

General Service in Malang, November 27, 2016 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 4:8a

4:8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within., ...

Each of the four living creatures has six wings. It refers to the three sets of wings or the covering of God's wings as follows:

1. The covering of the two wings of a hen = the lovingkindness of God.
2. The covering of the two wings of a dove.
3. The covering of the two wings of an eagle.

ad. 3. The covering of the two wings of an eagle.

Revelation 12:14

12:14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent..

The covering of the two wings of a great eagle refers to the great mercy of God that protects us from the biggest temptation in the world, meaning the antichrist who tortures and kills the followers of Jesus. Wealth, cleverness, and position can no longer help because all of them have been controlled by the antichrist. Only the two wings of a great eagle can protect us from the antichrist.

The process of having the two wings of a great eagle is as follow:

1. We must receive the great grace or mercy of God through water baptism.

Genesis 6:8

6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

Noah found the great grace of God for entering the ark with his family.

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,

Nowadays, we and our family receive the great grace of God for entering the true water baptism.

Romans 6:2,4

6:2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

The true water baptism means that one who has repented must be buried in water together with Jesus for being raised in newness of life, namely the heavenly life. It means living in righteousness and having a good conscience that is obedient to God. And the results are as follows:

- The Salvation of the bride. Eight persons who entered the ark refers to four couples of husband and wife.
- Ministering to God in contentment. We find a heavenly contentment.

1 Timothy 6:6

6:6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

A great gain means receiving the two wings of a great eagle.

In order to experience the contentment in ministry, we must first please God in ministry.

Luke 17:7-8

17:7 And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'?

17:8 But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'?

And the requirement is that we must minister with the belt of our waist.

Isaiah 11:5

11:5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist.

It means to minister faithfully in righteousness until the end line, namely we pass away or Jesus comes the second time. It is the same as pleasing God, and we also experience the heavenly contentment. The matter of eating-drinking in our life becomes God's.

2. We must have the light of the sun, the moon, and the stars.

Revelation 12:1,14

12:1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.

12:14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

It means as follows:

- Living in increasing sanctity up to the perfection like Jesus.
- Living in gradual or increasing light, starting from being the light in marriage, in front of people, until being the light of the world.

Where do we experience the increasing sanctity and light? We experience it in the Holy Place, referring to the shepherding pen that is brought up by the true Teaching Word.

In the Holy Place, there are three kinds of equipment referring to perseverance in three main services as follows:

- Golden Candlestick refers to perseverance in General Service. We have fellowship with Holy Spirit God in His gifts. We experience an increasing sanctification by the Holy Spirit. His gifts will increase up to perfection and become a crown of twelve stars.
- Table of Showbread refers to perseverance in Bible Study Service with Holy Communion. We have fellowship with the Son of God in the teaching Word and the sacrifice of Christ. We experience a double sanctification by the True Teaching Word and Christ' sacrifice which is increasing so that the redemption by the blood of Jesus will also increase until the perfection and become the moon under the feet.
- Golden Altar of Incense refers to perseverance in Prayer Service. We have fellowship with Father God in His love. We experience an increasing sanctification by the love of God up to perfection. The perfect love becomes the clothes of the sun.

In the shepherding pen, we experience the increasing sanctity and light up to become the sun, the moon, and the stars. Thus, we receive the two wings of a great eagle which grow bigger.

3. We must experience the trials or the sprinkling of blood.

Deuteronomy 32:11

32:11 As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young, Spreading out its wings, taking them up, Carrying them on its wings,

It means a flesh suffering together with Jesus and without any sin. It is a practice for growing up our wings.

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.

If God lets us face a fiery trial, the Holy Spirit or the Spirit of Glory will rest upon us. The functions of the Spirit of glory are as follows:

- To give us extra strength in facing trials. We are not disappointed or desperate and do not leave God, but we stand

strong in trials.

- To renew us from fleshy men to the spiritual ones like Jesus. We receive the eternal glory forever when Jesus comes the second time.
The proof is to be happy in suffering.

1 Peter 4:15-16

*4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.
4:16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.*

An evildoer is renewed to do rightful and good deeds.

A murderer is renewed to love each other.

A thief is renewed to be a giver.

A troublemaker is renewed to be a peacemaker.

The more we are renewed, the bigger wings we have. We are renewed to be as perfect as Him and have the two wings of a great eagle which spread out to the maximum when Jesus comes the second time.

The functions of two wings of an eagle are as follows:

1. The power and the great mercy of God bring us closer to Him.

Exodus 19:4

19:4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.

The proof is to be still and in peace.

Mark 4:37-39

4:37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.

4:38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

4:39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

These are two wings of a great eagle to face windstorms and waves in the world.

Being still refers to being silent, meaning to correct ourselves according the sharpness of the sword of the Word. If it shows our sin, we must confess. And if we are forgiven, we do not sin anymore.

Being in peace refers to being steadfast in shepherding, meaning to control ourselves so that we do not hope in any men, but God only. Thus, we can pray.

1 Peter 4:7

4:7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

2. The two wings of an eagle refer to the power and the great mercy of God to fly us into the wilderness far from the presence of the antichrist.

Revelation 12:14

12:14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

We will be nourished directly by God through the True Teaching Word and Holy Communion.

Nowadays, the perseverance in Bible Study Service with Holy Communion is a practice for us to fly into the wilderness.

3. The power and the great mercy of God lift us up to the glorious clouds when Jesus comes the second time.

Isaiah 40:29-31

40:29 He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength.

40:30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall,

40:31 But those who wait on the Lord, Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

Meaning to renew us from fleshy man to the spiritual one who is strong and of good courage. We are steadfast and faithful to the True Teaching Word. We are not disappointed or hopeless, but always believe and hope to God in facing any problems. We do not stumble and fall, but always live in righteousness and sanctity. We are not weary and burdened, but

always faithful and fervent in spirit to minister God. When Jesus comes the second time, we are renewed to be as perfect as Him and have the two wings of a great eagle which spread out to the maximum to be lifted up to the Heavenly throne as the four living creatures.

God blesses us.