

The Four Lepers

We will begin by reading from the Bible. Please open to 2 Kings chapter 7, verse 1.

Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the LORD, To morrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria. Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof. And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die? If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we

shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die. And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, there was no man there. For the LORD had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us. Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their asses, even the camp as it was, and fled for their life. And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid it; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried thence also, and went and hid it. Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household. (2 Kings 7:1-9)

How are you, dear citizens and beloved Christians of Busan? As soon as I arrived in Busan, I heard a song that goes, “Where the seagulls fly, where the camellias blossom, my hometown, Busan...” I’m very excited to be here. I’ve preached in front of thousands of people and I’ve also preached on the radio, but I’ve never felt quite the way I do now. For some reason, my heart is pounding, like a person in love for the very first time.

Folks, I'd like to tell you about how through this conference your sins can be washed clean. That which you've heard so much about; *Happy day! Happy day! When Jesus washed my sins away! Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow.* I would like to talk to you this week about this important matter, and exactly how it can happen to you. It is important that you listen with an open heart.

How, then, are you supposed to open your heart? A long time ago, I led a conference at Yeachun Airforce Base. I had preached the gospel to the airmen at that base. One evening there was a reception. I was sitting down, having some refreshments, when a pilot's wife asked me, "Pastor, how do you open the door of your heart?" Ever since she asked me that question, it has been harder for me to say, "Open the door of your hearts." Most people know that, "If you believe in Jesus, you'll be born again. You'll receive forgiveness of sin," but they are unsure about it because they do not know how to go about it. I had been going to church for a long time, but I didn't know what I had to do to cleanse my sins. I thought all I had to do was repent and confess my sins. By doing that, I thought they would be washed clean, but that didn't happen. My heavy sins still suppressed my heart. I had no idea what to do. I know it is not easy and that is why I don't want to say anything this week that will burden you.

In fact, this week, I want to have a conversation with you. There are a lot of you and only one of me, so we won't be able to have individual conversations. I hope that you'll ask me the questions that are in your heart. I will be asking you questions from time to time, as I speak to you. It would be great if you could answer me out loud, but it'd become too noisy and dis-

orderly, so please answer me quietly, in your heart. I cannot hear the voice in your heart, but I think I will know your response, just by looking at your faces.

I think it'll be difficult to have a heart to heart conversation with God tonight. Can we hear the voice of God? So, please just open your hearts. Let's begin by having a conversation. Come forth with all the questions you have. All the frustrations in your heart that you've had during your spiritual life, all the things you don't know about, how to wash your sins away, how to become born again, and how you resolve the problems in your heart. Who doesn't know that praying is good for you? Who doesn't know that reading the Bible is good for you? Who sins because they don't know that sinning is bad? Nobody, but we cannot control ourselves the way we would like to.

For years, I've gone into prisons to preach the gospel. I never once told the men in prison not to sin because no one commits sins because he doesn't know that committing a sin is bad. I wanted to have them understand how to conquer sin through the Bible.

Loving folks, I'm not asking for any sort of a determination from you here this evening. I am not asking you for a commitment. If you simply open your heart tonight, and if the Word of God comes in, if Jesus Christ takes dominion in your heart, you will no longer have to fight against sin. There will be no need for you to have to try to quit drinking and smoking. There will be no need for you to have to try not to steal and live a riotous life. Jesus Christ, who is in your heart, will help you overcome the sinfulness of your heart. He will free you from your lustful, filthy thoughts, from your loathing of others and

from hatred. That is why I have come here this evening, to introduce Jesus Christ to you.

People know and call out the name of Jesus Christ, but there are many whose heart is far from Jesus. Jesus Christ is close to you this evening. No, He is right there at the door to your heart. Perhaps He is right there with His love for you, telling you to open the door to your heart. When you hear the Word, and if you receive these words into your heart, saying “Amen,” I believe that Jesus Christ will work through those words.

Let me tell you a story. In Spain, there was a certain captain of a ship. This captain sailed from harbor to harbor and would come home only about once a month, or maybe once every three, or perhaps every six months. He had a son whom he loved very much. Whenever he returned from a voyage, he would hug his son, kiss him and give him presents. And when it was time for him to set sail again, the captain would be so sad that he had to leave his son. He would leave, telling his son, “Just wait a while, I’ll be back soon. Take care and be good to your mom.” Soon, it became time for him to set sail again, after having returned home and having spent some time with his son. This time, however, the son did not want to let his father go. So the father promised to take his son with him on his next trip out to sea.

Several months passed and the captain returned home. The son was so happy, he didn’t know what to do because he was now finally allowed to go with his father. The father could not disappoint his son’s expectation and decided to take his son along. By then, the son was around 15 years old. The captain’s wife was worried, but he comforted her saying, “Don’t worry. It’s okay. We’re not going far this time, so I’ll take him along.”

The night before going on the trip, the son was so filled with excitement and anticipation about sailing with his father that he could not sleep.

The father said to his son, “If we go out to sea, it’s really lonely. All you see out there is the ocean and the sky. So bring all the toys you want to play with.” The child brought drawing books and toys, and he also brought his pet monkey, which he played with like a friend. The ship blew its horn and set sail.

While the child was busy watching the waves and the seagulls, the ship was soon out to sea and there were no more seagulls to be seen. Just the lonely sky and the sea. The captain and the sailors were busy and the child was playing in the cabin with his monkey. One day, the monkey stole the child’s hat and ran away. The child chased after the monkey to get his hat back. The monkey ran to the cabin and on to the deck, running all over the place. Finally, the monkey climbed up the mast. The boy thought, “Now I’ve got you!” and hurried up the mast after him. He would climb up a little, then the monkey would climb up a little more, he would climb a little more, and the monkey would go up a little higher. The child didn’t realize how high he was climbing. He simply followed the monkey, looking up.

Now, the monkey sat on the top of the mast. The boy climbed after the monkey, saying, “Ha ha! You have nowhere to go,” when immediately the monkey jumped off. Only after the monkey jumped down did the child look down from the top of the mast he had unknowingly climbed. When he looked down, everything was distant. The people looked like little ants. As soon as he saw that, he began to lose strength in his hands and began to panic. He was too scared to climb down

from the mast. His legs grew weaker and weaker... Right then, a sailor who was working on deck looked up and saw him.

“Oh! That’s the Captain’s son! Oh, no! Oh, no! What are we going to do?”

Now, who can bring the child down from the top of the mast? A commotion arose among the sailors. The child was losing his strength. If he let go of the mast, he would fall and die, so he held on tightly, barely clinging to it. One sailor said, “Captain! We have a problem! A serious problem!”

“Yes? What’s wrong?”

“Come out! Come out, quickly! It’s a big problem!” When he came out, his son was trembling on the mast, saying, “Father...”

“What happened?”

Upon hearing from a sailor the details of what had happened, the father closed his eyes for a second to think. Then, all of a sudden, he pulled out the gun he had on his side. Everyone became nervous. People were thinking, “What’s the use of shooting and killing the monkey now?” Holding his pistol, the father looked up at his son and said, “Son! Can you hear me?”

“Yes, Father!”

“Jump into the sea or I’ll shoot you! I will count to five! Then I’ll shoot!” The son knew that his father was a man of his word. He thought, “If I’m gonna get shot and die anyway, I’d rather jump into the sea.” Although it was frightening to let go of the mast, the son got ready to jump off.

“One!” He held onto the mast and put his foot down.

“Two!”

“Three!” At the count, he let go and at the same time, kicked

off from the mast as hard as he could, jumping into the sea. The sailors watched and pulled him out of the sea.

Loving folks, I am not trying to disturb your hearts tonight. I hope that you will have an opportunity to sincerely, for once, think about your spiritual lives. To live good spiritual lives, people fast, pray all night and make New Year's resolutions at the beginning of each year. Yet, spiritual life remains extremely difficult. Ask a taxi driver, "Sir, do you believe in Jesus?"

"Don't talk to me about those things. I'm busy enough, just trying to make a living."

Speak to a police officer, "Sir, do you believe in Jesus?"

"I'm so busy, I don't have time to go to church."

Ask a doctor, "Do you believe in Jesus?" He answers, "I don't know why I went to medical school. On such a nice, clear spring day as this, everyone else goes out to enjoy the weather, while I'm stuck here surrounded by these frowning patients. I want to believe in Jesus, but for me it just doesn't work."

Ask a soldier, "Do you believe in Jesus?"

"I'm too busy with my duties. I can't."

Ask a salesman, "Do you believe in Jesus?"

"Oh, I have to run my business, make money to educate my children and marry them off. Later I'll believe in Jesus. Pastor, you may not know this, but if you want to do business, you have to lie. If you say you got something for one dollar, you cannot sell it for a dollar. Even though it cost only one dollar, you have to say you got it for two. Then they'll buy it for a dollar. I have to lie. Then they'll buy it. So how am I supposed to believe in Jesus like this? I'll believe in Jesus, after I've finished with my business."

"Because I can't quit drinking."

“Because I can’t quit smoking.” Because of one excuse or another, most people think they cannot believe in Jesus.

One time, I spoke to a military unit in the front lines. I had a conversation with the soldiers. I said, “Raise your hands, if you think believing in Jesus is difficult.” Most of the soldiers raised their hands. Then I said, “The battalion commander is here next to me. Major Park, please stand up. Everyone, this is, Major Park, your battalion commander, right? Raise your hands, if it is difficult for you to believe that he is your battalion commander.” No one raised his hand.

“It’s easy to believe he is the battalion commander, but why is it so difficult to believe in Jesus? Is Jesus not as good as the battalion commander?” Because we are not familiar with the concept of believing in Jesus, believing in Jesus becomes difficult.

I am so happy that I can believe and trust in my wife. I do not trust in my wife because she is pretty or good-hearted. I’m so happy that I can believe in my loving children. If I doubted my children, I would suffer so much that I couldn’t bear it. Believing in Jesus is easy and peaceful.

Jesus said,

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

They believe in Jesus, but they do not have peace in their hearts. Jesus clearly said, “I will give you rest,” but although you believe, you have no rest. “Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing.” If you are always worried and stressed, although you believe in Jesus, shouldn’t you think about this? I am saying

that you should take an opportunity to reconsider your spiritual lives. I ask this question from time to time.

“If you pray according to the words of the Bible, if you tithe, if you attend Sunday services, do not sin within the faith and believe in the Lord, then you will go to heaven, right?”

“Sure, everybody knows that.”

But is that really possible for us? Raise your hand, if there’s anyone among you who obeys every law. Raise your hand, if you have never skipped a Sunday service. Raise your hand, if you’ve never hated anyone. Raise your hand, if you’ve never once thought about committing adultery. Folks, we are people who cannot reach the level of God. We are like the child on top of the mast, struggling and holding on for dear life, only to fall off in a little while. God is opening a new pathway of the gospel to us. That pathway is hidden deep within the Bible.

Equally as much as you want to have a true spiritual life, Jesus, tonight, and God, tonight, and the Holy Spirit, tonight, sincerely want to speak to your heart. The way of God, which is different from your thoughts, is hidden within the Bible. If you come to discover this secret hidden in the Bible, it’s so easy to have your sins washed clean. It’s hard for you to wash away your own sins, but it’s easy to come out to God and have Him wash them away. It’s difficult for us to defeat sin, but defeating sin through Jesus is so easy. I will speak to you about this in detail.

Let’s continue by reading from 2 Kings, chapter 7. From verse one.

Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the LORD, To morrow about this time shall a measure of

fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria. (2 Kings 7:1)

A long time ago, in the Old Testament, Syria attacked Israel. Just as in China where they built the Great Wall, Israel surrounded the city of Samaria with walls. When the Israelites thought they would lose to the Syrians, they closed all their city gates. They didn't have any missiles or artillery like today. Thus when the city gates were closed, there was no way to enter. Syrian soldiers surrounded the city and were waiting for the Israelite soldiers to become exhausted and surrender.

Because the walls went around the city and not around the farmland, the Israelites could not go out to farm. And so, after one year, they had a famine. After two years had passed and going into the third year, there was mass starvation. How severe was the famine? There are horrific stories in the Bible of young mothers who boiled and ate their own children because of the unbearable hunger. One woman talked with her neighbor, saying, "Let's boil and eat my child today, and tomorrow we will eat yours," because she felt she would not be able to finish one child by herself. So they ate her child, and when the woman went to her neighbor's house to eat the neighbor's child the next day, the other woman hid her child to eat it by herself. Samaria was in this kind of an extreme situation.

Then one day, the prophet of God, Elisha, said,

To morrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria. (2 Kings 7:1)

That meant the food prices in the city would be greatly

reduced. A long time ago, when there were famines in our country, they would say, “If you give me one bowl of red bean porridge, I’ll give you all my farmland,” or “If you give me a bowl of white porridge, I’ll give you all my farmland,” because people were starving. I think it was as bad as it was at that time. It was heard in the city of Samaria, which was in an atrocious famine, that a measure of fine flour would be sold for a shekel. When the man on whose hand the king leaned heard this, he could not believe it and said,

Behold, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? (2 Kings 7:2)

Then the man of God said,

Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof. (2 Kings 7:2)

At the time, lepers, banished from the city were living outside the city walls. Previously, they had families to bring them food, meat and clothes each morning. But now, even the families inside the city were starving, and the lepers, too, began to die of starvation. They were all dying, in that pitiful situation and only four of them remained. The lepers discussed amongst themselves.

“Look, my loving friend, so and so has already died. My nephew has died of starvation. So who’s going to die next? You and I, we will die soon. How can we just sit here like this, waiting to die?”

“They are starving even in the city. Who can give us food?”

“That’s right. If we stay here like this, we will starve. I say, we might as well go and surrender to the Syrians. If we surrender and they kill us, we die, and if they let us live, we live. It’s do or die, so let’s go.”

The four lepers set out for the Syrian camp. With their lacerated legs, with their fingers falling off, with their disfigured bodies, these lepers began to walk toward the Syrian camp, step by step, in the twilight. I think God made great sound effects for this miserable march. The sounds of the lepers tripping and falling down were made into sounds of winds, chariots and the galloping of soldiers on horseback. To the Syrians, it sounded like the approach of a great army. The Syrian soldiers thought that the Israelites had hired soldiers from another country. The Syrians were in such a rush to run away, they didn’t even have time to jump on their horses or donkeys. They just ran away.

When the lepers arrived, the Syrian camp was completely empty. Things to eat, things to wear and treasure was scattered everywhere. They were in severe starvation, on the brink of death. How do you think they felt when, all of a sudden, they saw all that food?

Some people always listen to the Word, but their spirits do not revive. This story tells us the spiritual secret of how God supplies us with living, new, abundant food of life. We need to eat spiritual food and be strengthened, but for some reason, we are not strengthened, even though we are eating. Our spiritual lives continue to be diseased, die and wither away. The Bible clearly expresses these spiritual conditions of the heart. God wrote these words to teach us how to survive these conditions.

I grew up near the banks of the Nakdong River, in North

Kyongsang Province. My father had a big peanut farm, so in the fall, at my house we ate a lot of peanuts. We would fry the peanuts, boil the peanuts, eat them fresh, or make peanut rice. Sometimes I would go to school with my lunchbox full of peanuts. I had a lot of friends because of the peanuts. They were so delicious. If you pick peanuts and eat them right away, they're not so good. You have to peel them. If you peel the shell and eat the nut inside, that's the good part. Not only peanuts, but ginkgo nuts and walnuts as well. Folks, I'm sure you have picked and eaten walnuts. Walnuts have a terrible stench, when you first pick them, but when you crack them open with a hammer and eat the nut inside, it's really tasty.

Kids get long sticks and stand under chestnut trees in the fall to pick the chestnuts. If the chestnut clusters fall, they prick the children's heads and hands. But, why do the children continue to do it? It is because they've tasted the delicious nut inside the shell. The nut inside is delicious, but the shell is completely covered with burrs. What would happen if you unknowingly chewed on the burr-covered shell? You wouldn't be able to eat for the rest of the day.

All of you know chestnuts are very good, but it is the nut that is good, not the shell. The Word of God is like that. The Word of God, too, has an inside nut and an outside shell. If you don't taste the nut and if you just continually chew on the shell, you say, "They say the Word is good, but how come I'm getting so sleepy?"

My wife goes to sleep whenever she gets in a car. We might even have to make our car seat into a bed. From time to time, we travel long distances. After we're on the road for about 5 kilometers, my wife is sound asleep. Long ago, when I would

read the Bible, I used to fall asleep all the time. People say, “The more Bibles are sold the fewer sleeping pills pharmacies sell.” Usually, I would be wide-awake, but as soon as I opened the Bible, I would fall asleep. After reading for a while, I couldn’t tell whether I was reading in Greek or Hebrew. You laugh, but I’m sure there are a lot of people like that. I may not know all of you, but isn’t this true? Why do you get sleepy, when you read the Bible? The Bible is a love letter from God. It shows His love. People become sleepy because they do not know the “nut” of the spiritual, but only the shell. Because you don’t know the spiritual meaning, you get sleepy and you believe with the Bible closed. People say, “Believing without knowing is blissful,” but let’s not believe with the Word closed. Let’s open it up and believe.

Pastor Byung Seok Woo, of South Busan Church, invited me here and I’d like to thank him. Suppose I were to go to Seoul, after this conference was over. From Seoul, I write Pastor Woo a letter:

“Dear Pastor Woo, thank you for providing all the accommodations during our conference. Is everything peaceful at your church? How are your church members doing? Is your family doing well? We are doing fine. The fall winds are blowing in Seoul right now. The cosmos flowers are blooming, and the blue sky is beautiful. We are reading the Bible. October 30th is my wife’s birthday. Please come and we will have a wonderful dinner together. I hope you can make it.” I write the letter and Pastor Woo receives it. His wife, next to him, says, “Who’s the letter from?”

“Oh, it’s from Pastor Park, in Seoul.”

“What does he say?”

“He says, in Seoul, the cosmos flowers are blooming.” Is that what the letter is about? Is that right? Then, the church members ask: “What does he say?”

“Oh, he says that the fall winds are blowing gently in Seoul.”

That too is not what the letter says. Of course, that’s included, but the fall winds blowing and the cosmos flowers and the blue skies.... These are not the “nut” I’m trying to deliver. What is the “nut” in the letter? It is the invitation to come to my house on October 30th. Even if you memorize the letter, if you don’t know its point, you don’t know the letter.

If you don’t know the content of what God is trying to tell you, it’s exactly the same as not knowing the Bible at all, even though you may have memorized it word-for-word and mastered all doctrines of the Old and New Testaments and structural theology. The Bible is composed of stories, but it records His confession of love for us.

Suppose I went to your house one day. I had been traveling for many days, and I was very tired and hungry. Just then, you were digging up potatoes. I wanted to have some potatoes, but I couldn’t bring myself to say, “Give me some potatoes.” So I just said, “Wow, your potato crop did well.”

“Oh, really Pastor? Yes, it did do well.”

“I think it’d be so nice if we could boil some potatoes and eat them.”

“Yes, that would be nice.”

“You know, when I was young I used to really like potatoes.”

“Oh, really? Me too! Our potatoes are really great, aren’t they? Why don’t you go inside and rest, and I’ll take care of this?”

This person does not know my heart. Even though I don’t

directly say “Boil and give me some potatoes,” when I say, “Wow, it would be so tasty to boil and eat these potatoes. I really like potatoes. They look really good,” then shouldn’t he get the picture? Don’t you think so? Even though I’m not saying, “Please boil and give me some potatoes,” am I not delivering the thought of wanting to have some boiled potatoes?

A young man in love for the first time was too shy to say, “I love you,” to a girl. It’s so embarrassing for him to say it, so he just hangs around her timidly. She should get the picture, should she not? When God wants to show His love for us because we cannot understand the great, broad will of God, He speaks to us through our circumstances. It should be easy for us to understand. If we do not discover what God is trying to tell us in the Word, we do not know the will of God, no matter how much we memorize the Bible. Tell me, why did God record these words? It is important to discover what God is trying to tell us.

What is God trying to tell us through the verses we read tonight? It is the process of the gospel being spread to the people of Israel, surrounded by Syrians in the city of Samaria, who could only die, if left alone. Suppose this is not the Israelites’ problem, but your problem. Is there a person here, who could only die tonight? On the outside, you are healthy, young and smart. Your business is doing well, you’re well educated, and you’re doing great. But is there anybody who cannot stand before God because of sin? You go to church, you read the Bible, and you pray, but is there anyone here who is suffering because of the unresolved sins in your heart? That person is the person who could do nothing but die.

No matter how much you go to church, tithe, attend Sunday

Services and do good things, you cannot go to heaven with sin. God created this world. He created the heavens and the earth. He created the beautiful Garden of Eden, but once sin came in, this world became corrupt and fell into sin. God will not tolerate sin in the newly created heaven.

When I came to Busan today, I came on an airplane. When I arrived at the airport, the police asked for my cooperation for an inspection.

“Please open your bag.” I opened the bag, and they saw the Bible and said, “Please, go ahead.” When I went in the gate, they inspected me again.

“What’s in your bag?”

“I have some books.”

“Go ahead.” When I was getting on the airplane, they inspected me again. Folks, why would they do that, if we were all good people? Why do they have to labor and toil like this? A little while ago, somebody did something very bad at Kimpo Airport. They don’t know who might have done such a thing. That’s why they must carry out extensive inspections, and we have no choice but to cooperate. Just as they inspect you when you board an airplane at Kimpo Airport, there is an inspection point in heaven. It’s not a gate where they search people for hand grenades or bombs. It’s a gate where they seize people with sin. When a sinner tries to pass through, the alarm goes off.

“Beep! Beep! Beep!”

“You may not enter.”

“God, I tithed.”

“Still, you may not enter.”

“Oh, God, I helped many poor people.”

“No!”

“I prayed for a hundred days.”

“I told you, no!”

“But I’ve done a lot of volunteer work.”

“Well, still no!”

Bribes don’t work there, and who you are doesn’t matter. Your greatness, your intelligence, your good family name, none of these things matter. You will not be able to pass, if you have sin.

Some people are deceived. “Because I believe in Jesus, even though I may have sinned a little, they will let me in. God’s a God of love, you know. I believe in Jesus, so zealously. He’s not going to keep me out, just because I have some sin. He wouldn’t do that.”

Please do not misunderstand. God is a fair God. He cannot let in some sinners and leave other sinners out. To get over the problem, God simply does not allow in any sinner. That is why He sent His Son to wash our sins clean.

While ministering at my church, I sincerely ask everyone who comes to the church. In the past, I was also a person who struggled with sin. The reason I often go to prisons to preach the gospel is because, if it weren’t for Jesus, I could easily be one of them. When I am with them, I always say, “I’m not here before you because I’m a better person than you. I do not think I am before you because I’ve sinned less than you. I too was an evil and filthy person. And I have many evil, filthy thoughts in my heart, even now. The reason I am standing here before you this evening is because of One person, Jesus.”

At one point in my life, I fell deep into sin. I gritted my teeth, trying not to sin. I was very determined, but it didn’t

work. On the outside, I was a member of the youth group, a member of the choir and a Sunday School teacher. I went to many pastors and asked about the sins in my heart that no one knew about.

“Pastor, how can I have my sins washed clean?”

“Repent,” was the answer. So I repented, but my sin was not resolved. In 1 John, chapter 1, verse 9 it says,

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I didn’t understand what this meant. I thought that if I confessed, one by one, all the sins I had committed, I thought my sins would be washed clean. Then, later on, I saw that it was not so.

It says, “If we confess,” right? Then, what is sin? Stealing, lying, murdering, committing adultery, is that what sin is? No. That is not sin. What is sin? Folks, what is leprosy? If your fingers fall off, if your eyebrows fall out, and if your nose collapses, is that leprosy? No. These are only the symptoms and effects of leprosy. They are not leprosy itself. They are the effects of leprosy. What is typhoid? Is it fever and your hair falling out? No, that is not typhoid. That is what happens when you have the typhoid virus in your body.

Likewise, sin and crime are different by nature. When you catch a cold, you cough and you have a runny nose. The runny nose and the coughing are not the cold, but rather they are symptoms of the cold. Sin and symptoms of sin are different. Lying, stealing, hating others, murdering and committing adultery are symptoms of sin. These symptoms arise when you

have sin. Folks, are those people who do not steal or commit adultery, are they sinless? No, they are sinners too. Those people have sins; it's just that no one has seen the symptoms.

Sin is compared to leprosy in many places in the Bible. They say, "You can have leprosy for 3 years without yourself knowing it. It takes 3 years for you to know it and another 3 years for others to know it." One day, if symptoms of leprosy appear on someone's body, then has that person become a leper? No. He was already a leper, only now it has been revealed. Even before it was revealed, however, he was already a leper. Likewise, even though you may not steal nor commit murder, even though you may not commit adultery nor hate others, the Bible says that you are a sinner. One person said, "Pastor, stop saying sinner, sinner so much. Don't be like that." Some of you may say that.

A person called me one night.

"Pastor, I would like to meet you."

"Sure, come over." I told him where I lived and he came over. Then he said to me, "Pastor I've just been released from prison. This was my ninth time. That's the kind of person I am, so Pastor, give me some money." He was subtly threatening me and asking me for money. I asked him, "Do you know who I am?"

"Aren't you a pastor?"

"What does a pastor do? Does he give out money? Does he give out food?"

"No."

"A pastor is a person who gives food for your soul. Please, sit down. Of course it's important that I give you money, but food for your spirit is much more important. A pastor is a person

who gives you the food of life. Please sit down and listen.” And I began to talk about the gospel.

“Pastor I know all of that already. Stop saying sinner, sinner.”

“Well, I don’t want to say that you’re a sinner, but you have to become freed from sin.”

All people are tied to sin. Stealing and lying and committing adultery and murdering are not the problem. The characteristic, which leads you to steal, is the problem. That little pleasure you feel when you hear words of hate for other people. That excitement you feel when you hear of other people’s shortcomings. That jealous heart you feel when your cousin buys some land. Don’t you have these feelings? If you have them, it means you have the disease of sin.

Your eyebrows fall off and your fingers fall off, if you have leprosy. Your hair falls out and you get a fever, when you have typhoid. Likewise, people who have the disease of sin end up hating others, committing murder, committing adultery and stealing. Would it be okay to reduce the fever and not treat the disease, when you have typhoid? If a leper patient were to just bandage his fingers, so they would not fall off, would that do? No. The disease itself must be cured. Folks, do you understand? I’m sorry, but those of you who do not understand, please buy the recorded sermon tapes on your way home. Listen to them one more time at home, and you will understand.

Folks, sin and act of sin are different. You may have stolen, lied and committed murder, but those are not sins, they are crimes. The Bible has clearly explained about sin and crime.

If we confess our sins.... (1 John 1:9)

These words are not about confessing your acts of sin, saying “I committed theft.” It means to confess your sin.

Let me ask you a question. If a spy turns himself in, does he become your fellow countryman, your brother? Do you not know about these things? If a spy turns himself in to the Korean government, they provide him with the basics for living. For example, suppose I am a spy. I go to turn myself in. How do I turn myself in? I go to the police station, and do I say, “Police Officer, I’m sorry, but, I tried to blow up the railroads, I tried to assassinate prominent people, and I tried to steal secret military information. I hope that you will forgive me?” That is not the way to turn yourself in, for being a spy. Those are things you do as a result of being a spy. If you want to turn yourself in, you don’t say those things, but you say, “I’m a spy.” You confess that first. First you have to have the sin of being a spy forgiven. Then, the results of being a spy are automatically forgiven. A spy must go to turn himself in, saying, “I’m a spy. I have been sent here on a mission.” Likewise, when we confess before the Lord, we should not confess the symptoms of sin, but confessing that we are by nature a mass of sin. That is the correct confession.

In the Old Testament, it tells about King David. One day King David committed adultery with his servant’s wife. He was in so much pain because of his sin, that he confessed before God. Do you know how he confessed?

“Our Father God, one evening I was walking on the roof of the palace, and there was a woman, and she was so pretty. I lost my mind so I brought her over and slept with her. She became pregnant. Oh, God, she’s pregnant....” Was that how David confessed? Look at Psalms 51, verse 5. That is not how David

confessed.

Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

It was not about what sin he had committed. He confessed of his nature, the fact itself that he was a human who could only commit sin, saying that he was a mass of sin, completely enveloped in sin. There is a big difference between confessing the result of sin and confessing sin.

If someone asks me, “Do you know how to drive?” I say, “Yes, but I’m not good at signaling with the blinkers. Also I don’t know how to turn on the ignition. I don’t know how to change lanes. I don’t know how to turn the steering wheel. I’m not good at merging on the freeway. That’s it.” That’s not what I would say. People who don’t know how to drive say, “No, I cannot drive.” Isn’t that so? If you are good at everything else, but cannot use the blinkers, you would say, “I can’t use the blinkers.” If you say, “I’m not good at stepping on the brake,” it means you are good at everything else. That’s how it is with sin. When you have committed no other sin except for telling one lie, then you can say “I told a lie,” and that would be correct. If you commit no other sin and are otherwise clean, and you have only that one sin of hating someone, then you can say “I hate someone” and that would be correct.

Because we are full of sin, by nature we are trees of sin, children of sin and seeds of sin. No matter how we try to cleanse ourselves, no matter how hard we try not to sin, it does not work. A heart that does not sin must come inside of us. People who try to live a spiritual life sincerely, try not to sin, but they

know that they cannot do it. People who do not live a spiritual life sincerely, those who only do it outwardly, think, “I can keep from sinning, if I try.” When people who truly try to serve the Lord, try hard not to sin, they say, “Oh, I can’t do it,” as they are falling back down. That is exactly the condition referred to in 1 John 1:9.

Because we are born in sin, if we become freed from the nature of sin, then all of our sins are automatically forgiven. When the sin of a spy who has turned himself in is forgiven, would the officials say to him, “You are forgiven of the sin of being a spy, but your sin of stealing military information is not forgiven”? Would they say that? “Your sin of being a spy is forgiven, but your sin of trying to assassinate important people is not forgiven.” Would they say that? When your sin of being a spy is forgiven, then all sins belonging to that sin are automatically taken care of.

That is why in 1 John 1:9, it says,

If we confess our sins....

It’s not about confessing crimes you have committed, but it’s confessing that, “I am by nature a sinner. I cannot do it, so You, Lord, come and save me,” and leaving yourself to the Lord. Then He will take care of all your problems. Many people misunderstand these words. They close their Bible and simply repent. Some people don’t know how to take care of their problem of sin, so they write their sins out on a piece of paper and burn it in a fire. Where in the 66 books of the Bible does it say that to be cleansed from your sins, write them on a piece of paper and burn it in the fire?

Because people are suppressed by sin, they listen with interest when they hear how sins can be forgiven. Many religious leaders make fools out of believers today over having their sins cleansed. That's how it was with the Roman Catholic Church a long time ago. They'd take advantage of the believers' sincere hearts of wanting to have their sins washed clean. They made fools out of them by saying that if they bought indulgences, their sins would be washed clean. People were laboring to believe with the Bible closed, without knowing for sure how to wash away their sins.

Loving folks, I don't know how long you've been going to church, but do you know precisely how to wash your sins away? Do you know how to have your sins cleansed as white as snow? Do you know how? "Oh, I guess I believe in Jesus, so my sins are probably washed clean." That is not it. Your sins must be washed away.

*Happy day! Happy day!
When Jesus washed my sins away!*

You need that particular day, the day you received forgiveness of sin. Without that day, folks, there is always a dark shadow blocking the way between you and God, so the power of the Holy Spirit cannot be upon you. You are trying hard on your own, in your spiritual life because you do not have the Holy Spirit of God.

I struggled inside sin and received forgiveness of sin in 1962, through the grace of Jesus. From that day on, Jesus has always been with me. I used to try to change and would always waver. But as days went by, after my redemption, I continued in a

blessed, joyful spiritual life because Jesus does not waver. Now Jesus is living inside of me. I am a human who can only sin, but because I have given myself up to the Lord, He takes care of me.

I have a son in the 6th grade. He always wants to do everything I do. Last winter, it snowed heavily, and I had to put snow tires on my car. I told my son, “Why don’t you go put on the snow tires?” He answered, “Sure!” He ran out and put on the tires. I had to tighten them later, but he did a good job. Then, because he had changed the tires, I guess he thought he could drive.

“Dad, can I drive, just once?”

“No.”

“Dad, just once, please....”

It would have been nice, if I could have taken him to a big field and let him drive. He thinks driving is easy because he sees how easily I drive. He thinks he can drive well, but I cannot let him drive because he does not know how. We think we will not sin, if we try not to because we do not know ourselves. The way to overcome sin is for you to lose to sin. That is how you defeat sin. Why? The Lord helps you when you confess that you can only sin, that you cannot overcome sin. The Lord cannot help those trying desperately to defeat sin. You must be defeated by sin. That’s why it says, “He who wins, loses, and he who loses, wins. It is more blessed to give than to receive. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.” I still have so much to talk about, even though so much time has passed, but let’s continue.

There was a certain chief in an African village. One day he was walking about in the village and some children were play-

ing with a little leopard.

“Hey, kids. What’s that?”

“It’s a baby leopard. My dad went to the jungle and caught it.”

“You kids, you can’t be playing with a leopard.”

“Yes, it’s a leopard, but this leopard is different.”

“How is it different?”

“Ever since we got it, we’ve been feeding it porridge. It’s never tasted meat, so this leopard is really kind and gentle.” And the chief shouted, “No! It may be like that now, but when it grows up, a leopard is a leopard! It must be killed!”

“No, no. Chief, look! It’s kind and gentle, really!” The chief finally allowed it because the children had pleaded so much. It was very gentle, even when it was fully grown because it had grown up eating only porridge and had never tasted meat. When the children went to the jungle by themselves, it was scary, but when they went with the leopard, they were not afraid. It would run and play with the children, the children would ride on its back, and they would all go into the jungle together. The children were not afraid in the jungle because they were with the leopard.

“Our leopard is so good. I don’t know why the chief is afraid of it. There’s no problem with our gentle leopard. All we have to do is avoid giving it any meat.”

Now the leopard was fully grown, and one day the children went with the leopard into the jungle to play. Three children were with the leopard in the jungle when one child slipped on a cliff. When the child fell off the cliff screaming, the two other kids followed to help him. The leopard quickly ran ahead.

When the leopard ran down, the child’s knee was injured

and was bleeding. The leopard licked the knee with his tongue to wipe away the blood. It licked him once or twice, and then the leopard began to suck the blood. The look in the leopard's eye changed. It tore open the child's chest with his sharp claw and devoured him. It then ate the other two children. A leopard is a leopard. It may appear tame on the outside, but its true nature, on the inside, cannot be cast off. It is hidden, but it will eventually reveal itself.

Though you may appear to be nice, though you may look holy and beautiful, we humans all have the nature of sin inside of us. Rather than the sins that are revealed on the outside, such as stealing and lying, the Lord is saying that the hidden nature of sin itself must be taken care of. That is what you must be freed from. Jesus not only forgives you the sins you commit, but He came to free you from the nature of sin itself. Jesus came and was crucified on the cross to free us from sin. He hung on the cross and shed His blood to liberate us from sin.

If you are not freed from sin, you are still servants of sin, even though you believe. You still have to fight against sin. You still have to suffer because of sin. The servant of God testified, "Tomorrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria." Then the lord, on whom the king's hand leaned, said, "Hey! That makes no sense at all. Even if God makes windows in heaven, how can that happen? Everyone is starving and dying now, how can we get that much food in just one day?" The servant of God said,

...thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof. (2

Kings 7:2)

Folks, this is what I want to tell you tonight. I hope that you will incline your ear and listen. There is a mind-set you need for you to be changed in your spiritual life, to receive forgiveness of sin and to be born again. How do we hear the words, when we hear the Word of God? “Tomorrow about this time there shall be a lot of food in the city of Samaria.” When the lord, on whose hand the king leaned, heard these words, these words were beyond his logic. These words were complete nonsense. These words were beyond his comprehension, words he could not understand.

We cannot understand everything about God because He is greater, wiser and more able than we. Jesus said not only things that were pleasing to our ear when He gave sermons in this world. I am ashamed, as a pastor, that you can listen to my sermons and be so at ease. Some people couldn't bear listening to the sermons of Jesus, and they screamed, saying they must kill Him.

One time Jesus was preaching the Word at Capernaum. While listening to His words, people stood up all of a sudden, grabbed Jesus' collar and dragged Him to a cliff to push Him off and kill Him. One time when the servant of God, Stephen, was giving a sermon, the listeners could not bear it. They covered their ears, kicked the dust and said, “A person like him has to be killed.” Then they stoned him and killed him.

That's how it was when Apostle Paul gave his sermons. There are many aspects that do not fit our thoughts in the true Word of God. When we receive the Word of God, we accept those aspects that we understand and that fit our thinking. However

we do not accept the Word, when it does not fit our thoughts and opinions. So even if we listen to a sermon, we say, “Oh, yeah. That’s right, that’s good!” “Hey, that makes no sense!” This is how we filter everything with our hearts. Because of that, the work of God cannot come into our heart.

The wisdom of God is beyond our wisdom. The thoughts of God are beyond our thoughts. That is because the things that come from God are not the things that come from this world. Because that is too great for us to accept and to understand, we say things like, “Even if God were to make windows in heaven, how could this be?” I’m giving the sermon this evening, and if I say things that fit and are correct, according to your thinking you would say,

“Ah, that’s right, Pastor Park. He’s right. How graceful!” That is what you would say. But when I say something that does not fit your heart, “Yeah, I know. It is the Word of God, but still...”

“But still...” There are people who feel that way, right? God cannot work because you do not receive words that do not fit your thinking.

There were four lepers at the gate of the city. Even the lord, on whose hand the king leaned, didn’t believe in God. So who will God use for the work of delivering the good news saying tomorrow about this time, there will be a lot of good food in the city of Samaria? God chose the four lepers. Why? Because they were people who had no hope. Jesus is the hope of us all. Better put, He is the hope of those who have no hope. Jesus cannot become hope to people who have hope in themselves. Jesus is hope to those who have no hope. He is comfort to those who cry. He is the Lord of power that gives freedom to

the afflicted.

Why did God use the four lepers to save the city of Samaria? These four lepers had no hope in the worldly sense. This evening, I believe that salvation will be accomplished, not for those who think they are good at spiritual life, but for those of you who are not confident in your spiritual life, saying, "I have not received forgiveness of sin," "I'm not born again," and "Now, I really cannot do it."

If the child on top of the mast could come down all by himself, the father would not have provided him the way of salvation. When the young child ran out of his own methods, his own strength, and when his own wisdom became useless, the father became his salvation. Now, the child will be saved, through the father's method and not by his own devices.

"Now, throw your methods away and jump off!" That was the father's way. The child's method was to hang on. The father's method was to let go. They were complete opposites. The way of the father and the way of the child could not both be applied at the same time. Throw your ways away! And accept the ways of Jesus. Then tonight you will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Long ago, I led a conference at a leper colony at Aeyangwon in Yeosu. It was the church at which Pastor Yang Won Son used to minister. The communists killed Pastor Son's son during the Korean War, but he rescued from death the person who had killed his son and took him in as his adopted son. Pastor Son, who was like a saint, made a colony for the lepers, sucked the pus of the lepers with his own mouth and treated them like human beings. At that time, a lot of people were gathered at the conference, like tonight, and I talked about the words of

forgiveness of sin. The sad thing was, they not only had leprosy in their bodies, but also had the deep disease of sin in their hearts. After the sermon, I invited them, saying, “Those who want to receive forgiveness of sin, come forward.” Hundreds of people raised their hands and came forward. That evening, many people received forgiveness of sin and rejoiced tearfully. When I saw that, I couldn’t describe how my heart glowed.

Jesus came to free us from sin. Jesus did not come to make us into baptized church members. Jesus did not come here to make us into deacons or elders. Jesus Christ came to this earth to free us from sin. Only the people freed from sin can come properly before Jesus. The four lepers had no way to live. They thought, “Even if we just sit here, we will soon starve to death. We can’t get food from the city.”

“They are starving to death even in the city. Let’s not put our hopes in it. They’re even boiling and eating children. How do you expect them to give us any food?”

“How many days has it been since we last ate?”

“I don’t know, I can’t even remember, it’s been so long.”

“A long time ago, before I had leprosy, when we were farming our fields, we used to dig up sweet potatoes and boil and eat them. And in the fall, we would harvest and have rice. It was so good.... Those were the good old days.”

“Hey, stop talking about food. It’s making me even hungrier.”

The lepers were lamenting their situation and were waiting for death. Then one of them said, “Hey, we can’t just sit here waiting to die. Let’s look for a way to live. Let’s find a way, no matter what.”

“What should we do?”

“Is there any other way? There is none.”

“If we go into the city, we’ll die. If we sit here, we’ll die. So should we go and surrender to the Syrians?”

“No, that’s not going to work. How can we surrender to the enemy?” This is dangerous. But folks, surrendering to the enemy means they are changing their way of thinking. They are changing their methods.

Although it is dangerous, they made up their mind to go, step-by-step in a new direction because their old ways were useless. Folks, God is looking for such a person. It means that if you seek God, you must go forward with a new way of thinking, when your way does not work.

The lepers confronted the new way. They thought about approaches they had never used. If they remain, they will die, but if they go there, they just might live. Amazingly, God blesses that path. Folks, it’s not just waiting for good luck to roll in, but saying, “God, I’m a sinner who can only be destroyed. Open a way for me.”

Folks, I am telling you about the attitude of a person’s heart who can receive forgiveness of sin tonight. Throwing away your ways, throwing away your methods, you must turn your heart around and move your footsteps in the new way God has opened.

Many people change their thinking when they come forth to Jesus Christ. It was so with Zacchaeus. It was so with the woman caught in adultery. It was so with the Samaritan woman. The people who did not change their thinking, even when they came forth to Jesus, changed into people who denounced and went against Jesus. Folks, do not try to become good people as you attend church. You must change your thinking. If you do not break your heart, change your think-

ing, and if you go forward as you are, you will be nothing more than a churchgoer. Captain Naaman went to Elisha to have his leprosy healed.

“You must go to the River Jordan and wash yourself seven times.” Elisha said.

“But I’m a military captain. I thought Elisha would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord, strike his hand on the place and make me recover. What? Wash myself seven times in the River Jordan?” Captain Naaman said. He was angry and wanted to go back. That is how it always is when you do not throw your thinking away.

Among the people who came out to Jesus, there were many who returned troubled. Some people came to Jesus and received forgiveness of sin. But some people, even though they followed Jesus around, returned troubled. Some people returned complaining, and some people returned, going against Jesus. It was because they did not throw away their thinking.

These four lepers threw away their thinking and the ways they had followed, and began to set their footsteps in a new direction. The four lepers had been starving, exhausted, and diseased for a long time. Their toes and their fingers were falling off, and their bodies were disfigured. They would trip over stones and fall over bushes.

“Oh, no. I can’t do this. Hey, my leg hurts, I can’t go on. Please, you guys just go ahead. I wish I could eat at least in my dreams. Please, you guys, go, and even if you die at the Syrian camp, eat all you can beforehand.”

“No, we’re friends. Let’s go together. Get up.”

“Look, if you carry me, it will be more tiring.”

“No. Even if we die, we die together. If we live, we live together. Come with us, we go together. Get up!”

“No, there’s no chance for me.”

“Even if we die, let’s go. Let’s at least see the food before we die.”

As they would pass out and fall over, step by step, they went toward the Syrian camp. God did not forsake their footsteps. God worked in the sounds of their steps. The sound of them falling, the sound of them passing out, the sound of their exhaustion, the sound of dragging their fatigued bodies. God amplified and converted these sounds into great sound effects, like the special effects from a studio. The Syrians heard these sounds as the sounds of Israelites with masses of soldiers coming toward their camp on horses and in chariots, swinging swords and spears. That’s how it is. Folks, your footsteps of coming to the Lord as you throw away your thoughts, throw away your methods and throw away your will. You may be fatigued and staggering as you step, but God surely works inside of those steps. God’s amazing power is at work in those steps.

Loving citizens of Busan, I truly believe that if you throw away your thoughts and move your footsteps toward God tonight, the overflowing works of the Holy Spirit of God will be yours. Throw your opinions away. Throw your thoughts away. You must deny yourself before Jesus, no matter who you are. Throw away what it is you do well. Do not say, “I’m a pastor,” “I’m a baptized Christian.” Say, “I am a sinner, who could only die. Please save me.”

Folks, I hope that you do not act as if you are not a sinner, even though you have sin. It does not mean you are not a sin-

ner, just because you have not sinned. Sin will reveal itself one day when the opportunity presents itself. Like Minister Duk Man Yang testified a little while ago, he thought he was a good person when he went to the seminary, but when he went to the military, his sin was revealed. That's how it is. Sin can only reveal itself when the circumstances are ripe. Folks, I hope that you will take new footsteps toward Jesus Christ tonight.

You may be in a situation where your footsteps are tired, fallen and worn out, but when you move your footsteps, life is waiting for you, abundant food is waiting for you, and the spiritual wedding garment is waiting for you. When people have tasted this, they cannot keep still. They change into people who go and testify the gospel to those who cast them out, who called them lepers, who despised and insulted them, to give them life.

Loving citizens of Busan, it was very difficult, when I first began my ministry. My ministry began when I established a church in Daegu. At the time, I was poor, hungry and went through many hardships. Do you know how I overcame those hardships? I did not know anything else back then. I asked the people of my church one by one, "Have you really received forgiveness of your sin? Isn't there sin blocking the way between you and God? The Bible says,

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God....
(Isaiah 59:1-2)

but have you broken down the wall of sin that is blocking

the path between you and your God?” Of course, the church members did not like this. There were some negative responses, saying, “Why does that pastor ask so many questions?”

But some people sincerely accepted those words and said, “I have not had my sins forgiven. I have so many sins.” So I preached the gospel and explained to them the pathway of forgiveness of sin. David washed his sins away like this when he sinned with Uriah’s wife, and Daniel washed the sins of the people of Israel away like this. I explained to them, from the Bible, how to have their sins washed clean, step by step.

I searched throughout the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, concerning receiving forgiveness of sin. The words about being healed from leprosy are words about receiving forgiveness of sin. God taught us about Captain Naaman being healed of his leprosy to teach us about how to receive forgiveness of sin. When I tell people, one by one, about the ways of forgiveness of sin that appear throughout the Bible, some people truly humble their hearts and receive forgiveness of sin. Folks, even though I was hungry and in difficulty, it was such a great joy seeing our church members receiving forgiveness of sin, one by one. With that joy, I could more than overcome my difficulties.

If you are a patient at my hospital tonight and if you have appendicitis, I don’t want to just put some iodine on your stomach or give you some anesthesia or pain killer and send you home. I have to surgically remove the appendix. In the same way, I don’t want to leave your sins there as they are. I think it is a rare opportunity to have in your lifetime to hear about how to receive forgiveness of sin.

I have gone to many conferences and have testified about the methods of forgiveness of sin found in the Bible. I do not

want you to just return home like this tonight. Are you a baptized church member? A deacon? An elder? A choir member? A Sunday School teacher? Even so, if you have not had your sins forgiven, if you are not freed from sin, everything else has nothing to do with God. On that day, many will come before the Lord and say, "Lord, Lord, we prophesied in thy name. And in thy name have cast out devils and in thy name done many wonderful works." Then the Lord will say, "I never knew you."

The good deeds you have done do not last long. But all things change, if you receive forgiveness of sin and Jesus comes inside of you. A person at my church for a long time lived with an addiction to gambling. Because he was addicted, he could not quit, even when he tried. But he came to church, listened to the Word, received forgiveness of sin became freed from gambling. How could that be? The heart of the gambler and the heart of Jesus, who came inside of him, could not both survive because Jesus is not a gambler. The gambling heart was automatically cast out because Jesus came in. Do you think that Jesus could be cast out by a gambling heart? The gambling heart is the one that gets kicked out.

A certain daughter-in-law was suffering because she hated her mother-in-law. But that heart of hatred left her after receiving forgiveness of sin. Why is that so? The hateful heart must leave because there is no hatred in the heart of Jesus. If you receive forgiveness of sin and Jesus comes into your heart, such things inside of you will depart from you. You will be changed. If Jesus comes inside of you, you cannot help but change, not by your will not to sin, but by Him. So I hope that you will receive forgiveness of sin. If you truly receive forgiveness of sin,

Jesus comes upon your heart, you don't need to cry and pray saying, "Let the Holy Spirit be upon me!" Even though the Holy Spirit wants to come inside of your heart, He cannot enter because of sin. Only if your sin is taken care of, tonight, will you be filled with the Holy Spirit.

A lot of time has passed. Continuing tomorrow evening, I will preach the Word. During the morning Bible study time tomorrow, I will tell you in detail about the words of forgiveness of sin.

Loving folks, I hope every one of you will receive forgiveness of sin during this conference.