

Guard the Deposit Entrusted to You

Introduction

Good morning brothers and sisters. Praise the Lord. Have you ever prepared for something or meditated upon something for months and months, and God, in the last second, came to you and changed it? “No, you are not going to share this.” Well, that has happened. I have been meditating upon one of these thoughts for about eight or nine months, since the conference. Wherever I see that phrase or the word, I quickly go back to my meditating or note down that point and see what God is trying to speak with me, or how I can include it in that message.

But sometimes that kind of meditating is important for you not to teach or preach, but it is for your own sake. I thank and praise God that He has given me that chance to meditate upon it. But today I want to share a little testimony about how God turned me back to share this message today.

A Testimony of Guidance

About two or three weeks ago, I had a dream. In that dream, we were gathered in a small gathering. One of the sisters in our fellowship was saying, “There is something in Acts you need to study about this, but the main focus is in I Timothy, the letters to Timothy.” I woke up that day and read I Timothy for a couple of chapters and said, “Lord, if this is the topic that you want me to speak on, I am not sure how I can include it in the topic that I am already meditating on.”

So, with my human power and everything, I tried to include or fit that into the topic that I am trying to share. But it never settled. It never gave me comfort. I have been unsettled. I do not know what to do. I am asking my wife to pray for me. I am praying for myself in my daily prayers. It never settled, even until last Friday, the day before yesterday, I was not settled.

On Friday, I usually fast in the morning. I woke up, and I texted my team that I am not going to work today. By God's grace, it worked out because it gave me some free time. I woke up, I read the Bible, and that day my daily portion was I Timothy again. I started reading it and completed six chapters, and God gave me the thought, and I continued again to II Timothy. I did not stop in the first letter, and God gave me the thoughts. The thoughts are pouring out, and within 10 or 15 minutes, my whole message frame has been built up. Praise the Lord!

So that is the message. I am sure that God wants to speak to every one of us today, including me, about this message and about this thought. So, let us commit this time into our Lord's hand and ask Him to help us to hear His voice.

Let us pray.

Living and loving Heavenly Father, we thank You, O Lord, for giving us this day and this time for us to gather around Your name. The time that You have given us to worship,

O Lord, we commit this time into Your hands. Open up our senses, all the senses, O Lord, so that we can hear Your sweet little voice, and we can understand the burden that You have for us today. We commit this time into Your hands in Jesus' name. Amen.

Let us turn our Bibles to I Timothy 6:20-21. I am sure we all have Bibles, so let us open it and read I Timothy, 6:20-21. It says, “O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called ‘knowledge,’ for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. Grace be with you.”

And let us turn our Bibles to II Timothy 1:14 “By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.”

I am sure you might have heard messages on this topic, “Guard the deposit entrusted to you,” many times, but God wants to speak with us again today on the topic.

Different Circumstances of Paul

Let me give you a little bit of context regarding the condition Paul is in while writing these two letters, I Timothy and II Timothy. We will try to understand Paul's condition and situation when he writes these two letters. I did some research, and there have been different timelines between these two letters, but there is three to seven years of gap between when Paul wrote I Timothy and II Timothy. He is in very different circumstances in both of these times.

In between these three to seven years, a lot has changed in the ministry life of Paul. When he is writing the first letter, he might have been imprisoned, or he might have been released from his first imprisonment. When he is writing to Timothy, he is mainly focusing on the Church of Ephesus and how he needs to lead the church, even though they are well experienced. He is guiding Timothy to lead the church. But Paul knows personally that he has a future that he can look unto when he is writing I Timothy. So, in the circumstances, he writes this and says, “O Timothy, guard the deposit that has been entrusted to you.”

In II Timothy, the letter written to Timothy the second time, Paul is in anguish; he is suffering. He does not know whether there will be a future or not because he has been imprisoned. His own people have abandoned him. He is alone, he is suffering, and he knows death is coming for him. They are going to martyr him because he is following Jesus Christ. Even though he is suffering like that, he is saying again, “O Timothy, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.”

But the second time, you need to look at the difference. He is asking through the Holy Spirit, “you need to guard the good deposit entrusted to you.” So today, as we are looking into this, let us look unto the Holy Spirit that has been given unto us also and ask Him to help us to understand this burden that God has for us.

Same Message: Guard the Good Deposit

So that is the situation of Paul. He is in two different circumstances, but his message to Timothy is the same: he needs to guard the good deposit. Now we want to see what that good deposit is that Paul is speaking about.

Brothers and sisters, this is how the Holy Spirit works. I am really struggling to keep it in one sentence, to explain what this good deposit is that has been entrusted to you and me. If it has been entrusted to Timothy, it also has been entrusted to us. Because Paul is teaching every one of us, all the Church, the universal Church, I am struggling to keep it or explain it in one sentence.

This morning, our brother stood up here and said, "Redemption of the soul is costly." That is it, that is the good deposit. Through the Gospel, or through the blood of Jesus Christ which is very costly, He has bought us; and He has given us that good Gospel to save it, to guard it, to protect it, which is in us.

That is the good deposit, so guard the good deposit. Redemption of the soul is costly. If it has been given to us, which is very costly, and we know that it is costly, how careful we have to be. If America is saving gold somewhere in the bank, what is the security for that? It is very tight security; no one can enter. And it is even more costly than that. All the gold is even more costly than all the minerals on this earth which have been given to us. The Gospel, the blood of Jesus Christ, is costly, and we need to protect it; we need to guard it, and it has been entrusted to us.

The Deposit

Gospel, Christian Faith, and Truth

So, what is this deposit? It is a deposit, something that one person has placed in trust to another person's safekeeping. God not only shed His blood for us, and cleansed our sins, but He also entrusted this deposit to us. The Gospel, our salvation through that Gospel, our salvation through that Christian faith and truth, has been entrusted to us or given to us.

But currently, the world situation is abnormal. It is very difficult for us to guard this good deposit given to us, this Gospel, this Christian faith, this truth. It is very difficult. We know whom we have believed in, that is the Lord Jesus Christ. We are fully convinced that He is able to keep us until the day He comes back. He is able to keep us blameless until the day He comes back for us. But it is very difficult to live in this world, in this fleshly body, and to guard that good deposit given to us.

Our Lord Jesus trusted this good deposit to us, knowing who we are and what we are. So quickly, this good deposit becomes ourselves, because it is living in us. God's truth is living in us. The good news is living in us. And that means it is "us", ourselves, we need to protect from this abnormal world that is around us: our faith in the Lord, our life, everything that concerns us, our love for Him, our total complete commitment to Him. That is what we need to protect.

Paul knows his suffering is for this deposit which has been entrusted to him. That is why he is earnestly asking Timothy to guard that deposit, again and again, in both situations. Many people are ashamed of the sufferings of Paul; many people are abandoning Paul. But Paul is faithful to the Lord because he knows the importance of this good deposit, the truth that has been given to him through Jesus Christ. He is instructing Timothy and us as well to guard that good deposit.

The Words of God

It is not only the Gospel or the truth in Christ Jesus that has been given to us to guard. The good deposit also includes the word that God has given to us. John 1:1 says Jesus is the Word, and the Word comforts us so that it can speak lively; it can reveal things to us that are concerning us personally as well as the church. So, it is very important to guard the good sound word that is in this world.

You are seeing this abnormal world today. Everyone is speaking; everyone is uploading videos online; everyone is doing some kind of ministry, whether it can be good or wrong. It is very easy to get lost in that kind of world and to lose the way to see which is correct and which is wrong. It is very difficult in this abnormal world. We are facing all these challenges, especially the younger ones.

That is the reason I want the younger ones here today to listen to this. It is very easy to get lost in the online world. You will not be able to decide which is correct and which is wrong. You need to be careful. You need to understand, and you need to follow your elders. You need to follow the people who are older than you and take guidance from them.

Revelation Through the Words of God

The word of God is the second thing we need to protect that concerns the deposit. The third one is the revelation through reading that word. Not only is reading the word important, but the revelation that Jesus Christ is giving us through this word, when the Holy Spirit is opening up this word to us. We need to understand that revelation. We need to protect that revelation. We need to know whether that is coming from the Lord or from another source. We need to understand that, and we need to protect that.

We have seen what the deposit is. One is the truth that God has given us, which is very costly. The good news that God has given us, which is very costly. The word that God has given us, which is very precious, and which will lead in our lives in any kind of situation. And the revelation that is coming through that word. So, we need to protect this.

Avoid What Is Falsely Called “Knowledge”

Contrary to This Deposit

But what is contrary to this deposit? There are several contradictions that are happening to this deposit, which is the knowledge in I Timothy 6:20, which Paul is clearly mentioning: “Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called

‘knowledge.’” Adam and Eve wanted this knowledge. They disobeyed the Lord to get this knowledge. This knowledge is very dangerous.

If the knowledge we know is only about the doctrine, is only about the traditions, is only about the teaching or preaching, then it is only good for normal times. When everything is going well. It will not help you, it will not keep you closer to God when the conditions are bad, when you are going through sufferings. We need to be aware of this knowledge. Whether it is the good deposit that has been given to us or the knowledge that we are acquiring on our own.

Come the abnormal and difficult times, we are bound to fall into the pitfalls if we are getting closer to the knowledge instead of the good deposit that God has given us. We will look into those pitfalls a little bit later and learn what those pitfalls look like.

The question now I want to ask every one of you is, why is this deposit important and essential to us? Yes, I said it is costly, and it is very important for us. Because the gospel is important for us. It will keep us; it will protect us. Why is it essential for us to get closer to that good deposit given to us? It becomes the vital thing in our lives so that we are not shaken when God shakes the things that are not His.

Brothers and sisters, God is going to destroy what is not His in this world. This means you are going to be part of what He is destroying if you are not closer to Him; if you do not know what is good and what is wrong, you will be shaken. That is what I am saying. You need to be sure what has been given to you. Instead of knowledge, we need to be sure about the deposit.

If God is shaking what is not His in this world, we should not be shaken. We should stay strong; we should stand strong so that His kingdom stands strong on this earth when other things are falling apart.

No Confidence in Our Own Work

Let me give you an example. And how standing strong is related to every one of us, especially for the people who are leading their flock, who are ministering for their flock. In 1962, in India, a dam was built. It was a big dam, about 30 to 35 feet high. It was built to stop the rainwater so that it could be utilized once the dam was built. Usually, in those days, I do not know about now, but in those days, they used to wait for six months so that it could settle down and everything is strong and then it could be utilized. But when this dam had been built, the engineers decided, so confident about their work, to start using it right away.

At the start, everything was good, everything was strong, it was being used correctly. But when the bigger rainfall came, the dam started to crack, and the water started to leak. They tried their best to stop that leak by applying cement or applying iron sheets, etc., but they were not able to. Within five minutes, they went to have their lunch. Within five minutes, that whole dam collapsed. We do not know how many people lost their lives.

We should never be confident in our own work that we are doing for the Lord. We need to be sure that we are doing it according to the will and purpose of the Lord so that not only we, who will be damaged if it fails, but all the people around us that we are ministering to, will not be affected.

Get Closer to the Deposit Instead of Knowledge

It is the greater responsibility that we have, and that is the more essential aspect, to get closer to the deposit instead of the knowledge. So that the people who depend on us, on our ministering, on our service, will not be affected. Not only us, but the people who are around us, we should not affect them. That is why we need to get closer to God and to the deposit. It is very essential.

As the coming of the Lord nears, the whole world will be shaken. To withstand that, we need to be sure that the deposit has been entrusted to us so that we will be prepared. And as a result, His whole kingdom will not be shaken. We need to be sure about that.

Qualifications for God's Entrustment

Now I have been talking about the deposit for so much time. We need to understand why it has been entrusted to us. We know that the deposit has been given to us. But God is so powerful that He can guard it. He can keep that deposit. But God is desiring that we can work with Him, so He entrusted that deposit to us.

Enlisted by God

Let us turn our Bibles to II Timothy 2:4. It says, "No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him." So as a soldier, the soldier's aim is to please the person who enlisted him. Furthermore, that soldier must be enlisted first. God enlisted us to protect this deposit which has been given to us. He is able to keep it by Himself. He can protect it by Himself, but He is looking for that fellowship. He is looking for that responsibility, so that we can take up that responsibility.

He enlisted us as the believers in Christ. If you believe in Christ Jesus, you are enlisted. No matter if you are serving, you are speaking, you are doing something. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you are enlisted to keep this deposit, to understand this deposit, to get closer to this deposit.

First, we are enlisted. Now, once you are enlisted, once you have accepted that responsibility, there should be some qualifications for that soldier. There are some qualifications given through Timothy himself. He is an example or kind of a role model as a soldier who has been enlisted. Let us look at those qualifications of Timothy and try to understand how we can gain from his experience or these qualifications from him.

Sincere Faith to Work for the Gospel and Kingdom

The qualifications to be enlisted and guarded are seen in Timothy. Let us turn our Bibles to II Timothy 1:5. This is about Timothy, how he is, how his life was, as one who has been enlisted as the soldier. II Timothy 1:5 says, "I am reminded of your sincere faith, ..."

Paul is speaking about Timothy, “you are sincere in faith as your mother and your grandmother were. You are so sincere that I want to give you this responsibility to lead this whole church.” Are we as sincere in that faith as Timothy is?

The second qualification is in I Thessalonians 3:2, “And we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith.” Paul is sending Timothy and explaining that Timothy is, “God's co-worker in the Gospel of Christ.” Are we co-workers in the Gospel of Christ? Yes, we should be co-workers in the Gospel of Christ. That is the responsibility given to us. But are we acting in that? Are we acting in that sincere faith to work for the Gospel and for His kingdom?

Those are the qualifications. I want to take this time to challenge, especially the younger ones, to consider this.

Readiness to Preach

Let us turn our Bibles to II Timothy 4:2. Paul is instructing Timothy like this: “Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.” Are we ready in season and out of season?

Let me take one example. If something, God forbid, happens to me, there might be an emergency that has happened to me, and I am not able to come here today and stand before you and preach. Who among you will be ready to come here and share God's word? Can I see any hands? Are you ready?

“Not me.” Okay. Some other brother who wants to break the bread or who wants to open the time, are you coming ready? Are you prepared to share God's word if something comes up to prevent the brother who has been planned? We are so interested or we are so dependent on our planning, we do not even think about it.

But our plans are bound to fail. Our plans are bound to fail unless the Lord keeps those plans. So let us not be so confident in those plans. This thought has been shared through Brother Kuang, who shared it at some time. I was listening to one of his messages, and he shared this testimony that when he was young and he was working with Brother Nee, Brother Nee was sick while Brother Kaung was helping him. Every Sunday Brother Kaung must be prepared with a message, because he never knows when Brother Nee will say, “Go, Brother Kaung, you are going to share the Sunday message.”

Brother Nee would say to Brother Kaung 30 minutes or one hour before, and Brother Kaung must be prepared every single Sunday. You understand how difficult the training is. But we have reaped the fruit that Brother Kaung gained, because Brother Kaung is ready every single Sunday. If you and I are prepared like that, how much more fruit can we bear when we are going into this world? Not right here. You might not get a chance right here because God is very gracious. He might bless our plans, and it can go well.

We are comfortable right here when all the believers are around us; but what if you are moved to some other place? What happens if there are no believers around you, and

you need to take that responsibility to lead a flock, to lead the younger generation? This is the challenge brothers and sisters, which has been given to us. Are we being prepared?

Are we taking that good deposit and taking up that responsibility of a soldier who has been enlisted to please the person who has enlisted us? Are we getting prepared like that? While serving are we examining ourselves or serving like the normal service without reverence? Or are we serving with reverence, coming prepared to take up that responsibility whenever it is needed? Because you never know when that responsibility comes up.

I am not saying this about preaching or teaching, and I am not leaving out the sisters who are sitting there. Because for husbands to come up here and share, the work of the sisters, husbands, and wives are very important because they are taking care of them. For a husband to be prepared every single Sunday, his wife needs to pray for him so that he can be prepared every single Sunday. It is the collective effort. It is not just the brothers who are doing all the work. There are a lot of things going on behind the scenes.

Why I am saying this is, it is the collective responsibility that has been given to us so that we can get closer to that deposit, and keep that deposit, and take up that responsibility that has been given to us.

The Needs to Guard the Deposit

Now we have seen why it is entrusted to us - because we have been enlisted. And we have looked at Timothy - that he has those qualities, and Paul has given that responsibility to him. Now why do we need to guard the thing that has been entrusted to us? Because it can be lost; it can be snatched away; it can be misused. A thief can take what has been given to us.

Protect Ourselves from Ourselves

I will give you three reasons. There might be many reasons you can find why we need to guard the responsibility given to us. The first reason is to protect ourselves from "us." We as human beings, in this bodily flesh, need to protect ourselves from our bodily flesh once we are saved and have been redeemed through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Let us turn our Bibles to II Timothy 3:1-9. Here Paul is instructing Timothy about the self-love that he is seeing among the people: "lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control." All these things are related to yourself, not to somebody else.

We need to be very careful, and we need to protect ourselves from "us." How can we do that? It is very easy to follow the Lord, love the Lord when you are surrounded by believers. You are all good. They can be your protection. They can see what is happening in your life. That is what the fellowship is. The relationships will get closer to you, and they can warn you when the time comes.

But what happens if you go to college or if you move to an island like John did? What happened at that time? Who is going to keep you from falling? It is God. We need to understand we ourselves are enemies to us as long as we are in this bodily flesh, on this earth until the Lord comes. But God has given us that ability to look unto Him so that the Holy Spirit can protect us when we are going wrong. But we need to be sensitive to respond to that Holy Spirit.

Protect Others from Falling

The second reason is that we do not swerve from the truth and protect others from falling. Let us turn our Bibles to I Timothy 6:21. Because of following that knowledge instead of the deposit, some of the people or the believers in the church are doing this: “For by professing it some have swerved from the faith...” By professing the knowledge instead of the deposit, some have swerved from the faith.

Even if you go to the initial chapters or the first chapter of I Timothy, you can see about the false teachers, strange doctrines, strange teachings that are going on in Ephesus. We need to protect ourselves from those kinds of teachings, as I have mentioned earlier, from the online teachings, whatever else is going on. So do not consume whatever you find; validate it. Take guidance from your elders who come before you because they have that experience.

You might think you know it all, but no, that is not correct. The experience matters because God has taught them through the years, and we need to respect that experience and take that guidance. Do not consume everything in terms of knowledge and think that you have gained everything, that you know everything; it is very wrong, and it is very dangerous. We need to guard ourselves from that; guard the deposit that has been given to us, or it will bring the downfall of the people around us too.

As soon as we learn something, the tendency of the human being is to share that with someone. Until you share that knowledge or new thing, you will not be settled. Some people can look at you and think, “Oh, he knows so much; she knows so much.” We need to protect ourselves from that, which is humbleness or humility.

So, validate whatever you are learning: take the help of the elders who are around you, and it will not cause the irreverent babble that Paul has mentioned. In II Timothy 2:16, he mentions that the people who are following this knowledge are causing the irreverent babble, which is not good at all.

We need to get closer to the sound doctrine that has been given to us. Please do not misunderstand that I am saying doctrine is wrong. No, doctrine is not wrong. As Brother Dana Congdon said in the last conference message last year, doctrine is important when it brings the light; as long as you see the light that doctrine brings instead of getting under the shadow of the doctrine. So, I am not saying doctrine is wrong, but we need to be careful about what that doctrine is teaching us, whether it is the light or the wrong things.

The Consequences of Not Guarding the Deposit

Now we have seen the importance of the deposit: what the deposit is, and how we need to be closer to that; why it has been entrusted to us, and why we need to guard it. We have seen all these reasons. Now my question is how do we guard it, and what happens if we do not guard the deposit? What happens?

As I said, we will swerve from faith. We do not know what the truth is, and what is wrong and what is correct. Paul has clearly mentioned the most dangerous thing in the last part of I Timothy 1:20.

So, Paul is talking about the people who are not in good conscience and who are shipwrecking their faith because of this knowledge. They are not holding fast to the faith, and what happened to them? “Among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.” Handed over to Satan! This is a very big word.

We know what has happened when a person has been handed over to Satan. Saul in the Old Testament was handed over to Satan. What happened to him? He never came back. But our Lord is gracious. Even though these people have been handed over to Satan, they still can come back when they recognize what they were doing wrong. God will never say no to the people who repent, who confess, who understand their mistakes. He has open doors for everyone. He can bring them back. God can bring them back.

But we should not be in that position in the first place. We should not be handed over to Satan. So, we need to be careful about that. That is what happens if we do not guard our deposit that has been entrusted to us.

Guard the Deposit

How do we guard it? There are many things you can study on how to do it. If you read I Timothy and II Timothy, you can list 10 different points, not just the points that I am mentioning right now. If you do it yourself, God might reveal so many things, but I want to touch upon two or three things.

Submit Yourself to the Lord

First, submit yourself to the Lord, period. Submit yourself to the Lord in anything you do. Submit yourself to the Lord. Ask God to teach you. “Lord, is this correct or wrong? Am I going in the right direction or wrong direction?” There is no spectrum when God speaks to you. “It might be this, or it might be that?” No, there is no might. There is no spectrum. It is black and white. Yes or no. That is it if you are submitting to the Lord in the decisions you are making.

In each thing you need to ask the Lord, “Lord, is this correct? Is this what You want me to do?”

Not Ashamed of Sufferings

The second thing is in II Timothy 1:12. Paul is saying this: “Which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.” Paul is not ashamed. He is going through sufferings. Everyone has abandoned him. Everyone he knows, the whole of Asia has abandoned him. In that same chapter, if you go further down, Paul says, “But I am not ashamed...” of the sufferings.

Whenever you are going through difficult times brothers and sisters, you should not be ashamed because God is preparing you. God is preparing you. He is mending you so that you can work for Him as He has intended. So, we need to remember that we should not be ashamed of the sufferings, or we should not be ashamed of the Gospel that is in us. We should not be ashamed to share with people and proudly say that we are followers of Jesus Christ. No matter what type of persecutions it brings in your life, you should not be ashamed to say that you are a child of God.

Holding to Sound Words

So let us remember that. That is how we guard the deposit that has been given to us. One is to submit ourselves to the Lord, and the second one is by not being ashamed of the sufferings that brings into our lives. The third one, II Timothy 1:13 says, “Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.”

Not in the faith and love that is in Paul, or not in the faith and love that is in your spouse or your friends or your elders. It is in the faith that is in Christ Jesus and the love in Christ Jesus. You need to hold the pattern of sound words that have been given to you.

So first, you need to concentrate on the Word, and second, you need to concentrate on the teachings of your elders who are around you. As I said, we need to follow our elders so that we can be prepared and trained and mended according to the will of the Lord. We need to hold the pattern of the sound words. That is the third thing.

Yield Ourselves to the Indwelling Holy Spirit

And there is a fourth thing, which is very important, that Paul has been instructing Timothy. In the beginning I said the difference between I Timothy 6:20-21, and II Timothy 1:14, is the Holy Spirit. So, by the guidance and leading of the Holy Spirit, we can guard the deposit that has been given to us. In II Timothy 1:14, it says, “By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.”

If the Holy Spirit is dwelling in you, He is readily available whenever you ask; you will be able to guard it. “Lord, teach me or show me what is wrong or what is correct so that I can guard the deposit that You have entrusted to me.” So, we need to depend on the Holy Spirit and His leading.

All we need to do is cooperate with the Holy Spirit instead of quenching the Holy Spirit through the deeds or through the habits that we have in our fleshly body. We need to yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit. We need to give complete control to the Holy Spirit so that He can speak with us. The Holy Spirit is God, and He can give that connection between us and the Lord, and show us what the purpose of the Lord is in our lives. And let the Holy Spirit rule over our lives in every decision, in everything that has been given to us.

Never Trust Our Flesh

The final thing is, never trust our flesh, which has no good. Never trust the flesh, the fleshly desires. "Okay, this might be correct. This plan might work out. This decision might be correct. Oh, it is okay if I do not know what God is intending me to do here. Oh, it is okay if I go there because it will help my salary, or it will help my future, or whatever it is."

Because you do not know what will happen tomorrow, and you do not know where you will be tomorrow. So never trust your flesh and the decisions that you are making in your flesh. To understand what a fleshly decision is and what is the decision of the Holy Spirit, you need to get closer to God. If you are not closer to God, you will never be able to understand what is correct and wrong. That is why it is most important that we need to walk in the guidance and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Life Might Get More Tougher

Now you said, "Brother, this is all good. So, I wake up tomorrow and I get closer to God and follow all these things. Then is everything in my life going to be smooth? Is it a very smooth ride the rest of my life?" No, it is not. If you are getting closer to God, trying to guard the deposit that has been given to you, your life might get tougher.

Let me say it right out; I do not want to say it. It might get tougher. You will face challenges of guarding the good deposit. The first thing is spiritual warfare. If you try to do the good thing or the right thing according to the will and purpose of the Lord, Satan will attack.

If you are not willing to accept that, that is fine with me. But that is the thing that will happen. That is why you need the fellowship of the Lord around you. That is why you need the church. If you are alone, you are open to attack. That is why God has given you the brothers and sisters, young and old, wise and knowledgeable, who can pray for you.

The Work of the Fellowship

That is why we need to understand the work of the fellowship, why the church is important in your life; so that you can fight that warfare not by yourself, but with the support of your church. You might be abandoned by your own people for doing the correct thing. That has happened in the life of Paul; the whole Asia has abandoned him in II Timothy 1:15.

But that is where our brothers and sisters in Christ help us: fellowship, prayers, accountability, helping each other in need, praying whenever you are in difficulty. So, you might face challenges; you might face spiritual warfare; but you have the church to support you. Start trusting your church and lean on the church that God has put you in.

Final Thoughts

Let me close with this thought. We have seen what the deposit is and why it is important to us. We have seen the importance of guarding it. Every one of us is enlisted for that entrusting from God; to receive that entrusting from God. It is not the job of just one person, or the job of a couple of elders, to guard this deposit. When you are talking in terms of church, the fellowship, it is not the job of one person or a couple of persons. It is everyone's collective effort between young and old and everyone in the church to guard the deposit that has been entrusted to us.

Older brothers and sisters should learn how to entrust to younger generations. Younger brothers and sisters should be ready to learn from them. There is mutual connection and the responsibility that is being shared between every one of us, every generation that is in the church. It is a collective responsibility. But our responsibility is to guard the deposit which has been entrusted to us.

Let me close with this prayer, and I request everyone to turn to Jude 24-25. Let us read these verses, all of us together. Because it is difficult to guard this deposit, God has promised us, and God has given us that living hope, eternal hope. It might be costly; the good deposit might be costly, but God has given that support to us, and He is promising us that He will keep us, and He will protect us until the day He returns.

So let us read this, and pray this over us, as we are going to close. Jude 24-25: *"Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."*

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