

I For the joy set before Him, Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, “endured the cross, despising the shame” (Heb. 12:2): A The Lord loved the church and gave Himself up for her. Eph. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her. B On the cross the Lord offered Himself as the sacrifice for sins, bearing the sins of many, being made sin for the believers, casting out the ruler of this world and judging this world, and as a grain of wheat, falling into death for the release of the divine life. C Colossians 2:15 portrays the warfare that took place at the time of Christ’s crucifixion: Col. 2:15 Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of *them* openly, triumphing over them in it. 1 In His crucifixion Christ was working to accomplish redemption, and God the Father was working to judge sin. 2 At the same time the rulers and authorities were busy in the attempt to frustrate the work of God and Christ. 4 While God was judging sin, the evil rulers and authorities were present and were very active, swarming around the crucified Christ, pressing in very closely: a If they had not pressed in closely, God could not have stripped them off. b The words stripping off indicate that the rulers and authorities were very close, as close as our garments are to our body. 5 In stripping off the rulers and authorities, God made a display of them openly, putting them to shame and triumphing over them in the cross. III The joy set before us is the Lord Jesus, the Bridegroom, coming for His bride, who has made herself ready: Rev. 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. A The maturity of the bride: 1 The readiness of the corporate bride depends on the maturity in life of the overcomers. 2 To be transformed is to be metabolically changed in our natural life, whereas to be matured is to be filled with the divine life that changes us. B The building of the bride: Eph. 2:21-22 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit. 1 God’s building is the desire of God’s heart and the goal of God’s salvation. 2 The goal of the Lord’s recovery is to recover Christ as life and everything to us so that we may be built up. 3 God’s building is the corporate expression of the Triune God. C The righteousness of the bride: 2 The living that is right with both God and man must be God as our expression in our daily living. 3 Christ lived out of the saints as their

subjective righteousness becomes their wedding garment. Rev. 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints. 4 The wedding garment in Matthew 22:11-13 signifies the Christ whom we live out and who is expressed through us in our daily living as our surpassing righteousness. Matt. 22:11 But when the king came in to look at those reclining *at table*, he saw there a man who was not clothed with a wedding garment, 12 And he said to him, Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the servants, Bind his feet and hands, and cast him out into the outer darkness. In that place there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth. D The beauty of the bride: Eph. 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing *her* by the washing of the water in the word, 27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish. 2 The beauty of the bride comes from the Christ who is wrought into the church and who is then expressed through the church: Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, a Our only beauty is the shining out of Christ from within us. E Ephesians 6 and Revelation 19 reveal that the church as the bride must also be a warrior to defeat God’s enemy: 1 Spiritual warfare is a matter of the Body; we are a corporate army fighting the battle for God’s interest on earth. 2 In Ephesians 5 the word is for nourishment that leads to the beautifying of the bride, but in Ephesians 6 the word is for killing that enables the church as the corporate warrior to engage in spiritual warfare. 3 Christ will come as a fighting General with His bride as His army to fight against Antichrist at Armageddon. 4 The wedding garment—Christ lived out of us as our daily righteousness—qualifies us not only to attend the wedding but also to join the army to fight with Christ against Antichrist in the war at Armageddon. III “The joy of Jehovah is your strength” (Neh. 8:10): A 1 It is not a matter of our having strength; His joy upholds us. 2 The Lord’s joy has nothing to do with circumstances; He rejoiced in God’s will; there was joy in knowing and doing God’s will. 3 We should not try to copy the Lord but receive the joy of the Lord: a We can have something of the Lord imparted to us. b We can have the joy of the Lord; His joy will be our strength. B At the end of his life Watchman Nee said, in the midst of his sufferings, “I maintain my joy”. C “I maintain my joy indicates that he was practicing the word of the apostle

Paul in [Philippians 4:4](#): “Rejoice in the Lord always.” **D** Through the mercy and grace of God, may we all be able to maintain our joy by the joy of the Lord as our strength.

CP1 Because of the joy set before us, we endure opposition in the Lord, experience the stripping away of the evil forces, and move forward with the Lord

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A The Lord loved the church and gave Himself up for her. [Eph. 5:25](#) Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her. **B** On the cross the Lord offered Himself as the sacrifice for sins, bearing the sins of many, being made sin for the believers, casting out the ruler of this world and judging this world, and as a grain of wheat, falling into death for the release of the divine life. **C** [Colossians 2:15](#) portrays the warfare that took place at the time of Christ's crucifixion: [Col. 2:15](#) Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it. **1** In His crucifixion Christ was working to accomplish redemption, and God the Father was working to judge sin. **2** At the same time the rulers and authorities were busy in the attempt to frustrate the work of God and Christ. **4** While God was judging sin, the evil rulers and authorities were present and were very active, swarming around the crucified Christ, pressing in very closely: **a** If they had not pressed in closely, God could not have stripped them off. **b** The words stripping off indicate that the rulers and authorities were very close, as close as our garments are to our body. **5** In stripping off the rulers and authorities, God made a display of them openly, putting them to shame and triumphing over them in the cross.

No doubt, the rulers and authorities had swarmed around Christ as He was being crucified. Both God and Christ were working. Christ's work was His crucifixion, whereas God's work was to judge sin and all the negative things and to nail the law with its ordinances to the cross. The rulers and authorities who had gathered around God and Christ were also working. If they had not pressed in closely, how could God have stripped them off?

In the economy of His salvation God enlivens us, nails the law to the cross, and strips off the evil rulers and authorities...Because God has removed the law and the angels, we, His chosen people, are alone with Him. We are no longer bothered by terms, conditions, or requirements. God is here to enliven us, and we are here to be enlivened by Him. We should forget

the law and the angels and allow God to put Himself into us as life.

We should remind the rulers and authorities that at Calvary God stripped them off and triumphed over them. Based upon God's victory we can order them to flee. What we need today is not the law or the angels but the enlivening One, the life-giving One. This is the economy of God's salvation.

Application to business persons, graduate students
Testimony In my business life, I was able to do well because of the Lord's blessing on one hand, but on the other I suffered severe persecution from many people. The last company I worked for was a joint venture between an American and a Japanese company. All of the board members, except me, were from the Japanese parent company. I was the only one interviewed and hired in the US. The business of this joint venture was to sell the U.S. parent company's products in Japan. Under these circumstances, there was for a long time a big gap between the two parent companies.

The expectations of the U.S. headquarters for me was to turn the Japanese subsidiary from a mid-sized company in the Japanese market at the time into a market leader capable of introducing medical devices with the most up-to-date medical technology (they had already established themselves in the U.S.). However, the Japanese parent company and company executives, content with their longstanding mid-sized company status, did not like and would not accept this change. With the support of the U.S. headquarters, I was able to reform and significantly improve our business performance. They were jealous of this and did not want to accept the reforms, so they all united with the Japanese parent company to attack me. Subsequently, the chairman (he is very well known in the business world) and president of the parent company on the Japanese side held a meeting in Los Angeles with the CEO and COO of the US headquarters to sue me. As a result, the U.S. side rejected the Japanese proposal to fire me and decided to acquire all the shares for US\$120 million (about 18 billion yen at the current exchange rate) and make the company a wholly owned subsidiary. The U.S. headquarters then fired all of the former directors from the start who opposed me.

I was aware that Satan was behind this battle, targeting and attacking me as I was building the

church. This attack took about 1.5 years from start to finish. At the beginning of the battle, I asked the group of the main serving ones to stand in victory of the Lord and pray for this matter. 30 minutes we were all on our knees in prayer and praising the Lord. At that time, I had clear inner peace and declared to them the following "I have had peace, and in this battle I will surely win. Not only that, I have already won. From now on, you should all praise the Lord for His victory in this, not ask Him for it!" Satan and his armies were closing in to attack me, but as I was praising with the brothers and sisters, I was able to apply that the evil forces had already been stripped away. Hallelujah! [Eph. 6:12](#) For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies. [Heb. 2:14](#) Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,

Prayer Oh Lord Jesus, when Christ was crucified for redemption, God the Father worked to judge sin. At the same time, God stripped away the evil principalities and authorities that were crowding and pressing around the crucified Christ, publicly exposing and humiliating them, and triumphing over them in triumph at the cross. In You, I experience the stripping away of the evil forces that are pressing in. The cross of Christ not only solved the problem of my sin, but also took away the law and the evil angels. Even when the enemy attacks us, we endure and move forward with the Lord because of the joy that is set before us.

CP2 The church as the corporate warrior makes the bride ready by engaging in the spiritual warfare

I The joy set before us is the Lord Jesus, the Bridegroom, coming for His bride, who has made herself ready: **E** Ephesians 6 and Revelation 19 reveal that the church as the bride must also be a warrior to defeat God's enemy: [Rev. 19:7](#) Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. **1** Spiritual warfare is a matter of the Body; we are a corporate army fighting the battle for God's interest on earth. **2** In Ephesians 5 the word is for nourishment that leads to the beautifying of the bride, but in Ephesians 6 the word is for killing that enables the church as the corporate warrior to engage in spiritual warfare. [Eph. 6:17](#) And receive the helmet of

salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God, [18](#) By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints. **3** Christ will come as a fighting General with His bride as His army to fight against Antichrist at Armageddon. **4** The wedding garment ---Christ lived out of us as our daily righteousness--- qualifies us not only to attend the wedding but also to join the army to fight with Christ against Antichrist in the war at Armageddon.

No soldier in a modern army would enter into battle by himself. Rather, he would fight as part of a well-trained and fully equipped army. After we have been formed corporately into an army, we will be able to fight against God's enemy...Therefore, it is very dangerous to be isolated from the army. Only by remaining in the army will we have the necessary protection.

In Ephesians 5 the word is for nourishment that leads to the beautifying of the bride, but in Ephesians 6 the word is for killing that enables the church as the corporate warrior to engage in spiritual warfare. Prayer-reading the Word of God is the way to kill the adversary within us. Every day and in every kind of situation, we should pray-read. Whenever we are troubled by something negative within us, we should take the Word of God by means of prayer in spirit. As we do this, the negative element will be killed.

In Eph. 6:17 Paul charges us to receive "the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God." This means that we need to take the word of the Bible as a sword for fighting the enemy. According to Paul's word in this verse, the word of God is the sword not directly but indirectly...The sword is not the word directly. Rather, the sword is the Spirit directly, and then the Spirit is the word. This indicates that if we would deal with the enemy Satan, the word of the Bible must become the Spirit.

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

Testimony 1 I have been feeling lately that if I don't redeem my time and fight for it every day, there is a path of failure waiting for me. I thank the Lord for His leading and for the leading brothers who love the Lord. Not only do they always show me patterns of how to exercise the spirit, but they also constantly remind me through observation, discernment, and insight. Being reminded really awakens me, and at the same time, I feel deep down that I am sorry to

the Lord and to the brothers if I don't learn and move forward. The current church life is abundant. There is the pursuit of the Word, training for truth, lots of gospel preachings, lots of visits, and lots of activities and blending with brothers and sisters in Japan and abroad. There is the Lord's love, encouragement, and strengthening with good inspiration. Thanks for the encouragement of morale and the opportunity to experience the power of the Body's work.

Testimony 2 When my church life had just been recovered, I did not want to fellowship too willingly about my personal affairs. For example, when I was applying for college, I did not want to tell the brothers and sisters about my desired university and the time of the result announcement. It is because I felt that it would be awkward and embarrassing if I fell after the brothers and sisters had prayed for me. I thought that, if possible, I could work hard secretly on my own and if I could not pass the exam, I would just have to accept the result by myself. However, the brothers and sisters were truly concerned and always listened and prayed for me positively. In the end, I was accepted to all three universities I applied to. However, the most impressive thing for me was not the result of the examinations, but rather that I was saved from the anxiety of fearing failure and was able to prepare in peace and trust more in the Lord and in the brothers and sisters during my study for the examinations. I learned a few things: the results are all in the Lord's hands, so there is no need to be disappointed if I don't make it, and I shouldn't be too proud if I do make it.

Since I am a member of the Body of Christ and a member of the corporate warrior, I have gradually come to understand that by opening and entrusting myself to the brothers and sisters, I can experience the Lord and grow in the environment in which I am placed, and that many spiritual blessings can be received as living paths are opened to me. The experience and growth of our lives toward the Lord leads to building, so we can bring glory to the Lord and put our enemies to shame. If I had been on my own, I think I would have been crushed by the pressure and weakness of my character, such as worrying. Even if I had succeeded in the examination by myself, I would not have been able to experience the Lord much

and gain much spiritual benefit.

I used to be told that when a brother or sister bought a house or a car, we should pray for them, but I didn't understand why we should pray for such a personal affair. But now I see that when brothers and sisters connect the things of life to the church, they can receive many spiritual blessings. I want to open more to the brothers and sisters and entrust myself to the Lord and to the church. I also wish to pray for the brothers and sisters to be obtained and grow more by the Lord and receive the spiritual blessings. We are not alone but are intimately connected and we become the corporate warrior of the Lord.

Prayer Oh Lord Jesus, spiritual warfare is a matter of the Body. We are a corporate army fighting the battle for God's interest on earth. I am a member of the corporate army, so I open and entrust myself to the Lord and the brothers and sisters to take up the sword of the Spirit and deal with the enemy in the environment in which I am placed. The joy set before us is the Lord Jesus, the Bridegroom, coming for His bride, who has made herself ready. Because of this joy, I continue to move forward with the Lord and the church.

神戸に在る召会 交わりと報告事項

1. **国際華語特別集会@台北:2/10(土)-11(主)**
Zoom中継で集会に参加できます。2万5000人が集まるブレンディング集会ですので、多くの兄弟姉妹がこの集会に参加し、キリストのからだの豊かな交わりを享受できますように。
2/11(主):M4 10:00~(この集会は各地区必ず参加してください。)、M5:12:00~ Zoom ID:851 2479 8841(日本語)631 562 5221(手話)パスワードはいずれも31です。※中国語と英語は、<https://www.lsmwebcast.com/>のリンクにアクセスすると、通訳の中継を聞くことができます。
2. **Youtube福音集会:2/11(主)の魚崎・六アイ地区の福音集会は、14:30-50までパンさき集会後、14:50~行います。**
3. **Youtube福音集会録画担当地区:**
2/18 YP、2/25 六甲
4. **土曜7:55-8:25預言準備担当地区:**
2/17 夙川、2/24 六甲
5. **Daytimeトレーニング徳島日帰りBLD旅行:**
3/2(土)10:00-15:00
6. **関西・四国・東海・ブレンディング集会:**
3/16(土)10:00-11:00@魚崎