

In the Bible pomegranates signify the fullness of life, the abundance and beauty of life, and the expression of the riches of life: [Deut. 8:8](#) A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates... **A** A ripe pomegranate with its seeds gives the impression of the fullness of life and of the abundance and beauty of life. **B** If we experience and enjoy Christ as wheat, barley, the vine, and the fig tree, the abundance of the life of Christ will be with us, and the beauty of Christ will be about us; this is the experience of Christ as the pomegranate. **C** If we grow in life to maturity, we will become pomegranates: [Col. 2:19](#) And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body ... grows with the growth of God. [1:27](#) ... which is Christ in you, the hope of glory, [28](#) Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ; **1** The more we are willing to be ruled and restricted by the Lord Jesus out of our love for Him, the more we will grow in life. **2** If we see the vision of the all-inclusiveness and extensiveness of Christ, we will concentrate our whole being on this Christ, and He will fill and saturate us: **a** Our being will be occupied with the vast, unsearchably rich, extensive Christ. **b** To us to live will be the Christ who takes possession of us and fills and occupies us with Himself. [Eph. 3:17](#) That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love, [18](#) May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are [19](#) ... that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God. **3** To be full-grown in Christ is to be filled, saturated, and permeated with Christ: **a** This is to have every part of our being occupied with Christ. **b** This is the growth in life and the maturity in life, the issue of experiencing the Christ revealed in Colossians. **II** Pomegranates and golden bells were on the bottom part of the high priest's robe, which signifies the church: [Exo. 28:33](#) And you shall make on its hem pomegranates of blue and purple and scarlet strands, all around its hem, and bells of gold between them all around: [34](#) A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, on the hem of the robe all around. **A** The church should be full of life in her humanity; this is the significance of pomegranates made of linen. **B** The church has humanity for the expression of the fullness of life and also divinity for the sounding of the golden bells: **1** The fullness of life is expressed in the church's humanity, but the voice of warning is expressed in the church's divinity (the golden bells). **2** We first have the expression of the fullness of life and then the sounding of the golden bells,

that is, the speaking from the divinity of the church. **3** The beauty of life expressed in our humanity and the divine sounding from the golden bells are signs of a proper church life. **III** The two hundred pomegranates surrounding the capitals at the top of the pillars in the temple signify the expression of the riches of life: [Jer. 52:23](#) And there were ninety-six pomegranates toward the open air; all the pomegranates on the network were a hundred all around. [John 7:38](#) He who believes into Me... out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. **A** Those who judge themselves (bronze) and regard themselves as nothing will be able to bear responsibility in full in the midst of an intermixed and complicated situation (nets of checker work and wreaths of chain work) because they live not by themselves but by faith in God (lily work); thus, they express the riches of life two hundredfold (pomegranates). **B** Out of every one hundred pomegranates, ninety-six were exposed to the open air, and four were covered: **1** The expression of the riches of life is eternally complete, in the freshness of resurrection, and in the Spirit. **2** The fact that four of every one hundred pomegranates were hidden indicates that our natural being, our natural life, and our self must be concealed. **3** When our natural being disappears, we have the ninety-six pomegranates, the rich expression of the life of Christ in the reality of the spiritual air. **IV** According to Song of Songs, pomegranates have a spiritual significance in the progressive experience of an individual believer's loving fellowship with Christ: **A** "Your cheeks are like a piece of pomegranate / Behind your veil" (4:3b). **B** "I went down to the orchard of nuts / To see the freshness of the valley, / To see whether the vine had budded, / Whether the pomegranates were in bloom" (6:11). **C** "Let us rise up early for the vineyards; / Let us see if the vine has budded, / if the blossom is open, / If the pomegranates are in bloom; / There I will give you my love" (7:12). **D** "I would make you drink spiced wine / From the juice of my pomegranate" (8:2b). **E** "Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates / With choicest fruit" (4:13a): **1** In Christ's enjoyment of His lover, she is an enclosed garden that grows all kinds of plants in different colors as different expressions of the inner life and in a variety of fragrances as the rich expression of the mature life. **2** This becomes the lover's beauty to the Lord; the lover of Christ is now rich in life, producing fruits to nourish and refresh, giving forth sweet fragrances, and displaying beautiful colors for Christ's enjoyment. **V** In 2 Peter 1:3-8 we have the development of the excellent virtues through the enjoyment of the divine nature: [2 Pet. 1:3](#) Seeing that His

divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue, 5 And for this very reason also, adding all diligence ... and in virtue, knowledge; 7 And in godliness, brotherly love; and in brotherly love, love. **A** "All things which relate to life and godliness" are the various aspects of the divine life typified by the riches of the produce of the good land: **1** Life is within, enabling us to live, and godliness is without as the outward expression of the inward life. **2** Life is the inward energy, the inward strength, to bring forth the outward godliness, which leads to and results in glory. **B** Faith may be considered the all-inclusive seed of life, and love, the fruit in its full development. **C** Eventually, we will have the full development and maturity in life from the seed of faith, through the roots of virtue and knowledge, the trunk of self-control, and the branches of endurance and godliness, to the blossom and the fruit of brotherly love and love.

CP1 The fulness of life is expressed in the church's humanity and the voice of warning is expressed in the church's divinity

II Pomegranates and golden bells were on the bottom part of the high priest's robe, which signifies the church Exo. 28:33 And you shall make on its hem pomegranates of blue and purple and scarlet strands, all around its hem, and bells of gold between them all around: 34 A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, on the hem of the robe all around. **A** The church should be full of life in her humanity; this is the significance of pomegranates made of linen. **B** The church has humanity for the expression of the fullness of life and also divinity for the sounding of the golden bells: **1** The fullness of life is expressed in the church's humanity, but the voice of warning is expressed in the church's divinity (the golden bells). **2** We first have the expression of the fullness of life and then the sounding of the golden bells, that is, the speaking from the divinity of the church. **3** The beauty of life expressed in our humanity and the divine sounding from the golden bells are signs of a proper church life.

I can testify that throughout the years in the church life, I have been warned a number of times by the speaking of young brothers and sisters...It seems that I hear the sounding of a little golden bell warning me not to walk carelessly. When we all express the fullness of Christ as life in our humanity, there will be among us many golden bells. Then there will be God's speaking, God's voice expressed through the divinity of the

church. In each of us there is a certain amount of divinity. From this element of divinity a sound comes out in a small scale, like the ringing of a little bell...It is difficult to tell which comes first, the sounding of the bells or the expression of the fullness of life. Both are in the church as the long train of Christ.

[Application to young people, college students, new ones](#)

Testimony 1 I had not studied much in junior high school, so I wanted to study hard in high school and go to a good university. For this reason, I asked my parents myself to send me to a well-known prep school from my first year of high school. However, no matter how much I studied, my grades on mock exams did not improve. In the summer of my third year of high school, my grades did not improve, and I was instructed to focus on the school of my choice and concentrate on my studies to make up for the lack of academic ability. I was very worried about whether I should continue to focus on the school of my choice with the highest deviation or give up on it. But inside, the Lord spoke the following little warning: "You neglected your studies when you were in junior high school. As you prayed at the beginning of high school, join with me and do your best to the end with me". With this word of warning, I turned completely to the Lord. Gradually I was filled with a sense of life and peace. I attended and prophesied at the Lord's Day meeting the day before the examination, filled with joy like never before. Finally, with the Lord's blessing, I was able to get into my first-choice university, which I had little chance of getting into based on my deviation score on the mock exam. Thank the Lord. I was greatly helped by the Lord's warning to me during my examinations and in my church life.

Testimony 2 At the beginning of my first year of training I was able to baptize one. It was the first fruit I had ever obtained and I felt like it was my own child. I cared for her too much and was worried a lot because I did not know how to shepherd her. If I didn't receive even the slightest response to my line, I could not even eat my meal because I imagined so many things that something must have happened! I was also relying on my natural ability to make contact and act, thinking a lot in my head about what I could do or say that would make her willing to contact me again. When

I fellowshiped with one sister about this, she told me that I needed to trust in the Lord and pray for her instead of falling into my mind. In this environment, I learned not to try to do something by my own natural strength, but to trust completely in the Lord, like the lily flower. When I tried to feed the new ones by relying on my own natural strength, I remembered, inside, the words of the sister who advised me. Then the Lord spoke the following words of warning, "Do not rely on yourself, but come to Me, contact Me, enjoy Me, and rely on Me." I could return to the Lord.

Prayer Oh Lord Jesus, the church has the expression of the fulness of life in humanity and also has the speaking of warning from divinity. In the church life, I can enjoy the fulness of the Lord, be controlled by the speaking from the Lord and have the normal God-man living. Let me express the fulness of life in my humanity. At the same time, it is easy for me to degrade, I need to listen to the speaking of warning from divinity, the golden bells.

CP2 When our natural being disappears, we have the rich expression of the life of Christ in the reality of the spiritual air

III The 200 pomegranates surrounding the capitals at the top of the pillars in the temple signify the expression of the riches of life: [Jer. 52:23](#) And there were 96 pomegranates toward the open air; all the pomegranates on the network were 100 all around. [John 7:38](#) He who believes into Me...out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. **A** Those who judge themselves (bronze) and regard themselves as nothing will be able to bear responsibility in full in the midst of an intermixed and complicated situation (nets of checker work and wreaths of chain work) because they live not by themselves but by faith in God (lily work); thus, they express the riches of life two-hundred fold (pomegranates). **B** Out of every 100 pomegranates, 96 were exposed to the open air, and 4 were covered: **1** The expression of the riches of life is eternally complete, in the freshness of resurrection, and in the Spirit. **2** The fact that 4 of every 100 pomegranates were hidden indicates that our natural being, our natural life, and our self must be concealed. **3** When our natural being disappears, we have the 96 pomegranates, the rich expression of the life of Christ in the reality of the spiritual air.

Our expression of the riches of life is not only eternal and in the freshness of resurrection, but is absolutely in the atmosphere of the Spirit... Whenever we enter into a situation filled with death, we sense stuffiness. But when we are in a situation filled with the expression of the riches of life, we find ourselves in a spiritual atmosphere and sense that refreshing air is present. This is what it means for 96 pomegranates to be toward the air...That 4 of every 100 pomegranates were hidden indicates that while our expression of the riches of life is eternal, in resurrection, and in the Spirit, our natural being, signified by the number 4, must be covered. Our natural life, our natural being, our self, and our ego must be wholly concealed...When the riches of Christ are expressed, others can see the eternal expression of the riches of life in resurrection and in the atmosphere of the Spirit, but it is difficult to say where our natural man is. How meaningful it is to see that our ego is covered! Whenever "I" appears, the big number 4 will be there, but the 96 will be gone. Instead of air, there will just be the natural life, the old man, and the ego. But whenever the number 4 disappears, we shall have the 96 pomegranates, the rich expression of the life of Christ in the open air.

Application to businesspersons, graduate students

Testimony I started translating for the Taiwanese co-workers at the national conferences when I was 32 years old. I was confident in my physical strength and concentration, so I relied on my physical strength and concentration to translate. But after the conferences, I was exhausted and weak as a sick man. After some time of this, the Lord had mercy on me and spoke to me as follows, "You must not rely on your own physical strength and concentration. I am your true physical strength, concentration and understanding." I opened to the Lord and prayed according to this revelation. As soon as I did so, I was able to concentrate on translating without being nervous in the Lord. I no longer feel worn out after the meetings.

At the age of 33, I moved to the world's largest consumer goods company. At this company, all newly graduated employees were graduates of Kyoto University, Osaka University, and other prestigious universities. They were much better than me in English and scientific knowledge. At

this time, I honestly acknowledged that fact and prayed as follows, "Lord Jesus, they are much better than I am. Moreover, they work late at night. With my limited abilities, I am not able to work much overtime since I have meetings and visits in the church life. Under normal circumstances I would certainly fail in this situation. But I still want to come to You and touch You. And be joined to You and trust You." Even when I was struck down by feelings of inferiority, I learned to trust in the Lord.

Then the Lord showed me the following, "There is a feeling of inferiority and high pride in yourself. But you must come out of yourself by faith and enjoy the excellent inheritance in Me." I gradually became free from my inferiority complex by enjoying the Lord. At the same time, I have come to respect others for their outstanding ability.

Between 1995-2011 I worked for a foreign company and went through three major changes in my career. I have found that the secret to my career change lies in "the presence of the Lord is with me." [Exo.33:14](#) And Jehovah said, My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest. [15](#) And Moses said to Jehovah, If Your presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. I rejected my natural feeling and paid attention to the presence and peace of the Lord and was guided by Him in changing jobs. One time I clearly lost my peace after deciding not to change jobs. So, I changed my mind and decided to change jobs. I did not really understand why I had to change jobs, but I followed the Lord's leading inside and changed jobs. And I experienced the presence and blessings of the Lord. Each of the three times I changed jobs, I was able to make significant progress in my position in the company, from general employee ⇒ Manager ⇒ Director ⇒ VP.

After the East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, we began to proclaim the following in the Gospel Preaching, "I am nothing but sin. Apart from You, I can do nothing. But I can do all things in You who empowers me."

In this way, since my inferiority complex and my pride in myself became a little more concealed, the rich expression of life is also gradually but clearly appearing in the company. I then went on to have many subordinates with the highest academic credentials, including a PhD from the University of Tokyo and a master's degree from

Kyoto University. I tried to maximize their abilities as much as possible. I think I managed them well and was able to improve the performance. As a result, I have gained their trust and respect as well. **Prayer** Oh Lord Jesus, the rich expression of life cannot appear unless the inferiority and pride in myself are hidden little by little. When my natural being disappears, I have the rich expression of the life of Christ in the reality of the spiritual air. I confess every day, "I am nothing but sin. Apart from You, I can do nothing. But I can do all things in You who empowers me".

神戸に在る召会交わりと報告事項

1. バプテスマ:

- 4/9 鄭弘敏S(神大M2、六甲)
- 4/11 本田来遥S(専門学校1年、魚崎・六アイ)
- 4/12 周馨驥S(神大D2、六甲)
- 4/13 周徳生B(三宮・神戸)

2. YP地区のバプテスマ:

小5の林明晨君と劉宇豪君は、本日六甲でバプテスマを受けます。青少年のバプテスマが祝福されるようにお祈りください。

3. 今週の福音開展の開展場所:

- 月曜: 15:00-17:00@六甲
- 火曜: 10:30-12:30, 15:00-17:00@六甲
- 水曜: 10:30-12:30@夙川/六甲
- 木曜: 10:55-12:30@本山, 15:00-17:00@魚崎
- 金曜: 10:30-12:30, 15:00-17:00@六甲
- 土曜: 10:30-12:30, 15:00-17:00@三宮・神戸

4. 4月国際長老訓練:

余力Bは、4/11-16までアナハイムで訓練に参加中です。

【オンライン】

- 4/19(金) 8:30-17:30 M1,2,3 20(土) 8:30-17:30
- M4,5,6、21(主) 13:30-17:30 M7,8

5. 7月ビデオ訓練申し込み:

昨年12月のオンライン訓練に参加したBSは、キャンセルが無い限り、継続参加とします。継続参加されるBSは、4/18(木)までに武富夏美Sにまで参加献金1万円を渡してください。

6. 海外からの兄弟姉妹訪問スケジュール:

4/20-24 台北市100集会所(21名)

7. 月曜20:00-21:00責任者・奉仕者祈りと交わり:

4/15 YP/六甲

8. 5月特別集会@魚崎:

- 5/3(金・祝) 13:45-15:10 M1、15:30-17:00 M2
- 5/4(土) 13:30-15:00 M3、15:30-17:00 M4
- 5/5(主) 10:00-12:30 パンさき集会とM5