

An Exhortation to Leadership

by George Verwer

George Verwer's sermon urges leaders to build strong foundations through continuous learning and the importance of relationships in ministry.

Duration: 44:33

Topics: "Leadership"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of personal relationships and bonding in the journey of faith. They highlight the need for repentance, growth, and learning together as a community. The speaker acknowledges the diversity of backgrounds and ideas among the listeners but emphasizes the need to work together in spiritual combat. They also discuss the importance of passing on biblical principles to the new generation and the significance of making friends as a means of evangelism. The sermon encourages the audience to strive for excellence in their faith and to be open to personal growth and transformation.

Transcript

I do want to share this morning, I'm not here next Friday as I'm very much involved with the ship in Merseyside. We have a very important board meeting on that day, the Friday, as a little group of us going up in the old coach on Thursday evening. And we won't get back until very late Sunday night.

So I wanted to just share some thoughts that are on my heart which are basically connected with leadership. Some of you might say, well, I'm not going to be a leader, that's the last thing I ever want. I'm absolutely amazed at people that were not in responsibility of leadership in OM, but when they've left, what they get into.

Some people highly esteem you're having a couple of years, not necessarily even with OM, overseas. And in any kind of Christian organization, I think automatically when you come back you're some kind of a leader or you have some authority. And surely one of the greatest problems in the church is that people gravitate to major responsibility with weak foundations.

That is one of our problems in operation mobilization. You never have enough people to lead or to be leadership servants, so people get thrust into responsibility without necessarily having a proper foundation. Getting a proper foundation isn't a matter of just hearing what's involved in basic spirituality, basic leadership.

It's appropriating, it's learning it. I stand aghast at things that I'm still trying to learn. I'd like you to turn to 2 Timothy chapter 2. 2 Timothy chapter 2, well we'll start at verse 1. Thou therefore my son be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus and the things that thou hast heard from me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also.

Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, no man that woth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for masteries yet he is not crowned except he strive lawfully the farmer who laboreth must be first partaker of the fruits. Consider what I say and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer even unto bonds but the word of God is not bound. Therefore I endure all things for the elect sake that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. It is a faithful saying for if we be dead with him we shall also live with him.

If we suffer we shall also reign with him. If we deny him he will also deny us. If we believe not yet he abideth faithful he cannot deny himself.

Of these things put them in remembrance. I guess that gives some encouragement to share with people who have heard these things before or have been around a long time. That's why I reread basic books.

These things put them in remembrance charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit. Seems to me a lot of that's going on in the church today. But the subverting of the hearer study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth but shun profane and vain babbling.

They will increase on the more ungodliness and their word will eat as doth a gangrene of whom are Hemanus and Philetus who concerning the truth have erred saying that the resurrection is past already and overthrow the faith of some. My mind jumps back almost 25 years ago a young man I met in Mexico seemed a nice young lad. I had a time of fellowship with him.

Next thing I knew he was back in the states and had joined a cult thing called the way movement quite well known in certain parts of the United States. I remember here in Bromley I guess 20 years ago one of the leaders of the navigators within weeks after I got to know about this man he joined the children of God and became one of their leaders. Got a letter a year ago or two maybe more than that now a young man came back from OM and became an out and out Jehovah witness.

The first Englishman I think I almost ever met his name was Tim. I met him in Spain he influenced me to come here in the first place. He was very much taught under Ian Thomas in Caponry but he didn't like the eye he didn't after I got here he sort of shied off because he wasn't into very much into doing anything.

He was very much into sort of a more passive approach to the Christian message waiting for the Holy Spirit waiting for the whole what he felt the life in Christ to do it through it. At the same time I went to one of our leading Bible colleges where he became a very committed Mormon and is to this day. There are just a few stories I could give you many more.

The word of God urges us that if 99 people are going right and one is going astray that's the one where we should give attention. I really believe we should acknowledge that it's our own sins and our own failures as a movement and I'm willing to include myself that is linked with a lack of long-term recruits that we face

this year. Now one sense we don't lack we're growing very quickly we've now become one of the largest missionary agencies in the world but that's not going to help us to fill the gaps philosophizing that is to fill the gaps of needed workers and we need a specific strategy to see more workers going out into the harvest field.

We are committed to do that some people believe we are one of the best groups involved in doing that but he who is good at something needs to work to be better to be the best. Excellency only begins when you're good that's where it begins if you're doing something good well now you can decide to really excel and that's not so easy that's where I'm spinning sometimes my wheels.

I think one of the things that hit me the most this summer was talking to a leader and just discovering that this person had been in the work for so many years he had heard these messages but one of the most basic aspects of the message just it just wasn't happening in his life and he was he was discouraged and actually it seemed best that he stepped down from his leadership to a large degree for a season and that experience that time with him made a real impact nothing new just that it hit me very very very hard especially when I realized that his greatest struggle was something just very very basic and he just acknowledged this to me that he just never followed up on the people that he met he met people they liked him he has a fairly good ability to communicate teaching preaching he

said it was because of his temperament and we discussed that and I just ever since then I've been wondering how many leaders are having this difficult difficulty it is possible once a movement gets rather large it is possible to to really get away with an awful lot without sounding proud the lord forgive me I just say this that if I had done back in at 17 and 18 some of the things that leaders do now OM I don't think would exist I mean let's let's be realistic when a movement is being born is a tremendous cost if you make mistakes that's it I could have made a mistake at Moody I would have been thrown out I almost got thrown out actually I went back to the one or two of the heads of the school and apologized and put things right I could have actually ended up in a cult I had that natural

extremism there was a lot of hostility especially against sin you say well how can hostility against sin lead you into a cult many people who get into tangents it's because they can't stand the sin among God's people they just they can't understand that one of our first leading lineup men an outstanding man left us after a number of years of ministry and joined the witness lee extremist group now if you if you say that they're a cult or I will take you to court and they've almost taken me to court they've got a lot of problems right now so I don't think they're doing too much but one of my very close friends ended up joining that group because it had all the answers and in his lineup work on the ships he had seen especially after Indonesia he had seen so much division so much sin so much

carnality among God's people he just couldn't put that together and there's something in us isn't there wants to put everything together and the cults give you that offer the cults with one sweep say all these people are apostate all these people are this or all these people are that and if they're just a small group under tremendous pressure they will have to produce a lot of love and a small persecuted cult will produce a lot of love when we were more extreme we had more of that kind of motivation in those early days we were under the gun we didn't dare make some of the mistakes we make now it would have been in the press and they had a jerusalem meeting here in england in the early days when a most high percentage of missionary leaders were opposed to me and one or two had mercy on me

and they invited me into this jerusalem meeting the evangelical alliance I didn't even know what it was and I sat at the end of this table with all these big canons of the missionary world and believe me they shot one or two praise God and then a few others stood with us the amazing thing is in those early days when we were so criticized very few people would ever come to you and that's how sometimes pioneers and people trying to really do something for God can so easily get hurt and bitter and more hostile and decide to just go their own way uh it's it's always a historic moment in a movement when they decide to either go their own way even though they may say well we believe the rest of these people are part of the body of Christ they basically go their own way follow some of the new

groups in Britain right now with their mouth they're saying we believe in the rest of the body of Christ but in their practice they basically go their own way do their own thing and if you study carefully you'll see they have a one-upmanship philosophy where they really do believe they're a little better than the other groups which in some ways they may well be but the word of God says take heed lest ye fall many many years ago I wrote on a piece of paper some of the big mistakes I felt that uh we were making in fact I've uh I later transferred this to my bible I think it was one of the very first coordinators conferences I don't even know what we called them then I think it was in 65 I wrote deal the conference took place in deal down on the coast again tied in an amazing way with a

small group who were linked uh back here Ian Currie's father became the pastor of that little fellowship for quite a few years it was there during a summer campaign when I decided to go down and have a one-day visit there was a bible teacher they invited I wasn't quite sure what what uh what he was about but he seemed to be a good bible teacher and we had invited him down to deal this is a couple years after this conference so I went down to speak and I met this character name was Peter Maiden and that was one of the steps that led us together in this long-term partnership so deal has an important place in om's ministry and I shared just these thoughts the great dangers that face us as a movement now that's a long time ago I wonder if some of these dangers are facing us today I really

believe if om and we as leaders and it includes everyone these things can be contextualized into anyone's life they're very very basic they're tied in with second timothy too the things that god has given us commit to others we can all do that I used to beg people almost on my knees will you please read how to win friends and influence people it was a required book it was in the early part of the leadership manual I think we'll go down in history that one of our greatest mistakes was the phasing out of the leadership manual without bringing anything in its place I just agonize nightmares about this and yet I failed to get this new leadership manual the job has been delegated off to others I've been on the phone with the people involved for over three and a half years this has been

discussed at area level it's uncanny how we have no leadership manual somebody said to me but we have a policy manual only a few people in the movement read the policy manual and it's very different from a leadership manual praise god we almost lost the discipleship manual in the midst of the same confusion but when I took the survey at the new recruits conference praise the lord two-thirds had read the discipleship manual any movement as it goes forward in some areas will go back in other areas let us acknowledge that's that's history because we have so many things we're attempting to do at once we have a lot of other better teaching tools and teaching methods that are going on in a sense which make up for the missing leadership manual like for example a lot more teaching within each

national country that's where the big muscle the big clout the big action generally takes place a whole conference going on this week just finishing today training the middle east people and a lot of the things

that were in the original leadership manual are now in other manuals middle east manual loop manual so we're not lacking for manuals but I believe that if we as leaders and all of us could just take a few steps of faith make a few changes the impact would be enormous now let's be honest some people on om are basically obnoxious people let's just be honest about it they're not going to disciple anybody they never have disciplined anybody they probably never will disciple anybody now praise god om because it's teamwork that rather obnoxious unfriendly type of person uh can still play a

vital role if he somehow teams up with someone else now maybe you feel those words are too strong but I will tell you some of the offensive things we have done in churches are incredible and those churches have closed their door and they've said om is not coming back here for many years we have quite a few christian leaders in this country who still will not touch us I could give you names and I'm I'm involved in because in some cases I said something I did something that was unkind maybe obnoxious I've got all the potential for arrogance obnoxious impatient uh hurtful statements and if we could just reread that book or something similar say the sermon on the mount I believe we could feel the impact the bottom line in winning people today in the society we're in is making friends it's

making friends it's not carrying placards down your street it's not sketchboards praise god for sketchboards it's making friends it's love europe not george verver that announced this is the decade of friendship evangelism so what's with us can't we make some more friends um different people make friends in different ways because I had a strong message I had a message that certain people wanted to hear including some other hostile people like myself who were hungry for god desperate for deliverance and victory I could win people who didn't particularly like me not everybody has that gift you see if you're quiet and you don't have a vision and if you're not sort of of that kind of temperament you generally won't win people unless you make friends with them do you follow me because there's

nothing there to gather that people that couldn't stand me joined operation mobilization they believed the message they believed that the world was a bit loud and he was a little unkind and a little insensitive they believe the holy spirit was with them now let me tell you something if you can convince people today that the holy spirit is with you you can get people to join you who can't stand you isn't that amazing now they don't always stick around if later on they discover that you don't have the reality they don't stick around why do many people join different groups and fellowships if there's a major sort of charismatic type of leader with a vision with a burden who's going places they join because they want to do something it's not necessarily friendship it's not necessarily even

godliness so that will have to be there to some degree the average person isn't in that situation the average person doesn't have a chance to stand in front of people and try to win them even when i was a student at moody so young and even before that at my own high school i was given the opportunity to speak therefore i could overcome some of those barriers when i was speaking there was one pastor in my hometown who really in a sense didn't like me he was speaking out a little bit against me especially my extremes about forsaking all i think back in those days i didn't even believe in in drinking things like coca-cola or spending money and the word came out that this man didn't agree imagine that this pastor didn't agree with george verber's teaching on forsaking all that's when i was

only 18 but as we look at the situation in om today and our emphasis on friendship surely it should drive us to rereading such books how to win friends and influence people and i just say this this morning my first burden isn't om as i share this some of you are going to leave om soon and if you don't get your act a little more together you're not going to make it it doesn't mean you won't exist in fact i'm convinced some of the

marriages break up because we were insensitive we don't know how to sometimes communicate to our own wife to our own children i think of the mistakes i have made in this area again god's mercy god's grace the charisma factor god's hand upon me it's a mystery surely a mystery how and why god uses some of us but i do know this that the world out there is a cruel

place some people think om is cruel when they're on it they're usually a little naive i have followed xomers for 34 years almost all of them will say that om was a fairly pleasant time compared to what hit them when they got out there that's why some of them are divorced that's why some of them are in such terrible situations including completely overthrowing the christian faith the thing that has shocked me the most and it's one of the things that pushed me more and more in the preaching and living and talking about balance is the people who united with me in the early years who were the most outspoken and seemed to be the most committed to the verbal revolution which we were hoping was a jesus revolution when the pressure came they were down i just stood amazed and then some of my own

failures under pressure one of them i guess worthy of putting in the gospel gazette shook me into the reality that balance is not optional balance is not optional balance is absolutely basic if we are going to survive what are a few of those things i wrote down and shared with those leaders if anybody could find a copy of this old tape from the mid-60s i'd be interested in getting it number one getting set in our ways praise god he heard our prayers and by his grace om never got set in its ways we are of course to some degree it's a continual area of growth and the changes we have made over the past years i believe are as important as some of the basic principles that we brought into our movement in those early years beware in your own life of just getting set in your ways be willing for

change be willing to read a new book how many husbands even though they have difficulty in their marriage never never would read a book on marriage i believe one of the greatest mistakes i made in my marriage is not to read more books i leveled off somewhere in my early days because i was heavy on marriage books i just stopped reading it because the fact my kind of stubborn character needs to read it two or three times before it got in some of the great truths of those books never got into me i mean they may have got in a little and i think my wife has had to suffer before because of that have you read any of that material by dobson and others on how to understand your your partner and how to love your partner that stuff is so revolutionary uh and and yet so incredibly uh difficult to put

into practice especially when you're in a movement that makes a lot of demands on you and on your time let's not get set in our ways in our marriages in our witnessing in our discipling of others let's be willing to grow let's be willing to change let's keep listening to others let's keep the plates on if those of you have heard me speak many times get even one thing this morning that you feel you could use to make some changes in your life that would enable you to encourage more people disciple more people build the kingdom that it's worth stopping for 45 minutes and sharing some of these things number two failing to keep walking in the light it's interesting that pauline hymas who's helping lead the real program shared with me and she feels this is where om is really slipping a

movement that once so emphasized walking in the light you couldn't even get in the door without reading calvary road now we have people in the moment they don't even know what we're talking about walking in the light what does this mean working in the daytime instead of working at night people don't know what walking in the light is and it's there is so much gossip at times going on behind people's backs and unfortunately that is normal in christian work and i say unfortunately with a with a capital to you instead of going to one another and love sharing what's on our hearts we talk to other people we got the possibility of

that in the next eight months playing habit with this team we're not we don't pretend that we're a perfect team this team sometimes is a survival operation because

we're human beings we're under pressure we are over committed i am convinced absolutely biff thomas is over committed i'm convinced not quite convinced wakely is over committed because he doesn't seem to indicate that he is but he's so phlegmatic and laid back but i'm destined to get him over committed because it happens to anybody who gets near me and uh he's got to lead this team when i'm away he's got nepal growing he's got bangladesh growing pakistan growing i did see a few signs last year that he might be getting over committed but we won't discuss that at present let's walk in the light let's not lose that principle in om first john 1 7 walking in the light number three not taking time to meet for prayer can you imagine way back in the mid-60s where we're already getting upset about

the lack of prayer in operation mobilization and of course i believe that this is where a lot of the enemy effort comes do you think satan knows that there's a book called um his present darkness do you think satan knows do you think he's read that does satan read it's one of the fastest selling books in the history of the christian church did you know that one of the fastest selling but now there'll be a major blockbuster movie coming out of hollywood on that book now christians are divided on that book mike wakely's written two pages uh explaining the weaknesses of the book i was with dean sherman when he was talking on the spiritual warfare uh i'm not picking on you this morning uh spiritual warfare message and i think he had his hesitancy anybody with a brain will have some hesitancy

about the book but uh he said at least the book is making god's people aware that there are forces of spiritual darkness at least people are being made aware but satan is so subtle people are so locked into habit that people are reading that book and it is not necessarily changing their prayer life how can it be how can it be that we could actually say we believe in evil forces we believe these these powers are are there and around and it's prayer the book makes it very clear prayer and now we've got this new teaching on territorial spirits i mean when we have these marches this weekend different people will be doing different things for me it'll be a survival march and i believe in praying against the forces of darkness i'm not going to get into a semantic jungle i'm not sure what this

territorial spirits is all about but i believe in just praying let's pray for maggie let's pray for the white house not the house but the people in it and if somebody else next to me is praying that something up above gets out of the way though i find it a little bit uneasy i'm not going to have a fight with them i got too many other things to do but i know that's becoming a big issue around great britain and other parts of the world long before you arrived here in brownlee most of you i sort of gave up on hardlining on evangelism i think jack was the last to make the big ditch stand to lead evangelism i can't believe anything could be so difficult so complicated so exasperating as trying to lead people out in the more old-fashioned kind of om evangelism door to door in the streets and i

finally i guess in the name of balance or survival delegated this off to others no longer set the pace i was so extreme on setting the pace uh the pressure that brought my family into the time it took me away from my own children is quite quite uncanny and saturday was the day we did it yet saturday was the best day to try to be with our families i would drag my children out in every kind of evangelism you could think of when they were real little they loved it but as they got older like around eight or ten or whatever they weren't so keen and so evangelism in the past years of the more old-style traditional evangelism om was known for has been very weak in brownlee i guess it was in the name of survival it was in the name of whatever i can honestly say and i i trust you ken as well that

i have never hardly a day lost my evangelistic zeal but i have found that i so quickly get involved with people that i lead to christ that it just becomes overwhelming i meet people on the train at brownlee south i'd have them in the house in the early days in the east end of london we we had people out of uh right off the the embankment drunks drug addicts we'd have them living out in the om place we have tried everything in the name of trying to obey the sermon on the mount that you can imagine i wonder the end of the day we decided to work for balance we just we got into certain teachings like a human factor and realized how difficult it was to put all these different challenges into practice at the same time different people have different amounts of time and if you can squeeze

possibly squeeze out of your intensive schedule and get out door-to-door in the streets with tracks or personal evangelism as we did so often it was our bread and butter i'm not talking about the first couple of years talking first 15 or 20 years until this movement became so big so complex with emergencies every day with a backlog of people who have come to christ through the ministry who are waiting for one single letter from the person who led them to christ in the first place we don't lack people coming to christ through om right now that may sound funny but following up on it is is awesome and we discover that people who profess faith often it is not a conversion and i will not give up gently rebuking people when they just list someone who professed faith as being a conversion we

have not had 300 conversions in jordan in the last few days i don't think we should use that vocabulary 300 people while they were getting relief work uh also profess faith it can get a camera i hope there are many real conversions out of that there will be as we pray as we follow up it will happen number five is the subtle influences of the lukewarm lukewarmness is so subtle and lukewarmness is making its way into om it makes its way into the prayer meetings it makes its way into into every aspect of our life we battled it then let's continue to battle it now number six presumption that we know the principles well if we were presuming in the mid 60s that we knew the principles what do we say now such principles as forsaking all walking in the light spiritual warfare unity the old tapes

were phased out quite a few years ago it's unbelievable that that old orientation series that jonathan dale wrote down and i gave lasted so many years the tapes were getting to be a bad quality the tapes were outdated i fully agree that they should be replaced unfortunately around that time the average office gave up its vision for tapes very few om offices make much use of cassette tapes stl dropped tapes from their whole distribution line they're very hard to distribute some offices continue to use tapes on a voluntary basis for those who wanted to go through them a few shortened the tape orientation to four tapes that was actually very encouraging an excellent compromise and a lot of people are saying to me and i think there's an element of truth that a great percentage of people come

on love europe really do not know what operation mobilization is actually all about it is playing havoc on the ships and in other parts of the work and though we may have had a lot of failures in those early days we're not interested in turning the history pages back sure do you know that's my feeling we can learn some lessons and if people know what they're getting into when they come on om number one we may lose a few but i believe we will have less disappointment and bitterness from people who come and they it is not what they expected again we wrestled with that in the early days because even after hearing those tapes and going through books i can assure you there were still problems because especially we couldn't live up to the principles that we preached on those tapes and there was

not enough balance and the human factor was there on those tapes but it was weak and that's another reason perhaps they needed to be phased out beware of thinking we know these principles young people

come into the movement and if you've been around it for a few years they expect that you are going to be some kind of incarnation of these dynamic principles of these books or these messages and most people have heard at least some challenging message from an om speaker before they come and they are now looking for that in some people around them seven choosing the road of least resistance i was too strong on that in the early days i had to compromise because there are times when you have to choose a road of least resistance in order to get back on god's highway you can't always take the

hard road and it gets a little more complicated than perhaps i thought in those early days with my strong emphasis on the fact that we were soldiers of jesus christ have you ever studied the early intensive training program on lagos you can be sure that after a few years they did away with that program why do we have to do away with that program only one out of ten leaders can lead that kind of program the secular people still have that kind of program let's acknowledge that as we've dropped it in om the secular people still have that kind of program and it costs you two and a half thousand to go on it two and a half to three thousand to go on it and top executives go on it and it's as rough as ours it's absolutely scary it's called uh schools of adventure or outward bound we of

course couldn't maintain that because it takes a leader of high giftedness of high degree of training to lead that if you don't have the right leadership in that kind of program who can keep that spirit of core going who can do all kinds of things people in outward bound are professionally top trained people it won't work and eventually we had to drop it we almost had people killed on the ship rock climbing you can't play at rock climbing after four or five years in it myself i dropped it because i almost got killed and my son almost got killed and then i felt bad that i had started that in operation mobilization now my son ben tells me he wants to go back to rock climbing his rope he has is so old that if we try to repel that might be the end number i i just insert here sort of in

brackets especially in connection with our own temperament number eight listening too quickly to evil reports that was a problem in the mid 60s it's a problem in the beginning of the 90s you see the movement hasn't changed that much really the same old sins are still around we reinvent the wheel number nine allowing discipline to slip number 10 getting caught into subtle forms of pride i'm quite amazed that in the mid 60s we discovered there were subtle forms of pride i thought we were only aware of the most overt clear-cut forms of pride which gets so wonderfully demonstrated from time to time in the work of god number 11 failing to keep up the big battle against lust and number 12 neglecting the home and the wife let me just make it clear that if any of us who have children that are not

walking with jesus it is not because om neglected the home and the family my children don't believe that om was a new generation movement there was an extreme emphasis on family and and that whole area thing because we had the books in 60s we already had the books we were one of the first groups to pioneer the concept that the wife is firstly a wife and a mother not firstly a missionary it was radical when we launched that now it's been accepted by many mission societies i'm not saying we didn't do enough i'm not saying we didn't fail but in understanding the history of om let's not be intimidated into thinking that our commitment to discipleship world evangelism meant we naturally neglected our families and our children because it isn't it isn't really true it's a little more complicated

than that life i know we like to measure things in black and white and some of the most godly people who have never left the united states and who were mega mega family-oriented people have children who are away from jesus christ today if you meet one of the brothers or sisters who as i did in a conference recently you ask them about their brothers and sisters you'll generally find is it usually one or two that are

away from Jesus so that's not a simple thing to always measure but we felt from the earliest days here it is written in the notes beware of neglecting your wife your home and your family and of course sometimes we did that and then 13 I'm amazed that this got written in here beware of idealism I must have not followed up on this because idealism did become destructive you know

and it became it's destructive and we ended up judgmental we ended up legalistic at times we ended up turning against each other we couldn't live up to one another's expectations and those ideals which can be so beautiful under the control of the Spirit we're like a sewer running through the movement hurting and hindering what God wanted to do and I thank Him for the grace to learn to repent to grow and I hope that somehow through this little unique uh sharing this morning we can all learn at least something let's pray Father we thank you that we can move forward on the foundations you gave us in the very beginning of this work and though some of us have been around for over 30 years or 20 years and we're working together with people who have just walked in the door you can unite us the

old and the new the basic principles redefined the basic principles expanding being integrated into other biblical principles and with your strength your power your Holy Spirit can enable us to accomplish this vision this burden we have for world evangelism and for revival in the church and for reality Lord blessed reality among your people don't let us who've been around a while presume of what we have or don't have in our lives enable us to sharpen up in this whole area of passing these principles on to others also so that we can see this bonding take place with us and the new generation of disciples we know you use love Europe leaflets we know that you use video cassettes you use great congresses and great preaching but none of them I don't believe can be a substitute for that bonding

between one and another that friendship that heart linking when we're repenting together we're working together we're growing together we're learning to walk in the light together in our marriages on our teams on this team in this place here we are from such a wide range of backgrounds and churches on Sunday we scatter to worship and to meet in different places and we come in on Monday with different ideas and yet we've got to work together in spiritual combat much more difficult in a spiritual comparison to those troops down in Saudi Arabia who haven't even begun to fight we're in the midst of the greatest war in the history of the universe help us to live in the light of this and to somehow work day and night to be better soldiers and better disciples of your son Jesus Christ in whose

name we pray amen

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