

Q&A PASTORAL COUNSEL

A Part of the Rise Up Men of God Ministry

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The following are Rev. Quek's response to the unanswered questions that were posted at the RMG meeting held on 10th April 2024.

Q: Amir Tzarfati. Often received from friends (even among our BP members) the sharing of this motivational speaker and his Behold Israel sharings. Is Amir Tzarfati a credible Messianic Jews preacher or *deep fake”?

A: There is a testimony of his salvation on Youtube (<https://www.facebook.com/amirtsarfatiofficial/videos/412013473456559/>) If it is true, then he is a believer like all confessions, including our own. We thank God for every salvation. However, when it comes to what he says or writes, just as we evaluate every sermon based on God's Word we do the same with what Amir Tzarfati shares. The Word of God is the only credible safeguard to evaluate all speakers including our own BP speakers, with no exception. Take heed to the warning of God regarding cultism, where man has this propensity to follow another man, including his pastor. **Acts 20:29-30** *“For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”* Two enemies attacking the church: verse 29 describes wolves entering and pretending to be sheep, and verse 30 refers to men who are already

inside and who will draw believers' loyalty to themselves and away from Christ. May God grant discernment to God's children so that their faith will be based only on Christ and His holy Word, not man.

Q: Hi pastor, what do you think of registering for BTO HDB flat before proposing for marriage? Is it presumptuous to do so? Not sure if anyone may be put in a difficult position if they later find out the relationship is unsuitable. Or if the girl feels she has 'agreed to be married' to the guy she is registering HDB BTO. The couple can withdraw the application - but it is difficult to do so with people expecting them to get married with BTO application. Is this a wise decision to make for convenience? Although more expensive, buying resale will not be put in such a position. What is your advice?

A: The basis for evaluating God's will in a person's life begins with evaluating whether the issue is sinful. Is it a sin to buy a BTO flat or a resale flat? The answer is no. Since it is not a sin, then the next step is one of faith. If the couple by faith believe that God has brought them together and chosen them for each other, then registering for BTO flat is fine. If the couple has doubts about their relationship, it is best not to register.

Q: Dear Rev. Quek, I am a Christian father to my teenager. We are to grow with our children. Can I [ask] for your advice on how to maintain the tension (like a kite) of being a friend (to better understand my child) and at the same time correct and biblically guide my teenage child? Thank you.

A: It depends on the present relationship that the father has with the teenager. If it is a healthy one, it is much easier as the communication between them is healthy. The father has to give advice now and to give them judiciously. He cannot command or insist as the teenager is struggling to cope with his feelings in transitioning from a teenager to a young adult. The emotional and mental challenges of adjusting from a teenager to a young





from the appearance of evil (cf. 1 Thessalonian 5:22), The believer must remember he represents the Lord Jesus Christ in holiness in thought, motive, word and deed. What he puts on and does not must bring glory to God in Christ. The slightest hint of shame must stop the believer from carrying out that action. The Name of Christ must never be profaned at all.

Q: Is it appropriate for unmarried couples to hold hands, hug, put arms around each other as a form of affection (whether in church or outside?)

A: The guideline is one of societal context. If the society is conservative, it is best not to show any such affection, even for the married couple. When we visited the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, the rule was not physical contact such as holding hands and putting arms around the shoulders, including for husbands and wives. Christians must abstain from every appearance of evil for Christ's sake. The next is the heart condition of the unmarried couple to ensure that the lust of the flesh is not an issue.

Q: Is it right not to disclose to anyone when in courtship with someone in church? Both parties are still seeking God's will in this relationship and prefer not to have external influence or pressure if either party deems it's not the will of God for them as life partners.

A: Is it a sin to court someone from the church? The answer is no. This is encouraged because both are already one in doctrine. However, if the spiritual maturity of the couple is such that they cannot bear the consequences of a relationship that did not work, then it is best not to begin. On the other hand, if

adult are a struggle. The father needs to understand his son just as he hopes his son needs to understand the father learning to let go more and more of his authority over his teenage son's growing independence.

However, if the present relationship is not close, the father should make the first move in baby steps. Pray without ceasing. Apologise if necessary. Opening the door of communication, even a tiny gap, is good. From this first step, share more about your life and ask about his life. If the son is a believer, it will be easier. If he is not, aim for salvation through the open door.

A father becoming a "friend" is a Hollywood concept, not the Bible. The biblical concept of a parent-child relationship must be maintained at all costs. Parents do not provoke your child to anger. The child needs to learn to honour and obey parents.

Q: How can a grandfather practically help his son and grandchildren spiritually and not overstep his son's authority as the child's father?

A: The grandfather has to know the biblical boundaries of his relationship with his son and grandchildren. He helps his son bring the grandchildren up in the fear and nurture of the

Lord and not hinder him. To hinder means to say or do anything against the Bible's teaching on parenting. He prays for them daily. He prays for himself always. He must be discerning and discreet when correcting his son if he finds that he is doing something against the Bible. Just as he provided a godly home for his son, he has to help him provide a godly home for his grandchildren.

Q: Are body piercings a sin like tattoos? (Leviticus 19:28) If it is not, does the site and number of piercings matter [e.g.] ear, nose, navel, eyelid? How about a number of piercings? How do you explain to children why ladies can have ear piercings and guys cannot? What are the biblical principles in our response to approaching such questions?

A: The guideline is based on the acceptable norm of that country's society where men must dress and behave like men and women like women. **Deuteronomy 22:5** "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God." Having stated the first guideline, the second biblical consideration is to abstain

the congregation lacks spirituality and teases or sins by making snide remarks after the couple broke off, then it is best to be discreet.

Q: What is your view about the Word of God - does it have to be literal words (wasn't there a time where this was passed down generations via Oral history?) [The] reason for asking is that in our day and age, with the move towards visual mediums, there seems to be the risk that the literal word of God might lose relevance. [W]hat is your view, is this something we (as Christians) should be concerned about?

A: The Word of God was written for God's people by inspiration and kept by God's preservation throughout the ages. There was no "oral" passing down of God's Word. For example, God dictated the Book of Genesis to Moses. It was not passed down by oral tradition. The Word of God was written in Hebrew and Aramaic (for the TO) and Greek (for the NT). Understanding the Bible is through the Holy Spirit's illumination, not man's effort or will. The written Scripture is God's ordained way for the salvation of souls and the maturity of God's children.

Q: Hi Rev Quek, with the increased use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), e.g. [ChatGPT] in our everyday lives, what are your thoughts on this? And what do you think of it being used in the church?

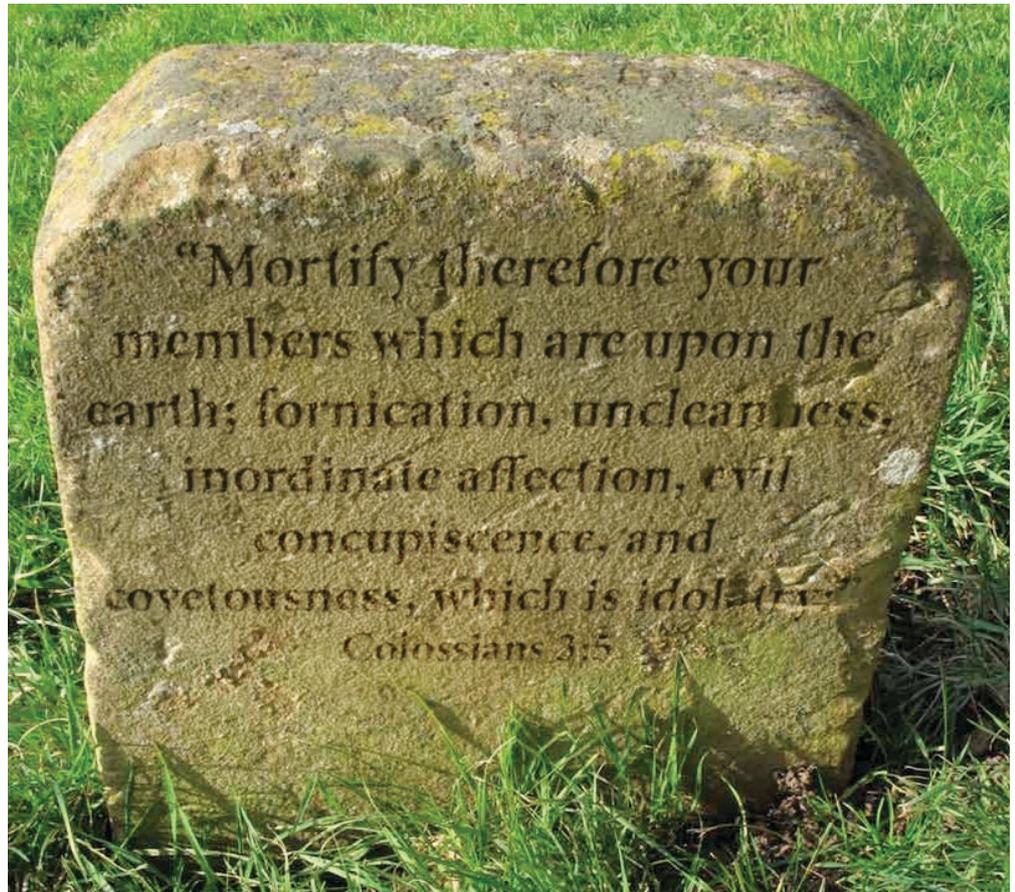
A: It depends a lot on how it is being used in the church and in what way will it be used. If a pastor is supposed to write his weekly pastoral from his heart through proper diligent study of God's Word. Instead, he uses AI to write it for him; it is wrong and sinful

even if he acknowledges that this was written by using AI. It is wrong and sinful because the pastoral was supposed to be written from the pastor's heart with the help of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and for the blessing of God's people, and a weekly pastoral was merely written to fill the weekly bulletin. It is a real spiritual exercise and not an artificial one. If the Sunday School material, the teaching material, or the preacher's messages were done using AI, it would fall into the devil's snare of laziness and carnality.

Q: What does killing lust look like? What is the practical steps to live this verse out? "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry."

A: The answer is found in the context of the Bible passage. **Colossians 3:5-17** "Mortify therefore your members

which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. 12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.



15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” To mortify is to put to death. This was the work of Christ at the point of salvation. All believers who are born again have experienced this. He is living the new life in Christ described from verse 8 to verse 17.

When Christ put to death the lusts of the flesh, lusts of the eyes and pride of life from the believer, it does not mean he will not sin again. Sinless perfection is possible when mortality is changed to immortality at Rapture. **1 Corinthians 15:51-54** “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.” The battle within every believer’s heart is the struggle against sin in order that he will no longer succumb to temptation. It is the law of the Spirit desiring never to sin again versus the law of the flesh where the body still succumbs to sin. Every time the lust begins, the believer realizes it and will repent immediately before God in Christ. **Romans 7:18-25** “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is



present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. 19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. 20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. 22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”

The struggle against sin leading to repentance before God in Christ is clear evidence of a person’s salvation. Not to do so is evidence of no salvation.

Q: How to stay spiritually minded in carnal workplaces/school? How to change when [I] honestly still have a carnal mind and when [I] keep reading bible or praying and it still has same desires internally?

A: To be spiritually minded is not sinless perfection but a desire for it

even though the believer knows that he cannot succeed practically. The moment sin begins within like lusts, the believer repents sincerely and cries to God for forgiveness and help. This constant struggle is what spirituality means. The person who is dead in sin does not struggle for holiness. He struggles against sin for other reasons, such as not wanting to lose his job, fear of being caught and ending up in jail, or not being able to provide for his family. In the case of the believer, he struggles because he does not want to bring shame to the holy Name of Christ Jesus, his Lord.

Q: How do you respond to feeling stupid at your workplace/ studies and wanting to give up? No matter how hard [I] try or pray [I] still cannot do it fast and effectively according to how my boss wants. Does that mean [I’m] not a good testimony despite how hard [I] try to be responsible but fail?

A: Christians must always do their best and be faithful to the end. This is what God expects. If what you are doing is not one of incompetency but lack of speed, i.e., in the eyes of your boss, not fast enough, then persevere. Speed is subjective. See your trial as

sent by God. A bad testimony is one who sins and dares not stand up for Christ by compromising morals and Christian ethics. Continue to work harder since you prayed, and the Lord opened this door for you to witness for him.

Q: If [I] am discontented at my workplace ([e.g.] [I] feel [dread] before [I] start each week and do not look forward to work) but despite the [dread], [I] still pray hard and do my best in my work. Is that an indication to look for another job?

A: The source of the discontentment must be honestly determined. If it is due to his inability to cope or do the work, then his testimony for Christ is jeopardized by his numerous errors and incompetency. If he can do the work and the dread is due to his sin, such as a wrong motive like money or cannot bear the persecution for his faith, then he should not leave. He needs to trust in the Lord and learn to surrender his will and life totally to God in Christ. Our place of work is by God's direction. Where we are is vital to the people in the company, especially if we are the only believers. To leave is to take the light of Christ away and plunge the company into spiritual darkness again.

Q: What does making friends with people in church look like? Does spiritual conversation and fellowship include talking about scripture? What does sharing life with God's people look like in [today's] context, like how the [A]cts church was one with one another and [shared] everything?

A: Making friends in church is sharing your life with others like you do outside the church. **Proverbs 18:24**



“A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” The difference is the content of what is shared. In the case of church friends, there is no barrier to sharing the things of God compared to sharing them with outside friends. There must be no hidden sinful motives for personal benefit. A friend looks after the well-being and interests of others first and always, not his own. He does what is right and is truthful. He helps sincerely when others are in need, expecting nothing in return. He gives of his substance and time freely.

Q: If [I] want to study [U]ni and parents [don't] have enough to pay, how do I overcome thinking carnally to want to work for the money to pay off my school fees?

A: Thinking carnally is a sin regardless of the reason. It results from a lack of faith and trust in the Lord. Live one day at a time. Your future is known to God and in His loving hand. If He wants you to attend university, He will provide it. You need to stop thinking like an orphan without a heavenly Father. It is not “I want to study at the university” but “O Lord, if it is your will for me to study at the university . . .”

Q: What is your view of sending children overseas for studies?

A: The age of the child is important. The younger they are, the more impressionable they are. Their character is still soft clay, easily moulded by the debauchery of the world through the people they meet. Parental guidance is no longer present to shield and filter all the dangers and seductive temptations out of their lives. They can stand the tests if they are older, and their character is holiness and godliness according to the Scriptures. There needs to be a sound biblical church they can attend if they are sent overseas for studies.

Q: My parents are approaching 80s and are not saved. They are very grounded in their idolatry ways and unwilling to change. I know they do not have much time left on earth. How do I reach out to them? How do I rally my family to reach out to them? My [in-laws] are also not saved, (humanly speaking few years younger so a bit more runway) how to prioritize them?

A: Salvation is of the Lord, not man's. This is good because there is no one God cannot save. A believer's duty is to live in holiness before his loved ones and friends so that they can see the impact of Christ's work on the

cross. Christ's death impacting the lives of sinners and turning them into saints is real. When the gospel is shared in the context of holiness, the power of salvation through the work of the Holy Spirit is what God desires for all His children. Keep on praying and plead for God's mercies as you share the gospel led by the Holy Spirit.

Q: How do you learn how to love people in the church practically if your mind still struggles with such a corrupt and perverted understanding through lusts etc? Read bible and pray but still [don't] know how to apply scriptures like "let brotherly love continue" etc

A: The love that the Bible speaks of is from God given at the point of their salvation by God through the Holy Spirit when He dwells in every believer. **Romans 5:5** "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." The unbeliever has no such struggle for his love, which is selfish and carnal. The believer will struggle and repent immediately. Recitation of God's Word helps. **Philippians 4:6-9** "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. 9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." Re-order your lives and evaluate

the things that occupy your mind and time daily. If they are carnal, cut them off. We are what we let into our eyes and ears. The less carnality enters, the less carnal we become with God's help.

Q: Does serving God mean we do stuff in church? Can we view our secular job as a service to God? And how can we view our secular job as service to God when it feels the task being done has no eternal value?

A: Serving in church means that the believer uses his spiritual gifts to bless God's people, the believer's eternal family on earth. God helps him to minister as a co-labourer with God. When others in the church serve with God's enabling, and the believer receives their service, he is being built up in the faith. **1 Corinthians 3:9** "For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." For example, when the believer gives out the church's weekly bulletin before the morning service begins, the pianist is blessed by his service when he receives the bulletin. When the pianist plays the piano during the service and the believer sings hymns to praise the Lord, he is now being built up in the faith by the

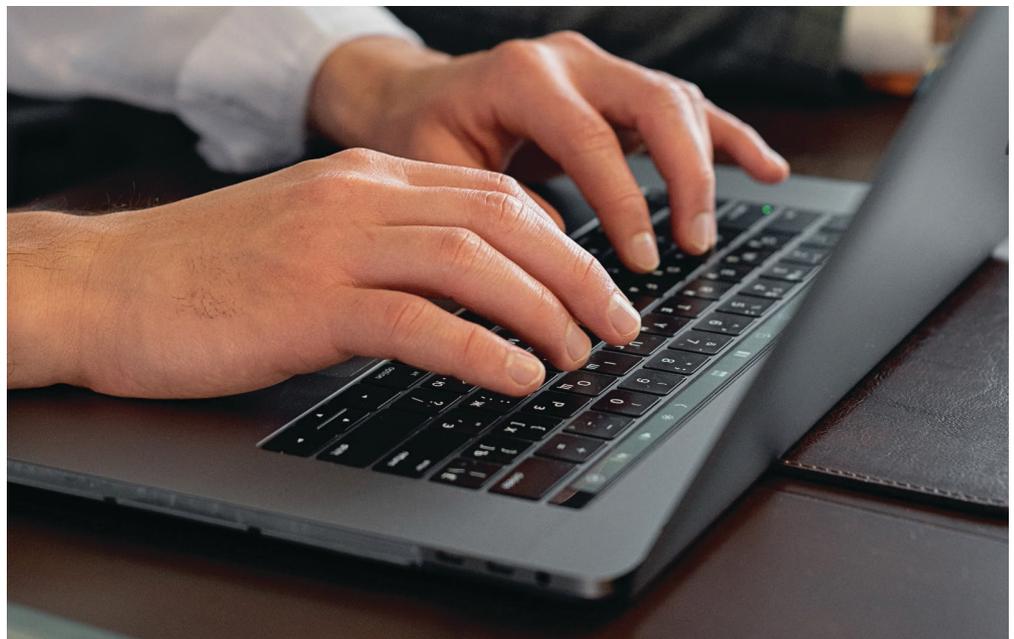
service of the pianist in helping him sing as one with the congregation.

Serving God in the world means bringing Christ's gospel to a world that is dying in sin. The believer is still serving God, but the people of the world will hurt and persecute him. His physical work in the office will perish when the world is destroyed. But the believer's service unto the Lord in the world as a holy witness for Christ constrained by God's love in his heart will not perish but will follow him to heaven and be remembered by God forever.

Every child of God is to serve God in the world and the church. All he does is spiritual work because he is a spiritual person. When his work is done for Christ' sake, it will be forever.

Q: What does stopping covetousness in the mind practically mean? Does that mean we stop working?

A: A beggar with no work is very covetous for what he does not have. A billionaire can be very covetous for wanting more and more and what others have that he does not. Covetousness is a sin that is a heart problem and not the external circumstances of life. Like all sins, covetousness is a



sin found in every unbeliever because of his sinful nature. The believer has Christ's nature. Though the sins of the lusts of the flesh, lusts of the eyes and the pride of life still plague him, they do not control or have dominion over him. The believer has God's strength in Christ to obey all the Ten Commandments, whereas the unbeliever cannot even obey one. The believer's struggle is that he cannot always obey all the Ten Commandments. However, when he breaks one of them, he repents and runs to God for forgiveness. The more mature the believer grows in Christ, the more godly he becomes and the less covetous. **1 Timothy 6:6-12** *"But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."*

Q: How do we encourage friends who have been discouraged through trials who refuse to come for bible study?

A: First, we encourage others by attending Bible Study faithfully and diligently. Second, let the Word of God transform your lives to one of holiness, godliness and righteousness according to the Scriptures. In this way, he sees the power of the Word

of God in your life, which can also be in his. Third, pray for the work of the Holy Spirit to convict him as the Word of God is the milk and meat of every believer's soul unless the believer is not really born again or is very spiritually sick and carnal. If he is carnal, God will chastise him as He promised. A lack of desire to study the Bible is a very serious spiritual problem that must not be taken lightly.

Q: In the example of David and Ahithophel that was used to explain the sovereignty of God in keeping one's job, is Hushai then the example of human responsibility? How do we know how much needs to be done to keep one's job under human responsibility?

A: David sent Hushai to help him. Sending Hushai after trusting in the Lord to help him is a human responsibility. The believer does not do anything to keep his job, as this is God's domain and responsibility. The believer is constrained by his love for God and Christ, including going to work daily. He trusts and serves God one day at a time, bearing a holy witness for Christ, and enjoying his spiritual work. All work is spiritual work to a believer because he is spiritual. For example, he designs bridges as an engineer. He gives his best, is diligent and is honest before God and man, bearing a holy witness for Christ, like Joseph before Pharaoh. The bridge will be destroyed in time, but his holy witness for Christ throughout the whole period, from the design to the construction and completion of the bridge, bears a holy testimony for Christ and will be remembered by God forever.✠