

Anständige Sünde (German)

by Corrie Ten Boom

Corrie Ten Boom emphasizes the importance of recognizing and addressing decent sins, such as worry and discouragement, through prayer and reliance on Jesus' love and strength.

Duration: 1:10:07

Scripture: Psalm 55:22, Matthew 11:28, Romans 8:28, 1 Peter 5:7, 1 John 1:9, Revelation 7:14

Topics: "German"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker shares a personal experience of being on a plane that faced a hydraulic difficulty. Despite the fear and uncertainty, the speaker finds comfort in their faith in Jesus. They emphasize the importance of relying on God's guidance and trusting in His plan, even in times of trouble. The speaker also highlights the need for individuals to examine their relationship with God and ensure they are prepared for eternity.

Transcript

I hope that I don't disappoint some of you, that I came to Poland without a koala bear. Twice I was asked here in Stuttgart, one asked me where my dog was, and the other asked where is your koala bear. But I can say that I left it in Australia.

Yes, I went around the world, and I spoke a lot, even in prisons. I was once in Hawaii, and there was a very beautiful chapel in a prison. The prisoners had built it themselves.

And the church service was like this, one read the Bible, another played the organ, and one advertised. And he wrote on the machine, Kory ten Boom, who has served his sentence in Germany, will speak for us today. And I can tell you that everything worked out.

They wanted to get to know their accomplice. And when I stood in front of the people, I didn't even think about myself. Yes, you were bad boys that you came to prison.

I was a good girl that I came to prison. You stole, but I saved Jews in Holland. I'm much better than everyone else.

No, I don't say that and I don't think at all. I know that in God's eyes, decent sins are just as big and guilty as indecent sins. And because I speak for decent people today, I also want to talk a little about decent sins.

For example, worry. Do you know the spirit of worry? I know him. And he always speaks so logically that I always have the danger of believing him.

But the spirit of worry is just as much a liar as all other demons. It says in the Bible, Do not worry, but in all things let your prayers and pleading come to God with thanksgiving. And the peace of God, which is higher than all reason, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

I was in Los Angeles a while ago and there was the flu. We know here in Germany what flu means. It was pretty bad.

And I had a secretary there who helped me with my letters. One morning she said, I have a headache. Then the spirit of worry said, she has the flu.

I said to her, you have to stay in bed and don't come outside. Because it's way too cold. I go alone to the university.

I can do this without you. If you are good enough, you can start with the letters. But when I came into the street, I had a headache.

And the spirit of worry said, Corrie, you have the flu. My eyes were so strange. And he said, you have the flu in your eyes.

I had never heard of it before, but I believed him. When I came to the university, I opened my Bible. I could not read.

Now the spirit of worry was on the throne. And he said, you have the flu. And think, if you can't read anymore, the flu in your eyes, that must be very bad.

Yes, I can't do this work without reading. Going back to my old job, I can't do that either, if my eyes don't look good. I feared that these young people would not receive a very happy message.

Because the spirit of worry was in my heart. At the end of the hour, my secretary came. She said, why didn't you stay at home? It's too cold for you.

You could have started with the letters. She said, I can't see through your glasses. I got my own glasses.

I could read again. My headache was gone. The flu out of my eyes was gone.

And again I saw how stupid the spirit of worry is. You know, I now have the spirit of worry that the microphone is a little too strong and my voice is a little hoarse. Can't I be turned down a little? Can everyone understand me? If someone can't understand me, will you raise your hand? Thank you.

You know, now I can say, the spirit of worry is stupid and lies. But in the meantime, what do we have to do with it? Well, I learned that when I was a prisoner in the concentration camp. There I learned to throw my worries on the Lord.

I was in Ravensbrück. My sister and I often told the prisoners around us about Lord Jesus. Many died there.

97,000 women died there. But many died with the name of Jesus on their lips. And God needed Betsy and me to tell the people about Jesus.

That's why we knew why we had to be there. To be used, to save the souls of people for eternity, it is worth living, suffering and dying. It was worth Betsy's death.

Betsy, my sister, died a week before I was released. But I couldn't understand why the thousands of people around me had to suffer like that. And there I once read in Isaiah 53, where the prophet sees Jesus at the cross in the future.

And where he says, it is fulfilled. And the prophet says, it is true, he has carried our worries. And there I suddenly understood, if we know Jesus, then we are not called to be carriers of worries.

Yes, carriers of the cross and carriers of light. But we have to throw our worries on the Lord in prayer. And I did that.

And I can tell you, often I brought a heavy suitcase full of worries in prayer to the Lord. And then I unpacked my suitcase. And I said, Lord, here are the poor people around me.

This morning there were 800 new arrivals. Oh Lord, what terrible suffering these women were suffering. And then I said to the Lord, Berlin.

Although Berlin was a hundred kilometers away, we could often see the red air of the flames. Berlin was under attack. Oh, what suffering.

Then I brought, God, all these cities of Germany, which are being attacked. And then my poor fatherland, Holland, which had to suffer so much. And my sister, who was far too weak to be a prisoner.

And when I unpacked my whole suitcase and brought all the worries to the Lord, then I said Amen. My suitcase was empty. I had thrown all my worries on the Lord.

That was good. But what I did after my Amen was not good. Then I packed everything back in my suitcase.

And my suitcase was heavier after my prayer than before. Was that praying? No. Praying means throwing all your worries on the Lord and packing an empty suitcase.

Yes, you know, I am now talking about decent sins. And I know that there are many decent people who do not care so much about their sins. We are not worse than the people around us.

A pastor once said to me, my finger is black from sin, but it points to Jesus. I said, Pastor, what do you do with your little boy when he comes to the dining room with black fingers? Then you say, boy, is there no more water and soap in the bathroom? And now go and wash your hands. Is there no more the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from all sins that we confess? It is written in the Bible.

When we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins. And the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sins. Yes, you say, but that is a very good and clean theology.

But I do not believe that. Maybe it is clearer when I tell you about the pocket thief from America. He said, I have always stolen about 50 to 60 watches every month.

But now I am the other way around. I am a Christian. Now I steal only 3 to 5 watches.

Yes, that is the black finger. Yes, we all understand that. You do not steal.

You do not steal when you are a Christian. Go and sin no more, says Jesus. No, no black fingers.

No stealing of watches. No decent sins. Yes, you say, but is that possible now? Can I really live so well that I no longer have black fingers? Can I really be so honest that I no longer steal watches? Oh, I do not know if you have tried to be good.

I have tried, but I have not had much success. Some time ago I was in a prison in New Zealand. These are the boys who are called half-strong here.

And I was very happy that I could work there a lot. One evening I was able to speak with 8 of these boys for 3 hours. We were sitting around a table.

There was no supervisor. And we could speak from heart to heart. When I spoke to them, I said, boys, now I want to know if you will not make a decision.

You have now heard from Jesus. Jesus loves you and he wants to make your decision. And then they wrote down, six, Jesus as my redeemer, accepted.

One wrote, complete commitment. And one, undecided. I said, why are you undecided? Imagine that you were drowning, and that I saved you from the danger of my life.

Would you be undecided to say, thank you, Corrie, that you saved me? That would be the least I could expect from you. And now Jesus has carried your punishment on the cross. Would you be undecided to say, thank you, Jesus, that you did this? That would be the least he could expect from you.

The boy said, you don't understand me. I did this. I thanked Jesus, because I believe it.

But I have tried so many times, really tried, to live the Christian life, and I cannot afford it. Now I am undecided whether I want to try it again. And the boy who sat next to him, also a prisoner, he said, boy, that was just like me.

And I actually wanted to throw away all faith. And then I read Romans 7. I thought, oh, you mean Romans 8? But he had already opened his Bible, and said, comrade, listen to what Paul says. Do you know who Paul was? The great missionary.

The first missionary in the world. The man who wrote many of these beautiful letters. A hero of God.

Now listen, comrade, to what he says. The good that I want, I don't do. The bad that I don't want, I do.

There is hope for us, boy, when Paul says this after his return. But he says, listen to what Paul says to me. And then he reads, I thank my God for the victory of my Lord Jesus Christ.

Boy, it is not trying, it is giving yourself to Jesus. And then I say to him, boy, when I try to let this stick stand on my hand, do you think that I am successful? We all know that it is not the nature of a stick to stand. But I can let it stand on my finger.

Now it stands. Very solid. Why? Because my hand holds it.

We cannot be good. Our sinful nature and the devil are far too strong for us. But when we give ourselves to the wounded hands of Jesus, his hand that does not let go, his hand holds us tight.

Then the boy says, I want to decide for Jesus. Yes, even when I speak of the decent sins, do not think that you are strong enough to defeat them. But Jesus is the winner.

And he wants to hold us very close to his heart. You know, the Bible is quite strict. The Bible does not speak of decent and indecent sins.

For example, the Lord Jesus says, we must love our enemies. Do you know that? I cannot. But Jesus can.

Ten years ago I was here in Germany. And a woman gave me a letter from her son. He came from Holland, from a prison.

Her son was one of the very cruel detainees during the war in a prison in Holland. And now he was sentenced to 18 years in the same prison where he had committed his cruelty. But he wrote to his mother, Although I am here, I am happy.

I have accepted Jesus as my salvation. I have brought him all my sins. And I have read in the Bible that he threw them into the depths of the sea, forgiven and forgotten.

When I read this letter, I said, I want to do something for this young man. If he has Jesus, he will no longer be cruel. I will write to my queen if she does not want to give him mercy.

But before I wrote to my queen, I visited him. He was in the same prison where Betsy, my sister and I were before we were sent to Ravensbrück. I saw the place where we both stood waiting to be shot.

It was not true. It was just an attempt to break our nerves. He said, now you have to be shot.

Later we were sent back to our cells. But you can imagine how I felt to be in this cruel place again. And now I came into a cell.

And there was Ernst Weike, my supervisor. And now he was a prisoner and I was free. And I said to Ernst, I come to tell you, I come to bring you the greetings of your parents.

Oh, what did he say? Have you seen them? He said, yes, I just came from Germany. He began to cry. And he said, how is my mother? I said, good.

She is so glad that you have made a decision for Jesus. And then I told him about the visit to his parents. And then I told him, Ernst, I was in the same prison.

Yes, what? When? I said, in 1944. Then he became pale and said, then we know each other. I said, yes, we know each other.

And at that moment, Ernst and I saw again in our memory all the cruelty he did against me and against my sister and the other prisoners. But the next moment he said, how glad I am that I am free from my sins. Then a dark thought came to me.

Is it so easy? Are you free from your sins? But in the meantime, my old father, my brother, my sister, your nephew and many of my friends have been killed by your cruelty and the cruelty of your comrades and now you are free from your sins. Is it so easy? Then I said to myself, what have I done? Jesus has thrown his sins into the depths of the sea, forgiven and forgotten. And wasn't I busy picking them up again? I could only pray, forgive me, Father, in the name of Jesus, that I could not forgive and forget, that I could

not love my enemies.

And then I prayed, O Lord Jesus, hold me very close to your heart, that I love my enemies, that your love is my love. I had not said a word, but then I spoke and said, Are you really serious? You are free from your sins, because Jesus has done everything on the cross to carry the sins of the whole world, also yours and my sins. And seriously, I want to tell you something.

I want to write to my queen if she does not want to give you amnesty. And I did. But there in the cell I learned the greatest lesson in my life, that when Jesus tells us to love our enemies, then he gives us the love he demands of us.

Love for loved ones is good. Love for neighbors is better. Love for enemies is best.

I can not do it, but Jesus can. I have here a piece of Denmark. Do you think that if I try to float it on water, that I will succeed? Of course not.

We all know that by the law of gravity it falls down. But I can float this piece of Denmark if I connect it with this piece of wood. Now I can float.

The law of gravity is just as strong as before. But there is another law that makes the wood float. And this law is stronger than the law of gravity.

Do you know what I mean? This piece of money is me, my sinful nature. And the devil makes me sin again and again. He makes me hate my enemies.

But this is Jesus. If I am connected with him who prayed at the cross, Father, forgive me. Forgive them.

They do not know what they are doing. If I am connected with such a person, then I can love my enemies. Can you forgive and forget the man who stole the love of your wife, the woman who stole the love of your husband, the man who through his dishonest competition destroyed your business, the one who stole your good name by talking behind your back.

There are people who would not steal money, but they are ashamed not to steal a good name. And this is much worse. Can you love and forgive such a person? I can not, but Jesus can.

And bring it only to him, and he will give you the love. Yes, I can not love the enemies, but Jesus in me. Ah, in my heart there is often such a decent sin as justice.

So quickly you can think, ah, I am better than the other people there. I will not forget when I was for the first time in America, in California, in the Hollywood Christian Club. This is a group of Hollywood stars who come together every week to read the Bible.

The second week they go together to other Hollywood stars and then as a team they read the gospel to their colleagues. It was very strange for me that I heard from Hollywood stars who were Christians. And I have to confess to you that I did not expect much.

Especially when I came into the room and all the people, there were not so many, there were only 14 people, and not one was sitting on a chair. They had been lying on the floor or were sitting there with their legs crossed. And a young man, about half my age, said, Hi Corrie, glad to meet you.

Yes, I thought, it is only good that I come here. Now I can tell this pagan something. But she said, I can tell you, I was sitting on a chair, but I was the only one.

And when I wanted to start my message, one said, no wait Corrie, we want to pray first. And they all went on their knees and prayed. And how? Yes, I became very small.

How did these people pray? As children of God, who loved their homeland. Oh no, it was not like that Do you know what I mean? They prayed as if they were on the phone. But it was so honest.

And it was so full of love for the Lord Jesus. It warmed my heart. And I can tell you, I started much more humble.

And together with these children of God, we heard what the Lord had to say to us. I was in this group three times. No, four times.

The second time, when I came back after two years, there were 50 people. And the last time, five years ago, there were 150. No, they did not all become film stars.

Different people said goodbye to their work. And the work that gave them so much money, they withdrew it and went to a Bible school. And in America, you do not know how to save money.

And different people had to work to pay for their studies. And they are now pastors, missionaries, evangelists. But many are still film stars.

And they stay there and work among their colleagues. With a group of Christians, I went to the house of very famous film stars. Once at Jane Russell.

And there I spoke and gave my testimony to many people who had never heard the Gospel. Yes, the spirit of justice is often a decent sin in the hearts of children of God. Do you know discouragement? That is also a sin.

Yes, it is also a sin. I was in the concentration camp and suddenly a Catholic girl came to me and said, Corrie, you are discouraged. She said, no wonder.

And she told her everything that I had experienced. And she said, that is a sin. I said, is that? Yes, she said.

I went to a nun school at that time and a nun taught me that discouragement was a sin. And I also saw it in the Bible. Here in the Bible it says, have always good courage.

Now, if there is a commandment in the Bible, these are not just advices. A commandment in the Bible is a commandment. And if the Bible says, have good courage and you are discouraged, then you sin.

Do you see? I will not forget that I was in Formosa and a Catholic girl came for a flight trip. They told me, I think it was about ten years ago, Corrie, there is something with the money here, that everything you buy here with American money, you get much more for it than in another country. Now you have to solve your flight ticket here.

Well, that was something nice. But the terrible thing was that I did not have a penny. I felt a bit like a housewife who sees sales everywhere.

What is it called? Last winter offer or something like that. And then she did not have a penny. Oh, if she had money now, then she could buy all the dishes she needed.

Oh, then it is actually very hard when you see all the cheap things that were offered. Now I was not afraid of my flight ticket. But it was worse that the next day I had to go by train and I also had no money for the ticket.

And I had to pay for my room and I had no money for my room. Now you can read in my book, Many Questions, Only One Answer, that God made it very clear to me that he is my treasure. And that I never have to come to people when I need money.

People can give me money if they want it and when others tell it, but I am not allowed to do it. And I can tell you that God is a very good treasure master and very rich. It says in the Bible, He has the cattle on a thousand mountains.

Now, when I need money, then I often say to my Heavenly Father, I think that you have to sell a cow from the cattle on the thousand mountains and give me the money. And he always does it. But he lets me wait a little from time to time to get my faith.

And so it was in Formosa. Then I said, Lord, now I believe that I tell my friends that I have no money for tomorrow. And the Lord said very clearly, Trust me.

I have no great faith, but I have a faith in a great God. And I went to my work with great comfort and I knew I could trust Him. And in the evening there was my mail.

And I opened 26 letters. Ah, my mail is often a problem, especially in Germany, because Germans write very long letters. Yes, they often have to wait until I have time to read them.

So think about it, if you write me a letter, not too long. But I didn't have time to just look at these letters, but I opened one and there was a check of 150 American dollars. Now I had my money for the bill and for my room and a flight ticket to Hong Kong.

The next day I opened more letters and people had given me a Christmas present in America. And I had so much money that I could solve a flight ticket. I went to the office and said, Miss, do you want to sign up? I need a ticket from here to Hong Kong, to Auckland, New Zealand, to Sydney, Australia, to Cape Town, South Africa, then Tel Aviv, Israel, and Amsterdam, Holland.

And she wrote it all down and said, what is your destination? I said, the sky. She asked, how do you write that? I said, I spell it, H-E-A-V-I-N, Heaven. And she wrote down Heaven.

She said, I didn't mean that. I said, but I meant it. But you don't need to sign up, I already have my ticket.

What do you mean? I said, about 2,000 years ago, someone bought my ticket for Heaven. And the only thing I had to do was to take it from him. And then a Chinese man came and said, is that true, Miss? I said, do you already have your ticket for Heaven? Your reservation? Yes, he said.

I picked up Jesus from my salvation and he made me a child of God. And a child of God has a place in the house with the many apartments where Jesus prepares one for us. He said, Brother, come here.

He said, Miss, if you don't have a ticket for an airplane, you can get into big trouble if you are too late. But if you don't have a ticket for Heaven, you get into big trouble. And you have to be sure that it is not too late.

Was that a joke? No, I meant it. And I mean it when I ask you, do you already have a ticket for Heaven? And if you don't have it, then I invite you to pick up the ticket tonight. Because it is ready.

I got my ticket. Then the friend changed the whole journey. She went to Sydney, Tel Aviv, Israel, Cape Town, Africa, Amsterdam, Holland.

I picked up the phone and said, Miss, you are not allowed to change my journey. I always travel on behalf of my master. And he says where I have to go, that is God.

And then you don't have the right to change the route. But she said, Miss, it is impossible. There is no direct route from Sydney to Africa.

There is no island in the Indian Ocean. I said, then we have to pray for an island in the Indian Ocean. But if God tells me that I first have to go to Cape Town and then to Tel Aviv, then he will make sure that it is also possible.

An hour later she called me again. Miss, did you pray for an island in the Indian Ocean? I said, why? She said, the Qantas bought the coconut island and now he has a direct route from Australia to Africa. I said, thank you, sir.

But she said, it will take four days. And that is quite a long time. First they stay one day in the coconut island and then one day in Mauritius.

So I put all my things that I needed in the four days in a small suitcase. I don't have too many earthly riches, but for example my diyas, my photos of the farm I have with me. And then not to forget, my notebooks, my writings.

This is my library. I can't go with books. And that's why I have to write everything down.

I can only travel by plane with 20 kilos. So I put them in my small suitcase. When I went by plane to Australia, the pilot saw me and said, I will carry this for you.

I said, yes, but I want to keep it with me. You will find it on your chair. But I didn't find it on my chair.

And the stewardess said, I will immediately look for it for you, but we have to get on now. But she didn't find it. Oh, she said, in Melbourne I will get your suitcase.

Of course it arrived in the big room, with the big luggage. But in Melbourne a man came to me and said, are you a friend of Tom Boone? Yes. Oh, I'm very sorry, but there is a small suitcase in Sydney with the name of Cory Tom Boone on it.

Oh, that was terrible. And everything was in it. My money and my papers and everything I needed.

Oh, my earthly wealth, my Bible. Yes, I was very angry. Now I had spoken to this stewardess about the Lord Jesus.

So I couldn't really show that I was angry. That wouldn't be a good advertisement for a Christian to say something sharp. So I swallowed my anger.

And I said, oh well, that will be good for something. Was that evil? No. It would have been evil if I hadn't been evil.

To swallow it, that's not evil, that's defeat. In the evening we went up again. And I slept a little.

Suddenly I smelled fire. Oh, that's not nice at all, to notice that there is a fire when you live in such a small house, such an airplane. And under you is the Indian Ocean.

I looked around and not one could sleep. Everyone was awake. It was interesting to see how people reacted.

All the ladies were busy coloring their lips. I said to the woman who was sitting next to me, do you think it is so important to come into eternity with red lips or pale lips? What do you think? I said, well, we all know that we are in danger of death. Yes, she said, I know that.

But I don't feel so undressed when people are so pale. Yes. And now I wanted to tell you and then I got up.

And I said, maybe ten more minutes, maybe half an hour. And then we have to die. Are you ready? Are you right with God? There was a murderer at the cross who took Jesus as his salvation And he died as a child of God.

There is still time for grace. Yes, I wanted to tell you that, but I can't. Because I didn't do it.

There was fear of man in my heart. I was ashamed to bear witness to that moment of my Lord. The stewardess came to me and said, Fr.

Baum, I have a good message for you. We are going back to Sydney to get your little suitcase. I said, are we in great danger? Oh no, she said, we only have a little hydraulic difficulties.

I didn't know what it was. But to encourage us, but it wasn't very encouraging, the pilot said every five minutes we will have a normal landing. Now, when he said that every five minutes, it wasn't very encouraging.

And we didn't have a normal landing. But we all got out well and now we had to wait. Three days.

We had nothing to do. And every man talked to every man. And a Jewish priest came to me and said, Fr.

Baum, can I ask you something? Yes. Are you afraid? I said, yes. Why? He said, I studied your face all night and you didn't have a moment of fear.

What is your secret? I said, that is no secret. What God did for me, he can do for you. I am a Christian.

I met Jesus from my homeland. He died for me at the cross. He made me a child of God.

I brought my sins to him and he purified my heart with his blood. When he died at the cross, he bore the sins of the whole world, including mine. And he also said, look, I am with you every day until the end of the world.

And when tonight fear came into my heart, I just said, Fr. Jesus, hold me tight. This man came to me five times and said, every time, tell me more about Jesus.

I have to tell you, when I was in this hotel, courage came into my heart. I said, Fr. Jesus, I cannot be used as a missionary.

Fr. Jesus, I have stood with 40 people for the death of eternity. And I was too stupid and too ashamed to bring these people to you.

Fr. Jesus, I am not worthy to be a missionary. Send me back to my homeland.

Maybe I am good enough for that, but I am not worthy. Have you been so discouraged when you have not seen your own ability? And now this man came and said, tell me about Jesus. You know, when you want to become something in this world, you have to pass all your exams.

Because the world asks, how many diplomas do you have? But when you have to be used by Fr. Jesus, you have to pass your exams. And when you say, Fr.

Jesus, I am not worthy, then Jesus says, now I can use you. Because I am it, who will do it in you. Are you discouraged? Bring it to the Lord.

Yes. How do I know all these things? I have a book. Which book? A book full of prophecies, 17,000.

And in this book I can learn how to become a child of God and how to go through the world like a royal child, a child of God. This is not a question of feeling. I was in New Zealand and worked with a team, with Edwin Orr.

Dr. Edwin Orr is a great world preacher who worked in 140 countries, I only in 30. Now there was so much work that we could not stay together, but everyone worked in different cities. I had a week to work in Thames.

Then came a week of holidays. But Edwin Orr wrote, there is an awakening here in Dargaville. You want me to stay longer, but I can't stay longer.

Monday I have to go to another city. You have to come, Sunday you have to speak in Thames, Monday here in Dargaville. That's where my holidays went.

But I was happy. But I found out that to get to Dargaville I had to drive about 9 hours in a car. Now the roads in New Zealand are such rainbow roads.

And if you drive 9 hours in such a car on such roads, then you are tired. At least I am. I was very young for a long time.

When I was young, I thought, no, I can't do that. I have to have a conversation with my Heavenly Father. And I said, Heavenly Father, you know that I can't go by car.

I think the only way is that you give me a plane. Then I won't be so tired. And our problems are the material for God's miracle.

In the evening a man came to me and said, is it true that you have to speak Monday in Dargaville and Sunday here? I said, yes, that's true. How do you get there? I said, by plane. What did he say? There is no airline in Dargaville.

He said, I know that. But God knows that I don't have to go by car. And I prayed that the Lord would give me an airline.

And our problems are the material for God's miracle. And if we want to have a great miracle, we have to give God our impossibilities. He said, that's strange.

I work in a company where we spread fertilizer. And we do that from small planes. The fields are so big there.

And now my boss is a Christian. And he said, if it's true that Corrie has to be on Monday in Dargaville, then she can use one of our planes. I said, thank you, Father.

Yes, he said. But he also said, the pilot has fallen back. He was a Christian, but he doesn't want to believe anymore.

And now the boss is praying that you will save the pilot during the flight. I didn't know what to do. And I had in my hand my Bible, when I got into the smallest plane that I had ever seen in my life.

I was very close to the pilot. And we could really have a conversation. Then he told me his reasons.

He said, I can't believe in a God of love, that he allowed my wife to die. I have four little children. No, no, I don't want to believe anymore.

Then I told him my reasons. I said to him, in my heart was the reason. Why does my 84-year-old father have to die alone in a prison? All his children were in the same building.

We weren't allowed to stay with him. Why did Betsy, my sister, have to die after 10 months of terrible suffering? But you know, I have a book. And in this book is the answer to our why.

In this book, the Bible, you can see God's side of our lives. I also showed him a stitch work. And I said, one side of this stitch work is not beautiful.

And life is a piece of time, where thread rides on thread. The threads run crosswise and crosswise. You don't see a right pattern anymore.

But above, we would understand it if we saw the right side. One day we will see in light what was dark on earth. The wonderful and holy things that happened to us on earth.

Then we will see full price and thanksgiving, the sending in connection. But when we read the Bible, then we can already know in faith that God has no problems with our lives, only plans. There is never a panic in heaven.

And then I opened my Bible and read for him, such texts as those that God loves, all things work together for the best. And the suffering of this time cannot be compared with the glory that comes. Now it was good that he had to read, because he could not run away.

Then he said, yes, Fr. Bohm, this is a very beautiful book. But I don't feel that these things are true.

Then suddenly he interrupted his conversation and said, Fr. Bohm, now we come with the plane into that cloud there. Now the first ten minutes we will have the feeling that we are going to one side.

But you don't have to be afraid, you have to look at this instrument. When the pointer goes up, then we are completely straight. Even if you feel that you are going to one side.

I always say, man, this is the best example you can give me. This is my instrument. And even if I don't feel anything from God's power, he brings me to my destination, even through the night.

If I put my airplane pilot on this instrument, then I am sure in Jesus' arms. And I am so glad that the pilot said a new yes to Jesus. And now, yes, you have to give an answer.

Tonight I have told you something about my experiences. But actually, if you have listened well, there was one speech that knocked on the door of your heart. In the Bible it says that Jesus said, See, I stand at the door and I knock.

If someone hears my voice and opens the door, then I come in. And now you have to give an answer. And I hope that if you haven't done it yet, that you will say your first yes to Lord Jesus.

This is very important, because it is so important that the Bible says that the angels in heaven rejoice when a man on earth makes a decision for Jesus. Yes, this is really necessary, so to speak. Isn't it good when we hear these things, like I am not against it at all, but to make a decision for Christ, that goes a little too far for me.

But friend, imagine that there was famine here. And that we heard that there is food in Frankfurt. You give bread to everyone for free, as much as you want.

Imagine that you will say, Oh, that's very nice and wonderful to hear. But you didn't go to Frankfurt to get the bread. Do you think it would help you a lot? Of course not.

It's not just that you have to believe that Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the whole world, also your sins. But you have to go to Jesus. And that is a decision.

You know, that's actually the way it is when you originally live away from God. And when you say your first yes to Jesus, then you do it like this, and then you live to God. It's not so strange that Jesus wants a decision from you.

Imagine that we were here in a courtroom and they accused me. And I knew that the man there is a lawyer. And I came to him and said, Do you want to defend me? You studied to be a lawyer, didn't you? Then he would say, No, I don't do that.

I could expect his help when I had decided beforehand to choose him as my lawyer. When I had called him or visited him or wrote him a letter. Now, Jesus doesn't want to do business for you if you don't want to decide for him.

But it's much more than that. Imagine that a young man explains himself to a girl. And he says, Girl, I love you.

Do you want to accept my love? Do you want to accept me as your fiancé? When it's good, the girl says, Yes. And that's a decision. I asked a woman last week, Do you want to decide for Jesus? She said, I have already prayed so much.

Imagine that the girl says to the boy, We have already talked so much with each other. Then the boy would say, But I love you. I want your heart.

I want your decision. I want your yes. And Jesus loves you.

He loves you more than a human being can love another human being. And tonight, I hope that if you haven't done it, that you will come to him. Now it may be that you need help.

And when we have finished this meeting, then you can go to the sacristy, which is there. And there are different people who can help you, who have already made the decision and then want to talk to you. And maybe want to pray with you.

I am also there. And now, if you want that, you have to do it. You don't have to have German inhibitions.

I have been here for five months and I have seen that there is a small, decent German sin. And those are inhibitions. But you have to put them aside and come.

And have a little energy. You are not a small, stupid child who is afraid to go there. You can come quietly and I really hope that you will do it.

And one thing. I have now traveled all over the world. I have spoken to thousands of people.

And I have helped many disappointed people. A soldier said, I made a wrong decision. I should have gone to the navy.

A sailor said, I regret that I went to the navy. I should have gone to the air force. A watchman said, I should have been a pastor.

I made a wrong decision. So I could go on for hours. But I have never heard anyone in the whole world who said, I regret that I made the decision for Jesus.

And you will not regret it either. And now it is in your hand to let go of God. But you cannot prevent him from holding you.

He is in your will to hate God. And yet he loves you, O child of the world. You can decide against Christ freely.

In Golgotha he decided for you. You can avoid his word and his church. But always look for the word and the church.

You can find your own way. But you cannot prevent him from leading you. You can deny God.

Curse his omnipotence. But you cannot prevent God from ruling. We remain seated and we pray.

Now Lord, we must give an answer. Let us hear what you say. Yes, Lord Jesus, yes.

I have heard your voice. Come into my heart. Thank you, Lord Jesus, that you said in your word, Come to me.

Those who come to me, I will not push them out. And now Lord, have a conversation with all of us. And show us whether there are still sins, decent or indecent sins, in our lives.

And we thank you, Lord, that when we confess our sins, you are faithful and just. And that your blood, Lord Jesus, cleanses us from all sins that we confess. Amen.

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