

The High Call to Jesus' Disciples

by Dennis Balcombe

Dennis Balcombe emphasizes the high call of Jesus for all believers to live as sacrifices and actively participate in evangelism, particularly in the context of reaching the Chinese people.

Duration: 1:01:59

Scripture: Isaiah 52:7, Matthew 10:25, John 15:16, Acts 20:24, Romans 10:14, 1 Timothy 2:5, 2 Timothy 4:2

Topics: "Discipleship"

Description

The video shown in the sermon is about the speaker, who is a missionary in China, disguising himself and his daughter to enter villages and preach the word of God. They face many difficulties and even pretend to be dead in order to reach the people. The speaker emphasizes the importance of being filled with the Holy Spirit and the call of God on one's life. He encourages the audience to keep the faith and fulfill their calling, whether it be in the mission field or in other areas of ministry.

Transcript

Thank you very much and I'm honored to be here and share what's on my heart. I'm from America, but when I was 16 years old, I gave my life to Jesus Christ and He changed me. I was actually brought up in the Methodist church.

My grandmother was a Shalming Methodist and she told me that in those days, in my grandmother's days, to get saved, they'd expect you to come forward and to kneel at a mourner's bench and cry and wail and confess your sins. But in my days, that wasn't the case. Because in my days, the Methodist church in California had accepted liberal theology from Germany and the pastor didn't believe in the inspiration of the Bible.

He didn't believe in judgment, repentance, hell. He didn't even believe in being born again. So, I was brought up very good Methodist.

I went to church every Sunday. I attended Sunday school every Sunday because my mother was a Sunday school teacher. So I had to go to Sunday school and I prayed every night from the time I was three years old.

But I didn't really know the Lord that well until I went to a spirit-filled church at 16 years old and I saw the power of the gospel. I heard people speaking in tongues and languages that I recognized that they didn't

know. I saw hands laid upon the sick and the sick healed.

I saw miracles. I'd never seen a miracle in the Methodist church in America. Now, if I'd been going to DUMC, I'd probably been preaching the gospel from the time I was five years old because I would have heard the true gospel.

I would have been in a spirit-filled congregation. But I wasn't that blessed. But praise the Lord, I finally found the Lord at 16 years old and God called me into the ministry.

The day that I gave my life to the Lord, I was called into the ministry. But you know, all of us are called into the ministry. We just read Paul, he said, I'm called to be an apostle.

God has called you. Now, you may not be an apostle, you may not be a pastor standing on the platform, but you have been called and there's a calling on your life. I have a theme this morning or this evening.

It's called The High Call to Jesus' Disciples to present yourself as a living sacrifice and preach the gospel in Chinese. The High Call to Jesus' Disciples to present yourself as a living sacrifice and preach the gospel in Cantonese. I'm Cantonese, I love Cantonese.

The High Call to Jesus' Disciples to present yourself as a living sacrifice and preach the gospel in Cantonese. I like it. I love Cantonese.

English is hard to speak, right? It's hard to speak English. I don't preach in English very often, but I'll try my best. And I have the scriptures on the PowerPoint.

So you can look at the scriptures because I have a lot to cover. I want to talk about China and revival. I want to give you the word of God.

So you need to be good at speed reading because I'm not going to be able to read every scripture. And just let these scriptures come into your heart. I love the word of God.

I love the Bible. I love preaching from the Bible, but I cannot read every scripture. But these are my main points tonight.

To be a living sacrifice, what does it mean to be a living sacrifice? You are to present your bodies, what Paul says in Romans chapter 12, as a living sacrifice. That means your time. It means what you do in your personal life.

It means your family life. It is everything, including your finances. Your body is to be a living sacrifice and it's to be holy and pleasing unto the Lord.

Now, Paul says this is your act of worship. Worship is not just what you do in a church meeting. It's what you do every day.

Now the Bible says we're to be as a living sacrifice and therefore our mind is transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Let me tell you a secret. If you pray in tongues every day for 30 minutes or one hour, you pray in tongues.

You can even walk down the street or in a vehicle praying in tongues. Eventually, your thinking will change. You will have a love for the things of God.

Of course, praying in tongues, the Holy Spirit will pray through you. God will speak to you. You will hear His voice.

Your thoughts will change. You're not interested in the worldly things. You want to please God.

You will pray for many, many people. The Bible says let this mind in Jesus Christ be in you. Now the Bible says if you do that, then you know the will of God, His good, His pleasing, and His perfect will by praying in the Holy Spirit.

As you begin to pray in the Holy Spirit, as you begin to follow after the Lord, you will hear the call of Jesus that comes to every generation, to all of His believers. He wants you to be a disciple. He says that if you want to come and follow after me, in comparison to loving me, you must hate your father, your brother, your wife, your children, and your own life.

Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. And then He says, if you do not bear your cross and follow after me, you cannot be my disciple. Now, the cross quite often speaks of the persecution or obstacles that come because we're Christians.

We're light in a dark world. And He says you cannot be my disciple if you're not willing to pay the price. But I believe that many of you are willing to pay the price, and that's my encouragement to you tonight.

Jesus talks about producing fruit. Now we quite often hear about the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, kindness, long-suffering, patience, gentleness, goodness. This is our character.

The longer you follow Jesus, the more of a Christian character you will have. But in Romans, excuse me, in John chapter 15, I believe Jesus is not talking about our character. He's talking about leading people to Christ.

He's talking about preaching the gospel. He's talking about building the kingdom of God. He says, you are called as my friends, and I've made my Father known unto you.

And you did not choose me, but I chose you, that you should go forth and bear fruit, and your fruit should remain. And then he gives us a promise, that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will do. He will give it to you, because you're producing fruit.

You're leading people to the Lord. Now, this is the time of the harvest. Many years ago, it was just a time of planting.

In China, in Russia, in South America, in India, in Asia, missionaries would spend their whole life and only see a few converts. They planted the word, they translated the Bible. But now we're living in a time of harvest.

And the Lord says in John chapter 4, after speaking to the woman at the Williston area, Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already for harvest. And I want you to look on the fields tonight, especially among the Chinese people. Now, I love all nations.

I go to India many times a year. I go to Africa many times a year. I go to Indonesia.

I go to South America. But God has called me to bring the good news to the Chinese people. That's why I've studied Chinese.

That's why I'm spending my time in China. Because the Chinese are the largest group of people in the world. Actually, many experts say that China probably now has 1.5 billion people.

Not according to the government, 1.34 billion people. That's a low, low estimate. And with all the Chinese overseas, that means that 1 out of 4 people in the world today are Han Chinese.

Hanyu, Putonghua, is the most widely spoken language in the world. More people speak Putonghua than English or any other language. Yet, though God is moving in China, I'm going to share tonight, still up to 80% of the Chinese people have never really heard the gospel.

Haven't even had a chance to find Jesus Christ. This is the greatest harvest field. And I'm going to show you in a minute, there's many other groups of people in China, many other ethnic groups in China, that they also need to hear the gospel.

The fields are already under harvest. Now, I love the scripture in Isaiah chapter 52. It talks about how beautiful on the mountains are the feet of them that bring good news.

Mountains speak of kingdoms, speaks of spiritual fortresses and powers. And so, we're to go into the mountains, into the kingdoms, into the nations of the world and bring good news. And the good news is that our God, He is reigning.

He reigns. We're proclaiming salvation. It's good news.

Now, you can talk about Armageddon and 666 and the beast and all that stuff in a Bible class. But don't preach that from the pulpit. Don't preach that in your church, even when you're evangelizing people.

We don't know the future. Only God knows the future. But we know what God has done for us.

We know that Jesus died for us, that He came to give us abundant life, that He will forgive us our sins. He will heal our bodies. He will set people free.

If people are demon-possessed, we can cast out the demons in the name of Jesus. That's the good news. Leave the other end time stuff for your Bible study class.

But preach the gospel. Now, when people preach the gospel, no one is opposed to preaching the gospel. Evangelicals, Charismatics, everyone wants the gospel to be preached.

The Bible says the watchman will lift up their voice. Yeah, they're going to see eye to eye, for the Lord is going to bring back Zion. You see, we can all agree on preaching the gospel.

So, hearing about your presentation coming this month, it's a gospel presentation. I encourage you to invite as many people as you can, because we need to preach the gospel here in Kuala Lumpur, in Malaysia, in this part of the world. In China, we have two kinds of churches.

We have the house church, and we have the three-self church. Now, because of the work of the Holy Spirit, and because of a great hunger to see people saved, our churches are working together. This is Chongqing.

You know, Chongqing has a total of 38 million people. In Chongqing, with the districts around it, that's more than perhaps Malaysia, 38 million people. And there's over 5,000 house churches, and there's about

500 open churches.

And we love it, because the food is great. We have the spicy food, the mala. It's the best food in all of the world.

You know, you eat that food, and you think you're in heaven. I love it, you know. You have a Chongqing hotpot.

That's one of the best kind of hotpot you can have. And the people, they love that food, but I love the people, because the people there are coming to the Lord. And this is a house church as well as a three-self church.

Complete unity, because we're all involved in preaching the gospel. Now, the Lord wants us to ask of Him. When I was young, God called me to China, and I began to ask the Lord for China.

He said, Ask of me, and I'm going to give you the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for your possession. Ask, what do you want to do with your life, especially young people or middle-aged people or older people. You don't know.

You may have 20, 30, 40 years. What are you going to do with the rest of your life? Are you going to give your life just to the cares of this life, of making more money, getting a nice house and retiring? And everybody does that. Are you going to give your life to preaching the gospel and bring it in the harvest, that when you see the Lord, He may say, Well done, my good and faithful servant.

Ask, and the Lord will give to you. Begin to ask. I asked the God for China when it was closed.

God told me when I was 16 years old, that was 50 years ago, I'm 66 right now, to pray for China every day for 3 hours. And every Friday night, not to sleep, but pray all night long for China. I did that from 1961 until 1969, when I went as a missionary to Hong Kong.

And then for years, we prayed for another 8 years until China opened in 1978. Praying and fasting. God, give me China.

Give me the people in China. And my prayers are coming to pass. It's just not mine.

It's many people who've been praying. Now, China, we have a population of 1.34 billion people according to the government. It's probably about 1.5 billion people.

Among these people, 6% are not even Han Chinese. They belong to another 55 different groups of people. Now, most of these have never heard the gospel.

Yet, with the exception of the Muslims, because of religious opposition, most of them are open to the gospel. Most of them, in fact, you can go and even the government will not give you a problem. The police will not give you a problem.

The government would rather have these people being a Christian than joining the Taliban or some kind of a terrorist group. They'd rather have them being a Christian than to become some fanatical cult. So, even missionaries go and minister to these people.

Well, you see, the church is in a time of revival. We're leaving Babylon, which is religious confusion. We're in a time of restoration.

We're leaving tradition of men. We're being spirit-filled. And the gospel is going to be preached to all nations.

And eventually, we'll go back to Jerusalem. It began there 2,000 years ago. We have the Back to Jerusalem vision.

Now, this is the last stop. It's not now. It's our goal.

It's we're going to reach Jerusalem one day. But before that, we're going to reach the people throughout Asia, the people in China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Middle East. We're going to preach to every nation.

People are praying at the Great Wall. Jesus returned. The Jews are praying for their Messiah to come.

But Jesus says that, not the Great Wall, the Wailing Wall. Excuse me, my mind is thinking about China, you know. The Great Wall is in China.

They're praying at the Wailing Wall. Lord, quickly come. But Jesus says in Matthew 24, 14, that this gospel of the kingdom will be preached into all the world as a witness to all nations.

And then, the Lord will return. Now, we're going back to the Old Testament. You have this man Abraham.

We're related to Abraham through Jesus Christ. And God gave Abraham a promise that is our promise. Now, this promise has two parts to it.

First of all, that I'm going to make you a great nation. I'm going to bless you. I'm going to make your name great.

This is called the top line of the promise. Then he says in verse 3, I'm going to bless those that bless you. I'm going to curse those that curse you.

That's where most of us live. We want to be blessed. We want to be saved.

We want to go to heaven. We want to be healed. We want to be set free.

We want to be delivered. God will do that for us. But then, the bottom line of the covenant, as Don Richardson in his book called Eternity in the Hearts so clearly explains.

The bottom line of the covenant is where most Christians are not really interested. But that's where the heart of God is. He says that you're going to be a blessing.

And all the families of the earth shall be blessed through you. The families are the ethnic groups. The different groups of people, they're going to be blessed through you, Abraham.

Now, we go to the New Testament to the book of Galatians and we see that Paul says that he's speaking not to many seeds, but to one seed, which is Christ. And he said, if you're Christ, then you're Abraham's seed and you're heirs according to the promise. So this promise is for the church today.

Now, I don't believe in substitute theology if you're concerned about that. I don't believe that the church has substituted Israel. God has a plan for Israel.

God has a plan for the church. Both are important. See, there's two types of seed.

It's like the sand that is upon the seashore and it's like the stars that are in heaven. This is what God says to Abraham. Your seed, I'm going to multiply it like the sand is upon the seashore.

Even Jacob prayed. He said, Lord, you promise to make the descendants as the sand of the sea. That's the nation of Israel, the natural seed of the Lord.

Then we have the spiritual descendants of Abraham and these are like the stars. The Lord says, look at the stars and count them. If you can count them, that's how your seed is going to be.

It's true that today all over the world it's estimated that every day there's 170,000 or more that believe in Jesus Christ, that are baptized in water. It's estimated every day over 1,000 new churches are started. This is truly a time of revival.

I live in China. I spend all my time in China and I can tell you the church is growing much faster than the population is. For the last 30 years that China has been open, we've seen tremendous growth in the church from 1% to 2% in some areas up to 30% right now.

And I'm going to show you some videos and some pictures. Well, I love to study the Chinese language. Now, here's some Chinese idioms.

■■■■■ First of all is ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ You know, you're learning all your life. You're always a learner. Then there's another one that I like.

■■■■■ ■■ You know, ■ is a brick. So we throw the brick and we get back what? ■■ We get back jade. So what I'm giving you is just ordinary stuff, right? You know, it's not anything special.

But the Holy Spirit is upon you and you're going to hear my message tonight and God's going to bless you and call you and you're going to get some jade out of my message. Praise the Lord. Now, even Obama knows how to use Chinese idioms.

He went to Shanghai a few years ago. He used this idiom. ■■■■■■ It should be ■■■■■■ You learn from the old.

You learn new things. And then there's one that I love. ■■■■ ■■■■ Three of us are going along the road together and one of them is my teacher.

■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■ So you are my teachers and I've come here to learn from you. I tell the people in China all the time. Another one.

■■■■■ ■■■■ I don't even know how to translate. My English is not that good. But that means that the teacher is always better than the student.

So I pray that God's going to give you something. Now, another idiom is ■■■■ In English it means to pass on the baton. But Chinese ■ is the fire word.

■ is the materials that burn. So I give you both the fire word and I give you the fire. What it means is we pass on the baton.

It's a new generation. But we must learn from the servants of God. Those that started the church in previous generations like this old man and maybe his granddaughter or the father with his daughter.

Well, when I was five, God gave me a love for the Chinese people. And these are pictures of me when I was 13 and 15. I have four sisters and two brothers.

■■■■■, ■■■■■ I'm the oldest brother. And, you know, I prayed for my family. And now they're all serving the Lord.

My two brothers are in the ministry. They're pastors in churches, have a great anointing upon their life. We have a big family.

They all grew up and they got married and had children. The children have grown up and got married and had children. So if we have a family reunion, we have over a hundred people.

We cannot use the house. We have to use the church for the family reunion. And praise the Lord.

I prayed for my family and they all came to the Lord. They were just traditional, non-born-again, dead Methodists. But now they're spirit-filled people that speak in tongues and are preaching the gospel.

Praise the Lord. Then I went to a church where there was a man of God called David Schock. David Schock, a German.

He didn't know me from anybody. But he said, God's going to send you to Communist China, to Red China. And you're going to preach the gospel in Communist China.

Now he's never given a false prophecy. He died about four years ago. And the other men of God that didn't know me prophesied.

But I went because I knew the call of God on my life. The prophecy was just a confirmation. Then I went to a church where there was a woman pastor.

The church was a small church, just a few dozen people. And in 1969, she sent me to Hong Kong as a missionary. But you know, if your church is involved in missions, your church will grow.

If your pastor believes in missions, your pastor will be able to inspire people and the church will grow. And I know your church is that same kind of a church. At that time the church had about 30 or 40 people.

Just had enough money to get me a one-way ticket to Hong Kong. That's all I needed was a one-way ticket anyhow. I didn't plan to come back.

I went to Hong Kong. I didn't speak much Chinese. Nobody met me at the airport.

But I knew that God had called me. Well, after many years, she gave the church to her son. Now, under her leadership, the church grew to 1,000 people.

Under the son's leadership, the church grew to 2,000 people. The son gave the church to his son, which is a grandson when he reached 60 years old. And now the church has grown to 4,000 people.

You see, one generation to the next generation. Well, I have a daughter and she got married to a Chinese. I have a son who's in America.

I've never once spoken English with my children. Never once. Now, I got married in 1971.

I told my wife, I learn Cantonese in eight months, so I'm going to give you nine months. And after that, we're going to only speak Cantonese in this family. So from that time, from 1972 to this day, I've never once spoken English with my wife.

We're not allowed to speak English because we're Chinese. Because we're Chinese, so we don't allow any English in our home. Praise the Lord.

Their English is okay, but Chinese is a lot better. So my daughter got married to Chinese, of course. And then I have two grandchildren.

My grandson just was 12 years old yesterday. My granddaughter is 14 years old. Now, if she gets married like when my daughter got married at 20, my wife, when I got married, she was 20.

If she gets married at 20, I'm going to have to wait another seven years or so, six years. And then I'm going to be a great-grandfather. There will be four generations in one family.

So I'll really be blessed. And they're all going to serve the Lord. We live in Hong Kong, which is a special administrative region.

And Hong Kong is a great place. And it's the branch where missionaries have gone to China for literally 160 years. And many people have gone.

Now, the other scripture we talked about was the Scripture and Revelations. This is the end of the whole story of salvation. We see before the throne, they're worshipping the Lord.

And they're saying, You redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe, every trunk, every people, every nation. I just mentioned there's 80 million people in China that are not Chinese. Now, maybe tonight, my sharon, you might think about being a missionary to some of these people.

Because most of them have never heard the gospel. And they're very open to the gospel. And they're not only in China, they're around the world.

These are not Han Chinese. Zhuang, there's 16.1 million people. Manchu, in the northern part of China, there's 10 million.

Huizhu, most of them are Muslims. They're the Chinese Muslims. There's about 9.8 million.

The Uyghurs, they look like Europeans, but they're Muslims, mostly in Xinjiang. But they're very kind of like just Muslims in name only. Many are open to the gospel and coming to Jesus Christ.

They're not fanatical yet. And so we need to take the gospel to them. 8.4 million.

Another called Tujiazhu, there's 8 million. Yizhu, 7.7 million. Mongolians, 5.8 million people.

Now, let's just talk about one of them. The Yi minority, there's 7.7 million. They're the seventh largest.

They're mostly in Sichuan, Yunnan, Guizhou, and Guangxi. And they speak another language that is close to Burmese or Tibetan language. And these are some of the pictures of the people.

Recently, in the last year or so, our ministry, RCMI, has had a burden to take the gospel and to teach them. And so we're training the leaders so that they can be effective in ministry. This is some of our workers went there just a few months ago.

And we found in this village 90% of the people are Christians. This is one of the official churches that the Yi minority, they worship in. And they're very poor.

So when they give you a meal, they don't have a lot of nice food. They just have... They give you some fat from the pig. And it's very tasty, actually.

You should try it sometime, you know. It's not good to lose weight, but it's very tasty. And some local vegetables.

They don't have a lot of money. But they love Jesus. They're praying.

They're asking the Lord for His mercy. We're giving them some training. And we want to help them so they can get an education.

So that they can get a good job. And they can come back and help the people to come out of poverty. Because they're very poor.

Now we're providing them with Bibles and teaching materials. They say, thank you for giving us the word of God. Before we went, they didn't have Bibles.

All over China, people are asking for the Bible. They're praying that God will use them to preach the gospel. You know, China's always been like a magnet attracting the missionaries to her shores.

The first missionary was Robert Morrison, Protestant missionary. The Catholics had been there before. He went to China in 1807.

And on the way to China on the ship, the captain asked him, Mr. Morrison, do you think you're going to change this great nation? He said, no, I will not. But God will change China. It took seven years before he got the first convert.

And then it took 14 years before the Bible was translated. Now, that was 196 years ago. Now China has the largest Christian population of any nation in the world.

Many people have told me, including people in the government, that there's probably over 100 million Christians in China right now. This is the largest church in the whole world. More Christians in China than North America and Europe put together.

And they're true Christians. It took him 14 years to translate the Bible. And he also produced the first English-Chinese dictionary.

And he spent a lot of his time here in Malaysia and Malacca with another man called Wei Malin, who was also a missionary. And they worked here at Christ Church in Malacca. You perhaps have been there before.

This is part of the gospel that they published. They used the old type of Chinese. We call it one yin one, very literary kind of Chinese.

These are some of the gospels that they published. The first Chinese Bible. And it was done right here in Malacca because there were many Chinese at that time.

You see, this is the old way of writing. See, ■■■■,■■■■ So this is a classical Chinese we don't read today. He's buried there with his wife and his child and his brother in the Macau Cemetery, the old Protestant cemetery.

He led one man to the Lord. It took seven years. He was Chai Gao.

He was from Macau, the first Christian, baptized in 1814. And then the first pastor was Liang Fa. He was ordained in 1825, but he was baptized in 1813.

And his wife was the first Chinese Christian woman to be baptized, and that was in Malacca in 1816. And so he wrote many books. Now, one book that was very well known was the very famous book Qin Shi Liang Yin, Good Advice to the World.

One man, his name is Hong Xiuqin, got that book. He believed in what it was taught, and he became a Christian. But he had his theology kind of mixed up.

He thought he was the younger brother of Jesus, and God had sent him, the younger brother of God, and God had sent him to get rid of the evil in the Qing Dynasty. So he began a revolution called the Heavenly Peace Revolution, Taiping, Tianguo, Geming. Unfortunately, it was put down, and about 20 million people died in this Christian revolution.

Had he succeeded, China might become a Christian nation, even over 100 years ago. But it did not succeed. Now, these are some pictures of some of the early Chinese converts in the early 19th century.

Then we have the Boxer Rebellion in 1900, in which many of these radical boxers attacked Christians and missionaries. This is a poster which is trying to encourage people to attack the church. You can see it says in Chinese, ■■■■■ ■ is for Zu Yesu, for the Lord Jesus.

Attack the pig, which means attack Jesus Christ. ■ is the believer, the sheep. And so it's basically telling people to kill the Christians.

Well, they did kill many Christians. They killed 45,000 Christians, and they killed 266 missionaries in just about 3 months' time, from 1900, from about August to October. 45,000 Christians, 266 missionaries were beheaded.

And then 8 armies went and invaded Beijing. But missionaries still came to China. These are some of the missionaries.

You know these missionaries? Maybe you don't know. Timothy Richard, he was very much involved with the government. He was involved with the business people.

He was a Baptist in Shandong. And he led many of the patriarchs that followed after Sun Yat-sen to Jesus Christ. Many of the very leading people became Christians.

John Sung was a great evangelist from Fujian province. He even came to Malaysia. He led over 100,000 people to the Lord.

He was a spirit-filled Methodist, that spoke in tongues, healed the sick, and cast out devils. And he led 100,000 people to the Lord and started thousands of churches. La Rim Moon was a Baptist missionary.

There was a famine in China. And she would identify with the people. She didn't eat any food.

She died of starvation, though she was an American. She wouldn't take the food because other people were starving. She was still in her 70s.

And now the Baptists raised money for their mission from La Rim Moon. And Xi Sheng Mo, his name means Sheng Mo, Sheng Mo Mao Gui. He overcomes the devil.

He was a great evangelist, a great preacher, in the early part of the 19th century. And then, of course, Hudson Taylor. Hudson Taylor, he started the China Inland Mission.

He lost his first wife. He got married again. He would spend his whole life going up and down the waterways, preaching the gospel.

Here's a picture of him at 21, and a picture when he was 61 years old. He started the China Inland Mission. Most of the Christians identify with the China Inland Mission in China because they laid the foundation for the church.

Now, the Bible says these people, they're testimonies. God has provided something better for us that they should not be made perfect apart from us. You see, we need to take the baton.

We need to continue on with the ministry that they began. But just like in their days, we need to leave our family, our house, our brethren, our wife, our children. But the Lord says, you're going to receive manifold more in this present time, and you're going to receive life everlasting.

You may be like Jeremiah. You say, I can't do it. I can't speak.

I'm just a child. I'm just a youth. But the Lord says, don't say that I'm a youth because you're going to go to those that I will send you.

Whatever I command you, you shall speak. Now, Paul, as he's finishing his testimony, he makes a statement. It's really a moving statement.

He says, I fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith.

How about you? You're just beginning. There's a call of God on your life. I know many of you as I'm speaking, you're saying, I know I'm called.

Years ago, God called me. I should be doing more. I should be in the mission field.

I should be out in the poverty-stricken areas. I should be with the drug addicts or the prostitutes. Maybe I should be leading businessmen to Jesus Christ because you're a businessman.

You know you should be doing more. You know you should be going to the nations. Have you kept the faith? God's call is upon you.

Well, how can you do this? The only way you can do this is through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the fire that comes from the Holy Spirit. When Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared to his disciples. First he said, Peace be to you.

Then he said, As the Father sent me, so send I you. He was a missionary. We are missionaries.

And he breathed upon them. He said, Receive ye the Holy Spirit. Let me just show you a very quick video about some of these missionaries.

You know, I really get inspired when I read about the missionaries and what they did for the Lord because all of them gave their life in much difficulty. And I believe this is a testimony to all of us. A great nation with a traumatized history and a turning point toward a new horizon.

An emerging superpower that the world needs to recognize. Seventy million Christians with an explosive power to spread the gospel. Over one billion individual souls thirsting for love and mercy.

A history of missionaries to China that deserves eternal commemoration. It is more than a mere history, but how lives have been transformed by love and the reforming power of faith as a sign of the times. Hudson Taylor, C.T. Studd and the Cambridge Seven, William Borden, Lottie Moon, Eric Liddell, Gladys Aylward and M.S. Bates.

Epic names, classic legends. From opium wars to the Taipei rebellion, from revolutions to world wars. So many fascinating stories filled with faith and trials, love and rejection.

Dramatic lives co-mingled with joy and grief, light and darkness, glory and failure. They left Europe, America and Australia and headed for the most remote regions of ancient inland China, determined to particularly reach peasants, minorities and women and children. Many of them never saw their homelands and loved ones again.

They were rewarded with little else but suffering, loneliness and even martyrdom. But despite the hardships, they continued to fulfill their ultimate mission, bringing the love of Jesus Christ to millions and millions of Chinese people. They were fired with the love that conquers all.

It was the love of Christ that conquers all. Hallelujah. Before I go on with my teaching, I wanted to show you some pictures of some of my travels in China.

I'm spending now 90% of my time in mainland China because I gave the church to my daughter and son-in-law many years ago. I just preach every other month. And I love China.

Every time I go to China, it's like going to heaven. These are just some recent pictures. This is a house church.

They built their own church building in Wanzhou. And Wanzhou, we estimate up to 30% of the people love Jesus Christ. Every place you go, you see the church in revival.

I have a church in Paris, France, about 600 people. They're from Wanzhou. We call the Wanzhou people the Jews of the Chinese.

Wanzhou people are Chinese Jews because they're very good at business. They're quite wealthy. And they're becoming Christians.

They're following after Jesus. This was just in August when I went there. These are some of the three self-churches.

And many of them are spirit-filled. Every street, you will see a church like this. Or every other block, you will see a church.

It's like going to South Korea. Most of the churches sit a few thousand people. You'll even see this in Malaysia.

This is in Communist China. One of the greatest revivals in all of history. And only in the last few years did they have the money to build these churches.

But they're doing it everywhere. This was just a week ago. I went there with my daughter and with two sisters in my church.

And we had a meeting. This church is just one year old. It was the same church I showed you.

It was a dedication. Sharon is a very good worship leader. Her Chinese is a lot better than mine.

Because she's brought up speaking Chinese. Going to Chinese school. Writing Chinese.

She speaks Putonghua and Cantonese. Perfect without an accent. She's also good at English.

So she translates. But this is just a week ago. We led them in worship.

And the young people were so open. And the Holy Spirit came. And many people in every meeting came to the Lord.

And we laid hands upon them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Now this is a house church.

It's not an official church. But they built their own building. But you can see these all over this part of China.

I'm praying with the people. This man was a communist in the PLA. And someone preached the gospel to him from Hong Kong.

His parents were over the PLA in Fuzhou. And he gave his life to Jesus. He left the Communist Party.

And now he's a pastor. And he's publishing his own translation of the Bible. A new translation.

It's amazing what God is doing. This is one of the thousands of Bible schools all over China. Praise the Lord.

Everywhere you see these Bible schools. They just built this one. And they come here for three years from all over China.

The greatest job to have now in China is going into the ministry. You will not be out of a job. You have a lot of work to do.

I praise the Lord because people want to hear the gospel. And it's a good future because there's so much money in the church right now. And they will support you.

And so we went there. They prayed for a round trip. Transportation.

Put us up in a five-star hotel. Gave us fabulous meals every night. There's money in China now.

But the main thing is because people are turning to the Lord. Yet still many haven't heard the gospel. So we're training these young people, praying with them.

That they can receive the power of the Holy Spirit. This is another Bible school. I went there recently.

People came from all over China. But a lot of young people. And every day I would teach them for eight hours or more.

Every single day. They're just so hungry for the Lord. And they're going to go out to be preachers in parts of China.

Like I said, the greatest career today is in the church. Is preaching the gospel. This is another house church.

The Bethlehem Harvest Church. They're very close to Cong Hee in Singapore. The church is larger.

They have a congregation. They can sit 2,000 people. This is a house church.

These are some of the leaders. This is in Suzhou, a city of 15 million people. One brother, he has his own business.

It's called a furniture store. ■■■■ And it says right below it that God so loved the world. It's a Christian church.

Emmanuel. We met recently with many hundreds of leaders that came from all over China. And they wanted to hear about the power of the Holy Spirit.

We laid hands upon them, prophesied. This man, 22 years ago, when I prayed for Emmanuel, he received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Now he's leading over 50 churches in this part of China.

Seeing great revival. We took a bridge from Suzhou, Shanghai to Ningbo. It's the largest bridge in the whole world.

Only the Chinese can do something like that. Not even the Americans or the British. Only the Chinese.

It's a 36 kilometer bridge. And it goes right over the ocean. Can you believe that? Then we went to Ningbo.

And we met some of the house church leaders. This is the prayer mountain. They have tremendous facilities.

Air conditioning, hot water, everything you want. Rooms you can stay to go to pray and to fast. It used to be when people went to these meetings, they would come on their bicycles.

Now they take their BMW. And the parking lot is full of BMW Mercedes. These are Christians in China.

So I would spend a whole week, every day, sharing the word, teaching the people, praying with the people, prophesying, helping people to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. In fact, if you want to come next year, I'm going to be in the same place. It's called Shang Shan, to be the speaker for their prayer

meeting.

They're just so hungry. Everyone wants you to pray for them. I have a worship team, just like your worship team.

You won't believe, this is communist China. Yet the Holy Spirit is open, is moving. The churches are open.

They're so hungry for God. So this is the prayer mountain. Then I went to another house church that built their own church building.

And so when you go into the door, they give everybody a Bible. And they have Sunday school, which is really not legal in China. It's against the law, but we don't obey the law quite often in China because we're Christians.

So we do what the Lord told us to do. And they have Sunday school. I went there.

It was like about 8.45. I said, how long can I preach? They said, it's not easy for you to come at least preach for three hours. So I preached until 12. Then I prayed for the people.

This is the Sunday morning service. And then we had lunch together. And then they said, can you please give us another two hours in the afternoon? Okay, so I preached that day five hours.

With the worship and prayer, they were in church for seven hours. Now that's the Sunday morning service. When that happens in DUMC, you really have revival.

Amen. Pastor B is so happy. He can preach for three or four hours.

People are so hungry for the Lord. Amen. They're a regular church.

They have a choir. They have everything. They have musical instruments.

They have video projector. But they're spirit filled. This is what God is doing in China today.

It's a time of revival. This is a church that was started by Hudson Taylor. They built a new building recently.

But this is a sign from the old building. It says, Yesu Sheng Jiao Tang. And this church was built or dedicated in the Emperor Guangxu, the 14th year.

If you're not, it's a bit rusty on Chinese history. Guangxu, what was the 14th year? It was 1898. Okay, so 1898 was Guangxu's 14th year.

And that's when they dedicated this church. These are some of the three self-churches in China. And I go and speak there quite often.

This is a time of revival. I'm going to show a few more scriptures in a video. But I want to encourage you to preach the gospel.

Because, you see, according to Romans 10, they have to hear the gospel before they can get saved. They have to hear about Jesus before they can call upon his name. And he quotes again Isaiah 52.

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel. Paul encourages Timothy. He says, Preach the gospel.

Preach the word. Be ready in season, out of season. Be watchful in all things.

Endure afflictions. Do the work of an evangelist. Fulfill your ministry.

See, you are all called. Paul said, I am called to be an apostle, a teacher of the Gentiles, because there's only one God and only one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ. There will be persecution.

Jesus says that if they called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more would they call those of his household? But just like in the book of Acts, Paul knew that if he went to Jerusalem, there would probably be chains and bonds waiting for him. But he said, I must go to Jerusalem because I must finish my race and the ministry that I've been called from the Lord. Many missionaries were martyred, as I said, in China.

Even so, the China Inland Mission and others grew. These are some of the 100 and so martyrs from the China Inland Mission that gave their life for the Lord. These missionaries, you don't know their name.

I don't know a lot of their names either. But it's because of them that today we have the church in China. And only if we go forward in the future will we have a church in the future in China or Malaysia.

The missionaries with CIM had to bond with the people. They had to dye their hair black. And they grew pigtailed.

It's called, let me see, yeah, pigtailed. Pigtailed, that was Lao Bin, huh? It was what the emperor of the Manchu dynasty required all Chinese men to have a pigtail. And these are some of the missionaries didn't always do that because they didn't need to.

They were in the coastal areas. But these men here in Henan with the China Inland Mission are teaching students with the pigtail. They paid a great price to bring the cross, the message of the cross to Jesus Christ.

They went many places. Most of them died in China. It's because of them we have a church today.

Why did they do this? So much opposition, hardship, hostility. Why did these missionaries, look at that missionary, look at the Chinese Christians being humiliated openly. Why did they do this? These are some of the Catholic missionaries that were martyred.

These are some of the Protestant Christians that were martyred. You know how many people died for preaching the gospel in China? A total of 250,000. From the first missionary that went, which was in the Tang Dynasty.

His name was Alapin in the year 635. From that day until this day, 250,000 people have died. John Song was a spirit-filled Methodist.

He wasn't martyred, but he burned himself out for the gospel. Only preached for 15 years. Died when he was 43 years old.

But like I said, he led over 100,000 Chinese to the Lord. Wang Mingdao refused to join the official church at that time, the Three-Self Church, because of the doctrines. They didn't believe in Jesus rising from the dead, or didn't believe in the basic principles.

So he spent 28 years in prison. And yet he said it was a 28-year honeymoon with the Lord Jesus Christ. He's called the father of the house church movement.

These are some of the missionaries, so many of them. Why did they do this? Only one reason. Jesus Christ came, and he died in this way.

These are some of the pastors that I've been in prison with. The man at the right-hand side, Zhang Rongliang, was just released from 6 years and 9 months in prison. I was just with him a few weeks ago.

He said, Pastor, you're ready? Let's go and preach the gospel in this city. We were in another city in China. He just spent almost 7 years in prison for preaching the gospel.

He gets out of prison a week later. He wants me to come with him to preach the gospel. That's the church in China.

Brother Yun, the heavenly man, is now in Germany. Sister Xiaoming is the one that wrote the songs, the Canaan songs. These are some of the meeting places in China.

We quite often meet out in the open. We don't have different titles in China, especially in the house church, only in the Three-Self Church. We're not called cardinals, bishops, even apostles or pastors.

We're called Shanda Puran. We're just one title, the servant of the Lord. And we quite often don't have buildings.

We meet out in the open. I'm going to show you in a minute a short video. You're going to see us meeting in China.

This is back in the 80s, about 18 years ago. I had to disguise myself because, you know, ■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■ So we're foreign devils. So I had to disguise myself by a face mask and dark glasses and a cap.

And this is my daughter also disguising herself. Quite often I would have to disguise myself as a corpse and go in a casket or in a cart that carried dead bodies. Many, many times I did that just to get into the villages.

So I'm dead with Christ in more than one way. But once I get in the village, I can teach the people up to 10 hours a day. And the heavenly man is my good friend.

I'm just going to close in showing you this video. This is some of China many years ago, as well as some of China right now. This is the time of God moving.

This is recently a house church in Shenyang. They were in the official church. They were kicked out because they believe in the baptism of the spirit of spoken tongue.

But now, this is a few years ago, the pastor of that free South Church is Spirit Phil Balsam. I'm going to show you that in a minute. This is about three years ago or so.

That's how we worship in China. So I preached very short in that meeting, just for three hours, because they wanted me to pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit. And they all spoke in tongues.

Did you speak in tongues? That's what Jesus says. You receive power when the Holy Spirit comes. Now, they come back two to three times to be prayed for.

So you can never get them praying for them, because they're so hungry for the Lord. This is a Bible school in Wuhan. They're there for two to three years.

All the young people are being trained. I think you'd like to go to a Bible school like that. Now, this is how they preach the gospel.

One of the ways is having dancing and singing and inviting the non-Christians to come. He said only the sisters can dance. They're really Chinese.

Nothing less true to them now. They love to sing from the Bible. Psalms 150.

They invite hundreds of non-Christians to come. And most get saved. You'd get saved too if you saw that joy in the presence of God.

Even the children can dance and preach the gospel. You know that song, like David danced before the Lord. This was a few years ago.

But this is just a few weeks ago. This is in the Free South Church that originally persecuted them for speaking in tongues. Then the pastor got spirit filled.

And he brought in worship and praise to his church. This is not even a Sunday. This is where they're training the people.

And I was there for a few days. Every day, preaching, praying for the people. So many young people.

This is, like I said, any day of the week I go to China. The whole church comes. They're so hungry.

They have instruments. They have dancing. They have worship.

You don't know that the Free South Church now, an official government church, is opening to revival. And the pastor was so happy for me to come and to share with him. Because God is doing a new thing.

Now this is the house church leadership that I was in a few weeks ago. And they came from all over China. Over 300 people.

Now we have to be a little bit careful because it is a house church leadership and they're all pastors and leaders. So we're not really open to ordinary people to come. But the pastor of the Free South Church came and he said, Wow, that's great.

Come in my church and preach. Now this is the church I preached for about 5 hours. It's called Ningbo.

And this is also in September. They're all praying for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. They're praying for the power.

And the minute I'd like to pray for you, if you don't have the Holy Spirit, you can speak in tongues and you can get the same power. Now I'm going to go back 20 years ago. I just showed you Wanzhou.

This is Wanzhou 20 years ago. We didn't have any church building. We just met in our homes.

But even then, they had the Holy Spirit. This is Henan 20 years ago. We had no churches.

They're singing. Power of the Holy Spirit comes from on high. Now this is a house church.

About a thousand people. And they are having a gospel meeting. They have the instruments.

Now this is back in 1992. I've been working in China since 1978. And my dream that God gave me as a young man to see China come to the Lord is being fulfilled.

They're really great at music and instruments. The song is forward, forward. Always go forward.

We don't have any church building here at that time. These are all preachers. Here they're dancing for one hour with their eyes closed as they're singing Psalms 150.

Now you see these children. This is a meeting of 6,000 people. Let me tell you the story.

This is a city called Daqing. It's in Heilongjiang which is close to North Korea. The first time I went was 1989.

We only found 60 believers. They haven't been filled with the Holy Spirit. We taught them on that.

We prayed for them. They began to speak in tongues. Then gifts of the Spirit came.

I went back in 1991. The church of 60 had grown to 3,000 people because of miracles. When I was there, two people raised from the dead.

They had a fire to preach the gospel. This meeting is in 1994. We have been 100,000 believers in 1994.

Now the church in 2011 has 300,000 believers. From 60 to 300,000 believers because of the Holy Spirit. This is the Book of Acts.

Today I'm glad I'm not living in the times of Jesus or Peter or Paul. I'm glad I'm living in the 21st century. Now this is maybe not that long ago with 4,000 people.

The people in the back are not Christians. She was crippled. Because God healed her that she's standing there preaching the gospel.

It's because of miracles. That's going to change your city, your church, your family. Miracles.

The power of God to heal the sick. And then through the Holy Spirit comes worship and praise. And they cannot say this is a Western religion.

Nothing is impossible for God. By the way, this part of China in Henan, over 25% of the people love Jesus. This is where Hudson Taylor worked.

Now just in the last couple of minutes I'll be a little bit, just very cute. This is going back to 1990. This is a music teacher leading in songs.

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