

Make Your Life Count 3

by George Verwer

The sermon emphasizes the importance of having a personal experience with God, being filled with the Holy Spirit, and being grounded in the Word of God.

Duration: 46:50

Scripture: Isaiah 6:8, Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47, John 20:21, Acts 1:8, Hebrews 10:17

Topics: "Counting The Cost"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of preaching the gospel to all people, as commanded in Acts 1-8. He highlights the example of the apostle Paul, who desired to preach Jesus Christ where he had not been named. The speaker also discusses the need for Christians to prioritize reading and studying the Bible, comparing it to the dedication of Muslims who memorize the entire Quran. He shares personal struggles and how he found hope and transformation through the Word of God. The sermon concludes with a reference to Isaiah 6 and the powerful encounter with God that Isaiah had in the temple.

Transcript

Living God, You know all about us, and You love us still. You know how phony we can sometimes be. You know the problems, the burdens, that especially will come back upon us on Monday, and Tuesday, and Wednesday, as we go away from the fellowship, from this tremendous challenge, ministry, worship, praise, music.

God, we ask that You speak to us from Your Word. You already have today. Speak again, O God, for Thy servants listen.

Give us hearts to obey. Give us feet to follow Your Son, the Lord Jesus. We thank You for the power of Your Holy Spirit.

We thank You for the reality of this life we have in Jesus Christ. Lord, we feel weak, but we know You are strong. Lord, we know that Your Word says, You do not want hearers of the Word, but doers.

And that tonight, You are looking for men and women of action. We know Your Holy Ghost brings a holy go. And that if the Holy Ghost is moving in our lives, we will be going places, and we will be doing things for You and for Your glory.

Deliver us from the spiritual myopia of the present day. Deliver us from just being some evangelical fish floating downstream for fear that we may get hurt in the warfare of the soul. Open our eyes.

Fill our hearts. For we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

I want you to open your Bibles with me. I don't know if they can turn the lights on out there a little bit. They may be able to.

Some of you may have x-ray vision, night vision. But I want you to turn in your Bibles to the book of Isaiah. The book of Isaiah.

Isaiah chapter 6. One of the reasons I'm so thankful to God. Praise the Lord. What a blessing to be able to see you.

I knew there was somebody out there because we're told here to go by faith. Let's look into our Bibles. How many of you have your Bible? Hold it up.

It's good to see a few thousand Bibles. Hallelujah for God's Word. How many are thankful for God's Word? Say, thank you, Jesus.

Thank you, Jesus. Amen. Isaiah chapter 6. The Word of God.

One of the things, as I was saying, that I appreciate about the men who organized this great meeting, this great festival, this great holy convocation, this great hallelujah session, whatever you want to call it. Jesus said in the age. One of the things that impresses me is their esteem of the Word of God.

And I believe that's one of the reasons the blessing of God has been upon these gatherings. The esteem of the Word of God. We have a thing like this in England.

Last year it was a disaster. Because it was all music. Music.

God uses music. Some of that music went a bit astray. The Word of God was kept in the sidelines.

The ministry of the Word of God was put in the sidelines. And this is a wonderful thing that we're taking this prime time. You see, this is prime time.

To look into the Word of God. Let's look at Isaiah chapter 6. In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphim.

Each one had six wings. And with two he covered his face. And with two he covered his feet.

And with two he did fly. And one cried unto another and said, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of His glory.

And the posts of the door moved at the voice of Him who cried. And the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me, for I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips.

And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips. For mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphim unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongues from off the altar.

And he laid it upon my mouth and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips, and that iniquity is taken away, and thy sin is purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send? And whom will I go? For whom will go for us? Then said I, Here am I, send me. Reality.

Isaiah, this great prophet, had an experience with God. And in these days as we gather together, we can have an experience with God Himself. It's not just a matter of more teaching.

Praise God for all the teaching. It's not just a matter of lifting our hearts in praise. Praise Him for every opportunity to do that.

But I believe God wants to meet with us. And I know you agree. It's good to see what a biblical experience of God involves.

First of all, we see Isaiah getting a fresh glimpse of the Lord. I saw also the Lord. Our goal must be God.

I don't know how much you know about Operation Mobilization. I'm not going to be speaking much about that. But it's a training work.

Our burden is to take young people, not necessarily seminary graduates or Bible college graduates, we have many from that category as well, but ordinary young people, and to give them an experience with the living God. To put them into situations where they will have to learn to trust God more. Whether it be in India or Spain or Turkey, the Muslim world, the communist world.

And we have decided as a movement, as we have reached our 20th birthday this month, two decades of learning at the feet of Jesus. But we decided many years ago, our goal must be God Himself. It's not God plus success, God plus this or God plus that, but God Himself.

We read in the book of Colossians that we are complete in Jesus Christ. We read that in Christ dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. That's powerful.

In Christ dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. So Isaiah saw the Lord. You know sometimes when you get in a series of meetings like this, you can become very introspective.

You can begin looking in yourself, and you see all the ugliness and all the weakness, and the sin and all whatever else. There was a great man of God from Scotland who said this, I'll never forget it. He said, for every one look at self, take ten looks at Jesus.

Isaiah said, I saw the Lord. Are you seeing the Lord in these days? What an experience that can be. I've made it the habit of my life for the last twenty years, every month or every other month, to go out into the woods or a mountain or a cave, and to spend a half day or a day alone with God.

The last time I did this was in the mountains of Scotland, just to get away from people, to get away from the telegrams and the phone calls which are part of this kind of work. This summer we'll have two and a half thousand people moving out in some thirty nations. Those ships, three hundred vehicles, reaching probably fifteen million people with the word of God.

That's not because we're anything. That's because God answers prayer. But I find in the midst of this kind of work, it's necessary to pull away into the woods, into the basin, and spend a day with God.

And it's been in those days, alone with God. I started this when I was about seventeen, shortly after my conversion to Jesus Christ. It's there that I've had a similar time, as I read here, after Isaiah saw the Lord, he saw the holiness of God.

Young people, I believe today, we need a greater understanding of the holiness of God. It's not some superficial, light thing to be a follower of Jesus Christ. There is the joy.

There is the fun of being a believer. The adventure, the challenge. But our God is a holy God.

He hates sin. He hates nonsense. He says in His word that we will have to account for every idle word that comes from our mouths.

I don't understand that. But I know this. One of the things God wants to do in these days together, and it's what I'll be speaking on mostly tomorrow, is to teach us what spiritual balance is.

The balance of freedom and authority. The balance of liberty and discipline. The balance of the local church and world evangelism.

The balance of being concerned for people's personal physical needs. And the balance of reaching the whole world with the word of God. The balance that comes and that's needed when we teach and preach the reality, the indwelling Holy Spirit, without which we can do nothing.

Spiritual balance. One of the reasons I do anything to get people to read the writings of A.W. Tozer, I think I'd be willing to come to Jesus 78 just to give book reviews. They said, well, George, you know, we really can't have you again, but you can come and give book reviews.

Hallelujah! Because if I can get you into the writings of Tozer, into the writings of Eugenia Price, into the writings of Roy Hesschen, I tell you, you'll never be the same in most cases. Isaiah saw the holiness of God. Have you had a vision of the holiness of God? Then what happened? He said, verse 5, Woe is me, for I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips, and dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips, for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.

Oh, what an experience, praise God. Mine eyes have seen the King. I want to ask you, have you ever had personal contact with a living Christ? I know there's some tonight.

You may have just come with a friend. You've never come to experience salvation in Jesus Christ. And I'd like to briefly share, especially with you, my own story.

I'm not from a Christian home. My parents did not know Christ, though they were good parents in many ways. My grandfather from the Netherlands was an atheist.

My other grandfather from Glasgow, Scotland was a drunk. By the age of 16, I had become a materialist. I had a little bit of religion, because there seemed to be some nice girls in the church, just like in the nightclubs.

So I came back from the nightclubs in New York City on Saturday night, and I was in church on Sunday morning. God was working in my heart. An elderly lady began to pray for me.

She had prayed for the high school that I was attending for 14 years. I want to tell you, prayer is the greatest force you and I have available to us, together with love. Prayer and love.

Prayer and love. That's God's method, built on faith, based on the truth. That lady prayed for 14 years for that high school.

How many of you are going to go back from here with a burden to see revival in your high school? In your college? In your town? She travailed, she persevered in prayer 14 years. She not only prayed that people would be converted, she prayed that they would be converted and go forth as servants. You see, we are saved to worship, and we are saved to serve, not to sleep.

When I went to that school, I got in a bit of trouble. She heard about me. She didn't condemn me.

Isn't that wonderful? But she prayed. She prayed for me for three years, and every year I got worse. I don't want to go into detail about my sin.

There's no purpose in that. She kept praying. She sent me a Gospel of John through the post, through the mail.

And if you don't know Jesus Christ personally, if you've never experienced a radical life-changing experience with Christ, I recommend the Gospel of John. You can get one. The fourth book in the New Testament.

I read this, even when I came home from the clubs. Even when I came home from dancing all night, perhaps my greatest infatuation next to women, sports, and, well, my own selfish ego. She prayed for me for three years.

I read this Gospel. And then Billy Graham came to New York City. People always say, ah, that's a lot of emotion, Billy Graham.

I didn't know much about it. No one had ever witnessed to me about Jesus Christ. I didn't know anything like this existed.

And do you know there are friends back in your school who are in the state today that I was in then. They know nothing about Jesus Christ. And a friend invited me to that one night, it wasn't a crusade, one night meeting in New York City, Madison Square Garden.

Twenty thousand people there. I stood well as far away as I could get, watched with my binoculars, heard he was a hypnotist, see what he was going to do. I can't remember much about that night, but I remember him showing from the Word of God, he kept saying, he spoke with authority, and it went like an arrow to my soul.

And he said, if God washes away your sin, he will remember them no more. And I was convicted about my lying, because I was a liar. About my lust, because I was in heavy to pornography.

I was convicted about my pride, about my double life. And when he gave an invitation, I had never seen anything like that in my whole life. An invitation, told people to get out of their seats, what are they going to go crazy? The Holy Spirit convinced me that this is what I needed to do.

And I went forward that night, tears of repentance, and I trusted Jesus Christ as my Savior, as my Lord. Have you ever done that? May some decide even tonight, this is the hour for you to make that commitment. There's hundreds, hundreds who are here willing to talk to you, show you from the Word of God.

This is not our philosophy. We are here from many different churches, many different backgrounds, many different nationalities, but we have found the truth in the Word of God and in the experience of salvation. The Bible says, so great salvation.

A man came to Jesus, a religious man. He came in the night, just like this. Didn't even have a flashlight.

They didn't have those in Jesus' day. And he said, spoke to Jesus, said, you're a teacher. And Jesus spoke to him and said, accept the man, be born again, be born again.

He can never enter the kingdom of God. Have you been born again? Well, that happened in my life. And I went back to that high school and that lady kept praying.

And I remember when God opened the door when I was 17 or 18 to speak to many of my fellow students. Many had been praying. This lady had been praying.

And in that one meeting, about 125, 150 from that school where a third of the students were off and drunk every weekend, about 150 of them came into the cafeteria to pray for salvation and to seek the Lord. I believe God can do that in your high school. You'll learn how to pray.

I believe one of the greatest challenges God can bring to our hearts tonight is to learn how to pray. There are books like *Destined for the Throne* and other outstanding books that you can get that will teach you about prayer. The problems of prayer, the obstacles of prayer, like pride, unbelief, unwillingness to step out by faith.

So Isaiah had a great experience with God. He saw God's holiness. He experienced God's cleansing.

After conversion, we can have other experiences with God. Billy Graham, in speaking about the great reality and the experience of the Holy Spirit, said this, I don't care how you get it, just get it. And I believe it's God's will that His people are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5 says, Be filled with the Holy Spirit. Some people think this is a spectacular thing. And God sometimes works in spectacular ways.

Praise His name. And I want to tell you, God often also works in ordinary ways. And I am convinced the world is going to be evangelized by ordinary people.

Some people feel, I don't believe many here, and I know the organizers of this great Jesus festival don't believe this way, but some people feel, they do in England, that this kind of great gathering is not a place for presenting the challenge of world missions. You know, if we believe that way, we got some pages to tear out of the book. Maybe you can meet me after the meeting, and we'll tear the pages out.

Now, I don't preach much about world missions, and I'm not preaching that tonight. My favorite message that I speak on is the all-sufficiency of Jesus Christ, the Lordship of Jesus Christ, spiritual reality, worship. I love to speak about accepting yourself, and how to handle your strong emotions.

Perhaps that's because I'm such an emotional case. And if you don't think that's true, go ask my wife. My wife, she's sitting right there.

Eighteen years, she's had to live with me. You can imagine. You know, I thought I was really getting sanctified.

I was really getting close to Jesus, and I was learning how to be patient, and I was learning more about gentleness, which is the last thing to come into my type of person. And control, self-control. Because I had this problem, my tongue went faster than my brain.

It's always saying stupid things, unkind things. Then my brain, a few seconds later, chugs along. Hey, hey, hey, hey.

You shouldn't have said that. I already said it. Now, before I was a Christian, this led to many fights, fist fights.

And I was often beat. As you can see, I'm not the world's greatest, the largest character. I got in a fight once in grammar school with a girl, and I lost.

I tell you. There was one humble man. And I had a lot of difficulty in accepting myself, because I was so thin.

And I saw this advertisement in the papers, this beautiful girl, this thin fellow on the beach. And the big thing before I was converted was girls. The big thing after I was converted was, if I'm honest, still girls.

And Jesus. And slowly he won. You know, some people think when you're saved, everything just changes overnight.

You know, wings start growing out of your back. Well, you know, I don't know if it's that way with you. But a lot of my problems only started after I was saved.

Any of you encounter that after you got saved, you had more problems? Anybody? Then somebody comes along, you know, this little bow tie, blue eyes, crew cut. If you accept Jesus, it'll be all wonderful the rest of your life. You want to know what happened to me when I walked out of Madison Square Garden the night I was converted? I very seldom tell this.

I had a blonde with me, because I thought she needed religion. And arm in arm, we walked out of Madison Square Garden, and some real tough New York, I think we called them Ted's back then. Anybody from New York City? Ooh.

What about Detroit? That's the same as New York. Okay. And I walked out into the street, and this fellow said something really filthy about this girl I was with.

And I thought, boy, this is the time to demonstrate my newfound faith. And I said, well, excuse me, you shouldn't say that. Boom.

I was flat on the cement. That was my first blessing in my newfound Christian life. Now, you maybe haven't, you perhaps didn't get that same literal experience.

Most of you weren't saved in New York. Toronto is such a city of brotherly love. Depends who your brother is.

But I'll tell you, though when you accept Christ, you may not get laid out on a pavement in New York City, the devil will attack and counterattack and do everything to drag you back to Egypt, to drag you back to the world. And that's why it's so good when young Christians and older Christians can come to something like this and be further grounded in the Word of God. And I thank God that after I was converted, that I got

into some books, and that I was shown how to study the Bible, and how to mark my Bible, and how to read it right through.

I wonder how many of you, some of you are quite a few years in Christ, have never yet read the Bible through even once. Raise your hand. Come on, be honest.

Ooh. Ooh. Some I know are tired.

They can't get their hand up. And I would give you this challenge. I would ask you to promise the Lord to read His Word.

You say you believe it's the Word of God. You haven't even read it yet. And I would ask you to read the Word of God right through.

Memorize some of the best verses that speak to your heart, but read the Word of God right through. And I'd be willing to help you do that. You can write me a note.

Dear George, give it in at the book table, or give it to me. Say, I promise to read God's Word right through in one year, by His grace, not by your strength. You won't make it.

And in one year, I will write you a letter, and I'll say, Dear Susie, or Joe, or Luigi, did you get through the Word of God? Muslims memorize the entire Koran, but Christians don't even read the Bible through. Something has gone wrong somewhere. And I got into God's Word.

Now, I had a lot of problems as a young Christian. I shared some of these today in the other session. The battle with lust.

The battle with impatience. The battle with self-acceptance. I was telling you about that little advertisement.

When I saw that advertisement of the skinny guy next to this girl, and then a big, strong, good-looking fellow came along. And he punched this skinny fellow, and he ran away. And the big fellow took the girl.

I thought, uh-oh, that is going to be my life. There's no hope for me. And it said in the bottom of the page, right in today, for Charles Atlas, muscle building, weight gaining, guaranteed.

Dear sir, please send me your apparatus. For months, I was lifting weights. I was eating extra food.

After about five months, I gained half a pound. Now, you can laugh. That wasn't funny.

How do you do when you look in the mirror? And it was after I became a simple believer in Jesus Christ that I realized God accepted me. God made me. Why? And I began to really accept myself.

I believe many of our hang-ups, even the lust problem, bitterness, jealousy, resentment, fear, worry, I believe these things are linked with lack of self-acceptance and also very much with having too low an image of oneself and also insecurity that often comes in the pressurized culture that you and I live in today. The Bible says over nine times, love your neighbor as you love yourself. That's basic.

If God says it nine times, you know, He knows that some things don't go in our thick heads one time. And so He repeats in His Word. It started in the Old Testament.

Love thy neighbor as thyself. But you see, if you don't have a healthy respect for yourself, accept yourself, you may have a disability, you may have a problem, but if you don't have a healthy respect and acceptance of yourself, a biblical acceptance of yourself, then you will have difficulty relating to other people. I want to speak something tomorrow on this whole area of communication.

How to communicate. How to give and receive love. How to forgive.

How to experience forgiveness on a deeper emotional level that can reach down into where the problems really are. Because you see, so many of our problems are in the unconscious or the subconscious. That's why we end up doing things that we promise not to do.

We come to Jesus 77, say, Lord Jesus, I promise never to do that again. We go home two weeks later, we do it. And it's because the battle is real.

George Duncan, that great preacher from Scotland, said this is why we have to memorize the Word of God. This is why we have to get the Word of God deep into our subconscious. Jesus calls it the heart.

He says, from the heart of man come the problems. And as a young Christian, I began to memorize the Word of God. And it began to clean my mind.

I had so many impure thoughts. Even after I was a Christian. I thought, can God ever clean my mind up? I could burn the pornography, that was easy.

But can God clean my mind up? Then I had these horrible dreams. All kinds of dreams. All kinds of women coming through the windows, coming down the chimneys.

Most of them didn't have any clothes on. Terrible dreams. Of course, none of you have these problems.

And I thought, God, can you ever, ever change me? And I saw from His Word, I have hid Thy Word in my heart, the psalmist said, that I may not sin against You. And so I began meditating on all the passages about purity. And I repented whenever lust came into my mind.

I repented immediately. I also began to share this with others. Tremendous value in sharing.

Praying together, one with another, that we may be healed. Slowly, slowly. Oh, there were the crises as well.

The recommitments. Times when God poured His Spirit upon my heart and into my life. But there was the process.

You know, Jesus said, if any man come after me, any man, any woman, let him deny himself. Deny himself, that's the key. Take up the cross, daily, follow me.

And if you're not willing to do that, you're going to end up in another evangelical casualty statistic somewhere. And I remember how even my dreams began to change. I tell you, I woke up one morning so excited, praising God.

I can remember this dream, this most incredible woman came into my room. In the dream, don't get the story confused, please. And the moment I saw that there was this incredible temptation, I jumped out of my bed, dove out the window, and ran away.

I thought, hallelujah, something's happening to me. And I believe that some of you are going to face the greatest battles in your spiritual life in this area of lust. And I want to say there is victory, there is power, there is reality, there is cleansing in the blood of Jesus Christ.

The way will not be easy. I had a lot of other hang-ups as a Christian, especially this impatience. As I was saying before, before I thought I was getting somewhat sanctified and growing in grace and becoming more patient, then I got married.

Yeah. My wife's here, so I have to be careful. But then I saw what an impatient wretch I was.

And in some ways, I felt my wife wasn't so spiritual. She wouldn't get up with me and do my exercise program in the morning. And then, she seemed to be a little slower than me.

I felt everything in this world was going too slow. And, you know, we need people in God's work to get going. God had to break me.

God had to humble me. And God had to teach me what it is to repent. My wife and I read that little book *Calvary Road* together early after our marriage.

God had worked a very deep and real work into her life. But in our first days in Mexico, the first country we went to, we read that little book and we read that chapter, *Revival in the Home*. And if there's anywhere where we need revival today, it's in the home.

God can give it. We learn to repent. And I came to see that it wasn't a matter of her being slow or this or that, but that we were different by His mercy.

Because this is reality. We're talking about reality tonight. We've experienced His grace and forgiveness and love that has kept us together these 18 years.

And I'll let you in on a secret. It's getting better. Jesus Christ is the one that can put your marriage together.

Jesus Christ is the one that can keep your marriage together. And if you're going to be getting married in the coming years, make sure you're building on a solid foundation. Unselfishness.

Love. Discipline. Brokenness.

Revival. Oh, young people, it's not a game to get married. The Word of God speaks much about this.

Isaiah had an experience. He saw the holiness of God. He experienced the cleansing of God and the purging of God.

And then what? Notice those words in verse 8. Then said I, Here am I. Send me. This is part of the whole Gospel. It's part of the full Gospel.

The challenge to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. Acts 1.8. There are verses in Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, many of them in the book of Acts. They all point the same direction.

You know what Paul said? Even in the first century, he said, I want to preach Jesus Christ where He's not been named yet. That's Paul. And then he said, I want to go to the regions beyond.

And in Acts 1.8, a verse that I believe we should read again and again until we have memorized it. It says, But ye shall receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria and the uttermost part of the earth I have in my pocket two things actually. One is a tape recording that was to remind you that there are many, many cassette tapes available in the tent.

Many of them at the price of the blank cassette that you can take and send to other people. Look at them. If you don't like the message, it's easy.

Just record some of this great music over the top of it. You can't lose. I mention this because cassette tapes have been such a blessing to me.

When I'm in the car, when I'm in the bathtub. I had Brother Andrew in the bathtub the other day. It's a tremendous experience.

I mean, I was in the bathtub listening to Brother Andrew on the tape. And I find this is a tremendous way to redeem the time. I hate to shave.

I hate to shave. I want to grow a beard down to my toes someday. I'm waiting for the first hair to appear.

No, it's there. Some countries I work in, if you've got a beard, they don't think you're saved. I've got enough problems without running into that one.

But oh, how I've been challenged through these tapes. And when I shave, I love to listen to a tape. Just carry a little \$35 cassette recorder with me wherever I go.

I hope you'll get in on doing that. But I also have in my pocket this little package of cards. I pray cards.

And I hope you'll at least take a look at these because in this packet of cards we have made a card for 52 different nations in the world with prayer requests for God's people in those nations. You may never go to the mission field. You may never go to Afghanistan or Albania or Russia.

That's one of the first places I started. We mentioned God's smuggler. You're looking at God's bungler right here.

Second day I was arrested by the Soviet secret police for my own stupid mistake. Many of you have had many failures in your life? I tell you if I listed all mine you'd fill the first volume in an encyclopedia. For one thing I know, God loves failures.

And failure is open the back door to success. And after the Soviet secret police got me in 1960 and gave me a little submachine gun escort back to the free world, I went for a day of prayer in the mountains of Germany. I was in the top of the tree praising Jesus and worshipping Jesus.

It's one of the safest places with my voice, I can assure you. And it was there in that tree that God brought these words to my mind, Operation Mobilization. And I thought of God mobilizing Germans and English and French who had killed and destroyed each other 20 years before.

Bringing them together and reaching out to millions of people in Europe. I went back to Spain. We went up for two more days of prayer with a group of Spaniards and I said, look, I believe this is a burden from God.

I don't have any money. I don't have much support. But I believe God's in it.

Will you join me? And 10 Spaniards joined. And we asked God for 300 men in obedience to that verse of Scripture that says, Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth labors into the harvest. And guess what you think happened next summer in Europe? 300 men.

And we asked God for 2,000. What do you think happened next summer? A little group of unknown nobodies who had discovered that God answers prayer. And God gave us 2,000 men.

And it's been going ever since. And we've got young people. We've got young people who were here last year and caught the vision last year who are on their way now.

Now I know someone says, well, aren't they too young? Aren't they ready? Would you restudy the book of Acts? Would you figure out how old David was when he slew Goliath? Would you figure out how many years the Thessalonian believers have been grounded in the faith before their reputation was known all over that area? Their love, their witness, their power? I believe under the right supervision with discipline and careful training, working with the churches, working with missionaries, that young people your age can be mightily used of God. We need the normal missionaries, the families. Many of them are used.

But why cannot we have an army of young people, especially single people, who can supplement their work? They want us. The Mormons have 24,000 men. They've just won 100,000 in the past years in Great Britain to the Mormon faith.

100,000 converts, even though they preach one of the toughest messages in Britain, the forsaking of tea drinking. Incredible. And these Mormon young men, they go door to door, door to door.

How can it be that the Mormons have more men on the field than all the Bible-believing, and all the Pentecostal, non-Pentecostal, Bible-believing churches all put together? I want to tell you that's something we've got to think about. And I believe that God wants to raise up from this North American continent an army of 100,000 men and women who love Jesus and who'll give two years of their life in overseas service where millions have no Bible, no tract. In fact, half the world is waiting for its first gospel tract.

Look at all the Christian books. Look at our Bibles. Yet half the world is waiting for one little gospel tract that cost a tenth of a penny to print.

Then, some of those will return to Canada, to the States. There's much to be done here. And others will take their place.

Others out of that group will see that they have the gift and the ability to be effective in a foreign land. I don't think you'll ever know unless you give it a chance. Many misunderstandings about the great task of world evangelism.

I would beg of you in the name of Jesus to take these cards and to pray through them. You'll notice countries that have not one single church. Countries that have not one single believer.

Imagine if I assigned two of you to evangelize the whole of Ontario. How would those four there in the front bench will give you? All of Ontario you evangelize. With no other Christian in Ontario.

Can you imagine that? And yet, this is what we're doing. The Bible says, the harvest is plenteous, the laborers are few. Isaiah said, Here am I. Send me.

Not here am I like a lot of young men around Canada. Send my sister. Uh-uh.

Praise God for the girls, the sisters, the women who are going. And there's a great need for women. But all for men and women who will say, Lord, here am I. Send me.

I would ask you to restudy this chapter in Isaiah. I would ask you to read some of these missionary books. Books by Michael Griffiths like Give Up Your Small Ambitions or Take My Life.

Books by this man, Mr. Hillis, about Jesus Christ being the only way, the only truth, the only life. If you don't have money to buy that book, you write me a letter and say, I want that book, I'll send it to you free. But I believe the Spirit of God wants to move in our hearts to worship Him, yes, to fellowship with one another, hallelujah, but also to obey Him in world evangelization.

India has one-seventh of the world's population, 600 million. In India alone, 12 million more every year. And Canadians are one of the few groups that can go to India without a visa and you can stay there.

The number of missionaries in India has dropped 50%. If we don't count OM, has dropped 50% in the past 30 years. Who will go? It says in the book of Ezekiel that God was looking, God was seeking for a man that would stand in the gap and make up the edge and He found none.

Tonight I believe across this great field, God is seeking, God is looking for men, for women who will stand in the gap here and overseas in prayer, in going, in being, Isaias in the 20th century. Men and women with a vision of God, the holiness of God. Men and women with a reality of repentance.

Men and women who will say, Lord, here am I. I'm weak. I'm scared. I got problems yet.

I want to tell you if we wait till you get all your problems cleared up before you go to the mission field, nobody will go and all the missionaries in the field have to come back. I believe the devil is a liar and he keeps telling you you can't do it. It's too big a challenge.

You're not smart enough. You haven't got enough education. You're not emotionally stable enough.

Look at me. Emotional stability is necessary to be effective overseas. I have to give my resignation.

Of course, God does change us. The Holy Spirit brings fruit and power and gifts and we grow but we can't sit away expecting some kind of evangelical computer program to force us into action. Beloved, the decision is yours.

God bless you as you make it. Let's just pray. Lord, we thank you for your word.

Don't let us run away like Jonah. Don't let us hide. Cause us to obey.

You know our needs. You know the hang-ups that some are wrestling with. The defeat.

The sin. Lust. Jealousy.

Bitterness. Fear. Shyness.

God, fill us with your Holy Spirit. That these things will be driven from our lives and that we will be able to move forward as a mighty army for your glory. Oh God, we thank you for what you have done.

Not through Operation Mobilization but through all the various groups you have raised up. Oh Lord, we give you the praise. And we know in these last days you're on the move wanting to do even greater things for your glory.

We want to just pray. Here am I. Here am I. Send me. Will you pray that prayer? He may never send you overseas but he may.

Will you pray that prayer? Here am I. Send me. Even me. May God's Spirit make it real.

In Jesus' name, amen.

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