

Confessions of a Weak Missionary Eng to Korean

by George Verwer

George Verwer shares candid confessions of his weaknesses as a missionary, emphasizing the importance of grace and practical tools in ministry.

Duration: 59:57

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, 2 Corinthians 12:7-9, 2 Timothy 1:7, 1 Peter 5:7, 1 John 2:1

Topics: "Missions"

Description

In this video, the speaker shares a personal story about a moment of frustration and anger he experienced. He recounts how he wanted to hit something but instead kicked a box with great force. The speaker then transitions to talking about visual aids and shows various items he brought with him, including shaving cream and a camera. He emphasizes the importance of laughter and honesty, sharing how his wife responded to his actions with laughter and how he had to explain his limp at team devotions. The speaker concludes by promising to explain the lesson behind his story in more detail.

Transcript

Hey, you guys, is this the right place? I think it's George Veller. Give him a round of applause, please. He needs some help here.

Hi! I'm the leader. You see my hat? What does that say? Which way did they go? I'm the leader. Which way did they go? Isn't that the greatest hat that George Veller could ever wear? Now we know you're new recruits from all over the world.

And we know you hear so many messages. And a lot of what you hear you forget, right? And I believe in visual aids. Do you believe in visual aids? Yes, I do.

Well, you're a beautiful one yourself. Are you married? Yes, I do. Oh, good.

Okay. So I hope that you new recruits are going to remember some of these things that I brought with me in my gospel flak jacket. First of all, of course, there is the shaving cream.

That's the shaving cream. Do you want me to help you? No, I don't think I'll shave now. But we would advise our new recruits to shave because a lot of the beard growing is quite ugly.

But this is even more important. How many of you highly educated university graduates know what this is? This is deodorant. And I can tell you some of you are not using it.

It even works in the Arab world. It's amazing how much you can carry in your pockets. But we don't need pockets so much anymore.

This is the new generation. We've got body bags. You can carry so much in the body bag.

Let me just see a few of the things that I got because the new revolutionary O.M.R. is well equipped. First of all, very heavy-duty tape. No cheap tape.

Heavy-duty aluminum foil tape. When you put this over the mouth of the team member who talks too much, it works and it sticks. I've even heard of team leaders put out a commission for days with this kind of tape.

But I'm not going to use it tonight even though many of you would like me to. One of the messages of O.M.R. is to redeem the time. Now as the winter comes on, it gets darker and darker, earlier and earlier, right? You notice that.

So you've got to have a flashlight. You've got to have a torch. You've got to have plenty of batteries.

Also, you've got to have a battery charger. No O.M.R. goes out without a battery charger because you've also got rechargeables and you never know whether they're charged or not charged unless you have a battery charger. Made in China.

It's a good one. And you've got to have, of course, a torch because in the night, stuck in the back of the O.M. van, broken down, you want to read your discipleship manuals. God gave me these brilliant glasses to read, you know, in the dark, so I'm holding the book at the same time.

The only problem is the batteries. They don't work anymore. Isn't that terrific? I don't know.

I think it's made in Korea, actually. I don't think so. Maybe it's made in China.

Made in Korea! Now, another thing that you need to realize is the importance of washing. And a lot of O.M.R.'s, they lose their soap. So this is a handy soap.

You just hang it right over your neck and it's there you can wash with whenever you need it. Of course, this is the modern era. Every O.M.R. is challenged to make phone calls, especially to call his donors and to, you know, ask him to send in some support.

So we hope in the future that every O.M.R. will have his handy cellular telephone. Now, some of you are not into modern technology, so you need this kind of instruction, how these work. You see, when you go in a tunnel, like in England where I live, it doesn't work.

What if you get a phone call in the tunnel from a major donor wanting to give you a couple of grand? I mean, you don't want to miss that phone call, right? So every O.M.R. has got to have a beeper. When I hear that little sound, I know a donor is calling. When I get out of the tunnel, I punch a couple of numbers and I get into my electronic mailbox and there the message is stored, Hello, George Fairweather, where do I send my 3,000 pounds? Hallelujah.

Some of you are not enough advance guard, advance guard in your thinking. So you don't have some of this equipment. Some of you have this old-fashioned phone number book.

It's good. It's better than nothing. Some of you ain't got nothing.

Phone numbers are as valuable as gold. We get some people, they say, Hey, I just led that guy to Christ. Boy, that was the greatest thing that ever happened to me.

He accepted Jesus. He accepted Jesus. They were witnessing and he accepted Jesus.

Later on, you meet that fellow and you say, Hey, I'm so thrilled you led that guy to Christ. Praise God. Praise the Lord.

That's wonderful. What was his name? Oh, his name. Gee, a new babe in Christ.

No, I didn't get his name, really. So it's good to have a notebook. And when he accepts Jesus, put his name, put his phone number, put his address, and write him a love letter as soon as possible.

Little things count when you become a missionary. Sometimes you find a young missionary recruit, he's reading all these big, gigantic books about sanctification. 188 ways how to be totally sanctified in one week.

Big, giant books. Sometimes we need to be a little practical. I had this little, tiny, tiny computer, and I can put in here all my little phone numbers.

If you accept Jesus, I put you in. You may want to pray about getting one of those for Christmas. Very cheap, from Radio Shack.

Really handy. We know the average O.M.er lacks vision. We talked about vision last night.

Some of you might find it helpful, therefore, to get some binoculars to increase your vision. Especially when you're looking for the dynamic, hard-working, spirit-filled new recruit. You can find one or two if you have your binoculars with you.

No, we hope that's not true. We hope every one of you is a spirit-filled recruit. Even if you're filled with a spirit, you need aspirins.

You know M, you need aspirins. Don't feel it is unspiritual to carry aspirin or nisprin, or, you know, laxatives. Or special other pills that you take when you're feeling in a certain way.

You haven't been to, you know, the loo, the toilet, for several weeks. I don't think you should just pray and fast. I think you should find the right pill.

But the aspirins are very, very helpful. And it's easy to forget some things. Especially your toothbrush.

I mean, you laugh. You think this is a small thing. I want to tell you, bad breath is on the increase in Operation Mobilization.

And we need to brush our teeth several times a day. You can also get electronic toothbrush. There's the batteries, I guess, for that.

And there's all kinds of sprays. I don't know if you're into sprays. You want to make sure that they're ozone friendly.

Announcements. Excuse me, George, we have an announcement. Can you just, uh, a word of testimony that's got to take place here? Okay, yeah, I think I'm being part of our ceremony.

I only have a short time, so I just want to share a few things with you. I have been around for three years now in OM. And I really believe that we need people to follow.

It's great to have role models which we can come behind and see up ahead. Starting off in my OM life, I wasn't quite sure about deodorant and toothpaste. I remember the toothpaste.

But I still haven't quite worked on the deodorant yet. I'm sorry. But I want to encourage you to keep on keeping on.

And follow great advice. Thank you. This was not George Boer's son.

Well, we're rushing for time now. And we just got to show a few other things. It's amazing the number of pockets you get.

This is aspirin gum in case you can't handle, you know, real aspirin. You just chew on that. This is the New Testament.

Very basic. Because you'll probably lose your Bible. This is a Walkman.

You've got to have a Walkman. Every spirit-filled Christian has a Walkman with Bill Drake tapes. I like to carry a backup radio in case the tapes, you know, get all messed up and they're laying on the path when you're jogging and you get really upset.

You can switch over to the radio and listen to the news and try to calm down. Actually, in coming here, I forgot my Bible. I wonder if this Arab by the door, you'll find my Bible with a special backup escape kit on top of it.

You need a camera. How many of you have a camera? Don't be ashamed that you have a camera. O.M. believes in camera.

There's no policy against camera. Everybody, take your camera out if you have a camera. If you have it with you, take it out right now.

I want to take a picture of you taking a picture of me. Take your camera out. You don't even bring your camera.

You're a bunch of lazy, good for no... I'm sorry. Yes. Anyway, if you have a camera, take a picture right now.

Now. Now. Okay, praise the Lord.

Another big... Another big thing we're into in O.M., we want you to learn this. Freebies. We take anything that's free.

It's amazing what you can get. Old underwear along the side of the road. You can get it.

You can wash it and pray over it and use it again. How many of you are going to have the airplane experience in the coming weeks? Probably you're going to do lots, going to Lagos, going to India, going, going, going. Airplane experience.

Raise your hand. Whoa. You can even be bumped up to first class.

Don't hesitate to ask the little friendly little girl at the desk. Can I be bumped up to first class? Generally, she will always say the same thing. No, you cannot be bumped up to... I was amazed the other day on an airplane when they gave me this free of charge, this entire kit.

Look at this. Just look at this. Even instructions on how to use it.

Have you ever seen this? Look at this. In that one little thing, you have everything. Everything.

I mean, you don't need all this stuff anymore. What is it? I'm going to explain it in a minute. I'm impatient.

You have shaving foam right there. You push that button. You have a toothbrush.

It's impossible to get it out, but it's there. You have a nail file. It's nothing worse than an old emmer with these long nails.

And, you know, it goes, praise the Lord. Jesus Christ for life. You have a little razor.

Look at how handy that... Look at that. Do you shave? No, I mean... My husband does. Oh, yeah.

I'm not sure I'll ever get that back in there. Toothpaste, shaving foam, toothbrush. There's other things in there, but it's hard to figure out.

Isn't that amazing? Young people, we are living in exciting days. People are giving things away free. This is one of the ways that God can supply.

Some of you have been sleeping on a hard floor. You can go to any city, walk through the streets at the right time, and you can pick up mattresses free. They're out in these big old containers in various parts of the streets.

Isn't it exciting what you can get free? How many of you... How many of you clever people know what that is in that little tube? How many? How many know what that is? The top comes off. Now, what do you think that is? That is a spray, isn't it? That is ozone-friendly bad breath killer. Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! Here, try it.

Just try it. It's good. Oh, well, not in the eye.

I'm sorry. Okay. But good smell.

This is my name and address sticker. These are amazing. These are especially made for the Arab countries, high security zones.

Give that man your address, and after several days, you can look at it and memorize it. After several days, it completely disappears. Do you have some of those? No, I don't have.

Address labels. No, I don't have. Okay.

Well, I've got some more things, but I think... How many think that's enough training on equipment for one night? Thank you very much. I want you to turn now in your Bibles. I'm ashamed to take this off because my hair is a mess.

My wife always yelling me, Your hair is a mess! Your hair is a mess! Comb your hair! Yes, I'll comb my hair! And all this equipment, I forgot my comb! I lost everything here. I lost my comb. Okay, let's somehow now get into this confessions of a weak, needy missionary.

Turn with me in your Bibles to Corinthians. Just be a little patient because I don't know whether it's first and second. I've been struggling with that for many years.

It's about God's sufficient grace, 2 Corinthians chapter 12. And it's verse 7. Let's look at verse 7. This is a very unusual verse. And then, verse 8. The Lord said unto me, verse 9. He is made perfect in weakness.

Most gladly, therefore, will I rather glory in my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore, I take pleasure in infirmities and reproaches and necessities and persecutions and distresses for Christ's sake for when I am weak, then am I strong. Let's just unite our hearts just again, please, in prayer.

Oh God, your word is powerful. Lord, we thank you for your word. We thank you, Lord, for your grace.

We thank you, as Charles Swindoll said in his book, we can laugh again. It is your command that we be whole people. Not some kind of religious robots, but grace awakened, praising, laughing, whole people gripped by your Holy Spirit.

Lord, when we see some of our weaknesses, we really do have to laugh. Lord, I thank you for grace every single day for 38 years. I thank you, you have not asked me to try to be somebody else.

I thank you, I've not had to forsake even my weak sense of humor. And Lord, I just worship you. I worship you together with all these young people.

We long to be even fools for you, Lord Jesus. In communicating the vision and in communicating the gospel to this generation. In Jesus' name, Amen.

I sometimes ask myself why I've tried so hard to keep some kind of sense of humor. As I look back at my life, I realize that one of my problems was so often I was too serious. Now we want you to be serious.

This is an incredibly serious conference. But we don't want you to be too serious. We want you to find that balance.

It's not so easy to share this particular message. I was speaking in a big church in Chicago. Sometimes my reputation goes ahead of me.

They expected a powerful challenge on missions and discipleship and forsake all this about 20 years ago. Sunday morning, they're all sitting there. I just couldn't do it.

I decided to tell them another side of myself and of the message. I just shared my struggles, my weaknesses. Absolute candid honesty.

I didn't even have the strength to give much of an invitation after I preached. But I did. And many people, including some very dignified and wealthy people, surrendered to Jesus Christ that morning.

God is calling us to reality. God is calling us to honesty. That doesn't mean you'll express things the same way that I do.

We're all different. Balance for you would be maybe backsliding for me. Balance for me might be extremism for you.

My favorite chapter, I think, in the book *Grace Awakening* is the chapter about just accepting people. And I want to tell you, we in OM, whether we accept you for a particular field or not, we accept you and we love you and are committed to you in Jesus Christ. That's why we're here.

It doesn't matter if you accept us or not. We accept you, we love you, and we want you. Some of you are struggling with various weaknesses and failures.

We've had some people come to our OM conferences. Straight from immorality into the OM conference. That's pretty heavy.

We've seen them, through forgiveness and grace and counseling, come through and become dynamic disciples of Jesus Christ. I want to share some of the struggles that I've been wrestling with for over 35 years. That's a pretty long-term wrestling match.

Now I can testify because of God's Word. Because of God's grace, in most of these areas, the Lord has given more and more strength to handle the situations. But some situations, it's actually more difficult today than it was 20 years ago.

So let me start with that one first. I confess to you, enormous struggle with doubts most of my whole Christian life. Is there really such a place as hell? Very difficult for me.

Is the Bible really fully inspired by God, Genesis to Revelation? Some of these things are very difficult for me to grasp. And sometimes, in some churches I go to, Christianity doesn't seem to be working. And I get angry, and I feel doubts, and I sometimes think, I don't want any part of this anymore.

This isn't working. Oh, and I've read so many books. And I can testify, many of those books have really, really helped me with my doubts, because there are honest answers to honest questions.

Many of us were helped by Dr. Schaefer when he came to a conference just like this years ago. 65. Many of us have been helped by books by C.S. Lewis, books by Josh McDowell, great books that give the reasons for our faith.

So I'm very strong in my faith. And I've loved to preach to atheists and agnostics and see them come to Jesus. But the fiery darts of doubts still sometimes assail my soul like a tornado out of hell.

I've read a message from a theologian from Scotland. He said, great faith, great faith is not in the absence of doubt. Great faith is as we wrestle through continually in the midst often of doubt.

There's not time to go into details and some of it would be too depressing anyway. And I'm aware that this message has to be kept in balance by many other messages and great statements and songs and all kinds of things that you will receive. This is just a little bit of some basic truths.

Let me share my second struggle. It's plagued me all my life. I've prayed for it, I've prayed for it over 10,000 times.

Greater patience and deliverance from a bad temper. I can be so calm even for days. And things begin to mount up.

Under that pressure. Even though I had a great quiet time for breakfast, even instead of breakfast. I lose my cool.

I have mouth opens like some kind of drunken alligator and some crazy thing gets spewed out and somebody gets hurt. Any of you, any of you have any trouble with your temper? Would you raise your hand? We're not taking pictures. Is it just me? Am I all alone? A few other people have this problem.

Like about 70%. You're just so minister to me. God bless all of you bad tempered people.

But I know you're learning how to be more victorious. And don't let someone give you the idea that there's some spiritual miracle pop pill you just take. And then you'll never ever lose your temper again.

Now some people do have a deliverance experience. I'm not against that. But for many people there is the deliverance plus the ongoing battle with a fair number of failures thrown in.

Let's be realistic. Now isn't it wonderful to share pre-conversion sin stories? Boy, I tell you that really gets the audience doesn't it? Pre-conversion stories of your sinfulness in your testimony. When you tell that people get all excited.

Is that what you said? Yeah, I'm just saying some people like to tell their testimony and incorporate a lot of stories of sin before they were saved. It's easy to do. What about telling about your sins after you became a Christian? That's a little more difficult.

You see I could tell you about some of my sins when I was a baby Christian. And I could give you the impression that I'm beyond that now. I'm so much more mature because I've been through the OM training program.

And I've arrived a man of God. So just to keep the balance I'll give you a recent story that I'm ashamed to tell. I'm embarrassed to tell.

Only a couple years ago I was in my home with my wife. I have one of the most wonderful women anybody could ever dream of marrying. And she is definitely more methodical.

She's more meticulous about many things in life than I am. We are very, very different actually. We once thought that we were so different that perhaps we actually came from different planets.

And my wife was meticulously recording some videos for the ship. My wife is the main supplier of the videos for the ship. And in the next two years some of you will be watching the videos that she has made in our living room with this high tech timing device video recorder.

One of the easiest things for many of us husbands is to be so proud and so egotistical. We don't like our wife to tell us that we are wrong. We don't like that.

On this particular day I was under pressure. A lot of things were being repressed. I was not in a very good state of mind.

I don't know if you've ever had that problem. And I was trying to just turn on the video recorder. I don't even know why.

I was just trying to operate the video recorder. And my wife came in the door. And she bawled me out for tampering with her timing device on her video recorder.

Very gently bawling me out. Me, the International Director of Operation Mobilization. I don't know why to this day.

Sixteen fuses blew in my head all at the same time. Boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom. And I went out of control.

But as a good Christian leader I know I am not allowed to hit my wife. I wanted to kick something and I saw a box and with all the passion of my old soccer foot, I kicked that box with a mighty blow. Unfortunately, the box was filled with heavy notebooks.

The pain of God's special practical purgatory shot up my leg right through my neck. Instead of immediate repentance, I became more angry. This was the end of the road.

I knew I had to get away from my wife. And like it says in the books on marriage, you run out the door. And that's what I was planning to do as I head out the door.

The idea is you go out the door and you leave for a couple of hours until she comes with a car searching, looking, crying, Come back! Come back! But it didn't happen. And I, as I went through the door, because I had read too many times Calvary Road, I started to repent. And I went around to the back of the house and came in the back door a very broken, humble, needy Christian leader.

Over the years my wife responds to these things in different ways at different times. As I came in the kitchen to ask for her forgiveness and to give her a hug, she just burst out laughing. It's good to be able to laugh.

Being committed to honesty, however, the next morning at team devotions, it was a little difficult to explain the limp. I wanted to say, as Jacob of old, you know, I've been wrestling with God and I've got this limp. But I had to confess that what I had done.

It was a little bit humiliating. And then to go to the hospital for x-rays on my leg. Now I know some of you are new.

Some of you are new. And you're wondering what is the lesson behind this story. I'll explain it to you more carefully.

You must, in your home, be sure if you have a problem like me to place some empty boxes. Actually, there are more lessons than that, but I'll let you figure them out. It's not really funny.

I've wept many times over my sins. I've given my resignation enough times to the OM leaders for I am truly unworthy of leading such a group of people as you. But I discovered the grace of God.

God's grace in the midst of our struggles and our failures and our difficulties. I'm sure you know my third struggle and so many struggles with extreme, the natural tendency to go extreme. I could tell you so many stories.

Especially in my commitment to use all the money for world evangelism and Bibles and the work of God. And when I met the woman who later became my wife as a student at Moody Bible Institute, I told her immediately, I'm not spending any money on you. Can you imagine? I would, I hardly ever in my life at Bible college even walked into the coffee shop, the sweet shop.

I thought it was controlled, really, by the enemy. Some of the so-called verbal disciples in those days went even further. They watched people who went to the candy, the sweet machine, and they prayed for them in the name of Jesus.

I would go to the shower without any soap. I claimed the soap. The Lord always provided.

Even if sometimes you had to scrape it off the floor, the Lord provided some soap. There's not more time to tell about extremism. But even to this day, I have that tendency, when I see something and I feel something, to just want to grab it and go for it in such an extreme way.

And often it's ugly, it's unhelpful, it's wrong, it doesn't come from above. It comes from the enemy or from our deceptive hearts. And then another one of my big struggles is so much struggle with discouragement.

Have any of you battled with discouragement today? I mean, do you leave all that back home? How many have a little discouragement battle? You know, a little one today. Raise your hand. Maybe I'm the only one.

Hey, that's pretty good. That's less than a third. We better turn up the heat on the training program.

How many of you do, however, battle discouragement at times? Raise your hand. Normal. Don't be intimidated by it.

I've battled it most of my life. Not so much in those early years. I was too naive going at it too fast to the speed almost to be discouraged and I thought I had most of the answers.

I was going too fast and I thought I had most of the answers. So in the early days, I didn't get discouraged much. But when some of those prayers weren't answered, when faithful nationals just left me, just like that, stranded, cold, I just went.

Faithful national worker just left me. Prayers weren't answered. Even prayer with fasting sometimes wasn't answered.

And a lot of the things that I prayed for, a lot of the things I dreamed of, it didn't happen. Discouragement came in like a dark cloud. Again, I just want to shout from the housetops, great faith is often in the midst, in the midst of intensive struggle with discouragement.

Another one of my great areas of weakness and struggle, which I've already talked about, the other day, is the battle with lust and my own sexuality. I shared with you before how, when I was a young Christian, I thought because I didn't have total victory in this area, how could God ever use me? There were times when I didn't want to worship God. I wanted to worship women.

They were so beautiful. And it didn't go away as I grew older. The temptations and the problems even came into the prayer meetings.

I shouldn't say that, but I never got a prayer meeting tonight. I'll never forget one time in Switzerland. Oh, I love Switzerland.

We were having an extended prayer meeting. I'm the kind of person that likes to look around and see what's going on occasionally in the prayer meeting. Anyway, Juan Carlos Ortiz exhorted us in a book to pray with your eyes open.

That's great. Anyway, I was praying, trying to see some kind of breakthrough. I'd learned a long time ago, you can keep an eye on things through prayer by holding your hands over your eyes and then looking out through this section right here.

It's called spiritual peeking. The door opened at the prayer meeting and I peeked. There was one of the most beautiful Swiss women I had ever seen, all dressed in white.

It was bizarre. I immediately felt guilty and closed my fingers. I started praying.

Turkey for Jesus! China for Jesus! I wasn't getting anywhere. I had to just take one more look. Just one more look.

It was a terrible experience. How could I pray with this beautiful woman sitting in the prayer meeting? Lord, take her. In the name of Jesus, take her! You know, we can laugh now.

But when this is going on, this isn't funny. And I wondered, will I ever change? I'm a grandfather now. I'm not supposed to be looking at the women anymore.

I'm supposed to be looking at my grandchildren. And yet, these things don't disappear as we get older. Some of you know, at 16, I not only was in pornography, I started to sell mild pornography to my school friends.

I stopped it very quickly, but I started. It was an evil thing. Pornography.

I started to sell it in my high school, she said. Give me that face. Give me that face.

And as a young 17-year-old struggling with pornography as a Christian, and having actually only occasional failures, because in fact, I was growing. Anybody who knew me in those days knew that I was growing in Christ, almost like a weed in the woods. But even through small times of failure or loss, Satan would try to completely condemn me and accuse me of not even being a Christian.

And I learned how to stand on the promises of God. I learned how to memorize Scripture, which is so powerful in this battle. I learned how to share this with other brothers in Christ.

It was hard to share this, but I did it, and it was like a weight being lifted from my back. And I developed a strategy for standing against this particular temptation in my life. And God gave the victory again and again.

But then after a period of time, sometimes in an airport, or somewhere where there wasn't time to think I would fail, I'm talking about in my mind. And maybe 10 years ago, I was walking in the woods in England, I

think 15 years ago, and there was a pornographic 10-pound sterling magazine hanging in the tree. I was in a prayer walk in the woods.

This was not the Soho, this was the woods. And it so caught me by surprise how I would like to testify about the great victory that day in the woods. Boy, you would write and tell your grandmother about my victory.

What a wonderful testimony that would be. A laser beam of spiritual Holy Ghost power, zap! In the name of Jesus! And the magazine disintegrated in miracle power. But the truth is, I disintegrated.

I just collapsed in lust with that magazine. And a few minutes later, crawled my way a broken missionary back to the cross for the blood of Christ. God's grace to weak people.

God's constantly giving us another chance. 1 John 2, verse 1, Sin not, second part of the verse, if you sin you have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. Learn it and draw upon it day by day and week by week.

I wish that was all the struggles I had, I'd be doing really great. I have many more. But I want to go to prayer.

Talk enough about my weaknesses. Probably only have to listen to that once in your entire lifetime so you can relax. But it wouldn't be right to close without saying that I've also had terrible struggles with fear and with worry.

Even last night I woke up maybe 3 in the morning, unable to sleep, with worries running through my mind about the future, about different things that I have to face in the days to come. Still after all these years, it's an embarrassment. I was going to get up and read a book.

I sleep in the back of an old bus in the parking lot. It makes another room free inside. I was going to get up and read a book, but then I thought I'd wake my wife up.

She doesn't particularly like this old 10 pound sterling Salvation Army bed we sleep on in the bus. An old bed that's not very good that we sleep on in our old bus. She doesn't like the bed.

My wife, it's the only one I sleep with, I can assure you. But as I started to pray and I... You're wonderful, you're one of the best Korean small girl interpreters I've ever had. Excuse me, women.

Thank you Lord, I did it again. I started to intercede and I started to pray and soon I was back to sleep again. Don't be surprised by your fears.

But remember, fear and especially worry are not going to accomplish much. So the sooner you even ruthlessly deal with it by faith, the better off you will be in your pursuit of holiness and of God. There are many verses you can meditate on in connection with fear and worry.

God has not given us a spirit of fear but of love and of power and of a sound mind. Take that promise and make it your own even tonight. And then casting every care upon Him because He careth for you.

Isn't that exciting? God's Word. Applying in a practical way God's Word to our lives. You will hear many, many messages.

You'll read many books on how to live a more victorious and disciplined life. I hope you'll remember, in a moment of failure and difficulty, being a full disciple of Jesus Christ is a lifetime of learning and growing in God. It's a lifetime.

So watch your impatience factor. I have a little book called No Turning Back. I share a lot of these things in this book.

Maybe you want to pick one up. It's not the greatest book on these subjects, I can assure you. It's not the greatest book on these subjects.

Or my earlier book, Hunger for Reality. It's not very good at all, really. But it's brought me 22,000 personal letters of people that have been blessed through those feeble messages.

God uses weak people. Because as weak people, we in fact are strong. We're not wimps.

We're strong in Jesus Christ. And we're ready to go forward in the battle. Whatever comes.

Not in our own strength. Not because we never sin or never fail. But because Christ lives in us.

Christ lives in me. Relations 220. I am crucified with Christ.

Yet I live. I continue to live. Not I, but Christ.

Let's pray. Oh Lord, I thank you for your grace. I thank you for your mercy.

I thank you for the courage to even just share this tonight. A lot of other messages would be much easier to share. And Lord, I know there'll be some misunderstandings from this message.

But we believe it's worth the risk. To get one of the most important messages in the whole Bible through to our hearts. And so we collapse at the foot of the cross.

And we worship you. And we receive your forgiveness. We receive your grace.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/21/SID21640.mp3>

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