

The Signs of Active Faith

by Carter Conlon

The signs of active faith are not just for show, but for the purpose of demonstrating the power of Christ and bringing glory to God.

Duration: 57:42

Scripture: Mark 16:15-20

Topics: "Active Faith"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes that God calls His people in their weakness to reach out to those who are crying out for truth and meaning in life. The preacher uses the example of Moses being called by God to deliver the Israelites from bondage. He highlights that the church and every believer are commissioned by God to be sensitive to the cries of people and to proclaim the kingdom of God. The preacher also emphasizes the importance of spiritual authority and the signs that follow the preaching of the word of God, such as speaking in new tongues and experiencing deliverance from bondage.

Transcript

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You are welcome to make additional cassettes of this message for free distribution to friends. However, for all other forms of reproduction or electronic transmission, existing copyright laws apply. If you'll turn to Mark Chapter 16 in the New Testament, I'm going to speak this morning on the signs of active faith.

Signs of active faith. Let's pray together. Father, I thank you, God, for the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

I thank you, Lord, that your kingdom has come. Jesus, you are here. Your truth is here to set every man free.

God, I thank you for what you're going to accomplish this day. I ask you, Lord, for a quickening of my mind and spirit, my heart. Lord, that I may stand strictly as an oracle of God.

I ask for the grace to be removed out of the way of this message. Lord, that you would infuse me with your life. And, God, that you would speak through me.

And I would ask for grace on all the hearers to hear this word as coming from the very heart of God. Father, you gave it to me. I give it back to you.

All I ask is that your kingdom advance in the hearts of your people. Jesus Christ, be glorified. Be king and Lord of all.

Let your will be done this day. I ask it, believing in your mighty name. Mark Chapter 16, beginning at verse 15.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. And he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. But he that believeth not shall be damned.

And these signs shall follow them that believe. In my name shall they cast out devils. They shall speak with new tongues.

They shall take up serpents. And if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them. They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.

So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Now, Mark ascribes these words as the direct words of Jesus Christ. Their red letter in my Bible, they should be in yours as well. It means that Christ himself spoke these words.

The Scripture tells us that Jesus Christ went back to heaven after he had died and satisfied the wrath of God on all who have sinned against the righteousness of God and that those who would trust in Christ could be assured now of a place in heaven, could be assured of their salvation. Jesus went back to heaven and sat down at the right hand of all authority and all power. The work was finished.

He said it conclusively on the cross on Calvary. When he said it is finished, it means the reign of terror and sin and evil is over. It is finished.

Everyone who wants to come to Christ can be free. I have now a church that are going to go out into all the world. I'm going to be with this church.

He said in the Gospel of Matthew, Lo, he said, I'm with you always. All power is given unto me and I'm with you always, even unto the end of the world. And he said, you're going to go and you're going to, in effect, go into all the world and my life is going to be infused into my own creation.

Those that have been created in the image of God and who trust in Jesus Christ, who believe that he died for their sins, who are baptized, of course, that's a typology, in a sense, of those who identify with the death of Christ. The saying is Christ died to the acclaims and the accolades of this world. He died to everything that the devil and the flesh had to offer him and subsequently obeyed the will of his father.

And on the third day he was raised up in newness of life. And those that are baptized are making this identification with Christ. I am dead to the things of the world, like the Apostle Paul said.

The things that the world has to offer have nothing in me and I have nothing in them. Their hearts are now attached to another kingdom. There's another set of rules that begin to guide their lives, another source

and infusion of God's life in them that begins to guide them and to make them into new creations in Christ Jesus.

And Jesus said these signs are going to follow those that believe. Now, beloved, most assuredly, some people over the centuries have taken all or portions of these scriptures in Mark chapter 16 and moved with them into deep errors of faith and practice. Peter says in 2 Peter 3.16, he said, They take things which are hard to be understood, and which they that are unlearned and unstable rest.

Or in other words, they make them so distorted as they do the other scriptures unto their own destruction. And we have seen and even have in existence today searches claiming to be filled with the fullness of Christ who have literal snakes in their services. And they pick them up and they play with snakes and think that this is a sign that they're walking in the power of God.

But it's nothing more than an absolute deep and very terrifying delusion. The spiritual delusion has come on them. There are others who reportedly over the years have come and made concoctions of deadly things and tried to drink them as some kind of an evidence that they have the supernatural life within them only to become sick and in some cases obviously have died.

And others who are sheltered in the confines of hidden religious practice to the exclusion mostly to those who need it. They focus on casting devils out of each other. There are churches in the charismatic Pentecostal realm and other realms in the kingdom of Christ today who come in and spend their whole time just casting devils out of one another.

Another disillusion of disobedience. They play church with the gift of tongues. Now, before I even attempt to move into these scriptures, I want to tell you that I am in agreement with the traditional teachings of the Pentecostal church about these issues.

I'm not going to reiterate them. I do believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I do believe in speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance.

But by the grace of God, I would like today to take these signs just a little bit deeper than sometimes what they seem to be on the surface. And churches today, they play with the gift of tongues. There is a reason why the spiritual giftings are given to the body of Jesus Christ.

But they come in and their whole focus is on manifestations as they see it and again to the exclusion of where it is really needed and the intent that it was given to the church in the first place. And there are other places where they lay hands on the sick in their midst and follow this by accusing people of having no faith or hidden sin because most of them are not healed. And there are churches like that all over the world.

And I know there are people in this sanctuary today and even involved in ministry have had such experiences, gone in where there is the focus on these issues. And simply, they are simply powerless and ultimately in most places decide after long practice to discontinue even preaching on these scriptures and say they are controversial. And others, because they can't explain them, say, well, they don't really belong in the Bible.

They shouldn't have been and weren't in the original manuscripts. They were added later. And all such like confusion because they fail to understand what these signs are.

What do they truly mean? What is the depth of them? Why were they given to the church? And what is the context in which they are supposed to be lived? And this power of Christ is to be manifested through and among His people. Now, you cannot preach this. You cannot preach Mark chapter 16 verses 17 and 18 outside of the context of verse 15.

And it starts with the words, Go into all the world. Here is the very reason why these signs were given. Now, these signs are just an evidence of Christ being in His church.

He's called me and He's called you to go. And, beloved, disobedience always brings delusion. These two are bedfellows.

And I find in a great deal of the church world that I have at least experienced in the years that I've known Christ, there is no desire to go. It's not even in the collective consciousness in some fellowships anymore. It's all about what God can do for me, how God can better my life, how He can cause me to achieve my destiny of greatness as I have come to view myself.

And they come into the house of God and are in absolute disobedience. There's nothing in the heart that would ever want these people to go into all the world. And you cannot preach these gifts or signs out of this context.

These things are really not for those who are disobedient to God. These signs that follow are for those who are yielded to the commission of Christ. And, yes, they may not all head off onto the foreign mission field, but every time they walk out of the house of God, they consider themselves commissioned to the loss, the dying and the hurting of this world who are without God.

They consider it a holy commission. Every time they walk out the doors, I'm now going into all the world. I'm now obeying Christ.

I'm going to do what God told me to do. I'm going to ask for the Holy Spirit to make me spiritually sensitive to needs that are all around me. I'm going to ask God to touch people through my life.

I'm going to ask him for his kingdom to come every day. I'm going to say, oh God, lead me, guide me, use me, glorify yourself through my life. And I'm not putting up barriers.

I'm not putting limitations between where I am today and where God could potentially want me to be. My prayer has to be, thy kingdom come, thy will be done in me as it is in heaven. Lord, I'm here now and I'm going to be used of you now where I live, where I am, to the fullest extent of how you lead me and guide me.

But in the future, should you send me somewhere throughout the world, no matter where it is, God, I will obey you. And I ask for great grace to hear your voice and great grace to begin to follow you. And the Lord says, when you begin to do this, these signs are going to follow those who believe.

Who believe? It's so key. Who believe that I'm able to keep them? Who believe that there's a higher calling than living for oneself? Who believe that those who are true disciples of Christ have taken up their cross and they're taking it up daily and they're beginning to follow the will of God as he is beginning to outline that pattern and pathway that he has for each one of them. These signs.

Now, beloved, when God calls us to go, he calls us in weakness. And he intends that by his strength we are going to be successful. He doesn't call us because we know a specific culture.

He doesn't call us because we have specific talents in the natural man. I'm talking apart from that which God gives to us. He doesn't call us for any of these reasons.

The apostle Paul makes it very conclusive when he says to the Corinthian church, he says, consider now your calling. Look around you, not many mighty, not many noble, not many wise, not many strong among you. But God has called the foolish of the world and God has called the weak and the off-scouring and those things that are nothing to bring to naught or to nothing those things that are.

Those things, in other words, that attempt to exist independent of the wisdom and life of God. God says, here's how I work. I take the nobodies and nothings of this world who are rich in faith.

I take those who are poor, perhaps in the earth's resources or poor because of their heritage. Whatever they were infused with as they were being raised in whatever context or society. And I take them and it doesn't matter where they come from.

It doesn't matter what they have or don't have. God says, I take the willing heart. I take those who believe that I'm God and I'm able to change them.

And I begin to infuse them with life. I begin to call them and they begin to follow me. And through them I'm glorified.

No flesh is glorified in the presence of fallen man. They stand and they know who they are. They know where they've come from.

They know what they have been without God. You see, Scripture is interpreted by Scripture. And whenever we read Scripture, it's really good to know the whole Bible.

God never comes out and just says something that's right out of left field and has no precedent in the Scripture. I want to look just for a moment this morning at Moses as a type of man who is called to go. He's called in his weakness just like you and I are.

Remember the commission is go into all the world. Preach the gospel. Now, he didn't say go into the world and make a nuisance of yourself.

He didn't say go into the world and just stand on a street corner and blather into the universe of spiritual things. No, he said you're to go and you are to find a people who are on bondage. And you are to proclaim the kingdom of God as you know it, as it's been revealed in your heart.

As you have believed, as you have followed, you're to proclaim this kingdom. And the Lord says, I'll be with you. And these signs are going to follow the preaching of the Word of God.

I'm going to do certain things in the lives of those that you preach to. Oh, beloved, I'm more convinced of this than I've ever been in my life. I'm more convinced now of the spiritual authority that God wants to give those who are truly yielded to Him.

An authority to cast down imaginations and powers of darkness and to see people by the thousands released out of prisons of all types of bondage and foolishness. Exodus chapter 4, please, if you'll go there

with me. Exodus chapter 4. Now, God calls Moses.

And remember one of the signs that Jesus said in Mark. He said they're going to speak with new tongues. He calls them in weakness.

And he says, I'm sending you to a people who are crying out to me. This is always the call of the church. If it were not so, beloved, then God would be well advised to take us all home to heaven today.

But there are people crying out all over the world. It may not be an audible cry on the street corner, but it's an issue of the heart. They're crying out.

They're looking for meaning. They're looking for the reason of life. They're looking for, why am I created? What is it about? Surely, God, there's got to be more than this that's in my life.

How do I get out of here? How do I escape all of this captivity now that sin and the devil and the world has inflicted on me? And the Lord heard the cry. And when he heard the cry, he commissioned a man. And that's what it's about.

That's what the church is about. That's what my life is about. I'm commissioned of God because people are crying for truth.

I'm commissioned as a Christian, let alone leave pastoring a church out of it. Just as a Christian, I'm commissioned of God to be sensitive, to hear the cry. And as he leads me to begin to move, and he promises me that his kingdom will come with me.

In Moses, in Exodus chapter 4 and verse 10, Moses said to the Lord, Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent. Neither heretofore, that means before nor since, thou hast spoken unto thy servant, but I'm slow of speech and of a slow tongue. And the Lord said to him, now, you understand the context.

Moses said, I don't have the tongue that is necessary to do this work. You're calling me to stand before people. You're calling me to stand before kings.

And I don't have the tongue. I didn't have it before, and I don't have it now. I've heard your voice, but oh God, I haven't got the ability.

And the Lord said to him, verse 11, who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the dumb, or the deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? Have not I the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say. One of the signs that will follow those who believe, he says, I will be with your mouth. You will speak with new tongues.

The word new in the Greek New Testament means a renewed tongue, or a consecrated tongue. A consecrated tongue means a tongue that is set apart for the purposes of God. That means there cannot be mixture in your life, and there's got to be a desire.

Oh, beloved, would be to God that everyone in this house would turn their television off once and for all. Would be to God we would put down the counsel of the foolish, and stop listening to the scorners, and all the idiocy of a society that is spiraling into darkness. Would be to God, as His people, we would become separate to the purposes of God, and consecrate our hearts, and our lives, and our tongues to God's purpose.

God says, I'll be with the mouth of those who have a consecrated tongue. That when they speak, it's not for self-glory. When they speak, they have no secondary agenda.

Their agenda is Jesus, your kingdom, come, your will be done. Jesus, come, and speak through me. Come, oh God, and do what you've called your church to do through my life.

It means not only consecrated, but renewed. It means given life, quickened, enlivened by the presence of God. The word tongues in the Greek New Testament means a foreign or strange language, which one has not learned, but yet is enabled to speak, as a result of the supernatural intervention of the Holy Spirit.

It's a language, a language I've not learned, but I'm enabled to speak it by the supernatural intervention of the Holy Spirit. Now, in the book of Acts chapter 2, the Bible says this fearful and confused, many of them people, gathered in an upper room in obedience to God, and the Spirit of God came upon them. And they came out into the open.

And as they walked out into the open, the Bible says that there were Parthians, and Medes, and people from Mesopotamia, and other parts throughout the world who were gathered in Jerusalem for religious purposes at that particular time. And they said, we hear these people speaking in our languages the wonderful works of God. We hear them speaking.

Now, they were not aware, these are not languages they had learned, but they were languages that were known to that generation. And they were speaking in those languages. And so people from other parts of the world heard them speaking, and heard them speaking a specific thing.

The word is megalios in the Greek. It means great works or miracles that are contemplated as outcomings of the greatness of God's power and glory. Amazing.

Here are 120 fearful people now empowered by the Spirit of God. They're standing out in the public forum as it is, and they are speaking of great things that God is going to do. Perhaps not only in themselves, but in others that they're about to preach the gospel to.

There's a prophetic flow as it is. An understanding, a supernatural understanding perhaps, in that very moment of the things that they have learned, that have been taught to them. There's nothing that has not already been revealed in the Scriptures, but now they're speaking with authority.

They're standing out in the public marketplace, and they're making this declaration. They're empowered, they're enabled. They're speaking with new tongues.

David, the psalmist in Psalm 40 verse 3, called it a new song. He said, I waited patiently for the Lord, and I cried to Him, and He heard my voice. He lifted me up out of a horrible pit, and set me on a rock, and established my goings, and He has put a new song in my mouth.

And He said, many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord. A new song. They shall speak with new tongues.

David said, He took me out of a horrible pit, and put a new song. A song of praise to my God. A song of trust in everything God has ever spoken to me.

And he said, people will see me speaking with this new song. And they will look, and they will say, only by the power of God could this man be standing. Only by the power of God could he be singing this song, in

such a difficult time.

And many shall see it, and they shall fear, and they shall trust in the Lord. I think of the mighty men that came out of that cave, as they saw this man, who should be bitter and confused, who had been betrayed. But he's speaking in another voice than all of society around him.

He's speaking in a different... He's singing a different song, and men begin to hear it. And they fear, and they trust in God, and they come out of that cave to break through the ranks of the enemy, to get a drink of water out of a well in Bethlehem. Another comes out and holds the sword, becomes a mighty man with the sword, and fights for so long that his hand has to be pried off of that sword.

Mighty, mighty men of God came out of that place, when they heard a man who was empowered with a new song, a different voice. He was able to speak with new tongues. He was given a new heart.

The Scripture says in Ezekiel, that I will give those that are called, I will give them a new mind and a new heart. And beloved, we know conclusively from the Scripture that the heart and the mind are inherently, as it is connected to what we speak. As a man thinks in his heart, that's what he is.

His speech will betray him. He may profess to be a Christian, but if in his heart is mixture, his speech will give him away eventually. And he says, there's a new tongue that is given.

I give a new heart, I give a new spirit. And with that new heart and new spirit comes the ability to speak with another tongue. Now, I'm not in disagreement with the traditional teaching of ecstatic utterance or speaking in unknown languages.

As I said in the beginning, I'm believing that God by His grace will help us to take this just a little step deeper. You may come from an area in New York City where to say I forgive is a foreign language. You may come from a background where to say I love you has been unheard.

You've never learned it. And all of a sudden, God comes into your life. You come home.

I saw on Friday night an altar full of young people so desperate for God, so desperate for truth, so disadvantaged by all of society that has imposed on them and all of life has given them. But I see a young people touched by the Spirit of God. There were many, many tears at this altar going home and saying I forgive.

I forgive is a foreign language in some of your homes. Where you've come from, among your families where deep roots of vengeance and desire for retribution are common. Nobody forgives.

Everybody holds a grudge. And all of a sudden, you walk in the house and just like on the day of Pentecost, you walk in saying, Mom, Dad, my brother, my sister, husband, wife, children, I forgive you. Everything that you've ever done to me.

Every wrong you've ever done to my heart, I forgive you. And the people look just like they did on the day of Pentecost and they're dumbfounded. They say, this is a wonderful work.

How could this have happened? He's never learned this. This has to be supernatural intervention. Beloved, it has to be supernatural intervention that allows you and I to say the words I forgive or I love when all we've ever known is hate or all we've ever been raised under is criticism and antagonism and negativity and words that are sent to discourage and crush.

And so many are living this kind of a life and to be able to come home into your community and say, I love you now because the love of God is in me. It is a foreign language, as foreign as the languages were on the day of Pentecost. To go to those who are falling and to those who are disadvantaged and to be able to see something of God and to say, I see God's hand on your life is a foreign language to so many.

Not just to be a recipient of God's grace, but to become a channel of that grace in our generation. To walk out to the downtrodden, the oppressed, to be sensitive to the spirit. And when we see that flicker of hope, that flicker of longing for God to be able to say conclusively to that person, I see God's touch on your life.

I see something in the future. I see God doing something. I never now, I ask God for the grace to never judge a man anymore by his present circumstance.

Especially someone who professes Christ. If I see somebody struggling, my prayer now is, God, I want to see the end of that man's life. I don't want to see where he is now, I want to see where you're taking him.

And I'm going to agree with you. I'm not going to agree with him. I'm not going to agree with anybody around him.

You're going to speak to my heart, I'm going to confess it the way you say it's going to end. I'm going to talk the way you talk. I'm going to speak a new language.

I'm not going to walk around with my head hanging down, worried about all my struggles and failures and all my trials and difficulties in my life. God, you're going to tell me the end. And I'm going to speak the end as you do.

A new language. A new language. Hallelujah.

I thank God for it. It's a language of faith. It's a language that will allow you to walk through the most difficult trial of your life and say, it is well with my soul.

It is well. It is well. How are things going? Fine.

It is well. I know the end from the beginning. Before I even start, I know the end.

Hallelujah. These signs will follow those who believe. Jesus says in Mark, they will take up serpents.

When Moses was called in chapter 4 and verse 1, Moses answered and said, But behold, they'll not believe me. They'll not hearken to my voice, for they will say, The Lord has not appeared to thee. And the Lord said to him, What is it in your hand? And he said, A rod.

He said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent. And Moses fled from before it.

And the Lord said to Moses, Put forth now thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand and caught it, and it became a rod. A rod in his hand.

You see, I believe what the Scripture is saying in the Gospel of Mark. When you look at Moses' call, and Moses was fearful. And the Lord says, Well, what have you got in your hand? He says, I've got a rod.

A type, a symbol. It became a symbol of faith and the promises of God and the keeping power of God. Later on, you remember when the Israelites were being pursued by the Egyptians, and they came to that

place of impossibility.

God said to Moses, Lift up the rod that is in your hand. Don't look to me. Lift up the rod.

Don't bellyache. Don't cry out to me. I've given you a word.

And you hold up that rod as a type of faith. But before it could become a type of faith, God had to show him something. He said, cast it on the ground and it became a serpent.

Which represents to me everything that Moses was afraid of. Because the Bible says he began to flee before it. You see, the Lord will give courage to those who are His.

There'll be an absence of fear. The Bible says, perfect love casts out fear. The love of God will cause us to go where no one else can go who doesn't know God.

And the serpent will be there. The fear of physical harm or lack of provision or any other type of failure. And Moses fled from before the serpent.

But the Lord spoke these words to Moses. He said, Now reach down, pick it up by the tail. You see, when God speaks, it's interesting.

If I read it correctly, a serpent does not flee from anybody. A serpent stands and fights. But as God has spoken, the devil is already heading the other way.

He's already trying to get away because God's hand is on this man. God's hand is on you. If God is speaking to you, His hand is on you.

You don't have to be afraid. You don't have to be afraid of your lack. You don't have to be afraid of provision for the future.

You don't have to be afraid that God will not be with you or He sends you to go. You don't have to be afraid because if God has spoken into your life, the moment you turn to face your fear, you're going to find it's already going in the other direction. And God says to Moses, Reach down and pick it up by the tail because it's already fleeing.

Grab the devil before he can get away from you and come back again. He grabs the serpent by the tail and it becomes a staff of faith in his hand. Hallelujah! The devil's going to come against you with everything he's got.

When Moses came at later time into the court of Pharaoh, Pharaoh called together all his wise men, his astrologers, all his sorcerers, all his magicians. And the Scripture says every man cast down his staff and they all became serpents. And this is the devil trying to infuse you with fear and cause you to believe from every side that you'll never be successful in the commission that God has placed on your life.

But by faith in God, Moses had Aaron throw that rod down. It became a serpent. And it's swollen up, faith in God, swollen up all the lies of the devil.

Swollen them up. There's no weapon formed against you that can prosper. There's no angel.

There's no devil. There's nothing can come against you and stop the will of God for your life. Nothing can stop what God is doing.

Scripture says they will cast out devils in Mark chapter 16. Exodus chapter 6, verse 6. He says, Wherefore say to the children of Israel, I am the Lord and I will bring you out from under the burden of the Egyptians. I will rid you out of their bondage.

I will redeem you with a stretched out arm and with great judgments. And I will take you to Me for a people. And I will be to you a God.

You shall know that I am the Lord your God which brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. And I will bring you into the land concerning to which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. And I will give it you for a heritage.

I am the Lord. They shall cast out devils. The word in the original text for devils means deities.

It means devils and it also means false gods. I will cast out those who have reigned over you. I will cast them out.

I will draw them down from their seat of power and from their seat of authority. Paul says to the Corinthian church, let me just read it to you. 2 Corinthians chapter 10 verses 4 and 5. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

As you go, as we go throughout the world, Jesus Himself says to the Apostle Paul, I will use your life. There will be a sign that follows your ministry. You will have the power to cast down imaginations.

The word is logismos in the Greek and it means considerations or intentions which are hostile to the gospel. I'll give you a weaponry. I'll give you a wisdom that your enemies cannot resist.

I will put words in your mouth. As a matter of fact, to part of His discipleship, He said, they're going to draw you before kings and rulers. Don't worry what you're going to say.

I'm going to give you the words at the very moment that you need them. I'm going to put the words in your mouth and you're going to have the authority to cast down these imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. Jesus said in Mark, They shall drink any deadly thing and it shall not hurt them.

Exodus, again with me, chapter 15. As the children of Israel progressed through their wilderness journey to the promised land, in Exodus chapter 15, verses 25, the people came to a place where the water was bitter and they couldn't drink it. And they murmured against Moses and said, What shall we drink? Now the bitterness has an inclusive meaning of also it can be poisonous.

And he cried to the Lord in verse 25, this is Moses, and the Lord showed him a tree which when he had cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. And he made for them a statute and an ordinance and there he proved them. And he said, If thou will diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God and will do that which is right in his sight and will give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee which I brought upon the Egyptians for I am the Lord that healeth thee.

Now Revelation chapter 12 tells us that one of the tactics of the enemy is to send a flood out of the devil's mouth himself to carry away those who are associated with Jesus Christ. A flood of false theology. And beloved, we're living in an hour where there is a flood right out of the devil's mouth.

I'm not talking about pornography. I'm not talking about all these issues that are part of fallen society. I'm talking about a flood that is sent to captivate the church of Jesus Christ herself.

A flood of false theology has come into the house of God. Foolishness that espouses itself as doctrine of Jesus Christ. I think also a flood of bitter words.

The devil will come against the choicest servants of God with bitter words, bitter accusations. Bitter things that are intended to bring up issues of the past and to wound and to cause you to believe that the commission of Christ will never be fulfilled in your life. Sometimes either by stealth or by force these things try to invade your spirit and mind.

But God said to Moses, there's a tree, and if you'll put this tree in the midst of all the water. In other words, if the tree and all that it commands being the cross of Jesus Christ is central in your heart and your theology. None of the false theology, none of the bitter words will have any effect over you.

You can drink any deadly thing and it will not hurt you. It will get into your spirit. Yes, you will ingest it which means you will understand it.

It will go into your heart and perhaps find a place in your mind. And false theology sometimes can be very appealing. It really appeals to the natural man.

It can appeal to the flesh. It can appeal to the wrong identity that is sometimes wanting always to rise within the hearts of God's people. But he says, if you'll put the tree in the middle of the water, even if the devil sends a flood against you, and you might even embrace it for a season, but it will not kill you.

It will not poison you. Because in your heart you're saying, no, this doesn't line up. This doesn't line up with the commission of Jesus Christ.

It doesn't line up with the cross of Christ. It doesn't fit the character of God. It doesn't fit the call of God on my life.

False theology or bitter words cannot stop you. They will not stop you. Because our identity and our direction is now all in Jesus Christ.

The power of God will carry you and keep you. And lastly, Jesus says through Mark, they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover. And the word sick here means those who are in a bad state of health.

They're morally weak. It also means to strengthen. In Exodus chapter 15, you don't have to turn there, children of Israel complained at the bitter waters.

In Exodus chapter 16, they complained about a lack of provision for their lives. In Exodus chapter 16, when God sent the manna, they went out and collected more than they should, and they disobeyed God because of deep-set unbelief that was still very resident in many of their hearts. Exodus chapter 17, they tempted the Lord in a time of thirst, and they said, is the Lord among us or not? Now into this scene of people who are still physically weak or sick, they're still morally weak.

Into this scene comes Amalek, and Amalek is the very first. This is not a battle that the children of Israel selected. Amalek came against the children of Israel.

Israel didn't go against Amalek. It was initiated by Amalek. Amalek, Numbers 24 20, is described by Balaam, the false prophet.

He was the first of the nations, but his end shall be utter destruction. Amalek was the first of the nations. This is how Balaam describes Amalek and the descendants of Amalek.

In other words, it is that which first occupies the place of the new Christian's promise and says you shall not come here. You will not inherit the promises because you're weak. You'll not inherit the promises because you don't trust God.

You'll not inherit the promises because you're still morally deficient. And this is Amalek. And the Lord said in Exodus 17, 16 he swore, he said I will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

That's what made Saul's sin so grievous when the Holy Spirit said to Saul, go and smite Amalek. God says I've sworn I'm going to have war with Amalek. I'm going to have war with those issues that occupy the hearts of new believers in Jesus Christ.

Those things that were the first in the land and says we'll not give place to you. We'll not give place. You're not coming in and you're not occupying.

We've been here forever. We were the first and we're staying. And Amalek will come very fast and swiftly against the new Christian.

Amalek will try to steal that word. I saw an altar on Friday night that became so real. Here's young people crying out.

Many have never heard of God. They've never heard of Jesus Christ. They've never understood salvation.

But finally they've heard something and it seems so unbelievable. They reach out for it. I saw young people trying to be taught but a breaking came on them.

And you see them begin to shake and weep as they're reaching out. But as they reach out and Amalek is there. And Amalek says, no, I was here first.

Your lack of education, I was here first. Your self-image, I was here first. All the words that were spoken over your life.

How are you going to be? Nobody, nothing. You'll never amount to anything. You'll never accomplish.

I was here first. And these words immediately come back with full fury to steal the seed out of the heart. The seed of life that's been planted in the hearts of these young ones who've come out of such tribulation and are now believing that it's possible to be saved and to have a new life and a purpose because of Jesus Christ.

And God gave Moses a specific instruction. And Moses said to Joshua in Exodus 17.9 Choose us out men and go and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand.

So Joshua did as Moses had said to him and fought with Amalek. And Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill and it came to pass when Moses held up his hand that Israel prevailed and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. Now it means to stretch out one's hand towards those in a bad state of health and morally weak and to strengthen them.

I do believe the signs that follow true believers, it can be a one-time prayer. We believe that here at Times Square Church. Those that are physically afflicted, they come, we lay hands on them, anoint them with oil, believing that God will heal them.

And I do believe that. These signs will follow those that believe that they will lay hands on the sick and they shall recover. I believe it also has other truth in it.

It can also be a Jericho Road experience. As I shared last week where we see a man wounded or person wounded and bleeding on the side of the road and it's just simply insufficient in their condition to reach down and say, God bless you, touch you, heal you, and just keep on walking. No, it's a situation where our hands now become that the conduit in a sense that represent our lives where the oil of God is now poured out from us into this one person or this small group of people, whatever it happens to be, just infusing them with that life, upholding them, blessing them, praying for them, meeting their need as God enables us to do it.

But it can also be a spiritual authority which I believe follows them that believe. Friday night I saw Pastor Patrick exercising this spiritual authority at this altar. I saw him stretch out his hand to God and then I saw him stretch out his hand to the young people who are at this altar who are locked in a battle for life and purpose saying to them by faith that God has infused in his heart, it shall be well with you.

It shall be well with you. The Bible says these signs shall follow. Those who are co-laborers with Christ, who sit with him in heavenly places, who understand the greatness of his love and power, they can stretch out their hands to God and they can stand stretching out their hands of love to those that are weak morally, to those that are yet deficient in their walk with God, to those who still need to be strengthened.

And they can say with spiritual authority, it shall be well with you. I'm raising my hands to God and I'm believing. I'm believing God that you're going to win the victory.

You're not able yet to pray for yourself. I think of these people out fighting with Amalek. They don't have any spiritual authority yet.

They're not able to fight. But Moses stood up on a hill, a type of a man who's walking in the power of God. Jesus said these signs shall follow those who believe.

And he sees this morally deficient people, but he raises up his hands to God. These signs shall follow those who believe. They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.

And he reaches out to God and as he prays for them, the power of God comes upon them and they are enabled by the spirit of God to win a victory because of the power of intercession over their lives. They're enabled to win the victory. We saw that in Jamaica so powerfully.

Of people gripped in fear, of people who know nothing but violence, of people under the bondage of the occult for generations. And we saw it break in a night as children of God lifted their hands to heaven and began to cry out and then began to prophesy to these people. We saw this infusion of life and faith come

into their hearts.

These signs shall follow those who believe. Those who make the choice to go. Those who say, God, use my life for your glory.

Take me, O God. Take me, Lord. God, don't let me live a selfish, powerless, religiously deluded life.

God, don't let me ever be found in a house where they play games with the giftings of God and engage in foolishness because of the disobedience that's in the hearts of the people. Oh, God, put me in a place where there are people who are willing to go to the ends of the earth and give their life for the purpose of Christ. That's the house I want to be in.

That's the people I want to fellowship with. That's the journey I want my life to go on. For the rest of my days, I want to be with people who have this type of heart.

And God says these signs will follow those that believe. I will be with them even to the end of the earth. They'll cast out devils.

They'll speak with new tongues. They'll take up serpents. They'll not be in bondage to fear.

If they drink any deadly thing, it'll not hurt them. They will lay hands on the sick and they shall recover by the grace and power of God. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! I believe with all my heart that it's time for the name of Jesus to be lifted up again.

It's time for the name of Jesus to be reckoned with. It's time. It's time for a people to say, My God, whatever it takes, use my life.

My God, use me. My God, touch me. My God, empower me.

My God, I believe you. I believe you. These signs will follow them who believe.

I believe you. I believe you, Lord. You don't need anything I have.

You only want my heart. You only want me to come to you with a heart of faith and you'll supply all of my needs. Everything I need to glorify you, God, you'll give it to me.

I believe that the greatest privilege I'm given on this side of eternity is to obey you, to walk with you, to see your power being manifested in the lives and hearts of people who are falling into the trap of the devil all over the world, beginning in my house and my neighborhood and all through my city and state and country and all into the world. I believe that I'm given a call to go to the whole world and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. I will start on Broadway in 51st with the first soul, God, that you point out to me.

I will start and I'm believing these signs are going to follow. I believe my fear will not overwhelm me. I believe you're going to give me a new tongue.

You're going to give me words to speak, O God, that can only come from the Spirit of Almighty God. I believe you're going to give me authority. I believe if some deadly thing has spoken to me in the spiritual realm or even from the people I'm speaking to, it's not going to poison me.

It's not going to kill me. It's not going to stop me. I believe I'll lay hands on them and they will recover because I'm going to touch them with the tenderness and power and passion of Almighty God in Jesus

Christ.

I believe it with all my heart. I hate mediocrity in the name of Jesus Christ. I despise it with everything in my heart.

I hate stupid games in the house of God. We are called to be deliverers. We are called to be deliverers.

Our message is if you're lost in sin, Christ will save you. If you're powerless, Christ will empower you. If you're wounded, Christ will heal you.

If you're afraid of the future, Christ will give you faith. If you're oppressed by the devil, Christ will set you free! Hallelujah! O God, baptize us with your love! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Everything, everything you've heard this morning is for you. It's not for somebody else.

It's for you. The freedom starts at home. The victory starts in here.

The spiritual authority comes because we have lived it. We're a free people. We've known what it's like to be weak and in bondage, gripped by lies, but we're free.

And we can stand before the darkest places of the world. And Jesus said, these signs will follow you. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Church of the living God, rise up.

Rise up. I want us to sing, I have decided to follow Jesus. Whatever you're letting stop you, you must allow the Holy Spirit to set you free.

You have to have these personal experiences with God. You see, Moses didn't believe in the issue of speech. And he brought with him one of the biggest problems that stayed with his life and ministry, his brother Aaron.

Because of unbelief. He was saddled with a man who ended up making a calf for the people. Yes, you can still go into ministry, but if there's areas of unbelief in your heart about your own ability, you see, this is what my message is about today.

If there's areas of unbelief about your own ability, or may I say it this way, if there's areas of unbelief about God's ability to do it in you, you will end up out there limping, professing freedom, but not free. Professing faith, but not believing. And the name of Jesus will not be fully honored through you.

It takes something in the heart that says, God, I'm coming in my weakness, I'm coming in my insufficiency, and I thank you God with all my heart, it's not about me. It's about you. There are thousands out there, and I have less than five loaves and two fishes in this body.

But God, what I have, I'm bringing it and I'm believing that you're going to multiply it. I'm believing that your life is going to become mine. And I'm asking you for the courage to obey you, and to follow you.

Wherever you lead me, to whomever you cause me to speak, I'm asking you for the courage. Don't let the world around me associate the name of Jesus that I love with powerlessness in my own life. That's got to be the cry of your heart.

They may curse him, but he has to be reckoned with. I pray God that this become the testimony of Times Square Church. We are called for a time as such as this.

And do not think that you will escape by hiding in your house. We are called for this time. We're going to sing a simple song.

I've decided to follow Jesus. If the Holy Spirit is drawing you, I want to ask you to come join with me at this altar, and those in the annex, you can stand, please, between the screens. And we're going to pray together.

And we're going to believe God for miracles. We're going to believe God. These signs will follow those who believe.

Let's stand together. Balcony, you can go to either aisle, make your way to this altar. Main sanctuaries, if you'd step out, come forward.

We're going to pray together. And we're going to believe God. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

We felt a very special presence of the Lord all the service today because he's been drawing us. And today you're coming to this altar, and by coming here, you're saying I'm not going to be in bondage any longer. Whether it's a besetting sin, if you're lost in your sin, you can know for sure the moment you open your heart and ask for forgiveness that Jesus said, I will forgive you, I will accept you.

You'll become mine. I'll come and make my dwelling with you. You'll become a new creation.

A new person. It will not be you trying to be religious, it will be my life in you changing you. You will know it's me because the change will be supernatural.

You'll move in agreement with what I speak to you and I will make your life a new life. But for those who are at this altar today, you're saying I'm not going to be restricted anymore by the limitations that life and the devil and everything around has tried to put on me. I'm going to go.

I'm going to go. I'm going to go in obedience and I'm going to go consecrated. Which means you're making the choice today to say I'm going to turn off everything that robs my mind of Jesus Christ.

Turn it off. I can't tell you what to do. You have to ask the Holy Spirit.

He'll show you very clearly. Turn it off. If you're listening to something that doesn't glorify God, turn it off.

Turn it off. Get away from it. Get your mind in this book.

God says I'm going to send you and I'm going to be with you always, even to the end of the world. I'll be with you. Now some at this altar, I prophesy to you today, you're going to end up in other places, other countries.

It may not be overnight. It may take a while, but the Lord will guide you. You don't have to try to figure it out.

You just walk with Him in obedience. You love Him with all your heart. You begin to serve Him where you are in truth, and He will guide you.

He will lead you. Pray with me now. Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for calling me to be a co-laborer with you going into all the world to bring the gospel to every person.

I thank you. You didn't call me because I'm strong. You knew I was weak, yet you loved me and you called me.

I've heard wonderful truths and by faith I'm taking the staff of courage and trust in your promises to me into my heart and into my hands. And I'm believing that you're going to use my life from this day forward for your glory. I believe that your life and your signs will flow with me and through me as living proof that you are God to a needy generation.

I pray only one prayer. Jesus, let your presence and your name be glorified in my life. Let every sinner have to take notice because of your life in me that there is a God.

His name is Jesus Christ. God, I believe it. I receive it and by your grace beginning now I will live it in Jesus' name.

Amen. Now, don't take it lightly. Don't take what you've done today lightly because God took you at your word today.

You walk with me. You believe. These signs will follow you.

I'll change you. I'll use you for my glory. This is the conclusion of the message.

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