

The Altar of Incense

by Carter Conlon

The sermon emphasizes the importance of coming before God in right relationship, with a heart that is surrendered and sanctified, in order to have our prayers touch the throne of God and experience His movement in response to our prayers.

Duration: 51:04

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 16:9, Isaiah 1:16-17, Matthew 6:33, 1 John 3:15, Revelation 3:18

Topics: "Incense"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher focuses on Isaiah chapter 1 and the state of the people of Israel. He describes them as a sinful nation, laden with iniquity, and children who have forsaken the Lord. The preacher draws parallels between the situation in North America today, with cities burning with passion and sin reigning unchecked. He emphasizes the importance of obedience and being a servant where you are, before potentially being called to serve in other places. The preacher also uses the analogy of not giving a baby a chainsaw, highlighting the need for readiness and maturity in serving God.

Transcript

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None of these messages are copyrighted, and you are welcome to make copies for free distribution to friends. Exodus chapter 30. In a very few short weeks, Pastor Dave has called the church to a time of prayer, a solid week of prayer where we're going to be seeking the face of God, the direction of God, the blessing of God.

And I want to begin tonight to share one of a few messages that I'm going to be sharing on the topic of prayer over the next few weeks. And this one is called The Altar of Incense, or you could subtitle it Rebuilding the Altar of Prayer. Father, I come before you tonight, and I ask for an anointing of your Holy Spirit.

God, that you would touch the people, everyone who's gathered here in this building, that you would move us forward tonight, that when we come to prayer, that we can touch your heart. And in touching your heart, we can cause your hand to move for the betterment of those that are around us, O God, and that your

glory might be revealed and manifested through Christ Jesus throughout this earth. Lord Jesus, I thank you that you're going to speak to hearts tonight.

You're going to speak to lives tonight. I thank you for choosing me because I'm weak, O God, and I need your strength every moment, every hour. I thank you for the anointing that does give eyesight to those who are spiritually blind, opens every prison door, and heals those that have been wounded in heart.

I ask that the poor of spirit may have the treasure of Christ revealed to them tonight, O God, and Lord, that you would sovereignly speak to every heart and to every life that you have gathered into this sanctuary tonight. Lord, may we be challenged and changed, and God, may we be provoked by the Holy Ghost to go deeper into the things of Christ and to begin to come to the place where we consider it reasonable to lay our lives down as a living sacrifice for the cause of Christ. Father, we thank you for this tonight.

Thank you that you have a plan and a purpose for this evening and for every one of our lives. Help us now by the power of Jesus Christ to enter into that plan and to walk in that plan and to know the joy of walking in that fulfillment. We ask it in Jesus' name.

Amen. Exodus chapter 30, beginning at verse 1, I'll read through to verse 9, the altar of incense. And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon, of chitum wood shalt thou make it.

A cubit shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof, four square shall it be. And two cubits shall be the height thereof, the horns thereof shall be of the same. And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, the top thereof and the sides thereof round about, and the horns thereof, and thou shalt make unto it a crown of gold round about.

And two golden rings shalt thou make to it under the crown of it, by the two corners thereof, upon the two sides of it shalt thou make it, and they shall be for places for the staves to bear it withal. And thou shalt make the staves of chitum wood, and overlay them with gold. And thou shalt put it before the veil that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee.

And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning, when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. And when Aaron lighted the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations. You shall offer no strange incense thereon, nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat offering, neither shall you pour drink offering thereon.

Now in the Old Testament there was an altar that God prescribed to be built, and upon this altar was to be offered up incense, which was a type and shadow of the prayers that you and I offer up to God in this generation. The Psalmist David said in Psalm 141 verse 2, he said, Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense. David was saying, Oh God, when I raise my hands unto you, and when I lift up my voice, whether it be in the morning or the afternoon or at evening time, whether it's in a time of absolute abundance, or whether it's in a time of personal need, God, when I lift up my hands, let my prayer come up like a sweet savor before your nostrils on your throne.

Lord, may you not, may there be nothing in my life, may there be nothing in my prayer that will cause you to have to turn your face away from me. Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense. How many of you tonight would like your prayer to be like that before God? That when we come before the throne of the Lord, and we lift up our hands and our voices, we know of a certainty that there is no obstruction between us and God the Father.

That our prayers are coming up before the throne of God like a sweet savor, like a sweet incense before the throne of God. And that it's pleasing to the Lord to answer our prayer as soon as it comes up before His throne. In the book of Revelation chapter 5 and verse 8, it says, And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and the four and twenty 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.

Now in my Bible, the word odors has a little parentheses around it, and they have substitute words or words that might further expand that down in the margin. And it says, And golden vials full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. Isn't that an incredible thing? Today as we pray, our prayers come up before God if our lives are in right relationship as an incense before the throne of God.

Now we know that God hears different types of prayer. God hears the prayer of the sinner seeking salvation. Now here's somebody that's not even saved, and God hears this type of prayer.

Somebody that's crying out. I remember I did that years ago. Oh God, are you really there? Are you really real? Is there really a God? Aren't you thankful tonight that God hears that kind of prayer and answers the prayer of those that are seeking salvation? And many of you here tonight can testify that there was a time in your life when you called out to God.

You didn't even know who he was, but you began to call out to him, and in his mercy, he heard your prayer and answered that prayer. God hears the prayer of the new Christian who's seeking for direction in their lives. Those that have just come to Christ and are saying, Oh Lord Jesus, would you help me to understand your word? Would you help me to understand your will for my life? Would you help me to be able to understand the pastor when he preaches? Would you help me to be able to understand so many things? However, there can come a time in our lives when our prayers can become strange incense before God.

On this particular altar, as the Lord had told the children of Israel to construct, in verse 9, in Exodus chapter 30, he said, You shall offer no strange incense upon this altar. If our lives are built on Christ, if we're walking wholeheartedly in right relationship with him, we can have an assurance that our prayers are not strange incense before God. But there can come a time when the prayers of God's people become strange incense.

It's a time of maturity. It's a time when a person who has been schooled in the things of Christ, who knows the call and claim of Christ upon their lives, who's not a novice in the word of God, who has been to that altar, who has understood the dealings of God upon their life, it's a time when a person who ought to know God has rejected all or part of his claim upon their lives. All of a sudden, that person's prayer becomes strange incense before God.

It used to be a sweet savor when they prayed in innocency, but God began to speak to them about areas of their lives. God began to reveal through his word that it's not just all fun and games to be a Christian. There's a war to be fought.

There are things to be done in the kingdom of God. And this particular person would have said, Lord, I refuse to go in that direction. No, you can't touch this part of my life.

No, you can't have that. That belongs to me. And all of a sudden, if we find ourselves getting in that particular frame of mind, our prayers are in danger of becoming strange incense upon that altar of God.

We begin to pray and our prayers come before the throne of God. And God says, who is this is praying to me? What is this unsavory smell? It's the unsavory smell of an unsanctified life. That's what it is.

Somebody who is refusing to allow their whole being to be set apart for the purposes of God. Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are not our own. We are bought with a price and we are called to glorify God in our body and our spirit, which are God's.

And it's such an erroneous thing to learn and never come to the knowledge of the truth. The apostle Paul said there's going to be a final generation prior to the return of Christ who are always learning and never coming to the knowledge of the truth. They're never coming to the knowledge that our lives are not our own anymore.

We are purchased with a price. And if we ever get to the point where we say no to God, that's the point where we begin to go backwards to the kingdom of God. And the prayers that we used to pray that were such a sweet savor before the Lord now become a stench before the nostrils of God, because they're coming out of those that have refused in maturity the call and claim of Christ upon their lives.

It's a serious thing. Look at the book of the prophet Isaiah, please. Isaiah chapter 1. Isaiah chapter 1. This is the Lord crying out through Isaiah about the condition of a nation called Israel brought about primarily because of the condition of his people, of God's people.

I want you to see the parallel of the situation we face in North America today because of what's happened to the house of the Lord and because the prayers of God's people, many of them are strange incense before the Lord. And I believe with all of my heart that when we go to that time of prayer and fasting before God, that God wants our prayers to touch his throne. He wants our prayers to touch his heart.

He looks continuously throughout the earth for opportunities to show himself strong on behalf of those who love him and those who believe him and those whose lives are in right relationship with him. Beginning at verse 4, he says, Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corruptors. They have forsaken.

This is Isaiah chapter 1. They have forsaken the Lord. They have provoked the Holy One of Israel to anger. They are gone away backwards.

These are a people who once knew God. You know the history of Israel. They walked with God.

They loved God. But all of a sudden they started to go away backwards. Why should you be stricken anymore? You will revolt more and more.

The whole head is sick and the whole heart is faint. The leadership of the nations turned away from the Lord and began to make decisions that were contrary to the Word of God. That's where he says the head is sick and the whole heart of the nation, a nation that once was strong, a nation that was known for its right standing on things, a nation that was known for its courage had become faint hearted.

From the sole of the foot even into the head there's no soundness in it, but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores. They have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment. There's an unsound unhealedness among the people all throughout the land.

Things that should have been bound up. Had they known me, had they come to me, had they walked with me, they would have known what it was to be healed. They would have known what it was to be in a sound state of mind.

They would have known what it was to have past hurts cleansed and healed. They would have known what it was to have prison doors open and they would have been bound up. But since they've turned the other way, there's no soundness in the nation anymore.

Your country is desolate. Your cities are burned with fire. Your land, strangers devour it in your presence and it is desolate, is overthrown by strangers.

Does that not parallel the situation in North America today? A desolate country, cities burned with fire. The fire of passion is burning in the cities right now and there's coming a day when literal fire is going to burn in the cities as sinners and sin reigns unchecked among the hearts and lives of men. Strangers are devouring your land right in your own presence.

It's desolate and overthrown. Verse 8 says, And the daughter of Zion, the choice, the apple of God's eye, is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city. Here's the daughter of Zion, those that should have known God, those that should have loved him, those that should have understood his will, those whose prayers should have been touching the very heart of God and causing him to move with compassion on behalf of the nation, is left as a besieged city.

In other words, they're in little groups and little clumps and fortresses while all of the enemies are all around them, supposedly in a position of virtually almost overthrowing them. Verse 9 he says, Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we would have been as Sodom and we would have been like unto Gomorrah. Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom.

Give ear unto the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah. To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me, saith the Lord? I am full of the burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts, and I delight not in the blood of bullocks or of lambs or of he-goats. When you come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand to tread my courts? Verse 13 says, Bring no more vain oblations.

Incense is an abomination unto me. In other words, he's saying there's come a time when your incense has become an abomination. The new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with it.

It is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates. They are a trouble unto me, I am weary to bear them.

Now these are a very religious people. They're coming before the Lord. They're offering incense upon their altars.

They have feast days set apart for God. They have all kinds of things. They have not ceased in their religious activity.

But listen to the response of God to these people whose hearts have turned back and left their nation in a state of absolute disaster. Verse 15, he says, When you spread forth your hands, I will hide my eyes from you. Yea, when you make many prayers, I will not hear.

Your hands are full of blood. In other words, you have hated your brother and you're a murderer. That's what it says in the New Testament.

Your hands are full of blood. Don't come near me. Wash you.

Make you clean. Put away the evil of your doings from before my eyes. Cease to do evil.

Learn to do well. Seek judgment. Relieve the oppressed.

Judge the fatherless. Plead for the widow. Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord.

Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Though they be red like crimson, they shall be like wool. Bring no more vain oblations.

You know folks, you can't call an unholy and unsundered nation or church age to prayer. It just doesn't work. We have had throughout in the past, we've had calls to prayer throughout the nation.

Somebody gets a bright idea. I don't know if it's been the same here in the United States. It certainly has been in Canada.

Let's call the nation to prayer. And so they go to the printer and they print a whole bunch of pamphlets and spread them out throughout all the nation talking about all the troubles in the country. And they call an unholy and an unsundered and unsanctified people of prayer.

And God says, even though you spread your hands before me, I will hide my eyes from you. You make many prayers. I will not hear because your hands are full of blood.

You can't call a backslidden and lukewarm church age to prayer because God won't hear that prayer either. Bring no more vain oblations to me. Your incense has become an abomination to me.

You should have known better, O house of God, but you have chosen to walk in your own ways and you've all my counsel to nothing. And therefore, when your calamity comes upon you, I will not hear you. Isaiah chapter 66, he says the prayers of the self-willed are as if they blessed an idol.

Turn there with me. Let's look at this because when we come to prayer as a church body, we want to make sure that our prayers are going to touch the throne of God and the heart of God. I don't think there's anybody here tonight that you want to come and begin to pray for a week and waste your time before God.

I know I certainly don't. I want to know that my prayers are touching the heart of my heavenly father. I want to know that my life's in right relationship with him.

I want to come before him with such an assurance that I cannot be denied. I have been reading in the past about revivals of old when God moved upon nations and touched the hearts of many people. And it's, and I read one account of a young man that was in a prayer meeting before the outpouring of God's spirit began in that generation.

And he said they prayed in that prayer meeting as if they would not be denied. As if they knew that they were before the throne of God. They were touching the heart of God and God could not say no to their prayers.

Hallelujah. Oh hallelujah. That's my heart's desire.

That's my heart's cry that when I come before the throne of God, I know my heavenly father can't turn me down because I'm walking in right relationship. I know that when my children, when they're walking in right relationship with God and with their father, I know that when they come before me and ask for something that's not to consume upon their lust, but something that they need, I can't turn them down. If my son came into the house one day and said, dad, my friend is drowning in the river.

I would do everything within my power to go into that river and get his friend out and save him from drowning. If my daughter came home and said, dad, my, our neighbor's house is on fire. I would do everything that I could to go next door and to get those people out of that house and bring them to safety.

How much more when we come in in right relationship before God, how much more will God, the father not desire to move his hand. It's not his will that any should perish, but all should come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. I believe with all my heart.

He waits for a church that's in right relationship with him through Jesus Christ to come before his throne and say, Lord God, our friends are drowning in the rivers of life and sin. Their houses are on fire. They don't even know it.

My covenant, God, come give us strength, do something, Lord God, and save them, save them, save them. It's the heart of our heavenly father to move in compassion and save those that are lost. When he finds somebody, John Knox standing on a hill over Scotland, crying out to God, give me Scotland or I die.

And God moves heaven and earth. It's Evan Roberts in the Welsh revival before it began, standing up, just an average layman, not even a preacher of the gospel standing up, having asked his pastor permission to share in a service. And he stands up and shares the things he believed that God's been speaking to his heart.

And at the end of his, at the end of his little simple message, he just looks towards heaven and cries out, bend us, oh God, bend us, oh God, bend us, oh God. And a move of God's spirit, a wave of his spirit came on that assembly and bent the whole assembly before God. And within two and a half years, over 225,000 people had come to Jesus Christ.

Somebody had touched the heart of God. He that kills an ox, Isaiah says, is as if, is as if he slew a man. That's verse, Isaiah 66, chapter 66, verse 3. He that kills an ox is as if he slew a man.

He that sacrifices a lamb as if he cut off a dog's neck. He that offered an oblation as if he offered swine's blood. He that burns incense as if he blessed an idol.

Why? It says, yea, because they have chosen their own ways and their soul delights in their abominations. But yet, there's a certain people that God will hear. In verse 2, he says, for all those things have mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord.

But to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and who trembles at my word. I will look to this man or this woman who is humble in heart, who acknowledges my lordship and my kingship, and who trembles when they read my word. They take every word of this to be the truth.

They don't have a nonsensical or flippant attitude towards my word. They understand that what I say is what I mean. And if this person will approach my throne, I will bow down, I will listen to them.

Their prayer will touch my heart, and I'll move heaven and earth to respond to them. Now back in Exodus chapter 30, the Lord gives us some designs of this altar. I believe the designs of this Old Testament altar is a type and shadow of the altar of prayer that God wants us to design around our lives in this generation.

Verse 1, there's some, I want to just pick out four characteristics of this altar. He said, now it's on this altar that you're going to offer incense, and this incense is going to bless me, it's going to please me. In chapter 30, verse 1, he says, thou shalt make an altar to burn incense thereupon.

Of chitin wood shalt thou make it. This altar, number one, is to be made of wood. And in the New Testament Christian's life, the altar of prayer is to have the cross as its focal point.

Hebrews chapter 12, verse 2 says, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Those who approach God at this place of prayer, they recognize that their righteousness is of Him and Him alone. They are deeply grateful in their approach to Christ.

Are you grateful when you approach Christ? Do you acknowledge tonight when you come to God the Father that you can only come there through Jesus Christ? It's not because of any good works that we have done. It's not because of any righteousness we possess within ourselves apart from Christ. It's because of the cross of Calvary.

It's because of what He did for you and me that I am able to approach the throne of God, and there's no other reason. These people are not self-made. They're not self-willed.

They are absolutely surrendered. They're surrendered to the cross. As Christ surrendered His will and His life for them, they too face the cross and all it represents with a determination to surrender their rights and their lives so that the purposes of God might be accomplished through them.

They come to God and they say, Lord, I realize, Father, that I can only come before your throne because of what Jesus did for me. He surrendered His life for me, and because of this, I can know this day that my name is written down in the Lamb's book of life. I can know this day that I'm going to spend an eternity in heaven.

I can know this day that I'm standing right this moment before your throne, and my prayer is not bouncing off some wall somewhere, but it's coming absolutely directly before you as a sweet incense before you. And as Christ has surrendered His life for me, Father, I consider it reasonable to surrender my life for your purposes and your plans for me and for my life, that your plans might be accomplished and your purposes might be accomplished through me. That's the altar of sweet incense that God wants our prayers to be founded upon.

It's the altar where Isaiah cried after seeing the holiness of God. He didn't say, Lord, send somebody. He said, Lord, here am I. Send me.

Send me. Send me. It's not an easy thing, folks.

Sometimes it's hard. God will send you places you never dreamt you were going to go. He will use you in ways you never believed that He was going to use you.

But ultimately, that's the cry that God begins to answer. That's the prayer that He can move with power towards. Lord, I lay my life down as a living sacrifice for your purposes, and I consider it reasonable, O God, that you should use my life.

Touch my life. Touch my heart. Touch my home.

Everything I have, everything I am, belongs to you, Lord God. Let Christ be magnified through my life, that others around me may come to freedom and may escape the snare of sin in this generation. The altar of prayer is designed of wood.

It's designed around the cross, and you're never going to get around the cross if you're going to get to God. There are people in this generation who try to get to God and try to avoid the cross. There are whole churches and whole movements in this generation that have a crossless gospel and somehow think that their prayers are touching the heart of God.

That's absolute foolishness. Absolute foolishness. You can't get around the cross when you're coming to God.

You can't get around Christ, the sacrifice of Christ, nor can you get around the claim that God has made on our lives through Jesus Christ. We have been bought. We are bond slaves to Jesus Christ, as the Apostle Paul said.

It's no longer I who live. It's Christ who lives in me. I'm crucified with Christ.

Nevertheless, I live. But the life now that I live, I live through the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Hallelujah.

Would be to God in this generation that he could find a people who are willing to abandon themselves for his purposes, who are willing to abandon themselves that the kingdom of God may go forward in this darkened age. Hallelujah. It is through the prayers of such a church that heaven will move its hand.

It's through the prayers of such a church that conviction will fall upon the sinner. The Holy Ghost will be magnified. He will lift up Christ and bring the knowledge of sin, bring the knowledge of the coming judgment, and bring the knowledge of the righteousness God offers through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Verse 4, in Exodus 30, it says, And two golden rings shalt thou make to it under the crown of it by the two corners thereof. Upon the two sides of it shalt thou make it, and they shall be for places for the staves to bear it withal. This altar was designed to be carried.

On each of the corners was a ring that was designed to be attached to the altar, and there were long poles put through that rings, and that altar could be picked up and carried and moved from place to place. Jesus said in Matthew chapter 16, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it.

You'll hear that word tonight. I will look at the person, the Lord says, who hears my word and trembles at it. Whoever will save his life shall lose it.

And the context of that verse is, whoever lives his life for himself, lives his life for his own comfort, lives his life for his own gain, lives his life for his own glory, tries to get through this whole life in as much ease as is absolutely possible, will ultimately lose it. He will lose out with God in every way. But whosoever will lose

his life for my sake shall find it.

This altar of prayer is designed to be carried. It's a determination to find and fulfill his will in our lives, even though it may carry with it personal costs and hardship. Hallelujah! That's the altar of prayer that God is looking for from his people.

It's to find that place. Oh God, what would you have me to do? Where would you have me to go? It begins with simple obedience. Sometimes people get confused because they think that the moment I pray that I'm going to wind up in Africa on a wagon somewhere preaching the gospel.

You might end up there, but that's about 15 years down the road after you start praying that prayer. It starts with, he's going to ask you to be a servant where you are. He's going to ask you to stand up and be an honest, not a nuisance, but an honest witness for Christ where you work.

He's going to ask you to be an honest neighbor and to have good and honest dealings with those that are around you. He's going to ask simple things of you. You don't give a baby a chainsaw.

You don't. My little son came up to me when he was five and said, Daddy, I feel big enough to use a chainsaw out in the bush now. I wouldn't give it to him because he's not ready.

He's not a man yet. He's not skilled enough. And as you begin to ask God for his will for your life, he'll begin to reveal it in the little things.

And all he requires of you is that you walk in obedience to the things that he reveals to you. And then you can have that assurance that your prayers are coming up before God. And then he begins to ask a little bit more and a little bit more and a little bit more.

And it will produce in you a determination to find and absolutely fulfill his will in your life, even though it may carry with it personal cost or hardship. Hallelujah. Verse three in Exodus 30, Thou shall overlay it.

This is that altar of incense. Thou shall overlay it with pure gold, the top thereof and the sides thereof round about and the horns thereof. And thou shall make unto it a crown of gold round about.

This altar was made of wood. It had it was designed to be carried. And this is the end of side one.

You may now turn the tape over to side two. The whole top of it was covered with gold. There was a church in Revelation that Jesus spoke to that was rich and increased with goods and thought they had need of nothing.

And he said to this church, But you you're you're you're wretched and pitiful and poor and blind and naked. And in verse three, chapter three, verse 18, he says, I counsel you to buy of me gold tried in the fire. I counsel you to buy of me something that's enduring, eternal and everlasting.

And I believe that what he was speaking to that church as I counsel you to buy of me the pure word of God, I counsel you to get back into the Bible again, I counsel you to let the word of God examine and prove your life. And then because in the next sentence, he says, and white raiment and white clothing to put on that your nakedness would not appear, you can't get that white clothing apart from coming to the word of God in truth, you can't get it apart from having an absolute revelation of Christ as it applies to your each one of us in our individual lives. They have embraced the truth, and the truth has set them free those that pray upon this altar, they have embraced the word of God, not just on the outside, but on the inside.

And the truth has begun at least the process of bringing them to liberty in Christ Jesus. This is in opposition to what God cried out through Isaiah and Isaiah chapter one, he said, there's no soundness, there are wounds and putrefying sores unhealed by the healing ointment of Jesus Christ. But as opposed to this, there is a generation, there are people who really do come to God, and they really do embrace God, and the truth moves in their life and brings them to a place of freedom.

Is that where you want to go as a church body? Do you want to come to a place of freedom? Do you want to come to a place where Christ is all and everything in your life, and you can stand and know wholeness, not because of who you are, but because of who Christ is within you, and I. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Truth is a forever quest of those at this altar.

It's not something you just seek for one time and one time alone. They're not content just to know that no truth, but they desire that the truth would know them. I found that to be a transitional point of my walk with God.

There was a season where I came to church, and I would memorize scripture, and I would dig into books of the Bible as a young man. I would want to know everything that's in this book, and where I found that it began to make sense and take effect is when God would allow everything in this book to know me. God's Word is like an x-ray machine.

When Isaiah stood before the Lord, even though he was a prophet to Israel, God's, the presence of the Holy One of Israel shone right through him, and he said, I'm undone. I'm a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips. I desire that the truth would know me.

I desire the truth would prove me. Hallelujah. Is that your desire tonight? When you come to God, are you looking for truth so that you can gain more stature? Are you looking for truth so you can gain more knowledge? Or are you looking for truth so that the truth can come into your life and prove you whether or not you are in the faith? Hallelujah.

I desire the truth of God's Word continuously to search my heart and to know my inward parts, so that when my prayers come before God, I'm not grasping or wondering why. I don't seem to be getting through, but I know I'm at the very throne. I'm at the very throne room of my Heavenly Father.

Hallelujah. Jesus said in John 4.23, He said, the hour is coming, and now is, when true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth. For the Father seeketh such to worship Him.

Lastly, Exodus 30, verse 3. He says, you will overlay it with pure gold, and the sides thereof round about, and the horns thereof, and thou shalt make unto it a crown of gold round about. In other words, this altar is to be made of wood. This altar is designed to be carried.

This altar is to have gold all over the top of it, and this altar is to have a crown of gold, or a border of gold, a crown all the way around the top of it. Those who come to this altar of prayer, recognize the Lordship of Jesus Christ over their lives. There's a crown that crowns this whole altar, and that crown is Jesus, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

The disciples came to Jesus and they said, Lord, teach us to pray. And so He taught them a prayer, and it's an interesting prayer. That really reveals the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and it goes like this, Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen. Now that was the type and shadow of the heart that God wants us to have when we approach His throne through Christ Jesus.

Now I want you to listen to the Lordship of Christ in this prayer. Thy kingdom, thy will, give us, forgive us, lead us not, deliver us, thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and forever. Hallelujah.

The Lordship of Jesus Christ is interwoven in its entirety throughout this prayer that Christ taught us. Oh God, that's how we need to come before Your throne, saying, Thy kingdom come. Lord Jesus, I desire to see Your kingdom move in power and glory all throughout this area, throughout this city of New York, throughout the state of New York, throughout all of the United States before You come.

I desire to see Your kingdom come. Hallelujah. I desire to see Your kingdom come into my life.

I desire to see You sitting on the throne of my heart. I desire to see Your kingdom in my home. I desire to see Your kingdom in my office building.

I desire to see Your kingdom come in my children. Thy kingdom come, Lord Jesus. I declare Your sovereignty in my life and in my home.

Thy will be done. Sometimes we pray that prayer and it's an outside thing. Oh, Thy will be done.

Let Your will be done in government. Let Your will be done in the Supreme Court. Let Your will be done in the church.

But God's saying, I want my will to be done in Your life. Thy will be done. Thy will be done.

It's a personal prayer. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done.

Hallelujah. Thy will be done in my life on earth as it is in heaven. Oh, hallelujah.

Hallelujah. When you understand these things, it can revolutionize your whole life and your whole prayer life with God. As long as you're willing to walk in the truth.

Oh, Lord Jesus, let Your will be done in my life. Let Your will be done in my life. That altar is designed to be carried.

Give us this day our daily bread. Oh, God, give me those things as much as I need. Oh, God, fill my soul.

Forgive us our trespasses. Lead us not into temptation. Deliver us from evil.

I acknowledge this day that Yours is the kingdom. Yours is the power. Yours is the glory.

Both now and forever. Hallelujah. Amen.

And in verse 6 in Exodus 30, He says, Now this particular altar that I have designed, you will put it before the veil that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony where I will meet with thee. Put this altar before this altar that's made of wood, that's designed to be carried, that's

overlaid with gold, that has a crown of gold around the top of it. Put it before the mercy seat and I will meet with you there.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah. I pray tonight with all my heart, the Lord give you understanding of what He's speaking through His Word. When your life is built on the Lordship of Christ, on the desire to fulfill His will, when you acknowledge and understand that you're not your own, that we are bought for the price, He says bring this understanding, bring this prayer, bring it to the mercy seat and I'll meet with you at that place.

And you and I will talk face to face in that place. Hallelujah. Hallelujah to the Lamb of God.

Hallelujah. Look at Hebrews chapter 4 please in the New Testament. Hallelujah.

Hebrews chapter 4 verse 12, For the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight, but all things are naked and open unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. Seeing then that we have a great High Priest that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

For we have not a High Priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Verse 16, Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. If your life is set apart for the purposes of God, and you will acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ and walk in the truth of God's Word, you can come any time you want to before the mercy seat and meet with Christ.

And you will find grace to help in your time of need, not only for yourself, but for your family, not only for your family, but for those you work with, not only for those you work with, but for those perhaps in your neighborhood, those in your community, even your nation, if you should succeed in so touching the heart of God. Don't limit God, don't limit what He wants to do through His church. I'll meet with you there.

Look at Psalm 51 please. Psalm 51, Psalm of David. I want us to read it together.

It's been my desire for over 10 years to touch the heart of God. And I trust tonight it will be your desire. Oh God, I don't want to come to you just asking for my own needs all the time.

I want to touch your heart. I want to hear what you hear. I want to share what you feel.

I want to be known as your friend. Abraham was called the friend of God. Oh Lord, I read that in the Bible.

I said, Oh God, I want to be known as your friend. Someone that you can reveal something to, you can speak to, and I can share it. We can pray together.

I can commune with you and see your hand move strongly. I don't know and understand why God is this way, but it just seems that He has tied Himself in with the prayers of men. All of heaven will be silent for a season and nothing will happen throughout.

You read about it in times gone past and all of a sudden somebody, somewhere, an individual or a group of people or a church decides to seek God. But they decide to seek Him His way and they decide to do it

in truth. And all of a sudden a deluge of heaven opens up because God waits to show Himself strong on behalf of those who want to be touched by Him.

And they're not just praying for themselves and they're not just looking for comfort and security, but they're offering their lives up to God. If I can be of any use to you Lord God, if I can serve you in any way, I present my life to you Lord Jesus. I acknowledge your Lordship over my life.

If you want to put me in a place of hardship, God put me there. All of a sudden heaven opens. The grace of God pours out like a river and lives begin to be touched.

Read with me please Psalm 51. And be clear when thou judgest. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto me.

See the issue here that David's praying. After all this he's talking about truth. Form truth in my inward parts.

Purge me. Make me to hear joy. Create in me a clean heart.

Cast me not away. Restore unto me. He says then in verse 13.

Then I will teach transgressors thy ways. In other words, when my life is built on your principles and when I'm walking in right relationship with you. When I know that my prayers can be heard.

Then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Verse 14. Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God.

Thou God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice, else would I give it.

Thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit. A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou will not despise.

Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion. Build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness.

With burnt offering and whole burnt offering. Then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Could you stand together with me please. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

How many can say tonight. You've come to this meeting tonight and this is known as the Friday night prayer meeting. Lord, how many can say Lord in this last hour of time.

I want to be found at this kind of an altar of prayer. I want to be found in a place where my prayers become a sweet incense before your throne. Can you raise up your hand with me.

I want to be found there O God. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Now this is an altar of consecration. It's an altar of dedication.

It's an altar of truth. And it's an altar of humility. It's in this place God says I will hear you.

Your prayers will become a sweet incense before me. I trust and hope that I've been able to put this message across to you as the Lord has given it to me tonight. It's in this place God says I'm going to answer your prayer.

It's in this place you're going to know healing. Not only in your own life, but the lives of those around you will begin to be healed. Because of the outflow of the relationship of Christ that will be within you.

It's in this place that you will see the answers to your prayers. It's in this place that you will begin to know and develop a sweet communion with God. That you never even believed some of you was possible before.

You will be abandoned to him. And as such you will not even be mindful of time. But you'll come into his presence and just want to stay there for hours at a time.

And not even be conscious of the time that's around you and the time that you spend in his presence. Oh, that's my desire to be found at that altar in this last hour of time. Hallelujah.

For everyone who's raised their hand I want you to pray a simple prayer with me. Father, forgive me if I have been self-willed. If I've come before your throne trying to get you to justify my plans.

I see now that I can't do this thing and have my prayers be pleasing in your sight. Teach me to seek your will and your will alone. For my life, for my home, for my family.

I want to glorify you through my life. Father, forgive me if I've not been fully determined to find your will for my life. Forgive me for just seeking blessing and being always concerned about my own needs.

When people all around me are dying and going to hell. Bring me out of being consumed for myself. Let me find your will for my life.

I want to be a blessing to others. I want you to be able to touch them. Through my life.

Make my hands your hands. My voice your voice. My eyes your eyes.

My feet your feet. My heart your heart. When I breathe.

May it be your breath within this body. Jesus be magnified in me. Grip me Holy Spirit of God.

Let Christ be formed in me. That I may touch people who are perishing in this generation. Father, forgive me if I have not acknowledged.

Nor have craved. Your leadership over my life. I want you.

To lead my life. I want you. To mark my steps.

No matter where it will take me. I know you'll give me the strength. Because you didn't choose me because I'm strong.

You've taken me because I'm weak. And because I needed a savior. Mark my steps.

Give me strength. That when I come boldly. To your throne of grace.

I can find help. For those that have needs. And for my own needs.

Oh Jesus. Let my prayers. Come before you.

Like a sweet incense. Let the lifting of my hands. Be like the evening sacrifice.

Help me to seek you. In a new way. Like I never have before.

Let my prayers be in truth. Father I ask this. In Jesus name.

Amen. Thank you Lord. Thank you, Father.

Thank you, Father. Hallelujah, Lamb of God. Thank you, Lord.

Thank you for making a way, O God. Thank you, Lord Jesus. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah. This is the conclusion of the tape.

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