

General Service in Malang, January 08, 2017 (Sunday Morning)

CHILD SUBMISSION SERVICE

Isaiah 49:15-16

49:15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you.

49:16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.

There are two things that can be underlined from these verses as follows.

1. God never forgets us. He always remembers that no matter how great we are, we are powerless as a baby. Therefore, we must always remember God. We surrender our life in His hands, through being faithful in ministering Him and being well and right shepherded.
2. We are inscribed on the palms of His hands, meaning He carries us with His loving hands. His eyes oversee our life. The results are as follows.
 - He is able to care and protect us in the midst of impossibilities in this world.
 - He bears all our weariness and heavy burdens. We feel peace and everything becomes easy and light.
 - He helps us to do the things that we cannot do.
 - He guides us to the New Jerusalem, the eternal Kingdom of Heaven.

God blesses us.

GENERAL SERVICE

Peace and grace in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

There are two activities on the throne of Heaven that are written in Revelation 4:8-11 as follows.

1. [Revelation 4:8] The activity of sanctification.
2. [Revelation 4:9-11] The activity of worship.

If we want to experience the ambience of the throne of Heaven in the midst of this cursed world, we must live in holiness and worship God.

ad. 1. The activity of sanctification.

Every activity in the church must lead to the activity on the throne of Heaven, that is the activity of sanctification.

Revelation 4:8

4:8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

There are four types of activity in the church that are represented by the four living creatures on the throne of Heaven as follows.

- a. The activity of welfare, that is giving and visiting the others.

Revelation 4:7

4:7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.

It is represented by the creature that is like a lion. It refers to the lion of Judah or the position of a king.

Genesis 49:8-10

49:8 "Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you.

49:9 Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?

49:10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

Matthew 25:31,35-36

25:31 *"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.*

25:35 *for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;*

25:36 *I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'*

The king pays attention to the welfare of the nation as follows.

- being hungry = food
- being thirsty = drink
- lodging = house
- being naked = cloth
- being sick = health
- prison = freedom.

Likewise, in the church of God, there must be the activity of welfare or giving and visiting the others who are in need. But it must be accompanied with holiness so it will not lead to Judas Iscariot but to the throne of Heaven.

b. The activity of general ministry.

It is represented by the creature that is like a calf. It refers to the tribe of Reuben or the position of a servant.

Genesis 49:3

49:3 *"Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength, The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power.*

A servant is equipped with strength and power to serve.

In the church, there must be the activity of general ministry, that is maintenance of the church building and devices, cleanliness, security, *et cetera*. But it must also be accompanied with holiness, so one will not be wicked and lazy.

c. The activity of correspondence or administration.

It is represented by the creature that is like a man. It refers to the tribe of Ephraim.

Genesis 48:12-13,20

48:12 *So Joseph brought them from beside his knees, and he bowed down with his face to the earth.*

48:13 *And Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him.*

48:20 *So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will bless, saying, 'May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh!'" And thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh.*

Joseph arranged the distribution of the wheat during the famine with the help of Ephraim and Manasseh, so it was well organized.

Likewise, there must be correspondence or administration activity in the church of God. But it must be accompanied with holiness, so everything is well organized.

d. The activity of priesthood.

It is represented by the creature that is like a flying eagle. It refers to the tribe of Dan.

Genesis 49:17-18

49:17 *Dan shall be a serpent by the way, A viper by the path, That bites the horse's heels So that its rider shall fall backward.*

49:18 *I have waited for your salvation, O Lord!*

The tribe of Dan is as a viper. They represent the Gentiles.

The activity of priesthood is the activity of ministering and worshiping God. These activities are for waiting His second coming.

There must be the activity of priesthood in the church of God. There is one who preaches the Word of God, one who plays the music instrument, one who prays, *et cetera*. But it must be accompanied with holiness, so one does not become as Hophni and Phinehas. If one serves miserably without holiness, there will be no presence and glory of God (*ichabod*). There will be only the wrath of God.

1 Samuel 2:22, 4:21

2:22 Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

4:21 Then she named the child Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel!" because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband.

But if we serve God with holiness, His glory will be obvious in the midst of the congregation to help, care, recover, and renew us until we become as perfect as Him. We can wait for and welcome His second coming on the glorious clouds.

If all activities in the house of God are accompanied with holiness, there will be gratitude to Him. We will feel peace from heaven and everything becomes easy and light in all aspects of our life. We live in the ambience of the throne of Heaven.

ad. 2. The activity of worship.

Revelation 4:9-11

4:9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

4:10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

4:11 "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

Worship prayer means humbling ourselves to confess the things as follows.

- a. Only God who is worthy to receive glory and honor and power.
- b. We are just as clays with many lacks and weaknesses. We always need the cross of Jesus or His blood.
The process is as follows.
 - Confessing sin honestly by the encouragement of the sword of the Word to God and the others. If we are forgiven, we must not repeat it. The cross also means forgiving the sin of the others and forgetting it.
 - Confessing that we are powerless and worthless. We always need the Holy Spirit to help us in facing everything that we cannot solve or think.

The examples are as follows.

- a. Holy Spirit as the strong east wind is able to divide the Red Sea.

Exodus 14:15-16, 21-22

14:15 And the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.

14:16 But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

14:21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.

14:22 So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

When facing a deadlock, we must not cry or blame one another. Let us cry out and surrender our life to God. Thus, the power of Holy Spirit as the strong east wind is able to divide the Red Sea. It means that Holy Spirit is able to care our life in the midst of impossibilities in this world. There is a way out from every impossible problem. There is beautiful and successful future.

- b. Holy Spirit as the living water helps the Samaritan woman. She faces bitterness and broken marriage that will lead to the reviled marriage up to the Babylon who will be destroyed forever.

John 4:10-18

4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

4:11 The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?"

4:12 Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"

4:13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,

4:14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in

him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

4:15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

4:16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

4:17 The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,'

4:18 for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."

Our attitude is giving Jesus the sour wine to drink on the cross, that is confessing our sins and conditions. Thus, He will give us the living water to drink that is able to recover our marriage.

- c. Holy Spirit helps the apostles in their weaknesses, that are fear, disappointment, desperation, until denying and leaving God.

Acts 2:3-4

2:3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Holy Spirit burns the fleshly man with all his weaknesses. Holy Spirit renews the fleshly man to the spiritual one as Jesus, starting from being strong and of good courage. The tongue does not lie, gossip, or slander, whatever the risks are. It only says right words and testifies about Jesus. We hold fast the true teaching Word whatever the risks are. We keep being faithful and fervent in spirit in ministering God whatever the risks are. When He comes a second time, we will be renewed to become as perfect as Him and enter the throne of Heaven forever.

God blesses us.