

July 4, 2021

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Let Us Become Richer and Richer!"  
—To the Eternal Kingdom of Heaven—

Text: 2 Peter 1:10,11

**1:10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities, you will never fall.**

**1:11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

#### Introduction

The first verse of Psalm 42 is one of my favorite scriptures and praising songs.

**"As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God."**

**Psalm 42:1**

This is the Psalm where King David expresses his fervent desire for the Lord's grace, **"As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God."**

The land that David may have pictured is the wilderness in Judea, where there is no plants or trees. In Israel, herds of wild deer live in the wilderness.

The wilderness of Judea is like a desert, so that deer become thirsty because of the strong sun and dry air. They wander in search of the water of life and search long for even a little water such as a river between valleys. I have heard that they have the ability to sense a source of water from distances over 10km. It is an amazing ability that they have.

They realize that they cannot keep themselves alive without water. Therefore, they move toward the source of water in the wilderness so that they can drink and live.

My friends, their attitudes make us think of Christians, who believe in God, panting for the living water because of thirstiness of their souls. As the deer know where the source of water is, souls of Christians know where the source of living water is.

It is in Jesus Christ.

Peter records in Chapter 1, Verse 3 as below,

**1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,**

God provides us with all things that pertain to **life and godliness**. On top of that, the grace of the Lord is unfailing. Christians, who understand how the Lord is rich in grace, come close to the Lord for **the water of life** that is great abundance in spirit.

Let us come close to the Lord and ask for His grace. Now let us study the following two points today.

#### Main Points

##### 1. Be All the More Diligent

**1:10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities, you will never fall.**

##### 1) A Christian's Version of "Diligence"

The Scripture records, **"be all the more diligent."** We sometimes say the words, **to be diligent** and **do one's best**, however these are not accepted in a stressful society. People would rather tend to follow the one who says to them, **"You should not be too diligent"** or **"You should stay as you are."**

As I mentioned before, there is two kinds of attitudes of doing one's best: a good attitude and a bad attitude. It is important for us to distinguish differences of them correctly. If we do our best for something not so important, we will be exhausted and soon slow down. However, the Bible teaches to do our best without being exhausted.

Then, why do we not slow down and become exhausted? The reason is that God does not make us to be diligent by ourselves. Jesus Christ takes our yokes.

**Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

### **11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”**

My friends, how blessed we are! We do not need to go through hardships, anxiety, and worry. Jesus promised us, **“For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”** Let us give thanks to Jesus.

### **2) A Life that Confirms Calling and Election**

When we read Chapter 1, Verse 10 carefully, we understand that the Bible advises us to **“confirm our calling and election.”**

**“Calling”** means that God calls us to Him.

**“Election”** means that God chose us for His salvation.

We are the ones **who are called by God and are chosen**. It is God’s work, so we are completely guided and are fulfilled by Him from beginning to end. On top of that, God gave us everything we need to walk in our Christian lives.

**1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,**

Therefore, God encourages us **“Be all the more diligent”** because He gives us all the things we need. We, who **are called and chosen** by God, are loved by Him. How blessed we are!

Then, what does it mean to confirm our **calling** and **election**?

It means to walk with Jesus by completely trusting in Him. It is easy to say so, however, it is not really easy to put it in practice and walk with Jesus.

Why is it so difficult to do so? The reason is that our sin in us disturbs us.

Therefore, we should walk by putting us before God everyday as God’s beloved Children.

### **3) Enthusiasm is Not a Top Priority for Starting a Christian Life**

I should mention a very important thing now. A Christian life does not depend on enthusiasm. We listen to the prayers and testimonies of other people and often compare our lives with them. A certain person looks at other people who join

various events of the church and thinks them devoted Christians. They then become depressed.

However, being enthusiastic is not the starting point of faith in Christian life. If one is enthusiastic then that is good, they can keep working hard by themselves and they come to believe that he can well accomplish his faith to the end. However, they will be in danger of their soul drying up.

Then, that person may come to judge people who do not act like them and hurt other people. Therefore, we should remember that we walk looking at the Lord who called and chose us.

Peter said,

**1:10 ...for if you practice these qualities, you will never fall.**

Conversely, the verse above points to the reality that if we take our eyes off the One, we will easily stumble. We should remember that our lives are in constant danger of stumbling. I do not think that there is anyone who would not stumble.

Thankfully, the Bible clearly shows us the way so that we do not stumble. When we realize something that makes us stumble, we should stop briefly and find the correct direction that the Bible teaches and then start again.

## **2. A Life that Where Grace is Richly Given**

**1:11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

Peter sends the amazing word to the Jewish Christians. It is the grace to **enter into the eternal kingdom**. It is given only by faith, not by human efforts.

It is the grace that is given 100 % by God's unilateral grace.

There are various interpretations of **"There will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom."** Some interpretation says to **surely** enter into the kingdom, and some interpretation says that God **richly** prepares an entrance into the kingdom. A certain biblical scholar says that God welcomes the winners of faith as citizens welcome an Olympic winner, full of joy.

Our goal in life is clearly set. Our goal is **the eternal kingdom** where our Lord abides in, who chose and called us. The Lord offers us a hearty welcome, those who trust in Christ.

In our current world, there are many things that make us stumble. On top of that, we experience many things that make us very exhausted.

**1Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.**

Many Christian churches in the world are suffering and they have many battles. There are many countries where evil power persecutes churches and takes away their freedom of holding worship services. Open Doors, an international mission organization, reports that persecution occurs in more than 50 countries and the top 10 countries are in Asia and the Middle East.

On the other hand, the churches become extremely confused by the power of evil. Love for one another decreases and they judge each other and slander. Brothers and sisters fail to have good fellowship. The most favorite situation for the devil is that brothers and sisters dispute each other and create an incongruity.

My friends, this is a sign of the end times.

Jesus said,

**Matthew 24:12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.**

However, you should not worry.

Jesus said,

**John 14:1 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.**

Jesus Christ is always with us.

**Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

**11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."**

Please remember that our Lord Jesus is ready to take the yoke with us. The way of faith is the blessed one and guaranteed way toward to the kingdom of heaven.

**John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.**

### Conclusion

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We are precious ones who are **called** and **chosen** by God.

How should we live in the confused society where it is difficult to trust each other?

Peter gave the important examples for us to live.

1. Leading a life that confirms **calling** and **election** of God
2. Living in the grace to enter into **the eternal kingdom of God**

\* God bless you!