

Hear The Sound Of The Trumpet ■ The Call To Worship

by Brian Long

This sermon emphasizes the importance of absolute surrender to God, highlighting the need to let go of pride, reputation, and all hindrances to experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit. True worship is described as giving our best, our all, and holding nothing back from the Lord, focusing solely on Jesus Christ. The story of W.P. Nicholson illustrates the transformation that comes from complete surrender and the freedom found in losing worldly chains to gain the Holy Spirit.

Scripture: Mark 8:34, Luke 14:33, Psalm 51:17, Philippians 3:7, James 4:7, Romans 12:1, Galatians 2:20, 1 Corinthians 6:19, Matthew 22:37

Topics: "Absolute Surrender", "True Worship"

Description

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Transcript

God, I pray that he would just be bold, not hold back. Lord, whatever we need to hear, I pray you just guide him, strengthen him like like arrows in the hands of a well-skilled marksman. Lord, hit us, pierce us, encourage us, build us up, strengthen us, give us a heart of worship.

But I pray for a strong anointing over this man this evening. To even be led away from the sermon notes, if that's what you're calling, to speak directly into the lives of these people tonight, to encourage and to convict and to build up and to strengthen. So, Lord, anoint him.

We know you've put these individuals here at this place for this reason, for this season in our lives. And we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Thank you. It puts such a trembling in my soul when I sense, you know, a tremendous sense of the presence of God. There's always a fear in my heart that I don't want to get in the way.

And I know God has put a burden on my heart tonight. And it's along the same theme that he's given us about hearing the sound of the trumpet. But all afternoon I've been wrestling.

There's been so, so much. Lord, what exactly you want me to share? And I kept having this sense to just put up your notes. And then Shane just prays over me and say, well, Lord, if he's supposed to just put away his notes.

So, here they are. You're going to have to really trust the Lord to lead me, OK? OK. God uses us in our weaknesses.

Thank God that he does. We were talking last night about hearing the sound of the trumpet. And I want you to see that text again.

We're not going to stay there long, but we must see it again in Jeremiah chapter six. So if you'll turn there first to Jeremiah chapter six. And we begin reading in verse 16.

Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways and see and ask for the old paths where is the good way and walk therein. And you shall find rest for your souls. But they said, we will not walk therein.

Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, we will not hearken. There's that call again from the Lord in verse 17.

I set watchmen over you, saying, hearken to the sound of the trumpet. Listen, pay attention to the sound of the trumpet. And last night we said there are three trumpets that I believe the Lord wants to sound throughout this conference.

We talked about a trumpet call that would be that would be the trumpet that would be blown. That would be a war call, a call to battle, a call to fight God's way. That is namely a call to prayer.

And Lord willing, we'll be preaching on that tomorrow morning. Last night, if you remember, the trumpet was blown and we heard the sound of the trumpet was a call of warning. Judgment is coming.

But with every warning of coming judgment, it was also a mercy call. God is saying, now is the time to get right with God. Now is the time to repent and return to Him with all of our hearts.

Now is the time to cry out to God like we've never cried out to Him before. This is our window of opportunity. But that other trumpet call, blowing that trumpet, hearing the sound of it, was a call to worship.

God is calling His people to return to true worship. He is looking for true worshipers. He says there in the 16th verse, stand in the way and see.

In other words, stop what you're doing. You're at a crossroad. See and ask for the old paths.

And I've been stuck on that verse for months now saying, God, what are you saying here? Show me these old paths. Could it be there's old paths that we've strayed away from? It's not just talking about going back to the old ways for the sake of doing old-fashioned things the old way. There's old paths that lead to new life.

Old paths that God set from the very beginning. One of those old paths is true worship. It's something that God has been looking for throughout from the beginning of man.

And if we turn to John chapter 4, we see this clearly spoken through our Lord Jesus. John chapter 4. This is the story of Jesus meeting the woman of Samaria at the well, the Samaritan woman at the well. And He's talking to her about living water.

And if you pick up with me at verse 19, it says, The woman saith unto him, Sir, speaking to Jesus, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain, and ye say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

Ye worship, ye know not what. We know what we worship for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh and now is when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

For the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah is coming, which is called Christ.

When he has come, he will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he. Can you imagine standing before the Son of God and not recognizing who he is? It says clearly there that the Father is seeking for something, someone.

He's seeking for true worshippers. Those who will worship him in spirit and in truth. Is God going to find among us what he's seeking for? What is a true worshipper? What is a true worshipper? One of the things I see in this scripture is about true worshippers is that true worshippers are not taken up with the place, but they're taken up with the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The woman says she's taken up with the place. Are we supposed to worship on this mountain? That's what our father said. But you say Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

Where's the place? And Jesus tears all of that down. It's not about the place. It's about the one standing in front of her.

True worshippers are not taken up with the place. They're taken up with the person. Brothers and sisters, many of us know we've worshipped God together in a big, fancy cathedral.

Some of us have worshipped God together with the body of Christ in a barn. When God birthed the church in Barnsdall, where I used to pastor, it started in a barn. And the Lord showed us right there, it's not about the place.

It's about the person. It's about the Lord Jesus Christ. When we outgrew the barn, somebody gave us an old bar.

Should we go meet in an old bar? We went, cleaned it out, cut the bar down, made an altar out of it. One man got saved, gloriously saved. He was in tears one night.

He said, I used to drink on this bar. Now I'm kneeling on it and weeping. I saw puddles of tears on that old bar that became an altar.

But it's not about the place. It's about the person. True worshippers are captivated, obsessed, if you will, fixed upon the glory of this person.

Jesus Christ, God, the Son, the King of kings, the Lord of lords. And we could say true worshippers are not taken up with blank. You fill in the blank.

We're not taken up with the building. We're not to be taken up with even the music or the preacher or the preaching. Not when it comes to true worship.

What is to get a hold of our heart and be our focus above everything else? Jesus and Jesus only. Do you remember, brothers and sisters, some of you know the scriptures in Matthew chapter 17 when Jesus took Peter, James and John up high on a mountain? And right before his their eyes, he was transfigured before them. And the Bible says that his clothes became whiter than the brightest light.

His face was shining like the sun. And then Moses appeared and Elijah appeared. And Peter had to open his mouth and say something very foolish.

He said, Lord, it's good for us to be here. That's the place. Let us make three tabernacles, three churches, one for Moses, one for Elijah, one for you, Jesus.

Sounds like a pretty good idea. What is he doing? He's bringing the son of God down onto the level of man. And God Almighty, the father God, thunders from heaven and says, this is my beloved son.

In him, I'm well pleased. Listen to him. Down on their faces, they go trembling in fear until Jesus has to touch them and say, do not be afraid.

And the Bible says they lifted up their eyes and they saw no man save Jesus only. If that's not underlined in your Bible, it should be Jesus only. Moses was there.

They no longer see him. Elijah, that great prophet. Have you come to hear him? They no longer see him.

Now they're entering into true worship when your eyes get off of a man, no longer on a man, no longer on a band, no longer on a prayer. And I thank you, praise team, for pointing us to Jesus. Thank God for that.

That's true worship when we're not taken up with fill in the blank, but we are taken up with the Lord Jesus Christ himself. Jesus said to that woman, you don't know what you worship. And I wonder sometimes, brothers and sisters, have we forgotten the one that we are called to worship? True worshipers know the one that they worship.

One of the scariest verses in the whole Bible to me comes from Matthew chapter seven, where Jesus says, many will come to me in that day and say, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Cast out demons in your name, do many wonderful, mighty works in your name. And he says, depart from me, you workers of iniquity. I never knew you.

Where did they go for eternity? I never knew you. They were taken up with their own works, the works of their own hands. They were taken up with all this stuff, even miracles.

And they didn't know the one they claimed to worship. The same thing happened in Jeremiah and Jeremiah chapter six, after he says, listen to the sound of the trumpet. He goes on to talk about how their worship is unacceptable.

And he says in chapter seven of Jeremiah, the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord saying, stand in the gate of the Lord's house and proclaim there this word and say, hear the word of the Lord, all ye of

Judah that enter in at these gates to worship the Lord. Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. Trust ye not in lying words, saying the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord are these.

What is it? They were caught up with the temple of the Lord and they forgot the Lord of the temple. He is the focus of our worship. And yet they got their eyes off of him and began to look at the glorious temple and thinking, well, this is the house of God.

And they had forgotten God. God said that earlier in Jeremiah, can a bride forget her attire, her wedding dress? Yet my people have forgotten me days without number. They've forgotten God.

And when you forget God, you no longer fear God. When you no longer fear God, you're no longer truly worshipping God. Can we worship God without reverence in all? Not according to the Bible.

Hebrews chapter 12 and in about the second to the last verse in Hebrews chapter 12 tells us very clearly. That worship. For it to be acceptable before God has to be with reverence and godly fear, listen to this Hebrews chapter 12, verse 28 and 29.

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful. And so worship God acceptably with reverence and all for our God is a consuming fire. You know how you know if someone does not know God, they do not fear God.

Those who know God have a fear of God. That is this holy reverence for God. And you cannot worship God acceptably without giving him all and reverence for who he is.

When we remember, when we focus through the word of God and fix our eyes upon who he really is, brothers and sisters, God is so he's greater than any of us can perceive him to be. When you're talking about the greatness and glory and majesty of God, you're talking about something you can't exaggerate. Because no matter how high and lofty your words are, they still fall way too short of his glory and who he really is.

Our God is a great and awesome God, and he is to be feared in the congregation. Worship with reverence and awe. I remember the first church I pastored.

We wanted to have an outreach team in. Somebody really recommended them. They were from the city.

All they can reach the youth, brother Brian, bring them in some kind of puppet team or skip team or something. They came in and they began to talk about the Lord Jesus with such irreverence. I was disgusted.

I was back there writhing. Please make him stop, Lord, please make him stop. Totally misrepresenting who he is.

He's not your bro. He's God. He's the Lord.

Finally, I stopped it and I asked him, can we please talk? We went to a back room. I said, guys, that's not God. You don't know God.

And I was pleading with them. They had they wouldn't hear it at all. And when I saw there was no issue, you don't understand God's doing a new thing.

This is how people are reached. You've got to be sensitive to the culture. You've got to relate with them.

I said, you don't know God. And then my shock and awe turned to, I believe, a righteous indignation when they were refused to repent of any of that and continue to speak of the Lord with such irreverence and blasphemy. I looked at him and if there would have been a whip of cords, I think I would have grabbed it.

I said, get out. Get out. Well, you're mean, you're angry.

Are you an angry watch? No. But I am jealous for the glory of God and his name and his honor and his glory. Brothers and sisters, we're living in a day where many, many, many are have lost the fear of God.

They don't fear God because they don't know God. And, you know, one sign that you've lost the fear of God, you begin to give him your leftovers. In Malachi, God talks about those who do not fear him and they were bringing him that lame goat, that blind sheep, and God said, try giving that to your governor.

Bringing the leftovers, there's something about true worshipers, true worshipers know the one they worship and they bring to him their best and their all because of who he is. I think of that. That woman in the scripture that was considered to be a very sinful woman, but she met Jesus, she was forgiven and out of gratitude because she had met him, she knew who he was, she knew the one she worshiped.

She looks around in her house to say, what can I bring? This is something else about true worship, true worship, true worshipers always come to give, not to get. Worship is all about giving, giving the one who is worthy. Something of worth.

And that woman looked around her house and what can I bring him, what can I give him? Oh, there it is, the alabaster box full of precious perfume worth nearly a year's wages. And she takes it, she brings it to the house where she hears that Jesus is what she do. I'm going to give 10%.

No, she breaks it, pours it out upon her, his head. Pours it all out. That's worship.

I give you my best, I give you my all, Lord, because you're worthy. You're worthy. That's what true worshipers do.

Turn, if you will, to Revelation chapter five. Revelation, chapter five, here's a picture of the throne room. Here is a picture of true worship.

Here is a picture of the one that we worship. Revelation, chapter five. Actually, let's back up to chapter four, he says in verse eight, and the four beasts had each of them six wings about him and they were full of eyes within and they were rest day, not day and night, saying, holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was and is and is to come.

And when those beasts give glory and honor and thanks to him that sat on the throne who liveth forever and ever, the four and 20 elders fall down before him that sat on the throne and worship him that liveth forever and ever and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power for thou has created all things and for thy pleasure they are and were created. And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne, a book written within and on the backside sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice who is worthy to open the book and to loose the seals thereof.

And no man in heaven nor on earth, neither under the earth was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders said unto me, weep not.

Behold, the lion of the tribe of Judah. Who is that? Jesus, the root of David. Jesus hath prevailed to open the book and to loose the seven seals thereof.

And I beheld and lo in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts and in the midst of the elders stood a lamb as it had been slain. Who is that? Jesus, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and 20 elders fell down before the lamb, having every one of them harps and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sung a new song saying, Thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof for that was slain and has redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation and has made us unto our God, kings and priests. And we shall reign on the earth.

And I beheld and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beast and the elders, and the number of them was ten thousand times, ten thousand and thousands of thousands saying with a loud voice, worthy is the lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea and all that are in them, heard I saying, blessing and honor and glory and power be unto him that sit upon the throne and unto the lamb forever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen, and the four and 20 elders fell down and worshiped him that liveth forever and ever.

That is the one that we worship. That is a picture of true worship. And I want to ask you, was anyone there taken up with the place? Were they saying, wow, is this this is heaven, isn't this a wonderful place? No, they're consumed with the lamb of God.

Heaven is heaven because Jesus is there. David said, Whom have I in heaven but you? There's none on the earth that I desire beside you. Jesus is heaven.

Jesus is the center of it all. And everybody is falling down. Think of this millions and millions, myriads of angels gathered around the throne.

And are they there to get? Is anybody there focused on themselves? Everybody's focused on Christ. This is true worship. When Christ becomes our one and only focus.

We are we are captivated by him. We have come to meet with him. I love what one pastor said, somebody came to him and said, Pastor, I didn't really like the worship this morning.

He said, it's OK, we weren't worshipping you. We're worshipping him and we need to ask that, brothers and sisters, what did God think about today? I long to do that every time when I step out of here and get to the motel room, Lord, what do you what do you say? There are times the Lord has to correct me on something. What do you were you pleased, God? It's all about who? It's all about Jesus.

Yes, it's all about God. It's all about him and he's got to be our focus. Think of that in worship.

We got enough selfies going on today. Turn that lens around. Focus in on the glory and majesty of God.

It's not about you. It's not about me as if he should do things my way. It's all about him.

True worshipers are focused on him. They fear him. They reverence him.

They exalt him. They come to give to him. Doesn't mean you won't get because every time you pour out to God, he pours in.

But that's not our motive for coming to worship is to get it's to give because he's worthy. You know, the first time the word worship is mentioned in the Bible. First time the word worship is mentioned, first time love is mentioned in the Bible.

So when God says, Abraham, Abraham. Take your son. Your only son.

Whom you love, Isaac. Take him up on the mountain and offer him there is a burnt offering for me and Abraham. And Isaac left with a couple of servants and a donkey.

And it took him three days to get up there. Can you imagine? You have a long time to think about it, and you know what, when they got up almost, I don't know, maybe it was halfway, Abraham says to his servants, remember what he said to them? You guys stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go up to the mountain and we will worship, worship.

What does that mean? Giving my best, giving my all. You cannot separate true worship from surrender. You can't do it.

If you're not willing to surrender all, you can't become a true worshiper. True worshipers surrender, even my children. Even your children, this scripture, God's God.

He so ministered to me through that scripture when we received the news that my son had relapsed and we got the news that that the cancer was back, I was so perplexed by it all. Why would God bring him through one time and now we got to go through this whole thing again? And I remember standing up before the church and I said, brothers and sisters, because God had spoken a word to me and seeking him in prayer. And part of it was this, are you willing to to give Luke to me? Are you willing to surrender him? It was not a quick thing to do, brothers, when you really, really surrender your children to the Lord.

But I remember such peace after that, and I remember standing before my brothers and sisters and I said, church, Luke and I were going to the hospital, but we're going to the mountain. And we're going to worship and we're going to come back to you again. And.

That's what Abraham said. And worship we did, I'll tell you about one night in particular, and this was a night when he was literally vomiting, vomiting up the lining of his stomach. And the insides of his mouth was sloughed off and the insides of his nose and he was suffering unspeakably, and all I had left was a groan.

You get to a point, what else do you pray? What else do you say? And I remember reading to him, there was a book by Brother Yoon, the heavenly man, and I would read to him about the suffering that he was going through in prison and he was on morphine and I would think he was passed out and I would stop reading and he'd say and I'd start reading again or I would read the word of God to him. But I remember one night when during that unspeakable suffering, I said, Lord, I don't know what else to do. I was

begging, please put it on me, do something.

And you know what the Lord said to me? Offer up the sacrifice of praise. That's the scripture that he brought back to my mind in the midst of pain, in the midst of suffering. It's called the sacrifice of praise because you don't always feel like doing it.

Why do you do it? Because God is always worthy of worship and praise. Always worthy. And I remember lifting my voice and singing one song, one chorus.

I love you, Lord, and I live my life. And after that, when another one came all night long around the clock until I saw the sun come up through his window the next morning. What were we doing? We worshiped.

We worshiped, you can have my son, you can have my all. Brothers and sisters, you cannot worship God without surrender. Abraham surrendered Isaac.

And what happened? Did God want child sacrifice? Never in a million years. In fact, that was an abomination to him. He said in Jeremiah, that never even crossed my mind.

What was he doing? He tested Abraham and after Abraham was willing even to kill his own son. God said, Abraham, now I know that you fear me. True worshipers fear God and God provided a lamb.

In place of Isaac, all of this was a picture pointing to Calvary when one day God would. Lay down his own son, lift the knife on the cross, only this time he didn't stop. And he was showing us how much he loved us.

What do you think? How do you think Abraham felt when he realized there is a lamb to take the place of my son? Immense gratitude, and that's another thing that should drive a true worshiper to worship God always. We worship him, we thank him, we praise him because of all that he's done for us. That's why that woman poured out that whole alabaster box.

She loved much, Jesus said, because she was forgiven much, because she was forgiven much. She loved much. She held nothing back.

That's what true worship does. It holds nothing back from the Lord. Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life and my all.

It's all yours, Lord, because you're worthy. Nothing, nothing will I hold back. That's what a true worshiper says.

Reminds me of the little African girl that I heard about in Africa at a tent meeting. She had been born again and loved Jesus with all of her heart, but so poor she didn't have two coins to rub together. And in a meeting, she sees the offering is taking place and the plates being passed down through the aisles and her little heart is pounding and she's wondering, what can I give Jesus? Jesus, I want to give something to you.

She loved him with all of her heart, not knowing what she was going to do. And the plate got closer and closer to her and finally it came to her and she looked at it. You know what she did? Put it on the ground on the floor, stepped inside of it, said, Lord, I don't have money, so I give you me.

That's worship, that's worship, nothing and nothing will I hold back. Take my all, Lord, absolute surrender. That's worship, brothers and sisters.

That's what Abraham did. That's what the woman who came to Jesus with that alabaster box did. That's what they're all doing and having nothing.

Will they hold back? There was a rich young ruler that had the opportunity to do that. And Jesus loved him and he looked upon him with eyes of compassion and he loved and loved that rich young ruler and said, what must I do to inherit eternal life? Keep these laws, these commandments, I've done all that. Now go sell everything you have and give to the poor.

Jesus put his finger on the one thing that man was holding on to and was unwilling to let go of. He couldn't do it and he went away sorrowful. Did Jesus chase him down? No, he let him go.

You don't have to become a true worshiper, but if you're going to become one, you've got to let go. You've got to let go and surrender your children to God, surrender your money to God. It's his surrender, your business completely to God.

It's his surrender, your ministry to him, surrender your time to him, all the talents he's given you. It's no longer you're no longer your own. I've been bought with the price, therefore, I must glorify God in my spirit and my body, which belong to God.

I'm embarrassed to tell you, brothers and sisters, there was a time in my life is probably 15 years ago or more that I walked away from the ministry. I had no intentions of walking away from the Lord, but I walked away from the ministry. I walked away from the pastorate and I vowed that I would never, ever, ever pastor again.

I wanted nothing to do with it. Please put me back on a ranch where nobody knows me. Lord, I'll worship you out here alone.

Just me and you. I knew that wouldn't work. So I said, OK, put me on the streets.

And this country boy had some kind of desire to go and reach gangs, Hispanic gangs in New Mexico. Only thing is, I didn't have the anointing of the Holy Spirit. He lifted.

And here I am trying to reach gangs and nobody's getting saved. I'm making a fool of myself. And I sunk into such a deep, dark pit of despair.

And it lasted almost a year. And part of what I did for income is I was up in the mountains, so I ran a trapline. And one of my youngest sons was with me at the time and and we were going down the trapline and we came around this icy, iced over road.

And I was in the pickup, the only brand new pickup I ever bought in my life. I was so proud of that truck. It was also an idol.

Off the road, we went onto an iced over creek. And the front, the front ends sunk like that. Immediately, I jumped out, got my son out, put him up on the bank.

And when we were doing that, it was going under. The truck was was gone. No more.

And I remember being overcome by the mercy of God that he had spared my son's life. He'd spared my life. We were in the middle of nowhere.

What do I do? I wrapped him up in coveralls, put him up under a tree and I started walking for help. It was in the snow. And I bet I didn't walk half a mile when I heard the spirit of the Lord say to me, how long will you run? I was like Jonah in the well, my marriage was falling completely apart.

I ended up living in a cabin out there. My wife was living in town. We would see each other on the weekends and go to church like a hypocrite.

I was I was I was in the pit of darkness. Many times on that trapline, I would stand on the on the edge of a cliff. God is my witness saying.

Jump off, jump off, that's what the devil was saying. It was a low, low point when I heard the Lord say, how long will you run? I fell on my face in the snow and I began to weep like a baby, I hadn't shed a tear in probably a year. Heart, heart is stone cold.

I began to weep, cry out, God, I'm such a proud man. I'm an arrogant man. I'm a wretched man.

And I began to weep a river of tears, pleading with him. To have mercy upon me. I said, Lord, I'm tired, I'm through running, I'll do whatever you say to do, I'll go wherever you tell me to go, came to a place of absolute surrender.

And immediately the scripture, the Lord said to me, you are not your own. You've been bought with the price now glorify me in your spirit, in your body. They belong to me.

I got up and the next day. I receive a phone call from a dear brother in Oklahoma, so there's a church that wants to talk to you. And I said, I will never go back to a Baptist church.

And it's a Baptist church. And the Lord brought me back and he had mercy upon me. But it requires absolute surrender, there's no shortcut, there's no other way to become a true worshiper and glorify the Lord.

No other way. There was a young missionary by the name of I think his name was William Borden. Years ago, he was a very wealthy young man, he was an heir of the wealthy Borden family, and that young man had such an encounter with the Lord and loved the Lord with all his heart.

He gave not only his money, all his money to the Lord, he gave himself and he did it with gratitude. What what is a sacrifice when you look at Calvary, really, are we going to hold on to these little trinkets down here in light of God's great love for us? He gave it all. He ended up dying on the mission field at 26 years of age.

When he did, they found his Bible and they looked in the back and they found these words. No reserves. No retreat.

No regrets. No reserves, no backup plans. It's all yours, Lord.

No reserves. No retreat. I'm not running again unless it's to you.

No reserves, no retreat, no regrets. Have you come to that place of absolute surrender? That's true worship. When you give your all, every fiber of your being to the Lord.

I was walking one day. Praying, it was on a Saturday. And.

The phone rang, my cell phone rang, lady on the other line said, Brother Brian, you don't know me, but we know who you are and we need help now. What's going on? We have a young man living with us who is demon possessed. And my first thought, well, he's probably just strung out on drugs or something.

What makes you say he's demon possessed? She told me I was manifesting, said we've taken him to another church. They couldn't cast the demons out. We took him to a hospital.

They put him on a bunch of Valium. And the doctor said to me, ma'am, I think this is a spiritual problem. The doctor said that.

She began to tell me all that he was doing, I'd only seen this in my ministry, I think twice up to this point. I said to her, ma'am, I can tell you on the authority of God's word, not because I'm anything, I'm nothing, but Christ lives in me and his word is true. And I'll tell you on the authority of God's word, that young man will be delivered tonight.

But I'm going to bring a prayer team with me. She said, come. So we came that evening before we did, I asked the little prayer team that we had.

I told them the situation. I said, if your heart is not clean and you don't have faith to go, you don't come. A couple of them said, I'm not going.

Thank you for your honesty. Others said, we're going, we're all in. We walked into this house and everything looked normal.

I started talking to the young man. Not even a minute later, he began the demons begin to manifest. He began to convulse and shake, fell on the floor, flopping on the on the not the floor, sorry, the couch fell on the couch and just shaking everywhere.

My prayer team began to pray and cry out to God and God in his mercy gave us the authority to cast those demons out. And he went limp like a dead man, never seen anything like it before. And I thought of the scripture, how that happened when Jesus cast the demons out.

And so we begin to praise and worship the Lord, and then I woke him up. Blake, he said, what happened? I said, Blake, you've been. You've been involved in some very evil things, you've been demon possessed, and Jesus just set you free.

He sat up, but this is the part of the story I want to tell you, he was living with their daughter and I began to share the gospel with him, I began to share what Jesus said about him sweeping the house clean. But then if it's not filled again, you'll end up seven times worse than you are now. It's this is not a game.

And I said, Blake, we finally got to this point after talking for a while, I said, you're going to have to break off this relationship, you're not married, you're living in sin. No, no, I can't. I can't let I can't let go of Sarah.

And he began to plead and cry. I said, well, then I have no no other message for you. And we got ready to leave and he began to manifest again.

We went through the same process again, woke him up. I said, Blake, this is not a game. This is real.

It's all of Jesus or none of him. You make the choice. Still wrestling to the point we decided this, I said, there's no gospel for you begin to walk out the door, he's crying, pleading, no, I'm ready.

He cut off the relationship, he cried out to the Lord, received Christ as his savior and Lord was gloriously saved. I know he was gloriously saved because just a week later I saw him at another community praise gathering and I walked in and didn't recognize this young man who had his hands lifted high with tears, praising and worshipping the Lord Jesus. Hallelujah.

But he had to come to that place of absolute surrender. When that happened, the lady who called me was trembling over here to next to me. She looks at her boyfriend, who I thought was her husband, said, Fred, we're living in sin.

So we shared the gospel with them. They prayed and called out to the Lord. I'm not sure if they ever broke it off or not, but.

God, God is a merciful God, but there's no listen, there's no other way. It's all of Jesus or none of him. He wants all of your heart, all of that's what he's after.

He's your heart, your whole heart. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, all your strength. And that is how we are to worship him.

And you are to have no other gods before me, he says. We bow our knee to no other. It's Christ alone, Christ only.

Jesus only is to have the preeminence. I'll close with this story that's ministered to me many, many times, it's about the W.P. Nicholson, who was, I think, one of the greatest evangelists that Ireland ever knew. But W.P. Nicholson, he had lived a very sinful life.

And when he was saved, he was born again. But then he was brought into a Presbyterian church and he said, I knew I was born again. I had the witness of the spirit.

But like many of us, he says, my life was up and down, more down than up. And he had heard from somebody about the feeling of the Holy Spirit. You can't live this life in your own strength.

You can't overcome sin in your own strength. You'll end up living a defeat. It would it would make him mad when people would say that.

And he wrestled with it for a long time. But he said, finally, the day came when I realized I was never going to make God a Presbyterian. But the baptism of the Holy Spirit to be filled with the Holy Spirit scared me because I didn't want to be or do anything that a good Presbyterian wouldn't be or do.

But he got miserable with this up and down life. He knew that he was lacking something. He was lacking that victorious life in Christ.

And the day came, the night came when he finally, finally said, Lord, all right, I'm willing to let go of it all. I'm willing to surrender all to you. He cried out a prayer, something like this, something about the Holy Spirit.

Come in, Holy Spirit, come in, come in. Let thy great work of blessing begin. By faith, I lay hold of the promise and claim complete victory over sin.

And at that moment, I should back up before that happened. He was fearful that if he surrendered all, the Lord would have him join the Salvation Army. Now, why was he so afraid of that? He said in that town, the

Salvation Army was made up of this small corps of two young girls and a young man they called Daff Jimmy.

He said Jimmy didn't have enough brains to give him a headache. They all made fun of him. He said those two girls would go down the street playing their tambourine and young Daff Jimmy would go down with his flag up in the air, dressed in this red uniform.

And on the back of his shirt was these big white letters saved from public opinion. And the spirit of the Lord spoke to him and said, Nicholson, your problem is pride. And that's what led him to that place of that night crying out, OK, Lord.

I'm willing to lay down my pride, I'm willing to let go of it all, I'm willing to surrender all to you. Well, sure enough, it was either that night, I think, or the next night he went into this town where they were having a cattle fair and all of his friends and all of his relatives, he said it seemed like every single person he knew was out on the street that night. And as he's walking down the street, who does he see but the two young girls playing the tambourines and Daff Jimmy holding the flag? Oh, no, he thought.

He wanted to turn the other way, but before he could, one of the young girls said, are you a Christian? Yes, I am. She said the people won't stop and listen to us preach, get out, get out on your knees with us and let's pray. He got out on his knees and he could feel the people looking at him, mocking and scoffing and laughing at him.

Now he's dealing with his reputation and he's thinking, oh, let them pray a prayer as long as 119th Psalm. He said, I don't want to get up. But he said they only prayed a very short prayer.

And when I got up, the young girl looked at me and handed me the tambourine and said, here, brother, you lead the march. He said, I grabbed that tambourine, begin to play, go down the street, praising God. And he said something happened as I began to pray, praise the Lord with my eyes fixed upon him, even in the midst of all the laughing and jeering and scoffing, something happened.

He said my chains fell off. He said, I lost something that night that I never want to find. And I found something that night that I never want to lose.

God, the Holy Spirit filled him up to overflowing. And this man become again one of the greatest preachers and evangelists Ireland had ever known. Are you willing to let go of your reputation? What people think of you, the fear of man seeking honor, he said, people later called him a fool.

He said, yes, I'm fool of the Holy Ghost, save from public opinion. There is no true worship without absolute 100 percent surrender to the Lord God, who is worthy of all our hearts, all our soul, all our mind, all our strength.

Video: <https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/txl5x32vCU4.mp4>

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