

General Service in Malang, November 17, 2013 (Sunday Morning)

CHILD SUBMISSION SERVICE

We submit a child physically to God so he becomes the spiritual firstborn who belongs to Him.

The signs of being a spiritual firstborn are as follows.

1. Being faithful and fervent in spirit in ministering God, and prioritizing ministry more than anything else.

Exodus 4:22-23

4:22 Then you shall say to Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord: 'Israel is My son, My firstborn.

4:23 So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.'"

In Old Testament, God struggles for the ministry of the Israelites until He kills the firstborn of the Egyptians.

In New Testament, He is willing to die on the cross to struggle for the ministry of the Gentiles. Therefore, we must struggle the ministry more than everything in this world. There is a promise for present life up to eternal one in a ministry.

2. Life who receives the true teaching Word or the Word that is sharper than any two-edged sword, so we experience sanctification and life renewal to become spiritual man as Jesus.

James 1:18

1:18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

The beginning of new man is being obedient. Jesus is obedient until He dies on the cross.

Numbers 3:13

3:13 because all the firstborn are Mine. On the day that I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to Myself all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast. They shall be Mine: I am the Lord.

If there are these two signs, our life will become the possession of God Himself. We cannot be disturbed by anything else. The hands of God are able to help us, and to sanctify and wash us. His hands will lift us up on the glorious clouds on His second coming, and we belong to God forever.

GENERAL SERVICE

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

Revelation 1:2

1:2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

In the book of Revelation, John the apostle saw the Kingdom of Heaven and the glory of God. He also bore witness about everything that he saw.

Actually, there are two people who see the kingdom of Heaven and the glory of God as follows.

1. Moses.

Moses sees the glory of God from the back, so he can write five books of the beginning of the Bible, that is Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. Especially the book of Genesis writes about all things that happen in the past, far before the birth of Moses. It contains the creation of the heaven, earth, and all its content precisely. In this world, there is none who can write the creation of the world precisely.

2. John the apostle.

John the apostle sees the countenance of God, meaning seeing the glory of God from the front, so he can write five last books of the Bible, that is the gospel of John, first, second, and third epistle of John, and the book of Revelation. Especially the book of Revelation that reveals all things that happen in the future, far after the life of John. It contains especially about Jesus' second coming on the glorious clouds and about the destruction.

Last week we have discussed about the glory of God, now we will discuss about the Kingdom of Heaven.

1. Moses.

Exodus 25:8-9

25:8 And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.

25:9 According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.

God commands Moses to make the tabernacle as the pattern of the Kingdom of Heaven that he has seen, as the dwelling place for God among His nation.

2. John the apostle.

Revelation 4:1-2

4:1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."
4:2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.

Revelation 22:3-4

22:3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.
22:4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.

In Patmos Island, John the apostle sees the Kingdom of Heaven that shows two lives as follows.

- The glorious One who reigns in glory.
- His servants, or priests and kings, or His bride in glory who serve Him.
If we minister in this world, it is an adaptation for living in the Heaven.

How about the church of God? We can see the Kingdom of Heaven through the revelation of the Word of God, so we can enter the building of the perfect body of Christ or the Bride of God through the pattern of the tabernacle.

The building of the body of Christ is started from within marriage, shepherding, between shepherding, up to the perfect body of Christ.

1 Peter 2:5

2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Who is worthy to serve the building of the body of Christ? Who is worthy to enter the Kingdom of Heaven? Only priests and kings who are worthy.

Priest is the one who is holy and holds the ministry and gifts of Holy Spirit.

The servant of God equals to living stone, meaning we live from the mercy of God so we can live wherever, under any situation and condition, until eternal life forever.

The ministry of building the body of Christ equals to a fellowship. But there is true fellowship and wrong one.

Isaiah 30:1-2

30:1 "Woe to the rebellious children," says the Lord, "who take counsel, but not of Me, and who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, that they may add sin to sin;

30:2 Who walk to go down to Egypt, and have not asked My advice, to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt!"

A wrong fellowship of the body of Christ only depends on physical matters. This kind of fellowship will only add sins and lead to Babylon, that is the peak of evil and uncleanness.

The signs of a true fellowship of the body of Christ are as follows.

1. Depending on the true teaching Word, as a branch abides on the true vine. The true vine is Jesus as the Head.
The true teaching Word is revealed by God through a verse explains the other verses in the Bible.

Gospel Word is to save sinful men so they believe Jesus and are saved. But afterwards, it must be continued with the teaching Word that sanctifies our life.

Hebrews 4:12

4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The true teaching Word is the Word that is sharper than any two-edged sword. It sanctifies our heart and mind that is the store of sins. If our heart and mind are sanctified, our deeds and words will also be sanctified until we do not stumble in word or until we are perfect.

James 3:2

3:2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

Only holy lives who are allowed to minister God, not smart or foolish man, not rich or poor man.

2. Having the attitude of lowliness, gentleness, and longsuffering.

Ephesians 4:2

4:2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

- Lowliness is the ability to confess our sin to God and the others. If we are forgiven, we must not do it again.
- Gentleness is the ability to forgive the others' sin and forget it. If we can confess and forgive one another, there will be peace in marriage, shepherding, *et cetera*. Everything will be easy and light and we can unite with the others.
- Longsuffering is being willing to suffer to help the others. When we are in problems and we have not been helped yet, we must be patient in waiting God's time.

If there is lowliness, gentleness, and longsuffering, there will be love so we can help one another and unite with the others.

3. Although we have many differences, but there must be seven unities.

Ephesians 4:3-6

4:3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4:4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

4:5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

4:6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

It is started with one body that equals to one Head, that is Jesus. Jesus is the Word. Thus, one Head means one true teaching Word.

John 1:1,14

1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

If there is one body, there will be other unities. If there are seven unities, we will achieve the unity of the perfect body of Christ.

Joseph can unite with his brothers because there is grain, that is the true teaching Word.

4. Ministering according to the ministry and gifts of Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:11-12

4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

The gifts of Holy Spirit is miraculous ability from God so we can serve Him according to the ministry.

Jeremiah 48:10

48:10 Cursed is he who does the work of the Lord deceitfully, and cursed is he who keeps back his sword from blood.

The attitude to the ministry and gifts of Holy Spirit is not being neglectful and leaving the ministry. If we are neglectful and leave the ministry, we will be cursed and destroyed forever.

2 Timothy 1:6

1:6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

The right attitude to the ministry and gifts of Holy Spirit is being faithful and fervent in Spirit.

Thus, we minister the building of the body of Christ with holiness, faithfulness, and fervency in Spirit.

Hebrews 1:7

1:7 And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire."

Daniel 7:9

7:9 "I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire;

The servant of God who is holy, faithful, and fervent in Spirit is as a flame of fire.

The throne of God is as a flame of fire.

Thus, the servant of God who is holy, faithful, and fervent in Spirit equals to the throne of God in this world.

Ministering without holiness, faithfulness, and fervency in Spirit means being the throne of Satan. Be careful because miracle also happens in the throne of Satan.

Revelation 4:3

4:3 And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

If there is the throne of God, there will be a rainbow, that is a strong anointing of Holy Spirit.

The usefulness of the rainbow is as follows.

1. The rainbow of salvation. Thus, there is no more judgment of God. There is only salvation as experienced by Noah.

Genesis 9:15-16

9:15 and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

9:16 The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

2. The rainbow of holiness. It means our heart and mind are sanctified so we will not be deceived by false teaching and gossips.

Revelation 10:1

10:1 I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.

2 Corinthians 11:3

11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Heart and mind are sanctified so we will not fall in sins concerning eating-drinking (smoking, getting drunk, consuming drugs) and marrying-being given in marriage (sexuality sin with all its varieties through thought, feeling, and deed).

3. The rainbow of the glory of God. It is to face dark cloud and desolate valley.

Revelation 4:3

4:3 And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

John 11:3-6

11:3 Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

11:4 When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

11:5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

11:6 So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.

The family of Bethany loves God and is loved by Him. But God lets them face thick cloud and desolate valley. God lets them face impossible problem. When facing that condition, the right attitude is falling down.

John 11:32

11:32 Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

Falling down means confessing that we are unworthy and powerless. We only believe and fully surrender our life to Him. We only depend on the rainbow of the glory of God.

John 11:39-40

11:39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days."

11:40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

Spiritually, the glory of God is life renewal. Hard and doubtful heart or heart that is filled with rottenness as the gravestone is renewed to become a gentle and believing heart. If spiritual miracle happens, the physical one will also happen. Until when Jesus comes a second time, we will be renewed as glorious as Him. We will sit on His throne and there is a rainbow there.

God blesses us.