

**SERMON: To The Glory of God's Grace -  
Walking with Jesus in Sweet Submission and with Power**

**GOOD Morning OIC & Welcome to Father's House**

**Today, we will continue in the Book of Ephesians, the Letter inspired by Holy Spirit and written by the Apostle Paul. In my last Message we saw how Paul gave instructions to the Ephesians, therefore, to all Christians, for living the Christian Life “To The Glory of God's Grace- Walking with Jesus with Thanksgiving.” This week I titled the Message “To The Glory of God's Grace - Walking with Jesus in Sweet Submission and with Power.” Note: I repeat the Main Theme in Ephesians of Encouragement in each Message title: To The Glory of God's Grace.**

Reading (**Ephesians 6.1-3**): *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 ‘Honour your father and mother’ – which is the first commandment with a promise – 3 ‘so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.’*

What follows may surprise some Christians. We do know that we are no longer **under the Law** as the Bible says in (**Romans 4.15**) *because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.* And we see in (**Romans 6.14/NASB1995**) *For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

Yet here in the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter of Ephesians we are told that the Law still has Promises for us, not curses against us, **for** Paul quotes **a conditional blessing** from the Law given to Moses in (**Exodus 20.12**) here in (**Ephesians 6.3**) *‘so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.’* Obviously, as this Letter is written to Christians, Paul is not saying that there are any such Promises to the unbeliever who honors his parents. Also, at what degree of *dishonor* by a Christian to his parents does God shorten his life and take away blessings. This is God's decision, not ours to measure exactly. But we can be sure that we are pleasing Jesus when we honor our parents, even if they are not Christians! Note that to honor their authority never means to go against following Jesus. For in (**Matthew 10.37**) He said: *‘Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.’*

And now a word to you parents from (**Ephesians 6.4/AMP**): *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to the point of resentment with demands that are trivial or unreasonable or humiliating or abusive; nor by showing favoritism or indifference to any of them], but bring them up [tenderly, with lovingkindness] in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

Now it must be clear that when children continue to SHOW REBELLION as they disobey their parents' *discipline and instruction of the Lord*, the Bible teaches physical discipline with “pain.” (**Proverbs 13.24/KJ21**) *He that spareth his rod hateth his son, but he that loveth him chasteneth him in good season.*

I found two commentaries defining the “rod” as “**A concrete figure of speech for caring discipline of any kind.**” The Devil's biggest trick is to change much of the literal meanings in the Holy Bible into **concrete figures of speech! That is who is behind this soft-soap un-Biblical comment against the Word of the Living God!** I know the American Christians' recognized expert on child raising in the 1980s, Dr. James Dobson, disagreed. He emphasized that even a very slight physical pain, **is often, but not always necessary.** Dorothy and I learned to use a thin whisp of a Lilac bush and only applied to the backside to cause a momentary “sting.” We also agreed with Dr. Dobson's teaching to apply physical “whip” or spankings **only to disobedience of clear rebellion!** Also, “**Never apply your hand directly to any part of your child's body, even his bottom or derriere; but a small light instrument maybe a small wooden spoon.**” Note: this is using your child's experience of Christianity; yes, God starts teaching even inside the Mother's Womb, by teaching the Biblical Truth that God often uses pain to discipline His Children. We also know that God is teaching what we need to learn, to repent of sin, or to mature through pain even when there is no sin to confess. Thus God's application of pain in our lives that we need to mature may be Satan's release to be the *instrument of the spanking or pain.* But our Loving Father is in complete control as He knows best what we need!

**CLEAR REBELLION: (1Samuel 15.23/AMPC)** *For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as idolatry and teraphim (household good luck images)...*

God created all of us to know we need punishment for “sins.” I guarantee that if we fear showing love through physical discipline, **that either the police or God will do what we failed to do in obeying God!**

It makes no Biblical sense for these commentaries to redefine a “rod” which was an instrument to use pain to protect the sheep in the shepherd's flock. The **Expositor's Bible Commentary** tells us: “The shepherd's care is symbolized by the “rod” and the “staff.” A shepherd carried a rod to club wild animals and a staff to keep the sheep in control.”

Reading (**Psalm 23.4**) Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

#### **TAKEAWAY#1**

**Therefore , the rod to protect the sheep by striking wild animals is also shown in the Bible as the instrument to drive wildness out of rebellious children. Dorothy and I believe that using a “rod” for punishment with pain as discipline should only be when the child shows clear rebellion as instructed in the Older Testament in the Bible.**

So, as this is a serious change in the Word of God to satisfy modern psychologists teaching, I will further exegete or bring out the meaning of *He that spareth his rod hateth his son.*

The New Testament also supports this **“harsh treatment of children out of True Love”** in (**Hebrews 12.5-11/NASB**) *5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, {Here in verses 5-6, Paul is quoting Proverbs 3.11.} “MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM ; 6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES ( GREEK μαστιγῶω, mastigoō) EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.” verse 7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. 11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.* NOW LET US LOOK AT THE INSTRUMENT OF DISCIPLINE, THE “ROD” IN PSALM 23 AND HERE, THE SCOURGE, OR GREEK μαστιγῶω (mastigoō). This means a scourge or a whip. The whip chosen by a father for a son, (**Hebrews 12.9**), like a Lilac bush twig, is appropriate; and not like the scourge as the instrument used by the Romans to “scourge” our Lord Jesus. But the original Greek New Testament leaves no room for “no physical punishment” as many modern commentaries have said. As Jesus prophesied about His own punishment for our sins in (**Luke 18.33**) *and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again.”* **Therefore, the Older Testament teaching of appropriate physical pain in punishing a child is confirmed in the New Testament.**

As I said already, I want to repeat that Dorothy & I believe strongly that physical pain, such as using a light whip from a branch, should only be used for the sin of rebellion as defined in the Older Testament, *as like the sin of witchcraft*.

Pastor Bruce, you may ask, we parents feel that you are trying to control us with American ideas! I clearly used the Word of God as my basic teaching here. American children, and a famous American Christian psychologist, Dr. James Dobson, are my personal **“Experiential Christianity”** in America where our children grew into adulthood. I also want to stress, that if you Christian parents accept my Biblical teaching you are the ones, not I, who must decide if your child is really **“rebellious” against your authority, or simply not understanding the situation, which children can often do. This led me and Dorothy to much prayer for wisdom from Above. That is a universal problem as only God really knows the heart but, we are responsible to act according to His Word. The Bible verses I quoted here are God's Universal Truths with no preference for any nationality or culture. His word is above all!**

**Pastor Bruce, you may also ask, why did you take so much time to exegete (Ephesians 6.4)? Because, Dear OIC Saints, God created all of us even when children to know we need punishment for “sins.” However you all must decide to evaluate your own children. I guarantee that if you fear showing love through any physical discipline according to God's WORD, not to modern psychologists; that either the police or God, will do what you failed to do to love your children in obedience to God!**

Now **(Ephesians 6.5-8)** *5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. 6 Obey them not only to win their favour when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. 7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.*

A typical 1<sup>st</sup> Century slave was not anything like the forced slavery by Africans kidnapped for America and England in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, or the “Slave Traffickers” of today. These slaves, even in a pagan city like Ephesus, had rights guaranteed by Roman law. The Jewish Laws provided even more protection. So, I apply these verses to *slaves as workers and masters as “bosses”* in businesses.

***just as you would obey Christ.*** This may be difficult, but it is God's Word. The Japanese Christian workers are more in line with this attitude than their American brothers and sisters in Christ. The American Independent thinking gives much creativity, but often, makes obeying a “bad boss” hard,

even for an American Christian. Since the “boss” pays you, fear may be natural. It takes Holy Spirit help to do the *and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ*. God will honor your obedience to His Word, sooner or later. Your pastor is blessed to know of one OIC Believer who surprised his “bad boss” by his changed behaviour after being Born-Again. And, the boss actually changed some for the better in his “bad bossiness”. But, sometimes the “boss gets worse,” as in my experience, when I spent years as a “tent-maker” pastor and missionary and doing secular jobs in between assignments from my Wonderful Boss, Jesus. So, regardless of what happens **6** *Obey them not only to win their favour when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. 7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart....* Obedience by faith in God, and faith that is seen is not faith. Pretending your “bad boss” is Jesus may be necessary to endure this. As we are taught in: **(Ephesians 6. 8)** *because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.* Eventually, there will be something God lets you see in your life, especially in your heart, becoming *better and better*, and more like Jesus. That is the eternal part of our rewards on earth.

**Now, special instructions for Christian Bosses:** **(Ephesians 6.9)** *And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favouritism with him.* Having any position in authority, boss, government leader, officer in the Armed Forces, and even a pastor, affords more room to maneuver or be flexible with disharmony in the workers. This is not deceitfulness, but often “waiting on the Lord.,” which is often “waiting on the Lord's People!” A Christian Boss in business can change his focus on the job to be patient with Christian workers without gross or large favoritism, and non-Christians must not have any excuse to persecute the Christian coworkers. That is why **Christian Bosses** must remember that their **BOSS, their Master and yours is in heaven, is Jesus,** as they lead their business.

### **SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND THE ARMOUR OF GOD**

This will be started in this Message, and completed in the next one that I preach. It is difficult, and like most things in the Bible that are difficult to understand, very important to understand.

**The Universal War Exists.** Yes, the Universe contains a war against us Christians as Paul declared in **(Ephesians 6.12):** *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the*

*heavenly realms.* Our struggle is a Universal Struggle. We need to get a true picture of the Universe **including the Spiritual World.** Let's start with the Word become Flesh, when the Lord Jesus' explained and gave confidence to His Disciples of His Power imputed to them in **(Luke 10.17-19)** *17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, 'Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.'* *18 He replied, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.* Whenever in time Jesus witnessed Satan's crash to earth or lower regions *in the heavenly realms,* it was clear that Satan was no match for Jesus, His Holy Angels, or any disciple, then or now, given Jesus' graces of power. Was Satan's crash part of God's curse on him in the Garden of Eden? It does not matter, but it is important to review God's curse on Satan for it applies to Christians today.

### **SATAN IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN**

As I put in my message on Sept 21, 2024 titled *The Cross;* after Adam and Eve had sinned by obeying the snake/ Satan, we read in **(Genesis 3.13-15)** *13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." 14 The LORD God said to the serpent,*

*"Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat, All the days of your life; 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."*

In reference to *"her seed,"* only one woman in all History had a *seed* without a man's *seed* for a baby, the Virgin Mary, Jesus' mother by the Holy Spirit. So we Christians know that Jesus accomplished His Mission to buy our Pardon from God for our sins; but He also weakened the Devil as in my message *The Cross: Jesus' bruise on the heel was His death on the Cross. How can that be called only a bruise? Because Jesus was fulfilling His Mission for the Father, His greatest joy. His next great joy was seeing sinners, like me and you, set free of their punishment for their sins. It also can be said Jesus' joy included enduring His suffering on the Cross to complete God's curse against Satan in the "Garden of Eden" in (Genesis 3.15) .her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."* **Satan's bruise on the head continues to this day. His biggest loss at the Cross is revealed to us in (Hebrews 2.14/AMP) Therefore, since [these His] children share in flesh and blood [the physical nature of mankind], He Himself in a similar manner also shared in the same [physical nature, but**

*without sin], so that through [experiencing] death He might make powerless (ineffective, impotent) him who had the power of death—that is, the devil.*

## **SATAN ON EARTH DURING 1ST CENTURY**

The Apostle Peter walking a victorious life with Jesus made it clear to Christians that they must not pretend that a *bruised devil* has no power against them in **(1Peter 5.8)**

*Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a **roaring lion** looking for someone to devour.* If you ever lived near roaring lions, or dangerous animals of any kind, you would learn that pretending they are not in your neighborhood, is *madness; denial is not protection.*

**Grizzly Bears in Montana** - Our eldest daughter lives in Missoula, Montana, USA. Soon after she moved in, she wisely attended the *Grizzly Bear Classes* for new residents. She purchased a can of “mace” to spray if one attacked her. Mace is a violently strong irritant, to spray into the face, to halt instantly attacking men or animals. The path she jogs on had *a not so smart lady* mauled “almost to death” as that woman had no “mace” and stopped on the path to get a closer look at some baby Grizzly Bear cubs. Mommy Bear was, of course, nearby. Grizzlies may attack unprovoked, but protecting “her babies” was provocation. **Yes. Foolish.** Like, pretending the Apostle Peter was talking about a Devil not in our neighborhood here in Osaka.

Again looking at **(Ephesians 6.12):** *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.* There are “heavenly realms” in the spiritual universe below **Heaven.** Christians who pray against these powers are further weakening the Devil's strategy against Jesus' building His Church. Jesus said in **(Matthew 16.18-19)** *and on this Rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades {Hell} will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*

**on this Rock-** The Rock is Peter's statement to Jesus' question, “*But who do you say I am?*” Peter answered, “*You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.*” Wherever sinners believe this statement,

Jesus builds His Church! Whatever special gifting Peter had as an Apostle, the Apostle Paul is telling Christians they have power in prayer to overcome these evil powers. **Jesus' Promised Result will be:** *the gates of Hades {Hell} will not overcome it.*

Satan will be totally silenced on Earth for 1,000 years but not until after Jesus returns in Glory and Power to reign on the Earth. In **(Revelation 20.1-3),** *And I saw an angel coming down out of*

heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. **2** He seized the dragon, that ancient snake, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. **3** He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations any more until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

**Therefore**, today, Satan still has power on earth ; but especially over his own children, the non-Christians. He controls them with either many sinful pleasures, or, despairing hopelessness, and other cunning to blind them to the TRUTH, the glorious Good News of Jesus.

**NOTE: The extent of his power against Christians is much less than he tells us he has, because he is a liar.** Remember, as Jesus told the Religious leaders in Jerusalem in **(John 8.44)** *You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

**But that does not mean that we either pretend he isn't in our neighborhood, or that we don't have to learn to fight. Not fighting is ignoring God's Word of instruction here in this Letter by the Apostle Paul to the Ephesians.**

As a Christian pursues taking seriously **Ephesians 6.11-17** as God's Handbook for War against the Devil, that Devil will tell the Christian that he will loose his peace. Satan is a liar, yet, this a half-truth. War at times against Satan is like hand to hand combat. Whatever peace you may loose for the moment will be in obedience to the Prince of Peace, Jesus. Remember, that when Christians fight the Devil, they are actually joining with Jesus and His angels with the goal of building Jesus' Church, saving lost souls! We fight using the Spirit's Sword against persoanl accusations, but not really for ourselves because sincere Christians have eternal security in Christ. Satan is usually attacking us because we are reaching for those not **yet in Christ.**

#### **TAKEAWAY #2**

**Pretending that the Apostle Peter's warning to 1<sup>st</sup> Century Christians is not also for us is like jogging on a path with Grizzly Bears, without protection. Our daughter carries mace, we have the Sword of the Spirit. Grizzly Bears, like roaring lions, are bigger and stronger than we are. *Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.* But, we have no fear for we walk close to Jesus the Lord of Heaven and Earth. When Jesus returns to earth he will send an angel, not as omnipotent as Himself, to bind Satan for 1000 years. Unlike God, Satan is not infinite. The more Christians fight him, they occupy his**



**limited attention regardless of his cunning, and thus distract him from many sinners that he thinks he has securely in his grasp!**

Now I will quote the famous English Pastor/Preacher of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, who wrote many Christian devotional books. He shares his Biblical attitude on spiritual warfare in (**Morning & Evening**, November 30<sup>th</sup> Evening):

*Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,* in (**Revelation 12.7/KJ21**) “War always will rage between the two great sovereigns until one or the other is crushed. Peace between good and evil is an impossibility; the very pretense of it would, in fact, be the triumph of the powers of darkness. *Michael will always fight*; his holy soul is vexed with sin, and will not endure it. Jesus will always be the dragon's foe, and that not in a quiet sense, but actively, vigorously, with full determination to exterminate evil. All His servants, whether angles in Heaven or messengers on earth, **will and must fight; they are born to be warriors--- at the Cross they enter into covenant never to make truce with evil**; they are a warlike company, firm in defense and fierce in the attack. The duty of every soldier in the Army of the Lord is daily with all his heart, and soul, and strength, to fight against the dragon.”

Now, as I said here already, the Devil tells Christians they will have less peace if they fight against him in any “personal” way. He is a “person” just as we have our “personal Saviour,” Jesus. You may think that a Christian like Charles Spurgeon with such a stern message, would never have peace! On the contrary. God gives rivers of Living Water, peace, and joy to obedient soldiers not only in between fierce battles, but often in the midst of the fight. For example, it was Charles Spurgeon who also said: “There is only one thing you can't get too much of, Eating Pancakes!” Fighting the Devil is Normative Christianity, just as normal as Peace sent from the Father above.

## **JESUS IN OSAKA**

God's power is unlimited and has no match in Heaven or on Earth. Jesus has promised, *I am with you always even until the end of the Age* in (**Matthew 28.20**) Yet, The devil has much freedom to roam about in countries with small numbers of Christians, like here in Japan with only 0.5% of the people possessing the Holy Spirit. But the Lord interrupted my analysis of Japan with statistics with a question. “Bruce, what was the percentage of Christians in Jerusalem when I poured my Spirit on Pentecost; or, in Asia when I sent Paul and Barnabas out to preach MY GOSPEL.” “Less than 0.5% , I expect, Lord,” I answered. Then Jesus reminded me of a famous Christian church historian who had said: “In the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, all Christians were missionaries!” You don't have to go miles away to have a heart to tell the country you love about Jesus' Good News with a hunger for

Holy Spirit power to get the job done. We Allen's are here because Jesus us and gave us His love for the people of Japan. I tremble and weep when I think I might offend Japanese with cold statistics on Church Growth. I respect every Japanese Christian because they have fought against Satan maybe more than they realize to stay a Christian in Japan!

Japanese Christians may not be aware that long before Frances Xavier came here with the Popery of Roman Catholicism wrapped around Jesus' Gospel, more millions of Japanese Christians were martyred, killed because they would not recant their faith in Jesus, than, I expect, in any country in the World. We all can give the honor they are due as the Bible says in **(Romans 13.7)** *Give to everyone what you owe them: if you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour.* This is giving honor to the millions of Japanese martyrs now with Jesus; and you are worshiping Jesus as you do it! ***Give honor to them by being a Missionary today in your heart...Holy Spirit will empower you to fulfill this desire!***

**Yes, submission to God is sweet, whether in child-raising, in business, clearly fighting the Devi, or in being God's missionary whether you are. Regardless, we can have God's peace, to the Glory of His Grace!**

***Let Us Pray...***

## REFERENCES

**AMPC-** Amplified Bible, & Classic Edition

Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation

**EBC Expositor's Bible Commentary (Abridged Edition): Old Testament**

Copyright 2004.

**Morning & Evening, KJV Edition** – by Charles Haddon Spurgeon. Hendrickson Publishers, 15<sup>th</sup> Printing 2011

**MOUNCE** - The Mounce Reverse Interlinear™ New Testament Copyright © 2011 by William D. Mounce. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

“Reverse Interlinear” is a trademark of William D. Mounce.

**NIVUK** - Holy Bible, New International Version® Anglicized, NIV® Copyright © 1979, c 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc., Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.