

# Pioneers (Abraham, a Pioneer of Revival, Missions, and Holiness) - Part 1

by David Smithers

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of being a pioneer in seeking the manifest presence of Jesus, which is the key to ushering in revival and seeing the kingdom of God come to earth.*

**Scripture:** Luke 10:38, John 15:5

**Topics:** "Abraham"

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## Description

In this sermon, the speaker begins by expressing a desire to magnify and glorify God above all else. They acknowledge their dependence on God's Spirit and ask for His help in receiving and learning from His Word. The speaker emphasizes the importance of having God's presence in their midst and asks for His presence to be with them throughout the sermon. They conclude by praying for God to breathe on the Word and on their hearts, stirring them in a fresh way. The overall message of the sermon is a plea for God's presence and guidance in their worship and study of His Word.

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## Transcript

Let's just pray. Can we do that? Thank you, Lord. Lord, I just confess my inability to do anything good without you, without your Spirit.

And Lord, I just ask that you just help us, help us to be receivers, to be learners at your table, God, this weekend. I pray that you just help our hearts right now. And Jesus, I personally don't want to go one step further without you, without you being here right in the middle of all that we're doing.

And so, Lord, we just humbly ask you just to meet with us here tonight. I just pray that you'd breathe on the Word. I pray you'd breathe on our hearts, Jesus, and just stir us in a fresh way.

You'd stir us in a fresh way. Thank you, God. Thank you, Lord.

We just want to magnify you, Lord. We don't want anything else to get in the way, anything to compete with your glory, your majesty. I pray that you just help us to break through, Lord, in Jesus' name.

If we're tired, if we're fatigued, or whatever the case may be, Lord, if we just want to magnify you, Lord, we don't want anything else to get in the way, anything to compete with your glory, your majesty. I pray that you just help us to buy anything to compete with your glory, your majesty. I pray that you just help us to

break through, Lord, in Jesus' name.

If we're tired, if we're fatigued, or whatever the case may be, Lord, if we just want to magnify you, Lord, we don't want anything else to get in the way, anything to compete with your glory, your majesty. I pray that you just help us to break through, Lord, in Jesus' name. If we're tired, if we're fatigued, or whatever the case may be, Lord, if we're just distracted by anything, Lord, I just pray that you'd help us to become focused in the rest of this evening on you, Jesus.

We just want to partake of you. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, God.

We just give you all the glory. We give you all the glory. We give you all the glory, Jesus.

Oh, Lord, we just want your heart. We just ask that you just impart your heart to us, each and every one of us. Thank you, God.

Thank you, God. Lord, I just pray that we would allow you to tenderize our heart. Just soften our hearts, God, tonight.

Soften our hearts. Help us to be sensitive to you and what you're trying to say to us, the visions and dreams that you have for our lives, the place where we fit, the place where we'll function best, the place where the anointing flows, Lord, the things that you have made us to do. God, I pray that we would taste it.

We would experience it. We'd start to understand why we're here. God, we can do nothing without you, Jesus.

We've got to be in on what you made us to be, Lord. I pray that you'd help us right now. God, breathe, breathe on us this evening, Lord.

Stir our hearts, God. Give us a vision that will give us purpose and focus. I pray, God, deliver us from aimlessly wandering through life, just trying different things.

I pray that we would have a sense of destiny about us. I pray that you would stamp that upon our hearts this evening, Jesus. Thank you, God.

Thank you. If you want that, you guys, just pray with me. Just pray with me.

God, just give that to us. Make it count. Make it real.

Lord, I pray that you'd make sense, Lord Jesus. Help it not to be any longer just about us and what we want or what we don't want, but what you want, Lord, what you want. God, give us a fresh revelation of the lordship, the beauty, the majesty of Jesus Christ.

Lord, we want to worship you. We want to worship you. God, I pray that your kingdom would come here tonight.

God, the activity of heaven would be manifest here on the earth, Lord, in this place. God, the worship of heaven, the glory of heaven. God, your throne would be right here, Lord, in our midst.

That we would behave, Lord, that we would worship, that we would bow before you as the angels are bowing and worshipping and obeying every command before your throne in heaven. God, make that a reality in Jesus' name. Make that a reality, Lord, in Jesus' name.

God, we don't have anything else but you. Nothing else but you. It's all your grace.

It's all you. It is all you, Lord. I pray help us to line up with heaven tonight, Lord, in Jesus' name, in Jesus' name.

Thank you, God. Thank you, God. We worship you.

We worship you. Thank you, God. You guys, this isn't the preliminaries.

If this is all we do, I'm perfectly content. So you guys pray with me, okay? Thank you, Lord. Yes.

Yes, Jesus. Lord, we don't need another meeting. You know, God, for our meeting's sake, I just pray help us now.

Lord, we're tired of religion. We're tired of just good song services. We're tired of just church stuff.

Lord, I pray that you'd bring something new into our midst. God, please have mercy and help us to be part of something new that you're doing in the earth. Thank you, God.

Thank you, God. Well, let me just kind of share with you what my personal vision is for the conference. And this is just one piece of it.

But what's been on my heart lately is really just to reproduce in others some things that the Lord has stirred in my own heart. And let me just tell you a little bit about my testimony. When I came to Christ about 20 years old, about in 1981, I got ahold of some stuff and some material, started reading some things as Jesus was getting ahold of me.

And it really started breaking my heart. I started to read stories of how God had moved in the church in the past. I just started reading the book of Acts, just in a simple way, as a new Christian does.

And I started to realize very quickly with what I was seeing every Sunday at church was not the same thing that I was reading about in the book of Acts. It was not the same thing that I was reading about when the great saints of God preached in times of revival in the past. And I started to feel I was passionately in love with Jesus, but I was very, very, very disillusioned with the church at large.

And I didn't understand where I fit in. I did not understand where I fit in, and I kind of felt ruined. Does that make sense? I've read some of these books and some of this stuff as God started stirring in my heart about what God had done in the past, and I was no longer content just with the church.

Just what we're seeing today, status quo Christianity. You know what I'm saying? A lot of people define revival as simply more of what we already have. That is not revival, you guys.

It's not more church buildings with larger choirs and more people attending and more money. That is not revival. What God wants to do through this generation is radically reform the church of Jesus Christ.

In one generation, change the face of Christianity as we know it. Do you believe that? It's just not, you know, it's not about bigger offerings. It's about more of God's presence.

Amen? This is a part that I, just a little piece that I'm going to contribute. Eugene's going to contribute, John and so many other people. But this is my piece, okay? And what's been on my heart is I am waiting for that thing that I know burns in my heart to see that reproduced in other young men and women.

I am not content. I haven't seen it enough. So I want you to be ruined for Christianity, normal church as usual.

Do you know what I'm saying? I want God to stir within you a holy discontentment this weekend that makes you want to get on your knees and say, Jesus, I've got to have more. Are you content with where you're at with Jesus right now? You guys, every one of us, if we'd be honest, we know that there are still contradictions inside our innermost being. You know what I'm saying? What the word says about us in this book and what we are in the secret place of our heart are not lining up the way Jesus died on the cross to make it be.

You know what I'm talking about? And so I want to talk about being a pioneer, going someplace new, taking risks, spiritual risks, physical risks, not leaning on the way it's always been. Amen? Are you guys ready for that? Do you want some of that? It's going to look different on all of us. You know that? It's not going to be the same because we're all gifted.

We're all unique. We're all individuals in Christ's body. But that's awesome.

What potential. Amen? I want to talk about Abraham and how Abraham was a pioneer. He was a pioneer. He went new places in the area of revival. He was a pioneer in missions and he was a pioneer in holiness. Three different kinds of a pioneer, but they're all interlinked, you guys.

You really can't have any one of these without the other. All right? So let me first read a little paragraph here from some stuff I'm kind of working on to give you a little more idea about what we're talking about when we speak of the term pioneer. A pioneer is someone who courageously and even sometimes naively, you ever been there? That's been me many times, and even naively seeks to rediscover new and forgotten places in the spirit.

You just ever had that thing gnawing on the inside of you that says, there has got to be more to Jesus than what I'm experiencing. There has got to be more. What happened to the church? We're supposed to be bigger and better, but we pale compared to the church in action.

You ever asked yourself those questions? Pioneers instinctively, instinctively challenged the modern church to go places she has never been before. Places long forgotten and overgrown by decades of man-made traditions and spiritual decline. Pioneers dare others to dream and trust God to do all that the Bible plainly promises.

Pioneers are not satisfied with superficial reform. You know, rearranging the pews and different color carpet isn't going to cut it. You know what I'm saying? Pioneers are not satisfied with superficial reform.

They hunger and thirst for spiritual reality. Their calling demands that they defy the laws and limitations of man-centered religion. In their pursuit of more of Jesus, they unknowingly threaten the very foundations of so-called normal church.

You know, as you start to walk out the call of being a pioneer, you can't help it. You make people feel uncomfortable sometimes. Man, you're bugging me.

You know, it's like you're a living accusation. What is your deal? You know, you're making me uncomfortable. Quit talking about that stuff.

You know, my 10-minute quiet time with God is good enough. You know, Sundays and Wednesdays. Some of us are dating Jesus, aren't we? Dating him.

I got a date Wednesday, got a date Sunday, then I go back to my house and I do my thing. Jesus is wooing you tonight. Jesus wants you to be married to him.

Amen? For better, for worse, for sickness and health, forsaking all other lovers and cleaving to him and him alone. Man, aren't those awesome vows? That is what God wants, to be married to a people that will be faithful to him, that will love him with all they are. The early American pioneers that moved westward between 1760 and 1850 encountered countless dangers and extreme hardships because they were not content with what they already had.

They took risks because they were not satisfied. The knowledge that there was still something better beyond the horizon drove them to take extreme risks to improve the quality of their lives. A true pioneer is relentless.

He refuses to compromise or substitute the barren plains of lifeless orthodoxy for the living presence of Jesus, for the tangible presence of Jesus. No amount of religious rhetoric or decorum will ever satisfy his God-hungry heart or her God-hungry heart. God's promises of abundant life, of fruitfulness, hound and compel him to seek and to pray for something more.

You want to know how when you really have been stung by this, when God has got his hook in you, when God has called you to be a pioneer, is when you press into the Lord and then you back off, you try to take it easy, you chill out a little bit, but there's something inside you that will not rest. Every time you get back into the prayer closet, every time you really get back into the book, this thing starts to resurface where you start getting restless. You can't hold still, you know what I'm saying? I've got to have more of Jesus.

Anybody got that? I hope you do. Has God touched you that way? If you go, I don't got a clue what you're talking about. Hey, God wants to do it.

He wants to do it. Turn with me to Genesis 12, Genesis 12, one through three, and we find really it's Abraham's or Abram's commission, Abram's commission. The Lord had said, Abraham, leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

That's a commission, isn't it? Go. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you. I will make your name great and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you and whoever curses you, I will curse and all peoples on the earth, all peoples, every tongue, tribe and nation will be blessed through you. This passage reveals that Abraham was a pioneer. He left the personal comforts of his familiar relationships, security and protection.

He laid down his agendas, plans and dreams to discover and embrace God's higher purposes for his life. Go to the land. I will show you a band in the old.

Press into something new. Become a pioneer. Abraham was a trailblazer in three different areas.

He was a pioneer of revival. He was a pioneer of revival. And you're going now, OK, well, what are you talking about? You're talking about extended meetings in the summer when we call in a special evangelist.

Are you talking about some esoteric experience, you know, some warm Holy Ghost fuzzy? What you know, what are you talking about? Revival, buddy, you talking about that meeting I've heard about over here or there or when my friend gets real excited and starts shouting? How how are you defining revival? Revival is not a thing. It is not an it. Revival is him.

Revival is the manifest presence of Jesus. Amen. With the churches, we are we are creating here a corporate gathering where we can entertain the presence of Jesus, because unless he's here with us, you know, we might as well close up shop and go home.

Amen. That's right. We want Jesus to be here.

And when revival comes is when Christ manifests himself in a corporate fashion, when he breaks into our lives and we know that we're in the presence of a holy God. The manifest presence and friendship of God intimacy with the Lord on a corporate level, I like to think of revival this way is, you know, the most awesome time that you've ever had in a quiet time with the Lord. You know, when God really turns your heart inside out and breaks you into a thousand pieces and you're just you know, you're just God is reaching in deep, doing an awesome work of God for you and 100 other people to simultaneously experience the same thing at the same time.

That's when we know revival is there. He is there corporately. It's not just a person being blessed here or a person being blessed there.

That may be personal revival, but not corporate revival. When he moves in and touches us, when everyone in the house knows he's there. You know what I'm talking about? This is what Abram was after.

Abram's going out was the expression of a heart that was hungry for the presence of the living God rather than the company of dead idols. When he was in his father's house, he worshiped, you know, wooden stone idols, lifeless idols that could not speak, could not hear, could not comfort, could not touch the core of his being. You know, Abram had the title or Abraham later, the friend of God.

Not that God was his friend, but that Abraham was his was God's friend. There's a difference. You know that, don't you? God is all of our friends.

He's here. He's intimately acquainted. He is interested in what's going on with your life.

He is your friend. He is for you. He wants to bless you.

But are you his friend? Are you God's friend? Do you open up your heart to care about the things that he cares about? Do you experience the burden of the Lord, the passion of God? Amen. Is it your daily cry that kingdom come your agenda, your throne room, let it be manifest in the earth. This is when we really know that we're being the friend of God.

Abram was passionate about the presence of God. Revival pioneers covet and pursue the abiding presence of God. Did you get that? They covet and pursue the abiding presence of God, not just a nice song service, not just a night, nice sermon, a good teaching, not just to be intellectually stimulated.

None of this will satisfy what they're hungry for is to know that God is in the house, that God is manifesting himself. Do you kind of see the difference? Maybe if you don't now, maybe by the weekend's over, you will. Maybe this will help.

Genesis 18. Genesis 18. I love this passage.

I love all the passages when people, when the saints of God, when the disciples see God, and I love to see their reaction to him. Don't you love it when you look at the story of Mary at the feet of Jesus and she says, you cannot tear me away from the feet of the lamb. I'm going to just stay right here.

I am looking at him. I am passionately in love with Jesus. I love the passage where Peter, when he sees and he finally realizes at John's urging that it really is Jesus on the shore, though the boat is just a short distance from the, from the beach.

He is not content. He dives in and swims with all his might to get back into the physical, close proximity, the tangible presence of Christ. Amen.

I love the passage where they're reaching out to grab hold of him, where they restrain him, the disciples on the Emmaus road. And they say, no, stay with us just a little longer. And he stays there and he breaks the bread.

They said, oh, it was him. Didn't our hearts burn when he shared the scriptures with us? Do you know what I'm talking about? I love all those passages. I love Mary at the tomb when she is, she is not content.

She will not rest. She saw the crucifixion. She's got to go back and anoint his body one more time.

You know what I'm saying? When she has to hang on his feet, I will not let him go. I will wash his feet with my tears. I love my Jesus.

You know what I'm saying? I love all those responses. Those are the people that help usher in revival. Those are the people that carry the seeds of arrival everywhere they go.

They, they radically affect the atmosphere everywhere they go, because they're always looking for the slightest stirring, the slightest movement of the spirit. And when they get a hint of it, they go after him and they help usher other people into Christ's presence. Where other people didn't even get a clue that God was there.

When you get one of those people, they're a pioneer in the midst. All they have to do is just sense anything and they're ready to worship. They're ready to pray.

They're ready to seek God's face. And it breaks open something in the heavens that allows the kingdom of God for heaven to come down to earth. You guys, this is what God wants.

He wants the activity of heaven down on earth. I, I never get tired of talking about this. Matthew 6, 9. Thy kingdom come and I will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

You guys, if we don't know what is going on in heaven, we don't have a clue what we're praying for. The seraphim surrounding the throne, the elders, not on little red thrones, but on their face. Amen.

Not like it is in most of our churches. Everybody's on their face, adoring the lamb. There's no sun.

There's no moon. He is the light and the glory. Amen of heaven.

Heaven is all about Jesus. And what God wants to do is use us to get that on earth. That's what pioneers do.

They break open something new. They clear a path so heaven can be ushered down into the earth. Let's look at a passage.

It shows us, um, Genesis 18, Abram's heart towards the Lord. You guys, this is an awesome picture of God's of Abram's zeal. Genesis 18, one through eight.

Then the Lord appeared to him speaking of Abram by the oak trees of Myrma and he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. So he lifted his eyes. We're talking about Abram here and look and behold, three men were standing by him.

And when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the ground. Here, Abram, he catches a glimpse of his Lord and a couple of angels crossing the meadow or whatever. You know what I'm saying? He sees Jesus passing by and there's almost the impression that he would have kept on going.

But Abram would not have that. He runs out, grabs him by the feet and says, stay. Let's look.

Let's continue to read. Verse three, and he said, My Lord, if I have now found favor in your sight, do not pass on by your servant. Don't pass by.

Don't pass me by. Don't pass this generation by. We've got to have you, Lord.

We've got to have you, Lord. That's the heart of the revival pioneer. Abram was a pioneer of revival.

He was he was hungry. He was passionate about the presence of God. Please let a little water be brought to wash your feet and rest yourself under the tree.

And I will bring a morsel of bread that you may refresh your heart after that you may pass by in as much as you have come to your servant. They said, do as you have said. Don't you love this? The first response of Abram is and say, Lord, what can you give me? Oh, you've come to answer that prayer.

You've come to tend to this situation or that situation. Just like the just like the priests in Exodus 28, their first purpose, Abram here, he recognizes first purpose in life is to minister to him. In fact, it's the ministering to him that empowers us, powers Abram to minister to the nations.

Abram understands that. Don't you love that? When was the last meal you prepared for the Lord? When was the last time you did that in prayer? I said, God, I am just so grateful for your presence. Will you just stay here with me a little while? What's what's on your heart, Jesus? What do you want from me today? Where do you want me to go? What do you want in my life? Let my let my life be a table that serves up the delights to your heart.

You know what I'm saying? Who is the last meal that you served him? This passage always reminds me of Jesus residing in Mary and Martha's house with Lazarus at the table and they're preparing a meal for him there. And it said, and they and they fed him. The same Jesus that fed multitudes over and over again.

There was only a few that approached him to say, Lord, what is your heart hungry for? You guys, are you asking yourself that question? That's I believe that's one of the things that the Lord wants to accomplish out of this weekend. Ask yourself those questions. Lord, not what can you do for me? What can I do for you? What do you want in my heart? Did you do you realize that you have the supernatural capacity to delight the heart of God? Hebrews tells us that apart from faith, it is impossible to please God.

Not impossible to obey God, not impossible to keep his commandments, which is true of all those things too. But the way the writer of Hebrews puts it, it is impossible to please God. The word please to incite strong emotions in someone to create a sense of great inner satisfaction.

Have you ever considered that your life has the capacity to do that? That by your obedience to the simple commands of God to go here, to go there, to go here. He says, oh, I like that. Boy, that blesses me.

Come on, you guys. I mean, I'm telling you one thing about this generation is we're a generation many of us without fathers. Without covering, without protection.

Many of us never had the satisfaction of having a father look us in the eyes. Say, boy, that blesses me. I delight in that.

You know what I'm talking about, guys? We know, this generation knows like maybe no other. The lack of a man, of a mother, of a woman, of a parent to stand in your life and say, oh, how you bless my heart. Your face brings delight to me.

You guys, it's not too late. I don't care what your physical circumstances are, what your relationships look like, what your family looks like. In the church, you can find that.

And especially through the heart of God, you can find that. Isn't that good news, you guys? I never had a dad to lay his hand on me and bless me. But the father uses that place of hurt and brokenness to catapult me into his presence where I say, oh, Abba, aren't you grateful for the spirit of adoption that cries out, Abba, Father, I'm no longer an orphan.

I'm no longer a stranger, no longer cut off and unloved and unprotected. I have a purpose in my life. And you have given me a destiny and given me a course to go on.

You know what? That is what God wants to do in our hearts this weekend, you guys. Dare to believe him for it. He wants to touch you and impact you and impart something fresh within you, give you a vision and a meaning.

Man, that is the difference in my life between when I was lost and between when I was saved. When I was lost, I had no vision, no purpose. I lived for the next party, the next weekend.

The only reason why I went to work was to have the money enough for the next weekend and the next party. Some of you guys know what I'm talking about. But when he impacted my life, when he got a hold of my heart, simultaneously with the invitation of salvation came, David, I want to use you.

David, I have a purpose for your life. You can matter. David, you have something to offer because I was convinced I had zip.

You know what I mean? That I had no healthy godly ambition. You know what I'm saying? My friends didn't have any. For the first time after I met Jesus Christ in a meaningful way, I knew I had something to offer.

You guys and we really don't figure those pieces out till we really sell out to him. You know a lot of us in this room you guys you're wondering where where does this fit? Where do I get and you know, how do I do this? You know what? I have discovered that the only place you really discover where all the pieces fit is when you surrender all the pieces to his hand. Till he has total control.

Total control. Absolute total control till we abandon everything. We are our good stuff and our bad stuff.

We do a pretty good job on the junk, don't we? Have you given him the goods not just the bads? You know what I'm saying? You're the things that make you highly esteemed and give you reputation and a and you know a name among your friends and peers. When you say lord, I lay it all down. Everything.

I'll let you redefine who I am as a man or a woman. Some of us had a little benefit of being so messed up. You know what I'm saying? We didn't have anything that was easier for god to do.

It's a little harder with some of us that are smarter and brighter and have more going for us. Amen, steve. I mean I was I was there.

I had nothing. You know what I'm saying? I had nothing to lose. Okay, let's get on maybe I'll get to actually through this verse Look at abraham's response So abraham hurried Abraham heard you know what I love about this passion is that abraham is running.

Did you know you were made to run not stroll? Some of us act like we're browsing through the shopping mall. You know what I'm saying? Just window shopping taking in all this. Oh, wow.

That is cute. You know what I'm saying? I could use one of those. You know what I'm saying? Oh, what's the price on that? Hmm.

Let me go over here and check, you know the price over at this place We're just shopping. You know what I'm saying? Just shopping Got time, you know, you can tell a person a man or woman that has a vision you can tell by the way they walk You know what I'm saying? You guys know cutting across class. You can tell when somebody's a little bit late to class, can't you? I mean they are focused.

You know what I mean? They're going for it In the same way in the spirit, you can tell a man or woman that has a vision they are focused There's an intensity about them. There is a single eye. They're after it.

You know what I'm saying? God wants to give that to you. This is what I see about abram. He's in a hurry Not just strolling not just shopping taking in the sights Are you in a hurry? To do the bidding of god.

Are you in a hurry to serve up the best that is in you to the to the heart? and the passion of jesus christ abraham was So abram hurried into the tent to sarah and he said quickly make ready three measures of meal Knead it and make cakes and abraham ran here He is in a hurry again, and he ran to the herd took a tender good calf Gave it to the young man and he hastened to prepare it So he took the butter the milk and the calf which he had prepared and he set it before Before them and he stood by them under the tree as they ate. Can you see the eagerness the anticipation? As he's watching him eating that meal. Oh, is it? All right? It was the best he had it was the best he had He had sarah prepare the best do it the best he had the his servant get the best calf he brought the best to jesus What are you guys giving to jesus? the scraps A couple odd days during the week campus ministry or church Are you giving him your life? Worshiping something you do for 30 minutes before you know Crusade or nav meeting or wherever you come from, you know, it's not worship is who we are.

Amen It is a sacrifice of who we are That's worship It's interesting we're talking about abram remember one time when abram talked about worship Do you remember that he took isaac? Put the wood on the little donkey Head up the hill to do the thing to sacrifice his very best And when the lad it says asked his father where they were going. He says we're going to worship We're going to worship Good stuff, isn't it?

Hey, i'm not lying about it makes my heart tremble too You guys aren't alone. It does Makes my heart go.

Oh Jesus Okay, let's go new places abraham was a pioneer of revival abraham was the pioneer of missions A missionary is one who is a blessing to the unreached peoples of the world Especially those who have the least amount of the gospel Especially those who have never heard. Amen, though. That's where missions has really happened.

Isn't that right the forgotten places? He was a pioneer of missions a blessing to the unreached Nations and peoples of the world abraham's going out was the for the purpose of inheriting the ends of the earth Not just inheriting a deeper presence of god, you know abraham when he left, you know, when he pursued the lord He left the idols behind to have a real tangible Vibrant relationship with god not just to serve some dead dumb idol, but to have a friend And then as he goes out now we see him he's also going out to inherit the ends of the earth When abraham was in his own homeland with his father he was barren He was barren his going out was to become fruitful. His going out was to reproduce after his own kind You know what? I mean a lot of us we call it church growths, but it was really, you know swapping church members You know what? I mean sure people get tired of this church or this campus ministry over here So they go visit this one then they go over there, you know, some of our churches might as well have revolving doors You know what i'm saying? We just trade members every year or two, isn't that right? And campus ministries do it too That is not growth That's just kind of shuffling them. You know what i'm saying? There is within us the pioneer within his heart has something that burns to reproduce himself To reproduce the christ in him to have offspring amen Man, there is nothing like babies.

I tell you what we've got a brand new baby in the house And you know what? It makes everybody nicer people Everybody is excited about the baby. Oh, look at her. You know what I mean? My boys.

They are just nicer I got a boy that he's you know, he's 11 and then I got another one nine and they just make over our brand new little girl Babies make nicer the whole house a nicer place You know what they do that to the church too Some of the reason why the church is so sour and depressing and routine and normal and boring You know what i'm saying? It's because we don't have any babies I'm telling you one thing that god's doing this year this year is he is stirring up the spirit of evangelism in people I hope before you guys leave this weekend. We get the time to pray 10 times for you that god will make you evangelists You guys ever have those crazy visions? Like I have some time where god says what if? You could jump on the table right now and preach your guts out You know what i'm saying? You ever you ever think about that? It gets me you know, it gets me are you willing you know what i'm saying? I flunked a test not too long ago. I feel like the lord asked me to preach in the after what was it? prince of egypt or something at the at the walk-in theater But are we ready you guys? God wants to you know, we've reserved it just for sunday and wednesday God wants to stir up stir up within us a holy boldness that will preach to the people in the grocery store At denny's at the gas station wherever we are Just let it pour forth a passion where we will unveil the lamb of god right before their eyes And they say this just isn't church like normal.

This is Jesus. You know what i'm saying? But that's sacrifice, isn't it? That's again giving him the best to say lord. I will be a fool for your sake I will say anything anywhere anytime You want me to have you ever made that decision you guys? Some of you all may be struggling with some stuff some reoccurring stuff A lot of times the struggle comes from because we have not surrendered these areas Should it make should it surprise us when we have not surrendered our heart To burn with passion for the loss like Jesus heart does that our heart does other things that scare us at night when no one else is looking You know what i'm talking about you guys Should it really surprise us when we have not surrendered our lips to say whatever

god wants anywhere we are that our lips say other things that You know what i'm saying is should it really surprise us when we have not surrendered our mind To meditate on the things that christ meditates on That our our minds and our thoughts go places that we wouldn't want anybody else to know about when we haven't surrendered our feet To go to anywhere on the ends of the earth should it surprise us guys That you find your feet taking you some places standing in some places that you would hate for your pastor to find you You know what i'm talking about don't you this is real stuff this is where many most of the church lives Amen You guys getting quiet on me now Genesis 17 2 and 6 i'm gonna give you the short version.

Do you guys don't worry? Okay Genesis 17 Don't you love to be challenged? Don't you you know when you love jesus your heart? Yes Yes, lord. Draw me draw me deeper really That's the way it works for me 17 2 and 6 lord speaking About the covenant between him and abram And I will make my covenant between me and you and I will multiply you exceedingly You know the pioneers the the pioneers of missions missionary pioneers, you know one thing they cannot stand What they detest about within themselves is barrenness is barrenness an empty womb not being fruitful Everything to look normal the leaves are all nice and green the garden looks well watered, but there's no fruit There's no harvest that drives the the pioneers of missions crazy Does it drive you crazy you guys? You go well My heart i'm not really that worked up about it. Ask him to work you up about it this weekend Okay, you'll get lots of opportunity.

I'm sure by the time everybody's done with you this weekend ask him And I will make you my covenant between me and you and I will multiply you exceedingly Then abram fell on his face and god talked with him saying Don't you love that do you hear the intimacy and god talked with him Not just a dream not just a vision not just you know Some burning shrubbery here You know what i'm saying? Not just fire on the mountain there, you know There's just a sense in this passage and god talked to him And god talked to him You guys if you will surrender all your heart you will hear god talk to you in some ways That you've never heard before See some of us we haven't give jesus to speak anything that he wants to to our ears You know what i'm saying? Sometimes we only want to hear the things that are convenient and we have a spiritual attitude that says yes. Yes. Yes Oh, I really got to be doing something else You know when god gets to this thing or i'd rather not hear that right now You ever been like that? It sounds like with me and my wife sometimes, honey We really need can we talk about this later? You know what i'm saying? Some of us act that way with god Should it surprise us then that we are not hearing the lord say the other things that our heart so desperately needs You guys we've got to be consistent We want him to speak but we don't want to hear everything We want our heart to be touched, but we don't want to feel everything that's in his heart We want him to lead our path and show us what our major is But we won't Won't go that place It's got a consistency is what the lord's saying the blessing the full blessing of abraham comes with a heart That is fully surrendered verse three then abram fell on his face and god talked with him saying as from as for me behold my

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