

# Effectual Fervent Prayer

by Corrie Ten Boom

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of prayer, intercession, and surrender in our lives, and how trusting in God's power and love can bring us peace, rest, and joy.*

**Duration:** 50:26

**Scripture:** Psalm 55:22, Jeremiah 1:12, Matthew 7:7, Matthew 11:28, Philippians 4:6-7, Hebrews 12:2, 1 Peter 5:7

**Topics:** "Fervent Prayer"

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## Description

In this sermon, the speaker begins by expressing their reliance on God's strength and their desire to be a channel for His living water. They then pray for various individuals, including a teenager who made a mistake, and express their hope that God can reach and transform them. The speaker also confesses their own sin of impatience and prays for forgiveness. They emphasize the importance of being fully surrendered to God and allowing Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit. The sermon concludes with a reminder that God hears our prayers and a story from the speaker's childhood. Overall, the sermon encourages listeners to pray fervently and trust in God's power and love.

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## Transcript

The lady I'm about to introduce has been knighted by the Queen of the Netherlands. She has received Israel's highest civilian award. She has gone through living hell as a prisoner of the Nazis in the dreaded Ravensbrück concentration camp during World War II.

That was nearly 30 years ago. She was over 50 years of age when she was arrested for harboring Jews. I won't tell you how old she is, but I do know that she has known Jesus as her savior for over half a century.

She is truly one of God's most beloved children. I give you Corrie Ten Boom. That is true.

I was five years old when I asked Jesus to come into my heart, and he came, and he never left me, and that is 75 years ago. Now, you all know how old I am. You know, I don't know if you have ever had the feeling that your heart was as heavy as a very heavy bag.

I have that sometimes. And sometime ago, I had it so bad, and then I read in the Bible a text, Don't worry over anything whatever. Tell God every detail of your needs in earnest and thankful prayer, and the peace of God, which transcends all human understanding, will keep constant guard over your heart and mind as they rest in Christ Jesus.

And I had read it, and then I heard that same text that he said, Cast all your cares on at me, the Lord said. And I did it. I don't know if you know that feeling that your heart is so full of burdens.

And now I did what the Lord had told me, and I started to cast all the burdens on the Lord. And I said, Lord, here is that schedule in America, Lord. It is so full, I am so happy.

Will you give me strength, Lord, and use me as an open channel for streams of living water. Lord, I now pray already for all the people who will be in the meetings. Here they are, Lord.

Then I brought another care. There was a teenager girl, and I thought she was going on with the Lord, and I heard that she did something very stupid and very wrong. And I said, Oh, Lord, here she is, that dear girl.

Mary, you know, Lord, how stupid she is and what she has done. Oh, Lord, take her, lay your hand on her, Oh, Lord, I pray for all these many teenagers. Here they are, Lord.

You can reach them, Lord. And then I prayed for my impatience. I don't know, when you unburden your heart, you will have the same as me, that there comes often a sin that is a burden, and my sin was impatience.

There are very nice Christians who are going to make a movie of my book, The Hiding Place, and my, I thought now six weeks is enough to prepare them. Lord, hear my impatience, please will you forgive me. A whole school of boys that I had heard were in great danger in Africa.

And so I went on to bring all my burdens to the Lord. There's nothing too big and nothing too small. Oh, it was empty.

And you know, when I say that, and He teaches us that joy fills our heart. I am so glad that I am not praying only for these men here, but for all those, the Gospel, through the people who heard Him. Yes, that is a great joy.

And even more, but I saw a book, and that was here in the bookstore, that is from Stuart Briscoe. But not every church was there. And you know, now I will not speak much about this book, but here is an answer, what we can do with Athenians.

And so, when you cast your burden on the Lord, then the Lord gives you, it is not a way, it is not done, it is only in the hands of the Lord. And He has the responsibility. I had some time ago a vision, that was also a moment that I was so really burdened.

Oh, about the time when I was so... And then I brought it to the Lord. And when I prayed, the Lord gave me a vision. And I said, I have a bag that I have always with me, when I travel in the plane, I do put my heavy things in.

But the Lord said, do you see, it is empty. I said, yes, Lord. And the Lord said to me, you surrendered this morning, again.

But do you realise that when you surrender to me, that you have no... and what you have, what you possess, you are just a steward, nothing more. For I possess everything and I have... What a tremendous joy it is to surrender everything. And that is not static, that you say, oh, now I have surrendered, now there is no power in my life, I have nothing to do.

No, it is dynamic. Because then the burden and all your things that you possess are in the hands of Him who carries the responsibility. And He is able.

And that is such a joy. And when the Lord said that also to me, oh, Lord, what a joy. And the Lord said, look at your left hand.

And I saw that in my left hand was another hand. And that hand was pierced. That was Jesus' hand.

Oh, what a joy. That is the joy of the surrender and the joy of casting your burdens on the Lord. There is nothing too great for God's power, there is nothing too small for His love.

I learned that in that difficult class of life school, when I was a prisoner. When you are in a difficult class, then you learn much, especially when the teacher is good. And my teacher was the Holy Spirit.

And he taught me so much. And one of the things was about there is nothing too small for God's love. I was a few days in the concentration camp and I said to my sister, Betsy, I have caught a cold and I have no handkerchief, what must I do? Betsy said, pray.

I did the same like you, I laughed. But she didn't laugh, she folded her hands and she said, Father, in Jesus' name, I pray that you will give Corrie a handkerchief, she has caught a cold. Amen.

And she had hardly said Amen. I heard that they called out my name. I went to the window and there stood a friend of mine, a fellow prisoner who worked in the hospital.

I said, can you come to me, can you visit me? She said, no, no, I have no time. I just come to bring you a little present. And she gave me a very small package and I opened it and it was a handkerchief.

I said, how in the world do you, did you know that I needed a handkerchief? She said, I found an old sheet and I was sewing handkerchiefs from that old sheet. And when I was busy, there was a voice in my heart who said, bring a handkerchief to Corrie ten Loven. Can you understand what a handkerchief tells you in such a moment? That there is a father in heaven who hears it when on a very small planet, the earth, someone of his children prays for the impossible small thing, for a handkerchief, and that father in heaven tells one of his other children, give a handkerchief to Corrie ten Loven.

That is the foolishness of God. But the foolishness of God is the greatest wisdom. And I learnt so much by that handkerchief.

Just imagine when your little child or grandchild cries because an old doll is broken and she brings that doll to her daddy. She says, oh, daddy, my doll is broken. What does daddy say? Oh, girl, put it away, that doll is not worth a dime.

No, daddy doesn't say that. He says, but that's too bad. Come here, come to daddy.

I will try to mend it. And that grown-up man tries to make, to repair that old doll. How in the world can a grown-up man give so much time to such a valueless thing as a broken doll because he sees it through the eyes of the little one, because he loves the little one.

And so God sees your problems through your eyes because he loves you. What a joy that we may do intercession. I read in 1 Timothy 2, 1, where Paul says, First, supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings should be made on behalf of all men for kings and rulers and positions of responsibility so

that our common life may be lived in peace and quiet with a proper sense of God and of our responsibility to him for what we do with our lives.

In the sight of God, our Savior, this is undoubtedly the right thing to pray for. I once stood in Gucht, the concentration camp in Holland, where Betsy and I were brought before we were sent to the concentration camp Ravensbruck in Germany. They had called us and we had been sent to a place and there we stood just in front of the bunker, the bunker that was a prison inside of the prison camp.

Now, when they called us out, Betsy and I said to each other, Oh, we are free! They were sent home. But when we stood there, we saw that men came and they started to stand beside us. Here were about 10 and here were 15 men.

And suddenly we saw that the guards had gone away and a man called, Is there not anyone here who can pray? And Betsy said, Yes, I can pray. But why do you ask that? Is it not that we are sent home? He said, Sent home? This means that perhaps all of us will go into that building and be shot. Oh yes, Betsy said, I can pray.

And she folded her hands and she prayed for all these men who were standing beside her. And it was such a beautiful prayer. And then she started to sing.

Let us sing praise of Jesus, of his power, love and might. I don't know what has happened with these men. Betsy and I were sent to another part of the concentration camp and later to Ravensbruck.

But do you know that when that man shouted, Oh, is there not one who can pray? That this was a cry of the world of today. There are so many people who need your intercession. And do you know that in Isaiah we read that God wondered because there was no intercessor.

So important is intercession. And it is a great joy to pray for other people, to bring them to the Lord. You know, when you are an intercessor, and I hope you all are or you will become one after the Lord has told you what it means that we are called to be intercessors, and he wonders when there are no intercessors.

It is so important for him. Why is that so? Does the Lord need intercessors? Yes. That is the way.

He is working through you and me as intercessors. And Ellen and I were in Cuba once, and it was a very dangerous and difficult time. And when it is very dangerous and difficult, then we always pray, Lord, tell my friends to pray for us.

And the Lord does. And we came in Holland, and there was a girl who was really, you could say, backward, a little bit fever-minded. But she loved the Lord, and the Lord loved her.

And when we came to a group of Christians to tell what we had experienced, she said, Tante, this is auntie, Tante, the 10th of April, you were in great danger, weren't you? I said, yes, how did you know that? She said, in the midst of the night, suddenly the Lord awoke in me and said, pray for Tante Corrie and for Ellen. And she said, then I did it. Now, do you see what a joy it is to be an intercessor? That girl heard the voice of the Lord, and that is a great joy to hear his voice.

And when you are an intercessor, you stand together with the Lord. We must understand that praying means to bring our own ability into the realm of the ability of God. And that is so great, because his answers are the greatest reality.

I once spoke for a huge group in a church in Australia, and I had spoken about a text where Jesus says, Behold, I stand at the door and I knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I come in. And after I was through, I gave an invitation.

It was a very full church, so I said, people, when you have asked Jesus to come into your heart, or you are willing to do it, then we are very happy to help you with literature and prayer and advice when there are difficulties. So then just come into the room behind the altar, and there you will find counselors. The first who came were two very tiny children.

They had not understood about that room behind the altar, so they stood in front of me. One said, Am I too little to ask Jesus to come into my heart? I said, No. Jesus is interested even in sparrows, and you are far bigger than a sparrow.

And then that little girl folded her hands, and the whole church was dead silent. They heard what she said. She said, Jesus, I have been very naughty.

Will you come into my heart, and will you make it clean with your blood? Amen. And Jesus came, just like he comes in your heart. Perhaps some of you have never done it before, and when you do it now, then he comes.

But sometimes we who have done it already, Jesus stands outside, and he knocks again. And when we say, Yes, Lord, come in, then he comes. I said to that other little girl, will you do the same? She said, I did it three weeks ago.

And after that I have prayed every day for Betty. Not Betty, I've done it. A very good task for you.

You together must pray for a third little girl, someone who doesn't know the Lord. And they looked at each other, and the same moment they said, Emma. I said, that must be Emma.

And they promised they would pray for Emma. Yes, Emma had also prayed, Lord Jesus, come into my heart. And then after, they said, then we will pray with Emma together for a fourth girl.

And when that fourth girl has accepted the Lord, we will pray for the fifth girl, and so on. The chain reaction of the intercession in the hearts of two little girls. And this chain reaction can come into your heart, all of you.

When you start to pray for that man, for that woman, for that girl, for that boy, and when you pray that the Lord will touch him or her, and you go to that person for whom you have prayed, and you tell them about the Lord Jesus, how Jesus has said, come unto me all, all. I will give you rest. And when you tell that, then the Lord will use your prayer and your words to save that person for eternity.

And then, that's not the only thing, but you can go to that person and say, well, we pray for a third one, and then with three for a fourth one, and then with four for a fifth one. That chain reaction of the intercession can start in your heart when you are willing to surrender. And what a joy is it.

And the Lord will enjoy it. He wonders when there's no intercession. He rejoices when there is an intercession.

There's nothing too great for God's power. Some time ago I was in Formosa and I had to order a plane ticket, a rather expensive one. Now, the Lord told me very clearly what I should order.

Now, the good thing is that I have never to worry about money because my treasure is very rich. Do you know how rich? He has the cattle on thousand hills, and that's very much. And when I need money, I always say, Lord, I think you must sell some cows and give me the money.

And he does. He always does. Sometimes he waits till the last moment, but it comes.

So, without fear, I went to that office of the airplane and I said, Lady, will you order a plane ticket for me, but write it down, for it is rather much. And she wrote down. I said, Formosa, Sydney, Australia, then Auckland, New Zealand, then Sydney, Australia, then Cape Town, South Africa, then Tel Aviv, Israel, Amsterdam, Holland.

And she wrote it all down and she said, What is your end destination? I said, Heaven. She said, How do you write that? He ordered my ticket for Heaven, and that was cheap. And he made it all right.

And when I told her about it, a man was sitting there in the office, and he said, Do you know that have you a reservation for the house of the Father for Heaven? She said, Sure. I have received Jesus as my Savior. And a child of God has a reservation in Heaven.

Come to us, or come to her. There are many people here who know that they have a reservation in Heaven. Do you know why? Because they have the Word of God.

And in this Word of God you can find how to get a reservation for the house of the Father. Those who believe in the name of the Son of God, Jesus, can know that they have everlasting life. So when you are not quite sure, talk with that one who knows the Lord, or talk with us.

But don't go to sleep tonight before you have come to Jesus, for that is what we will help you with. And that's what the Bible says. Jesus has come unto me all.

And that's also you. And I will give you peace and rest and eternal life. And Jesus never fails.

I was so happy when I got the ticket for the place. Because one day before I had to pay it, the money was there. I just told my treasurer there.

You can understand how happy I was with that ticket. And I just was looking. Yes, Formosa, Sydney, Sydney, Auckland, Auckland, Sydney, Sydney, Tel Aviv.

No. Then Cape Town, South Africa. I hadn't ordered that.

I had ordered first Cape Town and then Tel Aviv. So I went to the telephone and I said, Lady, you made a mistake. You have changed my schedule.

And my boss has told me that I must go first to South Africa and then to Israel. And you may not change that. She said, Lady, that is not possible.

There is not a direct airline from Australia to South Africa. You must go first to Israel. I said, Why? Why not? She said, Oh, there are no islands in the Indian Ocean for the landings in between.

I said, All right, Lady. Then we must pray that God will give an island in the Indian Ocean. For the one who has told me to make this trip, that is God.

And I have to obey Him. An hour later she called me. She said, Lady, have you prayed for an island in the Indian Ocean? I said, What? She said, We have just got a telegram from the Qantas that they have bought the Cocos Island and now there is a direct airline from Australia to South Africa.

I don't know if you do it. I like you to say, Father, you have said a new word. Now you must do it.

And he likes it when we mean business. I was for the first time in Russia. And I had a red suitcase.

Now I was in Moscow and I saw how the customs officer ransacked and my suitcase stood all at the end. What will he do when he finds my Russian Bible that is forbidden? Send me to prison? Send me back to Holland? Of course he will take away the... Lord, I am afraid. Lord, you have said in Jeremiah 1, God watches over His Word.

Now, Lord, these Bibles in my suitcase, that is Your Word. So now, with my hand on Jeremiah 1, I pray, Will You watch over Your Word, my Bibles, that is Your Word, Lord, my Bibles, to smuggle them. Don't exegete.

Otherwise I do not listen. Oh, no. And I saw around my suitcase, my whole fear disappeared.

I was not afraid anymore. And at last a man came to my suitcase and he said, Is that your suitcase, lady? Yes, sir. He said, That's a heavy one.

I said, Yes, sir. Oh, wait a moment. I am through with my work.

I will help you. And he took my suitcase and brought it to the car of the impurist. My, I can tell you, I almost, I had shouted.

He does not say, Oh, sometimes you may pray and do intercession. No. Ask much.

He wonders when there is no intercession. What a joy to have such a father, heavenly father. Oh, and the best is yet to be.

What a joy. Yes. We must tell everything to the Lord.

Also our blunders. Have you also, when you have done a blunder, you can feel so unhappy. Oh, I can almost hate myself.

Oh, stupid Dutch. And he saw how all the students, and he said, Say, he asked one of the students, What must you do when you make a mistake? Must you cut it out or start from the beginning? And the student said, No. So, our teacher is such a great artist that when we make a mistake, he uses that mistake to improve the beauty of the pattern.

And that is what the Lord does. We must just tell the Lord our blunder and you never know what he does with your blunder. I was in Japan and I had a difficulty that I thought, Oh, there were perhaps eight different Japanese, but further, all were the same.

There was Mr. Seikiya and there were three Mr. Seikiya and there are six. Now, that's only the first month that you are. And they say, When the Japanese come here, he thinks that we are all the same.

That's the director of the Christian seminary. So, when I was through with my talk, I said, And would you be so kind to close this meeting with a word of prayer? That man looked at me, he said, I? I've never

prayed in my life. I said, Professor of that non-Christian, do not pray, but all the Japanese are very, very polite.

He came to me after the meeting and bowed several times, very deep. And he said, I was so sorry that I could not do what you asked me. I had never prayed before.

I said, Professor, I honor you that you didn't do it. If you had been superficial, you should perhaps have said a prayer without believing it. But I'm very glad that you didn't do it.

But tell me, Professor, why are you not a Christian? He said, I? Oh, no. Then first I must study Christianity. I said, No, sir.

In this book is not written those who have studied Christianity get the power to become a giant of God, but those who receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, he gives them the power to become a giant of God. And I prayed with him, and after half an hour, that professor made a decision for Jesus that the angel rejoiced. The Lord used to improve the pattern, the beauty of the pattern.

I am so glad that we can tell everything to the Lord. Now, it is true, sometimes God gives the no answer. I could speak about hours and hours about the answers, the yes answer that I've experienced.

Sometimes God says, No. I was in solitary confinement, alone in a cell, for a month, but I was still in Holland. And I prayed every day, Oh, Lord, let the enemy never bring me to a confrontation camp in Germany.

And God gave the no answer. He allowed that the Germans brought Betsy and me to that terrible concentration camp Ravensbrück. And I could not understand why God had not answered our prayers.

But now I understand it. I understood it earlier. I remember that Betsy had died, and a week later I was set free, and I stood before the gate of Ravensbrück.

When that gate should open, I could go home. And when I stood there waiting, there came a friend of mine and said, Corrie, I must tell you something. Mrs. Wass and Mrs. de Moya both died today.

And then I looked for the last time at the cruel camp, and I said, Lord, if it had been only for these two from whom I know that you have used Betsy and me to bring them to you, Lord, for both have accepted you, Lord Jesus, as their saviour, Lord, if it had been only for those two, for there are many more, it has been worthwhile all our suffering, even Betsy's death, to be used to save souls for eternity, is worthwhile, to suffer even to die. I saw God's side of the pattern. You know, I like that little poem that you have in your country.

My life is like a weaving between my God and me. I do not choose the colours. He works steadily.

Oft times he weaves sorrow, and I in foolish pride forget he sees the upper and I the underside. Not till the loom is silent and the shuttles cease to fly will God unroll the canvas and explain the reason why the dark threads are as needful in the skillful weaver's hands than the threads of gold and silver in the pattern he has planned. No, it is so good to know that God never makes a mistake.

Once we will understand that when we are in heaven, but now already we can know very much through the word of God. And this book shows us that God has no problems with the world and with your and my life. God has no problems, only plans.

There is never a panic in heaven. And the thing that you and I must do is look in the right direction, look unto Jesus. So often people say to me, Oh, but Corrie, you have such a great faith.

But I have not a great faith. I have a small faith, but it is a faith in a great God. And it is not written in the Bible, let us look unto our faith.

In Hebrew 12 it is said, let us look unto Jesus, the author and the finisher of our faith. Look around and be distressed. Look within and be depressed.

Look at Jesus and be at rest. I had a jewelry store before the war. Sometimes I had a new watch in my store that did not run well.

I never repaired it, but I sent it back to the manufacturer. I wrote him a letter, that new watch does not run well. Will you repair it? After the manufacturer had repaired such a watch, then it went always absolute exact.

When my face does not work, I do not try to repair it. I sent it back to the manufacturer. Jesus, the author and the finisher, the manufacturer of my faith.

And when Jesus repairs it, then it works. So, do not look unto your faith, but unto Jesus. What a joy is it, that we can and may and must cast our burdens on the Lord.

And he listens. But we have to surrender. You know, there are sometimes people who say to me, I know that we are called to be channels of streams of living water, but I did not experience living water flow through me on the thirsty world of today.

You know, perhaps I hear some of the people who say, I have not experienced that the living water has streamed through me this last week. Then I must ask you a question. Just imagine this glass.

When I put water, when I keep the glass downwards, and I throw water over it, doesn't come anything in it? Of course not, when it is upside down. Did you think that when your heart was turned towards the world that there could be streams of living water flowing through you? Of course not. You are not people who are turned towards the world, otherwise you shouldn't be here.

Are you fifty-fifty? Fifty percent turned towards the world, and fifty percent turned to God? Now look what happens. Nothing comes in and nothing comes out. Now I know many of you after these few days, and I know that many people here have surrendered far more than fifty percent.

How are you? Ninety percent turned towards God, and only ten percent turned towards the world? Now look what happens. Yes, water comes in, and water comes out at one side. Only when I keep the glass hundred percent upwards, now look, now at all sides it streams over.

Do you understand it? What are you? You are not turned towards the world, are you? You are not only fifty percent turned towards God. Are you ninety? Ninety-nine percent turned towards God? Only one percent turned towards the world? Do you know that in the Bible is a text, the eyes of the Lord go to and through the whole world to strengthen him whose heart is fully turned towards him. And the eyes of the Lord go through this room and through your room to fill with his Holy Spirit who will surrender hundred percent to him everything.

And you are bought with a very high price his precious blood. Will you give him his money's worth? He has a legal right to have you hundred percent lock, stock and barrel. Will you surrender all? And the Lord will make you a channel of streams of living water in this very, very thirsty world.

What a joy! The Lord will use you. And never, never I am afraid that the Lord does not hear your prayers. I must tell you one little story that I forgot now to tell.

I saw, when I was five years old I told you that I had asked Jesus to come into my heart and Jesus came. And immediately the Lord made me an intercessor. My mom told me later, oh Corrie, as small as you were only five years old you were an intercessor for every little prayer that you said and that was the word and Lord will you save all the people in the Smedestraat.

Now the Smedestraat was a street behind our house where were many people and you saw all the drunken people there. And the five years old had a burden for these drunken people and prayed for them. You smile when you think of a five years old who prays for the whole street.

But the Lord did not smile. He smiled. But he enjoyed it.

Do you know what happened? Some time ago I could finally speak for TV in Holland and that was, I reached many people and someone wrote me my husband was so happy that he heard that you came from Haarlem. He also comes from Haarlem and he has lived 17 years in the Smedestraat. And I can tell you that he too loves the Lord Jesus now.

I said thank you Lord. An answer for a prayer of 75 years ago. A five years old prayed for the whole street.

75 years later he heard the answer. And you are praying for some people and the devil has told you several times stop it. It takes such a long time.

Don't you see that God doesn't answer your prayer. He is a liar. There is not one of your prayers that the Lord did not hear.

Once in heaven we will see that every prayer was heard. We will praise him for every answered and so called unanswered prayer. For we will see God's side and the unanswered prayers and the prayers that take a long time are not unanswered.

For the Lord is praying together with you for that person. And you too will win. Jesus and you.

And I could tell you for that same TV program that I heard answers for people for whom I had prayed 60 years ago, 45 years ago and 35 years ago. It was just as if the Lord said you must just see that sometimes God's mills go slowly but they go very secure. And now I will just end with this little poem.

Jesus heard when you prayed last night. He talked with God about you. Jesus was there when you fought your fight.

He is going to bring you through. Jesus knew when you shed those tears so you did not weep alone for the burden you thought too heavy to bear. He made it His very own.

Jesus himself was touched by that trial which you could not understand. Jesus to buy as you almost fell and lovingly grasped your hands. Jesus cared when you bore that pain indeed.

He bore it too. He felt each pain, each ache in your heart because of His love for you. Jesus was grieved when you doubted His love but He gave you grace to go on.

Jesus rejoiced as you trusted Him, the most trustworthy one. His presence shall ever be with you. No need to be anxious or fret.

Wonderful Lord. He was there all the time. He has never forsaken you yet.

Hallelujah. Amen. Thank you, Lord.

Thank you, Lord, that it is more true than we can grasp. Thank you that you will make us intercessors, that you will stand beside us and pray with us for the other people. Thank you that you have prayed for us.

Thank you that you are willing to answer our prayers and sometimes answer it with no but that you never make a mistake. We praise and thank you, Lord. And now, Lord, listen, who of us say now, I surrender all.

Not ninety, not ninety-nine percent but hundred percent. Lord, take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Hallelujah.

Amen. Amen.

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