

The Challenge of Every Christian - Part 2

by Alan Redpath

The challenge of every Christian is to communicate Christ and experience Holy Spirit revival in their lives, motivated by the love of Christ and the desire to live a life pleasing to God.

Duration: 58:19

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, Acts 2:3-4, Romans 8:9, 2 Corinthians 5:15-17, Galatians 6:15, Ephesians 4:22-24

Topics: "Challenge"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher addresses the issue of why Christians often fail to share their faith with others. He suggests that the reason for this is a lack of understanding and experience of the reality of Jesus in their lives. The preacher emphasizes the importance of understanding the facts of the gospel and having a personal encounter with Jesus in order to be effective in sharing the message of Christ. He also highlights the need for Christians to have a deep and passionate love for Jesus that compels them to share their faith with others. The sermon concludes with the preacher expressing his own excitement and enthusiasm for the love of Jesus and the transformative power of being in Christ.

Transcript

Would you open your Bibles with me this morning, please, at 2nd Corinthians, chapter 5, the portion which was read to us a moment ago. And let me read to you from verse 17. First of all, let me remind you that in these morning hours we are considering the challenge to every Christian to communicate Christ.

And yesterday we thought about the need for something more than mere testimony and evangelism, the need for the breakthrough in Holy Spirit revival in every one of our lives. Today we're going to consider the motive. The one thing that concerns us more than anything, or ought to, is that the average Christian is not overworked, but under-motivated.

For something more than mere testimony and evangelism, the need for the breakthrough in Holy Spirit revival in every one of our lives. Today we're going to consider the motive. The one thing that concerns us more than anything, or ought to, is that the average Christian is not overworked, but under-motivated.

And verse 17 of this chapter says, If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. All things are passed away. Behold, all things are become you.

Here is Paul's definition of a Christian. And I think it is one of the most dynamic and revealing definitions of a man of God found anywhere in the Word of God. If any man, not a few people who live on one standard, and some who live on another, but if any man be in Christ, that is, in his life the great miracle of the new birth has taken place, he's been born from above, and like the branch is in the vine, and the tree is in the soil, he's in Christ.

If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. New, as the word is, not in the sense of recent, as you might buy a new coat to replace an old one, but new in the sense of being a totally different kind of person altogether. Living Letters paraphrase, puts this verse, When anyone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside.

He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun. If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation.

For at the moment of his new birth, there has come to live within him a new life. And because of this, he's governed by a new principle, he's arrested by a new motive, he moves in new company, and he is committed to a new objective. Contrast there, if any man, all things have become new.

Not if some people, then some things, but if any man, then all things have become new. Now here's the New Testament definition of a Christian. And God has put me into a corner this morning and asked me, in the light of that kind of definition, What sort of a person are you? What right have you got to stand up at this conference today and ask people about this question? And in the light of some things which confront us in these days, I believe this is the most significant question God can ask any of us.

And he has driven me into a corner to answer it. And I have his permission, I believe, that he may repeat the medicine as I preach the word to you, and he may drive us all into a corner and force each one of us to ask it, What kind of a person are you? We who claim to be in direct succession to the Church, in the New Testament, in the line of inheritance, and we who profess to be in Christ, have we this same experience? What kind of people are we? Now you will notice that this verse begins with the word, Therefore. And whenever you have this word, it is obviously the outcome of reasoning and argument.

And Paul, in defining the terms of what a Christian is, has come to this inevitable conclusion and summation of his argument that if this man is in Christ, then he is a totally different kind of person because of certain evidences and characteristics about him. Go back with me, will you, in the context, please, to verse eleven. We are made manifest unto God, and I trust also are made manifest to your consciences.

In other words, there are some things about us because we are in Christ, which are so self-evident that we don't have to argue for them. They are manifest to God, and I trust that they are also manifest to you. But remember, as Paul goes on in his argument in verse twelve, and again I quote from Living Letters and paraphrase this verse, are we trying to pat ourselves on the back again? No.

I am giving you some good ammunition. You can use this on those preachers of yours who brag about how well they look and how well they preach that don't have true and honest hearts. You can say that at least we are honest.

Now, that's very down to earth, and that's the way we want to be this morning. Our hearts in heaven, but our feet on the ground. And be honest and realistic with God.

We don't commend ourselves to you, we don't boast, but we are giving you something to glory for on our behalf. Some things that ought to be self-evident in every Christian, which given away. He doesn't have to

have a formula or some things he can say to justify his Christian experience or some doctrines on which he stakes his reputation.

No. His very life gives them away. It betrays him that he is under a new management, under a new master, and he belongs to God.

He's a new creature. Now Paul begins to produce these evidences which support his argument. And what are they? I want to look at them very carefully because these betray me.

And these are the arguments which betray us all as Christians. Not what I believe, but how I behave is the thing that matters. And if my belief doesn't affect my behavior, it's useless.

People are, oh, you've no right to expect that anybody should be interested in what I believe and come into our churches and listen to our sermons and watch our programs. They're fed up with that. But we've every right to expect that they watch how we behave.

And Paul says, firstly, in verse 14, in my life, there is revealed a new fervor. The love of Christ constrains us. Not, not his love for Christ, but the love of Christ.

I have been seeking to meditate upon this in the early hours today. What does it mean? And I confess to you that I have come to this pulpit speechless to express what my heart wants to concerning the love of Christ, the love of Christ that is eternal, that has no beginning and no ending, the love of Christ that forsook every right he had, that is utterly selfless. He had nothing to gain and everything to lose by stooping from a throne to a manger.

The love of Christ, why, the highest place that heaven affords was his by sovereign right, but he forsook it all. And he humbled himself and made himself of no reputation. The love of Christ that was so patient that went on loving and loved his own even unto the end, even though they loved him not and received him not.

The love of Christ that took the shame and the spitting and the despising and the jeering and the scoffing and the crown of thorns. The love of Christ. The love of Christ that took him right to the cross.

The love of Christ that bared his heart to the spear. The love of Christ that took the sword of the justice of God and did buried in the heart of Jesus. The love of Christ.

And Paul sums it all up in the last verse of our chapter. And again I quote from Living Matter. God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sin.

Then in exchange he poured God's goodness into us. Oh, the love of Jesus. And the Holy Spirit had shown this to Paul and it wasn't any theory to him.

He had seen something of the glory of heaven's love that stooped so low. And he says, Now this is the love that got hold of me and thrilled me and gripped my heart. For it is the love of Jesus for a hell-deserving sinner such as me, a man who is rotten through and through.

The love of Jesus. And this love constrains me, he says. Now, I don't know much about Greek.

I've never been to college to learn any. And it would be better for me if I had. But you get on quite well with a commentary.

And you can do quite well if you've got a concordance. And you use it with any intelligence. And I find in my concordance that this word, constrain, has several meanings in our English language.

It could be used this way, The love of Christ restrains me just like the rain upon a horse that holds it back and keeps it in check and keeps it on the right path and guides it round the corner. Paul says, The love of Jesus has so got hold of me that it keeps me back, that it holds me in check from doing the thing that would bring disgrace to his name. Lord, I can't behave like that now because of the love of Jesus.

You are in love for a dirty, hell-deserving, rotten sinner like me? Lord, I can't behave like that anymore. The love of Christ holds me in check. The time the devil trips you up and gets you involved in some course of conduct of which you are desperately ashamed and wants to put you on your ground and put you on your back and make you feel that you are useless and hopeless and always will be.

There is one thing that keeps you back. There is one thing that won't let you do it. There is one thing that will keep you back from damnation and ruin.

It's the love of Jesus. It restrains. He holds the rain in His hand and when I would get out of His will, He pulls me in and kicks me and haunts me and guides me around the corner.

The love of Jesus. Another meaning of that word I understand is the love of Christ coerces me. I think it's Jameson Forsterton Brown's commentary upon this verse that says there is an irresistible object which has so controlled the life of a Christian that he lives with one objective in view to the elimination of any other possible consideration.

This one thing I do, just like a river in flood is dammed up and restrained and then hemmed in and takes all its power in an increasing flow until it bursts into the ocean. The love of Christ, says Paul, constrains me like that. You see, if any man be in Christ, he is a totally different kind of person.

Something has so gripped his heart that the world says he's a fool. He's a fanatic. The world allows you to be enthusiastic about everything except religion.

I was in Lancashire some time ago as the place in England where I now unfortunately live because it rains and it never stops raining at least with one or two exceptions and I was in a town called Blackburn and on a Saturday afternoon at 2.30 there were 22 men in the pouring rain kicking a bit of inflated rubber around around a football pitch and they were called Blackburn Rovers and Manchester United and there were 40,000 people round that ground yelling themselves hoarse over a bit of inflated rubber. Oh no, I haven't done anything against football. If I was younger I'd be playing it still.

But I tell you what the world gets enthusiastic about. Do you mean to tell me that I cannot be enthusiastic about the love of Jesus which has so captured my life and got hold of it and driven it until nothing else matters to do the will of God. The love of Christ constrains.

Like that. My doctor told me that I haven't to preach for more than 20 minutes and I must never get excited. I've broken those rules twice a day for four years and I'm still here so hallelujah anyway.

I tell you I can't help getting excited this morning and every morning. For if any man be in Christ oh my, he's a new person altogether. Somebody's saying to me perhaps you know preacher it's faith that saves you.

Yes. But faith works by love and if your faith hasn't got hold of you so that in some measure in some measure your life is being driven driven, driven by the Holy Spirit contrary to all your natural desires along another course altogether I'm telling you it's invalid in terms of New Testament salvation. It was that great preacher the ex-virgin who once said and listen to it once said what value is the grace which I profess to receive which leaves me exactly the same kind of man as I was before I received it.

An unholy life is an evidence of an unchanged heart and an unchanged heart is an evidence of an unsaved soul. I want to let that ring in my heart like an alarm bell this morning. You can be orthodox and sound but lost.

Everything in your head and nothing in your heart. Now says Paul this fervor has been revealed in my heart constrains me and I would remind you that anybody who was counted for anything in life has always been a man like that who is gripped by an overwhelming passion. Oh you two are bad men as well as good men.

That's why you have your Caesars in your Napoleons and your Hitler's in your Khrushchev's and your Mussolini's and your Stalin's and all the rest of them. But that's also why you've got your Wesley's and your Whitfield's and your Johnson's and your Finney's and your D.L. Woody's and your Billy Graham's and your C.G. Stubbs. Listen, it's passion and not profession that puts power into Christianity.

And Paul had looked with spirit and lightened eyes into the heart of God and the love of Christ for him had gripped him and propelled him and impelled him along one line to the exclusion of any other attraction. If anybody says to me this morning or wants to say to me goodnight what awful bondage that sort of life must be I'm telling you that Paul would answer you and I'll answer you too with a faint echo but true sincerity when I say that he found and I found and many of us find that that which we now love to do is to do the will of God. And the amazing miracle of Christian experience is that it is God who worketh in you to will and to do his good pleasure.

Why the constraining power of Jesus' love has so transformed that human heart that he loves holiness and hates sin and that which governs a Christian's life the whole week seven days a week is so tremendous and terrific that he hasn't any room for any other secondary consideration. All rivals in his life are eliminated gone and he's the happiest man alive. Oh now some people would say that that kind of religion is too emotional but wait I notice here that there's another evidence of this man whose life has been completely transformed he has not only a fervor Oh you know I look in vain for some great old hymns that I used to sing that I cannot find in hymn books.

Do you remember this one?

One of Charles Wesley's Jesus thine all victorious love shed in my soul abroad then shall my heart no longer rove rooted and fixed in God Oh that in me the sacred fire might now begin to glow burn up the dross of base desire and make the mountains low Oh thou who at Pentecost didst fall do thou my sins consume come Holy Ghost on thee I call spirit of burning come The O's gone out of our singing and out of our praying Oh that you and I today might catch the glow That's what we want That's what we've lost Plenty of doctrine but no experience Oh for the glow to come again Well you see that comes when a Christian realizes certain things Would it be very unkind of me or would I simply be basically honest As I say we've lost the glow because Jesus isn't real Oh yes he's real as a point of

doctrine I believe in God the Father and in Jesus Christ as only begotten Son but I mean he isn't real Fifteen months ago I was in Australia and on Christmas Eve I got a letter from my daughter she was seventeen at the time and she wrote to me and she said Daddy I've got a boyfriend and he's fab I think that word means fabulous he's fantastic he's smashing I think to an American audience the words would be cool or neat or perhaps even groovy but of any whatever he was she was absolutely on fire and the next week another letter came with reinforcement and I could hardly breathe my ears or breathe my eyes and you know I knew this fellow he was leader of our young people's work at Charlotte Chapel and well he's a nice enough chap you know but I could hardly wait to get home to see if this

could possibly be the same man oh but it was it was and I'm telling you she so was in love with him that well I mean she could even tell her father and when a girl tells her father about a fellow it's pretty serious she loved him you see now I'm not being scathing only facing some realities in my own heart why don't I speak about Jesus more of course on the platform you do because that's what they're here for why don't I communicate Christ why don't I talk about him to other people why don't I go around why isn't this the consuming theme of my conversation at all times why is it that I turn off the spiritual tap and turn on the sexual tap so easily why do you do that I tell you because we've lost the plane and we've lost the glow and we've lost the thrill and we've lost the warmth and the

reality of Jesus and that's simply because somehow we haven't understood the facts and because we haven't understood the facts we're defeated Christians and because we're defeated Christians we've nothing to say and the devil gives three tears in hell what are these facts well just look at them quickly I've spoken to you about the fervor that constrained him the fervor in his life in the life of the apostle that was revealed now here the facts that are realized what are these facts verse fourteen because we thus judge with spirit-enlightened minds and eyes eyes opened not by intellectual understanding but by revelation from God that if one died for all then they all died that's the literal translation of that verse if one died for all then we all die and Paul rejoiced in his constraint

for that which gripped him wasn't emotion it was based upon two dynamic facts one substitution two identification bearing shame and scoffing rude in my place condemned he stood feel my pardon with his blood hallelujah he's my saviour oh he died for all he was wounded for our transgression he bruised for our iniquity the chastisement which procured our peace was upon him and the great fact of the substitutionary death of the Lord Jesus is basic and is that which begins to kindle the fire and the flame in our hearts but that isn't the only fact there is another one it's a fact of identification if he died for all then we all died and I see in the cross today as never before and I mean that it's dawning, dawning only in the kindergarten I ought to be in the back row of the congregation here

listening to others but I see it I begin to catch the thrill of it and the reality of it I wonder if you're as slow in picking up things as I am we're all made in the same mould some of us a bit mouldier than others but some of us are a bit slow to pick something up and I'm picking it up friend it's filling me in my heart today as I preach it to you Paul would tell us the Holy Spirit would tell us that just as by my first birth I was involved in condemnation guilt, sin and judgment so by my second birth in the Lord Jesus I am involved in a new nature a new life which has died and risen again and in Him I die in Him I was buried in Him I rose in Him I ascended and though my feet are firmly on the ground my heart is in glory I'm as good as there already heaven's in my heart and my heart's

in heaven and the spirit of the risen Christ governs, dominates, rules my whole personality and universe I'm identified with Jesus His victory is my victory His resources are my resources His grace, my grace His

patience, my patience His strength in adversity, my strength His meekness, my meekness His power to overcome, my power I'm identified with Him and just as I was one with Adam by my first birth and was rotten completely so I'm one with Jesus in my second birth and all His life and all His resources are mine seven days a week in the person and power and grace of the indwelling Lord to illustrate here's a man who has escaped from prison and a search has started and the police come out to look for him and the news gets round that the man's dead so they call the search off because of

the fact that the man's death means the law has no hold on him anymore no power to enforce its condemnation he's dead and therefore he's free when I was a slave of sin I hadn't any power and I'm not speaking of unconverted days I'm speaking of Christian days and I'm comforted to find that the Apostle Paul would back me up and say that's right the good that I would I do not the evil that I hate that I do oh boy, oh boy what a dreadful experience isn't it to get converted to get all your sins forgiven and go on sinning most people have settled for that sort of salvation insurance policy delivered from the past guilt hope of heaven now sweat it out do it yourself kids try hard oh and you're just about to go round the bend with a nervous breakdown and take tranquilizers and coffee by the mass

and you've no ability to overcome and you're poor and vile and wretched and you're no different oh by Christ but wait a minute don't let you think that I'm any different because I'm not I tell you and this isn't dramatic truth it's truth there's no sin on earth which I'm not capable of committing thirty seconds after this meeting is over but for the grace of God I'm rotten and I still am rotten and always will be rotten hallelujah you know this is a diversion but excuse me but oh it's so thrilling you see I used to I'll let you into a little secret I used to get terribly upset when people said anything nasty about me you know gossip when any member of my church board ever sort of let off about the pastor my word I was on his doorstep saying what do you mean by saying that terribly

sensitive terribly sensitive terrible I don't want to be now I've learned a lesson I haven't matured I've learned a lesson I'm just learning because it doesn't worry me whatever anybody says because I know perfectly well that no matter what they say it isn't one hundredth part as bad as the truth so why worry hallelujah anyway let them talk doesn't matter doesn't matter you see you see I'm just as rotten a sinner as I ever have been and always will be ah then I'll tell you something I've stopped wrestling with it and fighting with it I've nestled into the heart of Jesus and I thought in him in him I'm dead in him that sort of life is finished in him the victory in him the power oh in Christ I'm dead to sin but sin is never dead to me and ah what a wonderful thing that in Jesus we're set

free not only from the penalty but from the power and a new and a mightier force has come into our hearts by this fact of identification which sets us free from the power of it because now hidden in Christ why when the devil comes at me what can he do he's only trying to bluff me he only tries to knock me out of a position in which I'm secure and start make me start trying once more and then I go down again but if I abide in Christ and pay the at the cross where I belong then all the resources of heaven are mine every day you understand what I mean boy I came over here on Sunday from Vancouver in an hour and a quarter or something in one of these things called jets and I mean that because I'm thankful always to get out of them but I tell you I tell you that plane was full matter of fact I

booked on the wrong day by mistake and I found it was fully booked but they managed to get me in and before we started from the ground the pilot said good morning ladies and gentlemen we're glad to welcome you on board Canada Airlines Air Canada but he said there's a storm approaching us from the northeast and we're expecting considerable amount of turbulence so I recommend that you keep your

seatbelts tightly fastened so I said well thank you very much and I duly fastened myself down and then I remembered what once before in a similar situation I remembered as somebody told me somebody told me that the weight of a jet a Boeing jet fully loaded with all these passengers in it plus gas was 250,000 pounds phew the sort of thing you would remember in a situation like that and so when we went

along the runway I wasn't fearful but very prayerful and I said now Lord bless him and then then then I tell you there was a roar like nothing on earth and if you travel economy class in a jet you know it roars and you know this it went along the ground bang, bang, bump, bump until it got to about 145 knots and fully loaded dump, dump, dump on the ground I thought well is this thing going to get off before we get into that runway or are we going to land up in the ocean and then then oh hallelujah then he pulled a stick and he turned the nose up in the air and it began to soar and soar and soar and it rose until he sent a message through our altitude is now 35,000 feet you can relax was that an accident oh no fear if it was an accident I wouldn't be here now was it just something that

might have happened oh no no no it wasn't it was inevitable what had happened I'll tell you I'll tell you did that pilot say law of gravity ceased to exist I've finished with you scrap yourself slay yourself no he didn't he acknowledged the law of gravity gladly but at 140 knots an hour he was in possession of power to put into operation another law and that was the law of aerodynamics and through the sheer thrust of four giant jet engines in that plane that law overcame the law of gravity and it soared above the storm into a blue sky get me ah my friend I'm just learning it but I hope you're in the same school it's a wonderful school to be in I'll never graduate if I get to heaven wonderful to be in it every day I am learning that the law of the spirit of life in Christ has set me free

from the law of sin and he makes me climb mind you sometimes there's turbulence sometimes it's tough but I tell you that as long as the law of life in me is liberated and free and unhindered and moves that power it keeps me up have you ever felt the upward pull of Jesus? have you? oh the upward pull of Christ in the storm have you? well if you have you ought to be sitting up on the roof shouting hallelujah why this fervor that Paul had is based on a fact on the eternal fact that God has put his people on resurrection ground and just as one day 40 years ago I took forgiveness through the blood of Christ for all my sins now now 40 years later I take deliverance through the power of the spirit from the principle of sin in my heart I took the one by faith and took the second by faith you

don't gradually sort of sort of batty away through and gradually escape and gradually improve and gradually make yourself better and gradually get delivered bless your heart God is never in the self-improvement plan he's in the Christ replacement plan you get out of the way let Jesus in let him through let the power of his spirit through you and know the secret of being crucified with him slain in the self-life that he might pour his risen life through you amen now just I'm finished now except I want to say just one thing more excuse me a postscript oh but you see this isn't all theory and doctrine I hope you realize that and I hope today that some of you who have been wallowing in the mire of defeat burdened under pressure and under burdens that are intolerable will suddenly see the

answer and get out from under them and find Jesus lifting you up but you see the result of this will be a fellowship that you recognize the further that you a further that you realize and some facts that you realize and a further a fellowship that you recognize listen verse 15 and 16 he died for all that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves but unto him which died for them and rose again wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh yet though we know him have known Christ after the flesh yet now henceforth know we him no more I wonder if you've ever noticed the significance of those verses you

see when I get hold of the fact the love of Christ constraining me based upon based upon this amazing amazing proof that he's taken a worthless sinner and put him in

Jesus every day then this means this means there's a fellowship a fellowship Godward and a fellowship Earthward vertical and horizontal henceforth not living unto themselves but unto him which died for them and rose again you see my friend the love of Christ for me has been answered in our heart by our love for Jesus um your nature doesn't love him never will can't but the first fruit of the Holy Spirit in you is love and love the love of Jesus comes that he may impart to you a love for Christ and it's shed abroad in your heart by the Holy Spirit and you have now in you a love that knows no limit to its endurance no end to its trust no fading of its hope it can outlast anything in fact it's one thing that stands when everything else has fallen the love of Christ the love that the Spirit

has begotten in you because you're born again and a new nature which loves and answers back and sends back to heaven the flame of love you know it's beautifully put by that man F.W.

Faber in a hymn he used to be a Unitarian listen to him I want to say these sort of things to Jesus and we mean them don't you listen to him Oh Jesus, Jesus dearest Lord forgive me if I say for very love thy sacred name a thousand times a day I love thee so I know not how my transport to control thy love is like a burning fire within my very soul burn, burn oh love within my heart burn fiercely night and day till all the dross of earthly cares is burned and burned away Oh Jesus, Jesus sweetest Lord who art thou not to me each hour brings joy before unknown each day new liberty is there in your heart this morning a love like that a love which has answered love a deep that has called unto deep a life that was so barren and so cold and so dead the Holy Spirit has come and kindled in your heart a sacred flame not your old nature loving God but the new nature by the Holy Spirit keeping the old out of the way and love goes up to the throne that's what God wants not work but love he's given him that, he's got it is that happening sheer love sheer adoration because he's loved like that because he's done the miracle for you you owe him everything and therefore you love him with all your heart and you see that fellowship is revealed earthward henceforth know we no man after the flesh years here we have no man known Christ after flesh yet now henceforth know we him no more oh if the church could only get hold of this what does it mean it means that the old things that marked our friendships and dislikes are put away forbidden territory of certain area distinction of class distinction of color distinction of race distinction of nationality henceforth know we no man after the flesh and to strengthen his argument Paul says we used to know Jesus like that but I don't know him anymore like that now there was a day when our wonderful Lord referring to his crucifixion looked into the faces of his disciples and said now it is better for you that I should go away from you it isn't put in the gospel I can almost hear them saying Lord that takes some believing oh yes it is I've walked with you and talked with you you've been to college with me for three years but if I don't depart the comforter won't come and if I depart I will send him to you and in that day I shall know you shall know that I am in my father you are in me and I in you now you will know Christ not after the flesh but you know him in a oneness of intimacy of light and love and reality in your soul and because you have that fellowship with him you love people now not because one is black and the other is white you don't care about the color of the skin don't care about the background and the race you don't care that because this flame burns through background, tradition, prejudice and everything until you love them with a love of Jesus see see our gospel our gospel is the answer for today now may I ask you just in closing what kind of people are you? am I?

I tell you my friend the future of this nation is in grave peril unless there is a revival of this I want to be kind this morning but I want to be realistic and I want to say what I believe is God's word for this hour when I

say to you that in the last 20 years Satan has had an absolute millennium in North America because people have forgotten spiritual obligations in the enjoyment of material luxury and he's persuaded Christian people especially young people and it's often, I'm sure not here but it's often encouraged at colleges you can do anything as long as you close with devotion and that puts heaven's rubber stamp on it apparently plan any program for young people and play the fool anywhere you like and do what you want to do stand in your head, do anything only be sure you close in prayer my friend I don't want to call any praise about this but I tell you I was so burdened this last summer in one conference I was at that I simply could not take it and I had to make a protest the way young people are introduced to the gospel makes me think, makes them think that it's a lot of fun and games and hip-hop parade and happy time and great thrills and hamburgers and hot dogs well of course the joy of the Lord is our strength of course you're the happiest person alive you've ever truly said but I'm introducing to you to a life that is total war and you'll find that out if you're a true Christian from the very start it's warfare from the beginning to the very end just recently that came well a year or two ago that came into my hand the book written by Leslie Lyle of the Overseas Missionary Fellowship the book was called Come Wind, Come Weather a description of life under communism in China for ten years it tells of the day when communism came in as an angel of light and proposed for the church self-government self-propagation self-support and promised religious freedom it worked for a while and then the pressure was put on and it was discovered that this meant total allegiance to the communist regime and all the philosophers and for the last ten years if there's a Christian in China who is true to the word of God he's either put in prison or banished to some climate that will kill him before long and in that little group of men and women who have been brainwashed until they've gone nearly mad there are those even today who stand for their faith and are true to the Lord nothing can destroy the church oh, anything can destroy people who play a church but nothing can destroy the Holy Spirit and when these people meet each other in the street in China they say goodbye we'll meet you inside next time inside means prison and one girl whose story is told in the book when she was arrested because of a fearless testimony and they came to put the handcuffs on her she held her wrists together and held her arms out and said put them on I'm not worthy what kind of people are we?

I want to remind you solemnly as I close my message that years ago communist Russia stated 1972 would be the year for takeover in the United States and North America and they have never gone back on that and if they don't do it by force for fear of force of retaliation as I said yesterday they'll do it by corruption from within or they'll do it because we insist on playing church it's time of us time that we stop for the sake of the lost and for the sake of Jesus what kind of people are we? is there something today someone oh friend if there isn't ask him to do it who's pushed through your life and pushed out any rival and his name is Christ that's the quality that America needs in order that she may survive would you hold out your hands to Christ today and say to him Lord put on the handcuffs I'm not worthy but for your sake I'm yours altogether and today marks the day when I'm going to live by thy grace a life that's mastered by one passion that has lost every desire except the thrilling desire to do the thing for which I was born the will of God you sometimes pray our father which art in heaven hallowed be thy name thy kingdom come my friend listen to me cut it out you can't pray thy kingdom come until you've prayed my kingdom go Lord Jesus I must beaten and I hold out my hands to you please put on the handcuffs and make my one desire to do the will of God shall we pray

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