

A TIMELY WORD CONCERNING THE WORLD SITUATION AND THE LORD'S RECOVERY:

#4: Praying Persistently with God as Our Faith (8/10-16)

OL Summary:

I. In Mark 11:20-24 the Lord Jesus taught His disciples to pray by faith for executing God's will according to God's economy: **A.** When the praying one is mingled with God and is one with God, God becomes his faith; this is what it means to have faith in God. **B.** Only prayers that are out of faith will touch God; without faith prayer is ineffectual. **C.** Faith is believing that we have received what we have asked for: According to the Lord's word, we should believe that we have received, not that we will receive. /To hope means to expect something in the future; to believe means to consider something as having been done. /Faith is not only believing that God can or will do a certain thing but also believing that God has done that thing already. **D.** The prayer in Mark 11:20-24 is a prayer with authority; this kind of prayer is directed not toward God but toward "this mountain": A prayer with authority does not ask God to do something; instead, it exercises God's authority and applies this authority to deal with problems and things that ought to be removed. /God has commissioned us to command what He has commanded and give orders to what He has given orders to. /A prayer with authority is one in which we tell the things that are frustrating us to go away. /The church can have such a prayer with authority by having full faith, being without doubt, and being clear that what we do is fully according to God's will. /Prayer with authority has much to do with the overcomers; every overcomer must learn to speak to "this mountain".

II. In Luke 18:1-18 the Lord Jesus told the disciples a parable "to the end that they ought always to pray and not lose heart": **A.** The significance of this parable is profound, and we need to know God as He is revealed here. **B.** The widow in verse 3 signifies the believers; in a sense, the believers in Christ are a widow in the present age because their Husband, Christ, is apparently absent from them. **C.** Like the widow in the parable, we believers in Christ have an opponent, Satan the devil, concerning whom we need God's avenging: This parable indicates the suffering we have from our opponent during the Lord's apparent absence. /During His apparent absence, we are a widow whose opponent is troubling her all the time. **D.** While our opponent is persecuting us, it seems that our God is not righteous, for He allows His children to be unrighteously persecuted: Throughout the centuries, thousands upon thousands of honest and faithful followers of the Lord Jesus have suffered unrighteous persecution; even today many are undergoing unrighteous treatment. /Our God seems to be unjust, since He does not come in to judge and vindicate; because of this situation, the Lord Jesus used an unjust judge to signify God, who does not seem to do anything on behalf of His persecuted people: Our God is a God who hides Himself, as the book of Esther indicates. /We need to realize that the omnipotent and

omnipresent God whom we serve hides Himself, especially when He is helping us. /We cannot see Him, and apparently, He is not doing anything; actually, in a hidden way He is doing many things for us. **E.** The widow in the parable kept coming to the unrighteous judge and asking him to avenge her of her opponent; we ought to pray persistently for this avenging and should not lose heart: When our Husband is apparently absent and we are left on earth as a widow, temporarily our God seems to be an unrighteous judge. /Although He appears to be unrighteous, we still must appeal to Him, pray persistently, and bother Him again and again, for He will carry out quickly the avenging of His chosen ones, who "cry to Him day and night". **F.** Revelation 8:5 implies the answer to 6:9-11 and Luke 18:7-8: The prayer of the saints in Revelation 8:3-4 must be for the judgement of the earth, which opposes God's economy. /God's judgment upon the earth—casting fire to the earth—is the answer to the prayers of the saints with Christ as the incense. **G.** "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?": Literally, the Greek words rendered "faith"; this denotes the persistent faith for our persistent prayer, like that of the widow. /The faith though which we were saved is the initial stage of faith; the faith that brought us into a life union with Christ is the linking faith—the faith that comes into us through our contacting the Triune God continually so that we may live by the Son of God. /The linking faith is the divine requirement for the overcomers to meet Christ in His triumphant return: /Linking faith is the Triune God moving in us to link us to His unsearchable riches. /Linking faith is the faith of the believers who have no trust in themselves; rather, their trust is in God. /When the Lord Jesus returns, He will find a number of overcomers who are living by the linking faith and will regard them as treasures for His kingdom in the thousand years of His reign.

Church announcement and fellowship:

A) Summer Blending in Kobe:

A summer camp will be held for each generation at Rejoice Garden. The schedule is as follows. 8/12-13 (5th grade-graduate student), 8/13-14 (baby-4th grade), 8/14-15 (working youth). This year other churches (Osaka, Sakai and Tokyo) will also be coming for the blending. The blending will be carried out with utmost care without getting infected.

B) Gospel preaching and shepherding framework:

① Every Wednesday after sisters' meeting (10-11), 11-12 @Motoyama (Uozaki every 2nd and 4th weeks) & Rokko.

② Every Thursday 10-12 @ Motoyama & Rokko. (Sannomiya every 2nd and 4th weeks).

③ Motoyama (Sat) 10-12 (or 14-16).

④ Uozaki (Mon) 10:30-12:00, (Thu) 17-18.

⑤ Rokko (Sat) 16:30-18:00.

⑥ Sannomiya/Kobe (Sat) 15:30-17:30.

Crucial Point(1): Command toward the mountain with faith

"Be cast into the sea" in order to carry out God's will

according to God's economy, not according to your desire

Mark 11:22 And Jesus answered and said to them, **Have faith in God.** **23** Truly I say to you that whoever says to this mountain, **Be taken up and cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says happens, he will have it.** **24** For this reason I say to you, **All things that you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and you will have them.****OL1:** In Mark 11:20-24 the Lord Jesus taught His disciples to pray by faith for executing God's will according to God's economy.**OL2:** When the praying one is mingled with God and is one with God, God becomes his faith; this is what it means to have faith in God.**OL3:** Only prayers that are out of faith will touch God; without faith prayer is ineffectual.**OL4:** According to the Lord's word, we should believe that we have received, not that we will receive.**OL5:** The prayer is a prayer with authority; this kind of prayer is directed not toward God but toward "this mountain".

A prayer with authority does not ask God to do something. Rather, it exercises God's authority and applies this authority to deal with problems and things that ought to be removed. Every overcomer has to learn to pray this kind of prayer. Every overcomer has to learn to speak to the mountain.

We have many weaknesses, such as temper, evil thoughts, or physical illnesses. If we plead with God concerning these problems, it seems that there is not much result. However, if we apply God's authority to the situation and speak to the mountain, these problems will go away.... A mountain is a problem that stands in front of us. A mountain is something that blocks the way and stops us from going on.... When many people encounter a mountain in their life or in their work, they pray to God to remove the mountain. But God tells us to speak to the mountain ourselves. All we have to do is issue a word of command to the mountain: "Be taken up and cast into the sea." There is a great difference between asking God to remove the mountain and commanding the mountain to be removed. It is one thing to go to God and ask Him to do something. It is another thing to directly command the mountain to be cast away. We often overlook this kind of commanding prayer. Seldom do we pray by applying God's authority to the problem or by saying, "I command you in the name of my Lord to go away" or "I cannot tolerate this thing to remain with me anymore." A prayer with authority is one in which we tell the things that are frustrating us to go away. We can say to our temper, "Go away." We can say to sickness, "Go away. I will rise up by the resurrection life of the Lord." This word is not spoken to God but directly to the mountain. "Be taken up and cast into the sea." This is a prayer with authority.

Application: Businessperson/ Graduate student

Japanese businesspersons waste time by working overtime and socializing with their bosses, but it's not easy to be saved from this worldly system. Such a life is a major obstacle to the church life. The purpose of this world ruled by Satan is to

prevent the saints of the Lord's Recovery from having a normal church life and preaching the gospel of the kingdom. Because the gospel of the kingdom is the complete gospel and should be preached by the saints of the Lord's Recovery. When the Gospel of the Kingdom is preached to the whole earth, Satan comes to an end, so he is struggling to extend his time even a little. You should have a bird's-eye view about "overtime work" in Japan's society.

Non-beneficial drinking parties and social overtime are mountains that hinder your church life of writing divine history. You can only pray the prayer of authority to make this mountain to be removed for God's economy and for attending the church meetings and gospel activities, but not for the purpose of going to drinking parties with other deserved people or for your own hobbies.

Brother's testimony: After I got a job at a large medical device company in 2003 and became the person in charge of the department responsible for the major revision of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law in 2005, I became extremely busy due to overwork. After all, my department had the most overtime work in the company and was warned by the Human Resources department. I was confused as I felt the weight of the responsibility that was imposed on me and did not know how to deal with it. I had no choice but prayed, "Lord Jesus, I and my department are extremely busy dealing the major revisions of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law. But I have to attend various meetings for God's will. Lord, this is a paradoxical situation for me, but I believe you can pull me out of the system of this world. I also command the mountains that hinderst me to be removed. Mountain, be cast into the sea!". I prayed like this, but in reality, my faith was small. But thanks to the Lord's mercy, I could pray that way and told my subordinates, "Let us limit overtime to improve work efficiency. In other words, reduce overtime and improve our performance. And win the competitors." At that time, Satan immediately appealed, "Your explanation may sound an educational theme for the HR department, but it may not be an actual situation. Since there is no one in this field who would say such an easygoing thing." I rebuked Satan by saying, "Surely there is no such person in this industry, but I will be the first person in the industry. Go away, Satan!" Then Satan went away. After such a prayer, Lord blessed the workplace and normalized the problems of the church life due to overtime. In addition, the response to the revised Pharmaceutical Affairs Law was a great success and was praised by the US headquarters and Osaka Prefectural Government. With this experience, to carry out God's economy, I began to experience the prayer of authority toward the mountains.

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, I have been praying illegally for my prosperity, health, and family. Please forgive my sins. I will renew my consecration. Lord, to carry out God's will, I will command toward the mountains (obstacles) by faith, "Be taken up and cast into the sea" according to God's economy. There is no doubt in my heart and I believe that what I say will come true. Amen!"

Crucial Point(2): Not losing heart and pray persistently with God as our faith

Luke 18:1 And He told them a parable to the end that they ought always to pray and not lose heart, saying, **2** There was a certain judge in a certain city who did not fear God and did not regard man. **3** And there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, Avenge me of my opponent.

OL1: Like the widow in the parable, we believers in Christ have an opponent, Satan the devil, concerning whom we need God's avenging. **OL2:** While our opponent is persecuting us, it seems that our God is not righteous, for He allows His children to be unrighteously persecuted. **OL3** We need to realize that the omnipotent and omnipresent God whom we serve hides Himself, especially when He is helping us. We cannot see Him, and apparently, He is not doing anything; actually, in a hidden way He is doing many things for us. **OL4:** The widow in the parable kept coming to the unrighteous judge and asking him to avenge her of her opponent; we ought to pray persistently for this avenging and should not lose heart.

"The judge for a time would not avenge the widow of her opponent. Then he said within himself, "Even though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow causes me trouble, I will avenge her, lest by continually coming she wear me out" (vv. 4-5). Following this, the Lord went on to say, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God by all means carry out the avenging of His chosen ones, who cry to Him day and night, though He is long-suffering over them? I tell you that He will carry out their avenging quickly. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" (vv. 6-8). The Lord's word in verse 8 indicates that God's avenging of our enemy will be at the Savior's coming back. Literally, the Greek words rendered "faith" mean "the faith." This denotes the persistent faith for our persistent prayer, like that of the widow. Hence, the faith here is the subjective faith, not the objective faith.

While our opposer is persecuting us, it seems that our God is not righteous, for He allows His children to be unrighteously persecuted. For example, John the Baptist was beheaded, Peter was martyred, Paul was imprisoned, and John was exiled.

Often we have prayed for God to vindicate us. Yet, many of our co-workers, faithful ones, have been imprisoned and even put to death. Where is the living, righteous God? Why does He tolerate this situation? What shall we do in a situation when we are persecuted and it seems that our God is not living, present, or just? From this parable we learn to be a bothering widow, one who prays to God persistently.

Application to the serving ones

Although many 18-20 year-old college students were saved through preaching on the street and were enjoying the church life, dozens received opposition from parents and could not come to the meeting at all. Their parents are afraid of their children to be persecuted at the occasion of work place or wedding because of their being Christian who do not worship idols In Japanese culture, the prejudice and

opposition toward the Lord and the church are deeply rooted. This culture was formed by Satan and it strongly opposes the salvation of Japanese people and church life after salvation.

When you start working at a company, you may find there is much idol worship in the company. Although the Constitution of Japan specifies the freedom of religion, the idol worship in the traditional shrines and temples is saturating the society and companies. In mid August and the new year holidays, people worship idols as a tradition as a matter of course. These traditional ceremonies are binding Japanese people. These are for opposing Christians.

In such a traditional and conservative Japanese culture, many young Japanese people feel locked up and hopeless and end up with suicide. The biggest reason for the death of young people(15-39) is suicide. According to one global research, 78% of Japanese people worry their future. This rate is extremely high compared to the other developed countries. What is making it so difficult for Japanese to live? One expert points out that the reason is "the fixed concept of things should be such". This fixed concept is keeping people to receive and reject the gospel of Christ which came from Western world.

Even in the local church life, this fixed concept is preventing the young people and the saints from oversea to come into the church life. As the Jews were bound by the Jewish law and destructed from the enjoyment of the blessing of New Testament gospel after they believed the Lord, Japanese people also are destructed from the enjoyment of the Lord and the blending life with the various saints (older and young, Japanese speaking and the saints from other countries). Please experience the power of the cross which kills the regulations in the Spirit and practice the church life of blending. It is Satan the Devil who is forming strong fixed concept from culture with Japanese people and thus preventing the building of the church.

You should pray persistently that God would avenge Satan the Devil who formed Japanese culture and traditions and keep binding Japanese by them. In fact, God is answering the prayers of the church in the hidden way even in this age. Apparently He is not doing anything, but actually He is listening the prayers of the saints in the church in many ways and helping the saints in the hidden ways (please refer to the testimony in CP1 and CP3). After you understand this situation in Japan, you should pray for avenge persistently by faith and should not lose heart.

Prayer : "Oh Lord Jesus, Japanese people have been living in the culture and tradition which furiously oppose Christ and the church from the time of massive slaughter of Christians by Toyotomi Hideyoshi, for more than 430 years. But by the Lord's mercy, I was saved and now in the church life in the Lord's recovery. Thank the Lord. Avenge Satan who accuses and binds Japanese. Bind him and put him to the corner and shame him. Let us end up the history of defeat by Satan and let us press on the gospel of the church. Amen!"

Crucial Point(3): Praying persistently with the linking faith, and become an overcomer to meet the Lord in His return.

Rev. 6:9-10 And when He opened the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and because of the testimony which they had. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Master, holy and true, will You not judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth? **8:4** And the smoke of the incense went up with the prayers of the saints out of the hand of the Angel before God. **5** And the Angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar and cast it to the earth; and there were thunders and voices and lightnings and earthquake. **OL1:** The linking faith is the divine requirement for the overcomers to meet Christ in His triumphant return.

Although the sixth seal has been opened and the seven trumpets are ready to be sounded, nothing happens until Christ comes to offer the saints' prayers to God with Himself as the incense. At that time, there are thunders, voices, lightnings, and an earthquake. This indicates that while God has the intention of executing His judgment upon the earth, there is still the need of the saints to cooperate with Him with their prayers. ...At the end of this age, people will be so rebellious against God that they will even declare to the whole universe that they are God. While God has been tolerating this, some of the faithful saints will no longer bear it and will pray, "O sovereign Lord, how long will You bear with this? Will You tolerate this rebellion forever? How long will it be before You come in to vindicate Yourself and avenge us? How long will it be until all the earth will know that You are the Lord?" Eventually, there will be a need for this kind of prayer. I believe the time is coming when we shall all be pressed to pray like this. ...One day the pressure will be upon us and we shall be burdened to pray in this way. ...Then we shall pray to the Lord to vindicate Himself and to let all the rebellious ones know that He is God. When we pray like this, the Angel sent by God will minister to God with our prayer, adding to it Himself as the incense.

When we were sinners, one day under God's sovereignty we heard the preaching of the gospel, that is, the word of Christ. Through that hearing of the word, faith came into us. This faith brought us into a life union with Christ. This union is a kind of linking. The linking faith is the divine requirement for the overcomers to meet Christ in His triumphant return. This is based upon **Luke 18:8**, where the Lord said, "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" Today the entire world is unbelieving. Where is faith today among not only the Gentiles, the pagans, but also among the Jews, the Catholics, the Protestants, and the Pentecostal people? ...But by His mercy, in the past years, through Brother Nee's leadership, we have been brought into a situation of learning not to trust in ourselves for anything, but to believe that our God is everything.

Application: to new ones, Youth/College students

When Jerusalem was destroyed by Babylon and many,

including Daniel, were taken to Babylon for captivity, he should be around the age of 20. Because he was still alive at the prodamation of the return of King Cyrus in the first year after 70 years of captivity. Elementary, junior and senior high school students, college students and new ones, like Daniel at your young age, have the ambition to be the overcomers who carry out God's will and consecrate yourself to the Lord.

Dan. 1:8 But Daniel set his heart not to defile himself with the king's choice provision and with the wine that the king drank, so he requested of the leader of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. **9** And God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the leader of the eunuchs; **12** Please test your servants for ten days, and let vegetables be given to us to eat and water to drink. **13** Then let our countenances be watched in your presence, as well as the countenances of the children who eat the king's choice provision; and do with your servants according to what you see. **14** So he listened to them in this matter and tested them for ten days. **15** And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared better, and they were more fully fleshed than all the children who ate the king's choice provision. **17** Now as for these four children, God gave them knowledge and insight in all learning and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. **20** And in every matter of wisdom and understanding that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers who were in all his realm.

The Daniel and young people first set their heart not to be defiled by idols. With this decision, God granted them favor in the sight of the leader of the eunuchs. God's work on you is active passive. God cannot do anything unless you take an active step by faith. However, by deciding not to be defiled by the food devoted to the idols, even eating only vegetables could make him healthier than anyone by faith. And they were ten times smarter than the knower across the country. Even when they were in captivity, they believed in the Word, had faith based on the Word, and prayed by faith linked to the promise of the Word. Such prayers of young ones and Daniel brought the return of the people of Israel, which was the will of God, and the rebuilding of the temple. So, their prayer was an age-turning prayer. Have the ambition to become today's Daniel and turn the age of church to the age of the millennial kingdom by the return of the Lord. And pray to turn the age so that the Lord's promises will be fulfilled sooner. May you be one of the overcomers to meet the Lord in His return!

1 Tim. 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, ... **14** Do not neglect the gift which is in you, **Prayer:** "Lord Jesus, make me today's Daniel. Daniel and his three friends, young men under the age of 20, were willing to become overcomers, stood up for the testimony, and did not eat the food defiled by idols. They did this by faith with the spirit of martyrs. I also believe in the Word, link with God's economy, and pray persistently. Let me be an overcomer to meet the Lord in His return! Amen!"