

EVANGELISM

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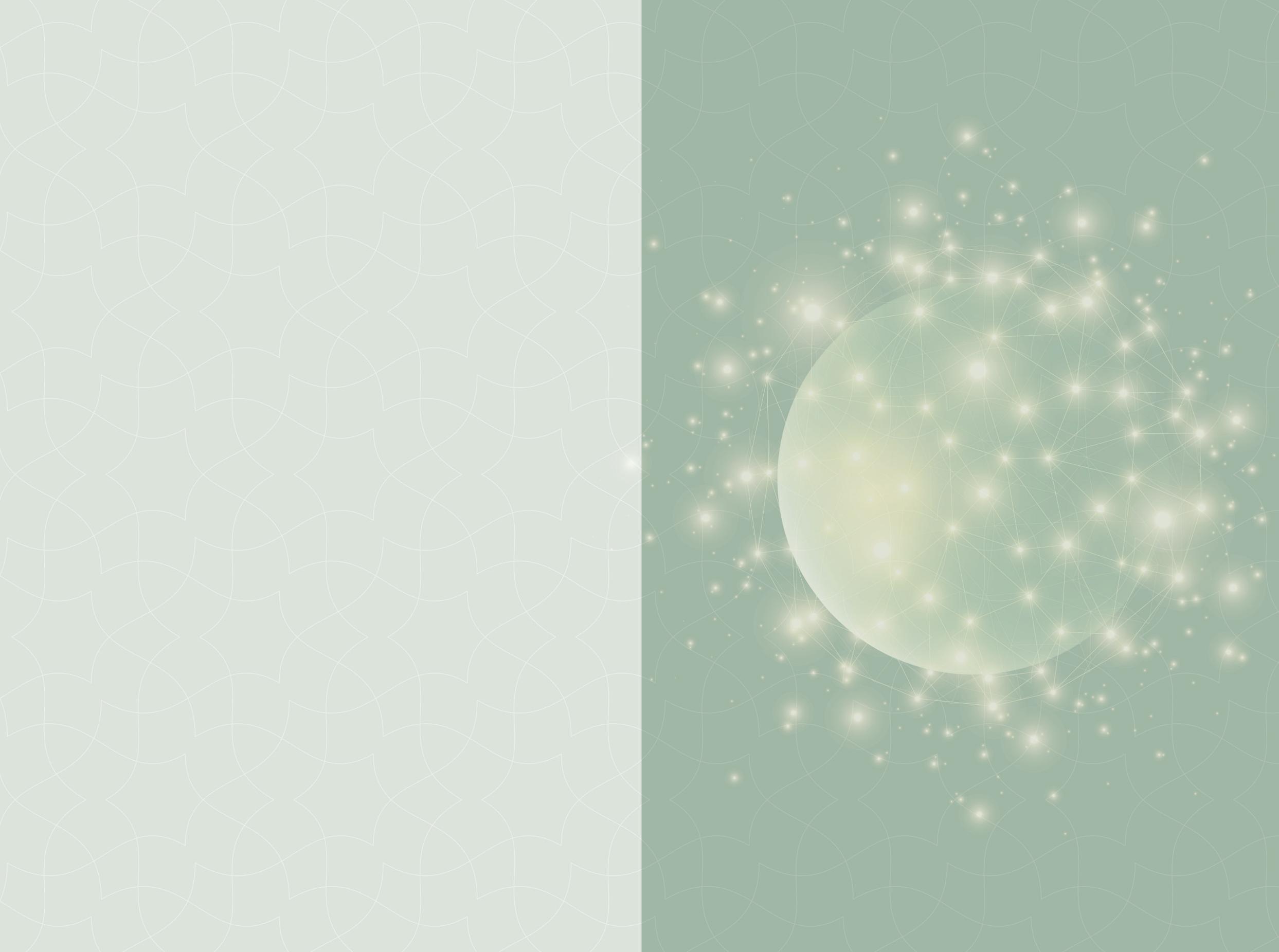
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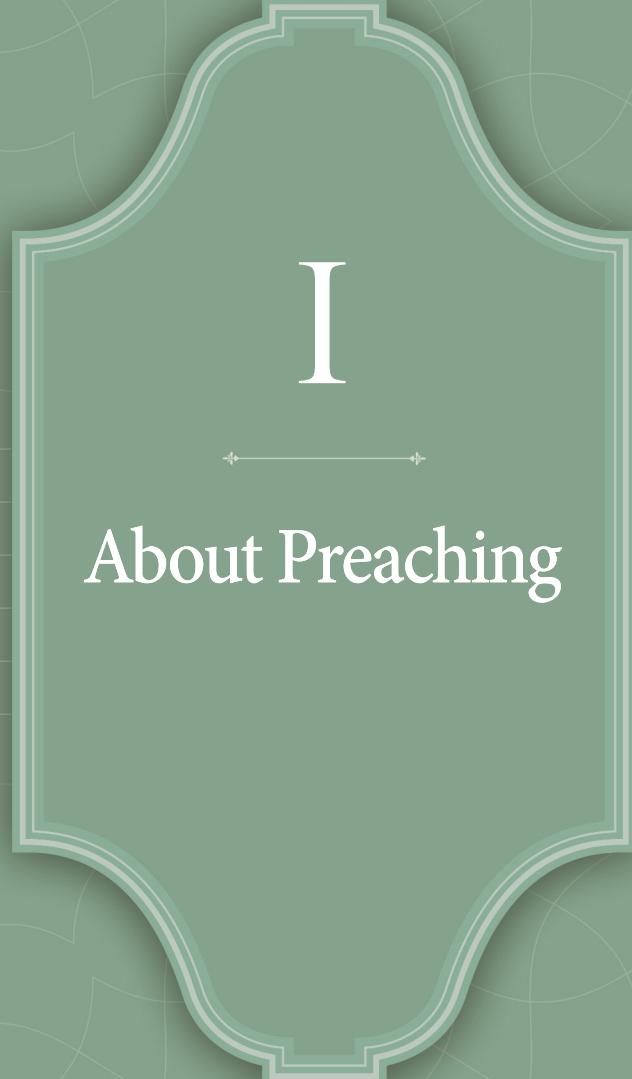
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I

About Preaching

1. Definition of Preaching
2. Meaning and Roles of Preaching
3. Imperativeness of Preaching
4. Blessings and Sufferings Contained in Preaching
5. Warnings Against Those Who Do Not Participate in Preaching

Definition of Preaching

1. Definition of Preaching

Preaching is conveying the truth, which means the gospel of the kingdom established by Christ, that is, the truth of the new covenant. Preaching is the work of spreading the truth of the new covenant and leading dying souls to new life, making it an incomparably important and valuable work. So Jesus Christ and Christ Ahnsahng Hong, who came to this earth as Saviors, lived lives that began and ended with preaching. And the purpose of God coming to this earth in human form was to preach the gospel (Mk 1:35–39).

Mk 1:38 Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.”

The last word that Jesus left for His disciples before His ascension was also “Preach.”

Mk 16:15–16 He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

The news that a way to receive eternal life has been opened for sinners who would otherwise die is incredibly joyful. However, no matter how good and blessed the news is, it is meaningless if it is not delivered. If Jesus had not come to this earth and preached the gospel to His disciples, we would not have been saved and would still be living in death. Therefore, we must follow Christ’s example, faithfully carrying out the mission of evangelists to spread the gospel of the new covenant to Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

Ro 10:13 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

2. The Path That Father and Mother Walked

Isa 53:2–9 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, . . . Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

These words are a prophecy from the prophet Isaiah about the path that Christ will walk when He comes to this earth. It foretells that He

will come in a weak and fragile form without any attractive beauty, be despised and rejected by His creation, and ultimately die, bearing the sins of all people.

According to this prophecy, Jesus came to the earth in the frail flesh, endured all kinds of ridicules and persecutions from His creation, and ultimately died with His hands and feet nailed to the cross. Why did God Almighty walk such a painful path? It is because that was the only way to save us.

God, who suffered excruciating pain on the cross, came to this earth again in the name of Ahnsahnghong to save us. For 37 years, He preached the message of salvation amid the ridicule and contempt of unbelievers. And He revealed Heavenly Mother to us. Even at this very moment, Heavenly Mother is looking for Her lost children, enduring threats and scorn from numerous adversaries.

Who had to walk the path of suffering that Heavenly Father and Mother walked? Who should bear the scorn that God endured, and who should have carried the cross that He bore? Heavenly Father and Mother gave up the authority and glory of heaven to bear the suffering burden that should have been ours. If we have realized God's grace even a little, we must follow Father and Mother as They walk the path carrying the cross, by preaching the gospel.

Mt 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

2

Meaning and Roles of Preaching

Let us find out what specific actions preaching involves, and explore the ways to participate in it.

1. Preaching Is to Deliver the New Covenant, the Truth of Salvation

Christ came to this earth to save humanity and gave the New Covenant Passover as the prescription to save dying souls, saying, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day” (Lk 22:7, 19–20; Jn 6:53–58). The New Covenant Passover, the truth of salvation, is a crucial part of preaching, which is why Apostle Paul referred to himself both as a servant of the gospel and a minister of a new covenant. This means that the gospel is the new covenant.

Col 1:23 This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have

become a servant.

2 Co 3:6 He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant.

However, the gospel of the new covenant disappeared from the world about 300 years after Jesus ascended. This happened because Satan, through cunning methods, obscured the truth, and changed all the truths of the new covenant, including the Passover (Da 7:25). For about 1,600 years afterward, the path to salvation was cut off, and no one could receive eternal life, resulting in a period of spiritual darkness.

When the time of prophecy came, Christ Ahnsahng Hong, who is the Second Coming Christ, restored the lost truth of the new covenant and once again opened the way to salvation. The way to eternal life, which had been blocked for a long time, has finally been opened in our time. Christ Ahnsahng Hong requested that the new covenant, the only way to salvation, be spread so that all people, not just us, can hear about it. Therefore, spreading the new covenant, which is the way to salvation, can be considered fundamental to preaching. Living in the age where the truth has been restored, there should be no one that misses salvation by not hearing about the new covenant. Spreading the new covenant to offer an opportunity for salvation is a holy mission that we must fulfill as the ones who have received the truth first.

2. Preaching is Delivering the Savior, the Source of Salvation

When studying the Bible about eternal life, we will inevitably encounter the Savior who is the source of eternal life (Jn 5:39). It is because the Bible was written to testify about the Savior. No matter how well we understand the new covenant, the way of salvation, if we do not know our Savior, the author of salvation, we will end up in a tragic fate like Judas Iscariot who observed the Passover but betrayed

Jesus and faced destruction. On the other hand, if we believe in and receive our Savior, even if we do not fully know the way of salvation, we can be in the same position as the robber on the cross who received the greatest promise from Jesus, “Today you will be with me in paradise.” That is why Jesus said that knowing and understanding the Savior is the way to eternal life.

Jn 17:3 “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He made one final request to His disciples to become His witnesses.

Ac 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Following Jesus’ request, the disciples boldly proclaimed that Jesus is the Savior, despite countless slanders from the Jew (Ac 4:11–12; 17:3). The Saviors in this age are Christ Ahnsahnghong, God the Holy Spirit, and New Jerusalem Heavenly Mother, the Bride of the Spirit. It is our duty to preach and testify that God Elohim, the Word who becomes flesh and dwell among us, is the Savior who created the heavens, the earth, and all things, and breathed life into human beings.

3. Preaching Is to Save Souls

When Jesus spoke about the purpose of His coming to the world, He said that He came to preach and to seek and save the lost.

Mk 1:38 “... I can preach there also. That is why I have come.”

Lk 19:10 “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Preaching does not merely end with testifying to the new covenant and the Savior. Preaching encompasses the entire process of transforming a person to deeply understand God, practice what they believe in, and maintain faith independently without anyone’s help. Therefore, when Jesus specifically explained the process of preaching, He gave the following instructions: “Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Mt 28:19–20). This means that preaching does not end with baptizing. Preaching involves implanting discernment between truth and falsehood until they truly repent before God and participate in the eternal glory of heaven. It also entails revealing the deep love and sacrifice of Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother. It is also preaching to comfort a member whose heart is wounded by persecution or slander, to help them overcome difficulties with the word of God, and to pray for them. Taking care of new members so that they can adapt well to the life of faith is also preaching. Preaching also involves informing members of preaching and service, awakening them to receiving blessings together, and guiding them to achieve independence in faith. In this way, devoting to the entire process of a member growing from fruit to branch, bearing new fruit, and becoming a worker who emits the fragrance of Christ, is the preaching that Christ desires.

4. Preaching Is to Cooperate as a Fellow Worker in the Gospel

Since preaching is the mission of the whole church, all church members should cooperate with one another in order to accomplish this mission. When building a house, workers must diligently perform their assigned tasks, such as laying bricks, shaping wood, transporting materials, and preparing meals, in order to quickly construct a good house.

If a carpenter has to transport materials, prepare meals, and handle various other tasks, he will become exhausted or pressed for time,

unable to focus on shaping the wood. This would ultimately cause significant delays in building a house. It is the same with preaching. Preaching is successful when each member faithfully carries out their assigned duties. The gospel work is accomplished through the mutual help of brothers and sisters and can never be completed by the efforts of one person. This is like the various parts of our body working together to accomplish a task. So the Bible explains that we work as individual parts of the body of Christ.

1 Co 12:14–27 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. . . . If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? . . . if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

And the Bible teaches us to help evangelists who work hard in preaching the gospel.

Php 4:3 [H]elp these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

For example, even though members cannot directly participate in preaching, if they support workers in the gospel field with the heart of fellow workers, those workers can be encouraged to save more souls. Therefore, broadly speaking, preaching encompasses not only the activities of directly delivering the word but also all activities that support the work of saving souls. Here are some examples.

1) Actively Participating in Worship Services or Church Gatherings

Let us suppose that a new member has been led to Zion. He attends worship services with high anticipation after hearing that “You’ll receive great blessings when you attend worship.” But what would he

think when he sees many empty seats during the worship or when members he met in the previous service are not present in the next one? He may doubt the word that he receives blessings by attending worship, and gradually he will begin to neglect worship and even lose his faith. Likewise, no matter how diligently gospel workers strive to bear fruit, if members do not participate actively in attendance, the church finds it difficult to grow. Therefore, actively participating in worship services and gatherings is a crucial part of preaching.

2) Praying Earnestly for Preaching

Preaching is not accomplished by human efforts but governed by God, so it cannot be achieved without prayer. If we earnestly pray together, asking God to open the door for preaching, He will look at our hearts and grant us the joy of finding our heavenly family members. Even though we are not actively engaged in frontline preaching, consistently praying for preaching is also participating in it.

3) Teaching God’s Words

Teaching and enlightening people with God’s word is crucial for the salvation of souls. Even if it may not be our own fruit, teaching the word of God wholeheartedly to save a soul is also a very important part of the preaching process.

4) Connecting Preaching Targets to the Church

Each member has received a different gift of grace. Some have the gift of teaching the word of God well, while others have the gift of easily making friends with preaching targets. Connecting targets to the church by using the gifts they have received, is greatly helpful to the gospel work.

5) Taking Care of Members

Visiting members who are experiencing physical hardships or feelings

of isolation, comforting their hearts, and sharing brotherly and sisterly love with them, is a valuable task for saving souls, even though it may not be outwardly apparent. Especially for new members who may focus more on physical aspects than spiritual ones, the joy of having brothers and sisters who love them greatly helps them deeply root God's word in their hearts.

6) Serving the Church

Building and repairing the temple, driving for members, arranging flowers, preparing meals for evangelists, cleaning the temple, and caring for children while new members study the Bible—all these volunteer activities, where individuals contribute their talents and time to support effective preaching, can be considered preaching in a broad sense.

7) Presenting Tithes and Offerings to God

Tithes and offerings are essential for maintaining the church and spreading the gospel. Without the offerings from members, it would be difficult to even serve tea to visitors at our church. In such a dreary atmosphere, we cannot expect active preaching. Tithes and offerings enable gospel workers to devote themselves to preaching. Therefore, even in situations where it is difficult to be actively engaged in frontline preaching due to work, we can support preaching through offerings.

8) Displaying God's Glory Through Good Deeds

Our deeds and attitudes have a significant impact on preaching. From the perspective of someone listening, no matter how true the message may be, if the preacher's conduct is rough and untrustworthy, it is difficult to accept the truth. No one believes in the authenticity of a person who claims to believe in God but lives an ungracious life. Preaching can proceed smoothly and the glory of God can be revealed only when supported by upright and good behavior.

3

Imperativeness of Preaching

Let us consider more deeply why God's people should undertake the mission of preaching.

1. To Please God

God is most pleased when a sinner repents and turns back to Him. If we want to repay even a little of God's grace of salvation, we should strive to do what God is most pleased with.

Lk 15:3–7 Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do

not need to repent.”

2. To Display God’s Glory

God prophesied that we would display His glory, and taught us that if we bear much fruit, He will be glorified, too.

Isa 60:21 “Then all your people will be righteous and they will possess the land forever. They are the shoot I have planted, the work of my hands, for the display of my splendor.”

Jn 15:8 “This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

3. To Fulfill the Prophecy

God prophesied that the gospel would be spread throughout the world, and we have been called to fulfill that prophecy.

Isa 11:9 They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Hab 2:14 “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”

Ps 19:1–4 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

4. To Put Into Practice the Command of Love

God told us to “love one another,” establishing this as a new command.

Then, how can we put the new command into practice? Simply doing good deeds does not suffice to practice the new command. The best way to practice love is to save dying souls. When we preach with a heart of compassion for a soul, we can best fulfill the commandment of love given by Jesus.

Jn 13:34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

Mt 22:37–41 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.’

5. To Fulfill Our Mission as Ambassadors of Christ

We are God’s messengers conveying His will. God has sent us to deliver the news of impending judgment and salvation to mankind on His behalf, so we must diligently spread this message.

2 Co 5:20 We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.

6. To Obey the Command to Preach the Gospel

Christ sacrificed His life for our salvation, and He urged us to preach even before His ascension.

Mk 16:15 He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”

Mt 28:18–20 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in

heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

2 Ti 4:1–2 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

7. To Prepare for the Coming of Christ

Two thousand years ago, Jesus promised that He would complete all His work of redemption once the gospel of the kingdom was spread throughout the world. We should preach the gospel, preparing for the coming of Christ.

Mt 24:14 “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

8. To Gain Talents and Receive Heavenly Rewards

God has allowed us to accumulate heavenly rewards through preaching. We should engage in preaching, believing that we will surely be rewarded in heaven for what we have done on this earth.

Da 12:3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Mt 25:14–30 “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. . . . The man

who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’ His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”

9. For the Salvation of Our Own Souls

Through preaching, we come to deeply understand the value of salvation and learn of the grace and love of God who saved us. Those who consistently preach cannot leave the path of salvation because they understand its value. Preaching is not only about saving others but also a way to save ourselves.

Jn 15:1-2 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.”

4

Blessings and Sufferings Contained in Preaching

1. Blessings of Preaching

When God entrusts us with something, we need to understand that He surely wants to bless us through it in the end. In preaching, God contained countless blessings.

1) Heavenly Rewards

God promised that those who led many would shine forever in heaven. Furthermore, through the parable of the talents, He also taught that He would reward those who gained many talents with even greater blessings.

Da 12:3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Lk 19:12–17 He said: “A man of noble birth went to a distant country

to have himself appointed king and then to return. So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. ‘Put this money to work,’ he said, ‘until I come back.’ . . . He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it. The first one came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned ten more.’ ‘Well done, my good servant!’ his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’ ”

2) Receiving the Authority to Fight and Overcome the Evil One

When God makes us evangelists, He also gives us the power to fight and overcome evil spirits.

Mt 10:1–7 Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. . . . “As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts—no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep.”

3) The Blessing I Prayed for the Preaching Target Returns to Me

If we pray for the salvation of the person we are trying to preach to and then he accepts the truth, we receive the blessing of bearing fruit. However, even if he does not accept the truth, the blessing we prayed for his soul will return to us.

Mt 10:11–13 “Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you.”

4) Experiencing God's Love

When we strive to save one soul and instill God's love in someone, we can finally realize God's love, which we previously only knew through knowledge. When we preach, we come to understand God's word more deeply and recognize the importance of the commandments He has given. We also come to grasp how great God's love is, and through this, our faith in the Holy Spirit and the Bride deepens. Through preaching, we learn patience, refine our rough character, and acquire manners and etiquette. No matter how deep our faith may be, if we do not preach, our heart tends to drift away from God. That is why God told us to preach.

2. Sufferings of Preaching

Preaching is a process of dispelling darkness and a spiritual battle against the devil. So while preaching, we are sometimes persecuted and slandered. However, if we fear hardships and do not preach the gospel, who will save the countless dying souls? Although hardships may follow in preaching, if we approach with the heart of Father and Mother who cherish each soul dearly, we will bear beautiful fruits.

Ro 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Mt 5:10–12 “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Lk 22:28–30 “You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me,

so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

Ps 126:5–6 Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.

5

Warnings Against Those Who Do Not Participate in Preaching

1. The Reason God Cursed Meroz

During the time of the Judges, there was a war between the Israelites and the Canaanite army. In this war, Israel defeated the Canaanite army that had been troubling them and achieved a great victory. At that time, Deborah and Barak praised God and sang a song of victory, which included the phrase “Curse Meroz.” The reason Israel cursed Meroz was because they did not come to help God when He fought for Israel; they did not participate in the battle.

The fact that the people of Meroz did not help in the war did not hinder the work of God, nor did it mean that God’s work could not be accomplished without them. However, God cursed them just because they did not come to help His work.

Even at this moment, there is a spiritual battle raging between God and the devil. God wants us to participate in this battle, which is destined for victory, so that we may receive blessings. Although our

strength is weak, we should stand on God’s side and contribute our efforts, working faithfully.

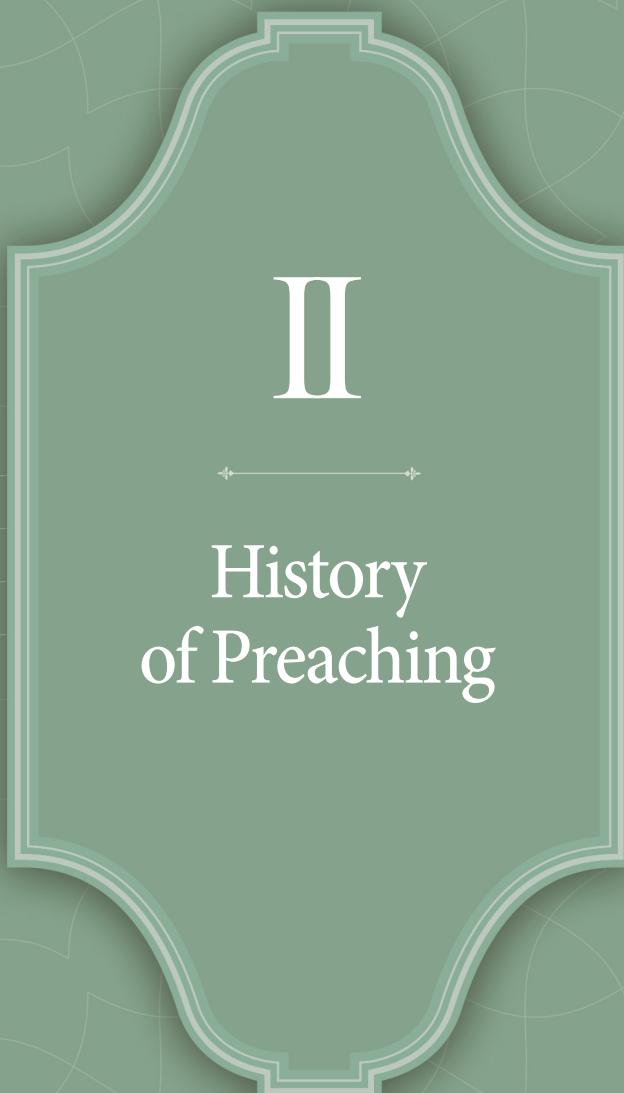
Jdg 5:1, 23 On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song: “... ‘Curse Meroz,’ said the angel of the LORD. ‘Curse its people bitterly, because they did not come to help the LORD, to help the LORD against the mighty.’”

2. If We Do Not Preach, We Will Be Held Accountable For Their Sins

God has appointed us as watchmen and commanded us to give warning to people on His behalf. He said that if we faithfully proclaim the word of God and people do not understand, He will hold them accountable for their sins, but if we remain silent and do not speak at all, He will hold us accountable for all of their sins. So Apostle Paul said that preaching the gospel is not optional but mandatory.

Eze 3:17–21 “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to a wicked person, ‘You will surely die,’ and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways in order to save their life, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the wicked person and they do not turn from their wickedness or from their evil ways, they will die for their sin; but you will have saved yourself”

1 Co 9:16 For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!



II

History of Preaching

1. Jesus' Preaching
2. Preaching of the Early Church
3. Apostle Paul and His Fellow Workers

Jesus' Preaching

Jesus came into the world to give eternal life to mankind (Jn 10:10) and devoted all His heart and strength to preaching the gospel during His public ministry. After praying at dawn, He went from village to village, diligently preaching the gospel and awakening sleeping souls by giving them numerous teachings about the essence of salvation. In the words, “there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons,” we can feel Jesus’ earnest desire for the salvation of our souls. Even in His final words to His disciples before ascending to heaven, He urged them to preach more than ever.

Jesus’ life, centered on preaching, can be considered the ultimate textbook for the salvation of humankind. If we preach according to His example and teachings, we too will be born again as the prophets Jesus desires and will be able to lead many souls to life. Let us examine Jesus’ teachings on gospel ministry and preaching from His baptism until His ascension.

1. The Beginning of Jesus’ Public Ministry

1) Baptism

Around the time Jesus began His public ministry, John the Baptist was giving people a baptism of repentance. He said that he had been called to prepare the way for Christ and that Christ would come after him and baptize with the Holy Spirit. When Jesus came to John, he testified that Jesus was the Christ the people had been waiting for (Mt 3:1–13; Jn 3:29–34).

2) Fasting for 40 Days

Jesus began His public ministry by being baptized by John the Baptist at the age of 30, fulfilling the prophecy of King David. After His baptism, He went into the wilderness and fasted, praying for 40 days (Mt 4:1–11). Upon completing his fast, Jesus faced three temptations from the devil. In the first temptation, the devil challenged Jesus with food. Jesus resisted the devil by saying, “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God,” and praised God. For the second temptation, where the devil enticed Him to test God’s power, Jesus emphasized that God is to be worshiped, not tested, and overcame the temptation. In the third temptation, where the devil offered Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, Jesus responded, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only,” thus revealing God’s glory and achieving victory.

Just as he did with Jesus, Satan puts various tests on us. Sometimes he pressures us with financial issues, and other times tests us to doubt the truth and power of God. He tempts us to believe that we can obtain everything we desire if we do not follow God’s commandments. In times like these, Jesus personally showed that if we establish the right spirit of faith and pray earnestly to God, we can overcome any test.

2. Early Preaching Ministry

1) Visit of Nicodemus

After completing 40 days of fasting and prayer, shouting, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near!” He preached the gospel of the kingdom without rest. One night after returning from preaching, Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews, came to see Jesus (Jn 3:1–2). However, Jesus did not reject anyone who wanted to talk to Him because He was tired. He did not blame him for coming in secret to avoid the public eye. With a compassionate heart that hoped for the salvation of one soul, He taught the word of God, faithfully answering his questions late into the night.

A prophet who resembles Christ does not live a life of faith in comfort, solely concerned with the safety of their own soul. Despite physical weariness and difficulties, when it comes to saving souls, they joyfully devote themselves and always do their best to preach the gospel. We must examine ourselves to see if we are indeed prophets who resemble Christ.

2) Preaching to the Samaritan Woman

Afterwards, while Jesus was leaving Judea and heading to Galilee, He met a woman who came to draw water from an area called Sychar in Samaria. He preached to her, saying that whoever drinks the water He gives will never thirst. Initially, the woman thought He was referring to physical water, but as she continued to listen, she realized that Jesus was the Christ who gives the water of life. Astonished, she left her water jar and ran to the people in the village, exclaiming, “Come and see! Behold the Christ!” When the Samaritans heard this, they asked Jesus to speak to them, and many came to believe in Him (Jn 4:5–15). Like the Samaritan woman, we must first recognize Christ, who gives us the water of life, before we can come to Him and ask for the water of life. Jesus also taught us how important it is to recognize the Savior, saying, “If you had known who it is that is asking you for a drink,

you would have asked him for living water.” At that time, most Jews did not recognize that Jesus was God, the source of living water, and missed the opportunity to receive eternal life. However, even in such circumstances, saints who recognized and accepted the Savior like the Samaritan woman, were able to lead a spiritual life without thirsting for the water of life.

Even in the age of the Holy Spirit, recognizing the source of the water of life is crucial for salvation. In this age, the Holy Spirit and the Bride provide the water of life. Those who have received God’s grace can approach the Holy Spirit and the Bride and receive the overflowing gift of the water of life freely given. However, countless souls worldwide suffer from spiritual thirst because they are unaware of the Holy Spirit and the Bride, who are the sources of the water of life. It is imperative that we swiftly spread the word about God Elohim who offers us the water of life in this age. By doing so, we can become gospel workers who save many souls.

3. Appointing Twelve Disciples

As prophesied that light would shine from Galilee, Jesus began His ministry from Galilee. First, He went to Nazareth, a small town in Galilee where He had been brought up, and when the Sabbath day came, He kept it according to His custom and preached the word of God. However, even His younger brothers who had been with Him for decades did not believe in Him, and His relatives went around trying to catch Him. While He was preaching, some people even drove Jesus out of town and attempted to push Him off a cliff. They only saw Jesus as a young man born into a poor carpenter’s family and refused to listen to His teachings about life (LK 4:16–30).

Jesus, rejected in His hometown of Nazareth, departed and continued His preaching journey in Galilee. After teaching in various synagogues and reaching the shores of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus encountered Peter, Andrew, John, and James, who were fishermen. Despite fishing all

night without success, at Jesus' instruction to cast their nets into deep water, they obeyed. They caught such a large quantity of fish that their nets began to tear. Witnessing this miracle, they recognized Jesus as the Savior. Responding to His call, "Follow Me," they immediately left their nets and began their journey as Christians, following Jesus (Mt 4:19–20; Mk 1:16–20; Lk 5:1–11).

Afterwards, Jesus met Matthew, a tax collector. At that time, Israel was under Roman colonial rule. People hated tax collectors because their job was to collect taxes from the Jews and offered them to the Roman Empire. Matthew, who had been neglected by people and lived with the pleasure of accumulating wealth, left everything and followed Jesus when He called him, saying, "Follow Me." Matthew, grateful to Jesus for making him a gospel worker, hosted a feast at his home with a thankful heart to treat Him. Tax collectors and sinners also attended the feast, but the Pharisees criticized Jesus for being with tax collectors and sinners. Thus, Jesus said, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." With these words, He rebuked the Pharisees who pretended to be righteous (Mt 9:9–13). Afterwards, Jesus appointed twelve disciples, including Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon, Thaddaeus, and Judas Iscariot, forming the twelve apostles (Mk 3:13–19).

Although Jesus could have called better and brighter people, Jesus chose as His disciples those who were despised and considered lacking at that time, such as tax collectors and fishermen, and transformed them into apostles of the gospel. He did not look for knowledge, ability, or background; rather, He valued pure faith and a willingness to obey God. Similarly, we should set aside our own thoughts and circumstances, wholeheartedly saying, "Amen," and joyfully following God's words no matter what they may be.

4. Sermon on the Mount

As news about Jesus spread, a multitude gathered around Him,

drawn by His gracious and powerful teachings. On a mountain, He delivered the Sermon on the Mount, where He expounded on the eight blessings that Christians can enjoy and how they should behave to inherit heaven. The blessings Jesus described were contrary to what the people of the world typically considered blessings. While many sought physical and earthly pleasures, Jesus taught that true blessing came from being called the sons of God and entering the eternal kingdom of heaven, even amid persecution and mourning on earth. Jesus also instructed His followers to act as salt and light in the world, encouraging them to perform good deeds that would bring glory to their Father in heaven (Mt 5:13–16).

Light overcomes darkness and enables us to clearly discern what was previously obscured. Salt prevents decay and purifies contamination. Spiritually, we are called to fulfill a similar mission, becoming worthy stewards of the roles of salt and light. In a spiritually dark world, truth and falsehood are often blurred. In such darkness, our perception of reality is distorted, leading us to embrace falsehoods over truth. By shining brightly with the light of truth, distinguishing between right and wrong, and fulfilling our mission to purify the world, we can awaken many souls in darkness to recognize the truth.

5. Proclaiming About the Bread of Life

As the Passover approached, Jesus performed the miracle of feeding five thousand people with just five barley loaves and two fish. Those who had their hunger satisfied continued to follow Him. However, Jesus challenged them to work for the food that endures to eternal life, not for the food that spoils. He declared Himself as the bread of life, emphasizing that His flesh and blood are the true food that gives them eternal life (Jn 6:27–58). Upon hearing this profound teaching, many who had followed Jesus for physical food alone departed. They had been willing to follow Him when He provided physical food that spoils, but they could not accept His offer of food for eternal life (Jn

6:66). Later, on the eve of His crucifixion during the final Passover, Jesus expounded further on these teachings to His faithful disciples who remained steadfast in their belief and commitment to Him (Mt 26:17–28).

Jesus came into the world as the bread of life for mankind, who came to die because of the sins they committed in heaven. God made a covenant with His flesh as the Passover bread and His precious blood as the Passover wine, granting the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Is there any more joyful news than this to people, who are slaves to sin and death? Therefore, if you are a worker of the new covenant, you should first understand the Passover. In the Truth Book, *The Mystery of God and the Spring of the Water of Life*, Christ Ahnsahnghong emphasized the importance of the Passover, describing it as “indeed a profound and amazing truth of life.” As workers of the new covenant, we must fulfill our mission of preaching the Passover to all people and guiding them to keep it, which Christ established by giving up His body.

Reference) The Power Contained in the Passover (from the Truth Book, *The Mystery of God and the Spring of the Water of Life*)

“When we celebrate the Passover of the new covenant, we are redeemed from this sinful world through the blood of Jesus, we come to keep the first commandment by worshiping only God because all the other gods are destroyed, and we have the right to the tree of life and to the holy city by the blood of the Passover Lamb. And finally it becomes a mark with which we can escape the seven last plagues (Ex 12:13-14; Eze 9:4-7; Rev 7:14; 22:14).”

6. Disciple Education

After gathering His disciples, Jesus poured His strength into nurturing them to become prophets of the gospel. Jesus’ declaration, “I will make you fishers of men,” reveals His determination to make the disciples fellow gospel workers and good evangelists. By studying

and applying the methods through which Jesus trained His disciples to become evangelists, we can also develop into good evangelists.

1) Example of Prayer

When Jesus first began preaching the gospel, He fasted and prayed for 40 days. After overcoming temptation, He then began to proclaim the gospel. In the process of turning His disciples into fishers of men, the first example He set was prayer. Jesus began not only His gospel life but also daily life with prayer.

Mk 1:35–39 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. . . . Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Prayer serves not only as the starting point of preaching but also as a powerful means to manifest the authority and power of God.

Mk 9:28–29 After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”

Nothing can be accomplished without prayer. Even if one is endowed with power, it cannot be effectively wielded without prayer. Prayer is the driving force behind the power that transforms the impossible into reality.

Mt 7:7–11 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the

door will be opened”

“Ask, seek, and knock.” This means “Pray.” Through prayer, God has enabled us to seek, find, and receive everything. Prayer is the foremost requirement and practice for fishers of men, and it is the easiest and surest way to achieve the fruitful results in gospel ministry. God supports those who pray, and by committing to prayer, you will discover the joy of receiving what you ask for, finding what you seek, and having doors opened to you when you knock.

2) Emphasis on Faith

The Gospels of the New Testament are mostly filled with words concerning faith. Jesus emphasized the importance of faith so much in the gospel.

Mk 9:22–24 “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.” “‘If you can?’ said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.” Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

Nothing is impossible for God the Creator who created the universe with His words. If you place your trust in God’s power and have unwavering faith in Him, there is nothing you cannot achieve. Even in the task of preaching, you should not harbor prejudices such as “That person will succeed, that person will not.” If you seek to save souls with a firm belief that it will happen and an absolute faith that God will make it happen, you will surely reap the harvest. The story of the two blind men who regained their sight through their faith in Jesus underscores the profound importance of faith.

Mt 9:27–30 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” When he had

gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” “Yes, Lord,” they replied. Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you”; and their sight was restored.

When Jesus performed miracles, He first looked for faith in those seeking His help. After examining the faith of the blind men, Jesus said, “According to your faith, let it be done to you,” and then their eyes were opened. Jesus could have simply restored their sight, but He required their faith, saying, “According to your faith let it be done to you. In doing so, Jesus aimed to teach His disciples that for those who believe, all things are possible.

3) Education on Preaching

When Jesus walked with His disciples, He personally took the lead in teaching them, spreading the gospel of the kingdom of heaven, and setting an example of preaching. He then sent disciples to each region to preach.

Mt 9:35–38 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Mt 10:5–8 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have

received; freely give.”

The disciples who saw and learned from Jesus as He traveled throughout the cities and villages preaching the gospel of the kingdom, followed His example and were reborn as fishers of men.

4) Education on Hope for Heaven

Gospel workers must maintain a fervent hope for heaven. Without this hope, we may easily become weary. Jesus Himself understood the challenges His disciples would face—persecution, ridicule, and disdain—during their preaching. Therefore, He instilled in them a robust hope for heaven, enabling them to endure and overcome every adversity and hardship they encountered.

Mt 19:27–28 Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

Jesus gave authority to judge the twelve tribes of Israel to the disciples who left everything to follow Him and devoted their life to the gospel work. Apostle Peter referred to the authority as that of a “royal priesthood” (1 Pe 2:9). Jesus promised them such great glory of heaven that they might not get exhausted but continue to work hard as evangelists. We, too, must not lose hope for heaven, so that we can complete the journey of the gospel.

5) Education on Character

Good character is also important for a gospel worker.

Mt 12:34–37 “You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say

anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Good deeds and good words come from a good heart. Good words and good deeds can never come from an evil heart. Regardless of whether one is in the truth or not, a person must have good character, but for a gospel worker, character is an essential virtue. If we say rough or harsh words, or act rashly just because we are angry, we are not worthy of being a fisher of people. Jesus taught us that if we want to be great and first, we must always be humble.

Mt 20:26–27 “Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave.”

Although you have received the promise to become a royal priesthood in the kingdom of heaven, first you must become a fisher of men. To become a fisher of men, you must first be a servant and serve others.

7. Teachings About Preaching Contained in Parables

Jesus explained the principle of salvation through numerous parables. Among them, let us take a look at the parables about preaching.

1) Parable of the Mustard Seed

Jesus said that if we have faith as small as a mustard seed, we can say to this mountain, “Move from here to there,” and it will move, and that nothing will be impossible for us (Mt 17:20). He also explained

the principles of heaven through the parable of the mustard seed.

Mt 13:31–32 He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

Among the seeds, the mustard seed is the smallest and insignificant to anyone. However, when this small seed is sown in the ground, it grows to be a tree, so that birds come and perch in its branches. Likewise, even though our ability is as small as a mustard seed, God accomplishes the great work of the gospel through us. Two thousand years ago, when Peter and John were called by Jesus, they were not men of great ability, but merely fishermen who made a living by catching fish every day. However, God made them “fishers of people” and used them to accomplish the gospel work in the early Church amazingly.

Despite our own limitations, with God’s power, nothing is beyond our reach. We must not foolishly delay the mission God has entrusted to us out of fear or self-doubt regarding our abilities or faith. If we have the determination to accomplish the work of the gospel by relying on the word of God, we can bear abundant fruit through our preaching efforts.

2) Parable of the Sower

Jesus explained the principle of reaping the fruit of the gospel through the parable of sowing seeds and reaping fruit.

Mt 13:18–23 “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown

in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

Here, the field represents our heart, and the seed represents the word of God. Just as the results of the harvest vary, depending on which field the seed falls on, it may or may not bear much fruit, depending on the heart in which one preaches the gospel.

When a farmer sows seeds in the spring, the first thing they do is to plow the field that has been lying fallow, removing tree roots and weeds, and leveling the ground. If our hearts are old, dull, lacking faith, or choked with thorns and thistles, we cannot produce beautiful fruit of the gospel. To bear abundant fruit, we must first completely plow the old soil of our heart and transform it into fertile soil. Only then, by sowing the seeds of the gospel can we yield gracious and beautiful fruit. When our hearts and actions are cultivated beautifully like fertile ground, God is moved and grants us a harvest that may be a hundredfold, sixtyfold, or thirtyfold of fruits.

3) Parable of the Vine

Jesus explained the principle of bearing fruit, using the parable of the vine, and told us that we can bear much fruit when we remain in God.

Jn 15:1–8 “Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear

fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. . . . This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

Jesus revealed that the secret to bearing much fruit is "for us to remain in Him and for Him to remain in us." Having Christ remain in us means our soul is filled with the love of Christ, the words of Christ, the character of Christ, and faith in Christ. When all human thoughts and desires within us disappear and Christ fills us, we can bear abundant fruit.

If bearing fruit feels difficult, we should reflect on whether Christ is truly living in us at this moment. We cannot give others what we do not possess. If the spirit and words of Christ are lacking within us, we cannot share Christ with others or preach well. To fulfill our aspirations of saving the world, we must fill our souls with Christ. When our faith, words, character, thoughts, and actions all transform to resemble Christ, we can share the things of God with everyone we encounter and bear abundant fruit.

4) Parable of the Good Samaritan

Through the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus taught us not to pass by our neighbors who are heading toward death, but to preach to them and save them.

Lk 10:30–37 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took

pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

When they encountered a man who had been robbed and left half dead, the Levite and the priest passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan approached him, treated his wounds, and saved his life. Jesus revealed that the true neighbor of the man who encountered the robbers was the Samaritan who showed love, and He said, "Go and do likewise."

We have already received salvation and eternal life, and we are now given opportunities to save lives like the Samaritan. Let us reflect on ourselves to see if, like the priest or Levite, we have passed by dying souls as if they had nothing to do with us. Just as Christ saved us who were dying, we too should care for all people in the world. We must take pity on the souls who would otherwise be punished in the lake of fire, save them with the medicine of the word of God, and become prophets who receive much praise and eternal reward from God when we reach heaven.

5) Parable of the One Hundred Sheep

To give glory and joy to God, we first need to know what God is most pleased with. Through the parable of the one hundred sheep, Jesus showed us that what He is most pleased with is the salvation of His children.

Lk 15:3–7 Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-

nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”

God rejoices more greatly when one sinner repents and receives salvation than the joy of ninety-nine righteous persons in heaven. This is why we preach the gospel diligently. God, who gave and sacrificed His flesh and blood for us, said that the work that pleases Him the most is preaching that brings sinners to repentance and salvation. So, we must give true joy to God by preaching the gospel to all people in the world and leading them to repentance.

6) Parable of Talents and Mina

Among the parables Jesus taught, the parable that is directly connected to preaching is the parable of the talents and minas. The parable of the talents is to make a profit by doing business with the talents received. This is a teaching that we must lead many souls to salvation through preaching.

Mt 25:14–30 “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five.

‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’ His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’ His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

The parable of Mina, too, is about gaining profits by putting money to work. It also teaches us that we, as those who have received the new covenant gospel, must gain results of saving souls by preaching.

Lk 19:12–26 He said: “A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. ‘Put this money to work,’ he said, ‘until I come back.’ But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We don’t want this man to be our king.’

He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it. The first one came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned ten more.’ ‘Well done, my good servant!’ his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’ The second came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned five more.’ His master answered, ‘You take charge of five cities.’ Then another servant came and said, ‘Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.’ His master replied, ‘I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? Why then didn’t you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?’ Then he said to those standing by, ‘Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.’ ‘Sir,’ they said, ‘he already has ten!’ He replied, ‘I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away.’

8. Gospel Ministry Carried Out in the Face of Rejection

Jesus devoted Himself to preaching and teaching the word of the truth. In the process, there were times when His relatives went out to seize Him, saying He was out of His mind (Mk 3:21); and when He preached in His hometown, people attempted to push Him off a cliff (Lk 4:28–30). During the Festival of Tabernacles, He continued to teach and preach in the temple, and at the end of the Festival of Tabernacles, the great day, the Holy Spirit was granted.

Jn 7:14–43 Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. . . . On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who

is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. On hearing his words, some of the people said, “Surely this man is the Prophet.” Others said, “He is the Messiah.” Still others asked, “How can the Messiah come from Galilee?” . . . Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.

Jesus gave the life-giving words, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink,” but this became a matter of controversy among the people. This is because only God can give the water of life. Some of those who heard these words saw Jesus as a prophet or the Christ, but the Pharisees and chief priests denied Jesus and even tried to stone Him.

Even in the face of ongoing persecution, Jesus did not cease preaching. He traveled between Galilee and Samaria, teaching about the kingdom of God and awakening them to the hope for heaven. Although slanderers asked questions to test Him, Jesus defeated them with wise and powerful words, and sometimes with firm words.

If Jesus had been discouraged whenever He faced persecution and opposition from religious leaders, how would it have been? Jesus said that He came to seek and save the lost from heaven, not to be troubled by opponents. Because of that, no matter what difficulties He faced, He did not waver and was able to walk straight on the gospel path that He was destined to walk.

Following the examples of Jesus, we too should concentrate our hearts only on saving souls rather than being intimidated and concerned about the interference of slanderers. If we forget our mission of preaching and suffer because of persecution or slander, we cannot teach all nations the path to eternal life. Since God is with us, we should overcome hardships and persecution with courageous faith.

Jn 15:20 “Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.”

9. Final Ministry in Jerusalem

As the gospel ministry was coming to an end, Jesus entered Jerusalem before His last Passover. The disciples asked Jesus what signs there would be at the end of the age and at His second coming. Jesus prophesied that wars, famines, and earthquakes would only be the beginning of birth pains, and that many false Christs and false prophets would appear to deceive many people. Due to the increase of wickedness throughout the earth, the love of most would grow cold. These are the signs which mark the last days. Regarding the signs of His second coming, He said to learn the Parable of the Fig Tree.

He also told the following parables: Parable of the Two Women Grinding at the Mill, Parable of the Faithful Servant and the Wicked Servant, Parable of the Ten Virgins, Parable of the Talents, and Parable of the Sheep and the Goats. Through these parables, He taught the faith that God’s people in the last days should have. All of these parables teach us to preach the gospel diligently so that there will be no regrets on the last day. Let us look at the Parable of the Ten Virgins.

Mt 25:1–13 “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ . . . The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you,

I don’t know you.’ Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

In the parable, the five wise virgins had nothing to regret, but the five foolish virgins beat their breasts in regret. After the door is closed, even if we regret and belatedly knock, asking for it to be opened, there will be no more opportunities. If we get ready after the call to come out to meet the groom resounds, it is already too late. Jesus has been instructing his beloved children for 2,000 years to always be prepared and ready to receive Him at any time, as we do not know whether that day will be today, tomorrow, at midnight, in the morning, or when we are asleep.

10. From the Resurrection to the Ascension, Jesus Asked His People to Preach

After His resurrection, Jesus asked Peter, who had denied Him three times, “Do you love me?” three times. Every time Peter answered that he loved Jesus, He said, “Feed my sheep.”

Jn 21:15–17 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”

The first thing Jesus asked Peter to do was to find the lost lambs of God and feed them with the truth. His second and third request was also to feed the sheep of God and teach them correctly, so that they

would be able to reach the kingdom of heaven. This is God's earnest request not only to Peter but to all His disciples who truly love God. As those who truly love God, if we are to feed God's sheep as He earnestly requests, above all, we should fill ourselves with the nourishing spiritual food of the truth. We should also diligently care for our members and earnestly feed them with the food of the word. Before His ascension, Jesus, who was about to ascend, also entrusted the gospel to all the disciples who came to Galilee to see Him.

Mt 28:18–20 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

If the world evangelism, which is Jesus' final request, feels difficult and daunting, it is because we are trying to achieve the work with our own strength. Christ clearly promised at the end of His words, “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” This contains God's will for us to fulfill the gospel by relying on God's help at every moment.

God Almighty always helps us. Wherever we go, He will remove obstacles in front of us, look after our difficulties, and find all our brothers and sisters scattered around the world. We can do everything because Father and Mother will always be by our side until the very end of the age. Let us become the protagonists of the gospel, who complete salvation of the world by believing in the power of God and seeking Him.

2

Preaching of the Early Church

The early Church evangelists did not shy away from suffering, tribulation, and the threat of death while preaching the gospel. Rather, they did not stop preaching the gospel every day, rejoicing that they were considered worthy of being persecuted in the name of Christ.

1. Peter

Apostle Peter, who left a great act of faith that marked a significant chapter in the history of the early Church, was a fisherman in Galilee. By following Jesus' call without hesitation, he became a fisher of men. He denied Jesus three times when Jesus was taken away, but the resurrected Jesus forgave him. Then, according to Jesus' request, "Feed my lambs," Peter fervently served as a leader in the early Church.

Filled with the Holy Spirit during Pentecost, Peter proclaimed, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins," resulting in about three thousand people being baptized on that day. Even when he preached at Solomon's

Columbarium, the number of people who heard the sermon and accepted Jesus reached approximately 5,000 men. The surprised Jewish leaders arrested him and imprisoned him, threatening, "Do not speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus." But after Peter was released, he preached the gospel even more vigorously. Peter's passionate actions for the gospel serve as a good example for our faith.

1) Peter's Regret and Repentance

At that time, when people thought of Jesus simply as a Rabbi or a prophet, Peter confidently answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." This passage reveals how strong Peter's faith was in the Christ who came in the flesh. However, even Peter had a moment of regret due to his irreversible sin—disowning Jesus.

The night before He was crucified, Jesus prophesied that Peter would disown Him (Mt 26:31, Mk 14:27). When Peter heard this, he declared that he would never disown Him (Mk 14:29–31). However, as it is prophesied in the Bible that every smallest letter and the least stroke of a pen will be accomplished, Peter denied Jesus, whom he loved so much, three times before the rooster crowed (Lk 22:57–62).

He firmly declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you," but he ended up disowning Him three times. What was Peter's heart like when he met eyes with Jesus? He had assured that he would never disown Jesus. However, before even a day had passed, he faced a fearful reality. In the end, he disowned Jesus immediately and would have bitterly resented himself for doing so.

Judas Iscariot made the same mistake of betraying Jesus. He betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver and, despite regretting his wrong actions, he did not repent and committed suicide. But Peter was different. After disowning Jesus, he did not just weep and regret; instead, he preached more fervently than before and lived a life of repentance. He committed to the gospel with the determination to sacrifice his life for Jesus and kept the oath he made to Jesus. For

Peter, the mistake of that day was a thorn that made him remember that he was a sinner, and it served as a driving force to walk the path of the gospel with humility.

Repentance is possible when we face our sin and admit it. Therefore, repentance requires great courage. Those who put aside their pride and sincerely repent of their mistakes have the courage to save the world and will be used as great vessels for the gospel.

2) Peter's Love for Jesus

Before His ascension, Jesus asked Peter three times after he repented.

Jn 21:15–17 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, . . . “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”

Jesus asked Peter the same question three times, “Do you love me?” Jesus confirmed Peter’s resolute and fervent heart through his consistent answer, “Lord, you know that I love you,” and entrusted him with the church He had established with His blood, saying, “Feed my sheep.”

Unless we have a heart that loves God, we can never be a shepherd who takes care of the members. How much Peter loved Jesus can be found in many passages of the Bible. When the high priest’s servants, armed with swords and weapons, came to arrest Jesus, he boldly drew his sword and struck the ear of one to protect Jesus. Also, when Jesus said that He would suffer on the cross and die, he begged, “Never, Lord! This shall never happen to you!” Peter’s love did not falter even after hearing Jesus’ severe rebuke, “Get behind me, Satan!” Rather, he built his faith on the rock and became a good shepherd pleasing God. Peter was also an obedient apostle who followed every word of Jesus. When Jesus told him to let down his net, he did so, and when He

told him to go and preach, he obeyed and preached. This attitude of obedience originated from a love for Jesus. If we do not have a heart that absolutely loves God, we won’t be able to develop the attitude of those who follow wherever God leads us, and we won’t be able to achieve complete obedience and receive the blessing of salvation. If we walk the path of the gospel with passionate love for God like Peter, we will be able to obey all the words of Christ and reap the beautiful results of the gospel.

3) Peter Writes the First Chapter of Preaching to the Gentiles

At a time when the gospel was not preached in foreign countries, there was the first foreigner who was baptized in the name of Jesus. He was Cornelius, a centurion who led the Roman army in Caesarea, and it was Peter who preached the gospel to him.

Ac 10:17–20 While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon’s house was and stopped at the gate. They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there. While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.”

God showed Peter a vision of a large sheet being let down from heaven, in which various animals were contained, and a voice said that He had cleansed the Gentiles, who were represented as unclean animals. He also expressed His will to give the Gentiles an opportunity to be saved by preaching the gospel of life. Realizing God’s will, Peter obeyed the words and testified about Jesus the Savior in front of Cornelius, a Gentile, and everyone gathered in the house. At the time, the Holy Spirit came upon everyone who heard the word of God, and Cornelius became the first Gentile to be baptized

in the name of Jesus. Starting with Cornelius, the gospel was widely preached to all people, regardless of whether they were Jews or Greeks (Gal 3:28).

4) Peter's Martyrdom

According to early Church tradition, Peter is said to have been crucified upside down. The Bible records a scene where Jesus predicted Peter's death.

Jn 21:18–19 “Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.

It is said that Peter was sentenced to crucifixion in Rome while preaching the gospel. According to tradition, Peter requested to be crucified upside down, declaring, “I am not worthy to be crucified in the same way as Jesus, so please crucify me with my head downward.” Peter spent his life repenting for his one-time mistake and dedicated himself to living a life where he would never repeat the same sin, devoting his entire life to the gospel. Peter’s life teaches us that we can carry out the gospel with gratitude when we constantly remember our own sinfulness. While living in this world, we may, knowingly or unknowingly, deny Jesus through our words or actions. We must always remember that we are sinners, and repent of our sins by living for the gospel like Peter.

5) Stephen

As many people heard the gospel and joined the church, the number of saints increased rapidly, making it difficult for the apostles to manage all the church affairs. Therefore, the disciples selected seven

men among them who were filled with the Holy Spirit and wisdom, and appointed them as deacons. One of these men was Stephen, who was full of faith and the Holy Spirit. After receiving the title, Stephen became increasingly filled with grace and power, fearlessly traveling throughout Jerusalem and boldly proclaiming the word of God.

Ac 7:51–54 “You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him—you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.” When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.

The elders and scribes who lost the argument with Stephen presented false witnesses and accused him. Stephen who was arrested by the council testified about Christ in a confident and clear tone and proclaimed that they must believe in Jesus who came as a man. Upon this, Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, with Jesus standing at the right hand of God. He then spoke these words:

Ac 7:56–57 “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him.

Those who heard Stephen’s words were enraged and stoned him. Satan thought that the martyrdom of Stephen would extinguish the fervor of the gospel, but instead, the faith of the saints burned even more. After his martyrdom, a large-scale persecution of Christians began in Jerusalem, and the apostles were scattered to various places.

Despite being scattered, the Christians preached the gospel wherever they went, and as a result, the gospel spread widely. His martyrdom became the catalyst for the rapid spread of the gospel beyond Jerusalem, reaching Samaria and even to the regions of the Gentiles, which had previously been limited to Judea (Ac 8:4–5; 11:19).

Stephen, the first deacon of the early Church, was filled with the Holy Spirit, wisdom, and faith. He was martyred for boldly testifying about Christ, who came in the flesh, and his name now shines eternally in the book of life in heaven. We, too, must live our one-and-only life as valuable and worthy evangelists and receive heavenly rewards.

3. Philip

After Stephen's martyrdom, persecution against the early Church in Jerusalem intensified from the Jewish authorities. Consequently, the saints of the early Church scattered to different places, including Judea, Samaria, and even distant Gentile regions. During this time, Philip traveled to Samaria and preached about Jesus to many people. Following the angel's instructions, he went to the desert and met a eunuch of Kandake, queen of the Ethiopians, who was reading Scripture (Ac 8:34–36). Philip, guided by the Holy Spirit, led the Ethiopian eunuch, a Gentile, to salvation by preaching the gospel to him. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, the gospel spread to people from all walks of life.

Furthermore, many early Church members embraced martyrdom out of profound love for God.

Heb 11:33–39 [W]ho through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back

their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

The Bible portrays the faith of the early Church saints, which serves as our example, as “faith that the world was not worthy of them.” In this age, we too must overcome all the trials and hardships encountered in the process of preaching the gospel, as the glorious protagonists who will receive the crown of life on the last day.

3

Apostle Paul and His Fellow Workers

1. Preaching Work of Apostle Paul

Paul was from Tarsus, Cilicia, in the Roman Empire, and was a Roman citizen who was recognized as a privileged class at the time. He was a disciple of the Pharisee Gamaliel and had a sincere faith in Judaism. He rejected Christ and persecuted the saints to the extent of encouraging Stephen's martyrdom (Ac 7:58). However, after accepting Christ, he devoted his life to preaching the gospel. Let us take a look at the gospel path Paul walked from the moment he accepted Christ to his martyrdom and take it as a lesson for ourselves.

1) Apostle Paul Converted

As Paul and his group approached Damascus to deliver notices to various synagogues calling for the arrest of Christians, suddenly a powerful light came down from heaven and flashed around Paul, and a voice was heard.

Ac 9:3–5 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.

Paul was blinded by this incident and entered Damascus with the support of his companions. While he was praying without eating or drinking anything for three days due to a spiritual shock, Jesus appeared in a vision to His disciple Ananias.

Ac 9:15–16 But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name’s sake.”

When Ananias visited Paul and laid his hands on him, Paul’s eyesight returned and he was baptized immediately. After that, Paul became an evangelist called by God and went to various synagogues to preach about Jesus. The Jews guarded the city gate day and night to kill Paul who had converted, but the saints put him in a big basket and let him escape from the city at night. After that, they continued to try to kill Paul, but he did not give in and boldly preached the gospel.

2) First Missionary Journey (Ac 13:1–14:28)



① Cyprus (Ac 13:4–12)

Paul who was teaching the word at the church in Antioch went on a missionary journey with Barnabas under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Paul and Barnabas passed through Sileucia, a port near Antioch, and arrived at the Cyprus located in the eastern Mediterranean. Cyprus, which they chose as their first preaching site, was a trade and transportation center in the Mediterranean at the time and a place where they could meet many Gentiles. They preached in Jewish synagogues and spread the gospel throughout the island (Ac 13:5). As a result, Sergius Paulus, the governor of the Cyprus, heard the word and accepted Jesus.

② Pisidian Antioch (Ac 13:14–52)

When Paul and his companion arrived in Pisidian Antioch, they first visited the synagogue. Paul confidently testified that Jesus is the Savior through the Bible prophecies and their fulfillment. Every Sabbath,

the synagogue was filled with people who gathered to hear Paul preach. The jealous Jews incited the prominent women and influential people in the city to persecute Paul and Barnabas and drive them out. Despite this, the saints of the church in Antioch remained filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to praise God.

③ Iconium and Lystra (Ac 14:1–20)

After being driven out of Antioch, Paul and Barnabas moved their ministry to Iconium. When many people heard the gospel in Iconium, the Jews and rulers tried to stone the two apostles to death. They then moved on to Lystra.

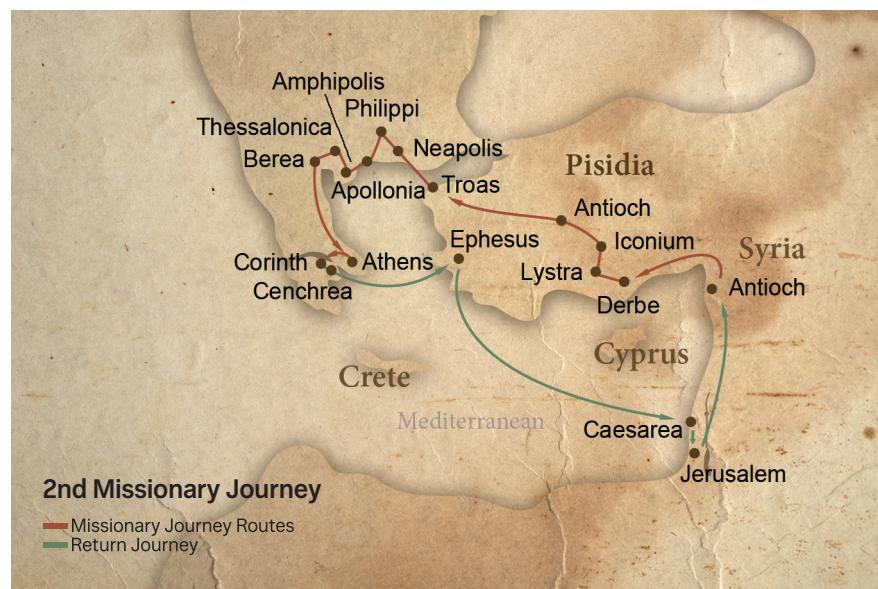
While preaching in Lystra, Paul met a lame man and healed him through the power of the Holy Spirit. Seeing this, the people there thought that Paul and Barnabas were Greek gods who came down from heaven in human form. People called Barnabas Zeus and Paul Hermes and tried to worship them as gods and offer sacrifices to them. The two bewildered apostles quickly explained that they were just humans like them, and preached about God. At the time, some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium to harm Paul and stirred up the people of Lystra to stone him. When Paul fell after being stoned, the people thought he was dead and dragged him out of the city. However, Paul got up when the disciples surrounded him and went to Derbe with Barnabas the next day to continue preaching the gospel.

④ Return to Antioch

In Derbe, Paul and Barnabas zealously preached the gospel and bore much fruit. Afterwards, they again stopped by Lystra, Iconium, and Pisidian Antioch, which they had passed through so far, and encouraged the disciples. And after preaching in Perga, and Attalia, they returned to the church in Antioch, completing their first missionary journey. They came back to Antioch and shared with

saints all that God had accomplished with them during their journey, through the mission report.

3) Second Missionary Journey



① Vision in Troas (Ac 16:6–16:10)

Paul went on his second missionary journey with Silas to take care of the local saints who had accepted the truth during his first missionary journey. When Paul and his companions arrived in Lystra, they met Timothy, a faithful young man, and invited him to join them on their missionary journey. Paul and his companions traveled to various cities to convey and encourage people to follow the decisions made at the Assembly in Jerusalem, which included the freedom from observing the laws of Moses such as circumcision, and abstaining from food sacrificed to idols, blood, strangled animals, and sexual immorality. The churches were strengthened in their faith as a result of these visits, and the number of believers increased every day.

Paul visited churches in Asia and preached diligently. However, kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in Asia, Paul traveled through various regions and came to Troas. There, Paul had a vision during the night where a man from Macedonia appeared, urging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After seeing this vision, Paul concluded that God had called him to preach the gospel to the Macedonians and he left for Macedonia.

② Philippi (Ac 16:11–40)

When they arrived in a city called Philippi, which was located in the district of Macedonia, they walked outside of the city gate to a nearby river to find a place of prayer on the Sabbath day. While they were there, they preached the word of God to the women who had gathered there. God opened the heart of one of them, a woman named Lydia, who was a dealer in purple cloth, and she and her entire family were baptized.

On one occasion, Paul drove out a demon from a female slave who was possessed and used for fortune-telling. The owner, who had been making money through her fortune-telling, became enraged when he could no longer earn money. Paul and Silas were accused because they caused an uproar throughout the city and spread customs that Romans could not accept or practice. As a result, Paul and Silas were beaten harshly and thrown into prison with their feet in stocks.

While Paul and Silas were imprisoned, they prayed and praised God in the middle of the night. Suddenly, a great earthquake occurred, causing the prison doors to open and all the prisoners' handcuffs and bonds to be removed. When the jailer saw this, he thought all the prisoners had escaped and, fearing he would be held responsible, pulled out his knife to commit suicide. At that moment, Paul shouted and stopped the jailer, then delivered the news of salvation to him and his family. They were baptized immediately at that hour of the night and were overjoyed to believe in God. After safely getting out of

prison, Paul and his companions left for Thessalonica.

③ Thessalonica (Ac 17:1–9)

When they arrived in Thessalonica, they kept the Sabbath according to custom in the synagogue and testified about Christ from the Scriptures as the Savior. As a result, a large group of God-fearing Greeks and several prominent women accepted the gospel. As many souls in Thessalonica were led to salvation, the jealous Jews began to interfere.

The Jews mobilized thugs to make threats and went to a Roman official to accuse Paul of inciting confusion. One day, the Jews took a group of thugs and attacked Jason's house where Paul and his companions were staying. When they couldn't find Paul and his companions in the house, they dragged Jason and some of the saints before the rulers, shouting and causing a disturbance. That night, the saints in Thessalonica helped Paul and his companions escape to Berea.

④ Berea (Ac 17:10–15)

In Berea, Paul also went to the synagogue and preached the gospel. The people there were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. The number of believers increased, and among them were quite a few Greek prominent women and men. Meanwhile, the Thessalonian Jews, who heard that Paul was preaching the gospel in Berea, chased him all the way to Berea, inciting the people and hindering the gospel. In the end, Paul moved to Athens alone, leaving Silas and Timothy in Berea.

⑤ Athens (Ac 17:16–34)

When Paul arrived in Athens, he settled down in a Jewish village and

actively carried out preaching, centered on the synagogue. However, the Jews in Athens rarely accepted the gospel. It was because they were engrossed in vain worldly philosophies. Paul was in righteous wrath as he saw that the entire city of Athens was full of idols, so he reasoned with many people in the synagogue and marketplace every day. He also reasoned with philosophers of the Epicurean and Stoic schools. He also preached to the crowds at the Council of the Areopagus about the death and resurrection of Jesus. There, several people, including the ruler, accepted the gospel, and although Paul was unable to establish a church in Athens, he planted the seed of the gospel and moved to Corinth.

⑥ Corinth (Ac 18:1–17)

After leaving Athens, Paul arrived in Corinth, the capital of Achaia. There was a Jewish couple devoted to the gospel named Aquila and Priscilla. Paul worked with them as a tent maker, and every Sabbath he preached the Bible and spread the gospel to Jews and Greeks. Once Silas and Timothy arrived in Corinth, they devoted themselves to preaching the gospel together.

In the process, a God-honoring man named Titus Justus heard Paul's sermon and was so moved that he offered his house next to the synagogue as an outpost for the gospel in Corinth. Moreover, many people, including the family of Crispus, the head of the Jewish synagogue, accepted the truth, giving great strength to the church in Corinth. Jesus appeared to Paul in a vision and said, "Do not be afraid but keep on speaking, because I have many people in this city." So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God. After graciously completing his ministry in Corinth, Paul left Corinth with Aquila and his wife and headed to Ephesus.

⑦ Return to Antioch (Ac 18:18–23)

When Paul arrived in Ephesus, he went to the synagogue and

preached the gospel to the Jews. They showed interest in the gospel and asked Paul to stay longer, but because he needed to observe the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem, he left Aquila and Priscilla there instead. Paul's second missionary journey was completed by passing through Caesarea and Jerusalem and returning to Antioch.

4) Third Missionary Journey (Ac 19:1–20:1)



① Ephesus (Ac 18:23–20:1)

After returning from his second missionary journey, Paul stayed in Antioch for a while and then went on another missionary journey. He went through the lands of Galatia and Phrygia to strengthen the faith of the saints and then headed to Ephesus. Before Paul came, a Jew from Alexandria named Apollos was already teaching about Jesus in Ephesus. Although he was well versed in the Bible at the time, he only knew John's baptism. Paul's fellow workers, Priscilla and Aquila, taught him the truth of God in more detail, and Apollos then went to Achaia and preached Jesus to many people.

After Apollos went to Corinth in Achaia, Paul came to Ephesus and preached the gospel. He baptized the twelve people who had received John's baptism, in the name of Jesus Christ and laid hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came upon them. For about three months, Paul continued to preach the gospel in the synagogue, but some became stubborn and refused to believe, speaking evil of the gospel before the community. So Paul left them and took the disciples with him, and he continued to preach every day in the synagogue of Tyrannus for two years. As a result, many people in Asia, including Jews and Greeks, heard the word of God.

As the gospel spread, big and small commotions arose in Ephesus. At that time, the goddess Artemis was a deity revered not only in Asia but also throughout the world, and her temple was located in Ephesus (Ac 19:27). The silversmith who made silver shrines of the goddess Artemis (a model of a temple made of silver) harbored resentment against Paul and incited the merchants, causing a disturbance. Because of Paul's preaching that things made by human hands are not gods, they suffered significant financial loss in their business. They seized Paul's companions and shouted, "Great is Artemis," leading the whole city to be in an uproar. The disturbance stopped only after the ruler of Ephesus stepped in and calmed the crowd. Paul took care of the church in Ephesus without resting day and night for three years and then headed to Macedonia.

② Macedonia and Troas (Ac 20:2–12)

Paul traveled to various regions of Macedonia and encouraged the saints, then went to Greece and stayed there for three months. Then, he originally planned to go to Syria, but due to a Jewish conspiracy to harm him, he changed his route and went back to Troas via Macedonia.

Paul's fellow workers arrived at Troas first and were waiting for him. They stayed in Troas for seven days, observed the Resurrection Day,

breaking bread, and preached the gospel diligently, then passed through various regions and went to Miletus. Even though there was a church in Ephesus near Miletus, the reason they did not stop by was that they wanted to arrive in Jerusalem before the day of Pentecost (Ac 20:16).

③ Miletus (Ac 20:13–38)

Miletus was the next largest and most prosperous city after Ephesus at the time. Paul sent someone to Ephesus, 60 km [37.3 mi] to the north, and asked the elders of the church in Ephesus to gather here. When they came to Miletus, Paul gave his final farewell speech, telling them how he had served Jesus with humility and tears despite the Jewish conspiracy and many trials. Paul asked the elders to remember that each of them was an overseer of the church and to take good care of the church that God had established with His own blood. After finishing his farewell speech, suppressing his overwhelming emotions, Paul knelt down and prayed with everyone. The elders were aware that they would never see Paul again, who had dedicated himself to the gospel and cared for them with devotion, tearfully embraced him, and accompanied him to the ship.

④ Visit to Jerusalem (Ac 21:1–16)

After bidding farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus at Miletus, Paul and his companions arrived in Tyre and spent a week there, finding the disciples and having a time of fellowship. The disciples desperately tried to dissuade Paul from going to Jerusalem. When he arrived in Caesarea and stayed at the house of the evangelist Philip, one of the seven deacons, a prophet named Agabus visited him and prophesied that if Paul went to Jerusalem, he would be bound and handed over to the Gentiles. The saints who heard this cried and appealed to Paul not to go to Jerusalem. However, Paul replied, “Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be

bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus” (Ac 21:10–14), without changing his will to go to Jerusalem. Eventually, Paul entered Jerusalem prepared for death, thereby concluding his third missionary journey.

5) Until Martyrdom

① Arrested in Jerusalem (Ac 21:15–23:35)

After completing their third missionary journey, Paul and his companions arrived in Jerusalem and were warmly welcomed by brothers and sisters. Paul greeted James, the leader of Jerusalem, and elders; he reported in detail what God had done through his ministry. When they heard this, they praised God.

The saints rejoiced at Paul's return but were concerned that he might face retaliation from the Jews. This is because there were rumors that Paul was teaching people to rebel against the law of Moses. A few days later, Jews from Asia found Paul in the temple and incited the crowd to arrest him. The reason was that he defiled the temple. In principle, Gentiles were only allowed to enter up to the outer courts of the temple. However, they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with Paul, and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple area. The misunderstood crowd dragged Paul out of the temple and tried to kill him.

As a result, the whole city of Jerusalem was in an uproar, and the commander of the Roman troops came running with his soldiers. After tying up Paul, the commander asked who he was and what he had done, but the answers were inconsistent and noisy, making it difficult to find out the truth. They had no choice but to take Paul into the barracks, but Paul asked for an opportunity to speak in front of the crowd, so he was given commander's permission (Ac 21:27–36).

Standing in front of numerous Jews, Paul revealed that he was born a Jew, that he was trained in the law under Gamaliel, and that he had persecuted Christians in the past. He also explained in detail how he

had converted. After hearing Paul's story, the Jews became even more enraged and tried to kill him. When the situation became intense, the commander took Paul into the barracks. After entering the barracks, the commander issued an order for Paul to be flogged and questioned to learn the reason for the uproar. Paul stated, "Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn't even been found guilty?" At that time, it was illegal to punish a Roman citizen without a guilty verdict. Therefore, those who were about to interrogate Paul stopped and withdrew.

The next day, the commander ordered the chief priests and all the Sanhedrin to assemble to figure out why Paul was being accused by the Jews. Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, "I am the son of a Pharisee. I stand trial because of my hope in the resurrection of the dead." When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees who believed in resurrection, and the Sadducees who claimed that there is no resurrection. As the dispute became increasingly more violent, the commander brought Paul back into the barracks to protect him. That night, Jesus appeared and gave strength to Paul, saying, "Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome."

The next morning, more than forty Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they killed Paul. Paul had heard of this conspiracy through his nephew and sent his nephew to the commander so that he could inform him of their plot. The commander arranged for soldiers to escort Paul to Caesarea so that he could be tried by Governor Felix.

② Sent to Rome (Ac 24:1–28:31)

Afterward, Paul remained imprisoned for two years as an untried prisoner. This was because Felix had imprisoned Paul to win the favor of the Jews. Even while in captivity, Paul preached the gospel to Felix with a burning spirit.

The trial was held again only after Felix left and the successor governor, Festus, arrived (Ac 24:27). The Jews accused Paul on various grounds before Festus, but failed to present any clear evidence. They urgently requested Festus to have Paul transferred to Jerusalem, for they were preparing an ambush to kill him along the way. In an attempt to gain favor with the Jews, Festus asked Paul if he would be willing to stand trial in Jerusalem, trying to persuade him to go there. Paul said that he would not refuse a death sentence if he was guilty of having committed a crime deserving of death, but if the charges against him proved to be false, there would be no basis for handing him over to the Jews. Paul then stated his intention to appeal to Caesar.

A few days later, King Agrippa of Judea visited Caesarea to meet Festus. Paul got another chance to explain himself before them. Paul emphasized to them that he was a Pharisee, belonging to the strictest sect of Judaism, and acknowledged that although he had persecuted Christians in the past, he had received Jesus and converted to Christianity. He boldly argued that his sins were nothing but having testified to what the prophets and Moses had said would happen, stating that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead and proclaim the light of salvation. Festus listened to Paul's argument, shouted that Paul was crazy, but Paul refuted that he was speaking the truth with a clear mind and asked Agrippa if he believed in prophets. Agrippa criticized Paul, asking if he was trying to make him a Christian by preaching the gospel. Paul ended his final argument by saying, "I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains." After hearing everything Paul said, the king, governors, and all who were sitting got up and went out, telling each other that Paul had not done anything deserves death or imprisonment. King Agrippa acknowledged Paul's innocence by telling Governor Festus that Paul could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.

As Paul's petition to appeal to the Roman Emperor was accepted,

he was sent to Rome. He boarded a ship for Italy, along with other prisoners. The ship on which Paul was sailing was caught in a storm and driven along for fourteen days before finally landing on the island of Malta. When the islanders saw that Paul was bitten by a poisonous snake and suffered no harm, they thought he was a god and treated him kindly. After three months, Paul and the prisoners boarded the ship again for Rome.

In fact, Paul had specific reasons for wanting to go to Rome. Paul's intention was to go to Rome, known as the capital of the world at the time, and preach the gospel. Then, he planned to fulfill God's mission to preach the gospel in Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

Ro 15:24, NLT I am planning to go to Spain, and when I do, I will stop off in Rome. And after I have enjoyed your fellowship for a little while, you can provide for my journey.

At that time, Paul considered Spain to be the end of the earth that God had spoken of. To go to Spain, he had to pass through Rome. When Paul arrived in Rome and saw the saints who came to meet him, he gave thanks to God and gained courage. Although he was transported to Rome as a prisoner, he used even this situation as an opportunity to preach the gospel. While imprisoned, Paul wrote the Prison Epistles (books of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon). On the other hand, he gathered the local Jewish leaders of high position and explained to them how he had come to Rome. He made it clear that he was neither rejecting the law nor seeking to accuse the Jews before the Roman Emperor. The Jews in Rome who heard Paul's words said that they had never heard a word or slander against him, but that there was opposition to this religion everywhere and wanted to hear for themselves what Paul's thoughts were. The Jews arranged to meet Paul on a certain day and came to the place where he was staying. From morning until evening, Paul testified

about Christ from the Bible. Paul stayed in Rome for two years and preached the kingdom of God (Ac 28:30–31).

③ Martyrdom

It is believed that Paul began his imprisonment in A.D. 64, when Emperor Nero's persecution of Christianity was at its peak. At that time, a fire broke out in the city of Rome, and there was a rumor going around that Nero had intentionally set the fire to build an imperial city of his own design. To quell those rumors, Nero used Christians in Rome as scapegoats. This is because Christians were criticized by the Romans as being anti-social and cannibals who ate people. Paul, a Roman citizen, could avoid torture, he could not escape Nero's tyranny. Ultimately, Paul is known to have ended his life as a martyr around A.D. 68, in accordance with the ruling of the Roman Empire.

Apostle Paul sensed that his departure from this world was drawing near and sent a letter to Timothy.

2 Ti 4:6–8 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Paul's life, marked by his declaration, "Whether I live, I live for the Lord, and whether I die, I die for the Lord," with no regrets and no remorse, serves as an example for all Christians. We must become prophets who give all our heart and strength to the gospel so that our lives can be recorded likewise.

6) Apostle Paul's Preaching Approach

Today, Christianity is well-known enough to be recognized as one

of the world's three major religions, but 2,000 years ago, it was only a new religion. At that time, because it was a truth that people had never heard before, it sparked significant controversy and clashes with established religions wherever the gospel was preached. In such circumstances, two distinct characteristics can be found in Paul's preaching approach.

① Preaching that Considers the Other Person's Perspectives and Characteristics

First, rather than preaching in a standardized way, he preached the gospel by taking into account each person's perspectives and characteristics. In order to fulfill his mission of *preaching to the Gentiles*, Paul traveled beyond Judea to various regions, meeting various peoples and experiencing various situations. Each time, he first understood the situation of the person he was preaching to, created an environment where he could preach to them, and delivered words that suited them.

1 Co 9:19–23 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

When he met a Jew, he became like a fellow Jew in order to save them. When he encountered a Gentile, he preached the gospel to them according to their distinctiveness and environment, converting

them to Christianity. Some people misinterpret this and think that mingling with people in the world and enjoying entertainment while preaching is Apostle Paul's approach to preaching. That is a mistaken idea. Paul never preached while participating in pagan sacrifices or eating food sacrificed to idols. No matter what form of preaching he took, his focus was always on God, and he never for a moment forgot the original purpose of preaching.

Now that the world evangelism has been proclaimed, it is time for *Apostle Paul's preaching approach* to shine. In this age when people from various nations gather from all corners of the world, it is necessary to have wisdom to understand and consider their cultures and situations properly when preaching.

② Preaching to Everyone He Meets

Second, Apostle Paul preached the word to everyone he met. He boldly preached, regardless of time and place—before prisoners in prison and before powerful figures including the king in the courtroom. He preached the word without hesitation in the place and position where he was, without any preconceptions such as "Jews steeped in legalism are difficult to preach" or "Pagans or idolaters will not listen."

We must boldly preach with the mind of saving one more soul, no matter what situation we are in or who we encounter. Like Paul, we must always preach the word in our daily lives, whether at home, work, school, or in the military, and quickly lead our lost brothers and sisters into the arms of God.

7) Apostle Paul's Preaching Secrets

Paul was the pioneer of the world evangelism in the Age of the Son. He serves as a good example for us who have received the mission of the world evangelism in the last Age of the Holy Spirit. What kind of spirit did he arm himself with when he preached the gospel? What

were the factors that enabled him to achieve successful gospel results? Let us learn about the secret through Paul's confession.

① Putting Off His Old Self and Being Born Again

Apostle Paul lacked nothing in terms of education, status, wealth, or power in the physical sense. However, after receiving Christ, he threw away everything that had benefited him, considering it garbage. After emptying himself of all thoughts, knowledge, and ego, as well as his arrogance and evil nature, he determined to have only Christ in him. Since he died and Christ lived in him, he could only reveal and boast about Christ (Php 3:7–9; Gal 2:20).

We generally seek to obtain something without sacrifice, but that is not the providence of God. After abandoning everything and overcoming the pain of crucifying his old self to the cross, Paul bore abundant fruit in the gospel. Only when we empty ourselves of all worldly things in us will Christ fully remain in us and guide all our thoughts and beliefs, allowing us to bear much fruit.

② Realizing Love of Christ

The path of the gospel that Apostle Paul walked was followed by tribulation, persecution, suffering, and hardship. The reason he could not stop preaching the gospel despite many difficulties was that he realized the great love of Christ who gave up His life for us (2 Co 5:13–14; Ro 5:6–8). Because he had engraved Christ's love in his heart, he could joyfully accept everything, even in the face of death, enduring suffering and devoting himself to the gospel.

③ Establishing Spiritual Identity

Paul accurately recognized his spiritual identity as a citizen of heaven. This was the reason why he was able to concentrate on the gospel consistently without going astray (Php 3:20–21). Although our bodies are on this earth and we live among people in the world, we should

remember that we are God's people with heavenly citizenship. As citizens of heaven, it is our duty to find our lost heavenly family. We should not be tempted by small things or have our faith shaken. If we establish our spiritual identity like Apostle Paul, we will clearly see what is important to us now and what we need to do.

④ Preaching Fervently

If we want to achieve something, we need to put it into practice, even if it is something small. We can gain nothing without taking action. Paul, as an apostle, put God's words into practice and did so fervently. Although he suffered various disadvantages and persecution, he always preached the word of God and diligently preached the gospel (2 Ti 4:2–5).

Paul faithfully performed his duties as an evangelist without hesitation or fear even in the face of worldly powers and left abundant fruit. He brought many people to repentance and led them to God, and established churches wherever he went. If we hope to bear fruit without practicing preaching, it is greed, not hope. We should throw away the thought, "Everything will be done when the time comes," or "Someone else will do it." To achieve desired results, we should first preach the word diligently.

⑤ Looking Forward to the Glory of Heaven

During his missionary journeys, Paul was stoned but did not stay down; he got back up again and was determined to go to Jerusalem despite the bonds and death awaiting him there. That strength came from looking forward to the glory of heaven that would be given in the future.

2 Co 12:1–4 I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the

third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows—was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell.

1 Co 2:9 However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”—the things God has prepared for those who love him.

God showed the glory of the third heaven in advance to Paul who was ready to die for the gospel. He looked forward to the beautiful heaven and the rewards he would receive there. He walked the path of the gospel with all his strength, and now he has returned to the heavenly kingdom he longed for and enjoys eternal rest and glory. Although the process of preaching is sometimes difficult and arduous, we should look forward to the glory of heaven prepared for us, because heaven is close at hand.

⑥ Having the Character of Christ

Paul was a Roman citizen by birth and was a man of great learning and well-versed in the law. He had all the conditions to become arrogant. However, rather than boasting about such things, he humbled himself to the point of saying that he had become a slave to everyone (1 Co 9:19). He always urged the saints to walk in humility, gentleness, and love whenever he wrote letters to them (Eph 4:1–3). The teachings of being humble, gentle, patient, and tolerant of one another in love were important teachings emphasized in the early Church, and Paul himself strived to have such qualities. Paul was also self-sufficient in any situation. Even though the situation in front of him was difficult, he knew how to adapt and be thankful for everything given to him (Php 4:11–12).

The Thirteen Teachings of Heavenly Mother provide the answer to how we should walk the path of faith. Mother teaches us to give love and yield for brothers and sisters. She also taught us to cover each other's faults with a broad heart like the sea, and to serve one another with humility. Apostle Paul realized the will of Christ 2,000 years ago and strived to participate in the divine nature. When we, like Paul, embody the character of Christ, serve our heavenly family members, and participate in preaching, we will be granted abundant heavenly rewards.

⑦ Believing and Relying on God Absolutely

Paul's absolute faith that he could do anything in God was also the driving force that led him to walk the path of the gospel without hesitation (Php 4:13). There are limits to human power, but if God—with His infinite power—is with us and gives us strength, we can do everything. Paul relied on God's power rather than his own to accomplish everything, so he was able to proclaim the word fearlessly and achieve great success in preaching the gospel.

Paul was confident that what he hoped for would come true, and had no doubts that there is an eternal world though it is invisible (Heb 11:1–6). Seeing Paul preaching the gospel with confident faith, God fulfilled everything according to his faith. We should firmly believe that God is with us and gives us strength, and become prophets who give joy to God.

⑧ Loving Brothers and Sisters Truly

Paul deeply cared for and loved brothers and sisters. When preaching the gospel, he turned dying souls to God with an earnest heart, and when dealing with church members, he carefully cared for each and every one of them and helped them grow spiritually.

Ac 20:31 So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never

stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

2 Co 11:23–29 I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

Even while enduring indescribable hardships, he worried more about the church than his own safety. From his letters filled with concern that the faith of the members might falter, we can imagine how deep his brotherly love was. He always pondered on how to lead the saints to heaven, and did his best to strengthen their weak faith.

Php 4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

He was proud of brothers and sisters, calling them his joy and his crown. He truly loved them whom God saved by shedding His blood. Moreover, he constantly sent letters to members and never stopped visiting and caring for the church. As a result of Apostle Paul's wholehearted care for them, the early Church achieved not only quantitative growth in which the number of members and churches

increased, but also qualitative growth in which each member established the correct faith.

In order to complete the gospel, love for brothers and sisters is absolutely necessary. When love fills us, the gospel of this last age will be fulfilled quickly.

2. Apostle Paul's Fellow Workers

Paul left a significant mark in the mission of preaching to the Gentiles. However, no matter how good an evangelist he was, he could not do everything alone. Paul rarely traveled alone on his missionary journeys; he usually formed a team and often received help from local fellow-workers he met along the way. On the missionary journey carried out through the unity of brothers, God abundantly granted beautiful fruits wherever they went. Let us take a look at the work of those who diligently preached the gospel alongside Paul, and reflect on the attitude of faith that fellow workers should have.

1) Timothy

Timothy, born into a family of faith, grew up with the Bible from an early age and was raised according to its teachings.

2 Ti 3:15–17 [A]nd how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

During his second missionary journey, Paul met Timothy in Lystra. He was a young man who was highly praised by the local people for his upright faith and character. Paul took Timothy as his fellow worker and went on a missionary journey together. Timothy traveled with Paul through regions such as Asia Minor, Greece, Macedonia,

and Rome, preaching the gospel and doing his best to build the faith of the saints. Afterwards, Timothy traveled to Corinth and Thessalonica on Paul's advice, encouraging the saints in their faith so that they could center their hearts on God.

1 Co 4:17 For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

Paul trusted Timothy, referring to him as a dear son who was faithful in God (1 Co 4:17; 1 Ti 1:2; 2 Ti 1:2), his brother (2 Co 1:1) and fellow worker (Ro 16:21). Timothy also showed obedient faith by diligently helping the work of Paul, the prophet appointed by God (Ac 19:22). He was a man of faithful and humble character that gains strength from God's word in times of difficulty, persevering in faith.

The Bible is a book that is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. We, too, should draw near to the Bible and rely only on God, maintaining a proper faith. Like Timothy, we should also possess the virtues of obedience and humility, striving to become prophets worthy in the sight of God.

2) Barnabas

Paul severely persecuted the Church of God before accepting Christ, so even after Paul's conversion, the disciples were afraid of him and did not accept him as a member. At that time, Barnabas took Paul to the saints in Jerusalem. Barnabas recounted the process of Paul's conversion and his fervent preaching afterward. Upon hearing this, the saints acknowledged and accepted Paul.

Afterward, Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch. As the number of members increased and workers became few, he brought Paul in. The two taught the members in Antioch for a year, and the

group they taught grew into mature Christians.

Barnabas went on the first missionary journey with Paul. They bore fruit wherever they went and every day continued preaching filled with joy and the Holy Spirit (Ac 13:46–52). After the first missionary journey, Barnabas's name cannot be found in the Acts, as he took a different path from Paul. However, according to the records of Paul's letters to the Galatians and Colossians, Barnabas steadily preached with his nephew Mark and bore many fruits (1 Co 9:6; Gal 2:1; Col 4:10). When Mark, who had given up midway due to the difficulties of the first missionary journey, repented and returned, Barnabas embraced him again and helped to reborn as a new person. Luke described Barnabas as "a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith."

Ac 11:24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

Barnabas generously understood the mistakes and faults of brothers and treated members with a gentle and considerate character. Prophets need a character that is tolerant, understanding of brothers, and capable of considering their shortcomings.

3) Silas

At the time of the early Church, when the gospel was actively preached in Gentile regions, converts among the Jews spread the false gospel that the Gentiles must also be circumcised, confusing the members. The Assembly in Jerusalem was convened to address the issue under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. At that time, one of the people who delivered the decision to each church was Silas. Silas traveled with Paul and Barnabas to Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia, conveying the decision and helping solidify the faith of the saints there.

Ac 15:32 Judas [Barnabas] and Silas, who themselves were prophets,

said much to encourage and strengthen the believers.

Silas faithfully fulfilled God's mission and was later entrusted as a greater worker. He was to go on the second missionary journey with Paul. Silas' example shows us that greater and better blessings are granted when a gospel worker faithfully carries out their duty upon receiving God's call. Silas, with Paul, led many souls during his missionary journey. Once, they were unjustly imprisoned in Philippi, yet, even there, they boldly preached the gospel to the prisoners and the jailer, testifying about Christ to the Gentiles.

Ac 16:24–25 When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

Even in the situation of being imprisoned, instead of resentment and complaints, they gave glory and praise to God. In response, God bestowed blessings on them by leading the jailer and his family to salvation (Ac 16:29–34).

When Silas was given the opportunity for the gospel, he gave his best effort. Consequently, he was called to a more blessed position. If we carry out even small tasks with all our heart when performing the duties God has entrusted to us, we can become valuable instruments greatly used for the Gospel.

4) Luke

Luke is the author of the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. Although his original occupation was a doctor, he valued the ministry of saving souls as an evangelist, yearning for God and heaven. Luke participated in Paul's third missionary journey and preached about the spiritual world he had realized, while also fulfilling his mission as

Paul's fellow worker.

In the days of the early Church, as the gospel was preached, Satan's interference became more severe day by day. Christians were burned alive or thrown as food to lions in amphitheaters. As thousands of Christians were martyred, many others sought to leave the truth to find a way to survive. Even in such a situation, Luke endured all the hardships and stayed by Paul's side until the end.

2 Ti 4:10–11 [F]or Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me [Paul].

Luke's hope for heaven remained unchanged despite any circumstances or conditions and grew even stronger. With this faith, he received the blessing of recording the work of the Savior and apostles in the New Testament times. We too should possess wisdom to overcome present hardships, looking toward to the eternal kingdom rather than being shaken by the visible world.

5) Mark

Mark was a prophet who preached the new covenant as a witness of Christ, and the author of the Gospel of Mark. Even Mark made a mistake. He had neglected the mission of an evangelist.

Mark was originally involved in gospel work in Jerusalem, but he moved to Antioch with Paul and his uncle Barnabas when they visited Jerusalem briefly. Then, he joined Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey.

The mission journey was much more difficult and arduous than expected. They had to walk for days and take a boat to get to the missionary site. Even after arriving, all the little chores, such as searching for lodgings and preparing meals, were Mark's responsibility. What bothered Mark more than the physical exhaustion was all the

contempt, scorn, and persecution that came when he preached about the man Christ. Although the missionary journey started confidently, the situation before them became increasingly barren, and Mark grew more exhausted.

Eventually, Mark stopped preaching the gospel and returned to Jerusalem. This made Paul very disappointed, and this even led to a quarrel between Paul and Barnabas. However, after returning to Jerusalem, Mark reflected on his mistakes, spent time in repentance, and reignited his passion for preaching. Mark, having fully repented, was reborn as Paul's fellow worker and a helpful person in God's work. He also received the blessing of writing the Gospel of Mark, one of the four Gospels. Paul wrote about Mark being born again as follows.

Phm 1:24 And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.

2 Ti 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

Due to our imperfections as sinners, we knowingly and unknowingly commit many sins. However, what is important is turning back immediately upon realizing our wrongdoings and achieving true repentance. Mark regretted his mistake of neglecting his duties as an evangelist and was reborn as a prophet of God. We too should repent of our past sins and bring joy to God with the good fruit worthy of repentance.

6) Aquila and Priscilla

During Paul's second missionary journey, he met Aquila and Priscilla, a couple who were making tents in Corinth. They worked with Paul, assisting in spreading the gospel at his own expense. Later, they joined

Paul on his second missionary journey, traveling to Syria to preach the gospel. In his letter to the saints of the church in Rome, Paul referred to this couple as those who "risked their lives for me," complimenting their devotion and recording them as very important fellow workers.

Ro 16:3–4 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them.

The faithful partnership of Aquila and Priscilla serves as a good example of how we should collaborate in preaching the gospel of God. As fellow workers in the gospel, we should always walk the path of faith with loyalty and dedication, so that we may receive great blessings from God.

1. Mission and Roles of Evangelists
2. Mission of Evangelists
3. Role of Evangelists
4. Competencies Required for Evangelists

III

Mission and Roles of Evangelists

Mission and Roles of Evangelists

1. Definition of Evangelists

In a broad sense, evangelists refer to all the church members who preaches the truth, the gospel of God. Therefore, literally, all the members who directly or indirectly participate in preaching in their own circumstances can be called evangelists.

However, in actual gospel settings, the definition of evangelists is more specific and limited. Evangelists are members who regularly and devotedly engages in preaching activities as the main agent of the gospel operated in the church. And depending on the situation or necessity, only those excluding group leaders and unit leaders among them are sometimes referred to as evangelists. So, the term *evangelist* has various meanings according to the situation or context as follows:

- Evangelists in the Broad Sense:

All members who preach the truth of the new covenant to others

- Evangelists in the Narrow Sense:

Members who regularly and devotedly carry out the preaching activities operated by the church, except position holders (group leaders and unit leaders) in the preaching structure

- Evangelists in the General Sense:

All members who regularly and devotedly engages in preaching activities as the main agent of the gospel operated in the church

Among these definitions, in this section the definition in a general sense is used.

2. Characteristics of Evangelist Activities

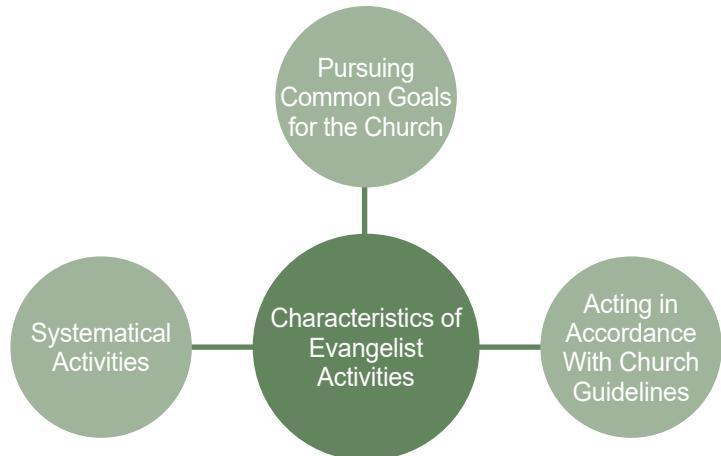
All members who are faithful to God participate in preaching whether directly or indirectly. Among them, the reason why *evangelists* are special is as follows.

First, evangelists prioritize achieving the common goals of the church over individual objectives.

Second, evangelists plan and practice preaching activities in accordance with the guidelines of the church.

Third, evangelists do not work individually, but work systematically as part of the preaching structure of the church. Therefore, they systematically cooperate with the overseer and position-holders under a common goal.

Through these special reasons, evangelists can demonstrate strong cohesion in preaching activities by cooperating in perfect order with the leading gospel workers under the guidelines of the Head Office and the church.



3. Importance of Evangelists

Evangelists serve as core members taking on significant roles not only in preaching but also in overall gospel-related activities. Therefore, it can be said that the number of evangelists has a very large impact on the gospel capacity of the church. So, churches with a high ratio of evangelists compared to attending members are capable of conducting robust and systematic gospel activities. Conversely, churches with a low ratio of evangelists compared to attending members often face challenges in terms of activity and vitality. Therefore, the church should not only focus on increasing attendance, but should also strive to nurture faithful and wise evangelists.

2

Mission of Evangelists

The most important mission given by God to evangelists is indeed preaching the word. To summarize this in more detail, it is as follows.

1. Preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom

The first mission of an evangelist is to preach the gospel of the kingdom. Preaching the gospel of the kingdom in this age means delivering the truth of the new covenant to all people, thus testifying about the Holy Spirit and the Bride, who are the Saviors in the Age of the Holy Spirit, so that they can have hope for heaven. For this, evangelists should be thankful for the conditions granted by God and do their best to preach the gospel.

Mk 1:38 Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.”

Mt 4:23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

Mk 16:15–16 He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

2. Seeking and Saving

As God’s workers, evangelists have the mission to seek and save the heavenly people scattered across the earth. Therefore, evangelists must never be satisfied with merely participating in preaching. Just as the mission of a harvester is to gather grain and bring it into the barn, the mission of an evangelist, a spiritual harvester, is to find lost souls and lead them to the barn of heaven. Therefore, every evangelist should make the salvation of souls as the purpose of their preaching activities, establishing specific and practical preaching goals to diligently engage in preaching.

Lk 10:1–2 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Lk 19:10 “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

3. Completing the World Evangelism

The ultimate purpose of seeking and saving the people of heaven by preaching the gospel of the kingdom is to complete the world evangelism and fulfill God’s 6,000-year work of salvation. Since the completion of world evangelism means the fulfillment of salvation

and the coming of the kingdom of heaven, evangelists must engage in their activities with a clear awareness of this goal and a strong sense of mission.

Mt 24:14 “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

Mt 28:19–20 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”



3

Role of Evangelists

To fulfill the mission of evangelists, let us examine the specific roles that evangelists should practice in the church.

1. Participating in Preaching Gatherings

As a member of the preaching structure, evangelists have the obligation to participate in preaching activities under the guidelines of the church. One of the most important things is participating in preaching gatherings. Preaching gatherings are a system that allows evangelists to participate in gospel activities with fellow evangelists as part of a preaching structure rather than alone. Evangelists receive the guidance of the Head Office through preaching gatherings and can preach more powerfully and efficiently by uniting around the overseer.

2. Preaching Faithfully and Consistently

A faithful member will make every effort to attend worship, regardless

of personal mood or circumstances. The attitude of evangelists toward preaching should be the same. It is the duty and important role of evangelists to faithfully and consistently participate in preaching activities without being influenced by external circumstances or personal circumstances.

3. Bearing Fruit

Bearing fruit and saving souls is the mission, role, and immediate task of evangelists. Evangelists must always be aware of the fact that they are called to bear fruit. However, it is not advisable to blame themselves or feel guilty about being fruitless and to withhold their activities. Instead, they should pray and make efforts to find ways to resolve problems.

Jn 15:8, 16 “This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit . . . You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.”

4. Participating in Church Education Gatherings

Evangelists have an obligation to faithfully participate in all educational gatherings held by the church. Educational gatherings are a great help in building evangelists’ faith and instilling a sense of mission, while also strengthening the preaching capabilities needed in the preaching field. In addition, study gatherings are an important means of nurturing lay members into evangelists, so it is an important role for evangelists to encourage and lead as many members as possible to participate in educational gatherings.

5. Participating in Volunteer Activities

For the gospel to flourish, not only preaching but also areas such as worship, church operation and management, church events, and

external volunteer activities are very important. Evangelists must take a leading role not only in preaching the word, but also in all matters related to the gospel. This can be summed up as the “duty of volunteers.” The reason evangelists must be faithful to their role as service volunteers is that they are children of God and heirs of the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, evangelists should take the lead in all matters of the church with a sense of ownership, looking forward to the eternal inheritance of the kingdom of heaven.

6. Setting a Good Example for Others

Evangelists must strive to be the most ideal and exemplary members in the church. It is because evangelists are the group that shapes the culture of a church. In particular, an evangelist’s words, actions, attire, and facial expressions have a great influence on new members. Therefore, evangelists must not only set an example of preaching but also strive to be an example for other members in their daily lives of faith.

4

Competencies Required for Evangelists

Evangelists play a very important role in the church. Inevitably, in order to grow into competent evangelists, they must have appropriate competency. This can be called evangelists' qualities. Evangelists' qualities can be largely divided into *faith*, which is an internal competency, and *preaching competency*, which is an external competency.



1. Faith

For evangelists, *faith* is not just a state of mind, but the most basic quality that makes preaching possible. Let's think about the faith and correct attitude of faith that evangelists must have.

1) Confidence that We Are Loved by God

The root of faith ultimately is God's love. Therefore, in order to have a firm faith, we must absolutely believe that God loves us. However, humans are weak and full of doubt, so they have a tendency to constantly doubt God's love. Although God expresses His love through countless signs, it is human nature to stumble over small things. Therefore, we must never forget what God has done for our salvation. In particular, evangelists must reflect every day on what kind of life our Heavenly Father lived and what path our Heavenly Mother is walking. When we are confident that God loves us, we can fully love God and boldly preach the gospel.

Ro 5:6–8 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Ro 8:35–39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2) Love for God

When we realize that God loves us, we too can love God. Deepening our faith eventually means deepening our love for God. Love for God is the reason and driving force for preaching. When our love for God becomes weak, preaching becomes difficult and loses its power.

The fundamental reason the apostles and early Church saints were able to overcome all adversity and devote themselves to the gospel was their passionate love for Christ. Realizing the love and sacrifice Christ gave them, they expressed their love for Christ through preaching. In this way, evangelists must always reflect on the reasons why they must love God and be able to express their love for God by preaching.

Jn 21:15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

3) Sense of Calling

A sense of calling is the core spirit of the gospel that evangelists must possess. For evangelists, a sense of calling is the awareness and absolute belief that we have been called by God to preach the gospel. Through the sense of calling, evangelists can discover the imperative of preaching the gospel. Apostle Paul, one of the greatest evangelists, was also a man armed with a strong sense of calling. Based on his sense of calling, he considered preaching *not a choice but a mission that must be done*. As a result, he was able to be self-sufficient in any situation and fulfill his role as an apostle until the end. In the same way, evangelists must find their own answers to the question why God called them in this age, and set this as a signpost for their preaching activities.

1 Th 2:4 On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts.

1 Co 9:16–17 For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! If

I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me.

4) Sense of Purpose

Even if one has faith in God, not everyone puts their faith into practice through preaching. In order to translate the state of mind called *faith* into the act of *preaching*, it is necessary to find the reason for preaching and set a goal to achieve through preaching. Another spirit of the gospel that is essential for evangelists is a sense of purpose. A sense of purpose refers to a clear awareness of the level one wants to reach and the direction one intends to go and the determination to achieve it. A sense of purpose becomes the source of gospel passion and motivation. The evangelists with a clear sense of purpose are not easily discouraged by hardships but can always carry out gospel activities with an enterprising attitude. Therefore, evangelists must consider the gospel mission to be fulfilled and have a sense of purpose to make it concrete.

Php 3:12–14 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Php 3:12–14, NLT Pressing toward the Goal

I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on

to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

5) Full Compliance With Regulations

Evangelists who preach the word of God must first observe all of God's regulations and laws. In particular, complete attendance at worship services and offering tithes are the basic form of faith that an evangelist must have. It is difficult for members who fail to attend worship and tithe properly to obtain justification and legitimacy for working as evangelists. Also, they cannot boldly preach the gospel due to their guilty conscience. Above all, they cannot receive God's blessings and power without completely keeping God's regulations.

Jn 14:21 "Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

Jn 15:10 "If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love."

2. Preaching Competency

Preaching competency is a necessary competency in the field of preaching. Preaching competency includes basic preaching skills, communication, building and maintaining human relationships, and self-management ability, as well as the ability to testify the truth.

1) Ability to Testify to God's Word

One of the most necessary competencies in the field of preaching is the ability to testify to God's word. If possible, evangelists should complete all the books of the Elohim Academy to understand the basics of the truth of the new covenant. However, it is not enough to have the ability to testify to the truth necessary for preaching just

by memorizing the Sermon Preaching books. The core of the ability to testify to God's word is to use the word flexibly according to the situation. Therefore, evangelists should not neglect practicing to testify the word in various ways by supposing a real situation.

- Practice using the Bible, preaching leaflets, media materials, video materials, and preaching applications flexibly.
- We must have the ability to testify to the core of preaching subjects within a short period of time according to the situation in the preaching field, and also have the ability to teach the word of God in a detailed.
- We must be prepared to effectively respond to common rejections or various reactions from people countered in the preaching field.

2) Expertise and Unity

Just being good at testifying to the word of God does not definitely mean we can preach well. So what efforts should we make to become evangelists who live up to the calling of the times?

First, we should strive to be professional.

It is important for evangelists to preach diligently, but we should also achieve gracious results. To achieve this, evangelists should not be satisfied with the methods that worked in the past, but have a proactive attitude to expand our abilities and accept new methods. And we must pursue planned and systematic preaching rather than preaching that relies only on our own experiences. Securing the expertise of evangelists is very important in maintaining the "sustainability of preaching."

Second, we should be united.

Although the expertise of evangelists is more important than ever, it is impossible for each evangelist to possess all abilities. Therefore,

evangelists must achieve the gospel through strong unity and cooperation. The unity mentioned here goes beyond the emotional level and means a practical and realistic unity. In other words, evangelists must be able to help each other in the field of preaching for the common goal of *completing the world evangelism*, and the church must create an atmosphere and system that can facilitate such unity.

IV

Evangelists' Qualities for Sustainable Preaching Activities

1. About Sustainability
2. Evangelists' Qualities to Secure Sustainability
3. Preaching Activities and Faith
4. Preaching Activities and Preaching Competencies
5. Preaching Competencies for Sustainable Preaching Activities

About Sustainability

1. Concept of Sustainability

Sustainability refers to the state or quality of being able to maintain and support a task or process over a long period of time. Let us take paper production as an example. In order to produce paper, trees from which pulp is made must be cut down. However, if we keep cutting down trees, the raw materials will be depleted, making it impossible to sustain the business, and it will also have adverse effects on the environment. So the paper company replants more trees than it has cut down. By doing so, they maintain a balance between the total amount of trees they've cut down and the total amount of trees that grow anew. In other words, the sustainability of the business is secured by producing additional resources such as trees.

Diversifying a company's business or switching industries is one way to secure sustainability. Good examples include Apple, which made personal computers, and Amazon, which used to distribute books

online, transformed into giant technology platform companies active business diversification. The company has secured its sustainability and growth engine by expanding the scope of its business into a completely new area rather than settling for its existing business.

Likewise, sustainability is a concept that must be considered very important for industries, companies, organizations, and individuals. A group or individual that loses sustainability loses the driving force of their activities and is bound to decline.

2. Reasons for Securing Sustainability in Preaching Activities

Sustainability is very important not only in the world but also in gospel activities. This is because preaching should continue until the moment when the history of humankind comes to an end according to God's prophecy. In reality, securing the sustainability of preaching activities is closely related to the growth of the church and the salvation of God's people. With that in mind, let us consider why securing sustainability of preaching is important for gospel workers.

1) Because Those Who Stands Firm to the End Will Be Saved

The Bible prophesies that those who stand firm to the end—until the gospel of the kingdom is preached to all nations, will be saved (Mt 24:13–14). However, “stand firm to the end” does not mean holding on without doing anything. It means that those who work and toil to the end to testify to the gospel of the kingdom to all nations, even in hardship, will be saved. Therefore, in order to participate in the glory of salvation, we should have the sustainability to continue preaching activities until the last day.

2) Because We Should Overcome Numerous Difficulties That Arise in the Field of Preaching

The environment and conditions of preaching are changing rapidly

day by day. So the longer the period of preaching activities, the more difficult it is for many workers to adapt to change. In addition, many practical problems, such as stagnant capacity and depletion of preaching targets, and others can threaten gospel workers. If these problems are left unattended, they may lead to loss of confidence or low morale, leading to workers giving up on preaching. Therefore, all evangelists should not settle complacently in the current situation. Sustainability must be secured so that preaching can continue no matter what circumstances may arise in the future.

3) Because We Should Produce Results

In fact, the greatest test of a worker comes when the period of no results is prolonged. When workers feel frustrated by the reality of not bearing fruit, it is easy for them to lose their passion for preaching. This is a huge loss not only to individual gospel workers but also to the church. In other words, working hard is not enough to continue preaching until the world evangelism is completed and members are saved. In this age, we should diligently preach the gospel while striving to produce results. What is needed for this is to secure sustainability of preaching by developing the qualities of evangelists.

3. Principles for Securing the Sustainability of Preaching

As seen through examples of paper companies, Apple, and Amazon, a future-oriented perspective and an attitude that pursues change are needed to secure sustainability. The same applies to the basic principles for sustainability of preaching.

First, evangelists must be future-oriented. We should not be satisfied with maintaining the status quo, but should work with the goal of long-term growth and development.

Second, evangelists must be change-oriented. We should actively

reflect changing environments or conditions in our preaching activities, and should not hesitate to learn or accept new things if they are useful for preaching.

2

Evangelists' Qualities to Secure Sustainability

Summarizing what we have looked at so far, sustainability in preaching refers to abilities to consistently continue preaching and produce certain results. Therefore, in order to secure the sustainability of preaching, evangelists' qualities must be developed based on a *future-oriented perspective* and a *change-oriented attitude*.

Goal	Principle	Method
Securing Sustainability in Preaching	Future-Oriented Perspective, Change-Oriented Attitude	Developing Evangelists' Qualities

Then, what is the *evangelists' qualities* referred to here? Evangelists' qualities can be broadly divided into *faith* as an internal competency, and *preaching competency* as an external competency.



1. Faith

Faith is the fundamental force that maintains and develops church member's spiritual life. It includes passion, motivation for the gospel, and more, and is revealed through the attitude of faith and the practice of God's word. From the perspective of evangelists' qualities, a member's faith is a decisive factor that can determine the results of preaching activities and is a core ability that a gospel worker must have.

2. Preaching Competency

Preaching competency refers comprehensively to the technical abilities required in the field of preaching, including the ability to testify to the truth, leadership, self-management, building interpersonal relationships, and management ability. Preaching competency is essential for members who are committed to the gospel to grow into capable gospel workers. In particular, gospel workers, including the pastoral staff, have a responsibility to possess preaching competencies at a level appropriate for their duties. In conclusion, sustainable preaching requires harmony and balanced growth of faith and preaching competencies.

3

Preaching Activities and Faith

The power that enables all gospel activities comes from faith. The correct faith and mindset toward God Elohim are the essence of the gospel of the new covenant. If we feel that our preaching activities are shrinking or overwhelming, we need to examine whether our faith is intact more than anything else. Let us think about why faith is important from the perspective of preaching activities.

1. Helping to Focus on the Essence of Preaching

Only with strong faith can you focus on the essence of preaching activities. The core theme of preaching is God, and the purpose and method of preaching must be consistent with God's will. Therefore, having a healthy faith enables us to empty our thoughts and fully embrace Christ. Only then can both individual evangelists and the church achieve healthy growth.

Conversely, if the foundation of faith is not sound, it is easy to fall

into the trap of pursuing personal greed and glory. If human thoughts and methods are placed at the center of preaching activities instead of God's teachings, visible results may be achieved for a moment, but eventually they will disappear like mist. Therefore, the more experienced gospel workers should examine their faith and always be cautious of falling into such traps.

2. Giving Meaning and Value to Preaching Activities

As faith grows, gospel workers attach more solid value and meaning to preaching activities. When they preach the Passover, they must understand God's love contained in the Passover. Only then can their preaching become living. When preaching the Sabbath, if they do not understand the heart of God who commanded the Sabbath, they will convey only knowledge without inspiration. If there is no clear answer to the question, "Why should I preach?" preaching becomes a burdensome duty or a mere formality. Therefore, before engaging in preaching, gospel workers should always reflect on the reason for preaching and confirm the value of what they do. Gospel workers should be able to engrave the necessity of preaching as a living realization in their hearts.

- Preaching is a way to love God.
- Preaching is to find our lost heavenly family members.
- Preaching advances heaven.
- Preaching is to repay God's grace.
- Preaching is a glorious mission to walk with Christ.
- Preaching leads us to complete repentance.
- Preaching is to store up heaven's blessings.
- Preaching is to share the greatest blessing of salvation.

4

Preaching Activities and Preaching Competencies

Preaching competency is the result of a sense of responsibility to do God's will and an effort to become a more capable gospel worker. Therefore, preaching competency can be seen as a practical tool for exercising faith. Just as good farming equipment makes farming work much easier, gospel workers, who are spiritual harvesters, should not be negligent in cultivating and managing preaching competencies, which are tools for preaching activities. Let us think about why preaching competency is important in preaching activities.

1. Directly Affecting Gospel Results

Because humans wear the veil of sin, they do not have the ability to distinguish between truth and lies, and no matter how certain the truth is, they cannot realize it on their own. Therefore, the truth must be passed on to others by the person who received it first. The same is true in this age when the truth of the new covenant is being restored

and preached throughout the world. God has enabled the gospel to be preached and bear fruit through encounters between people. Therefore, the competencies of gospel workers to preach the gospel on the front line is very important. Since the competencies of gospel workers have a direct impact on the gospel results, gospel workers must take responsibility for developing preaching competencies.

2. Necessary to Become a Competent Worker

We are currently living in the last days of the gospel prophesied in the Bible. This implies that we must complete the world evangelism within a limited time. As Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Lk 10:1-2), there are many souls to harvest, but very few workers; this is the reality of our time. Furthermore, in a situation where the kingdom of heaven is imminent, each soul who has received the truth must be carefully managed and helped to become a spiritually perfect being. In other words, this age needs competent workers who can do many things with precision, and the answer to this problem can ultimately be found in strengthening the preaching competencies of gospel workers.

So far, we have studied the roles and importance of *faith* and *preaching competencies* in preaching activities. Although gospel workers' qualities for preaching sustainability are divided into faith and preaching competencies, these are closely related and interact with each other. Without proper faith, we cannot gain motivation to build preaching competencies, and if our preaching competencies do not grow, it can easily have a negative impact on our faith. Therefore, gospel workers must strive for balanced growth of these two. However, it is true that there was relatively less interest in *preaching competencies* compared to *faith*. So, in this text, we will study what preaching competencies are necessary to grow into a competent

5

Preaching Competencies for Sustainable Preaching Activities

The range of preaching competencies that a gospel worker should have is very wide. However, in this text, from the perspective of sustainability of preaching activities, we would like to organize the preaching competencies of gospel workers into seven areas. Through this, let us clarify the concept of competencies needed in the field of preaching and think about what competencies we need to develop.

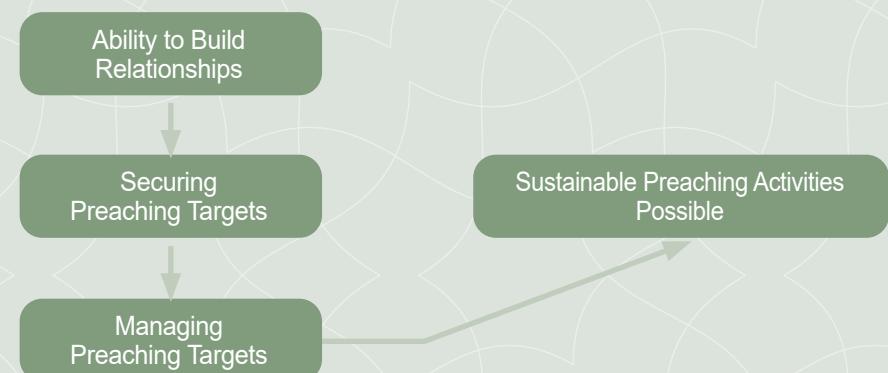
Preaching Activities

- 1. Ability to Build Relationships
- 2. Ability to Adapt to Changes
- 3. Ability to Persuade Others
- 4. Ability to Lead Activities
- 5. Ability to Produce Results
- 6. Ability to Empathize
- 7. Ability to Learn

1. Ability to Build Relationships

1) Need for Relationship-Building Ability

In this text, the ability to build relationships refers to the ability to create and maintain positive and friendly relationships with others. In fact, many gospel workers experience difficulties in the process of building relationships. When they preach the word one-sidedly without building a basic relationship, they experience indifference, cold treatment, resistance, and the like. Therefore, building relationships is a very important issue for efficient and gracious preaching. The reason relationship building is especially important in preaching activities is that sustainable preaching activities are possible by steadily securing and managing preaching targets. Of course, it is impossible to build friendly relationships with everyone who you meet through preaching. Despite that, if you only do one-time preaching to people with whom you can meet regularly and develop relationships, it can be a great spiritual loss.



2) Practices for Developing Relationship-Building Ability

① Maintain the Character of an Exemplary Believer

It does not necessarily take a long time to build a good relationship. The most effective way to build a good relationship with someone you have recently met is to have the character of a respectable and

exemplary believer. If you show yourself as an exemplary believer, you will eventually gain a good reputation. A good reputation comes from good behavior such as consideration, respect, responsibility, morality, and honesty reflected in the words and actions of a gospel worker. Therefore, gospel workers should focus more attention and effort on putting God's good teachings into practice rather than trying to win the favor of those they are preaching to.

② Take the Lead in Relationships

Eventually, gospel workers should build interpersonal relationships with the ultimate goal to save souls. In order to achieve this goal, we should take the lead in relationships. In order to lead a relationship, we need to clearly establish the principles for maintaining the relationship and implement them in a wise manner. Only then can we prevent interpersonal relationships from developing in a direction that interferes with preaching.

③ Act Wisely

Building and maintaining healthy relationships with others also requires wisdom. In particular, we should avoid getting involved in disputes or quarrels under any circumstances. For example, it is good to comfort and sympathize with someone who is suffering from a conflict with others, but it is unwise to attempt to solve the problem by taking matters into our own hands. Also, we must never get involved in matters related to money or profits, including financial transactions and multi-level marketing.

④ Refrain From Viewing Preaching Targets as Objects of "Achievement" or "Results"

In the process of gospel activities, we strive to build interpersonal relationships for the purpose of saving souls. However, if the desire to bear fruit is excessive and we only view the other person as an

object of "performance," it is difficult to build good relationships. Additionally, if we look at the person we are preaching from this perspective, there may be cases where we let go of the relationships once we determine there is no possibility of leading them to baptism. Moreover, pressuring someone to be baptized or inconsiderate words and actions can create a negative impression. Therefore, we should have a selfless mind to think about what is the most beneficial way for the souls of preaching targets, rather than our own greed.

⑤ Refrain From Judging Others Hastily, Based on Their Outward Appearance

We have a tendency to instinctively judge others, based on their outward appearance. However, judging others hastily, based on outward appearances, can easily distort the relationships. It is true that outward appearance reflects a person's nature. However, there is definitely a side that cannot be seen through appearance alone. To save a soul, we should try to see the person's true self (inside) and not use the outer appearance as the standard.

3) Issues to Discuss

- Think about what you need to do to build a good reputation from your own perspective, and share your opinions with each other.

2. Ability to Adapt to Changes

From the perspective of faith, *change* means an inner change that involves abandoning one's sinful nature and being reborn with divine nature. This is the process of aligning our thoughts and actions with the unchanging and absolute word of God.

However, the "ability to adapt to changes" mentioned in the text means adapting to a fluid and ever-changing external environment. Keeping this in mind, let us examine the need for the ability to adapt to changes and action plans to develop it.

1) Need for Adaptability to Change

① Because the Preaching Environment Changes

There is a time for everything under the heavens (Ecc 3:1). Even God, who is eternal and unchanging, did not hesitate to change His name and appearance according to the times in order to achieve His purpose of saving our souls. The same goes for gospel workers who are on the front line of preaching. The world, the stage of gospel workers, including living environments and people's thoughts and perspectives, is changing rapidly. Moreover, the cycle of change is becoming shorter. Of course, the goal and essence of the gospel work does not change. However, the way it is applied and utilized needs to change. Therefore, the will and ability to adapt to changes in the gospel environment can be said to be core competencies for sustainable preaching activities.

② Because the Ability to Adapt to Change Creates Opportunities

Regardless of how big or small it is, people are instinctively uncomfortable with change. Even gospel workers may find it a bit burdensome to change their familiar preaching patterns or methods. However, if we can actively accept change, it becomes a great opportunity and a stepping stone to leap forward. For example, our Church of God had great difficulties in traditional gospel activities due to the coronavirus pandemic, but as a result, online preaching activities became active and the Online Education for All Members (LMS) was established. In contrast, many Babylon churches that opposed the Church of God ended up closing their doors. In this way, people who positively accept change can always seize the opportunity for blessings. More changes await us in the future. Depending on our attitude of faith in accepting change, it will come as an amazing blessing rather than an obstacle.

2) Process of Adapting to Change

"Adapting to change" does not mean following trends or uncritically

accepting people's customs. Change must have a purpose and reason, and must be concluded with action and practice. First, let us examine the process of adapting to change and the actions required for each step. The process of change largely consists of the stages of adjusting thoughts, managing emotions, and modifying behavior.



① Adjust Our Thoughts

In order to adapt to change, the reason and purpose must be clear. No matter how much the surrounding environment changes, it is human nature to try to stick to the old ways if we do not see a reason to adapt. Therefore, gospel workers should find the reason and purpose for change through serious self-reflection. To do this, you need to ask yourself the following questions and seriously think about the answers.

- What is the fundamental reason for adapting to the changing environment of the gospel?
- Is it possible to carry out gospel activities smoothly without adapting to change?
- What losses can come from not adapting to change?
- Can I achieve my desired gospel vision without actively adapting to change?
- What changes do I need to embrace right now?

② Manage Our Emotions

Environmental changes are often uncontrollable. However, we can overcome feelings of helplessness or anxiety by managing your attitude toward them. If we are confident in our goal and direction, we can overcome the difficulties of the process. Gospel workers must

leave all their worries to God and focus only on doing God's will, striving to maintain confidence and a positive mind (Mt 6:33–34). Environmental changes are often uncontrollable. However, we can overcome feelings of helplessness or anxiety by managing your attitude toward them. If we are confident in our goal and direction, we can overcome the difficulties of the process. Gospel workers must leave all their worries to God and focus only on doing God's will, striving to maintain confidence and a positive mind (Mt 6:33–34).

③ Modify Our Behavior

The final step in change is modifying behavior. Modifying behavior means creating new habits, and this can be done through conscious and repeated practice. Therefore, we should not give up midway due to difficulties in the process or trial and error.

3) Actions to Develop Adaptability to Change

① Make a Big Plan for Our Gospel Future

As mentioned earlier, adapting to change requires a clear purpose and reason. Purpose and reason are closely related to goals. Therefore, gospel workers must first set long-term gospel goals. If you make a detailed plan according to your goals, you will be able to recognize changes in the gospel environment more specifically and understand more precisely how to adapt to those changes. As a result, gospel workers who pursue a purposeful gospel life naturally strive to adapt to changes without being told to do so.

② Change Our Perspective on How We View Change

Let us think of change as a challenge and achievement rather than a burdensome task. Through this change in perspective, we can feel strong motivation and a sense of accomplishment. Let us break old habits and try something new, even if it is small. Let us broaden the scope of our challenges, develop new habits beneficial to the gospel,

and acquire new knowledge and skills necessary for preaching activities.

③ Take Advantage of Mistakes and Failures

In order to adapt to change, we must first change ourselves. However, unfamiliar tasks are always accompanied by mistakes and failures, and this is the biggest factor that makes change fearful. Therefore, in order to adapt to change, we have to recognize our limitations and have a humble attitude. Through this, gospel workers can learn more lessons from mistakes and failures and use them as a stepping stone for growth.

④ Write a Diary (Journal)

In order to adapt to change, consistent motivation is important, and regularly writing in a diary can greatly help with this. If we specifically record changes in our thoughts, feelings, and behavior through writing a diary, we can reflect on the reasons for adapting to change and measure the extent of our change. In other words, writing a diary provide self-feedback on our daily activities. Before ending the day, let us develop the habit of writing a diary, even briefly. Habits have a strong tendency to be combined with a specific time, place, method, it is important to create our own routine when writing a diary.

4) Issues to Discuss

- Think about what is the biggest change you currently need to adapt to and share your opinions with each other.
- Share your own stories of overcoming difficulties and adapting to change.

3. Ability to Persuade Others

1) Need for the Ability to Persuade Others

Persuasion is to change the other person's thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors in the direction I desire. From this perspective, preaching

can also be a process of persuasion. The entire process of leading someone who does not believe in God or even consider believing to change their thought to accept and worship God is a continuous act of persuasion. Therefore, gospel workers must understand the principles of good persuasion and learn basic methods useful for persuasion.

2) Basic Principle of Good Persuasion

We always persuade each other in our daily lives, no matter how big or small. Persuasion is an interaction that occurs in human relationships, so the process of creating a result is as important as the result. To lead the process of persuasion graciously and effectively, mutual understanding is most important. In other words, before trying to convince and persuade the other person, we should first understand the person and accept their ideas. It is difficult to expect good results by thinking, "I know more than that person" or "That person does not know the truth, so my opinions and judgments are always right."

3) Practices to Develop Persuasive Skills

① Bring About Agreement, Not Coercion

To truly persuade the others, we should not force them. For example, it should not be considered wise preaching to pressure someone who is not ready into baptism through circumstances or atmosphere. In particular, it is not right for leading gospel workers to teach and advise this kind of method to following workers. Of course, some may say that doing so yielded good results. However, even if this is the case, it absolutely does not mean that the method itself is correct. Good persuasion must necessarily involve mutual *agreement*.

② Take Your Time

There is a clear goal and purpose in persuading others in the preaching field. However, it is not good to be hasty and greedy to achieve all your goals at once. Of course, it would be good if the entire preaching

process goes easily and quickly. However, this situation is rare. Preaching is about dealing with the other person's suspicion, rejection, resistance, and indifference. Therefore, it is good for gospel workers to let go of the impatience to win in a short period of time. Instead, it is desirable to set intermediate goals and achieve them one step at a time as a way to reach the final goal. We must believe that if the process is good, the results will also be good.

③ Do Not Argue

If we want to convince the other person, we should avoid arguments. We may be able to defeat the other person's argument through debate, but we will never win their heart. Therefore, it is best not to start an argument in the first place. Even if the other person makes a wrong argument, we need to first respect it and not raise a counterargument right away.

④ Listen Carefully

Listening carefully to others is more effective in persuasion than talking excessively. Let us encourage the other person to speak more while we listen attentively. This approach can help build trust and goodwill, and allow us to better understand their inner thoughts.

⑤ Give the Other Person a Chance to Do a Favor

People often experience great satisfaction when they give to others. Therefore, some people may not open up when directly persuaded, but they might be more receptive when asked for advice or assistance. In the process of preaching, if we have built a certain level of rapport with people we are preaching to, give them an opportunity to show kindness. Especially, asking for help related to something the other person is good at or enjoys can often yield a very positive response.

4) Issues to Discuss

- If you have ever made a mistake while trying to hastily persuade

someone, share your experience.

- Let us share specific examples of good persuasion experienced in the preaching field.

4. Ability to Lead Activities

1) Importance of the Ability to Lead Activities

Another crucial factor for sustainable preaching is the ability to lead activities yourself. No matter how important the task is, if it's done because someone else told us to, we were pushed into it, or we feel obligated, we won't be able to do it for long. This principle applies equally to preaching activities. Every believer understands the importance of preaching. However, the process and outcomes of spreading the gospel vary qualitatively between those who lead activities and those who passively follow. Therefore, the capacity to lead one's own life is regarded as one of the most critical qualities for success. Leading preaching activities produces the following effects:

- It enables powerful preaching.
- Preaching becomes more enjoyable.
- It has more influence on people around us.
- It makes us actively deal with difficulties.
- It forms the foundation for achieving sustainable results.

2) Elements That Constitute Initiative

To clearly understand the concept of initiative, let us think about the elements that make up initiative. Leadership can be said to be an ability that combines judgment, decision, and execution.



- ① Judgment: The ability to measure and distinguish the right

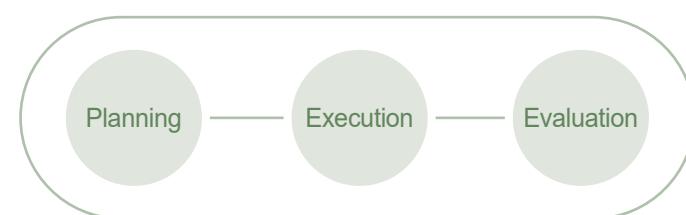
and wrong, good and bad, and degree of value of an object or phenomenon based on given information or experience.

- ② Decision: The ability to decide or choose a course of action, based on judgment.
- ③ Execution: Ability to actually put decisions into action.

3) Practices to Cultivate Abilities to Lead Activities

① Acting in a Planned Manner

The most effective way to cultivate initiative is to act with a plan. Set goals and make plans with your own will. Create yearly, monthly, and daily plans, then follow through with them. Each day, review your progress to see how well you are achieving your goals. When we can positively control our gospel activities through a life of planning, execution, and evaluation, we will feel an immense sense of fulfillment and pride as gospel workers. Plans do not need to be grand from the start. It is fine to begin with small plans. The important thing is to execute what you have planned and evaluate the results.



② Cultivating Patience and Resilience

Imagine a group of geese flying in formation. The goose at the front endures the strongest headwinds. This mirrors the role of gospel workers. Leading evangelistic efforts brings great satisfaction, but it also demands considerable energy and can lead to fatigue. From this perspective, the two essential qualities that gospel workers need are patience and resilience. Sustaining motivation is essential for enduring perseverance. In particular, we must always be able to reaffirm a sense

of calling and maintain a sense of purpose. To cultivate resilience, we need a deep understanding that can find reasons to be thankful even in hardships, by trusting in God's promises. Encouragement and support from others play a pivotal role. Gospel workers must lead by example, continuously uplifting and inspiring those around them.

4) Issues to Discuss

- Think about what you are weakest in among judgment, decision, and execution. And share each other's opinions on how to improve it.
- Talk to each other about the slumps you experienced during your gospel activities and the opportunities or driving force that helped you overcome them.

5. Ability to Produce Results

The gospel is that if the process is good, the results are also good. However, in order for a gospel worker's efforts to yield results as quickly as possible, the ability to produce results is also important. This is called *productivity*.

1) Importance of the Ability to Produce Results

The ability to produce results, or *productivity*, is the ability to transform hard work and effort invested in the process into tangible outcomes. In sports matches, we often witness rankings determined by margins as small as 0.01 second or victory and defeat decided by just 1 point. Upon reflection, in a closely contested match, there is likely very little difference in skill between the winner and the loser. Yet, the outcomes are vastly different.

Similar situations can arise in the gospel field. We often see cases where individuals exert similar efforts but achieve vastly different results. This can be called the difference in productivity—the ability to convert opportunities into accomplishments and generate significant outcomes through slight distinctions. Productivity,

however, is not about manufacturing outcomes through sheer human effort and skill. Instead, it involves wisely fulfilling one's responsibilities while persistently praying to God, maintaining belief and confidence, "It is possible" and "it can be done," until the desired results are achieved.

2) Practical Steps to Cultivate Productivity

It is very cautious to discuss productivity within the gospel that God accomplishes. However, in this text, we will consider this in terms of the efforts and competencies of gospel workers. This is because only then can gospel workers know the direction in which they can make efforts to develop their competencies.

① Establishing Good Goals

Good results come from good goals. When we set goals well, we can expect good results. Formal goals are meaningless. For example, a personal goal should reflect their will and determination, regardless of whether it is big or small in the eyes of others.

② Performance Management

Setting good goals does not guarantee their achievement. To translate goals into specific outcomes in gospel activities, the process must be managed through performance indicators. This is called performance management. In other words, goals and plans should not be left unattended but managed diligently according to performance indicators.

③ Positive Attitude

No matter how well we set our goals and plan, there are always difficulties and obstacles in the gospel process. Therefore, it is important to have a positive attitude to accept the process of overcoming difficulties as progress toward results. This can be

cultivated through a firm belief in God's power and goal-centered thinking that looks forward to reward.

④ Harmony and Unity

One common characteristic of people who achieve high results is their ability to seek appropriate help or advice from those around them and cooperate flexibly with others. This attitude is crucial for a gospel worker. No matter how capable a gospel worker is, preaching and the gospel cannot be accomplished alone. As God says, harmony and unity lead to success. When we pursue cooperation with the single goal of fulfilling the gospel, we can achieve much more than we could alone.

⑤ Persistence

The Bible contains many accounts of people who prayed to God persistently and received blessings. This includes the story of Jacob, who wrestled with God all night and was blessed for his perseverance despite the pain of his hip being wrenched (Ge 32:22–29), and the widow in the parable of the unjust judge (Lk 18:1–7). God is greatly pleased with His children who do not give up and continually strive for blessings (Gal 6:9). This same persistence is crucial in gospel activities. God will always grant good results to gospel workers who embody the spirit of “one more step, one more house, and one more person.”

Gal 6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Gal 6:9, NLT So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

3) Issues to Discuss

- Let us share a case where good results were achieved through patience and perseverance during gospel activities.

- Think about and share your opinions about what you need to work on in order to improve your results.

6. Ability to Empathize

One of the essential qualities for a gospel worker in this age is the ability to empathize. Let us examine how important empathy is in preaching.

1) Importance of the Ability to Empathize

If you look around, there are plenty of smart people. However, it is difficult to find warm individuals who can truly empathize. Many influential politicians and famous celebrities are often criticized and gossiped about for their lack of empathy and consideration in their words. This is why empathy is highly valued and sought after in today's society. Given this, what should gospel workers realize? Empathy is indeed a crucial competency for preaching. It builds trust and has the power to heal hearts. By expressing the love and consideration that God has shown us through empathy, we can achieve remarkable results in spreading the gospel.

2) What is Empathy?

Empathy is the ability to understand the thoughts and emotions from others' perspective, recognizing the feelings hidden behind their words or actions. While most people are born with an innate capacity for empathy, the degree of this ability can vary significantly. Empathy plays a crucial role in building and maintaining human relationships, which is why it is particularly important for gospel workers. It allows us to express sincere love and concern for others, and by providing emotional support, we can build positive bonds with them.

3) Practices to Develop the Ability to Empathize

Empathy is different from pity or sympathy. It requires an active process of putting oneself in another person's shoes. In other words,

despite its emotional connotation, empathy is a very rational and logical process. It is a skill that can be developed through effort and practice, even if we do not have great sensitivity.

① Practice Looking at the World Through Other People's Eyes

To empathize with the situation of a visually impaired person, we only need to live with our eyes covered for one hour. Likewise, gospel workers should practice looking at the world from the perspective of the unsaved people around us. Only then can we truly understand them and deliver hope through words from their perspective.

② Pay Attention to Our Surroundings

Gospel workers must pay attention to the people, environment, and events around them. This does not mean intervening or getting involved, but rather observing carefully. By doing so, gospel workers can gain a broader and deeper perspective and insight into people and situations. This insight helps develop empathy and expand opportunities for preaching. For example, having a comfortable and casual conversation with strangers you meet in everyday life can be beneficial. There is no need to feel pressured to preach. Showing genuine interest and goodwill can naturally lead to good relationships.

③ Respect the Other Person as They Are

The first step toward empathy is respect. The moment we harbor stereotypes or prejudices against someone, we lose the motivation to walk in their shoes. People instinctively judge others from their own viewpoint, making genuine respect more challenging than it seems. To respect others, we must cultivate humility in our own heart. Our experiences, judgments, and values are imperfect. When we truly acknowledge that everything is relative except God's truth, we can embrace and respect others with a broad heart.

4) Persuasion Through Empathy

The biggest reason empathy is helpful in preaching is that it allows us to open the hearts of others. Therefore, empathy becomes a very useful tool in persuading preaching targets. Earlier, when discussing the "ability to persuade others," we understand that carefully listening to others is very helpful in persuasion. Empathy goes hand in hand with listening. In fact, listening without empathy is meaningless, and it is almost impossible to empathize without listening. Therefore, we should practice careful listening and empathy together to turn the other person's negative thoughts into positive elements.

5) Issues to Discuss

- Think about what was most difficult when demonstrating empathy in the preaching field, and share your opinions.
- Try to persuade the person who are saying the following, through empathy and listening. (Choose one). Two people form a group, with one person taking on the role of a preaching target, and the other acts as a gospel worker.
 - ↘ "I was hurt so much by the church I used to go to, and I don't want to go to church anymore".
 - ↘ "I have a church that I've been attending until now, and I don't want to change churches.
 - ↘ "I'm so busy raising my kids now that I don't have time to go to church."

7. Ability to Learn

1) Importance of the Ability to Learn

Today, the shelf life of knowledge and technology is shorter than it was in the past. People's interests are also rapidly changing and becoming more diverse. In order to adapt well to this preaching environment and become a competent gospel worker, we should always be open to learning. Therefore, the ability to learn is closely

related to the ability to adapt to change, and it is an important ability that enables sustainable preaching activities.

2) What Is the Ability to Learn?

Learning without practice is meaningless. In particular, all learning in faith is aimed at practice. Therefore, the ability to learn from a gospel worker refers not only to the ability to acquire something, but also to the ability to put it into practice and further apply it. For gospel workers, learning must be a part of life. If we have the knowledge, skills, mindset, or attitude needed in the field of preaching, as well as the word of God, we must actively try to learn it.



3) What Should Gospel Workers Learn?

Let us think about what gospel workers need to learn consistently in order to develop their preaching competencies.

① Truth of the New Covenant

God's word is the source of faith that allows us to understand and fear the existence of God. Therefore, constant study of God's word is necessary to receive the power of the Holy Spirit necessary for preaching. Especially, if the purpose of studying the word of God is for preaching, just vague knowledge is not enough. As the saying goes, "If you cannot explain it to others, you do not really understand it," we, gospel workers, must deepen our understanding of the word so we can clearly and easily convey the truth of the new covenant to others.

② New Systems and Regulations of the Church

As the gospel grows and the spatial scope of gospel activities expands, numerous systems are created, and sometimes they become complex. Gospel workers should strive to become familiar with these systems and regulations. If we neglect something because we do not need it right now or because it is annoying, we may be embarrassed or suffer losses when we really need it. We must keep in mind that all systems and regulations related to the gospel are closely related to gospel activities in the field.

③ Utilizing New Preaching Methods and Tools

New preaching methods or tools are the results of a changed preaching environment. Therefore, relying solely on past methods or tools can result in reduced efficiency and effectiveness in preaching, or lead to a decline in preaching confidence. Therefore, gospel workers should actively try to utilize new preaching methods and tools whenever they are provided by the Head Office.

4) Source of Continuous Learning

Learning something is not easy, whether it is something completely new or expanding on what we already know. Moreover, for gospel workers who live busier than others, the reality of having to continually learn something can come as a great burden. Learning is difficult to start, but it is even more difficult to maintain it. If so, what is the driving force to maintain a learning attitude? Broadly speaking, it can be a desire for self-actualization and a strong sense of purpose.

① Desire for Self-Actualization

One of the strongest motivations for learning is the desire of self-actualization. When gospel workers find joy and fulfillment in the act of learning itself, they can continue learning, regardless of the challenges or immediate outcomes. What is crucial is that the joy of

learning can be cultivated through awareness and effort. Learning does not become enjoyable overnight; we should develop our learning ability while discovering the joy of gaining new knowledge, sharing what we have learned, benefiting others through our knowledge, and becoming more effective gospel workers.

② Strong Sense of Purpose

A strong sense of purpose can greatly enhance the desire to learn. For instance, if a worker is committed to the goal of overseas missions, they will find themselves putting effort into studying foreign languages, even if they had no interest before. Similarly, clear and earnest goals provide gospel workers with strong motivation for learning. Specific and heartfelt goals create earnestness, which in turn generates a strong motivation for learning.

5) Issues to Discuss

- If you have an example of growth in gospel competency through learning, share it.



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