

Obedience

by Bill Stafford

Bill Stafford's sermon emphasizes the necessity of obedience and repentance in the Christian life for a deeper relationship with God.

Duration: 45:58

Scripture: Psalm 139:23

Topics: "Obedience"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of repentance in walking with God. He explains that repentance is not just a change of mind, but a change of heart that redirects one's affection towards God. The preacher also highlights the need for repentance throughout one's life, not just for salvation. He shares the example of Paul, who faced challenges in his church due to politics and religious people who didn't want the word of God. The preacher encourages believers to stay focused on God, keep their hearts clean, and rely on the anointing of God in their preaching. He emphasizes the role of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God in guiding believers towards what is right and wrong. The preacher also emphasizes the need for humility and repentance, as it is essential for revival and growth in one's spiritual journey.

Transcript

I'm just praying tonight the Holy Ghost can do a work in our hearts. I was just recalling today some of the, over the years, some of the meetings where the Holy Spirit just moved in power and just demonstrations of glory. We haven't seen it.

The charismatic movement has taken it to such extremes that we're afraid. And we're afraid to praise the Lord like we should. But praise should not be because of emotions.

It ought to be because of a choice. I will to praise Him, not feel to praise Him. And if we ever get to that point, we'll have spells on general principle.

Oh well, the rest of you will get it about midnight. Michael Katt and Sherwood Baptist Church have been such friends to this preacher. Over the years, I don't know how many years, they've let me come and let me preach.

And I'm honored and what a thrill that people will love you and take you under their wing and not only love us as ministry but support us monthly. This church has given us around \$75,000 to \$8,000 a year in

overseas ministry. I just returned from Budapest for my last trip after 19 years ministering to 18 different nationalities of pastors in Europe.

We bring them in. We pour Jesus in them. Listen to me.

Don't be so selfish that you don't reproduce in somebody else. Get out of your little world. Get with somebody that you can pour into for the glory of God.

And when I got back and went through sort of an emotional time, then I began to thank God that I had the privilege of being a part of ICR and seeing God work mightily in South Africa for 24 years. And Harold Peasley just called me a while ago from Tehran to Canada on his way back home where he'd been with us in Budapest and came over to the States and preached a while. One of the greatest friends I have in the world is a South African by the name of Harold Peasley.

And all these things are very emotional with me. But one thing I can thank God for, the churches that helped us to reproduce in preachers, to keep them straight on preaching the Word, loving Jesus, praising God. Don't get wrapped up in all this junk.

Keep your gaze on the captain. Amen. If you can't preach Jesus, quit the ministry.

Amen. He's all there is. I'm going to have to stick this in my pocket and use it as I can because I will dry up while I'm preaching.

But I hope my preaching doesn't go with it. Michael Catt is a very... I can't do that. I feel like I've got to grow.

Will it lay right there? What happened to my pulpit? Man, I don't even feel like a big preacher behind this. Amen. But I'm telling you, Sherwood Baptist Church is true blue.

And I'm glad God let me be associated with this church. And I'm here merely to support Michael and to undergird him and to watch this take off and become a ministry that can move around this country in different areas with preachers that have got a desire to see revival and see our nation touched. And if the nation isn't touched, you say, what if they're not? Then we've had the joy of doing the will of God.

And that's all that matters. Amen? So praise be unto God. So, Brother Michael, a lot of stuff ought to be said about you.

Of course, such a supporting role that all these others do. Of course, Jim McBride's a burden, I know. But I'm sorry.

Lord, I hope you don't get in a wrestling mood tonight. I'm sunk. Amen.

But you've got to love me to go to heaven, folks. Just love me. So thank you.

I'll be leaving tomorrow after lunch. I have a doctor's appointment. It took me about six years to get.

When you found out it was me. But anyway, I've got to go and be there early Thursday morning. And then I will hit the trail and be very busy for about six or seven weeks.

But I can't tell you what you mean to me. And I love you in Jesus. If it hadn't been for him, I wouldn't have cared whether you went to heaven or hell.

I'm not a good man. Only Jesus is the good man. My goodness is from him.

And the only time I'm good is when he's controlling my life. And that means constant surrender, constant guiltiness, dying to self, and hating everything in my life that doesn't glorify his name. And that's a daily task.

I thought by now I would have arrived. But I haven't. I'm still in pursuit.

And it's precious going on with God. Amen. Open your Bible to 2 Corinthians chapter 7. And I'm going to just stay here for a little while.

I'm anxious to hear from Brother Michael tonight because I have a little bit of an inside track on what he's going to do. And I'm looking forward to hearing him. 2 Corinthians chapter 7. And by the way, Gary, that was a tremendous... God poured into me today.

I'm telling you. I left here blessed. Brother Ken, he didn't know I was here.

Where are you, Ken? There he is. I was right here listening to him. And last night I was seated right there.

And that speaker is right in my ear. Now when you get old, there are certain sounds that drive you nuts. Pitches.

Well, wait. You look at me that way. You're just looking old.

I know you better than that. Say amen. Amen.

All right. And so I had to move from there because you say you don't like loud music. That's why I moved back there because I like it.

I didn't want to die from it. Amen. And that's why I've been walking around like this all day.

Anyway. 2 Corinthians... Oh, me. Y'all better pray.

All right. 2 Corinthians 7. I'm only going to read verse 11, but then we'll go back and review the very basis and where Paul's coming from when he writes about repentance. Now I rejoice in verse 9. He says... Let's start with verse 8. For though I make you sorry with a letter, I do not repent or regret it.

For I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season. Now I rejoice not that you were made sorry, but that you sorrowed to repentance. For if you were made sorry after a godly manner, that you might receive damage by us in nothing.

For a godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation, not to be repented of. But the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold, it saith the same thing, that you sorrowed after a godly sort.

What carefulness it wrought in you! Yea, what clearing of yourselves! Yea, what indignation! Yea, what fear! Yea, what vehement desire! Yea, what zeal! Yea, what revenge! And the word there should be avenge, because that is not the correct word. It's avenge. In all things you have proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

I believe with all of my heart that some of the hardest things that I had to learn about walking with God and about the word of God is having to learn that getting saved is not the ultimate in your walk with God.

Getting saved is the lesser part of your life. See, I know what you're going to say.

Salvation merely gets you in. You're just a baby. Salvation is not the ultimate.

That's why we've got so many babies in the church. They got saved and stuck. Amen.

And then we didn't want to do anything to upset the crowd, so discipling and getting people on with Jesus and watching them go, Listen, I got saved, but I've got news for you. Thank God the reason why I know I got saved is He would not let me stay where I got in. And the greatest thing that could happen in my life and your life is that the further we go with God, the more we walk with Him, and the closer we get to the end of the journey, the more we stand amazed that He ever put up with us in the whole journey.

And yet not only did He call us, but He literally stayed after us and burdened us and bringing us to problems and storms to try to teach us getting saved is so you can obey. And a person that says they're saved and never comes to obedience and no walking with God or hunger and appetite for spiritual things, I question their birth. Appetite comes with birth.

And a person that says they're saved and does not have any desire to go on with God, I question that. And so does the Word of God. How do you know you're saved? Because God wouldn't let me stay where I got in.

And going on with Jesus is what keeps you excited in the journey. That's why, you know, they call me Wild Bill. They got a reason for that.

Because I was shouting and raising hands before the Charismatics came. And everybody thought I was charismatic. But they'd walk up and say, you should be a Pentecostal.

I said, I believe in Pentecost. That ought to make me one. I said, what do you mean? Well, you're too happy.

You raise your hand. You're wild. I said, I'm not wild.

I'm just thrilled. Amen. You say, well, how do you feel? About like I look.

And you know, that's terrible. But how I look and how I feel has got nothing to do with a vital relationship with a living God. And that is not governed by how I feel about it.

It's governed by what He said. And the way you walk with God is not to just... And by the way, the faith you had when you got saved was not a self-faith produced for you. It was a God-given faith, a gift of God faith.

To trust somebody you've never touched, tasted, smelled, seen, or heard, but you know. And we have tried to make God so relative to us that we've lost the mystery and the glory of who He really is. And now we're trying to break it down to men's minds so they can understand it.

If you can understand the Bible, if you can understand a holy God, you've got a God no bigger than your brain. Now, isn't that a biggie? I don't understand anything God asks of me because I can't do what He asks of me. But there's one part of my journey that I had to learn the hard way.

You can't walk with God without repentance. And that's not just a change of mind. It is a change of mind and heart that turns your affection away from yourself to a holy God and brings your whole lifestyle in a

fresh dimension of walking in His glory.

Because you've learned, repentance is necessity to walk in with God, not just as salvation, but for the rest of your days. So let's look at about five or six things here about repentance. And Paul was very stern.

Of course, what happened, these false teachers had come in. These people were impressed by their wisdom. And they were fussing over which preacher was the best, which one won you to Christ, talking about which one was better because I got saved by Him in chapter 1. And not only that, he turned around and just talked about the foolishness of the world, and he said it's all junk to Almighty God.

God laughs at the wisdom of this world. And then not only that, they were literally lax in their moral situation, and Paul attacked that. The whole book of Corinthians, both of them, is to correct junk and to get them on target.

Everything Paul wrote was for correction mostly. Why? The church cannot enjoy the power and the feeling and the revival that God wants us to have until He's satisfied that we have took sides with Him against us and let His Word rule in my heart whether I like it or not. And that's where we learn to really walk with God.

Just a few things here I want to say. They're lax in their morals. They either took others to court, and that was all kind of junk.

Then they were disordered at the Lord's table. They turned the Lord's supper into garbage. And then not only that, they were abusing the gifts.

They were bragging about superior gifts. I speak in tongues. Somebody said, did you ever? I said, I can't get the one I got under control yet.

You say, well, I believe it's a gift. Well, I just don't know where you got it from. But anyway, God bless you.

Amen. And by the way, you say, I don't like that. I'll have to take a half a bed bath for her to sleep tonight worrying about it.

What are some marks of real repentance? Number one, Paul said, I am blessed that you after a godly sort, what carefulness it's wrought in you. And the word there means earnest care. You have literally, not carelessly, sided with God about your situation because false teachers had to pull them away from Paul.

And remember this, it's a lot easier to take away a bunch of babies in a church than it is to disciple people when they know how to stand with God in the middle of the storm. And I don't care how great you build a church, there'll always be some little two-by-four up the road who will start a church who will say, we don't bring our Bibles to church. We don't think it's necessary.

That's offensive. And by the way, 15 minutes is enough for anybody. Well, after hearing him, that's too much.

Amen. And we want everybody to know that anybody that comes to our church will always know there's somebody. Ladies and gentlemen, nobody that believes that will ever walk into fullness and brokenness and repentance to where that man can be used beyond anything he can imagine because we get too proud of ourselves.

He said, what carefulness you have. You have literally dealt with this. The psalmist said, search me, O God.

Know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts. See if there be any wicked way in me.

Lead me in the ways everlasting, Psalms 139, 23, and 24. Some of the greatest things that I learned when I began to preach with great men of God, and I wasn't one of them, God just let me be there. The greatest truth I learned was this.

I have no right to preach to anybody unless God has dealt with me in the issue that I'm preaching about. Because if you do, you preach down at people. You project yourself as more spiritual.

Amen. And I'll tell you some things that God's done in my life to help me. I wish I had a little bottle.

I didn't know those were here. Swap with me. Thank you, Gary.

I would stoop over, but at my age, you don't know where you get up or not. Amen. Folks, I'm dry.

So help me. But anyway, I'll say enough to load your wagon, okay? How long has it been since under a message, God so pointed you out that there was something in you that was dark and unrepentant and unbroken. And you had decided that it was all right.

And your conscience agreed with you because your conscience will not tell you what's right or wrong. It only will agree with you and the level you put it on. Amen.

The only one that can tell you what's right is the Word of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. And I believe that every time we come to church, God probably will deal with us if we're walking in the Spirit, filled with the Spirit, the glory of God's own in our life. I believe we will usually, in a service, always hear from God to the point that I have to say, Dear God, forgive me.

You see, we can't have revival as long as we think well of ourselves. See, you can't even get an amen when you say that. Why? Because we forget that God don't use somebody.

He just uses nobody as full as Jesus. John MacArthur said in 2 Corinthians 4, when he talks about the treasure and the vessel, here's what he said. He said that means that that's a clay pot.

It's merely used for garbage. That's an oar rim. Are you all all right? Are you still here? Clay pot, garbage pit.

What if everybody in the church got a fight over which one was the sorriest? Wouldn't you just love to see two deacons say, No, I'm not going to be chairman. You are, bless God. And get in a fight.

I mean, just fight it out. Wouldn't that be glorious? Wouldn't it be two singers saying, No, you're going to sing. No, you're going to sing.

Pow! Just knock one of them out and say, No, you're going. Is that the way it is? We're waiting for an opportunity to show our individuality, show that we have a right to express our opinion. And whether it's Scripture or not, and even though it'll prove disunity and strife, we'd rather have our way than the glory of God.

You say, Brother Bill, you're preaching to the prime. We are the ones that have got to stay at the foot of the cross in literal brokenness if God is going to use us for His glory. You say, but Brother Bill, somebody said something about me.

Not near as sorry as we are. They don't know. Amen.

Some of you church members have been out there so long. Some of you preachers have preached so long. I know this is hard for you.

But you'll never be full of God, walk with God. God's people will never hear you until you very earnestly care about your walk with God to where you're quick to repent and side with God on whatever issue He confronts you with during the preaching. They don't know how to earn His care, but He said, clear yourself.

Look what He says. The second thing, He said, yea, what clearing of yourself. So many accept Christ and stop.

That's why I said what I said a while ago. There's no concern for God's glory. And in most of our churches today, it's so humanistic and man-centered that if you don't say something about how great this one is and that one is, and if you don't talk about how to handle your credit cards and how to live with your mother-in-law or all that stuff, if you don't preach the how-tos, they won't come.

I want a secret. For I can stay like I am, be what I am. I want my rights.

I want my life. I want myself. But I want you to know, don't hand me this death to self.

I got news for you. Paul said, I died with Christ. God saw me dead when His Son died.

I'm positionally dead. And the only time I'm alive is when I will not reckon myself dead on a faith principle. Amen.

You say, we'll believe God for salvation. What about the rest of the promises that takes us into glory and power? And then we don't have to worry about what anybody says because they can't say near what we know on ourselves. We must not pass over self-sins lightly.

Even if it's just a matter of unforgiveness or a grudge or getting even. That's one sin I wish I didn't have to confess. I left to get even.

It's bread and staffing. Let me at Him. I'll get Him one way or the other.

I guess I just stayed around too many people like Miss Bertha Smith. We were preaching. I was preaching with her.

She wasn't preaching. She was talking. In First Baptist Church, Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

She was 98 years old. And people were traveling with her to keep her shoulder on line so she wouldn't get off track. But she set enough on track to rattle your cage.

At 98 years old, I preached the message from Luke 22 and verse 31 where Jesus said, Simon, Simon, Satan wants to put you in the sifter and sift you asleep. And I preached that message. In that meeting at 98, Miss Bertha was the first one to get on her knees at the front pew and repent.

98. I mean you look at these men of God. You look at men that walk with God.

You look at the men that use mightily. You look at the men that ministers life and glory. And ladies and gentlemen, behind that life is a life of real sensitivity, not looking at sins lightly.

Sick of myself. Sick of the way. Now Brother Bill, this is inherent in me.

I can't help the way I am. You can help the way you are. Jesus got in me to make me to where I wouldn't have to put up with myself.

And my wife likes that. In fact, she'll help the Lord. Of course, your wife with you, you can't say nothing.

Mine better not hear about it so you just keep your mouth shut. Do you harbor self-sins that don't seem so bad? What about just ill feelings? Or you just want to let everybody know that you have been hurt? I don't know if anybody can live without being hurt, especially if you're married. Married is opposites.

If you didn't marry the opposite, you're in trouble. Blackness is dispelled. Opposites attract.

My wife and I are so opposite. When we got married, we knew we were both one, we just couldn't figure out which one. And I think she won.

But what difference does it make? All Jesus Christ wants to do is bring us to a place to where it don't matter on these issues. What really matters is, am I filled with the Spirit? Am I walking with God? Have I dealt with my sin? Amen. He said clearly.

Then thirdly, He said you were indignant at your sin. Look what He said. He said what indignation.

They were indignant. When confronted with their sins, they got indignant about it. They hated it.

How many of us, when somebody talks to us and confronts us about sin, about something in our life, just a good prophet, who just says, hey, what about this? How do we react? What's our first response? Bless you. Wait till I get away from him. I don't need him to tell me.

He's not so hot himself. How do you really feel when you're confronted and you know you've sinned? What's our first reaction? My wife is a prophet. When I say a prophet, there ain't but two colors and that's black and white.

There's no gray. My wife is strong. She's very sick now.

But my wife has been very instrumental in helping me to face up to my self-sin because she doesn't. If I preach in the pulpit and I'm preaching stuff that she knows that is not right between us, hey, I'll hear about it. You say, well, she has no right.

Aren't you the head of the house? Yeah, but she's the next. No, I'm sorry. You say, well, you should have been the head of the house.

Well, I tell you, the way you've been married 54, 50, wait a minute, how long has it been? This April the 2nd, 57 years, and then I'll listen to you, all right? But one thing that I know, if my wife does not know that I'm walking with God and that I'm living what I preach, I have no reason to preach it, I have no reason to talk about it, and God will not get on it until my wife can see Jesus in me in that area. We're too easy to say, well, I'm just like I am. I can't help the way I am.

My mom was this way. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I remember Ruby Kelly had her tongue long enough to carpet the aisle when I pastored Lupton Drive for 12 years.

I mean, she could sit in the living room and lick a skillet in the kitchen and never budge. I said, Lord, if Ruby ever come down the aisle, help me to help her to repentance. I'd preach on Sunday.

She'd go to work on Monday and just give me the lowdown among sinners. Sinners would call my church and talk to me and say, is that one of your members? I said, I don't know. You decide.

They said, well, we don't want to come to a church that has members like that. I said, Lord, I'm not going to say a word to her. I'm going to leave her to you, and if she ever comes down the aisle, help me to help her to repentance.

One day, here she comes. Maybelline pouring down both sides. She runs and grabs me.

She hasn't hugged me in seven years I've been there. And she just grabbed me and said, I've got a long tongue, and it's wicked. I said, you don't know the highs of it.

She said, you shouldn't do that. You know why you say that? You'd rather talk a person out of repentance than to talk them into it. When they say something, help them.

The greatest thing that'll happen to them is when they repent. Amen. That's what my wife has done for me over the years.

She's helped me to repentance. You say, what have you done for her? I've just been a glorious husband. I mean, but anyway.

Ruby Kelly. We had a mourner's bench in our church. It was 14 foot long.

It's true now. Ruby said, I want to put my tongue on the altar. I said, well, Ruby, there it is.

It's 14 foot long. If it won't go the first time, stack it up. See? You know what she did? She fell on that altar.

Tears flowed like rivers. And Ruby Kelly tears poured off of that mourner's bench. Ruby jumped up, grabbed me and said, I love you.

I said, Lord God, she's got it. Amen. And Ruby Kelly became a spirit-filled, godly woman.

She was already in her early 50s. And from that day on, walked with God, hungered for God, believed God, became a woman of faith, a great giver, a great soul winner. Hallelujah.

For the day when we can meet with God, accept what He says about me, repent and say, I'm sorry, and through that process, God puts His hand on me and blesses me, not because I'm great, but because I am sensitive, I'm indignant at my sin. We have accepted. I read the other day, you need to look at this in Psalm 19, where it talks about sacred thoughts.

The Amplified Bible says, unconscious sins. I want to do that tonight. I'm just going to let you think about it.

You see, people who rebel at reproof and rebuke and obstruction from the Word of God are unrepentant at heart. How long has it been since you had to go to somebody and say, I'm sorry, forgive me? Then you say, what alarm. Look at this.

He said, no indignation, but what fear, what alarm. You see, if I tolerate one sin, like temper, which I have, if I tolerate that sin, it will lead to others. If I defend the fact that my daddy hurt me in my past, so I've got a problem, I just can't let people into my life.

All of us have inferiority complexes. If you say you don't, then you're going to have to answer for lying. Everybody has them.

Amen? Some of us are worse because we didn't inherit as good looks as you did. At least, I ask God, if I couldn't at least have a little bit of hair, it would have helped. Amen? I'm threatening to grow my eyelashes and pull them this way.

I don't know where you woolly-headed fellas can go to heaven or not. I really don't. I believe you've got to be bald or partial.

Hey, I'm kidding, fellas. Come on. Hey, what alarm, what fear.

You see, I've got to remember, in the way America's going, remember back on when they said we need to teach sex education in the schools, and Margaret Sanger, was that her name? Margaret Sanger. I read about her. I forgot all about it the other day.

Read about her back then. She was a pagan. She wanted to make a harlot out of everybody's daughter and a whoremonger out of everybody's son.

Amen. Now look where it's led to. Amen.

Why? What the sinner don't say is what we've got to keep preaching. If you move this far, you'll go further, and you'll go further, until finally a nation would go down the tube. But in the church, if we don't deal with self, I'm, listen, I get calls every week from preachers who are being run off, treated like dogs.

You know why? Because they're soul winners. The church is growing. I just, with Gary, at Runaway Bay, Texas, I was just hoping God would find that place while I was out there.

I love Gary. Never been there in my life, but I went with Gary. I love Gary and his wife.

And let me tell you something. He went through a time when for no reason, half of his church left because of politics and people that wanted to be religious but didn't want the Word of God. Am I right? I get broken over that.

Well, what have we hatched? What have we done? We glory in such crowds. And the reason why these big churches don't have it, they can't get a big enough crowd to overcome the 30,000. It's just covered.

And there ain't enough preaching to cause any repentance. Amen. It's all just wonderful, nice.

Everybody's going. Ladies and gentlemen, we are living in a time when we that are preaching the Word must not get discouraged. Keep your eyes on the captain.

Keep your heart clean before God. Keep the anointing of God on you. And whether you preach good or bad, they'll never know it if God's on it.

I know much about that. What a learning. And then what yearning.

Look at what it said. Yea, what zeal. Yea, what zeal.

You know why some of us don't like zeal? We're afraid of fanaticism. I pastored. I had a young man to get saved.

Good businessman. An old, little boy got really saved. He found a tract that said, a message from hell to you.

And there's a man in the burning flames of hell on the front of him. Flame just leaping up. And on the top, a message from hell to you.

He was so saved, he got every doctor's name out of the phone book. And every address. Every lawyer.

Every business. He sent them all over Chattanooga. Mailed them with our church stamp name on it.

Do you know what? I never heard, we almost had revival. Everybody got mad or glad. Amen.

I had to hire an extra, wait, they're not secretaries anymore, administrative assistant to take the calls. I mean, they were mad. Baptist deacons.

I'm a Baptist deacon. Bless God. Yeah, I sit by them on airplanes.

I fly first class most of the time because I got three million miles with Delta and I can fly on a cheap ticket first class. They think I got money. They think I, a fella gave me a \$17,000 full-ex month and I wore it.

I'm not talking about a Korean maid. It was a diamond, \$17,000. This is not it.

This is a SACO. Okay? Don't get nervous. I'd get on a plane and I'd put it out like this.

You say, why? Well, it's a good witness too for this old boy keeping at it and he's probably a businessman and if he brings up a conversation, then he's open to whatever I want to say. And in a minute, he'll say, how are you, sir? I said, I'm fine, thank you. He's sending you to hear the conversation until finally it comes to this.

What do you do for a living? And he has kicked the door open. Oh, I am a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I spread the good news about Christ's death, burial, and resurrection and I'm trying to get people saved by the grace of God.

Hope. And it will shock you that hell will turn the conversation to this. I wish I could find an answer to some of my needs.

I need help. And then the door's open. Here we go.

Amen. You say, did they get saved? I pray they did. How do I know they get the glory? Then I'll know.

Amen. We just need to be aware that we are instruments and vessels of righteousness. That we don't have to grab people and say, bless God, you're going to hell.

Ask God with tenderness and kindness and love and with tears we can tell people about Jesus. Amen. But you can't do that unless you remember there's no sin that anybody does today that you wouldn't do if you don't stay with God.

Your sin nature didn't change when you got saved. You got unredeemed flesh and so have I. Amen. And this I'll give you an illustration when I quit.

What yearning. What zeal. Anyway, I didn't finish that.

That happens. That old boy, we got all his calls and finally he came to see me. I called him and I said, He said, well, I just want to get people saved.

I said, well, put your name on it. I said, win all you can, but we don't want to be, because it's strange that people would be so upset over a trap that's trying to get people to Jesus and not care about their own children who are victims in our society of a pagan mind that will finally want to take them down the tube. Amen.

God help us. Then last, and I'm through. Then there's restitution.

The word here, revenge, means avenge. And then when Paul said, You've paid your debts. You've made restitution.

You've asked apology. You wrote me a letter and said you're sorry. You've repented with a godly sorrow.

And he said, I am so glad to tell you I'm glad you got right with God. And revival broke out. The church restored.

Great restitution. Not long ago, one of my best friends, I mean very close, we worked very close in ministry, a call came from his wife one day, and she said, Brother Bill, and she was livid, she was weeping, she was screaming. She said, My husband is having an affair with another man.

Four children, four fine boys. My nature said, Get your gun and go kill him. That'll relieve the whole situation.

Now, you say, I would never have thought of that. Well, get a little grit in your craw. You'll never repent until you get to this place.

Amen. You say, Well, I wouldn't do it. I wanted to go and beat the daylight.

Maybe not kill him, but make him think. I don't hate homosexuals. I hate homosexuality.

And I'll tell you why I know I don't hate homosexuals. God burdened my heart and said, Wait a minute. If I give you a promise that if you'll trust me, I'll restore you.

And God gave me a promise. And I called him back and said, Hey, bud, are you hearing me? You're not going anywhere. I will call you every day.

I will never let you go. A holy God's on your trail, and I believe if you don't stay right with God, He not only will be after you, but He'll kill you if you're really saved. I am never going to give up on you, ever.

And I called him nearly every day. Some days he wouldn't answer, but I'd get other numbers where I could slip up on him. Amen.

And he'd answer, and boy, here we'd go. I'd say, Hey, do you hear me? You're not going that way. You're not going that way.

You're going to get right with God. We believe in God for you. You won't go.

I screamed. Then he called me about a year later. He said, Brother Bill, I'm a godless, sorry, low-down scoundrel.

I said, That ain't near what you are. But I'm going to tell you, God promised to restore you. If you'd repent, accept what God says about it, turn to Him, God will restore you.

And I want you to know that's been four years ago. And he's walking with God. He restored his wife and family.

It's wonderful. Listen, quit running from problems. Stand.

Believe God. Hold on. Amen.

You say, Where'd you learn that? Through Father Storm Zimone's family. That when you don't know what to do and can't do a thing, you can help believe and trust God that He'll bring it to pass. Father,

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