

WCCC2013

Watch and Overcome 1

Watch and Wait

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For this time, the brothers asked me to share on the subject of watching and overcoming, especially in light of the Lord's coming. We have two sessions. For the first session, I would like to share on watching and waiting. And for the second session I would like to share on the brothers overcome him. So let us read some scriptures first for today.

I John 2: 28 – 29. *Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.*

I John 3: 2. *Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.*

I would like you to pay attention to 'abide in him' in verse 28, and 'when He appears we will be like Him' in 3:2.

Hebrews 10: 37 – 38. *For yet in a very little while, He Who is coming will come, and will not delay. But My righteous one shall live by faith; and if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in Him*

I would like to underline the first part of verse 38 'my just one or my righteous one shall live by faith'.

James 5: 7. *Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.*

I want to underline 'early and late rain'.

II Timothy 4: 7 – 8. *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

Here I would like to underline the words ‘fight, the race, the faith’ in verse 7, and ‘the crown of righteousness and reserve for all those who love his appearing’ in verse 8.

Psalm 139: 23 – 24. *Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.*

This is David’s Psalm. It talks about how he lived before the Lord.

Let us bow our heads and have a word of prayer.

Lord, we come to You this session. Now we pray that Your presence is with us. Lord, our hearts and our words are very feeble, but Lord, these are Your words. We pray that Your Holy Spirit will enlighten our hearts, so these words would be a light. We thank You for Your grace. We thank You for not forgetting us. We thank You for even at this very last hour, You are always with us. And Your thoughts for us are always that positive and so glorious. So we thank You, O Lord. Be with us this afternoon. In the name of the Lord Jesus we pray. Amen.

Brothers and sisters, this matter of the Lord’s return was a difficult subject for me. For many years, it seemed to me that it was intangible. It seemed to be very remote, not very touchable. When I was young in the Lord, I loved the Lord. And I also learn from brothers and sisters who led me that the bible’s every word can be practiced. That helped me a lot. But there was one thing that always puzzled me. How do I experience the Lord’s return? The Lord returns in the future. How do I experience it today? One day an elder brother came to town and I asked him that question. And the brother told me we experience His return in the waiting. His answer set me free and gave me peace. I started to humble myself before the Lord from that point on. His return is never an intangible thing to me anymore. It is not a remote subject to me anymore. The Lord is merciful. I started to notice the brothers and sisters that I know and I saw that somehow the Lord’s return not only sustains them in a difficult time but even encourages them in ordinary times.

The brother in our midst just went to the Lord four months ago. When he was young, he was put in the labor camp for fifteen years because of his faith. It was the faith of the Lord Jesus and the hope of His coming that sustained him all these years. When our brother was in our midst, we saw a servant of the Lord who was faithful to God. And he was always joyful among brothers and sisters. He was an example of joy. One of his favorite hymns was 'Since Long Ago At Bethany'. It is about the Lord's return. Oftentimes when we broke bread, I noticed him wiped his tears. Another hymn he loved was 'Lord Jesus, I Long In Thy Presence To Live'. So I have learned from these brothers and sisters that for those who love His coming, they live in His presence. And they are a blessing to the rest of us.

This time I have three things to share with you. The first thing is that the Lord for sure will return. The second point is that through the apostles in the New Testament, the Lord has given us guidance as how to work and live while we wait. The third thing is that if the Lord comes back today, He will expect something from you and me. We are all His servants and He looks for something in us.

Our Lord will surely return. Now we know that Jesus' return is the will of God. For example, in Ephesians 1: 21, it says '*God has set Christ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion; not only in this age but also in the age to come*'. The second thing is that no one can complete the will of God on earth, except the Son of God. Jesus Christ only is the one who can complete the will of God on earth. We remember in Revelation chapter 5, God is on the throne. He has a scroll in His hand. No one on earth, above the earth or under the earth is qualified and worthy to open that scroll. Then comes the Lamb of God, the lion of Judah and the root of David, He is worthy to take this scroll and opens the seal. Christ and Christ only can complete the will of God. The third thing is that our Lord's return is the will of God. God has promised to send his Son into the world again. We see this in Book of Acts 3: 19. We also see this in Hebrews 1:6, '*And when He again brings in the first born into the habitable world, He says, let all the God's angels worship Him*'.

The Lord Jesus will surely return because it is the promise of God Himself. In the gospel this theme came up again and again. I will just like to quote what Jesus said about His return the first time in Matthew 13:39 – 43. There the Lord talked about the wheat and the tares. He said he will send his angels to

separate the lawless from the righteous. Those who practice lawlessness shall be cast into the furnace of fire. But the righteous shall shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Now brothers and sisters, I particularly like this verse. It is because when I was a young Christian, I thought when the Lord returns, the whole earth and everything in it will be burnt up. Nobody will be left. Here the Lord Jesus said, only the lawless people will be put in the furnace of fire; the righteous shall shine forth as the sun. Brothers and sisters, we have a hope. We do not have to be burnt. We actually can shine if we choose to follow the Lord.

Now we come to the timing of His coming. Our brother told us this morning from the bible that our Lord is at the door. He can come any moment now. Not only did the Lord say that in Matthew 24: 33, but also the apostle James said that in the Book of James 5: 9, the righteous judge is already at the door. So dear brothers and sisters, the Lord is already at the door. He can come any time now. The Lord Jesus said that as to the exact date and time of His coming, only the Father knows. You and I do not have to guess. The more important thing that the Lord gave us is our attitude towards His coming.

How should we look at the timing of His coming? Luke 12: 56 – 57 say, *'You can discern the face of the sky and the earth, how is it you do not discern this time? And why do you of yourself judge not what is right?'* If we read the context, it means 'right' in the sight of God. Why do you of yourself judge not what is right in the sight of God? The face of the sky is changing. And the face of the earth is also changing. Last year, a tornado touched down in new York. That had never happened before. And earlier this year, there was a meteorite that got exploded above a city in southern Russia. On the same day, an asteroid swept by between the earth and the moon. So the face of the sky and the face of the earth are changing. These things should alarm us. But they should not distract us from the real message of God which is to discern the time and get right with Him. We have to know what He likes and what He rejects. And then we have to get right with Him. This is what the bible tells us about His coming.

Now the second subject is how should we live and work on earth while we wait for Him? The Lord Jesus ascended to heaven in the early 30s of the first century. In the 60s of the first century, all the apostles except John died. In the 90s, John also died. They did not see the return of the Lord in their lifetime but

they lived and they worked in His presence. They were not discouraged. If you read their letters, the coming of the Lord was their inspiration. If you read Paul's letter, from I Corinthians to the last letter, II Timothy, you can see the Lord's coming was his inspiration. We thank the Lord that these apostles served the Lord faithfully while waiting for His return. They never complained to the Lord saying, 'why have You not come back yet'?

And then they have very specific advices for you and me. The four verses that we read at the beginning were what the Lord had inspired the apostle John to tell us in I John. The Lord told us through John to abide in Him. And then for sure when He returns, we will be like Him. Brothers and sisters, this is a tremendous promise. We all know that we ought to be like Him. We should live and should work like Him. We should confirm to the image of the Son of God. But do you and I have an assurance?

John said, Abide in Him. So at that time when He appears, we will see Him as He is. And we will discover one thing. We will discover that we are like Him. It is a tremendous promise. The author of Hebrews said, 'in a very short time, He Who is coming will come. But my righteous one shall live by faith'. So brothers and sisters, this is also a tremendous promise. The promise is that He really considers you and me as His righteous ones. He said, 'my righteous one'. It is very personal. And then He tells us how we actually should walk. Live by faith.

Now if we remember in Romans chapter 1, to live by faith is from faith to faith, and actually in the more plain translation is from faith to faith to faith to faith. It is a continuous thing; just like a life is a continuous thing. To live by faith is a continuous thing. In the Book of James, he was telling us this. It is just like a farmer. A farmer looks for the produce from the earth – the precious fruits. It is his whole life and his whole expectations. He has prepared the soil, and then sowed the seed and then covered it in winter time and covered it in summer time. Then the rain came. Now the plant he planted grew really well. That guaranteed the final product. James gave us the picture of early and late rain. It is refreshing. It also guarantees the final product.

And then Paul said his last words in II Timothy. *'I have fought the good fight. I have run the course. I have kept the faith. From now on there is a crown of righteousness reserved for me'*. Oftentimes when I read

what he wrote, I always think only Paul is qualified to say what he said; and that is, what I will get from the righteous judge in the end. But he did not just stop there. He went on to say that this crown of righteousness is also reserved for all those who love the Lord's appearing. Brothers and sisters, it is a tremendous promise. If you and I love the Lord's appearing, Paul said we will do the same thing he did. We will run that course. We will keep that faith and we will fight that fight. And then for sure there is a crown of righteousness reserved for us. This is hard to believe. But this is exactly what he said. This is exactly what the Lord inspired him to say.

When we look at these things, they are and should be very real to us. John said abide in the Lord and then you will not fear and you will not be ashamed. And then he immediately talked about practicing righteousness. Brothers and sisters, His Holy Spirit will enlighten us and we will see our own sins if we abide in the Lord. We have our own sins. If we just leave them there, then we will not be able to go on with the Lord. We cannot continue to abide in Him. Here the words said, the righteous one shall live by faith. And by faith we have to drop that sin.

Last year, I went somewhere and met a young man. We really do not have much time to talk. But when I came back, I received an email from him. He said he was this and this. It was one page long. He said, brother I have sinned a horrible sin. I do not know whether the Lord will receive me back. I told the brother. I said that is why Jesus came; for sinners like you and like me. Now if we confess our sins, God for sure will forgive us. God is light. In Him there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son for sure will cleanse us from all sins. I thank the Lord that this brother has acted in faith. He acted on his faith and he took a step. I thank the Lord because then the obstacle between him and the Lord was gone. There was another young brother I know. Once he said to me, brother, I love music and I downloaded music from the internet. This music was not free. What should I do? I said, brother you know this is wrong. He said yes. So I said, talk to the Lord. Two or three days later, I got an email from him. He said, brother, I could not have any fellowship with the Lord unless I do something. I deleted this whole

thing. I thank the Lord. By faith our brother has moved one step and this blockage between him and the Lord is gone. Thank the Lord. He is faithful. He is merciful.

And then brothers and sisters, we have to realize one thing. John said the day we meet our Lord, we will see Him as He is and then we will be like Him. It is a frightening thing to see exactly how He is. We all know that the Lord is the vine and we are the branches. We abide in Him and Him in us. And then we bear fruits. Those fruits are from His life. We can talk about love, joy and peace. Let us just take that for example. The bible told us in Book of John chapters 14 and 15 that the Lord has given His own love, His own joy and His own peace to us. These things are the product of His life. Now we also have our own love, our own peace, our own joy and sometimes we are pretty proud. Our love is that our own family loves us. I go to my school and everyone is friend with me. My community thinks I am a very nice person. But our love is selfish. I love myself first. The Lord Jesus never loves Himself. He loves the Father and He gave His life for us, the ungodly. Our joy is that when things go my way, if everybody listens to me, then I am happy. But the Lord Jesus never has His own way. His way is the Father's way. And also our peace is that when I go to the church and every sister and brother listens to me, then I have peace. Brothers and sisters, the Lord Jesus came to His own and His own received Him not and He was put on the cross. He died on the cross to give us peace. So it is totally different.

The day we meet the Lord, we bring in us His life, His love, His peace and His joy. But we also bring our love, our peace and our joy. The Lord looks at us and He sees that we do not look like Him. So brothers and sisters, this is a very serious matter. It is alright to be a child and not mature. The Lord will direct the child to grow in the right direction. But if we treasure our own love, peace and joy and also let them grow in us then it becomes a serious matter. The Lord does not mind if we are young, but if the Lord sees something else in us, something that is not like Him, then He will not acknowledge us. So that is why it is so important to let the Holy Spirit and the cross to work freely in us; to take that thing off so that we come to the Father and to the Lord as a child, having His life and His life alone; and to get rid of those things in us even though those things might look pretty outwardly. I really thank the Lord that the Holy Spirit is not on my side. The Holy Spirit is actually on the side of the Lord to deal with me. But the Holy

Spirit is on the side of the Lord for my benefit. I really thank the Lord. If the Holy Spirit pampers me all the time, then I will never be able to see how different I am from the Lord. I also thank the Lord for the cross. The cross is not a negative thing. The cross is extremely positive. Whoever wants to follow me, he has to deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. Denying ourselves seems to be a negative thing. But denying ourselves has a reason; it is a positive reason and that is to follow the Lord. So we have to see that wonderful thing which is the cross, and take out our baggage which is ourselves so that we can freely follow the Lord.

Concerning this matter of early rain and late rain, if we look at John's statement in chapters 2 and 3, he started by saying abide in the Lord. The verse after that said practice righteousness. He did not say how. But the author of Hebrews told us how. How do we practice righteousness? My righteous one shall live by faith. So practicing righteousness is by faith. When we come to the second verse of chapter 3, before John said 'when He comes we shall be like Him', he said, 'how it will be, it has not been revealed'. But thank the Lord; the Lord has used James to tell us what will happen in that period of time. What will happen while we wait?

James talked about the early rain and the late rain that refresh us. What was James talking about? He was using the example of Job. We know Job was in severe trials. The Lord had a purpose for Job even though Job did not know. The Lord's purpose was to change him from a righteous servant into a real servant; one that can be an intercessor; one that can be a real blessing to others. So all through this process, Job did not know what was going on. His friends told him he had to have done something wrong. He had to have some hidden sins. Job said no. That was not it. And Job was in such pain. He said to the Lord, 'why do you contend with me?' And then later he said, 'even if you slay me I will still trust in you'. Job never left the Lord. Now in this pressure cooker, the Lord started to show Job something that can only be found in the New Testament. And Job got it. And Job said, 'how can a man be righteous before God?' This is something lifted out of the Book of Romans. He also said, 'in heaven is my advocate.' It is like something from the Book of Hebrews 8: 10. And even more, he said, 'I know that my redeemer lives and that at the end He will stand on the earth. Even my skin decay, I will see Him

in my flesh, in my own eye and not another eye.’ Brothers and sisters, in the pressure cooker, the Lord showed Job Christ in heaven. And then a few chapters later, the Lord appeared to him and Job repented before the Lord in dust and ashes. ‘I have only heard of you, now I see you with my own eyes’. Brothers and sisters, the Lord used him later to pray for his friends. This was the Lord’s ending. Before that the Lord revealed to Job Christ in heaven; my redeemer, my advocate. Oftentimes, it is difficult for us to follow the Lord. Sometimes we think people are so unfair. Sometimes we failed again and again. But this early rain and late rate was good enough for Job. And it is good enough for us.

Brothers and sisters, we will come to what Paul said about running the race. All you have to do is to love His appearing. This running the race and looking off to Jesus who is the author and finisher of faith is in Hebrews chapter 12. But there is a difference between that in Hebrews and what Paul said in here. What Paul said here is to love His appearing. There is a dimension of love in here. Brothers and sisters, you cannot love His appearing unless you love Him. If you love Him, for sure you will love His appearing. When we run the race, our brother said last night, there is only one course. When we run that course, His face is right before you; He is my guide, He is my correction, He is my cheerleader and then when I fall He picks me up; when I am wrong He corrects me and above all we know He is our beloved Lord. That is why Paul was so confident that whoever loves His appearing, he can run this race, he can fight this fight and he can keep this faith. Thank the Lord; this is what the Lord through His faithful apostles advises us.

From now until the day He appears, we ought to have a different way to look at our own life, a different way to walk and different expectation. Thank the Lord He gives us early rain and late rain. When we go to the bible study, do we just look at what is right and what is wrong like reading the law? Or do we find Lord Jesus in these letters that we lift our heads up; as our brother prays so many times that we have an open heaven. And when we come to the bible study we ask that the Lord will show His face to us. When we come to prayer meeting, instead of asking for this or that, can we ask the Lord’s face to appear to us, and that we can know His heart and His mind? Early rain and late rain and open heaven are your portion and my portion.

Next we move on to the third point. If the Lord comes today, what does He want of me and you? In other words, what is a servant that is ready? The Lord Jesus gave us an example in the parable of two servants in Matthew 24: 44 - 51. In that parable, there were two servants. One was a wicked servant; the other was a faithful servant. The master went away and when he came back, he found these two servants. And the Lord made some comments and from these comments we can see what the Lord is looking for. He looked at this faithful servant. He said this faithful servant produced fruit for the house in due time. So this servant knew the purpose of the master. The first thing is the purpose of the master. And when the Lord came, He said, this good servant. The Lord had found him doing the right work. The master wanted something to be done. And the servant was doing the right preparation. So preparation is another thing. As to the wicked servant, the Lord said, this wicked servant said in his heart, the master had not come back yet. So brothers and sisters, it is a matter of the master's presence. The wicked servant thought the master was not going to come back today or tomorrow. So he beat up his co-workers and ate and drank with the drunkard. Here we see three things. One is the master's purpose. Second is the servant's preparation. Third is the master's presence. Then there is the fourth point. The Lord said for this wicked servant, at the time that he did not know or was aware of, the Lord came back. So here the Lord tells us that we need to know the master's time. The Lord tells us to take note of these four things: the master's time, the master's purpose, the master's presence and the servant's preparation. When we look at our Lord Jesus in the gospel, we see that He is the best example for the servant's preparation. Our Lord is also the best example with regards to the master's time. He knew His Father's time. And He watched and did things according to it. He never wasted any time. With regards to the master's presence, our Lord is also the best example for it. The Father's presence was always with Him. The only exception when the Father's presence left Him was when our Lord was on the cross. But that was for my sins and for your sins. Our Lord is the best example of the readied servant. The Lord was always prepared. He said My food was to do the will of the Father, the one who sent me to accomplish His work.

When we read the bible, from the Old Testament to the New Testament, we can see these four things in the servants of the Lord. One of the good examples is Moses. The reason we can look at Moses is that he is recorded very clearly in the bible. Moses wrote Psalm 90. When we look at psalm 90, you can find all these four things in there. In essence, we can divide Psalm 90 into these four points. As to time, Moses said the time of the Lord is from eternity to eternity, but my time was very transient. It was like a dream at night. It was hard to grasp. It was like a sigh. It was like a bird flying away. The moment you think about it, it was gone. So he prayed, *'So teach us to number our days That we may present to You a heart of wisdom'*. Moses talked about the presence of the Lord. He said, *'You have placed our inequities before You, our hidden sins in the light of your presence'*. Moses knew there was nothing we can hide from the Lord. But thank the Lord; we know that we are all sinners, and we put that before the Lord. We then ask for His mercy and then we can pray. He said, *'Do return, O Lord, how long will it be?'* There was no separation between the Lord and Moses.

If you read verses 16 and 17, you will know the purpose why Moses wrote these things. When I was young, I could not understand these verses and always wondered why Moses talked about these things. Why would he said let God's works be shown to Your servants and why would he said establish God's work in our hand? We are not to have any work in our hands. So why would Moses pray that prayer? But then brothers and sisters, when you read into it, you really see what Moses was trying to say. Moses had the whole dealing of the Lord in him in view. He had the whole people of the Lord in him. He kept saying 'we and us'. It pointed to the forty years in the wilderness. The 'we', was not he and the sheep. It was he and the people. Here he said let Your work be shown to Your servant. The work of the Lord to him was something glorious, something big. And then he said let Your majesty be shown to our children. Brothers and sisters, here he talked about the purpose of God. God's purpose to Moses was higher than heaven. He had seen it with his own eyes. According to that purpose, the work of God is great. Now he wanted God to show His work to all of His servants. And His glory will be shown to all His children. And one more thing, Moses said Lord let Your beauty be upon us. What does that mean? In today's language, it is your testimony; so that we can be your testimony. We can have nothing to testify unless

we have Your beauty on us. And that was what Moses said. Finally Moses said Lord establish Your work in our hands. Moses never had his own work. Everything he did was the Lord's work. So here, he was saying very simply, Lord, Your work is great; Your work is according to Your purpose. We are doing Your work. So Lord, steady our hands; establish Your work in our hands. This is what Moses said in Psalm 90. It expressed himself. It expressed what God wanted in him and his people.

When I read Exodus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, I could not escape the closeness between Moses and God. The arresting phrase is 'face to face'. In Exodus 33, it says *'the Lord Jehovah talked to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend'*. And then at the end of Deuteronomy, the last record about Moses was, *'the Lord Jehovah knew Moses face to face'*. What was the one thing so special about Moses? It was face to face with God. The reason that he could have such a heart for God, such a confidence of His work, and such openness to the Lord about his sins when he wrote Psalm 90, was because he had this face to face relationship with the Lord.

Brothers and sisters, when the Lord returns there is no choice. You and I will see Him face to face. There is no choice. But before He returns, we can be like Moses; we can have this face to face fellowship with the Lord. That is your choice and my choice. When we see Moses' life, when we see David's life, we can see Samuel's life, we see these people had this face to face relationship with the Lord day by day, moment by moment.

Moses was sent by the Lord to Pharaoh ten times. Before that Moses never had experience of serving God. His only experience was tending his sheep. The Lord sent him to Pharaoh. Pharaoh was the big empire of Egypt. Moses went. The first time, Pharaoh would not give in. Moses came back to the Lord and told the Lord what happened. So the Lord told him, 'go in again and say this'. He went and said as told. Pharaoh did not like it and sent him back. He came back to the Lord and the Lord sent him in the third time, 'say this'. He went and said that. And Pharaoh did not like it. He came and went ten times.

Brothers and sisters, Pharaoh was getting weaker and weaker and Moses was getting stronger and stronger every time that Moses went in to see him. Finally after ten times, the Lord told Moses, stretch out your staff over the

Red Sea and they went over. From that time on, Moses trusted the Lord hundred percent.

Dear brothers and sisters, we need to exercise that. This is called from faith to faith. It is not only for Moses, it is for all of us. Romans 1 said that. In our life at home between husband and wife, in the church with brothers and sisters, in our own pursuit, in our own difficulties, it is from faith to faith; and then again from faith to faith to faith. What is faith? Faith is what the Lord says.

That was the first lesson Moses learned. And the other thing was that Moses never complained to God. I should not say he never complained to God. He did. But he never complained about God. It was very hard to be Moses. There were two million Israelites. They liked to eat good things and they liked to drink good drinks. And then the Lord gave them manna. They said it was tasteless and they complained. And Moses was caught in between the Lord and the people. And then once Moses said to the Lord 'these are not my children. Why did you not just kill me? It would be easier'. Of course the Lord did not kill him. The Lord loved him even more. Moses was not allowed to go into Canaan. He could have told the Lord, it was they who provoked me. Everybody could have weakness. But the Lord said, 'you have not honored me before these people. I cannot let you go into it'. Moses never complained to God about this. Brothers and sisters, if we complain about God, the face to face relationship will be gone. And then Moses never wanted to separate from God. In Exodus 33, Moses told the Lord, 'Lord if you do not go with us, we will not go'. Brothers and sisters, it is not a very nice thing to say. It is very blunt but it is sincere. Moses could not be without God. He could not be without the Lord's presence. Thank the Lord.

David was the same. We know that in Psalm 51, he sinned and then he told the Lord, 'Lord, cast me not out of Your presence. That was my life. I could not stand it. I could not live without You'. And then David talked about the deepest part of the fellowship. In Psalm 139, he said 'Lord, wherever I am you know even if I go to the end of the ocean. And you know and you will be holding my hand'. Brothers and sisters, the most precious thing is this, the fellowship of thoughts. In verse 2 of psalm 139, David said, 'You discern my thoughts from above. You know my thoughts'. And then in verse 17 he said, 'how precious are your thoughts to me, O God'. David was saying, Lord, not only you know my

thoughts. I know your thoughts too. Brothers and sisters, this is the heart of fellowship. Face to face is not physical. It is heart to heart, mind to mind. At the end of psalm 139, David said, '*search me, O Lord and know my heart, try me and know my anxious thoughts*'. When we read this, we feel a little funny. The funny thing is this, the Lord knows our heart already, the Lord knows my mind anyway, why do I want to say search me and know my heart, try me and know my thoughts? Brothers and sisters, the Lord knows our heart anyway. But however, unless we open ourselves to Him, there is no fellowship. He is there, I am here. There is no heart to heart fellowship although He knows everything about me. I may not know things about Him; but if I am not willing to open myself to Him, then there is no possibility of fellowship. But thank the Lord; this was what David put down in this Psalm; a heart to heart, a mind to mind. Brothers and sisters, it is very important that we open ourselves to the Lord because that is the basis of a face to face relationship. The wonderful thing is we do not need to wait until that day to be face to face with Him. We can be face to face with Him now. If we are not willing to be face to face with Him, then talking about waiting for His return is just empty. And then two years from now we are still weak, we are still far away from Him. He will still be outside knocking. Brothers and sisters, let us choose to be blessed; let us choose to come face to face with the Lord. That is the basis of a ready servant; ready for His return.

Let us pray.

Dear Lord, we thank You with our heart and mind. Your love for us has never changed. You have said from far away, You have loved us. Lord, we do not want You to be far away. Yes, we want You to love us with an everlasting love. Lord, we long to see You face to face, heart to heart and mind to mind. Lord, You are the one we depend on. We may be weak, we may go astray, Lord, but our trust is in You. It pleases Your heart for us to come back to You. Lord we thank You very much for even before You return, we still can have early rain and late rain and we still can see You and have heaven open above us. And then we can have fellowship with You with no hindrance. Thank you Lord. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.