

**WCCC 2018**  
**The Glorious Church (2)**  
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We are talking about the glory of God and His church and the church glorifying God. In the church God reveals His glory to us. And when we see His glory, our response is to glorify His name. And it is our responsibility tonight to continue to share about God's glory in His church. We will look at two verses in Ephesians that have to do with this matter.

*Ephesians 5: 25 – 27.*

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.*

This is a precious promise to us. The Lord Jesus is producing a glorious church. And we believe the promise of these verses. The Lord is going to present Himself a glorious church.

*Ephesians 3: 20 – 21.*

*Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.*

We go to the end of Paul's prayer and here we see the church responding to our glorious Lord. This is our end and our desire – unto Him be glory in the church. We see the condition of the church today and that it does not always give glory to the Lord. At times it even shames the Lord. But we see the very purpose of our being is to give glory to the Lord. The Lord has connected Himself to us. Unto Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus. Our glory is reflected from His glory. He is the sun full of glory. We are the moon reflecting His glory. And He has joined Himself to us as husband and wife. Glory and glory. Glory and glorified. And this is why we gathered here.

Prayer: Our Father we come to You in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. How wonderful is the testimony that He has saved us by His grace. And by His precious blood and by His life He has given birth to the church. We believe that now He works in the midst to produce a glorious

church. We pray that all of us might be to the praise of His glory. Glorify Thy name, O Lord. Glorify Thy name in the church. We pray in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Tonight, I want to look at the church in Ephesus through history. As I shared last time, the church at Ephesus to whom these words were written was a glorious church, born of the Lord in the city of Ephesus. It was a city full of witchcraft, idols and dark spiritual forces. But when the gospel was preached, it was as if God said let there be light and many people saw the glory in Jesus Christ and they were saved. They burned many of the magic books. And this church has first love. They pursued the glory of God and they discovered they were part of the body of Christ, something that God was doing. But as we trace the history of the church at Ephesus to the end of the first century, let us read some verses in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 1: 9 – 2: 7.

*I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea." Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me and. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength. When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands; the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."*

*“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: ‘I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake, and have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place – unless you repent. Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.’”*

Even as the tabernacle was called to be the testimony as the children of Israel went through the desert, so the church is called to be a vessel of glory today in this age of representation. The church at that time was a wonderful church. Paul resided there for three years, preaching the gospel and laying the foundation of that church. We know that Timothy took up the responsibility of building up the church in Ephesus after Paul. And at the time of the writing of the Book of Revelation, John the apostle had resided in Ephesus before his exile. In Paul’s day we are impressed with how spiritual the saints in Ephesus were. We know that when Paul wrote to the various churches, he wrote to them only according to the depth of their spiritual understanding. For the saints in Ephesus, he could share with them the depth of the understanding of the eternal purpose of God. Whenever the saints gathered in Ephesus, one could sense the glorious presence of God in their midst.

I would like you to turn to 1 Timothy 3 to see the second point as to the reference of the church in Ephesus. Now Paul was writing to Timothy. And the church where Timothy was located was in Ephesus. We can see at that time the church in Ephesus was still full of light. And among other things, it was Paul’s desire that Timothy would be there as the elder and helped to appoint elders and deacons in that church.

We will read a few verses in that chapter. Verses 14 – 16 *‘I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who*

*was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.*’ Here we see a simple but not exhaustive explanation of the church of God. He called it the household of God because there was a sense of family among brothers and sisters. He called it the church of the living God which means that God was present when they gathered together and they could sense God actively working in their midst. And this church had been established as the foundation and pillar of the truth. The foundation of the truth was in Ephesus. It was more than just an objective doctrine of the word. There was a pillar of truth as if the light of truth was in their midst. This was a normal Christian church. But you notice along with this simple definition, in the context he brought up the matter of the mystery of godliness. When we read these verses, we realized they were talking about the Lord Jesus. This is a great mystery because He appeared in this world as a man, a man of flesh. But He was vindicated in Spirit. He was seen as a holy God. And in the end, He was taken up in glory. Now Paul was teaching about Jesus. But he was applying this mystery of holiness to the church. And what he was saying was simply this. When we as a church with Christ Jesus as our life, the church becomes a great mystery to the world. How come these people acted this way? They are human beings just like us but they are marching to a different drummer. How can they live a godly life? They are being led by the Spirit. I think some of your relatives and friends wondered how you can live such a godly life. They do not know that Christ in you is your mystery. And as the Spirit justifies you and you walk in your flesh in the Spirit, as you also live in heavenly realms with the angels, then one day you will be taken up in glory just like Jesus. Now to anyone who is not a Christian, this is a mystery of God. And when the church of Ephesus was in its normal Christian condition, there was a mystery about it; there was a glory about it. And the worldly people would not understand. Not that the churches in Paul’s day were perfect. But because they were pursuing the Lord Jesus with all their heart, there was something transcendent and glorious about them. Paul could even say to the church in Ephesus that the testimony of God has been confirmed in their midst. When we look at the church of Ephesus in this normal state, it was not hard to say that Jesus was producing and presenting to Himself a glorious church. But with time and history even the church in Ephesus began to decline, and we begin to wonder where the glory in the church was? They were still praying, preaching and worshipping. But there was something missing.

In 1 Timothy Paul could talk about this church of the living God. But, some years later in 2 Timothy, when Paul was in jail, he had to redefine the church. He said the church was like a large house, and there were many vessels, some were honorable, some were golden, some were wooden, and some were clay. Many people had been added to the church of Ephesus. It was a large house. But its spiritual testimony was in the shadow. He did not tell Timothy anymore to work with the elders and deacons. But instead he told Timothy that he had to find those worthy vessels who were servants of the Lord. And he told Timothy not to forget that the testimony of the Lord stands firm and He knows those who are His. Perhaps at that time it was around A.D. 60 - 80. But by the time we come to the Book of Revelation, there was even further decline. This church started with such spiritual life, and such pursuit of the glory of God. The landscape by the end of the first century had changed in the church of Ephesus. He did not talk about elders, deacons or teachers. Instead he talked about bond servants and angels and lampstands. And even though as we noticed that the Lord commended the Ephesians for their faithfulness, perseverance and ministry, there was problem. Of course, we know what their problem was and that they had left their first love. They were still very busy. They were still serving God. But the Lord was asking where the glory was. If He does not see glory, He will remove their lampstand. What is their value if there is no glory? And we see the key issue for Ephesus was the glory. And it is a warning to all of the churches. We are so busy serving God that we lose the treasure that is the source of life itself. When we read the letters to the seven churches in chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation, we come across a question. Can our Lord find a glorious church or bride without any spot or wrinkle or any such thing, a sanctified bride, holy and blameless? As I mentioned last time, this was a fellowship between Brothers Nee and Sparks. We can just claim Ephesians 5:27 – the Lord will have a glorious church. But when we look around, we say “Oh, oh.” Can the Lord do it with such a spiritual state of the church? Or can we claim this verse in that one day by a miracle we all will be changed and God will have His glorious church? I know there is a great desire in the hearts of many brothers here that one day God will have His glorious church. But it seems our spiritual situations in a lot of our assemblies match that of the Ephesians in a state of decline. And so I want to present the answer to the question whether the Lord can produce a glorious bride.

I want to share four things. We can see a glorious church if the Lord reveals the four things to us. Despite the challenges and the weaknesses among the saints; despite the lack of testimony; the

Lord will have His glorious church. And He will have it because of the four things that are revealed in Revelation 1 – 3. First, we must see the glorious high priest of the church. Second, we have to see the lampstand all in gold. Third, the mystery unfolds by seeing the stars that are in the Lord's right hand. And fourth, we see the glorious church through the overcomers. Let us look at each one of these.

First, we look at the glorious high priest. John the apostle was in the island of Patmos, far away from the seven churches in Asia Minor. And John was burdened for these churches. These churches considered him a treasured apostle. Our dear brother shone with the love of God in his life. Probably he was the last living of the twelve apostles. And like Paul he had a burden for all of the churches daily in his heart. He was considered an apostle. And as an apostle he was given the charge of overseeing these seven churches, building these churches and guarding these churches. He was responsible as an apostle. But in himself humanly speaking, he was a bondservant. He was just a man saved by grace; desiring to be faithful; doing all that he knew and desiring to see the church come to glory. But in spite of all his apostolic work, these churches were in decline and he was far away, unable to do anything about it. Those that really serve the Lord often blame themselves when they see the church declines. The people there might have seen him as an apostle. But he only saw his weaknesses and his inability to revive and restore the church's glory. What John needed and what every bondservant of God needs is to see the glorious church. At this point in our dear brother's elder life, the one thing he needed was to see Jesus again; to see Jesus in His glory. And God responded in mercy. The churches were in decline and God could judge those churches. But He had mercy on the churches. And so what did our God do? 'John, I am going to unveil the curtain and to reveal what is going on behind the scene.'

The greatest question we have is what is going on beyond the veil. Because we live in this world, there is a veil that prevents us from seeing all that God is doing. And so we do the best we can and we see our mistakes and failures in all we do. But when and if that veil can be lifted, then we see things from heaven's point of view. What is really going on? The only way that we can really know is for God to reveal Himself. The word revelation means the unveiling of Jesus Christ and that is what the entire book of Revelation does. The book is written to a specific group of people. We all read it. But the only ones who understand are his bondservants. Now we think

that bondservants are those full-time workers. But a lot of bondservants of the Lord are those who have no title or full-time ministry but serve the Lord with all their hearts.

We heard from our brother this morning that he wanted to be sure that we are all God saved. And that everyone here has the assurance of salvation. But that is just the beginning. The Lord has saved us and called us to be His servants. Every one of us is a servant of the king of the kingdom. This is our highest calling in life. And those who are bondservants have paid a price for sharing their testimony, for being faithful in all kinds of oppositions, just like our dear brother John. But sometimes a bond servant comes to the end of himself and the Lord mercifully comes and unveils the glory of the Lord Jesus.

We cannot go through the entire Book of Revelation. But we can just make this statement. The whole book is the unveiling of Jesus Christ. I think you all know the book very well. Chapters 4 and 5 are a unit themselves. The curtains are opened to the glory in heaven, the glory of the angels and elders and living beings and all the praises that go on in heaven. What a glorious scene that is. But all that in chapters 4 and 5 is the background to bring the Lamb of God out of the Father's throne in glorious presentation that brought forth the praises that have never been heard before in heaven and on earth. And then as the rest of the book unfolds, we see tribulations on earth, we see scrolls and trumpets and bowls, we see beasts and anti-Christ. Then we see war in heaven. All these are backgrounds to present the unveiling of Jesus Christ as King of kings, Lord of lords, conquering all, making the kingdoms of this world the kingdom of His God. I have a granddaughter who is twenty-three years old. Part of her job is to paint scenery for dramas. So she will understand this completely. The whole of the book of Revelation is background scenery for the Lord Jesus Christ in His glory. But before the book gets to these great and mighty things, what John and every bond servant need to see is the glory of this Son of Man in the midst of the church. When we study the book of Revelation, we usually study chapter 1 as one unit and chapters 2 and 3 as another unit. But I feel that chapters 1 – 3 is one unit together. You cannot see the glorious church unless you see the glorious Lord. And so as John was in the spirit on the Lord's Day, the moment of glorious unveiling finally came.

Revelation 1: 10, 12. *I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet.*

The first thing He heard was a loud voice with words spoken. To me, I feel this is encouraging to bondservants. If you serve the Lord, you love His word. And if you study the word, when the time is right, the Rhema will shout at you out of the words. I do not know what John was doing in the spirit on the Lord's Day on Patmos. This voice woke him up. And when he turned around what did he see? He saw seven golden lampstands. And in the middle of the lampstands, one like the Son of Man. There were seven lampstands and John did not know what it meant. But in the center, he recognized someone. However, he had never seen Him like this. He laid his head on Jesus' chest, but now he saw the glorious chest shining. But later we know he saw the Lord Jesus, standing with the seven churches in the background. I think the greatest need of Jesus' bondservants today is for the veil to be lifted to see our glorious Lord. John was told by that vision that Jesus the high priest is there and He is taking care of His church. Now sometimes we do not see that when we are on the other side of the veil. Sometimes we think our service may be in vain. What if the curtain is lifted and you see Jesus working in the church? And it is not just Jesus but the glorious Jesus Christ my Lord. When John saw this, he fell down like a dead man. And if God grants you as a servant, such a vision, you will fall down as a dead man. Let us take the overall picture of this vision that John saw. He saw glory; he saw wisdom; he saw power; he saw holiness; he saw an anointed powerful priest. And when he saw he fell down like a dead man.

Do you think sometimes bondservants forget what is going on the other side of the veil? We said on the other side Jesus is trying to build His church. But then on our side we are trying to build like crazy. We said only the Lord can build the church. And we try hard to make it glorious. Paul said wise master builders, upon the foundation of Jesus should build with gold, silver and precious stones. So we bondservants are responsible to build with what is good material. But only the Lord can bring glory to the church. And as you know the story in chapters 2 and 3, this glorious Lord is looking for something. What is glory in the church? Each of the seven churches was given a unique testimony to the glory of Jesus. Jesus is inspecting the church at Ephesus and the other churches. And He is looking for Himself, His glory in the church. Each church has a different aspect of this glory. And none of those churches is perfect. And yet, the Lord is looking at these lampstands as a high priest. Indeed, this is a tremendous unveiling that John saw before His eyes. And we understand why He fell down.



Revelation 1:17 - 18 *'When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, 'do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore; and I have the keys of death and of Hades.'*

Can you imagine this was the apostle who knew Jesus better than any of the other apostles, yet when he saw the Lord Jesus in His awesome glory it was too much to bear. He fainted with fear. But there is a possible second reason he fell down like a dead man. Do you know what happens when a bond servant sees the Lord Jesus in glory? Suddenly your whole ministry flashes in front of you and you see how pitiful it is in comparison with the ministry of the high priest. Put it this way, John spent all his time high priesting and then he saw the high priest and he asked himself what he was doing all this time. Our brother this morning shared about that sometimes we serve the Lord and we think we are pretty good. This is the antidote of any false thought that what we are doing is of any value. But when John was lifted up again by the hand of this mighty priest, he saw Jesus washing the church with His word. Maybe it is possible, if the high priest is washing the church by His words – three words.

Number one, 'I am the alpha and omega'. John was there when the alpha showed up. But now it gripped John's heart that He is the One who will finish what He started. He began the glorious church and He will finish it. And when He said I am the first and I am the last, it means that He is doing everything in between. All the other alphabets are His responsibility as well. Now do you believe He will present to Himself a glorious bride if what He has started He is going to go through every spot and He will finish it? Number two, 'I am the living one'. Now this word 'the living one' is what is used in the bible. And it means more than just that He is alive, but that He is the active agent alive doing everything that He commands. But being the living one He is making a contrast with our weakness, our inability. He is the living one who can do whatever He desires. And number three, 'I was dead and behold I am alive forevermore. And I have the keys of death and Hades'. We know Him as the resurrection and the life. But here is what He is saying to the church, 'I know you are in decline, but I am going to resurrect you. You have to go through death'. The church has to go through death. There are so much of selves in the church. Do not be surprised by this decline. It is only when the cross does its work in us that we can come back with victorious life.

Any church represented here tonight, which holds a living testimony of Jesus Christ has had to go through repentance and deaths and dealings with our flesh and our human ways. But here is an

unchangeable principle of scripture. Glory is on the other side of death and resurrection. Do you think if we see this glorious Lord that we might believe that He can produce a glorious church? Do you think He can definitely do it or do you think He is too weak? Has He tried His best but He failed? Brothers and sisters, we are living in Laodicean days where we have the blindness from the world. We need the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to see that our Lord is still King of kings and Lord of lords and high priest and He is able to perfect His church. So the mystery of the glorious church is solved when we see our glorious Lord.

The second aspect is the golden lampstand. Now I like this name 'House of God in San Francisco' because the church is the house of God. And some on this side of the veil see the church also as the body of Christ. But I do not think John ever saw lampstand and found out that it is the church because Jesus said let Me explain the mystery to you. Now John knew about lampstands from the tabernacle and the temple. But why is Jesus calling the church His lampstand, His golden lampstand? We have a long history about lampstand in the tabernacle and the temple. Zechariah 4 revealed the spiritual significance of the lampstand. When they returned to rebuild the temple after Babylon, what was the one piece of furniture that was missing? It was the Ark of the Covenant. The ark all of gold and the cherubim were no longer in the temple. But there was another furniture in the tabernacle that was all of gold. Gold is a testimony of God. And even though they did not have the Ark anymore, the lampstand stood as a testimony that God was still with them. And He will come back with glory with His ark to the house. And so what was the testimony in Zechariah? Remember in Zachariah 4, the angel asked Zechariah 'do you know what it means'? And Zechariah answered 'I do not have a clue'. The lit-up lampstand said this, 'It is not by might or by power, but by my Spirit, I will build my house'. Zerubbabel would lay the stone in the foundation as the alpha and he would put the stone on the house of God as the omega. So this gold testimony has great importance to the Lord.

We may see the church as the body of Christ or as the house of God. But look inside the house. Is that lampstand burning bright with the glory of Christ? Do we have a testimony that God is among us and He will build and bring out a glorious church? Regardless of how many people were in the church in Ephesus, Jesus saw the importance of that testimony of the lampstand, that gold. May the beauty of the lampstand be unveiled to us so we can see the beauty of what God is doing in Christ. May everything that we say derogatory about the church stick to our mouth when we realize its beauty and its treasure to the high priest. And I hope we can have the unveiling to

see that in every church there is a golden lampstand. Can you believe in each of the seven churches including Laodicea that there was still a lampstand. But some have gone dark; some were burning. Maybe in Philadelphia was that little church but their lamp was burning as they waited for the holy One.

Bondservants need to look beyond the veil and see that the church in its spiritual reality is already golden. Spiritually speaking the Lord looks at the church and He sees gold. It has been put together by the Lord. It is all gold. He is trimming the wicks; He is putting in the oil. And Jesus as the high priest, has a helper. You know who holy Bezeliel is in the bible? He was one of the skillful men who helped construct the tabernacle. And greater than this man is the Holy Spirit. Bezeliel had his ball pin hammer. It is a hammer that has a round edge. Now this man took a piece of gold that weighed about a hundred pound and he went tapping it and he built the base all out of one piece. Then he started tapping the branches of the seven minora; all of one piece. And it had to be perfect. And then it had flower buds on it and then cups on it; all out of one piece of gold. How long did it take him to tap all these out? The Lord is tapping on us and He is building His glorious church. But for the bondservants of God, if we can see the church in its perfection is already done, then we can work from seeing that finished work until it is perfected.

I was a pastor in the church, tapping, working and high priesting. But I did not know what it would look like in the end. What is the church to look like when it is done? I thought it would be more people and bigger buses. But then one day I heard my brother, Stephen Kaung shared on the glorious, golden candlesticks. And it was the glorious Lord Jesus that I saw. I saw Him standing before His church. It was the golden lampstand. And I fell down and asked God to forgive me for everything that I have done and for seeing the churches less than He sees the church. Brothers and sisters, we are on our way to glory. He is tapping us into one magnificent church. I hope your eyes can see that.

But yet there are two more sequences. The third one is the stars in His right hand. In one sense you can say that it is a tragedy because these are the angels sent to deliver the message to the church. And what is the tragedy? The tragedy is: where are the elders and the deacons and the prophets and the teachers? We do not know. God has to look into the church to find some people who has a position in heaven and can hear the burden of the Lord. Who are these stars? God commissioned them to deliver the message to your church. We do not know whether they are the leaders. By the end of the first century, they started calling people, like now by the name of their

offices like bishop. But Jesus was not looking for the bishops. He was looking for those who heard Him speak and were willing to deliver the tough message to the church. The only thing we know about these angels is that they must be bondservants. We do not know if they are brothers and sisters. It does not talk about office. But they are willing to speak the message that the angels gave them. And there is a second interesting factor about these angels. These stars are also responsible for the churches. The bible said 'and to the angels of these churches write this'. Some bible scholars said Jesus in fact was speaking to those who had responsibility in the church because their lives as a failure were reflected in the whole church. So for example, in the church of Ephesus, it was to the angel that our Lord said you had lost your first love. Now we are going to see God glorifies His church, so there have to be messengers there that will speak the truth to His church. Every one of us as the body of Christ is responsible for the church in its present state. But Jesus here spoke to the angels. He got the stars in His hand. It is a humble thing to fall into the hands of Jesus. And they are willing to do it. I look over the years and I think the angels need to take responsibility for the state of the church.

Let me just mention two things. Our first responsibility is to see that our young people not only saved, but that they see the glory of Christ, that they see God's eternal purpose, and that they see how our Lord wants to recover His church and that they are willing to overcome all to be faithful to Jesus. If our young people are saved but they grow up without seeing the glorious church, we have missed our responsibility. I was impressed with the second thing recently. Late last year, our brother Stephen wanted us to get together with the younger brothers who have promise of being the leadership in a church. We just get together with them. And last December we had one weekend with the brothers and sisters. And we had a wonderful weekend. In some of these brothers and sisters we saw some gifting and a heart towards the Lord and in some others there is an obvious calling. But most of them told us that they have never been given the opportunity to serve and to be developed into workers and servants in the body of Christ. This is a shame. I count myself as an older brother. But what are we older brothers doing, holding down brothers and sisters who are gifted and have calling and promises? Are we jealous and we have to hold on until we die on the pulpit? We will have great weakness in the church if these brothers and sisters are not allowed to develop. And if you elders and responsible brothers do not encourage them, shame on you! Are you responsible for them before the Lord? If you are an elder and you encourage five brothers younger than you in ministry and faithfulness, you will be a successful

brother. What happens when our ministry fades away? Sometimes I cannot remember my name anymore. Back where I live, there are six brothers who speak regularly, who serve regularly and they are all under forty years old. And they are learning how to be faithful in their generation. If we are to see a glorious church, we have to see some stars in the Lord's right hand.

But what is the final ingredient? It is the overcomers. Let us say the angels speak but who is going to listen to them. Sometimes when I speak I saw a lot of people spaced out. If the messenger speaks who will listen? He who has an ear let Him hear what the Spirit is speaking to the church. When I saw the church in all its glory, then I really became worried. Lord, how can you ever come back for your glorious church? And then I looked; the overcomers will be ready. The overcomers have learned to do spiritual battles by the blood of the Lamb. And the word of their testimony has been purified by the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. And they love not their life, even unto death. And they are buying gold, refined in the fire. They are awfully close. These overcomers are the glorious bride. One day very soon they will be snatched up. And the Lord will have His thousand years with His bride. I suppose I married one hundred couples and many times I said soundly to myself a scripture. Hallelujah for the bride has made herself ready. Is that a wonderful scripture in Revelation 19? She has prepared her garments with righteousness of the saints. When the Lord comes to collect those golden first fruits, this glorious golden lampstand will be in the wedding feast with the bridegroom and shall reign with Him for a thousand years. And then the Lord will catch up all the rest into the great New Jerusalem where everything will be transfigured into glory. So the Lord does not have to wait till every stone is perfect. He is looking for glory in your life. We do not know who is ready, who is overcoming. These things are hidden behind the veil. We are all brothers and sisters, but if we see our glorious Lord and the preciousness of the golden lampstand and if we listen to the messengers who speak the final word to the church, and heed the word, then we shall overcome. And as said in Ephesians 'those who overcome I will give thee eat of the tree of life in the Paradise of God'. I cannot wait to taste what that tree will be like. I think I have spent a lot of time on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in life, and I still have some of the fruit stuck in my teeth. Eating the tree of life in the Paradise of God, you overcomers see it and desire it – the glory of God. Glory is always talking about the near future. So let us sing one more time, glory, glory, hallelujah.