

Turning the Grace of God Into Lasciviousness

by David Wilkerson

The sermon warns against turning the grace of God into lasciviousness and emphasizes the importance of having a true biblical concept of grace.

Duration: 1:00:50

Scripture: Ezekiel 36:25-27, Matthew 6:33, Titus 2:11, Jude 1:4

Topics: "Sinful Behavior", "Holy Living"

Description

In this sermon, Pastor David warns Christians about the dangers of indulging in pornography and other immoral behaviors. He emphasizes that these actions are contrary to the gospel and the concept of grace. He questions how believers can claim to follow Christ while still engaging in such sinful activities. Pastor David also highlights the widespread presence of pornography in society, even among older generations, and expresses concern about the influence of secular entertainment on the church. He urges Christians to take the warning seriously and to respond to the conviction of the Holy Spirit by turning away from these sinful behaviors.

Transcript

I want to thank this congregation for their prayers on our recent trip to Helsinki, and to St. Petersburg, Russia, and then to Moscow. And we experienced the greatest moving of God's Spirit I've seen in all my years of ministry, in 40 years of mighty moving of the Holy Spirit, and in Finland. And we thank you for your prayers.

I look at my schedule when I get back, and I say, I don't know how, preaching up to four times a day, and doing national television at early in the morning, and coming home stronger than when I left. So that was... She walked all over. We knew.

I could feel it. Sometimes just feeling so weak. In fact, I left rather sickly, a bad cold.

And I said, this will never work. But many, many people were praying. We thank you for it, because the Lord has truly answered.

We give you thanks, and in Lord, to Pastor Carter and his staff, their faithfulness, and prayer support, and reminding this congregation of our prayer need. We thank you very much. I'm going to speak this morning on the subject, Turning the Grace of God into Lasciviousness.

Now, every time we preach, there's somebody backstage gets the title, and they say, Pastor, what's the title, so you can put it on the screen. And I said, Turning God's Grace into Lasciviousness. He said, Turning God into what? I said, Lasci, he said, Las, las, las, what? Lasciviousness.

I'm not even going to have you try to spell it. Turn to Jude, please, Jude. Right before Revelation, for those new converts, verses 1 through 4, please.

Do you have it? Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father and preserved in Jesus Christ and called. Mercy unto you and peace and love be multiplied. Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, I want you to stop just a minute.

He said, it was, I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation. He's very diligently preparing. Salvation common to all of us or understood by all of us.

And something happened, and now he says, it was needful for me to write unto you. In other words, he says, it was needful that I change my course. I've seen something in the church, and I've got to speak about it.

It was needful for me to write unto you and exhort you that you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares who were before of old ordained to this condemnation. Now listen to it, friends.

Ungodly men turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness and denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. Heavenly Father, I ask you now to anoint me. Anoint the words that come out of my mouth.

Lord, I need you, and I trust that your word find its mark and its place. Lord, you've touched me by your word this morning, and I ask you to touch everyone hearing this message. Let no one escape what you're trying to say.

Let us receive it, Lord, with open hearts and open minds. Lord, you are speaking to the body of Jesus Christ in these last days in strong words and in loving words, in edification and in reproof. Now, Jude here is warning that in the last days, men stealing into the church or creeping into the church of Jesus Christ with one intent, and that's to turn the grace of God into lasciviousness.

Now, to understand the seriousness of Jude's warning, lasciviousness embodies every conceivable species of iniquity known to mankind. It's a cover to human flesh. It means lacking moral discipline, having no regard for accepted moral standards.

It means lawlessness, casting off all restraints. It represents everything that is filthy, degrading, lewd, obscene. It speaks of unbridled lust.

It's licentiousness. That's from a Latin word, lascivia, which means loose, runaway passions and lust. Now, listen again to what Jude said.

Listen to all those definitions I've given you of this word, and you understand how serious this warning is of Jude to the body of Jesus Christ, because he's speaking to beloved brethren. He's speaking to those that are sanctified by God the Father and preserved in Jesus Christ and called. And he said, I'm warning you

that the devil is going to cause a teaching to come into the church by ungodly professors, teachers, evangelists and pastors and ordinary people in the congregation.

They twist it and turn it and manipulate it and turn it into lasciviousness. The grace of God turned into lasciviousness. Now, Jesus called this the sin of the heart.

He said it pours out of the abundance of the heart. For out of the heart of man proceeds deceit and lasciviousness. And these are the things that defile the man.

That's what Jesus himself said, speaking of this very word, lasciviousness. I want you to turn to 2 Corinthians, please, the twelfth chapter, and hear what Paul the Apostle says of this word also to the church of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians, the twelfth chapter, verses 20 and 21.

2 Corinthians 12. For I fear lest when I come, he's speaking to the Corinthian church, I fear lest when I come I shall not find you such as I would, that I shall be found unto you such as you would not, lest there be debates, envies, envying, strife, backbiting, whispering, swellings too much. Now listen to this closely.

And lest when I come again my God will humble me among you that I shall be well or mourn for many which have sinned already, and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed. Now he had just called them dearly beloved. These are his children that he has mentored.

He sent Timothy to this church, he sent Titus to this church, and also many other brothers. He's addressing those that are in the church, and he says, many of you in this church where all the gifts of the Spirit were in operation, where there was speaking with tongues, there were prophecies, there was preaching, they're convicted, and yet Paul the Apostle sends ministry who have heard us teach and preach, who have been partakers of the grace of God, and they've understood the message that we preach of grace, and yet it has been twisted because they're living yet in uncleanness. There are many, and he addresses them, two times have come to you.

And he said, really, my gift is edification, not destruction. My gift, God has made me an edifier. And he said, in two things, in lasciviousness, all of these things that I've mentioned, you come to God's house, you praise, you worship, he's suggesting this to them because he's speaking to dearly beloved, and he said, many of you, many of you in this body are still living in sin.

He said, in lasciviousness. And he said, this time when I come, this is the third time I'm coming to you, and I'm not going to spare you this time. He said, I don't want to come and speak a harsh word.

I'm going to preach a message this morning that will not apply directly to... Well, there comes a time when Paul says, I'm going to come and I'm not... When I read, when I go through 1 and 2 Corinthians, and I read the teaching that these dear folks had, and then the despair of hearing Paul say, many of you are still living in... How did they remain in such an unrepentant condition in the midst of such blessing and anointing? We expect that in the world. We expect the wicked to live in lasciviousness, but we don't expect to find it in the church. But we can ask that same question today.

How can so many who call themselves believers come to God's house, worship in fellowship, speak in tongues, talk about being baptized and filled with the Holy Ghost, and still watch porno movies, and still bring in these rented films, still fornicate, still live in adultery, in all kinds of manner of lasciviousness, as Paul calls it? How is it that people today become addicted to these things? In the United States, you go from the hills of Kentucky, you go to the little villages in Idaho, and you will see grandmothers and

grandpas, even in their seventies and eighties, watching the worst filth and garbage ever emitted out of the bowels of hell. You will find it all over the United States. A hotel chain in the South that features conventions, they have huge hotels and their greatest number of customers are conventioners.

And they released a statement not too long ago that the greatest number of X-rated movies, in-room movies, pay-TV, the most requested are during religious conventions, mostly pastor's conventions. More than all other business conventions. How is it that in the Pentecostal church and in the evangelical churches, the divorce rate is even higher now than in the world? Now, in my book, *The Vision*, written 27 years ago, 1974, I want to read, I was reading through this book the other day, it's out of print, and we were having hundreds of requests to reprint it.

I'm not trying to sell it because it's out of print. Page 43, now this is 27 years ago when you couldn't even use the word sex on television. This is before VCRs.

And here's what I said, Woe to all the inhabitants of the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you with great wrath to deceive, if it were possible, even the elect. And how will Satan attempt to vex and deceive God's chosen people? He's going to do it by seducing mankind and creating a moral landslide. He's going to open the floodgates of hell and seek to baptize the world in erotic filth, smut, and sensuality.

This moral landslide will surpass anything human might imagine. There's a dirt bath coming to vex the minds and souls of the most devout Christians alive today. The Bible says, Lot vexed his soul night and day by the things he saw and heard in Sodom.

Christians are soon going to be exposed to such violent filth and sensuality that it will take a firm grip on God to survive. Those who are on the fence are going to fall flat on their faces. Those who don't enter into the ark of God's safety are going to be swept away by this flood of filth.

Major TV networks will be caught up in this landslide. I predict the network programs will soon attempt bare-breasted scenes. Toplessness will be the new fad to those trying to liberalize the media.

It will be done tastefully at first, but when the artistic community joins in a chorus of praise for this great breakthrough, even clergymen will applaud nudity on television and say it's a healthy development. Surprisingly, those who speak out against it will not be ministers and those known as devout Christians, but rather those in politics and in Hollywood itself. And that's happened.

Be warned, in the not-too-distant future, the most wicked X-rated porno movies will be shown on select cable networks after midnight. Cable television is already a target of pushers of pornography. In the few major cities in the United States, Canada, and Europe, triple X-rated movies are already begun to show in some hotels.

They're from Sweden, Denmark, and the United States. These vile films will project nudity, sexual intercourse, homosexuality, animal perversion, and sadism. People will pay for these erotic movies piped directly into their living rooms.

And I go on to say it will be played through an electronic attack pipe right into their homes, and their homes will be called pleasure palaces. And it goes on and on. I warned in 1974, 27 years ago, in Revelation 12, don't turn there, but the scripture said the Bible warned, and he's going to say, to carry them away, a flood so vast, so powerful and extreme, that it would carry many away.

The serpent cast out of his mouth water, caused her to be carried away by the flood. In fact, this is what Paul's referring to, to the Corinthians. He is suggesting that many had already been... Now, as I said before, this doesn't relate to the majority of you here, but let me tell you why I'm preaching this, and why I'm putting out this warning, because beyond these walls, by tape, video, in fact, when I was in Helsinki, we were in a nice hockey arena, the seats were about 8,000, 8,000 people on Saturday, probably nearly 18,000 people.

And in the first group were Christians, and they asked how many were receiving our messages, and the great majority waved their hand, they were all receiving our messages. So, I'm preaching, and let me tell you why I'm putting out this warning. See, I'm not warning Christians about going off, sneaking off to Paris.

We'll follow through on this, and you'll see where I'm going in just a moment. See, the devil, he's not interested, he knows he can't get you involved in things like that. All he wants to do is pervert your concept, your understanding of the grace of God.

And if he can get you to seeing the grace of God as an excuse to sin or permissiveness, he will lead you down the path until you will be doing things, and seeing things, and involved in things that you could have never conceived, because he has succeeded in selling you a lie. He cannot touch a Christian, he cannot touch a believer with any eroticism, he can't touch you with any kind of lasciviousness, if you have the right biblical concept of grace. This is what the Bible says, this is going to be an attack against your knowledge, the true knowledge of God's grace.

This is what it's all about. It's not just about the filth. It's how... He has to break the foundation first so that he can get to you.

He knows he can't sell you the lie that God brings to sin. He knows he can't tell any Christian that, that God... Again, Jude, the fourth verse. There are certain men crept in unawares, who were before the Lord ordained to this condemnation.

In other words, he said there are prophets... He's referring to Enoch, probably, because Enoch prophesied of this very thing. In fact, Jude refers to Enoch, who prophesied that these men were ordained for that. Ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God and Lord Jesus Christ.

Look at me, please. The same Holy Spirit that moved Jude and Paul to warn of this, or the same Holy Spirit that's moved on me to speak this this morning. Same Holy Spirit.

Now, Paul... Jude refers to these men as ungodly, creeping into God's house, turning the grace of God into lasciviousness. Now, Jude lays bare the devil's plan to attempt to deceive the elect of God. He will secretly bring in this kind of gospelist teaching to pervert the gospel of grace.

Now, true biblical grace... Let's start with this. What is true biblical grace? What is the grace of God as we believe it in this church? Go to Titus, the second chapter, if you'll please. Titus 2? I know you love the Word of God.

If you do, would you just say yes? Titus, the second chapter. Let's start with verse 11, please. Verse 10.

No, verse 11. For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Alright, what is the grace of God? He goes on to tell us what the grace of God is.

Teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lust, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. What is grace? It's that power, it's that teaching, denying ungodliness and worldly lust. It's a power, denying ungodliness and worldly lust, to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.

In verse 13, looking for that blessed hope, the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ. Look at me, please. True grace produces in us a desire to walk godly, holy, soberly in this present world.

Soberly. With reverence. Now, Jude calls these ungodly men, and if you look up the word that was used in the Greek, it means men without reverence.

No holy all of the things of God. No reverence. But men of frivolity and lightness.

Jeremiah the prophet says, My people have gone into error because of the lies and the lightness of the prophets. The false prophets. He says, they stand before you in things that should have brought awe and reverence and soberness, sobriety, before God.

They laugh at. They ridicule. They make fun of it.

Ungodly men, men of laughter and frivolity, are going to come into the church. Men without reverence. Nothing better explains what is happening in the church of Jesus Christ today.

I've seen leading evangelists, well known, with great followings, talking in tongues before a multitude and joking in tongues. When I saw it on tape, I just burst out. It broke my heart because the scripture said there will come men without reverence for the things of God.

You see, if the devil can get you to look at the things of God, look at the truth of God, without sobriety, without seriousness. In fact, the scripture makes it very clear. They turned the grace of God.

That word turned in Greek. It means they laid it flat. It was erect and they laid it down.

They take this awesome, holy word of God that is to produce the fear of God in us and take away the sobriety of it, take away the reverence for the word of God. There are many, many people today go to churches where there is nothing but likeness, foolishness. I saw a tape of one church, a sinner-friendly church.

This was Sunday night. I think I told you about it. I couldn't believe it.

They had David Letterman night. And ten reasons why kids get bored in church. And what those ten things were are so foolish and so out of character for Christians that I can't even repeat them.

And everybody laughing. Everybody clapping. Everybody standing and applauding.

And it's just fun night. Folks, these men are going to turn the church of Jesus Christ into folly to take away the power of the gospel of grace. Twist it and turn it.

Bring it to the ground to take away its effectiveness and power. Grace produces in people a longing for the coming of Jesus. Looking for that blessed hope, the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grace produces in believers a godly fear. Let us have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and with godly fear. Here, grace is tied to reverence by the writer of Hebrews.

Peter said, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. He said, you want to understand true grace? And he ties it into this sobriety, this soberness before God. He's not talking about long-facedness.

He's not talking about going around humped over and putting yourself down. That's not what he's talking about. But he said, when you have a true revelation of the glory of Christ, when you've been shut in with God and you see Jesus as He is, and He reveals His nature to you in His love and His power and even the terror of Almighty God, you will come to it with reverence and you will come to it with awe.

You will come to it in the presence of God and not foolish. Gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for that grace that is brought to you by the revelation of Jesus Christ. Hallelujah.

The devil's aim is to make you believe God's not serious about sin, that there's no wrath in God. In other words, don't fret about your secret sin or lust. There's abundant mercy and grace and forgiveness.

Paul said, these men hold the truth in unrighteousness. You see, there's a sin they didn't want to let go. There was a compromise.

They decided, I'm going to stay in the house of God. I'm going to be a part of this body, but I'm not going to forsake my sin. He showed it to them.

He showed them the truth. They knew the truth. They'd been reproved.

They'd been edified. And he said, in spite of it, they turned and gave themselves over to their sins. And finally, God did the same.

They turned to their lascivious ways. Jude said, they turned the grace of God. The word there means modified, something added.

The word is to prostrate it to the ground so that it be not taken seriously. Isaiah described it this way. It is fall into the streets.

Where do these ungodly men come from? These ungodly men and women that are going to creep into the church. Does the devil go down into some portal theater and pick up somebody and dress them up as some kind of angel? He doesn't have to do that. These are those who have been shown the truth.

That knew the meaning of grace. That they are those who have been addicted to an unforsaken lust. Those who have held the truth in unrighteousness.

And they've invented a false grace to excuse the sin they refuse to lay down. It's an invented gospel. It's another Christ.

Another gospel. I've got to get this out of my innermost. And I want to do it in love.

Let me tell you why I believe the Holy Spirit is leading me to share this now. Because the majority of you are not like these that Jude speaks of. Filthy dreamers.

Defiling their flesh. Despising dominion. Speaking evil of dignities.

Very few in this house could identify with that. Most of you are walking in righteousness with Christ. You're obedient.

You're God-fearing. You're walking in that grace that teaches us. But how many in this congregation, how many listening to me struggle with occasional encounters with something that is unclean? Occasional encounters.

In other words, you're not giving over to it. But you occasionally indulge. I call it lapses into lasciviousness.

You lapse into something that once had your heart. And you sit here listening to me today. And I want this to be done in great love.

Because God never tries to expose anything other than to heal. Other than to edify and to change and to build up. But first he has to tear down those walls that keep them from reaching that purpose.

How many are struggling with falling back? You go along so well for so long and then there's suddenly a... Now listen close to what I'm going to say. The devil knows he can't reach it this way. He knows that as long as you have a measure of the fear of God in your heart, you're going to feel great.

He can't get to you. He cannot bind you or habituate you to any lust or any sin while you still have a measure. So how can he bind you to sin? How can he get you? How does he get to you? How does he get to the elect? How does he get to the Corinthian church like this where Paul, the apostle, and Jude, and you'll find it even from Peter, speak of lasciviousness in the church.

Those who have had everything given to them of the Spirit and the Word, this persistence in sin. The only way he can do you is to sell you on this lie I'm talking about. He has to get you to believe that a lie is the truth.

He has to persuade you that you can hold on to truth while still living in sin. He has to totally convince you that grace, the very grace of God, is nothing more than an ever... That's 95% gospel and 5% poison that can kill you. There's nothing ever spoken by the devil or those ungodly men that come in about the conditions of grace.

The conditions of the new covenant. Not that they are merited, but God has made requirements. Now I want you to listen very, very closely now.

The lie is this. You can keep going back to your pet sin as long as you keep running back to the altar. Didn't Jesus, and this is the lie the devil comes... You can sit in a Holy Ghost meeting just like this, and you can hear us talk about new covenant grace.

Unmerited grace. You can hear us tell you of all the promises of the new covenant. How God says, I will be merciful to your sins.

I will implant the Holy Spirit in you. Even years in this church now. You can hear it taught.

You have no power in your flesh to overcome the devil and sin. And that's true. That's the gospel.

That's the new covenant. Yes, there's a fountain filled with blood and it is ever running. It is ever flowing.

Yes. But the devil will come and say, didn't Jesus say... First of all, isn't this a wonderful gospel? Isn't this life free? And it is. And then he'll come to you and say, well, didn't Jesus say that you'd give your blood at least 499 times? You haven't gone back to your lust 499 times.

In fact, if you... It's never ending forgiveness. As long as you have a repentant spirit, as long as you know how to cry over your sin. You can go to any bar room, and the guy's half drunk, and the drunker he gets, the more he starts crying over sin.

You'll find more crying, more tears on a bar stool than anywhere else. Well, I believe in repentance, and folks, I've wept and wept and wept many, many times. But he will come to you and say, as long as you keep confessing, keep saying I'm sorry, you can indulge your sin a thousand times, and he will freely forgive a thousand times.

Over and over and over again. Now, do I believe that there's any end of God's grace, any end of God's forgiveness, nor can man truly come to the repentant heart? There is unending forgiveness for those with a repentant heart. Truly repentant heart.

You could say to me, Pastor Dave, that could never happen to me, because you see, these men, Jude and Paul and Peter, are talking about... You see, you can sit in a church that preaches a pure biblical message of grace and mercy for the struggling, about the Holy Ghost providing power over sin, but Satan can come and plant a lie in the midst of that. That's what the Bible warns against, that many are going to believe a lie to be the truth. When they found rats in Central Park, an invasion of rats, they mixed 2% poison with 98% brain, and it killed the rats.

There's only 2% of error, often, in what is taught, in what these men will teach, because the devil knows you won't buy an outright lie. He knows I won't buy an outright lie. He has to come with... The lie goes something like this.

Since you don't have the power and ability to battle sin in your own strength, and the Holy Ghost has been promised you to come and empower you, just go your way and wait for the Holy Spirit to come and empower you. Because you can't be judged for what you can't do in your own strength. How can you be judged for that? That's the responsibility of the Holy Ghost.

Haven't you been taught that? That the Holy Ghost will come and He will do in you, He will empower you to do what you can't do, to obey His Word and walk in obedience. And the lie is this. You can sit and suddenly, if you don't want to be free of your sin, if you don't want to be delivered from the bondage of sin, this lie will grab your heart and you'll... He said you're taking the truth and you're listening to a lie.

There's been a lie implanted in the middle of this. That you have no responsibility until the Holy Ghost comes and do it. You just go your way.

If you're dodging sin, if you do what you have been doing, just go ahead and wait for the Holy Ghost to come. And that's what many have done, and they wait. When they go into sin, they turn around and say, Holy Ghost, where were you? Where were you? I was waiting for you to come and give me power.

And I didn't get it. I was tempted and I gave in. It's not my fault.

And the devil will do everything to try to give you a gospel that comforts you in your sin. You see, the lie is that believers have no personal responsibility. Now, we can't merit anything of God's grace.

We preach that, and I believe that. That's the core of what we preach. That there is a responsibility.

There is a responsibility that goes with us, with this teaching. Thank God there are safeguards against every lie of the devil. And Jude himself gives the three safeguards.

Look at verses 20 and 21 in Jude. Here are the three safeguards that he gives. But ye, beloved, building up yourself on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourself in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Look at it again. Three safeguards against ever being seduced by any devilish lie concerning grace. But ye, beloved, building up yourself on your most holy faith.

Now, how do you build yourself up in faith? Faith comes by hearing the word of God. Not just by reading it. But the word hearing there means obeying.

But by obeying what you read. The devil cannot get to you if you will use these three safeguards. You will never be seduced by a lie.

You'll never be twisted. Building yourself up in your faith. Not just from the pulpit preaching, but you yourself are alone with God, with this book.

And you're building yourself up. You read it, you're approved by it, you obey it. No matter what anybody else is preaching.

Thirdly, the anxious looking for his coming. The anticipation of the coming of Jesus. I want to tell you something, beloved.

Listen closely. You show me a believer. You show me any Christian anywhere on the face of this earth, from rich or poor, any nation.

You show me somebody that's really in the word of God. Applying it daily to their lives. Have a quality time alone with the Lord, seeking his face.

And they are praying even so, Lord Jesus come today. And they expect every time they get up in the morning, Jesus may come today. They are looking for his appearing.

They're longing for the judgment seat of Christ. My works burn. I want to know you, Jesus.

You show me somebody that is using these three safeguards given to us by Jude. And the devil can't. You'll never get that lie.

And these lies can never be injected. And more and more you become sensitive to sin. More and more you begin to see the exceeding sinfulness of sin.

More and more you refuse to sin because of what you know it does to the heart of your blessed Savior. You want nothing to interfere with that fellowship that you have with him. You know the Lord loves you through it.

You know through all your struggles he'll be there. If we sin, we have an answer. But he said if you do these three things, you will stand.

I'm not trying to sell this book either. The New Covenant. But I want to read in closing something about the New Covenant.

This explains more clearly what I'm trying to say. Listen very closely please. This is from my book, The New Covenant.

Ezekiel 36 gives us the glorious promises of the New Covenant. I'll sprinkle clean water on you. You shall be clean.

From all your filthiness, from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also I'll give you. A new spirit I'll put within you.

I'll take away your stony heart out of your flesh. And I'll give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you.

Now listen to this. God's making an ironclad promise. You'll be clean.

God says I swear it. Free of all filthiness, guilt and shame. You no longer have to live under a black cloud of dread and despair.

You no longer have to fear exposure and loss. The last verse of this passage contains a New Covenant promise. I believe it's the very gate to heaven on earth.

God swears to put his spirit in you to cause you to obey everything he demands of you. Understand the implications of this message for your life, please. God wants to share with you the secret of his life-giving, suffering covenant.

He wants you to lay hold of a truth that will cut off all your chains. Are you still hooked by secret sin? Is your mind still riddled with lustful thoughts? Are you gripped by a besetting sin you know is defiling God's temple, your body? Are you wrestling with a habit? Drug, secret drinking, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, bitterness, unforgiveness. The Lord said his covenant is your past.

But now he gives you a condition. This is in Ezekiel 36, same chapter. The Lord, I the Lord have spoken it.

And I will do it. Thus saith the Lord God. I will yet for this.

In other words, to fulfill all these covenant promises. I will, you will seek my face by the house of Israel to do it for them. He says, I'm going to give you this promise.

I've just given you the great foundation promises of the new covenant. This is the gates of heaven on earth. The key to the gates of heaven on earth.

And God says, I want to fulfill all these. To do it, I'm going to be inquired of by you. I'm going to be sought.

Prior to this verse, the Lord here enumerates all the covenant promise. Now he decrees that all of these blessings are tied directly to seeking him. He's saying in essence, I've made you an oath.

It can't be broken. I'm going to cast your sins into the sea so you'll never be threatened by them again. I'm going to send my spirit to sanctify you and change your heart.

And all of these blessed covenant. And finally, now why would the Lord attach this condition? First of all, the Bible clearly states that it's God's will for all people to be saved. Yet his word also states, I will therefore that men pray everywhere.

He tied it to prayer. God wills for salvation for his people and prayer from his people. When he says, if you do this with all diligence, I will share with you the secret of my covenant in seeking his face.

Did you ever wonder why all the pastors in this church preach so much about prayer and seeking the word? How often we talk about being prepared for his coming. We do that because we know that these are the conditions of everything we preach in the covenant. This is our human responsibility to seek his face.

Never again can you stand by, there are dolls in your sin, and say I'm waiting for the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is going to say to you what he said here, now. I've told you clearly, those who ask for the Holy Spirit receive it.

Those who seek me find. Those who ask. That means the Holy Ghost is going to come when you seek him with all your heart, your mind, your soul, and your strength.

He will be there. He's never going to be a moment too late. He's going to be with all the power and everything that you need to overcome.

Every sin, every lie of the devil can never penetrate that armor, that wall, that God builds by his spirit around you when you seek him with everything that's in your heart. I would like to think with Paul that my preference is to edify. But this message will edify you.

It will truly edify you if you take it to heart now. And say my part is to seek him. He said if you seek me, I'll take care of everything else.

I told the Lord, you know, way back, I'm not going to worry about finances for this church. I'm not going to worry about finances for the ministry, for my home, my family, my children or grandchildren. I'm not going to worry about my health.

I'm not going to worry about the health of my family anymore. I'm not going to think about it. Because you said if I seek you first, I'll put your kingdom first.

And I just seek you, you're going to take care of everything. Say Lord if there's anything, and he's faithful, he'll show you. He is a loving Savior.

He will show you. Which is not complicated. I am more convinced than ever that the New Covenant is the message of the last hour.

I'm committed to it. But I'm telling you now, I'm even more committed to our responsibility to make sure that these promises are fulfilled in our lives. Not by merit, but simply by the word of God and his promise and his warning.

Hallelujah. Are you a seeker after God? Reading this book, just about everything I said, because I'd forgotten what to say, and saying that to say this. The same Lord who warned the nation 27 years ago, is still warning us lovingly today.

If you're here this morning, the balcony, the annex in here, wherever you may be. You say, Pastor David, something was said this morning, that cut like a knife right through my soul. Something you preached this morning, Brother David, cut right to the core of my life.

If the Holy Spirit spoke to you this morning, he intends for you to follow it up. He intends for you to make good on what the work he is doing in your heart. He expects you to respond, because he does it in great love.

Because he wants to change you, and maybe a chain that binds you that he wants to break in this service this morning. He intends that you walk out of this church totally free. And with a commitment that you will start seeking God as never before in your life.

I know that's where he's taking me. I'm seeking him now more than I've ever sought him, because I see what's coming in the days ahead. And I want to be prepared.

If God's speaking to you, get out of your seat and come here. We don't need to know why, the Holy Spirit alone knows. Upstairs, just come down.

And in the annex, don't go to the screen, but go between. You can step out and stand between the screens. I'll pray for you.

Holy Spirit's speaking to you. Something was said this morning. Live to you.

This morning. You're not saved. How many of you came forward? Have a sense in your heart.

You feel. He said keep yourself in the annex also. You see, the Lord wants you to enjoy his fellowship.

He wants you to enjoy the peace that comes with victory in your life. You know when you're clean? It's such a peace. You can look anybody in the eye.

That's what it's all about. He wants you to enjoy the freedom. True freedom is the most enjoyable.

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