

Will You Reject Jesus or Accept Him?

by Carter Conlon

The sermon emphasizes the depth of God's love for humanity, despite being rejected by many, and encourages listeners to open their hearts to God's offer of forgiveness and salvation.

Duration: 40:43

Scripture: Matthew 7:7, Luke 15:7, John 3:16, Romans 8:38-39, Hebrews 3:15, Hebrews 4:12, 1 Peter 1:12

Topics: "Jesus"

Description

In this sermon, Pastor Williams emphasizes the uncertainty of life and the importance of accepting Jesus Christ as one's Lord and Savior. He warns about the dangers of playing games with a holy God and highlights the current threats of nuclear attacks on New York City. Pastor Williams describes the immense sacrifice Jesus made for humanity, enduring a severe beating and crucifixion out of love. He pleads with the audience to not harden their hearts and to seize the opportunity to receive eternal life through Jesus Christ. The sermon concludes with a powerful moment of a young man coming forward to give his life to Christ, symbolizing the transformative power of accepting Jesus as Lord.

Transcript

You know, it is a strange thing today. We had a great service this morning. I felt the Lord gave me his word and the ability to deliver it.

And there was incredible rejoicing. If you were here this morning, you knew that. There was dancing, there was shouting, there was jumping, there was a presence of the Lord just came into the sanctuary.

And it seemed like a capstone of a wonderful day. Then I went back to, we have a little efficiency unit in the back of the church, and I was there between services and a heaviness came on me, an inexplicable heaviness bordering on sorrow. And I couldn't understand it, why it was there until this evening, until during this service.

And I was looking at a portion of scripture, something that God gave to an Old Testament prophet called Isaiah. Now a prophet was a person who had the ability to see something into the future and to understand the ways of God and the heart of God. Way before Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was ever born, Isaiah the prophet saw him and described him, and not just a physical description, but he described the ministry of Jesus Christ, and he described something of his heart that many of us fail even today to understand and see.

Here's what he said about him. He said many things, but this is one of the things. He said he is despised and rejected by men.

Now surely that is something that is really alive in America in this generation. This is a generation that so despises Christ that a little girl in school last week, her classmates sneezed, she said bless you and was expelled from school. That's how much Jesus is despised now in this society.

And then it describes him, Isaiah goes on to say, We see a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, and we hid as it were our faces from him. He was despised and we esteemed him not. Now it's an incredible description for God.

Jesus Christ is God. He is the Son of God. He is eternally God.

He is equal with God. He is part of the three persons of God, the God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Why would there be sorrow in the heart of God? When you think about it, because God is eternally complete in himself.

He doesn't need anything other than himself to be complete. But yet he allowed himself to experience an intense sorrow. And we see it from time to time even in the New Testament.

For example, when he stood on the mountaintop and he looked at this situation of a graveyard and all the people around who were filled with unbelief that he had the power in his voice to actually raise the dead. And he began to weep. He wept so that John the disciple actually saw it and recorded it.

He talked about him groaning in the spirit. It was visible, this visible groan in the Son of God and the visible tears coming down his face just before he called this man Lazarus out of the grave. I feel that in his heart he was thinking about a moment that's yet to come.

There's a moment the Bible says when everyone ever born will be raised again from the dead and will stand at the throne of God. Everyone will be there. Right from the days of Adam, right through to our day and perhaps a few days beyond where we are right now.

Everyone who's ever lived, you will be there and I will be there. And I feel in my heart this sorrow that was in the heart of Jesus was for every person here tonight, especially those who were within the earshot of the words of God that could have given them eternal life. Who chose instead to reject him.

Who chose to believe that he had no power to change their situation. Who held in their hands lightly the sacrifice of God's Son coming to this world and walking among us for 33 years. And then suffering an indescribable beating at the hands of men.

A beating so severe that the scripture describes him as unrecognizable. His face was not recognizable as the person he had been. He was beaten so badly.

He was mocked. He was shamed. He was crucified publicly.

Nailed to two pieces of wood in the shape of a T, which we call a cross. And he did it out of love. He did it because the Bible says that he so loved this world that God gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in him should not have to perish but have everlasting life.

That we shouldn't have to die and be separated from God for all of eternity. Oh yes, there's a sorrow in the heart of God. The day of the resurrection of the dead will be a glorious day.

There will be at one hand of God those who really did open their hearts to his offer of forgiveness. Those who really did understand that an innocent man came and went to a cross and took the punishment that I deserve for the wrong things that I have done. For the lies that I've told.

For the curse words that have come out of my mouth. For the things that I've stolen. For the things that I have done.

What I've injected in my veins. Or the drugs that I've put into my body. The bitternesses I've held in my heart.

The envies. The lies that I've told. The slanders.

The rumors I've created about people's lives. All of these things that I've done. God sent his Son.

And all these things were placed on his Son. The weight of everything I've done was placed on him because he so loved me. He was not willing to lose me.

And so we stand at the throne of God one day. And on one hand there will be those who had the heart, like many of us have had tonight, to say, Lord Jesus Christ, I am a sinner. That means I've done wrong.

I've violated the words of God. I've lived in a way that God says I shouldn't. And because of that, I have been cut off from a living relationship with God.

Not just for now, but forever. But God, I saw that you came and you died to pay the price for the wrong that I had done that I might have life again and have it more abundantly. And I opened my heart and you forgave me.

And not only did you forgive me, but you came into my life and you changed me. You brought me back into a living relationship. The Bible says that when I turned to God, heaven began to rejoice.

Created beings around the throne of God began to shout with glory the day that I gave my life to the Lord. I didn't know that then. I pulled over on the side of the road in 1978 in my car.

I had been reading the Gospel of John. I had just finished the Gospel of John. A Christian police officer had been telling me the things I'm telling you tonight.

I pulled over on the side of the road at 3.20 in the afternoon and I just basically said, if this is true, Lord, then I open my heart and I invite you to come in to be my Lord and my Savior. And I give you my life. I give you the rest of my life.

I didn't know it, but the Bible says that rejoicing, there was like an explosion of praise at the throne of God because all of the created beings at the throne of God understand something about his heart, that God so loves you and me. There's a passionate love in the heart of God for you that nothing of this world can touch. No relationship, nobody's saying, I love you, no matter how insincere or romantic or whatever it is it might be, but nobody in this world has ever touched the depth of the love of God.

One day, everyone ever created will know it. Hitler will know it. He'll be standing there.

He'll know that God loved him. Henry Morgenthauer, the abortionist, he will stand there. He will know that God loved him.

But you see, these are people standing on the wrong side of the hand of God, of the throne of God. And that would be the worst moment, I think, of eternity for everybody. When people stand at the throne of God and realize finally how much God loved them.

Standing in the presence of the purest love. Indescribable love. Love that comes upon you like waves of glory.

Something that comes from the heart of God. That love that was in the heart of Jesus when he stood and said, Oh, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how I longed to gather you. As a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you wouldn't come.

And now your house is left to you desolate. And you will not see me again until you say, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. You see, I believe that will make hell really hell.

Hell is the absence of God. And everything that that's going to mean. I don't know how bad it is, but my wife said this morning, after my message this morning, I preached on the Gadarene demoniac.

She said, How fearful is hell when demons beg to drown in pigs rather than go there prematurely? When demons who are filled with evil, and that's all they do is live and move and breathe in evil, are afraid of that place. And they fell at the feet of Jesus and said, Have you come to torment us before the time? Oh, yes. James in the New Testament says, You believe in God, the devils also believe in, and they tremble.

Because they know there's an appointed day. And they know more about that place than you and I do. I know enough about it to know that I'm not going there.

I don't want to go there and I'm not going there. But you can imagine if you are tonight among those who, in your heart, despise him. In your heart, reject him.

In your heart, maybe even put the day of your salvation away. Well, I'm going to go out and enjoy some things. And I'm going to have some fun.

And this world's got a lot to offer. I'm going to enjoy it. And then when I get old like Pastor Carter, then maybe I'll consider giving my life to Christ.

Got not much more to live for after 60 anyway. And some people think that way. I'm just going to go out while I'm young.

And I'm going to have fun. Today in the service at 3 o'clock, we were in the middle of Pastor William's message. And suddenly all these emergency sirens start going off on people's cell phones.

Folks, things can change in just a moment of time. You and I don't know what's coming tomorrow. We don't know how long we have.

It's a dangerous thing to play games with the Holy God. Can you imagine if you didn't have an opportunity to receive him as Savior? If you didn't have an opportunity to open your heart to him, and then suddenly you find yourself at the throne of God. Folks, we've got absolutely insane people trying to get their hands on nuclear weaponry just so they can attack New York City.

You and I don't know how long we have. None of us do. We don't know what tomorrow's going to hold.

But I do know one thing. If you will open your heart to Jesus Christ tonight, if you will let him be your Lord and Savior, he holds your tomorrow in his hand, and you have no reason to be afraid. It would be an awful thing to stand at the throne of God one day and have these waves of divine love.

You're standing in the presence of one who loved you so much. I believe maybe that is the reason why every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. But for many it will be too late.

The chance to receive him was here, not there. By then it's too late. I believe that some will stand there and say, Oh, God, I had no idea you loved me this much.

I had no idea that you were so holy. I had no idea that your heart was so pure. I had no idea that your affections were so set upon me.

But then he will look and say, But between us there's a great gulf fixed. You had a chance to bridge that gap when you heard the message of what I did for you on the cross, but you turned away, and you lightly esteemed me and hid your face from me. And I can feel the sorrow in the heart of God for you.

The sorrow. There will be no joy. He'll not be clapping his hands.

The angels will not be rejoicing when you are taken away and cast into eternal darkness. There will be no joy. There will be a deep sorrow in the heart of God at that moment because God loves you.

God loves you with a love that none of us have a vocabulary to describe. Laugh at him and mock him if you will. He loves you.

He loves you more than you will ever know. He has the keys to life, not only eternal life, but life here on this earth. He has the keys to the purpose for which you were born.

He has the power to forgive you. Surely, as I said, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. He himself took upon himself all that would defeat us, depress us, discourage us, and cause us to falter and fail in this journey.

Yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our inequities.

In other words, he was wounded by God for the things that we had done. And God allowed this punishment to come upon him for the wrongs that we had committed. And the chastisement of our peace was upon him.

And by his stripes, we are healed. By the beating that he took and the death that he died, we have been given an opportunity for life, not only here, but for eternity. I'm not afraid of the days that have come upon us.

And I'm not just presenting to you a false bravado, because I'm not really naturally a brave person. But I'm not afraid of these days in which we're living. As Paul the Apostle said, the day I'm absent from this body, I will be immediately in the presence of God.

And for me, that's not a sorrowful or a fearful day, for I know who I have believed, Paul said. And I am persuaded that that which I put in his hand, that he's able to keep. I gave him my life, and I gave him my family, and I gave him my future.

And he gave me his victory on the cross, and he gave me his Holy Spirit, and he gave me a reason to live, and he gave me giftings I never could possess in any amount of my natural effort or thinking. He's taken me on a journey that beggars description. He's allowed me to experience portions of his heart, because I don't think any man could bear the full sorrow that God feels and still live.

I don't think we could handle it. I don't think our bodies could endure it. But one thing I do know from what I'm feeling this evening, I know that God loves you.

I know that God died for you. I know that God waits. He sits on the edge of his throne, and he looks down, and he's not looking at crowds.

He's looking at you. He looks at individual people. He knows you by name.

He knows every hair on your head. He knows your path. He knows what you have done, and he's willing to forgive you.

He's willing to call you his son and call you his daughter and give you the cleansing he provided at the cross and give you his Holy Spirit and change you into the person that God designed you to be from the womb before sin got a hold of you and began to lead you in a pathway of ruin. That's who God is. He longs to guide you all through your life and hold you up in his hands in times when you have to go through trial and sorrow like we heard about in the testimonies this evening.

He looks to carry you and whisper promises from this book into your heart so that you will not fail and you will not become afraid at the days in which all of us are living in and some are facing and some are going to have to face. And then when it's all over, he's going to carry you right to the throne of God. You will become a trophy of grace for all of eternity, not just for one moment at the throne of God, but forever.

You'll be a trophy of God's grace. The Bible says this is such a mystery that even angels desire to look into it, but they can't fully understand the depth of God's love for you and for me. You'll never hear in your lifetime a greater message than this.

You can go from place to place, from preacher to preacher, from theory to theory, philosophy to philosophy, but you will never hear a greater message than you're hearing tonight. God loves you. God loves you.

One of the New Testament writers said, if you can hear his voice, don't harden your heart. Don't harden your heart. There were people in the past who heard him and they hardened their hearts.

I was preaching here once on a Tuesday night and I felt a burden like I do tonight. I get inexplicable. I couldn't explain it and I began to plead with the audience.

It was a Tuesday night service and I just sang, there's somebody here. This might be your last chance to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please, in God's name, give your life to Jesus Christ.

I don't know why such a burden came on my heart. After the service, we left, we went to a restaurant just on 8th and it was just a few minutes after the service, a man walking by the front of the restaurant

collapsed and died right where I was sitting, right outside the window on the sidewalk. I ran out to see if anything could be done, but he was dead.

He was the only man in his 40s and I remember thinking, God, was he in the service tonight? Is this the man? Oh Jesus, is this the man that you were pleading for tonight? Did he receive you? Did he open his heart? When that altar call was given, when we prayed that prayer, did he, oh God, did he open his heart to you? I feel that same burden this evening. I can't explain it. It's something God puts in your heart.

God knows the number of your days. God knows how many tomorrows you have or don't have. God knows those who won't make it through the night.

God knows. God knows somebody who came in here tonight and said, God, if you don't speak to me, I'm going home and I'm going to take pills and I'm going to end my life. God knows.

God knows. And you're not here by accident. Not only will he save you, he will give you life.

Life. You'll be born into life. Life will become your testimony.

Life will become your song. Life will become your direction. Life will give you hope every morning.

Life will give you a reason to live. Life will enlighten your mind. Life will set you free from past woundings.

The life of God can't be manufactured by man. It cannot be faked in church. It's something that is given by God to those who with a pure heart open their heart and say, here I am, a sinner.

Thank you for dying for me, Jesus. I give you my life. I accept your offer of forgiveness.

God almighty, I can hear your voice calling me. And somehow I know that you love me. And so I open my heart to you and I invite you to come into my life.

Jesus, from this day forward, God, I'm not strong, so I'm trusting you for strength. I'm not wise, so I'm trusting you for wisdom. I don't know how to live right, so I'm trusting you to guide me into the right way of living.

I've gotten so used to doing wrong, I don't even know what right is. But I trust, Lord, that you'll teach me how to live right. And suddenly your heart's flooded with this love.

And you begin to realize the very foundation of this relationship with God is love. It's not just a set of facts. It's not just agreeing with certain truths.

The foundation is love. And once you know you're loved by God, it becomes a delight of your life to follow him, to walk with him. He will not fail you.

He will not forsake you. What will you do now with what you hear? I heard this message, not quite the same way I'm saying it this evening. What I heard was strictly almost just factual.

But I remember in my heart, I said, oh God, if this is true. I was drinking a lot. I was angry.

I was ruining my marriage as a lousy friend, as hard as a stone. I hated people. I hated who I was becoming.

But I couldn't change. And I pulled over on the side of the road, and I said, if this is true, if, it was a capital I, if. But it was a sincere if.

God knew it was sincere. I didn't feel anything. Some people think that when you open your heart to God, there's going to be like, you're going to feel flutteries and stuff.

I didn't feel anything. Nothing. Zero.

But it was a sincere if. I worked my shift that night. Didn't feel any different.

I went home. Didn't feel any different. Went to bed.

Didn't feel any different. Got up the next morning and was different. I remember sitting on the edge of my bed with my feet on the floor thinking, I'll never be the same again.

I couldn't explain to you why or how other than I had opened my heart to the son of God, and he had come. And I felt like my life was going to be taken on a journey that would stagger my understanding. And he has.

God loves you. It's a journey for you that's way beyond your plan for yourself. Way beyond.

Deeper, farther, exciting. It's an amazing journey. And it ends at heaven.

It never ends. Actually, it never ends. It speaks in the scriptures of getting there, being received by him because we knew him.

I'm not a stranger. I don't have to plead my case to get into heaven. He knows me.

I know him. I don't think words need to be spoken between us when I get there. Just a smile and a nod.

He knows me. Probably just gesture to a door somewhere, and I'll head in that direction. It says many of us are going to rule over cities.

I don't know what that means. I just know we'll be given the strength to do it. It will not be an idle time.

We'll be busy. But it will be eternal. And we'll be in the presence of God.

Jesus died to give you that. Died because he loves you. If you can hear his voice, open your heart.

I want to give you an opportunity this evening to do that. If I could, I would come to every one of your homes, and I would beg you. I would.

I would beg you to receive Christ. I don't care what's in your house. I'd come anyway, and I'd beg you.

No matter your situation, God is able to forgive you and give you strength and give you direction and bring your life onto a right course from where it is today. I would truly beg you because this is true. This is not just another theory about God or heaven.

This is the truth. This is who God is. This is how eternal life is found.

And so tonight, if you would like to open your heart to Jesus Christ, I had to do this in a church service very much like this. I was up in the balcony on this side. The pastor gave an invitation, and he said, if you

want to live for God, if you want Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior, and you want to live for God.

Now, I had done it privately on the side of the road, never publicly. He said, please just come down and meet me. And my heart was pounding.

But I said, God, I'm going with you. I'm going with you. I don't care where everybody else goes.

I'm going with you. There was only two of us that day. And I came down to the front, and the pastor met us there, and he said to me, are you going to heaven when you die? I said, I sure hope so.

I mean, that's all I could get out at that point. I didn't know much about the Bible, but he led me. I got into New Believers class, and that was quite a journey.

Started to study. The miracles started to happen. Tonight, if you would like to give your life to Jesus Christ, he died publicly for you, and the least that you can do is give your life publicly to him.

If you start out hiding in a closet, you will probably hide there the rest of your Christian life. I say it's best to stand out and declare, I'm going with God. I'm inviting Jesus Christ into my life.

Whether you're young or old, it makes no difference. Young people, don't waste your life looking for happiness here. You're not going to find it.

It's only an illusion. If you want to open your heart tonight to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, would you just raise your hand, wherever you are, unashamedly. God bless you.

Just raise your hand. Keep doing it. God Almighty, thank you.

Jesus, thank you. There's many, many hands went up in the sanctuary this evening. We're going to stand up in just a moment.

The choir's going to sing, and I'm going to invite those who raised their hands to just come and meet with me here at the front, and we're just going to pray a prayer together. That's all we're going to do. I'm going to invite you to do that, and those who should have, you should have raised your hand, and you know it.

You're sitting here right now thinking, I'm such a coward. I care so much about what people think. It's time to give that up, and take that first step of faith.

Just take that step of faith and just come and join. There's going to be a few dozen people here. Just come and join those that are going to be coming and say, I'm coming to give my life to Jesus Christ.

I'm going to declare him to be my Lord, my Savior, and my God. I'm going to open my heart to him and believe that he will not only receive me, but he will change my life and give me peace. If you brought a friend with you as we stand, you turn to your friend and say, look, if you're afraid to go down there, if you want to go down, I'll go with you, and you bring your friend down here with you.

Let's stand, if we will, and just join these that are already coming. God bless you, sir. So thankful.

God bless you. God bless you. Thank you, you came.

That's awesome. Thank you, Jesus. God bless you, man.

God bless you. Just come from the balcony. Just come.

Wherever you are, just come. Just step out. Step out.

Step out unashamedly. Oh, God. Thank you, Lord.

Thank you, Jesus. Thank you, God. Thank you, almighty God.

All of heaven begins to rejoice. All of heaven begins to shout. Glory to the name of Jesus.

Glory to the name of Jesus. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Turn, talk to your friends. Please, folks, the hour is short. Talk to your friends that are beside you and say, if you want to go down, I'll go with you.

But just come. I beg you in Jesus' name, come and open your heart to the Son of God. Let Him become your Lord.

Let Him become your Savior. He's not going to destroy your dream. He's going to give you a dream.

It's going to be way beyond anything you've ever had for yourself. Thank you, Lord. What an hour.

What an awesome moment. My God, thank you, Lord. Thank you, Jesus.

Thank you. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, God.

Praise the Lord. Is this young man deaf? He is. Okay, well, praise God.

Thank God he's come forward to give his life to Christ. Oh, praise God. Thank you, Jesus.

Thank you, Jesus. Thank you, God. Your lives will never be the same again.

You'll never be the same again. Your sin's going to be washed away, and that which separated you from God is going to be gone. The old things, as Scripture said, are going to pass away, and all things are going to become new.

God says, I'm going to give you a new heart. I'm going to give you a new mind. I'm going to give you a new courage, a new spirit.

I'm going to change you from the inside out, and you're going to become the person that I destined you to be, that I have always longed for, that I have always loved. And you're going to know the love of God. Many of you here tonight, you've never known the love of a father, and the loves in your life have betrayed you, but you're not going to be betrayed by this love.

This love is constant. He's not going to walk out on you. He's not going to leave you when times get tough.

He's going to go home with you tonight, and I promise you that when you lay down in your bed tonight, Christ is going to wash over you. You're going to feel His presence in the room because He loves you. You're going to know that love.

You're going to know it. You're going to know it. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Your life is about to change. You will never be the same again.

And don't let the devil tell you otherwise. You'll never be the same again. There'll be a process of growing, but you will grow.

And there'll be understanding, but you will understand. And Jesus said, You'll know the truth, and the truth will set you free. Then you're going to start walking out of prisons and walking away from pain and walking out of hopelessness.

And every curse that's ever been spoken over your life is going to be canceled. All the words that people said to you about being a loser and being nothing and nobody and you're never going to make it are canceled. Jesus says, No, you're beautiful.

You're cleansed. You're mine. I've got a wonderful plan for your life.

Not only do I call you to myself, but I'm going to give you the ability to be a demonstration to other people that I am really alive. Jesus said, I'll do things in you and through you. It makes it awesome.

There's all kinds of different things and giftings in what He does in His people. It gives some wisdom. It gives others compassion.

It gives some the ability to go to foreign mission fields. He does all kinds of things through His church. It is truly amazing.

Truly amazing. Let's pray a prayer together tonight. Would you pray along with me? If you can, just lift your hands to the Lord and let's pray together.

Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that you are the Son of God. I believe that you died for me. You took my place for the wrong things that I have done.

I believe that tonight you are forgiving me for the wrong things I have done. And you are coming to live inside of my life to be my God and to be my Savior. Tonight I open my heart and I say to you, Jesus, come into my life.

Be my Lord and my Savior. By your goodness to me, I will walk with you. The rest of my life.

And I trust that you will be to me everything your Bible says you will. Teach me now. Guide me.

Help me to understand. Don't let me turn back. Put in my heart the courage to go forward and never look behind.

Thank you, Lord Jesus. Then when I get to the throne of God, I won't be afraid because you have paid the price for me. I will learn to love you.

I will open my heart to your love. Thank you for loving me, for receiving me, and making me a child of God. In Jesus' name, amen.

Amen. Praise God. Yes.

Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes. Thank God. Thank you, Lord.

Now, here's what we can do now. For those who want to stay here and pray, you're welcome to do that. You know, maybe you haven't cried before God in a long time.

And you don't want that moment to be lost. God's speaking to you. For those who want to stay and pray, you're welcome to pray.

For those who want to go downstairs, we have people there who will help you to get plugged into this church or tell you maybe what kind of a church in your neighborhood would be a good church to attend. But don't lose this moment. Let's just spend the time we need in the presence of God tonight.

And make sure, make sure that you've opened your heart and God can speak to you now. And just let Him speak to you. He said through the prophet Jeremiah, I know the plans that I have for you, plans for good and not for evil, to bring you to a place that both of us have longed that you go to.

And so let Him begin to speak that to your heart. Let the whispers of God come into your heart tonight. God bless you.

I hope you know how much God loves you tonight. I hope you know. He loves you with a love that I can't even begin to describe.

He has a wonderful plan for your life. We're going to sing one song and then we're going to dismiss quietly tonight and let you pray. And some of our choir may come down and pray with those that are here that want people to pray with you.

And let's just take a moment to spend time in the presence of God. Talk to God like I'm talking to you. I know there are people here saying tonight, how do you pray? Do you have to use old English? Just talk to God.

He speaks English. Or He speaks Spanish. He speaks French.

He speaks German. He speaks Portuguese. He speaks all of the Asian dialects.

You can just talk to Him. And just talk to Him like I'm talking to you. Just say, hey, this is awesome.

I've never done anything like this before. God, thank you for... Just talk to Him. It's called prayer.

It's not formal. It's just talking to God. And once you learn to do that, you're going to be doing it on the subway before you know it.

And the beautiful thing is you can talk to God on the subway in New York and nobody cares. Everybody just ignores you. Which is really beautiful.

Oh, Jesus. Thank you for this young girl here. God, I praise you.

Thank you, Lord. Jesus Christ, thank you. Some of our choir are going to come and pray.

The ladies are going to pray for ladies and guys with guys. We're just going to take time before God tonight. We're just going to take time.

Make sure. I want you to practice praying if you can, if you've not prayed before. Now, don't go back into the old religious thing.

Just talk to God. Talk to Him. Take a moment.

Let's all talk to God just for a moment. Folks, you can thank God for these people who are at this altar. Can you do that? Lord, we thank you for these precious men and women and children that you brought to this altar tonight.

Even this young boy, Lord, who needs an interpreter in sign language, but he's given his life to Christ. God, we thank you with all of our hearts for letting your love just overflow into this sanctuary tonight and showing us, Lord God, how much you care. Oh, Jesus, Jesus, we will not turn our faces from you, Lord.

I thank you for these men and women who won't look away from you. They're looking towards you now, but you're not going to let the devil turn them back again to their old way of living. No, they're going to go forward.

They're going to grow in the knowledge of who they have become because of you. Father, we thank you for this, God. Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ.

There are people here from every walk of life, all races, all cultures. God, thank you, Lord, that you love all of us the same. Thank you so much, Lord, that you won't let them go.

Keep them, oh God. Keep them, Lord Jesus Christ. And Father, we thank you for this in Jesus' mighty name.

Thank you, Lord. Now we're going to just sing one song, and we'll dismiss quietly. And folks who are at the altar, please just stay.

Don't lose the moment. Just don't lose the moment. When you feel like it's time to go, you can go, but don't lose the moment.

Just take time to pray. And if your family member's with you, pray with your family member. I can see some families here tonight.

Pray together. Maybe you've never done that. There's husbands, wives, children here.

Just pray together. I know it's a first step, but just pray together and talk to God together and ask God to make you into the family that he wants you to be. Let's do that.

God bless you. Thank you.

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