

General Service in Malang, May 20, 2012 (Sunday Morning)

John 14:1-3

14:1 *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.*

14:2 *In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

14:3 *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

Jesus went into Heaven to prepare a place for us. Afterwards, Jesus will come for the second time to lift us up to the place He has prepared. We will be together with Him forever.

We commemorate the ascension of Jesus into Heaven so we will also be lifted up into Heaven in His second coming.

Therefore, we must always struggle to be lifted up into Heaven in His second coming.

2 Peter 3:10-12

3:10 *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.*

3:11 *Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,*

3:12 *looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?*

On Jesus's second coming, this world with all its elements will melt with fervent heat and pass away with fire from heaven, including God's servant/ God's children who are left on His second coming. All blessings in this world will be useless if we will not be lifted up on His second coming.

The requirement to be lifted up into Heaven on Jesus's second coming is **living in holiness**.

Holiness means the lifting power.

The holier we are, the more we are lifted until we become holy as Jesus is holy, and we will be lifted on the glorious clouds in His second coming.

There are four mediums of purification as follows:

1. The blood of Jesus, which means the purification of past sins.
The example is King of David who falls in adultery with Bathsheba. But David is willing to be purified. He confesses his sin, is forgiven and justified so he is lifted up by God.
2. The true teaching Word or the purification Word or the Word which is sharper than any two-edged sword. It means the purification of present sins.
The example is a woman of Canaan who is as a dog licking vomit previously, but later she can lick the bread. It means being able to receive the Word and obey the Word. She is lifted up to become the sheep of God. The result is her marriage and daughter are helped.
3. Whip or chastisement from God, which means the purification of present sin.
The example is Jonah who is asked to go to Nineveh but he goes to Tarshish. The consequence is being drowned. But Jonah is lifted up by God when he receives the purification.
Another example is Peter who doubts the true teaching Word. God is said as ghost, ghost is said as God. The consequence is Peter is almost being drowned. But Peter is lifted up when he receives purification.
The criminal who is crucified beside Jesus is also lifted up.
4. Hope about Jesus's second coming, which means the sprinkling of blood.

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1 John 3:2-3

3:2 *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

3:3 *And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

We have many hopes and goals in this world, but the highest hope is the hope of Jesus's second coming, so we can be lifted up together with Him. Without this highest hope, all goals in this world are useless.

The hope about Jesus's second coming means purification of future sins.

The requirements to long for Jesus's second coming, so we will be lifted up into the Heaven together with Him are as follows:

1. **Perseverance.**

Romans 8:25

8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

Perseverance is the fruit of the revelation of the true teaching Word.

Luke 8:15

8:15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

We must have **good conscience** so the seed of the true teaching Word can grow and bear fruit of perseverance.

In the days of Noah, man's conscience tended to evil. Where can we get good conscience? Through water baptism.

1 Peter 3:20-21

3:20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

3:21 There is also an antitype which now saves us "baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Water baptism is the renewal process of evil and unclean conscience to become good conscience.

If we have good conscience, we will be able to listen and obey the true teaching Word, the Word that is sharper than any two-edged sword, so we will bear the fruit of perseverance.

Acts 2:41-42

2:41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

In the past, the church of first rain was baptized and had good conscience. They entered three types of perseverance; those are perseverance in fellowship, the apostles' doctrine and the breaking of bread, and prayers.

Now, if we enter water baptism and have good conscience, and are able to receive the true teaching Word, we will be able to enter the perseverance in three main services as follows:

- Golden Candlestick (the days of Moses) perseverance in fellowship (the days of the apostles) perseverance in General Service.
- Table of Showbread perseverance in the apostles' doctrine and the breaking of bread perseverance in Bible Study Service and Holy Communion.
- Golden Altar of Incense perseverance in prayers perseverance in Prayer Service.

Perseverance in these three main services denotes perseverance in shepherding system.

The foundation is only good conscience. Only pastor, deacons, elders, God's servants, and congregation who have good conscience, are able to persevere in the shepherding.

The success in the preaching of the true teaching Word is not until the congregation cries during the service, but until the congregation is well shepherded.

We are safe inside the ark of shepherding (ark of Noah).

Hebrews 10:36-38

10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

10:37 "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

10:38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

We have many needs in the last days, but all is contained in the perseverance in shepherding. There we live in the hands of Great Shepherd who is able to provide and fulfill our needs, physically and spiritually. The hands of Great Shepherd always embrace us to stand until Jesus's second coming.

2. **Being holy as Jesus is holy, which means being perfect and the same glory as Jesus. 1 John 3:2-3**

3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is

revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

It is not enough yet after being purified and perfected. We must be renewed through the sprinkling of blood. As Jesus also must be crucified to be able to go into Heaven.

The sprinkling of blood is flesh suffering with Jesus, suffering because of the will of God.

1 Peter 4:12-14

4:12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;
4:13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.
4:14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

When we experience suffering with Jesus, God will give us strength through the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of glory (in the past it was the appearance of the Son of God when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were cast into the burning fiery furnace). When Aaron entered the Most Holy Place and sprinkled the blood, there was Shekinah Glory.

John 16:7

16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

Holy Spirit is the Helper. God goes into the Heaven to prepare place for us, pour Holy Spirit for us, help and comfort our life.

Holy Spirit or the Spirit of glory does miracles in our life as follows:

- Physical miracle, that is making possible the impossible things.

Zechariah 4:6-7

4:6 So he answered and said to me: 'This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord of hosts.
4:7 "Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"

- Spiritual miracle, that is renewal of life from flesh man to become spiritual man or glorious man as Jesus. In the past Jesus died and was raised in new body, the glorious body.

Ephesians 4:23-25

4:23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,
4:24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.
4:25 Therefore, putting away lying, 'Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.

New man is **honest**. It is started from being honest about the true teaching Word and in confessing sins.

Proverbs 3:32

3:32 For the perverse person is an abomination to the Lord, But His secret counsel is with the upright.

God's secret counsel is with the upright.

Ezekiel 11:19-20

11:19 Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh,
11:20 that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

New man has **obedient heart, heart with the fear of God**. If one does not fear God, it means that he is against God.

Psalms 25:14

25:14 The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.

One who fears God is with the secret counsel of God.

If we are honest and having the fear of God, we are still being lifted up by God. As Enoch who was with the secret counsel of God until he was lifted up into Heaven.

Genesis 5:22-24

5:22 After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters.

5:23 So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years.

5:24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

God blesses us.