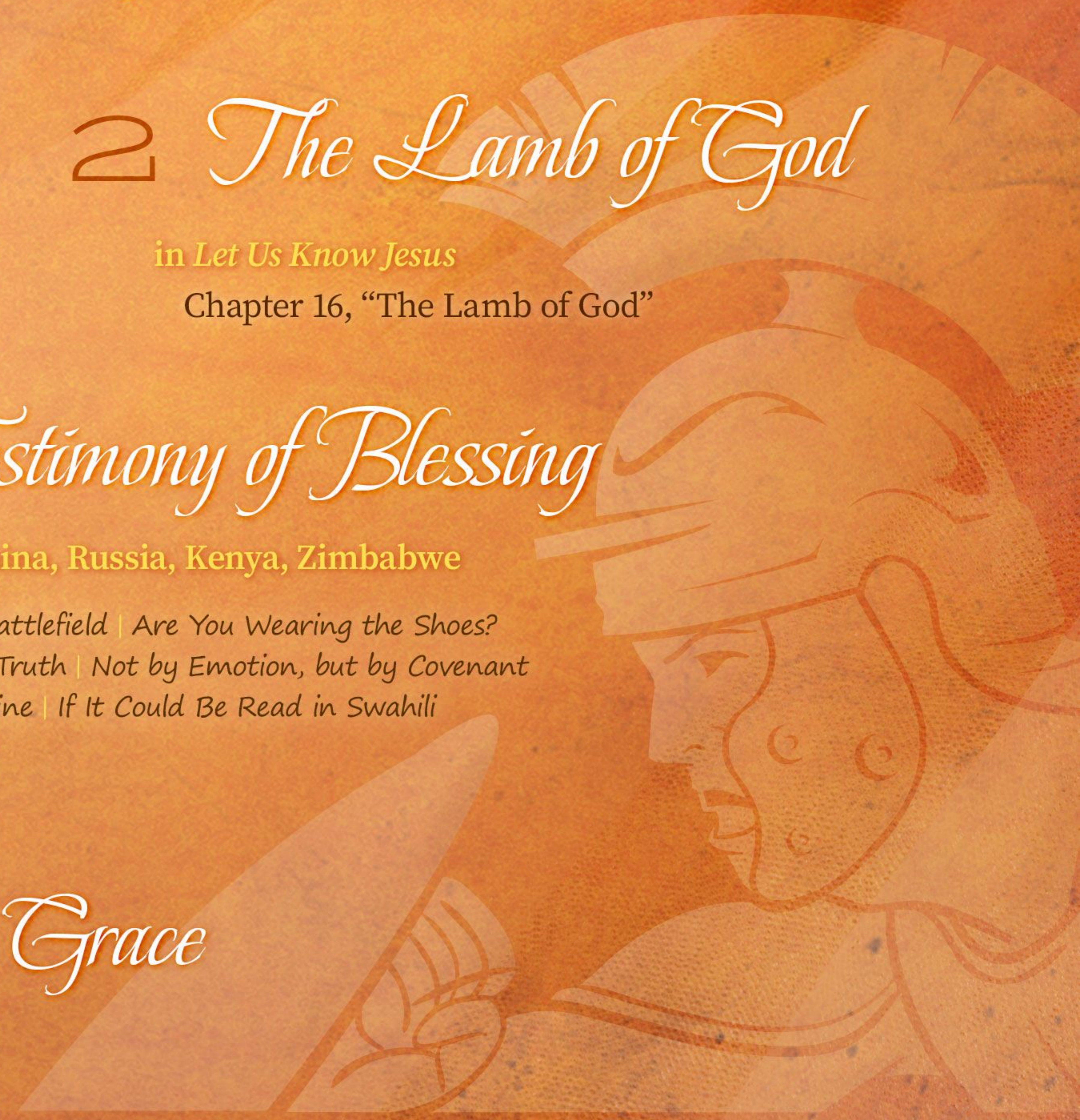
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# 1

## *The Whole Armor of God*

Sermon by  
Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim

### 1

## **Gird Your Waist with Truth**

(Ephesians 6:13-14)

**“Why does God stay silent?”** Some people ask this question as they go through hardships in life. **“Is there really such a thing as God’s will? Is the Bible truly reliable? Will His promises ever be fulfilled?”** These are signs that they are doubting the faithfulness and lovingkindness of God. And this doubt itself means they have already stumbled into the devil’s temptation. Can someone who questions God’s goodness truly rely on Him? Instead of trusting in God, they try to resolve their problems in their own way. In doing so, they undermine the very foundation of their victory. God’s blessing can no longer rest upon them, and the devil finds it easy to take hold of them.

What happens when trust in God is undermined? The hope for heaven fades. As a result, their drive to serve the church weakens. Without the Word dwelling in their hearts, they become overly sensitive to people’s opinions and begin to act falsely in order to maintain a false show of godliness. As they rationalize their behavior, their pride becomes more evident. Lacking what is from heaven, they start to boast about the things of the world. Struggling not to feel inferior, they fall into materialism. To gain a sense of superiority, they chase after new knowledge. In the end, even their willingness and heart to love are seized by the enemy.

When a believer ends up in such a state, it means the devil’s attack has succeeded. In this condition, most people do not even realize that they have been attacked by the devil. Many believers place the purpose of their faith in the pursuit of a comfortable life. They cannot respond to the warning that these are evil days, nor do they want to hear the plea to face spiritual reality. And yet, this is exactly what the devil desires. Such people cannot withstand the devil’s attacks. Their end is clear: they either turn away from the

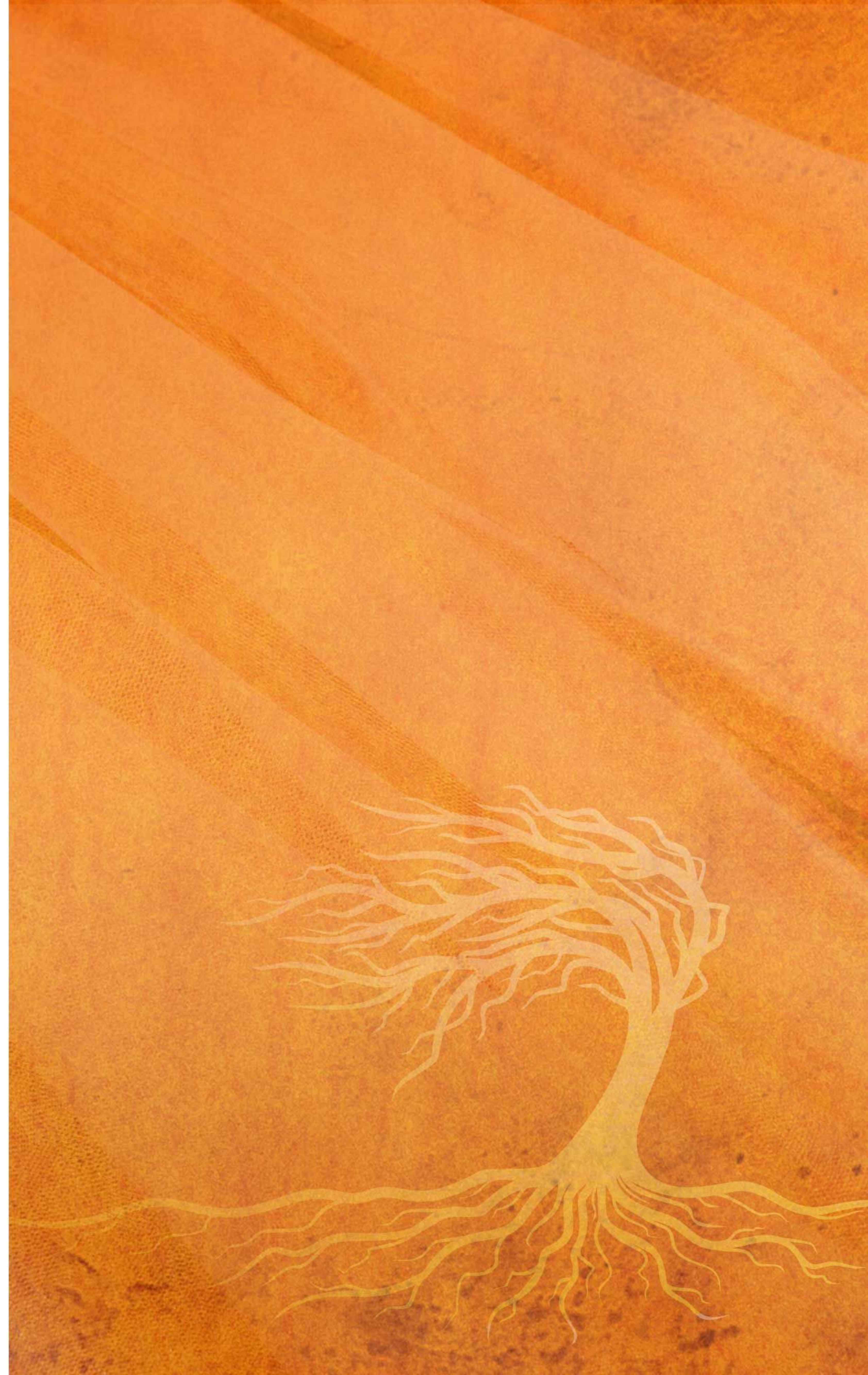
the gospel, barely hold on to the title of believer, or end up becoming a burden to the church out of their own greed.

This is why we must put on the whole armor of God. To withstand the devil's onslaught until the end, we must put on every part of God's armor. And the very first part we must take up is to gird our waist with truth. If this is not in place, nothing else can follow. To "gird your waist with truth" does not simply mean to know the Word of truth. "Truth" referred here speaks of faithfulness. It can also be described as uprightness, integrity, and sincerity—in a word, it is goodness. What God's truth demands from us is this faithful heart and attitude.

By nature, we do not possess faithfulness. However, if we fully trust in God, we can hold on to the hope of heaven God has promised—no matter the circumstance. Even in suffering, we can acknowledge that God is with us, and even when we do not understand, we can obey His Word. God always keeps what He has spoken. He fulfills His promises, even if they bring harm to Himself. God cannot lie. Those who trust in such a God are drawn closer to faithfulness. They come to serve God with hope and joy, and the more they do, the more faithful they become. So let us first gird our waist with truth and draw near to God.

*Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim*

*Lord's Day Service on June 29, 2025*



# The Whole Armor of God

2

## Put on the Breastplate of Righteousness

(Ephesians 6:14)

“Didn’t Jesus’ blood take care of everything? Then why keep obsessing over sin? I mean, let’s be real—no matter what we do, how righteous can we really become? That just sounds like legalism to me. If the Lord says we’re righteous, then we should just believe that. Honestly, it’s not like I’ve committed any huge sins in my life, but I keep hearing things like, “Obey,” “Repent,” “Feel sorrow for your sins”—and it just feels like a burden. Isn’t repentance more of a thing for new believers? And I don’t really get the whole idea of carrying pain for the rest of my life either. Besides, ever since I received the Holy Spirit, I’ve lived more diligently than most people I know. I’ve never missed first service on the Lord’s Day, and I’ve been volunteering for decades now. Isn’t that enough? Haven’t I done well?”

If someone holds such thoughts, he is a person who has been pierced in the chest by the spear wielded by the devil. His heart no longer holds to faithfulness, and his will has lost its direction toward obedience to God. The place of repentance feels distant, and he distorts the Word to justify himself. He has also been deeply wounded in his inward parts. His emotions are distorted, and his feelings go against truth. Even when he commits sin, he does not know how to feel anguish or sorrow. He does not love what ought to be loved, nor hate what ought to be hated. He does not mourn when he should mourn, nor suffer when he ought to suffer. He has become so accustomed to sin that his conscience is scarcely stirred.

To defend against such attacks of the devil, it is the breastplate of righteousness that we must put on. This is not a breastplate made of leather or metal, but one made of righteousness. You say you held a high position in the church? You taught many people, did you? If that is a righteousness that reveals your own achievements and merits, it cannot protect you from the devil’s attack. Some may say, “Yes, of course—our own righteousness doesn’t count for anything. That’s

why we must put on the righteousness that Jesus, who became sin for us, has imputed to us.” However, the righteousness imputed by God has delivered us from the punishment of sin, but it does not shield us from the attacks of the devil.

Then, what kind of righteousness should we put on? It is the righteousness that comes from obeying the Word of God. Even if we are believers, we cannot say that we have already obtained this righteousness. In order to receive it, we must strive diligently to live out righteousness until the day we meet the Lord. The righteousness of obeying the Word of God! The righteousness of whole-life obedience—applying the Word to every part of our lives! Only those who have received the righteousness imputed by Christ are able to walk in this righteousness. Yet sadly, many have abused this imputed righteousness. Here is what that sounds like: “Jesus already took care of all my sins with His blood—past, present, and even future. So whatever I do now, it is no longer sin.”

When war breaks out, no one knows when or where missiles might strike. The attacks of the devil are even more unpredictable. Therefore, the breastplate of righteousness must be put on not only in specific situations, but at all times—wherever we are, whatever we are doing. We must never lose the heart and posture to act according to the Word at any moment in our lives. If we live this way, we have no reason to fear, no matter how secretly the devil attacks. This is because even the devil’s assaults—those that seek to distort our will and emotions and sever our connection with God—will be blocked by the breastplate of righteousness, which protects us.

*Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim*  
*Lord’s Day Service on July 6, 2025*



# The Whole Armor of God

3

## Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

(Ephesians 6:15)

Christians should not think of themselves only as the Lord's sheep. We are also soldiers in the army led by Christ. This world is under the dominion of the devil and his great organized forces. Given that Christians are engaged in spiritual warfare in such a world, to ignore our identity as soldiers is to leave ourselves defenseless and exposed to deadly danger. We must all withstand the enemy's attacks and stand firm to the end. To do so, we must put on the whole armor of God. After a faithful heart and righteousness lived out in obedience, the third part we must take up is a "reconciled relationship with God."

Those who are not reconciled with God have no peace, no matter what they do. In their anxiety, they try to fight in their own way, but in the end, they are captured by the enemy and thoroughly used. In contrast, those who are reconciled with God have confidence. **"Even if the world mocks me, God loves me."** Because of this conviction, they are not shaken. **"I have become one with God. He will not abandon me."** Because of this assurance, they are not afraid, even when the enemy launches fierce attacks. **"God fights for me. God protects me."** With this confidence, they do not draw back in any situation—they move forward.

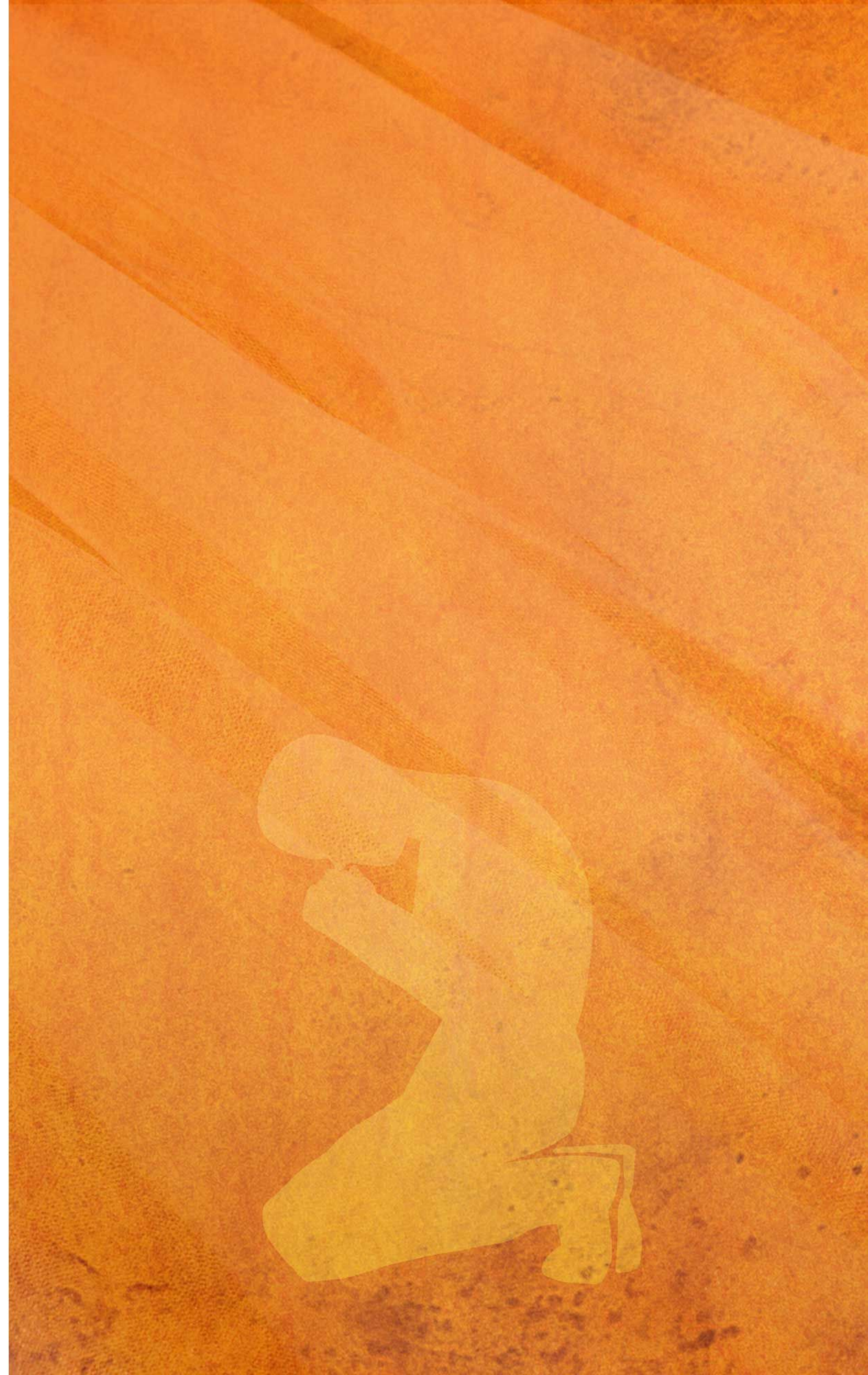
This is like the confidence of a soldier wearing shoes perfectly suited for battle. If a soldier wears slippery shoes, he will have to crawl when climbing a slope toward the enemy. If his shoes keep coming off, he won't be able to fight properly in hand-to-hand combat. And if the soles are too thin, his feet may be wounded by sharp stones along the way, preventing him from reaching the battlefield in time. On the other hand, if a soldier wears shoes well-prepared for battle, even that alone can greatly strengthen his confidence. It is for this very reason that the Lord commanded

us, **“Having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace!”**

“The gospel of peace” does not simply refer to a gospel that offers psychological comfort. Here, “peace” refers to a once-broken relationship with God that has been reconciled through the sacrifice of Christ. To better understand this, it may help to think in terms of reconciliation rather than just peace. God cannot tolerate sin. Without the merit of Christ, the moment we stood before God, He would have dashed at us in wrath because of our sin. But in reality, that charge was directed toward Christ, who was crucified, and the wrath that was meant for us was turned away. This is the reconciliation the gospel has brought to us.

To enjoy this reconciliation, we must obey the gospel and repent. This is not a momentary experience. Just as a soldier always wears his shoes in preparation for an attack that may come at any time, those who have truly repented live with a repentant heart throughout their lives. This does not mean listing every sin we have committed, nor trying to raise some graph of righteousness that has dropped because of sin. Our very nature has fallen into sin. We must acknowledge this and continue moving forward toward a changed life. Those who repent in this way cherish, above all, reconciliation with the church and reconciliation with fellow believers. This is decisive proof that they are reconciled with God.

*Sermon by **Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim**  
Lord's Day Service on July 13, 2025*



# The Whole Armor of God

## 4

### The Shield of Faith

(Ephesians 6:16)

**“Is God really going to take responsibility for me until the end?” “Why is He just standing by, doing nothing, in a moment like this?” “Now I’ll have to take matters into my own hands.”**

Even when we don’t want them, such thoughts can suddenly rise up and trouble us. In times of hardship, they become especially hard to push away. Injustice, worry, fear, distrust, and even revengefulness! These are not just passing emotions. As our trust in God begins to fade, we start to doubt His care. Our effort to reflect His nature weakens. And when we’re shaken by the thought that we might be able to live without Him, we start reshaping our lives in ways that go against His will.

All this wavering is no accident. On the surface, it may seem like we’re simply influenced by the philosophies, ideologies, and customs of the world. But behind them stands a personal being who targets believers—the devil. He precisely discerns each person’s weaknesses and aims directly at them, firing a countless number of fiery darts. His purpose is not just to cause trouble. It is to shake our trust in God and ultimately sever the relationship between the Savior and those He has saved. Why does a believer suddenly begin to doubt God? This is exactly what the devil intended. He always tempts with what is appealing and comes close with a persuasion.

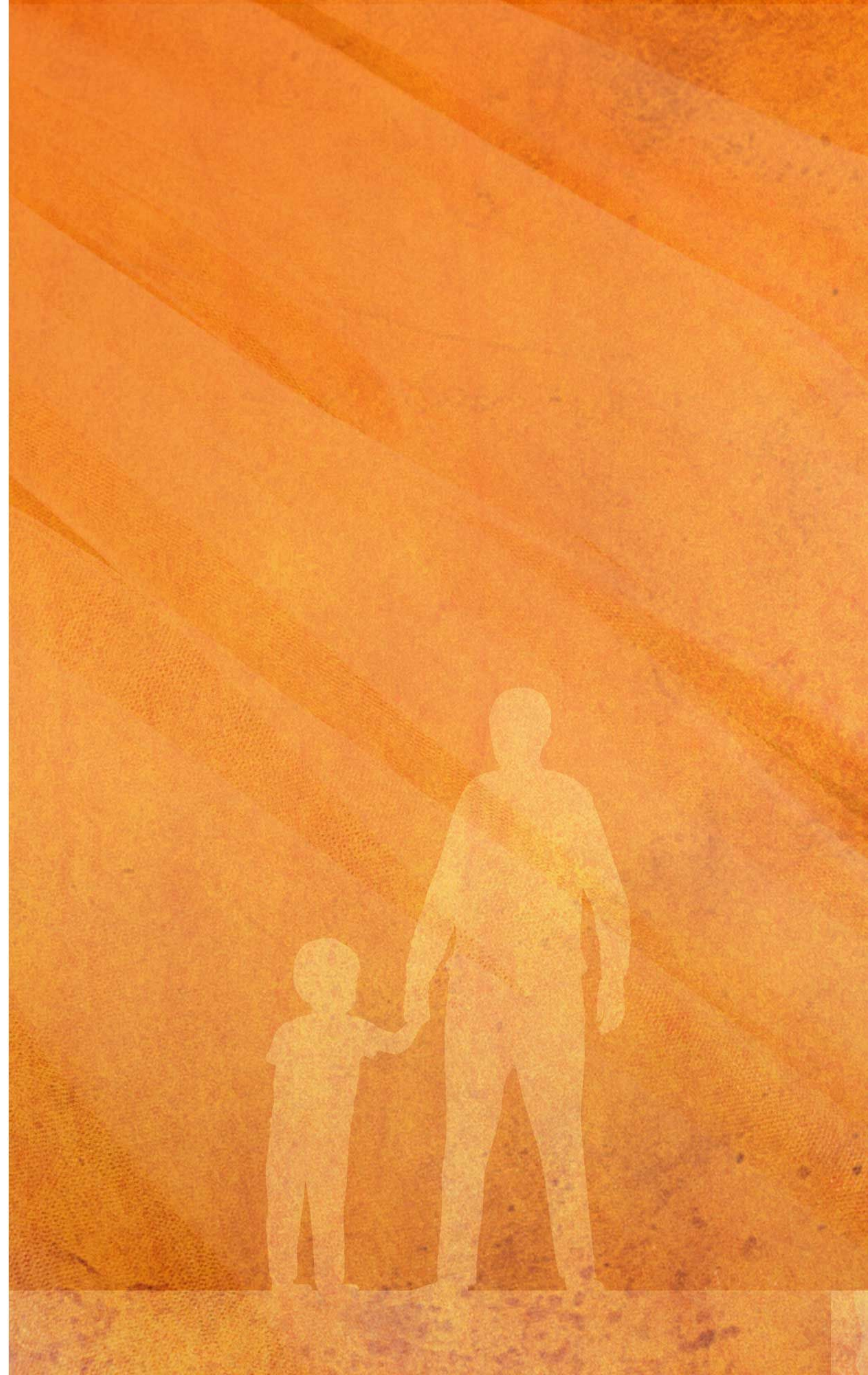
In ancient warfare, fiery darts were deadly weapons. They did not just stop at piercing the body—they went further, inflicting severe burns where they struck. The flaming substances that scattered on impact ignited nearby gear and clothing, throwing entire formations into chaos. Imagine such fearful arrows raining down from the sky. A small buckler used in hand-to-hand combat was no match for this kind of assault. What was needed was a large

shield—made of solid wood and thick leather, thoroughly soaked in water just before battle so it wouldn't catch fire. Only such a shield could protect the soldiers without breaking formation.

God has given this shield to us who are in the midst of spiritual warfare. It is the “shield of faith.” Faith spoken of here is not merely agreement with doctrine or recognition of spiritual knowledge. It means trusting in God, who is a personal being—placing our full trust in His promises and His word, and His will and His plan. Through Jesus Christ, He saved us, He is guiding our lives even now, and He will protect us until we reach the resurrection. He never fails. To trust in this God to the very end—this is the only defense that can quench the fiery darts of the devil.

God is the One who keeps His promises. And He is full of power to fulfill every word He has spoken. He kept His promise even to the point of sacrificing His beloved Son on the cross. To those who trust in Him, God holds them fast to the end; to those who obey His word, He grants every good gift and every perfect gift; and to those who seek His will, He supplies all their needs according to His riches in glory in Christ. Therefore, in every situation, let us not be afraid, but trust in God who is faithful and merciful. Let us deflect every fiery dart fired by the evil one to the end—with the shield of faith.

*Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim*  
*Lord's Day Service on July 20, 2025*



# The Whole Armor of God

## 5

### The Helmet of Salvation

(Ephesians 6:17)

Countless Christians have endured hardship and tribulation without abandoning their faith. Though the sea of the world raged with violent waves, they stood firm—like ships anchored deep, never drifting away. They faced injustice and walked through times when no future could be seen. And yet, strangely, they did not fall. What was the strength that sustained them? It was the hope of salvation. Though they seemed fragile on the outside, deep within their hearts was a firm conviction—**“I will surely be saved”**—and because of this assurance, they did not waver. And it was their earnest hope—set on what is unseen—that shielded them from the enemy’s deadly attacks.

Even if a soldier is well equipped with every other piece of armor, if he is struck on the head by the enemy’s broadsword, he will fall on the spot. That is why a soldier going into battle must wear a helmet. The same is true in spiritual warfare. The enemy strikes our minds with thoughts like, **“Am I truly saved?”** or **“Can I really hold on to my salvation until the end?”** When we are weighed down by the burdens of life or suffering through tribulation, the enemy swings his sword even more fiercely. In moments like these, what protects us from his deadly blows is the helmet—the faith that holds firmly to the promise of salvation.

Some might ask, **“Isn’t salvation already ours the moment we believe, regardless of whether our assurance is strong or weak?”** But the Bible speaks of salvation in three aspects. The first is justification—a change in our status that takes place the moment we believe in Jesus. The second is sanctification, which begins after we enter into Christ. As we daily overcome the temptations of sin and offer ourselves as servants of righteousness, we gradually become more like Christ. The third is glorification, which will be

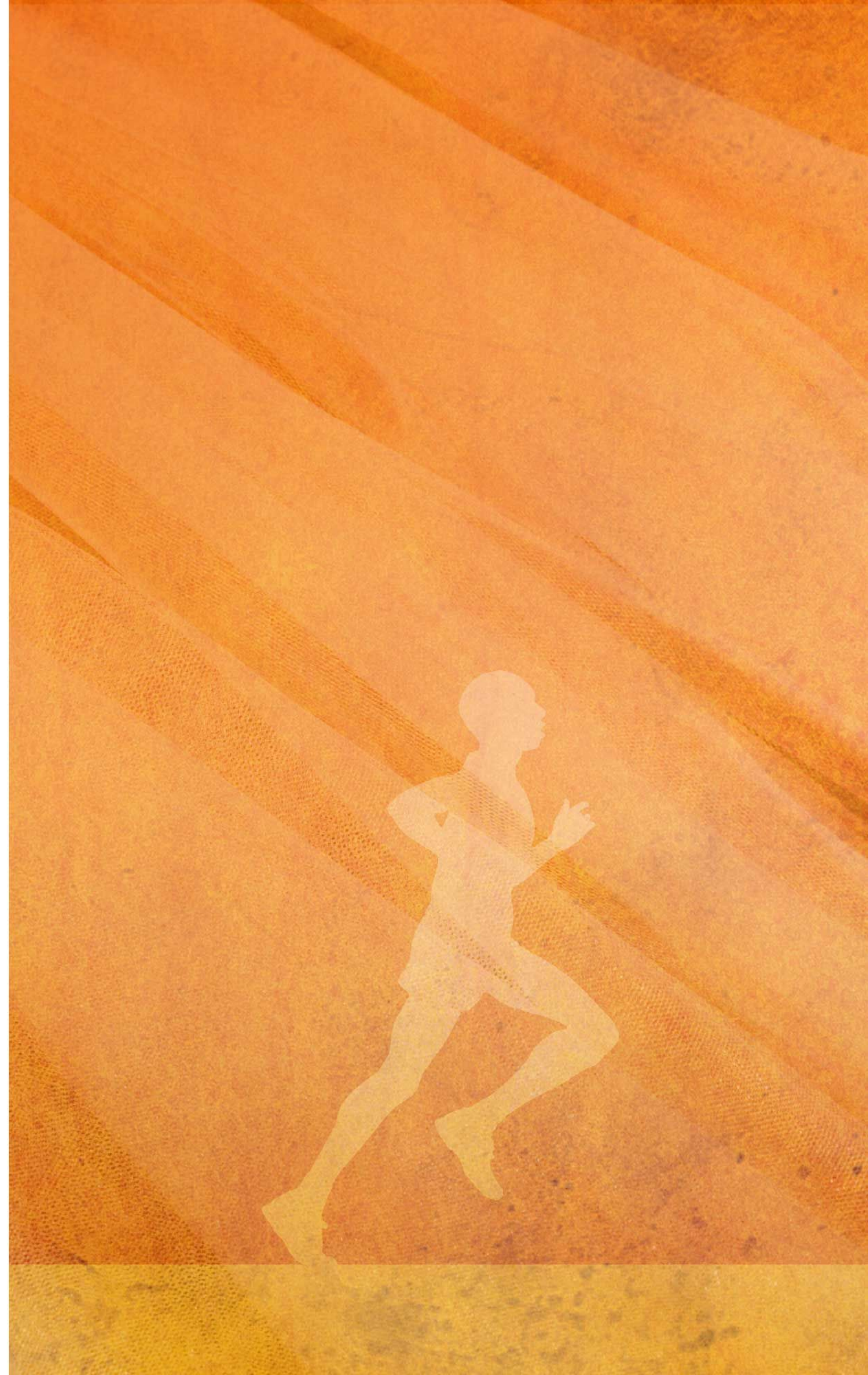
fulfilled on the last day. On the day, we will be raised from the dead and enjoy the glory of heaven with the Lord. The hope of salvation that protects us refers to this very expectation—the coming glorification in the future.

The enemy makes believers doubt their salvation to shake this expectation and hope. He causes them to question whether their faith is genuine and whether they are truly saved. Living the life of faith in such a state is deeply distressing. No matter how much one tries to encourage oneself, there is no joy, and the heart grows weary. On the contrary, those who hold onto the earnest hope—**“I will surely be saved. No—I must be saved.”**—do not fall, no matter the circumstance. This hope cannot be forced. All we can do is long for the day and obey God’s commandments. If our hope and obedience are sincere, God will surely keep us to the very end.

The Lord spoke these words so that we would not lose heart: **“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you!” “In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world!” “This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.”** We are able to devote ourselves to the gospel because we have the hope of salvation. At times, we may feel alone, misunderstood, or forgotten in the memories of others—but the Lord never lets go of those who long for Him and depend on Him. By His power, He will keep them to the very end and, at last, present them blameless before the glory of God.

*Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim*

*Lord’s Day Service on July 27, 2025*



# The Whole Armor of God

6

## The Spirit of the Sword

(Ephesians 6:17)

“Life’s already hard enough these days. The Word should bring peace—at least in church. Why should it feel like a burden? Don’t let all that talk about sin and repentance weigh you down. God loves you just as you are. Faith isn’t about pushing yourself—it’s about helping you be yourself. Just be yourself. You don’t need to carry that pressure to change.” If someone came to you usually deny God’s Word, pick and choose what to believe, or interpret it based on their own assumptions, will be most easily struck down by the enemy in moments like this.

To resist the scheme of the devil, we must take up the sword of the Spirit. Think of how the serpent approached Eve and brought about her downfall with just a few seemingly caring words. The devil knows our weak points all too well and targets them precisely. To strike down such attacks, we must know God’s Word. This does not mean simply having much general knowledge about the Bible. We must receive the Word that is now running toward us—to save and guide us—into our hearts, and have it firmly equipped within us. In other words, we must receive it not merely as *logos*, a general statement, but as *rhema*—a Word specifically applied to our special situation.

If we can wield the sword of the Spirit rightly, then when the sharp blade of temptation comes—saying that change is not really necessary—we will not hesitate to draw the Word of God and strike it down with precision. **“It is written: ‘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’”** **“It is written: ‘And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God’”** Like this, the sword of the Spirit is a defensive weapon with which we can skillfully stand

against the devil's attacks.

The sword of the Spirit is an offensive weapon as well. This attack is not directed at the devil alone. It also strikes at the sin that has taken place under his influence, and at ourselves—those who bear responsibility for that sin. When this attack comes, our hearts will be pierced with pain under its reproach, yet we must not avoid it. If we do not miss this opportunity and truly turn back, the work of the devil will be cut down by the sword. And by the power of its strike, we will be moved: from the realm of falsehood to the realm of truth, from the realm of darkness to the realm of light, from the realm of sin and death to the realm of righteousness and life, from sorrow to joy, from despair to hope, from stagnation to growth, from immaturity to maturity, and from failure to success.

There are many who always hear the Word but fail to wield the power of the sword. It is those who test, select, and judge the Word by their own standards—and ultimately reject it; those who receive the Word with joy but abandon it when suffering comes; and those who distance themselves from the Word to protect their financial means or social status—it is they who fail to wield the power of the sword. However, those who are humble open their hearts to the Word, receive it, understand it, and obey it. To do this, we must take on an attitude of trusting in the Lord more than simply trying to accumulate knowledge. When we do, the Word of God becomes rhema—a living Word that pierces our hearts, makes us holy, and empowers us to stand against the devil.

*Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim*  
*Lord's Day Service on August 3, 2025*



# 2

## The Lamb of God

in *Let Us Know Jesus*

Chapter 16, “The Lamb of God”



*Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi” (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), “where are You staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas” (which is translated, A Stone). (John 1:35-42)*

God is faithful. He surely keeps His promises. Whether it is Jesus Christ coming to the earth or dying on the cross, they are all result of God keeping His promises. Because God keeps His promises, Jesus Christ has today become our Lord and Savior. When Jesus is referred to as the ‘Lamb of God’ (Jn 1:36), it does not mean He is cuddly and soft like a lamb. It means He is the promised Lamb.

There are two kinds of laws. One is the law coming naturally from man’s conscience; the other is the Law revealed to Moses. The law coming from man’s conscience has some similarities with the Law of Moses. For example, there is ancient Middle Eastern literature containing things similar to Moses’ Ten Commandments. These laws were not revealed by God but came naturally from man. On the other hand, God called Moses and personally revealed His Law to him. Afterwards, Moses proclaimed them to the people.

Though they are the same action, they can have completely different meaning depending on whether they were done by personal preference or God's revelation. Some people do not worship idols because they naturally do not like idols. Some people do not worship idols because God commanded to keep away from them. There is a fundamental difference between the two. Whether an action is done by personal conscience or God's will is what determines either salvation or destruction.

When the Israelites rely on the Law of Moses, this is the conscience of faith. When the gentiles rely on the law coming from themselves, this is regular conscience. Romans 2:14-15 talks about this. It says, "for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them."

The greatest difference between the law coming naturally and the Law of Moses is, unlike the former, the Law of Moses is prophetic and has God's promises. Romans 3:21 says, "But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets." As this verse says, the Law has a prophecy and the Prophets have a prophecy. When God gave the Israelites the Law, He gave them a conscience according to His will. Those with this conscience have a kind of promise. God's promise is none other than the Lamb. As the Law of Moses says, no ceremony or service can be fulfilled without the Lamb.

If we trace the origins of the Lamb, it goes back to Abraham. When Abraham became a hundred years old, God gave him a son. How adorable must he have been if he was born when Abraham was a hundred years old? Many people say the emotions from raising a son when you are young and the emotions from raising a grandson are quite

On the way to offer the burnt offering, Isaac asked Abraham, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham tried to conceal his distress and stay aloof, yet he must have been greatly distressed when asked this. Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." He said this, but instead of thinking a real lamb would be on the mountain, he would have thought God gave him his son for this very day. When Isaac heard God would provide, he went without another word (Gen 22:7-8).

The two of them arrived at the place God directed. Abraham offered his son on Mount Moriah, and this is where the temple of Jerusalem was later built. Abraham spread firewood on the place God directed, tied his son up, and placed him there. Isaac did not doubt his father's actions one bit but trusted God would provide. When Abraham picked up the knife and grabbed his son, God was certain he was really going to slay his son and burn him. God quickly said, "Abraham, Abraham!...Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." Abraham heard this, looked up and saw a ram caught in a thicket by its horns and could not move. Abraham called the land 'Jehovah Jireh', which means, 'God will provide'. With the death of the ram prepared by God, Abraham recovered his son's life (Gen 22:9-14).

When God gave the revelation saying, "Offer your son!", how afraid, anxious and trembling must Abraham have been? From this moment until the word came saying, "Abraham, Abraham! Do not lay your hand on the lad," it corresponds to the Law. The Law was revealed by God. It made the people afraid, anxious and tremble. Finally, the voice came saying, "Abraham, Abraham! Do not lay your hand on the lad," and God provided the ram. This corresponds to the Gospel. Similarly, you should first know the Law to know the Gospel.

God said to Abraham, “By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies” (Gen 22:16-17, KJV). Here the word “thy seed” is not plural but single form. The Hebrew word for ‘gate’ is similar to ‘authority’. ‘Possessing gates’ means ‘tearing down authority’. So the word “your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies” means “I will give you a Son and He will trample on the devil’s authority.” This fulfills what God said earlier to the serpent:

And I will put enmity  
Between you and the woman,  
And between your seed and her Seed;  
He shall bruise your head,  
And you shall bruise His heel (Gen 3:15).

Several hundred years later, when the Israelites were in slavery in Egypt, God remembered the covenant He earlier established with Abraham and called Moses to save Israel. At the time, God made the people of Israel take a year-old lamb without blemish and put its blood on the sides and tops of the door frames. That night they ate the meat with their families. God said, “Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt” (Ex 12:13). On that day, though the firstborn of Egypt died, those who put the lamb’s blood on their door frames and spent the night eating meat in their houses were saved. This too deals with God’s promise about the Lamb, who came in the future.

Afterwards, Israel kept the Day of Atonement every year. After the

High Priest went in and out of the Most Holy Place, he laid hands on the lamb’s forehead and sent it into the desert. The lamb entered the desert and was eaten by a beast called ‘Azazel’. It never appeared again (Lev 16:10, ESV). In the same way, because Jesus Christ took up our sins and was eternally punished, our sins can no longer press us. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God.

Jesus Christ is the Lamb prophesied about in the Law and He saved us. The moment Abraham sacrificed his son (who is like his own spirit), the lamb appeared. Similarly, the moment our spirits were destroyed because of sin, Jesus (the Lamb of God) appeared. When we refer to Jesus as the Lamb of God, we mean He is the Sacrifice prepared by God.

The moment Jesus died on the cross, the curtain separating the Most Holy Place and the Holy Place was torn from top to bottom. Outside the curtain was where the people served God. Behind the curtain was where no one could enter and only God dwelt. In other words, one side was like the heaven of God and the other was like the world of man. When the curtain was torn, the division between the Most Holy Place and the Holy Place disappeared. Before, God and man could not dwell with each other, but now they could have fellowship.

Jesus said, “At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you” (Jn 14:20). He spoke about the promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Sure enough, the Holy Spirit enters us, inspires our spirits and rules our personalities. This is how we know that Jesus dwells in us and we are in Jesus. To sum up, the Holy Spirit entering us proves that the Lord dwells in us and we dwell in the Lord.

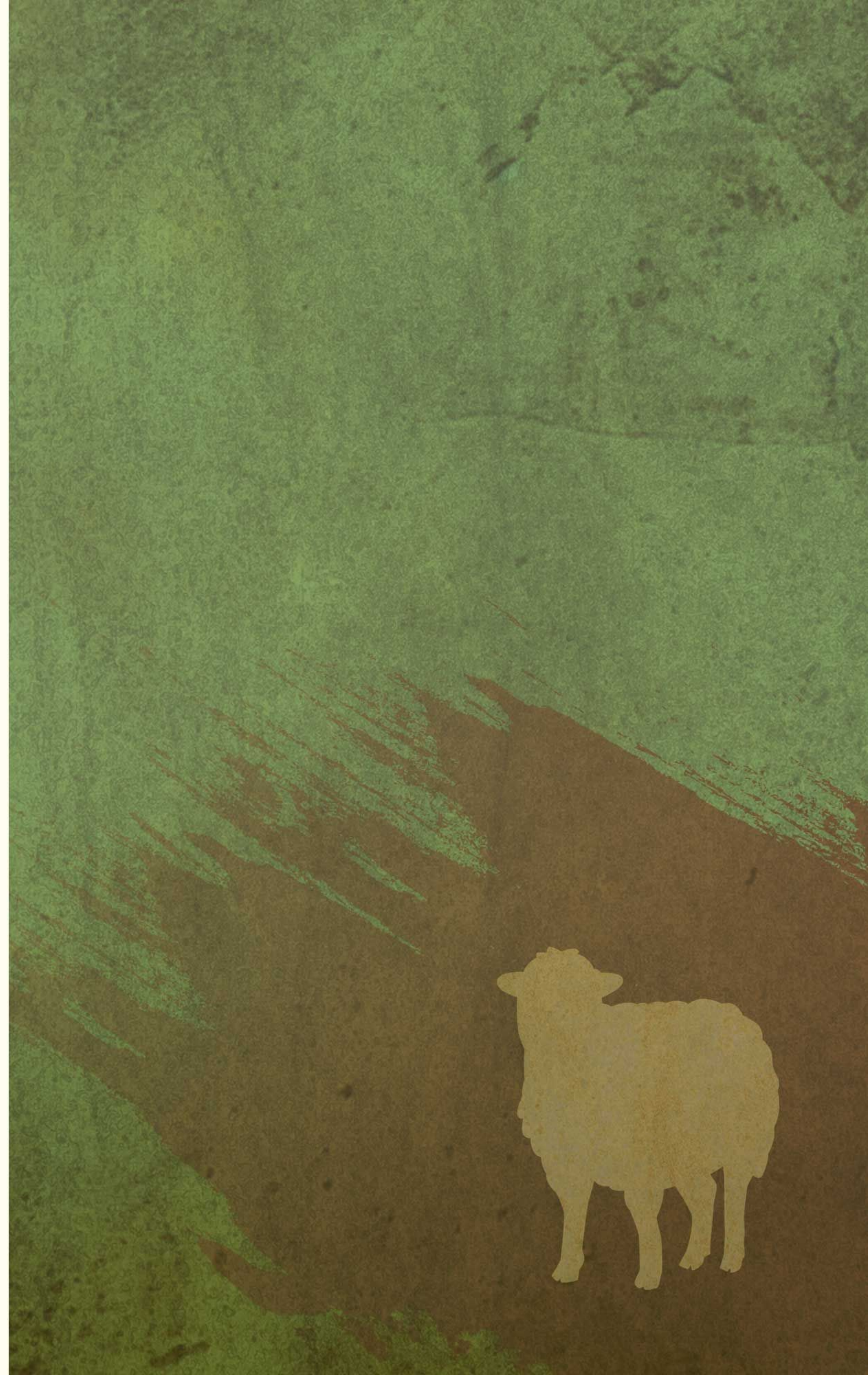
When the curtain was torn, the Most Holy Place and the Holy Place were united. In the same way, when Jesus Christ’s flesh was torn, the wall blocking God and man collapsed. God’s promised salvation was

was fulfilled through the Lamb provided by God. 1 Peter 1:18-20 says, “knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.” Jesus Christ is the Lamb provided by God from before creation. God said, “but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Just as God said, when man ate the fruit, he died. But the Lamb provided by God from eternity past died on man’s behalf and man lived.

Acknowledging Jesus as the Lamb of God is our faith. There is true salvation in such faith. We understand Jesus as the Lamb of God because we believe our spirits—doomed to eternal death—now live through Him. The promise of the Lamb of God in the Law of Moses is therefore fulfilled by the appearing of Jesus Christ.

When we say Jesus is the Lamb of God, it does not mean He is cute and gentle like a lamb. He is the Sacrifice provided by God to be sacrificed on behalf of mankind. Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you” (Jn 6:53). We have perfect life today because we eat the flesh of Jesus Christ and drink His blood. This is possible because of Christ’s sacrifice. Jesus is the Lamb of God.

*in Let Us Know Jesus  
Chapter 16, “The Lamb of God”*





3

# Testimony of Blessing

From China, Russia,  
Kenya, and Zimbabwe

## “How to Survive the Spiritual Battlefield”

Since childhood, I’ve often heard that the devil is our enemy. But truthfully, I never gave it much thought. I assumed Satan was insignificant before God, and over time, I came to view him almost like a clownish figure. Even when I nearly died of illness at age 35, I failed to recognize that the root of the problem was spiritual—that the devil was behind it.

However, after listening to Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim’s message about the devil’s vast organization, intelligence, and strategies, I came to a sobering realization: the devil dominates nearly every aspect of this world—politics, culture, religion, and even sickness. No matter where we are, we are under his influence. In front of such an enemy, I had been standing completely unarmed, thinking that simply shouting “Jesus” would make him flee. The very fact that I’ve survived until now is nothing but the grace and miracle of God. I deeply feel that He has had mercy on my ignorance and patiently waited for me.

Thankfully, through Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim, God is leading Sungrak Church and the Berea Movement. Through Sungrak Church, my blind spiritual eyes have been opened. I’ve come to understand the reality of the spiritual world, my own ignorance, and most importantly, God’s deep love and protection. I now realize that the only way to overcome the devil is to humbly follow the Word. That is the one and only way to survive in the midst of the battlefield.

*Evangelist Lui from China  
July 12, 2025*

# “Are You Wearing the Shoes?”

When I heard the message about “The Shoes of The Gospel of Peace,” it reminded me of the time when the war began in 2022.

I had heard that conscripts were gathering near the cultural center, so I went to find them, hoping to give them Bibles. It was February, and the temperature had dropped to minus 20 degrees Celsius. Most of the young men were not dressed for the bitter cold. Their clothes were thin, and they wore just slippers or sneakers. They looked entirely unprepared for war—so small and powerless in appearance.

Almost all of them accepted the Bibles I offered and tucked them carefully into their coats. Very few refused. We shared brief conversations, embraced, and said our farewells.

When the bus finally arrived and boarding began, cries broke out from every side. It seemed they were only then realizing the possibility that they might never see each other again. Parents and children, fiancés and lovers walked alongside the departing buses, reluctant to say goodbye.

I thought to myself, “How will they fight a war in shoes like that?” And as I listened to the sermon, I asked myself,

“Are you wearing the right shoes now? Are you obeying God? Are you at peace with Him? Are you wearing the shoes of the gospel of peace?”

Thankfully, by the Lord’s grace, I am enjoying peace with God. Day by day, I live in the peace He gives. I am deeply grateful for that grace. I thank God for granting me the covenant of peace that no one can break. My earnest desire is that I would never break that covenant myself or betray the grace He has given me.

I sincerely thank the overseer for delivering this precious message. The truth that genuine repentance gives us sturdy shoes has strengthened me greatly and clearly shown me the path I must take.

I pray that the gospel of peace will take deep root in my heart.

*Sister Irina from Russia  
July 23, 2025*



## “In a Confused Age, We Need the Truth”

I feel deeply honored and joyful to have received such a kind email from Sungrak Church. Reading your warm words filled with spiritual insight has been a great encouragement to me. I sincerely thank you for your gracious heart in sharing precious sermons and materials. The Berea Movement’s message and direction—centered on God and affirming that everyone has the right to receive His power—has resonated deeply in my heart. In a world like ours today, where confusion about the essence of faith is so great, I believe that God’s Word, in its truth and clarity, is needed all the more.

Through another pastor, I received the book *Law and Truth*, which has had a profound impact on me. This book has allowed me to view the Scriptures from a fresh spiritual perspective, and I have already shared some of its teachings with the members and leaders under my ministry. The book reaffirmed in me the truth that while the Law exposes sin, it cannot save; only the Truth—namely, Jesus Christ and His grace—can give life.

Christians must clearly understand the relationship between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant and live within the New Covenant. What especially impressed me in this book was its warning against mysticism, emotionalism, and doctrinal confusion. It exhorts believers to understand the Bible not as an abstract concept but with spiritual clarity, and to grow within sound doctrine. I am grateful to

Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim and to all the ministry team members. I look forward to continuing this fellowship and to sharing together the fruits that the Word delivered through Sungrak Church will bear in my life and ministry.

I pray that the Lord will continue to use Sungrak Church to proclaim clarity, revival, and truth among the nations.

*With gratitude and love in Christ,  
Pastor Khisa from Kenya  
July 5, 2025*



# “Not by Emotion, but by Covenant”

Hello, my name is Chimange from Zimbabwe.

After receiving books from Sungrak Church and beginning to properly understand the gospel, my life and ministry have been transformed.

I was born into a broken family full of abandonment, abuse, and rejection. I grew up under a violent father and a neglectful stepmother, treated as less than human by my half-siblings. Most of my childhood was spent in silence, anger, and deep bitterness. I served in the church, preached, and guided others, yet deep inside me were wounds, confusion, and resentment toward God.

For many years, I pursued signs, wonders, and success in ministry, believing that visible anointing was proof of God’s approval. I thought the louder I prayed, the more God would accept me. But inside, I remained empty. Then, through the Berea message, I encountered the “Word of Covenant.”

The message that changed my life was this: “God does not work according to emotions or traditions. God works according to His covenant.” This truth shook my soul. I realized that I had been serving God in the flesh—driven by pain, pride, and personal ambition—not in the Spirit and truth.

From then on, I began to deeply study the gospel of the risen Christ, the image of God revealed through the Word. I repented not only of my sins, but also of the heart that had misunderstood God. I stopped preaching for people’s applause, and now I proclaim the kingdom of

God according to His will, not by human effort.

Today, as I continue my pastoral ministry, I am raising up ministers who follow the Spirit of truth and the Word—not emotions. We are training believers to live by God’s covenant, not by fear or tradition.

The Word of the covenant has healed me, renewed my family, and given clear direction to my life. I no longer live reacting to pain, but in the revelation of my calling. I am moved not by people’s recognition, but by the mission of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Zimbabwe will be saved not by religion, but by the revelation of Christ, who is the image of God. This is the message I now preach: “Repent, for the kingdom of God is near.”

I am deeply grateful for the message that brings true transformation in life.

*Pastor Chimange from Zimbabwe  
July 18, 2025*



# “All That I Thought Was Mine”

In the past, I believed that there were still many paths in this world that I should see and walk through, and I also had expectations toward the world. But when I was forced to take off my clothes and change into a prison uniform simply because I attended a house church, I truly realized: everything I thought was mine—even my freedom and even myself—could be taken away at any time. The shock of that deprivation when it actually happened was overwhelming. I had never once imagined that I could become a prisoner.

Inside the detention center, everything moved according to strict regulations. Meals, sleep, everything had to follow the set times. There, I not only felt how little freedom a “criminal” has, but I came to realize thoroughly that a criminal is no longer regarded as a “human being,” but as one who has been stripped of everything. And finally, I began to understand how great a humiliation and disgrace it was for the Lord Jesus to be treated together with sinners.

I came to know more clearly that, until the very last moment, the only One who remains for me is God. When I sat upright, eyes open, unable to speak but silently praying, I fully realized: the only thing in me that this world cannot take away is God who dwells within me, and the only One who can remain with me to the end is my Lord, my God. Therefore, what remains at the end is the soul filled with God’s Word.

How grateful I am that someone like me can participate in God’s work of bringing blessing to all nations. More and more clearly, I recognize that the footprints of blood are not only the path we have walked, but also the path we must walk ahead. That path is full of thorns, yet it shines gloriously!

Thank you for leading me to walk together on this path. Thank you for holding me in your heart. Now I also will keep the Lord’s heart in my heart, striving to truly know Him.

*Sister Gao from China  
August 12, 2025*



## “If It Could Be Read in Swahili”

I came to know Sungrak Church when I first received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. My hometown pastor gave me a book because I always asked questions about the Holy Spirit and the spiritual world. He handed me the book, and when I read it, I received great blessings. I read it many times, and every time I read it, I was blessed. I came to see new things I had not noticed before.

I thought to myself: there are already many people who know God and have received Jesus as their Lord and Savior, yet so many remain ignorant about the Holy Spirit. Some people are unaware of the spiritual reality in which we live. I myself had been ignorant about the Holy Spirit, about demons, about the spiritual things happening around us, and even about our actual position and advantageous standing in Christ. But then I came to know about the Holy Spirit, and I learned things I had never known before.

So I thought: if this one book could bless me so much, I must share it with others. I shared it with my sisters. They also began reading it, and at first they did not understand well. But as time went on, they began to understand, and we read it together in discussion. Through the Scriptures recorded in that book, we realized so much, and we also realized how much we still did not know.

Then I thought again: what about those who have never known these things? In Kenya, where I live, many people know about God and go to church. They hear about the Holy Spirit, and they hear about

demons. But it is only superficial knowledge. Many people can say that they are saved, yet their lives show no knowledge of the Holy Spirit. They do not really understand the spiritual reality. They fear evil spirits. They know that evil spirits exist, but they do not know the spiritual authority and superiority they have in Christ.

So I decided to reach out to Sungrak Church through the contact listed on the last page of the book. I testified about how much this book had blessed me and those around me. I thank God that after that first contact, I began to receive emails from Sungrak Church. We started to communicate, and then Sungrak Church began sending me books. Those books became blessings to many around me.

After I was saved, I realized I needed to do more for God. I had a strong desire to serve, and I chose to serve in my hometown church. On top of the small things I was already doing, books were now added. I shared them with church members and those around me. Through these books, I even started a small Bible study group. We read the books and shared together. After reading a chapter, if someone did not understand something or needed to know more, we would discuss it. So it became both book study and Bible study. After reading, we returned to the Bible like the Bereans. We examined what the Word actually meant. And through this, we grew spiritually.



My mother does not speak English but uses Swahili. She watched us as we grew—reading the books, receiving them, sharing, and studying together. But she felt a little disappointed because she could not participate directly like we could. She had the time, but since she could not read the English books, all she could do was listen as we explained parts to her. At that time, I had a desire in my heart: that one day these books would be translated into Swahili. Many people in Kenya use both English and Swahili, which are the two official languages of the country.

So I thought: if these books are translated into Swahili, how many people will be able to read them? Especially the older generation who prefer Swahili over English—they would greatly benefit. Then one day, I received a request from Sungrak Church to help with proofreading and translating English books into Swahili. It felt like an answer to my prayer. I was overjoyed, because I knew this was a way I could share blessings with others, especially with people in East Africa.

I realized this was my mission for God. Though I was struggling without finding a job, this was something I could do—something that

would bless many people around the world. And what surprised me most was that the very first book I helped translate was *Let Us Know the Holy Spirit*—the book that had first blessed my own life. I was so happy. I gave my all to help with the Swahili translation. And when the book was published and sent to me, I was overjoyed.

The first person I ran to deliver the book to was my mother. She had always asked me when the book would come out. Although I told her I was translating, I had never been able to show her the finished work. Finally, when I gave her the book, she was so happy and blessed. I also shared it with my church members. Many testified that they came to realize things they had not known before. For example, when we came to the part about sinning against the Holy Spirit being unforgivable, many raised questions. A big discussion arose in the church, and the pastor himself had to step in to explain more deeply.

As I read the various books, I came to clearly know the reason for our existence—that the blessings we receive are not only for ourselves but so that we can be a blessing to others. Through this process, I came to know our true purpose: we exist not for ourselves but to bless others. And when I heard the news of Mrs. Kang Soon's passing, I realized that she too had been a great blessing in God's work. Her labor has influenced countless people. Even though we did not know her personally, today we share in the blessings she left behind.

There is truly so much work to be done for God's kingdom. Sungrak Church is doing it, and it is bringing blessings to multitudes. I myself am being blessed through it, and through me, many others are also

More people will come to know God, and they will come to recognize His blessings and the spiritual realities. We are living in a time when so many things are happening. Only true knowledge can firmly establish people and keep them from being swayed by false teachings. Through these books, many are beginning to understand their spiritual reality and are returning to God.

I came to know that Sungrak Church distributes books even to faraway countries like Russia. Translated into many languages, the books are becoming blessings worldwide. How could a villager like me in Kenya ever come to know people in Korea? But when you do God's work, He connects you with people you never imagined. This is the work of God.

Thank you for what you are doing. May God bless you and keep you. May you continue to be a blessing to those who hear, to those who read, and to those who come to know Christ through you. This world will soon come to an end. Our Lord Jesus Christ is coming back soon. My prayer is that before that day comes, more people will come to know Jesus and give their lives to Him.

When that day comes, it will be great joy to see God's kingdom blessed, expanded, and spread throughout the world. And this is happening through Sungrak Church and the Sungrak family. Therefore, I sincerely thank Sungrak Church. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be part of you. Thank you for what you are doing for the Body of Christ. May God bless you and keep you. Amen.

*Sister Kisali from Kenya  
August 20, 2025*

# 4

## *His Expectations as One Who Gives Grace*

*in The Messenger Running in Hurry*

Sermon Series 6

"Then Elisha said, 'Hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord: 'Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria.'" So an officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God and said, 'Look, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?' And he said, 'In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it.' Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, 'Why are we sitting here until we die? If we say, "We will enter the city," the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall only die.' And they rose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; and when they had come to the outskirts of the Syrian camp, to their surprise no one was there. For the Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses—the noise of a great army; so they said to one another, 'Look, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!' Therefore they arose and fled at twilight, and left the camp intact—their tents, their horses, and their donkeys—and they fled for their lives. And when these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they went into one tent and ate and drank, and carried from it silver and gold and clothing, and went and hid them; then they came back and entered another tent, and carried some from there also, and went and hid it. Then they said to one another, 'We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent. If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us. Now therefore, come, let us go and tell the king's household.' So they went and called to the gatekeepers of the city, and told them, saying, 'We went to the Syrian camp, and surprisingly no one was there, not a human sound—only horses and donkeys tied, and the tents intact.' And the

gatekeepers called out, and they told it to the king's household inside. So the king arose in the night and said to his servants, 'Let me now tell you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we are hungry; therefore they have gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, "When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive, and get into the city."' And one of his servants answered and said, 'Please, let several men take five of the remaining horses which are left in the city. Look, they may either become like all the multitude of Israel that are left in it; or indeed, I say, they may become like all the multitude of Israel left from those who are consumed; so let us send them and see.' Therefore they took two chariots with horses; and the king sent them in the direction of the Syrian army, saying, 'Go and see.' And they went after them to the Jordan; and indeed all the road was full of garments and weapons which the Syrians had thrown away in their haste. So the messengers returned and told the king. Then the people went out and plundered the tents of the Syrians. So a seah of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the Lord. Now the king had appointed the officer on whose hand he leaned to have charge of the gate. But the people trampled him in the gate, and he died, just as the man of God had said, who spoke when the king came down to him. So it happened just as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, 'Two seahs of barley for a shekel, and a seah of fine flour for a shekel, shall be sold tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria.' Then that officer had answered the man of God, and said, 'Now look, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, could such a thing be?' And he had said, 'In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it.' And so it happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gate, and he died." (2 Kings 7:1-20, NKJV)

A messenger is one who has been sent and one who honors the calling. Who can become a called messenger? One who does not retreat or escape can be a called messenger. There were these men who could not enter the city because they were lepers. They lived outside the city. People in the city were dying of starvation, not to mention those outside the city. The Syrian army was camped not far from the city gate.

Since these four men living outside the city had no means to survive and were on the brink of death, they discussed what to do. If they enter the city, there is no food there either. If they leave the city and go to the Syrian army, they will be killed. But they had nothing to lose. These men had nothing in the city, they did not have a home, and all their families abandoned them. Since they were going to die either way, they set off towards the Syrian camp. Thus, they became the missionaries with a calling. If we still have any attachment to the world, we will keep looking back with regret. However, these men had nothing to look back to.

As I have been living my faith life and devoted myself to doing God's work, there were a number of moments when I could have looked back. But what kept me strong and secure in those times was the fact that there was nothing to look back to. Because I knew all too well who I was before.

I knew where I came from. Although I mentioned this the other day, I came from being that sinner, who never met God, under a curse, weeping, and considering taking my own life because my life seemed to be meaningless. That is where I came from. Compared to then, what have I lost? Even if it seems like I am dedicating and sacrificing a lot right now, it is honestly not a sacrifice. Compared now

to back then, I am happy. I gained so much more, I have so much more, I am enjoying much more. I am happy. I have not lost anything compared to the past. There is so much I have gained and am thankful for.

However, people do not measure it that way. They look back on the days before they came to Jesus when they were on a roll - when they were good-looking, well-off, and popular - and complain that they have not got anything now. They begin to grumble and even resent the church. Their values are worldly.

Especially when I was heading over to China, I did not really have anything. Of course, I did have money, but I already knew that money is like leaves that get blown away by the wind and disappear. Hence, it was as if I did not have anything. I was able to go if I was told to go.

But for people who feel that they own much or there is much to enjoy, they cannot leave, just like the people within the city of Samaria could not because there was so much to lose. Even though everyone was starving to death in the city, because of everything they had in the city - their house, workplace, and people close to them - they could not leave the city despite the possibility of them starving to death in a couple of days. They were struggling to hold on to what they had and owned. How foolish!

But for these lepers, they had nothing to lose. They knew that their lives were as good as dead. So they set off. Obviously, the lepers thought it was by their own initiative that they headed to the Syrian camp. And because of this, when they found the steaming hot foods, the animals, and everything that was left behind by the Syrians, they believed they had met with such good fortune thanks to their wise

decision. But was it really?

When those four men walked towards the Syrian camp, the Syrians heard the noise of a great army, of horses and chariots. How could that be possible by their strength? It was God's doing. God used those weak men, who surrendered their lives, so that their footsteps were heard by the Syrians as the noise of a great army. This was not possible by their own doing but by God's.

If others were in those lepers' situation, they could have said to themselves, 'Those people inside the city got what they deserved! They always shunned and rejected us because of our leprosy. Now, we acted wisely. We acted valiantly!' However, these lepers did not think like that. They realized it was not by their own merits but solely by the grace of God. Because they acknowledged it was God's grace and not their own power, they had a different attitude.



At first, when they were starving, they could not think of anything else. But once they had their fill and were satisfied, what came to their mind? If they were shown such favor to find all that food and treasures, was it because there was something about those four lepers that was favorable and pleasing to God that He did that? Whoever thinks so is mistaken.

But do you know who thinks like that? People who are ungrateful. People who rely on their own works and righteousness believe that everything is the outcome of their "right" decisions. Hence, such people can never have a sense of calling.

People who have not received grace cannot have a calling. So then, what kind of person receives much grace? People who have been called to ministry. Others might wonder why they work so hard and selflessly, but it is because they have received grace abundantly. I can also confess this before God. I received boundless grace.

I experienced what it was like before receiving grace - the horrible, wretched and hell-like days. And because of that, when I met Jesus, His grace was overwhelmingly great. It is by that grace I am doing God's work.

However, when people do not receive grace, they start to have ulterior motives and become greedy because they do not remember the time when they were sinners. Instead of looking back on who they were in their past sinful state, they start to grumble against the church, have an aggressive attitude towards the church, and even look upon their fellow brothers and sisters with judgmental eyes as if they were their enemies. What is the reason for that? They failed to receive grace. Therefore, such people should first receive grace before thinking about serving God.

These lepers later realized that they were shown favor - God's grace. At first, they thought it was because they acted wisely or were lucky. So after they ate enough, what did they do? They went inside each tent and took the treasures and hid them. After that, they did not have anything else to do. And that is when they realized it was not by chance or coincidence that they were in the Syrian camp. They began to feel fearful of God and think about why all of this happened to them.

Then one of them came to his senses and said in verse 9. "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent. If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us. Now therefore, come, let us go and tell the king's household."

Inside the city, people were eating up their own children. So would it be reasonable to tell them to wait until evening? If they were able to wait, why would they even eat their children in the first place? "Today, let's eat your son. Tomorrow we will eat my son." This is what the people were doing. They had lost all humanity. Hence, there was not a moment to lose. Who knows how many people were dying every hour? So one of them said, "If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us." Thus, this was their calling.

A messenger with a calling cannot choose between whether or not he will do the work he is called for. If he was shown God's favor, there is definitely a reason for it.

One needs to understand the difference between favor and reward. If someone works and gets paid for his work, that is a reward. But what is a favor (grace)? It is a gift. A gift is freely given. It is an unmerited gift. Yet we must understand that every gift has a reason. Imagine someone gave you a gift. Why would they give you a gift?



There is a motive. There is something they want. They have an expectation. They give a gift, hoping to be well looked after.

I once received a laptop as a gift from someone in 2002. I do not even know who it was from, but someone gifted it to me through another person. When I received it, I thought, 'Why did he give this to me? Out of all the people out there, why did he gift it to me?' And because of that gift, I began to record and transcribe the Lord's Day sermons and sent them to others. I do not know if the gift-giver had such an intention when he gifted me the laptop, but there must be a definitive reason behind God inspiring that person to do that. If I were shown some favor, there is clearly a reason for it.

Sometimes missionaries from the United States visit us and bring us chocolates and other gifts. Why do you think they do that? They are showing their gratitude for the sermons we have sent them, but also hoping that we will continue to send them sermons. One person even gifted us an iPad. What was the reason for their gift? They were

indirectly requesting that we keep sending them sermons. We are making good use of that iPad for translation work.

In this way, a gift is given not because there is anything favorable about a person, but it is unmerited. Parents feeding their children is not a gift. It is because they are their beloved children that they feed them. But when it comes to a gift, it is given to someone for a special reason. People give gifts to their lovers. It is intentional. It is not without reason that they give gifts. One reason might be to captivate the other person's heart.

Similarly, if God has given us a gift, if He bestowed His grace upon us, it may be unmerited, but there is a reason for it. God bestows His grace that we "may proclaim the praises of Him." "That you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you." This is written in 1 Peter. We have to understand that God's gift is given for a reason. We should always have that in mind. If you are thinking, 'Why is God so gracious to me?' that is because God has an expectation.

It does not mean that one is obliged to do what God expects just because He was gracious to them. Since a gift is voluntary, the recipient is not obligated to do anything. However, God has an expectation when He grants His gifts.

It is written in 1 Peter 2:9, "that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." In this way, there is a reason when God bestows His grace. We are not obligated when we receive His gift. There is no obligation. However, the giver has a great expectation. Hence, when great grace is given, there is a great expectation. God wants us to know what His expectations are and act accordingly. He does not want us to do it reluctantly. That is why He did not make it a law but a gift.

So only a wise person who is sharp-witted and loves the Lord will get into action when he receives God's grace. Whoever does not love has no clue about the Lord's expectations. Only the ones that love the Lord can do what He expects.

Yesterday morning, the Overseer said, "Now is the time for us to do such and such. You need to be sharp-witted and quickly sense what to do. You have to be quick to catch on and follow. Those that fail to catch on will naturally be eliminated." He is right in saying that. We need to quickly catch on and follow the lead. He cannot be chasing after people telling them, "No, you can't do that. We don't need that. Why aren't you listening to me?" That is not how we can get the work done. If we receive grace, we have to quickly catch on and figure out what His expectations are and act accordingly.

That leper we read about came to his senses pretty quickly compared to the others and told them, "We are not doing right. If we wait longer, some punishment will come upon us." That is why they went to tell the news.

Paul said the same. In 1 Corinthians 9:16 he says, "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!"

Even if we eagerly teach the Berean teaching and make disciples, we have nothing to boast about. Why? Because we are doing what ought to be done. If we do not do it, woe is us! We received a gift so valuable, yet if we think it is by our own merits, woe will be on us, for it is not right. Therefore, we have to spread this news in haste. Likewise, the lepers had to act fast before another person died of starvation.

The king's officer, who did not acknowledge the grace of God from the beginning, did not get to partake in the glory and died because he

said those faithless words. It is very easy for us to react in the same manner as the officer. The response given by the king's officer can easily be our response to situations. For example, when a person speaks words of faith about what they are planning to do, it is easy for us to laugh it off and say something like, "Hey, don't be ridiculous!" or "That won't happen in a million years!" or "Not anyone can do that. Only people like Pastor Ki-Dong Kim can!" It is very easy for us to utter such words in response. Even when those words are at the tip of our tongue, we have to put a muzzle on our mouths. Otherwise, regardless of how well we did at other times, we will not be allowed to partake in God's glory because He will remember those words we uttered.

When Pastor 000 in China told me he was going to build a church building and was raising funds, words were at the tip of my tongue. I thought, 'How did he build a church building? His church is only a home church, not a Three-Self Patriotic Church. And when will they ever get the building finished?' These words were at the tip of my tongue. I almost laughed at it. But in that moment, I remembered this scripture and that I should not laugh at his words. "With man's logical reasoning, this is impossible. But it can be done by your faith Pastor 00", I told him. I overcame that hurdle. "You will be able to achieve it. I haven't seen any home churches building a worship place in the city, but pastor, you will be able to do it." I was thankful that I could say that. If I had relied on my own experiences and said to him, "No, you won't be able to build it. Home churches can't build a worship place in the city," I would not be able to attend the dedication service of their church building. I might get invited, but I could not allow myself to attend. Someone else will have to go in my place.

So, let us not utter faithless and idle words. The reason we utter them is that we look down on others. We easily blurt out comments

like "How can he possibly do something like that?" because we believe we are superior than them and underestimate them. However, God's servants whom He uses should not be underestimated. We do not know what they are capable of doing. They are people with vast potential and should not be looked down upon.

We must not say anything to others like, "Are you sure you can get it done properly?" Because if God uses them, we do not know what they will be capable of doing.

The gospel we received is grace. Let us remember that God has expectations of those who received His grace, and pray that we can fulfil our calling.

God our Father, we thank You for allowing us to receive grace. Help us to realize more deeply how great the grace we have received is, and through that, may our hearts be filled with happiness and joy. We have come to know the mystery of knowing God—something we dare not even imagine—and now we know it fully. We have received Your name, received the Holy Spirit, and gained this amazing power and authority to participate in God's work through the Holy Spirit. So please help us quickly recognize what our God expects of us. We pray with gratitude, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

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