

*'Pastor Joe Is Such A Person' Column No. 5*

**With a heart set on Experiencing even a  
'one hundred millionth' of Jesus' suffering!**

Let me share a humorous story with you. It's a bit embarrassing. When I was learning English, I understood the word "Passion" in "Passion Week" only as "enthusiasm." So, I was puzzled why we referred to the week of Jesus' suffering as Passion Week. Later, I discovered that "Passion" also means "suffering." Indeed, this week is to remember and reflect on the suffering of Jesus.

Before my children started elementary school, whenever they were sick with fever and pain, I wished I could take their place and bear their pain, but of course, that wasn't possible. Jesus, however, suffered and even died for us to give us life. While we can't die for Jesus, what if we could voluntarily experience a fraction of His suffering?

Imagine if your closest friend or a family member passed away. How do you think you would spend that week? If you were shedding tears of sorrow and anguish, how would you feel if you saw your friend claiming to love you, laughing and having fun beside you, seemingly indifferent to your pain?

Christ's suffering wasn't for someone else; it was for you and me. The person who has suffered understands another's suffering. In this spirit, why not practice restraint this week? Fasting a meal might be tough for some, staying off social media could be painful for others, and waking up early might be challenging for those not used to it. But these acts of discipline are not without purpose; they help us to better understand the heart of our Lord Jesus.

Therefore, as we enter Passion Week, let's live a life of restraint and spend time reading the Bible instead of watching media or dramas. Since reading the Bible might be challenging for understanding, I'll explain it during our morning devotionals. And, I'll let you know the Bible passages to read each day from Monday to Saturday. I love you all.