

MORE STRENGTHENING IN MEETING GOD'S CALL

“For in him you have been enriched in every way - with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you.” (1 Corinthians 1:5-6, NIV)

The 28th anniversary of GMI Frankfurt in 2021 is commemorated two weeks after the commemoration of the feast of Pentecost. One of the important goals to be achieved by the GMI congregations in Germany and the Netherlands is to become a church that follows the life example of the early church in fulfilling God's call in these end times. The theme for GMI's anniversary in Frankfurt this year is “The Kingdoms Call” (2 Peter 1:10-11). This theme cannot be separated from the theme of the contemplation of the congregation's news for May-June 2021, which is "Ready and prepared in fulfilling God's call" and it is hoped that we can be more firm in fulfilling His call. When we look at the life of the early church (Acts 2:41-47), the Lord not only added to their number every day those who were being saved, but they also became rich in every way because they were blessing one another. What was experienced by the early church is certainly a dream for us in an era where many people prioritize their own interests. And in 1 Corinthians 1:5-6, the apostle Paul said to the church at Corinth, "For in him you have become rich in all things: in every word and in all knowledge, according to the testimony of Christ, which was confirmed. among you." And then verse 8 says, "He will also strengthen you to the end..." and verse 9, "God, who called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ..." These verses remind us that we too as His church can be strengthened in many ways in these last days, namely in all kinds of words and all kinds of knowledge according to the testimony of Christ. This can happen as we grow firmer toward spiritual maturity. True spiritual maturity is always accompanied by changes in character for the better. This is very much needed in building a strong unity and fellowship of the body of Christ in these last days. In the news from the congregation last May we thought about how we can be ready to fulfill God's call, which is like five wise and spiritually mature virgins who can enter with the Lord Jesus as the Bridegroom into the marriage banquet room of the Lamb (Revelation 19 :7). And this spiritual maturity makes us also rich in every way. The apostle Paul referred to the church at Corinth as "a church that lacks in no gift." However, without realizing it, there are many Christians in Corinth who have become arrogant and complacent, so that the situation of the church goes against God's will. In the congregation there were sexual perversions, idolatrous practices, greed and strife. There are also religious teachers who create class differences and destroy the life of faith. Similar conditions can occur in the church in the last days. Not only in the church, but also in the family. The fact is that there are many Christian churches and families breaking up today for the same reasons as the church at Corinth. Let us not be mistaken in using the gifts that God has given us. As a result, we are not getting stronger, on the contrary, we are falling apart. Let us realize that all that we have, wealth, knowledge, position, etc. is actually a gift that God has entrusted to us. At any time God can take it if we use it wrongly. Therefore, let's use all we have to glorify Him while waiting for His coming. The character of our spiritual maturity in using all of God's blessings reflects our appreciation for Him. May He find us faithful and more steadfast in fulfilling His calling. Amen!

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