

Sanctify Yourself: For Tomorrow the Lord Will Do Wonders Among You

by Carter Conlon

The sermon emphasizes the importance of sanctification, obedience, and prayer in our lives, and calls us to be set apart for God's worship and work.

Duration: 46:32

Scripture: Joshua 3:4, Isaiah 58:6-10, Matthew 6:33, Hebrews 13:8

Topics: "Sanctification"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the need for revival and prayer in the church. He highlights the importance of relying on God's leading rather than human intellect. The preacher uses the example of Joshua and the Israelites crossing the Jordan River to illustrate the need for action and obedience when following God's leadership. He also expresses a belief in a season of God's miraculous work and a desire for people to come to Christ. The preacher concludes by urging the congregation to pray and fast for a move of God's Spirit in their nation.

Transcript

It's good to be home. Thank God. I was sharing with the choir this morning after an extended vacation this summer with my wife Teresa.

It's awesome to come here on Sunday and all of my mountains are molehills and I'm totally at rest in my mind. And I told the choir I'm going to enjoy it for the three days that it's going to last. Thank God for his presence and his peace.

Thank God for what he's about to do in our midst. Next Sunday we're going to be starting a three day fast. And we're praying for our city and we're praying for our nation.

God heal our land is the cry that will come from our hearts. We'll be here all day Sunday. The services will be regular as they are on Sunday but you're welcome to stay throughout the day.

You can stay and pray between the services. There might be somebody leading periodically from a microphone assisting you with that. Or perhaps we'll just read scripture together.

But all day Sunday, although child care will be the same as usual. Drop off and pick up your children at the same times. We'll be here all day Sunday.

We'll be meeting Monday night at 7 o'clock to pray together. And again on Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock for a prayer time. We're also going to pray about this upcoming meeting on Wednesday.

With various churches throughout the city. We as a church body have set aside 1.5 million dollars in this coming year to help to underwrite existing and start up feeding programs. Particularly inner city churches.

That will be a primary focus but it will extend beyond that eventually. And we see this has the potential to bring the church to a higher reputation in the city. To meet human need.

There's going to be a lot of need with 44 million people as I understand on food stamps of some sort in America today. And of course the bigger cities being hit the hardest. And we want to help to encourage especially inner city churches to start feeding people.

We're going to be holding monthly seminars on nutrition. We'll be teaching or helping all of us as a larger block to be able to get involved with some of the opportunities to obtain food. Stuff to be able to give out to the population.

There's a lot of organizations that are out there and willing to help if you know how to access them. And I think most importantly of all we're going to meet and pray together every month. Pastors and leaders of these churches.

And who knows but that this might be the spark of something in the city. And that's what I'm believing God for. Isaiah 58 says if you see human need and don't hide yourself from it then you call out to God and he says I will answer you.

And there's incredible promises in that passage of scripture for those who will not withdraw their hands unto themselves in times of difficulty. But will begin to reach out. You and I have got to believe that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

That what he has done he will do. And who he is he will always be. The mercy of the Lord endures forever.

His kindness is beyond your understanding and beyond mine. I thank God that in my heart there's a spark of life. I see something in the future.

I hope you're beginning to see it as well. Yes times are difficult and most likely they might get more difficult than they are today. But in spite of that it is the mercy of God that pulls out the carpet of complacency from underneath the people.

That we may consider our ways again and get back into the house of God. I believe the Lord with all my heart for a sweeping move of his spirit in this nation, in this season in which we're living. Not to save a financial system or such like.

But it's about saving people. It's about families. It's about moms and dads and kids coming to Christ.

I thank God for that with all of my heart. And I trust that you'll be here to pray and to fast with us about these things. I want you to direct your attention to Joshua chapter 3 this morning if you will.

Joshua chapter 3. It's the longest message title I've ever had I think in my lifetime. But it goes this way. Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.

Now Father, I have rarely felt carried by the spirit into the pulpit as I do this morning. I know your hand is on me. I know you have spoken to my heart.

God Almighty. That's who you are. God Almighty.

All merciful, all powerful, all glorious. Lord Jesus Christ. In spite of our frailties.

Lord in spite of our best efforts which fall short of the glory of God. We call out to you one more time to come in mercy. One more time.

To let there be an expression in this church and in this city and in this nation of who you are. In spite of the fact that people spit in your face yet still you remain merciful. And your arms remain open.

And you send rain on the just and the unjust. Help us Lord Jesus Christ to lay hold of your heart. I pray that you touch this frail body in a new way.

Touch this frail mind with the wisdom of heaven. I yield my body to you Lord that you may speak through me. And live in me.

I ask only one thing that your name be glorified. And that men, women and children be saved. Jesus son of God.

Speak to us today. To every heart. Lord your voice can go a lot deeper than mine.

I can only speak one thought at one time. But you can speak a thousand ways to different hearts. For you know the needs in this room.

You know the struggles, the trials, the thoughts. You've walked with each one of us through our days. And you've stood with us Lord when we're not even aware that you're there.

No God speak today. That's all I ask. Speak to us.

And give us the power of the Holy Spirit. That we may be a people set apart for you in this final hour. Father I thank you for this.

In Jesus name. Joshua chapter 3. Beginning at verse 1 to verse 5. And Joshua rose early in the morning. And they removed from Shittim and came to Jordan.

He and all the children of Israel and lodged there before they passed over. And it came to pass after three days. That the officers went through the host.

And they commanded the people saying. When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God. And the priest the Levites bearing it.

Then you shall remove from your place and go after it. Yet there shall be a space between you and it. About two thousand cubits by measure.

Come not near unto it. That you may know the way by which you must go. For you have not passed this way heretofore.

And Joshua said unto the people. Sanctify yourselves. For tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.

It had been a long journey in the wilderness. Forty years or so before. Another generation had come to these same borders.

Of what was once promised to them. Yet they had made a wrong choice. In their hearts they felt to go ahead.

In the plan of God that would bring glory to his name. And make them as was promised to Abraham. A blessing in the earth was too difficult.

And they felt that they would make leaders. And go back to what they had left behind. They thought that there might be something in the ways of Egypt.

That would satisfy only to find themselves living. In a desert place and dying there. For over forty years.

How tragic it must have been for the people walking through that wilderness. They would have the recollection of the promises that were given to them. That they were going to go into a land.

That would flow with milk and honey. In other words there would be such rich pasture. That there would be plenty of clover for the bees.

And there would be plenty of pasture for the cows. And it would literally be a place of divine nourishment. Only to look down and all that was around them was dust.

And if they picked it up in their hands. It would just fall through their fingers. And that's the type of a spiritual life and journey.

That people end up on when we see the plan of God. And choose an alternate path for our lives. Now another generation has come to this place.

And if you have the ears to hear. This morning we've arrived at an incredible season. In the testimony of the church of Jesus Christ.

In our time. We've arrived at a season where. There's an awareness that God is willing to do something far beyond the normative.

Standard church attendance. He's willing to do the miraculous. To set people free.

To give sight. To put meaning and purpose in our hearts. And to release to us as it is.

The promised land which is Jesus Christ. The life that God promises through his son. No longer just a text written on pages of scripture.

But can become a living reality. And for some of us in an unprecedented way. My only prayer lately that I've been praying is God almighty.

Fill me with your Holy Spirit again. I need to be carried by the Holy Spirit. I need to be enabled by the Holy Spirit.

I need the power of the Holy Spirit to live a righteous life. I need the power of God to see the scriptures and understand it. I need the mind of God to know how to go forward.

Because without the mind of God. All I can do. Is diminish the testimony of Christ in my own life.

And in the church that he's called me to pastor. And as they came to the borders again. Which I believe that we are at.

At this 25th anniversary time of Times Square Church. And the season that we're living in. They took three days.

And just camped there. Most likely it was a time of reflection. The people would be looking across the Jordan.

At all that God had promised would be theirs. They would be thinking I suppose about the volumes of people. Before them who looked at the same places.

Maybe stood in somewhat in the same vicinity. Looking across at the promises. And yet not being able to form a right heart.

Not being able to go in. Succumbing to fear. Succumbing to an inner desire that says.

Well we know a better way than the way of God. And we want to be called the people of God. But we don't want to pay the price to walk with him.

There had to be an awareness. In the hearts of the victory would not come. But through personal cost and obedience.

There would be casualties. And they would be aware of that. There would be people who would pay a price.

We're living in a generation where we would be wise to consider. That to walk with God. In the fullness of what he has for us.

There will be some who pay a price. Some will go through. And their whole journey and testimony.

Will be about provision. Will be about victory. Be about songs of joy.

And thank God for that. But some will have to go first. And their testimony will be as the early church.

It will be about scorning and ridicule and mockery. And even imprisonments. And difficulties.

They had to pay a price. And they were aware of this. And we would be wise to be aware of this today.

We're living in a generation that is not for Christ. And I think that's becoming more evident. As time is going on.

We're at a very real crossroads. In this country right now. Very real.

Very real. We're on the very edge. And we're either going to go with God.

Or we're going to go into abject godlessness. It's not going to go both ways for much longer. There has to be a revival.

There has to be prayer again. We've got to get in the scriptures. And walk seriously with God.

There has to be a testimony. Joshua knew that their reliance had to be totally on the leading of God. And not on human intellect.

The officers after three days went through the host. And they commanded the people. And said when you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord.

When you see that which represented the presence and the power of God. And you see the priest of Levites bearing it. When you see the leadership that God has placed over you.

Beginning to move in a certain direction. He said get up from where you are. And go with it.

Go after it. If you see the leadership moving in a certain direction. The time of sitting and reflecting is over.

The time for action has come. The time to stop studying about who is your neighbor. And the time to go to your neighbor has come.

This is where we're living today. No longer an option just to study. And use that as a mask for inaction.

Like the lawyer who came to Jesus. Who is my neighbor? What a ridiculous question. For somebody that's supposed to be teaching the people.

He said there shall be a space between you and it. About 2,000 cubits by measure. Come not near to it.

That you may know the way by which you must go. For you have not passed this way before. In other words.

Don't in the excitement. With what God is about to do. Be careful that you don't run ahead of God.

Many revivals are brought. Into confusion. And even reproach.

Because the people. They get excited. Because we've been waiting for so long.

For the Lord to do something. On a grander scale than we've known. And when he starts to.

There's this tendency to want to run with it. To want to. In a sense leave behind the leading of God.

And make something happen. And it leads the work of God into confusion. Because you and I. Realistically don't have anything to add to the kingdom of God.

Except obedience. And hearts that love the Lord Jesus Christ. He said keep a distance.

And be aware that. If you run ahead of God. You're going to make some tragic mistakes.

Now listen to the caution. The Lord's given me this morning. And Joshua said to the people.

Sanctify yourselves. For tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you. And the word.

In the original text. Here's what it means. To be made clean.

To be regarded as holy. To be set aside for the worship of God. To be withheld from ordinary use.

And treated with special care. As something which belongs. To God.

In other words. Be set apart. Walk cleanly.

Be a living testimony. Of the fact that Christ is risen from the dead. Be set aside for the worship of God.

Even if people don't worship God. Live in such a manner. That when they see you.

They're forced to consider the reality of God. Don't live an ordinary life. Realize.

That you are a high priesthood. A holy people. You are a peculiar people.

You're called. To show forth. The life of he who has called you out of darkness.

And into his marvelous light. Joshua was keenly aware. That even Moses were forbidden entrance.

Into the supernatural place of promise. Because he had failed to sanctify the Lord. Before the people.

That would have been a truth. That was so deeply embedded in his heart. In numbers 27.

Let me just read it to you. Verses 12 to 14. The Lord said to Moses.

Get thee up into this mount. And see the land. Which I've given unto the children of Israel.

And when you've seen it. You'll be gathered to your people. As Aaron your brother was gathered.

For you rebelled against my commandment. In the desert of Zin. In the strife of the congregation.

To sanctify me. At the water before their eyes. Joshua was aware.

Even Moses. Now think about this. Could see it.

But couldn't go into it. Because he failed to sanctify. What means he failed to set God apart.

As other than men are. Moses representing God. Took the staff.

And struck twice the rock. When God was wanting to be merciful. He portrayed him as angry.

You know many preachers don't go in. To the life that Christ offers. Because they portray God as an angry God.

When in his heart he desires to be merciful. There is a day of justice. And retribution and judgment coming.

Rightly deserved by all of humanity. Until that day. God remains a merciful God.

We begin to pray and fast for. Three days. For next week.

For the. The promises feel. Spiritual healing for our city.

And for our nation. But listen to what the psalmist says. And I'll read it to you again.

In Psalm 66. Verses 17 to 20. I cried.

Unto him with my mouth. And he was extolled with my tongue. If I regard iniquity in my heart.

The Lord will not hear me. But verily God has heard me. And has attended to the voice of my prayer.

Blessed be God. Which has not turned away my prayer. Nor his mercy from me.

Wouldn't it be awesome. For you and I to be able to say that. At the end of three days.

Blessed be God. He heard me. And he didn't turn away from me.

And he didn't withhold his mercy from me. I came to him honestly. I didn't come to him in pretense.

I didn't come to him proudly. I didn't come to him boasting of my own righteousness. Or faithfulness.

Because none of us are righteous or faithful in ourselves. But I came to him honestly. And I stood before God.

And I said Lord. I want to be set aside for you. I want to live righteously.

I want to be a man or woman of God. Who makes a difference in my generation. I want your glory to come into my home.

And touch my children. My grandchildren. And my nieces and nephews.

And my brothers and my sisters. I want your glory in my house. I want you to be the Christ of my life.

I want the divine resource of heaven. That's promised to those who belong to God. To be mine.

I'm tired of mediocrity. I'm tired of talking about something. I should be walking.

I'm tired about reading in history. What you did through somebody else. I want to have more time.

And just like the people at that border. They had to be considering this one more time. And saying God Almighty.

If it cost me my life. Then let it cost me my life. But I'm going to go in.

And I want what is mine. If I regard iniquity in my heart. The Lord will not hear me.

Now here's what it means. If I regard iniquity in my heart. To regard means to see something intellectually.

It means to experience something. to understand something and to enjoy something. That's regarding.

And iniquity means sin, first and foremost. That means to see that what I'm doing is sin, to intellectually understand it, to experience it, and to enjoy it, is regarding iniquity. It also means falsehood.

That means I know that what I'm doing is wrong. I'm experiencing something that I know is wrong. I understand that what I'm doing is wrong, but I enjoy what I'm doing, even though it's wrong.

It means emptiness. It means the planning and expression of deception. If I know that what I'm doing is deceptive, yet I continue to do it.

It means being bent, crooked, like an arrow missing the mark. It means to deal deceitfully as under a cloak. It means to live two ways, one way in public and another way in private.

If I regard, if I, if I, it doesn't mean that Christian people don't struggle, we all struggle, but there's a difference between being in a place where you're having to trust God for the victory or being in a place where you don't want the victory. You've made peace with your sin. You've opened the door.

You've invited it in. You've sat it down and you're feeding it and nurturing it and you're enjoying it. And it gets to the point where you're able to call evil good and call good evil.

Folks, I've seen this deception in people. It's a terrifying thing. That's why Jesus said, if the light that is in you be darkness, how great is that darkness? A person who knows truth, but lives in sin for a long time, eventually will succumb to the fallen sin nature in us that wants to be as God.

Remember that that was the, that was the temptation of Satan in the garden of Eden. You will be as God and you will be able to say or know what is good and what is evil. And eventually when you play with sin for too long, something gets into the mind, something gets into the spirit and wrong becomes right.

And somehow this twisted spiritual thinking comes into a person's mind where they're doing something abjectly wrong. They once knew it was, but now they believe it's righteous or somehow God understands it. And even though the scripture says they walk in the imagination of their heart, they somehow believe that all will be well when it won't be.

Well, if I'm aware of a false practice in my life and I make no effort to move away from it, that's regarding iniquity. I make no effort. I know it's wrong, but I don't move away from it.

Listen to what Paul says, how he describes this. I'm going to read it to you again. Just listen to me, please.

First Corinthians six verses nine to 11, know you not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Now it's not just a future inheritance. It's a present inheritance.

You remember Jesus said the kingdom of God is within you. That which is the promised land is Christ. It's the word of God.

It's the redemption of God. It's the power of God. It's the new life that is promised to us through Jesus Christ.

Do you not know the unrighteous will not inherit this kingdom? We will read about it, but never know it. Don't be deceived, neither fornicators. That means people who are engaged in sexual activity outside of marriage, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate means male prostitutes, nor abusers of themselves with mankind.

It means people who are practicing homosexuality, nor thieves, nor covetous. That means greedy people, nor drunkards, nor revilers. That means people who live and slander other people without conscience, nor extortioners.

That means people who cheat in all of its various forms shall inherit the kingdom of God. Be not deceived. Now you and I can sit at the borders of the land of promise and study and know it, but Paul says it, don't deceive yourself if you live in these things and are not moving away from them.

I'm not saying that people don't struggle with this. Don't misunderstand me. But the child of God is not willing to make peace with sin.

The true child of God moves away from it and begins to say, Lord, you said that if anyone is in Christ, he's a new creation. The old things are passed away and all things have become new. You said the spirit of God is upon me because he sent me to open the prison doors to those that are bound, give sight to the spiritually blind, to heal those that have been bruised in heart, to set free the captives.

That's what you said, Jesus. So therefore I'm not making peace with this. I'm not going to live this way.

I'm not going to deceive myself. I'm getting up and I'm walking out of here by the power of Christ within me. And Paul says, such were some of you.

And I like that when he writes to the Corinthian church, he said, some of you were these things, but you're washed. You're sanctified. You're justified in the name of the Lord Jesus.

And by the spirit of our God, you came to Calvary for your cleansing. You trusted God that his word is true and his Holy Spirit is adequate to make that word a living reality in your life. You knew that the blood of Jesus brought you into a place of acceptance with almighty God, not by works of righteousness, but by his mercy.

You knew that you sit in Christ at the right hand of God, but you're not willing to do despite to this spirit of grace. You're not willing to take this position that God sets you in and somehow make it an unclean thing. No, you have a genuine conversion in your heart.

And so by the spirit of almighty God, you said, Lord, I'm up and I'm out and I'm going to live the life that God has provided for me in Christ Jesus. Hallelujah to the lamb of God. If I truly see the calling of God on my life.

Now, God called me as he called Abraham. He called you as he called Abraham. He said, I'm going to multiply you, which is what he will do.

I'll make you more than you are. I'll give you more than you have. I'll take you to more places than you can ever go in your own strength.

And I'm going to bless you. And through you, he said, all the people of the world are going to be blessed. This is the calling of God.

This is the calling of God on my life. This is the calling of God on your life. Now it takes various forms.

I'm called to walk a certain path and you're called to walk another, but every one of our callings are for the specific purpose of bringing glory to Jesus Christ and bringing men to Christ on the earth. If I see the calling of God and I hold it lightly or like Esau, I consider it of little value. If I see what I'm called to be and I choose a lesser pathway, then heaven may one day be my home.

But like those who chose the wilderness, the fullness of that which Jesus would have been in and through my life will fall like sand through my hands if I choose a lesser path. And everyone has that choice. You and I must be aware of this today.

In order for us to see what I believe God wants to do, it is not going to be Christianity like usual. There's going to be a measure of obedience that perhaps many of us have not had to face in this degree before. I want one more time just to read to you, and I've read it so many times in this church, but I have to read it again because I know this is what God is speaking to my heart and it's what he's speaking to this church.

Is not this the fast that I've chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, undo the heavy burdens, that you let the oppressed go free and break every yoke. Is it not to deal your bread to the hungry and you bring the poor that are cast out to your house? When you see the naked, you cover him and that you do not hide from your own flesh. Other translations just say from human need or human kind.

If you do these things, now here's the promised land, then your light will break forth as the morning. Your health will spring forth speedily. Your righteousness will go before you and the glory of the Lord will be your protection or your rear ward.

Then you will call and the Lord will answer and you will cry and he will say, here I am. If you take away from the midst of you the yoke, in other words, make a concerted effort to help people. The putting forth of the finger, that means blame and speaking vanity, empty talk.

And if you draw out your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul, then your light will rise in obscurity and your darkness will be as the noon day. And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your soul in drought and make fat your bones. And you will be like a watered garden and like a spring of water whose waters fail not.

This is a promise of God, not just to Israel, to Isaiah, but to those of us who are grafted into this promise through Jesus Christ. As adopted children into these promises of God, they belong to us. The Lord will guide you.

The Lord will satisfy your soul even when there's no water around. He will make fat your bones and you'll be like a watered garden and like a spring of water whose waters don't fail. Didn't Jesus say that? Whoever believes in me out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

And those that be of you will build the old waste places and you will raise up the foundations of many generations and you will be called the repairer of the breach and the restorer of paths to dwell in. The ones who patched up the wall where the enemy was able to get in and walk among the people of the testimony of God, seemingly without any hindrance, you'll be the one who repairs this breach and restores the paths to dwell in. If you and I are willing to take seriously the call of God that he has placed on each of our lives, the question we must ask ourselves today is simply, do we care enough about other people to live in a manner that allows God's power and testimony to flow through us to them? Do we care enough? Do we really fully understand why we are part of the church of Jesus Christ? Do we really understand why the church is in the world? What is the purpose and the point of the church? It's not just an exclamation point to the cross.

The church is the continued work, bringing men and women to the understanding of what the cross was all about by being an example to them of the Christ who gave his all that people might come to know him.

You know, technically speaking, the first one saved when they went into the promised land was a harlot and her family. You know, these things don't happen by accident.

This is a prostitute and her family. This was the first people, now when I say saved I'm not talking about necessarily redeemed, I'm talking about, although there's a discussion we could have about that at some other time, but what I'm talking about is physically saved, was a harlot, a prostitute. It's a type of you and I going to those that don't have anybody that cares about them.

They don't have a lot to add to the big program. They are not the upper middle and upper class. How tragic in our generation that we've had churches that have actually built their growth strategy on pushing away the poor and reaching out to the upper class.

I'm not against this, people who live there, thank God for that, but what a tragedy. How you have so vacated the scriptures to even think like that. How people have walked away from truth to even allow that kind of absurd thinking into the church of Jesus Christ.

It proves that it's become a carnal kingdom and not a spiritual kingdom. Give us the poor, the addicted, the marginalized. These folks become some of the greatest evangelists the church has ever known.

You don't have to give them a course of how to talk about Jesus. They'll talk about Jesus the moment they get saved. Do we believe that God is willing to do wonders among us again? I do.

I do with all my heart. I do. I'm simply unwilling to live in a realm of humanly trying to reason the kingdom of God when God's power is available to us.

I believe that Jesus Christ opens prison doors. I believe he gives sight to the blind. I believe that he heals the wounded in heart.

I believe that he opens the treasure of heaven to those that know they're poor. I believe this with all my heart. I believe that he heals, releases, sets free.

I believe that he empowers. I believe that he makes new creations. I believe it with everything in me.

I believe he does it so powerfully and so profoundly that the only testimony you and I have is Jesus. The name of Jesus. There's no other testimony.

I believe that he breaks the power of tormenting thought that the devil has planted in people's minds. I believe that he erases the imprints of all of the evil of this world that has tried to gravitate and hold onto people's spirits. I believe he gives hope where there is no hope.

He gives strength where there is no strength. He gives ability where there is no ability. I believe it with all my heart.

I believe that he heals marriages. He takes hopeless, powerless situations and puts love back where there is no love. I believe that with all my heart.

I believe that he heals the sick. I believe he can raise the dead. I believe, I believe, I believe, I believe.

I believe with all my heart. I believe that he can sweep away the refuge that lies in New York City and for a season and a moment give every man, woman, and child an opportunity to receive Jesus Christ as their

Lord and Savior. I believe he can touch our generation again.

I believe he can give courage to the members of government in the Senate and Congress who are Christians to finally stand up and declare who they are in Christ. I believe it because he's the same yesterday, today, and forever. He doesn't change.

I believe that the wonders of God begin in his church. I believe the Salvation Army churches can be filled again with the presence of God and with people seeking him in Methodist, Lutheran, Baptist, even the Catholic Church, God can fill. I believe it.

And I stand and stake my life on it. I give my life to this city and to this cause of God in our generation. I believe it with everything in me.

Enough apologizing, enough shying away, enough cowering, enough trying to explain away the power of God. I believe that I can cross Jordan and go from death to life. I believe it with all my heart.

I believe I can have the promises of God. I can inherit the life that is mine in Christ. I believe it with everything in my heart.

I believe that every Jericho in my life must come down when Jesus is at the center of my heart. I don't care how thick the walls are. I don't care how long it's been there.

I don't care how much it mocks God. If I am willing to trust God to hold my peace and let him fight my battle, every power of hell is going to come down. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah to the Lamb of God. Lord, we bless your holy name. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. I believe.

I believe. I believe. With all my heart, I believe.

I thank God for the journey that I've had these last 35 or so years. But that's in the past. I don't live there.

I live today and tomorrow where God's going to take me. And I believe, I believe the best wine is safe for the end of the feast. I believe it with all my heart.

It starts with us. It starts if we're going to be a blessing to the world. It starts in the church of Jesus Christ.

It starts with the people of God. It starts with somebody somewhere that just says, I believe God. I believe the word of God.

And for the glory of God and for the souls of men, I'm going to get up and I'm going to go into this battle and believe that Jesus Christ is going to be glorified. Let the miracle begin with you. Let it begin with you.

I'm talking to every person who's facing something for which you see no natural solution. You're facing something that no matter how much you try, no matter your resources, your promises, all these things you can't get out and you can't get in in your own strength. You can't change it.

There's no natural solution. I want to ask you to do something today. Prove God.

Prove him. In the Old Testament, he says, bring the tithes into the storehouse and prove me if I'll not open the windows of blessing. Well, I'm not talking about money.

I'm talking about you. Tithe yourself to the work of God. Bring your life, no matter how many sets of hands it's gone through, whether it was spent for righteous or unrighteous purposes, whether it was appreciated or marginalized, whether it looks like it's of great value or of no value.

Bring your life to God. Tithe your life, tithe your strength, tithe your future to God and watch the windows of heaven open to you. The strength of Christ becomes yours.

He begins to take you line by line, step by step, image by image, bit by bit. By the Word and the Spirit of Almighty God, you begin to change. And there's a testimony born inside of you.

And when that testimony is born, go with him into this promise of life and strength and provision and go with him to other people and tell them that what God did for me, God can do for you. That's the gospel of Jesus Christ. For too many years, we relegated evangelism to a program because God was hardly doing anything in the lives of the people.

But when God is at work, you don't need a pamphlet or a program as wonderful as that might be. You can't help but tell people, I've got to tell you what God has done for me and what he's done for me, he can do for you. Let the miracle begin.

Sanctify yourselves, Joshua said, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you. Sanctify means just set your mind to walking with God. Make a decision.

I'm not living like this anymore. I'm not doing this anymore. I'm not walking like this anymore.

I'm not towering under this anymore. Sanctify yourself for tomorrow, the Lord will do wonders among you. Hallelujah to the Lamb of God.

Lord, I'm asking you today to unlock prison doors, give sight to those who are spiritually blind, give strength to those that are weak, give joy to those that are filled with sorrow, give hope to the hopeless, destroy the works of the devil. God Almighty, I'm asking you to do what you've sown into my heart and what I fully believe your word tells us. Lord, do the miraculous again in your church and let it begin in us.

Issues of the heart, issues of the life. God set us free to live for you. And Father, I thank you for this with everything in me in the unmatched name of Jesus.

I want to give an altar call in Roxbury, in the annex here in the main sanctuary and for those that are listening at home. For those who are at home, you can either stand where you are or get on your knees in your living room, but I want to challenge you. This is the time to live for Christ.

And if you're in a battle and you don't know any way out, prove God now. I believe I'm speaking on behalf of what I'm reading in the text of scripture. Prove him.

Bring the tithe of your life to Christ. No matter what kind of a mess you are in, bring it to him and watch him begin to unravel it. Let's stand please.

If that's you, come. Please just join me at this altar as we worship first season. Just come.

In the balcony, go to either exit. In the annex you could step between the screens if you will. Just come.

Not enough to say you believe, you have to believe. Move your feet forward to what God has for you. See, when Jacob, when Jacob was touched by God and walked back into a place where the promise of God would flow through him, there was a mark on his heart.

And the mark was simply this, we're not leaving anybody behind. We're taking the weak with us and the young and the old. And that's the mark of the church of Jesus Christ, the unwillingness to head for heaven and leave anybody behind.

If they stay behind us because they chose to, not because we didn't try to bring them with us. It's an awesome thing to know that God's given us these treasures, these little children, and we have the privilege of bringing them with us into his kingdom. Pray with me please.

Lord, I thank you for these little babies. I thank you for their moms and their dads, their aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters, and for the body of Christ. God Almighty, I pray that you use this church to nurture these children.

Let this be a happy place, Lord, where our children can dance in the streets, literally in the halls of this house. I pray for blessing upon the houses of their mothers and fathers and families. Lord, that their homes be a place where there's peace.

Lord, send peace into our homes. And Father, I thank you for this, Lord. God, let there be singing, let there be joy, let it be a wonderful thing to live for Jesus Christ.

Lord, take out of us all that would offend these ones, and let them find you at a young age and walk with you. And we thank you for it with all our hearts in Jesus' name. Amen.

God bless you. Praise God.

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