

Principles of Spiritual Growth

by George Verwer

The sermon emphasizes the importance of worship, love, discipline, and the sufficiency of Jesus Christ in spiritual growth.

Duration: 1:25:19

Scripture: Acts 2:41-43, Acts 2:47, Acts 3:6, Acts 3:12, Acts 3:19

Topics: "Spiritual Growth", "Church Discipline"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses the early church and the actions they took. He highlights the incredible growth of the church, with 3,000 souls being added in one day. The preacher acknowledges that the early church was not perfect and faced struggles, but emphasizes the importance of staying true to the apostles' doctrine. He emphasizes the need for worship, love, discipline, and the power of the cross in the church. The preacher also addresses the topic of signs and wonders, cautioning against seeking them without a solid foundation in the word of God.

Transcript

But it shows how God uses pain. I don't even like one needle going into my eye. And it's been a blessing to me, through study, to understand the purpose of pain in this world.

And we know one of the purposes. Is that pain, in a very strange way, usually prepares a man for a more deeper experience of worship. The second principle is the principle I talk about in this book.

It's called Revolution of Love. I'm not sure if this chapter is found in a Hebrew book, I don't remember. But I believe that love must be our aim.

Now I always like to get people to give me feedback. Cooperation, feedback. Cooperation gives me back a piece of paper.

Well now that was my goal. And what this is, is that as I'm speaking, if you have some question, if you have something you want to ask me, or something you want to tell me, like about death or anything, you write it down on a piece of paper. And at the end of the conference, you give it to me.

Okay. First, I'd like to sign your name. And your address.

So that I can correspond with you about what you're asking. Sometimes I offer people books, and so they write the name of the book, and then later on I send them the book. Yes.

Psychologists say we should all have hobbies, my hobby is sending out books. But there's a book I would like to send to the girls. I won't send any copies to the men.

They can borrow their copies of the book. Interested in my woman named Eugenia Price. It's one of the best books I've ever read.

We don't have it in here. It's called Make Love Your English. Of course that's found in the book of Corinthians.

And then we know, of course, 1 Corinthians 13. Which tells and speaks all about love. And then the first verse of chapter 14.

Let love be your greatest sin. Let love be your greatest sin. By the way, there's a great book about deep love.

But isn't that by Henry Drummond? Of course Eugenia Price's book is the most beautiful. There isn't time to go into detail about this. The whole message in itself.

But I think most of us. After we analyze all of our other problems, and we've got plenty of them. I don't know that much about the situation in Israel.

But there are a lot of problems in Israel. So this is probably not my seventh or eighth visit. But I tend to think that most of our problems.

Center around a need for more love. Of course we will not be able to do this. While we continue to overemphasize secondary and periphery issues.

Which is the specialty of many people. And it does seem that as we Christians. That so many Christians.

Have their things. So instead of centering around the major message of the word God. Have more than that.

Around the personality of the Lord Jesus Christ. Center around other things. I have some friends.

That I have fellowship with. Unless your main controlling dominating passion. Is to choose for Christ.

Every time you visit people. You get the same message. To the two first.

And actually they don't realize. They are driving more people away from Jewish evangelism. It's especially embarrassing when I ask such people.

How many Jews have you personally led to Jesus Christ. This year than the story of the faith. Discourses.

I believe we must reach the Jews of Christ. That's very important to know. But I don't believe our fellowship is based on whether we agree on this point.

I don't believe we accept or reject people on the basis of the kind of evangelism they are engaged in. So that if a brother says look my burden is to reach the people of Afghanistan first for Jesus Christ. We say

excuse me you're really on the wrong road.

I'm telling you to think somewhere else. We believe that God loves the whole world. There are 13 million Afghans.

13 million Afghans. And there are 10 believers. 10 believers.

In all of Afghanistan. Who are alive. Others have been killed.

And so if a man comes to me. And he has a burden for Afghanistan first. If another one comes to me.

His burden is Israel. If another one says my burden is Moscow. Praise the Lord.

Another one says to the Chinese first. After all they have more than anybody else. Praise the Lord.

And then often times. We get very caught up in our eschatology. Theology of the last days.

The events of the last days. I've met people. The first thing they want to know.

Is whether I am premillennial. And of course we have charts. We have graphs.

We have endless books. And when we find people. Who are not of our particular doctrine.

Then we can't fellowship with them. And of course this is true. And I believe that all of us must come together.

And sense our great love. For all believers. That we may know Jesus Christ.

And make him known. And make love your aim. Realize that if you don't have love.

Anything else you have. Is nothing. You may be orthodox.

You may have good doctrines. You may be a good speaker. God may have used you in the past.

Our time I believe is run out. What time do we have in it? The third principle I want to make. Is the principle of.

Spiritual discipline. First Corinthians chapter 9. Read here the like. The emphasis of the apostle Paul.

Verse 27. If I can actually I punish my body. Treating it properly.

Training it to do what it should. That's what it wants to do. Otherwise I fear that after enlisting.

Others for the race. I myself might be declared unfit. And ordered to stand aside.

Recently I was reading. Martin Lloyd Jones's book. On spiritual depression.

Martin Lloyd Jones. Certainly one of the greatest preachers. And he made a study.

The lives of great men of God. Of many many different. And he said the one thing they all had in common.

They had some dark side of this. The one thing they had in common. Doing what they knew they should do.

Not what they wanted. The Bible emphasizes. Billy Graham said in one of his messages.

If you're not willing to learn. It's just a polite. He said then forget it.

You're not going to make it. There are many many areas this touches on. David Wilkerson the greatest.

Said the greatest sin in young people. Is wasting time. What about the use of your time.

Is it discipline. Is it self control. And then there's the area of food.

Then there's the area of sleep. Then there's the area of our social life. And I believe that every effort is made.

To learn the reality. There is this false idea. That if we have an experience with the Lord.

If we're filled with the Holy Spirit. These things will be automatic. I have never met a disciplined man.

Who got it automatic. Of course without Christ we can do nothing. Without the Holy Spirit.

I'm disciplined. It's a little bad. If you love Him.

What are the big areas where this is seen. Is this area of the heart. Of our quiet.

The time each morning. That we have with God. Before the activities of the day.

Billy Graham said that if he didn't have a quiet time in the morning. Then he could never get through the day. Now I know it can become a ritual.

But most of you are still taking part. And I believe in the morning. We need to have that quiet time.

That will mean more than a dozen conferences. And when we feel the Bible is dry. And we don't want to pray.

That's a greater sign. That we need to sing to God's word. And we need to get on our knees somehow.

How is your quiet time? Recently I was with Oswald Smith. He's 80 years old. He's one of these who is older.

Who doesn't just talk. But has reality in his life. You know.

All these years. Since he was 17 years of age. He's only missed his quiet time once.

Once. Since 1880. No wonder he's led more men and women to Jesus Christ.

The church is the largest missionary church. The only church in the world. They support 500 missionaries.

How is your church doing? But until we get serious about the disciplined life. About the quiet time. About meeting God each day.

The same is true in evangelism. None of us are going to feel like doing that. No.

I've written a book on evangelism. Even though I've written this book. I never feel like doing any of this.

My feelings don't go that fast. To get out of evangelism. Whether it's in a speech or on the doors.

Or in personal worship. I've got to deny. I've got to deny myself.

Take up the cross. And follow it. That's the only way.

I've been active in evangelism. Every day for 19 years. Don't ask me to take a step of this.

In a sense it's a step of faith. We say Lord I don't feel like it. But by command I go.

Lord I don't want to knock on that door. But I go. And it's the most thrilling.

Certainly one of the most thrilling experiences. Our teams have been door to door here again. The past five months.

And for the day we've been spending many hours on the doors. And he was telling me yesterday. There has been no opposition.

All the things that were told me. If you do this. All that's going to happen.

But the fact is that people. Many of these people. Are friendly and open.

And willing to talk much more. Than in many other lands we are working on. I believe in a great Christ.

A great Christ. That we do not discipline ourselves. To take the Word of God.

Whatever you want to do. For every man, woman and child in this country. Be you Jew or Arab or whatever.

Tremendous opportunities. One of the greatest is the challenge of the West Bank. How long will such an open door be there for? To freely reach people with the Word of God.

Without the crucifix. Well. These are the principles now.

But I trust. That these three principles. Worship.

Love. Discipline. Power of the cross.

And God. God. There is no God.

There is God. Basic. God.

Daily basis. God. We thank you for your Word.

For these three. So basic. that are mentioned again and again and again, that affect so many other areas of our Christian life.

Oh Lord, we pray. Teach us the reality of worship. Teach us the reality of deep forgiving love, one for another.

Teach us the reality of discipline, in every area. Oh, we pray in Jesus name. The third principle is the sufficiency of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Certainly one of the most important of all biblical principles is the whole message of the sufficiency, the all sufficiency of the Lord Jesus Christ. The fifth principle is the whole concept of honesty, and I speak about the revolution of honesty. The kind of thing that Keith Miller emphasizes in his book Taste of New Wine.

This need to take off a little religious mask, and until we do that, it is very difficult for us to begin to really enter into the reality that God wants for us. The sixth thing is brokenness. Many of you have read the book Calvary Rolled by Roy Hesschen.

And you know the emphasis of that book. The need for us to really know what it is to break before the loving hand of God. And know the reality of Calvary in our lives.

And then the seventh principle, the principle of every believer a witness for world evangelism, everyone's test. And we believe that building on the foundation of those other 6.7 points. If we had had time, we would have spoken a little more on some of those very basic biblical principles.

Okay, other questions? Yes. Thank you. I've been waiting for this opportunity for at least two days.

I've been at the youth conference. Of course, I had to go home. I'd like to divide this time into two parts.

First of all, sharing a little bit what's happening in different parts of the world where I have recently visited. And then after that, looking into the work of God together. I've just come from India, where I've been involved in seven days of evangelistic meetings.

My voice has pained a little bit for that. But don't worry about it. It always improves after the first hour.

Before that, I was on the ship Lagos. And I know some of you have been praying for that ministry. I spoke here a few years ago about it.

And you have also seen the Sound Vision film strip. Each year, I'm in about six months together with my family on the ship. The other six months I'm in Europe.

Especially looking for more young people who are willing to serve in Asia. Ten years ago, we prayed for the first small group to go into Asia. Our conference was in the Word of God.

Our conference was in the Word of God. The Word of God tells us that we must pray for those who are working in the field. We asked people, and we were especially burdened to get neighbors among Muslims.

They told us we would never get very many. Of course, our burden wasn't necessarily to keep them. But to give them a taste of Asia, and at the same time some strength.

God has heard that prayer. There are now over 450 of us east of Istanbul. And young people who have caught this vision, and who got out from us, are working in almost every major nation in the world.

And I believe with all my heart that we have not even begun to know the power of this weapon of prayer. I hope that tonight our own confidence in this particular weapon of prayer will be increased. Recently I took a tour of Southeast Asia.

The ship was in Ceylon. That was a real miracle. The Prime Minister told us we could not come.

We told God we didn't agree. The Prime Minister herself changed her mind and wrote us that we could come. And we saw as many Christian books distributed there in three weeks as a thousand students

distributed in a summer in a Christian state in Europe.

And I asked you to pray for this little land of so long and twelve million people. I didn't know how to pray. And I prayed that they would pray for this land of so long and twelve million people.

They are going through great difficulties there. And it's a great challenge to pray. While the ship was there, I went over to Vietnam.

It's amazing to see what God has been doing there during the war. Many, many thousands have come to cry. In some places there have been what some people would call even revivals.

A land of 22 million, there's much to be done yet now. The church has extended an official invitation for the ship to go there in August. So we hope to go, and of course in Saigon, because of the river, the ship will be able to go right down into the downtown shopping district.

And even though it's almost the same distance from the sea as Jerusalem is from the sea, can you imagine bringing the shiplagos in here and putting it next to the Damascus Gate? It would be quite an impact. So we hope you will pray for Vietnam. And for the believers there.

One of the thrilling things about Vietnam is that almost all the churches, all kinds of Bibles, about 80% of them are with the CNS. The more liberal church, the liberal churches have never been able to do anything to speak of Vietnam. So there's a strong unity there among the believers.

Which makes it a much easier situation for evangelism in many other countries. From there I went over to Thailand. By the way, Saigon alone has 3 million Thai Vietnamese.

Including 1 million Chinese. Bangkok also has a million Chinese people. Thailand is a city of 3 million.

The ship already visited there once. Had a very great reception. So we couldn't stay very long in Vietnam.

Then we hurried off to the Philippines. Where President Marcos himself came to the ship. Together with about 200 armed guards and everything.

So we're going back to Thailand. We need a lot of prayers. This is a stronghold of Buddhism.

And in Bangkok there are very few Christians. In the outlying areas there are many more. In all these places I had some very encouraging meetings.

And especially I'm concerned to see the Christians mobilizing and reaching their neighbors to the world. One of the main purposes of this trip was to visit Bangladesh. The 9th largest nation in the world.

Almost the youngest nation in the world. That was born to one of the most horrible bloodbaths in the world. In fact, many people estimate that over 2 million people, almost the population of your country, were murdered and slaughtered and killed during that period.

And yet through all that has come a new, free, progressive world. No longer a Muslim state, it's a secular country. Now, in the past 4 months, that world has also brought the official end to our work.

But we already had a team of 8 Bengalis, many of them our own converts. And of course, they cannot be stopped in our efforts. 75 million people there, that's a big job.

Every year they got down 2 million. Muslims are buying scriptures and Christian books like never before in history. Many Hindus have been coming to Christ.

So far, there's been no real death among the Muslims. Like one young man, a Darwin, a team leader, a couple of years ago, he suddenly sold a little gospel pack. You know, a plastic bag with 2 dollar bills in the book.

He was a Muslim. He read the word of God. He went to the address on the booklet, and the man lied to Christ.

Now, he's the best gospel pack bookseller we have on our team. Work among Muslims is very difficult. But God has given us this command to reach the whole world.

One thing that has impressed me upon visiting Israel again is the great open door. And there are a number of brothers and sisters who feel that we should send a team as soon as possible to work, especially in sections through the entire West Bank. And we ask you to pray that this may be a reality.

As you know, in all the countries where Muslims are, very few are open. And what we have to do in some of these countries to reach people with Christ, you wouldn't believe. In Turkey, much of the work is mass and mass.

They constantly have people who are on the scene. Even though we always want to have a case in the court. But often we have a minister who can't escape.

And it's so difficult to reach them. I was in Iran three days ago. It's a little easier there.

I was in Afghanistan. And I go carefully out to help these people. I've been to Afghanistan.

Saudi Arabia. Kuwait. Dubai.

So the ship has been there three times. We're talking about places where it's extremely difficult even to reach 50 people with the word God. God's providence to have all these hundreds of thousands of Muslims here in the West Bank.

I wonder what we're going to do about that. It's a great challenge. Similar to Bangladesh.

The man has gone to Bangladesh so far in the church. Worldwide, it's been very, very difficult. Relief work for the world.

Over 100 organizations in Bangladesh. So much money in relief work, they don't know what to do with it. I was told to visit the land of the gospel.

Then I went to the land where I've lived for a year or two. It's a very, very tiny country. I don't think it's because it's next to India.

Anything small next to India really looks small. That's true of the land of Nepal. Nepal has about 12 million people.

Most of it in America. There are hardly any roads. And of course it is against the law operating as an educational work there.

Low profile. We're entering a country now called Australia. And we ask you to pray for us.

Less than 500 believers. The whole nation amongst all this. There was no assembly.

Now there are many in the countries I'd like to say a few words about. Hoping that God would put it upon their hearts to pray for them. When I'm speaking in all these countries, I often challenge them to pray for me.

So don't be afraid to challenge me to pray for them. Because we're all members. It's very important to understand.

And to experience all this joy that God wants me to experience. And to experience that God is working all over the world now. God says in his words, When one member suffers, we all suffer.

Some places the church is suffering. When one rejoices, we all rejoice. Some places there is enormous response to God.

In the past five days, I've been in such an area. Almost every night, four to three dozen people come to church. In Andhra Pradesh, a southern state of Andhra Pradesh.

Which is a very responsive area. So unlike most of the other regions, I don't know what arrangements God has here in Israel. So I can never be sure.

So now some of you would really like to receive what God is doing in some of these countries. Give us your address and then we'll try to get it to you. We don't promise anything.

One of the greatest blessings this year was our visit to Ethiopia. Opened our book exhibition. And actually gave a gospel message.

We saw almost everything. A few years ago, I was almost from Tel Aviv. It has opened again.

And it's an enormous chance to go back out. And we hope you'll pray for these lads. Actually, we were coming then to Aqaba.

But a fighting broke out in this area. And the king over in Jordan didn't feel really it was the appropriate minute for the ship to come. The king over in Jordan didn't feel really it was the appropriate minute for the ship to come.

He blows that? Well, maybe in the millennium. It is rather difficult. With some of the kind-minded people on the other side.

But we are praying. Continually. And we hope you'll pray for us.

Is it very, very much about a second ship? To operate in the Mediterranean and for the West Indies and the West Coast of Africa. We feel that in all the ministries we are in, in those early nations around the world. That the ship is one of the most suited for what the Spirit of God is doing for us.

We have so many invitations to go to so many countries. And to go back to so many countries. That one ship is extremely inadequate.

How much it costs. On the other hand. I think for the present.

Just keeping this one ship going and taking every inch of commitment and faith that we have. And with the way fuel is going these days. Because our ship does not run on water.

It can hold 12 tons of fuel. 10 tons of fuel per day. God likes the oil both ways.

And we know that God is going to work for all of us. And we ask you to pray for us. I would like to mention a few books.

Because books enable this meeting to be extended for many weeks. I was converted to Billy Graham. When I looked at the script.

I got disappointed. When I looked at the circumstances. I got discouraged.

And when I looked at myself. I said it's been a long road to learn. I didn't get any help from the Lord.

I was converted to the faith. I was a Christian. Reading about mankind.

And then the Lord Jesus said. In the times of healing and cure. Go all the way with God.

And really lay their lives down only for Him. I looked around for such people. And I must confess I didn't find too many.

So Christian books make much sense. I would like to just mention a few. First of all.

I can tell you a little bit about this man. He's an American black as you can see. Reared in New York City.

Son of a pastor. The young man. He joined a tussle gang in Harlem.

Just to get into that gang. And I had to hang him on a hook. On a wall.

And lash him. If he made any noise. He didn't get any gang.

He didn't make any noise. Within a short time. He challenged the leader of the gang to take over the gang.

He already had 18 notches in his knife. For 18 people. And the gang warned that if he made any gang.

He challenged the leader to fight with him with a knife. He stabbed the leader. And he carried on many gang wars throughout New York City.

One of his many tactics. Is to give you a little idea of the hatred in this town. To put his men down in the basement.

Along the side of the street. Down in the basement. With whiskey bottles.

And then put his other men on the roof. With guns. And then the rest of the gang.

Joined the opposing gang. Then again in the right part of the street. Then shot him from the roof.

With guns. Of course. They go for the only escape.

And as they dive in the basement. They put whiskey bottles in their faces. Hundreds of faces.

This is their price. Going on all the time. Anyway, John Skinner one day was sitting there.

Planning the biggest gang war in the history of Hollywood. About two or three hundred people. He was listening to his favorite music.

Suddenly the music went off. Birds and planes. And guns.

Turned him off. And he couldn't turn it off. He couldn't turn it off.

He was sick. And the spirit of God. The same spirit of God that grew in him.

And as he listened to the radio. The radio. He died.

And until then. He was born again. There on the side of the road.

He is today the greatest black figure in North America. Tens of thousands of people. The amazing story is when he went back to the dead.

I like this to turn out as a book of acts. You want to talk about your destiny? Christianity. He was a Jew.

In the United States of America. In the 20th century. And one of the greatest things in our lives.

Is to go back. Go back to the apostolic teaching. Go back to Paul.

Who said in Christianity be followers of me. Go back to the book of Acts. See the way they live.

See the way they reacted to their situation. Now it takes a lot of wisdom. To apply all this to others.

And I don't come here to teach generalization. Let us look at the word of God. Let us ask the Holy Spirit of God.

To reveal to us what he wants each one of us as individuals to do. To start an act that we want. To start our journey through this.

Before you let us just pray again. Dear God we thank you for this opportunity to be here. To allow us to be just hearers of the word.

But do it. Speak to us. Apply these things to our hearts.

You shall receive power after the Holy Ghost has come upon you. And you shall be witnesses unto me. Both in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the innermost parts of the earth.

There will be no new testament in Christianity. Without the fulfillment of this promise. You have to release the book of Acts.

Just before you receive it. You shall be my witness. I believe that it is very important to preach the truth to others.

And we need to be us. We need to stop our boasting. And we need to come to broken.

And to testify for each other. Half the world has never heard the gospel. Not even a tract.

Not even a verse. I have been to 3 million villages in India. It's Jesus.

They did not know who he was. Some places they have never heard his name. Not even in the square woods.

And so as we look into the world of God. We realize that new testament in Christianity. Will be fulfilling this promise.

Now I want us to understand. I'm coming here to talk about words. You get in the book of Acts.

Many different vocabularies. I read many books on the book of Acts. Some of them totally disagree with me.

Because they get caught up in the words. Instead of seeing the lies. Instead of seeing the reality.

They try to make one verse here and one verse there. Just like the Jehovah's Witnesses. And come up with their particular structure.

To prove their particular point. They already decided what they were going to prove. You cannot approach the word God.

The Jehovah's Witnesses take the book of Acts. I don't want to use this book to prove my... My particular structure. Anyway I don't have any particular structure.

So having my structure made. I have of course many things that I believe. But I want you to look at these men.

Someone asked Billy Graham some time ago about the victorious life. Billy Graham said to them there. He said I don't care how you get it just there.

We look at these men in the book of Acts. At their lives. At their love.

At their zeal. At their boldness. Much permission.

Many meanings. Many conventions. We have far more conventions than they have in the book of Acts.

They were in jail for much time. I always have some of our big critics in meetings. I don't like to criticize anybody.

But it could have been interesting to see how the poor people. Many times they arrive. Give me the check out.

No one was open and accountable. But you know when the Apostle Paul arrived in town. He went and checked out the local jail.

Because that's where he used to spend the night. Things have changed. Well let's go over to Acts chapter 2. We know that Pentecost took place.

Paul had many many services. And he had many external services. Praise God for that great day.

So not many people. There were those apostate apostles. And I want us to look at them.

We have run out of time tonight. So we are just going to have to look at certain glimpses. And I want us to look at glimpses of the Church.

Notice in verse 41, things were happening, perhaps 3,000 souls were added to the church. I wish someone had made a movie of that, so we could see how it went. They seem to have enough difficulty in the church today, a free soul is added.

As soon as they are saved, they have 3 different churches all trying to get them to go in 3 different directions. So let's look at this church in action. Verse 42, here are the early believers.

This is really early. You know, it didn't take long for the Christians to go astray. And let us not think that the New Testament church is a perfect church.

We will see immediately they had their problems, they had their struggles, they had their difficulties. And people say, oh, we have to return to the early church. Sorry? Wherever they are obeying Christ, they will be found.

So we do get a beautiful picture here. These are early believers. They continue to stay fast in the Apostle's doctrine.

Fellowship, breaking of bread, and Christ. Obviously, those 4 things must be in any New Testament work. Verse 43, fear came upon every soul and many wonders and signs were done by the Apostles.

I could say a lot about that. There are a lot of people today who feel the whole answer is to have signs and wonders. I am happy for signs and wonders.

There are several things we need to know. Verse 42 comes before that. And if we have signs and wonders without a foundation, as we see in verse 42, it is a strict confusion.

Also, though there were 3,000 people saved, the signs and wonders were done by the hands of the Apostles. They have to be. Not by every New Testamenter who suddenly got a kick to pray for that to happen.

I am glad that God did not indiscriminately throw His power around all over the place. God did this to me. God sent me.

He is a man who has gifts for God. And so instead of nonsense and confusion as we have in many places, there are 200 to 300 living assemblies born through the ministry of this man. He is one of the wisest and most careful men I have ever seen in using the power of God.

And many people will come for healing. But in most cases, they don't get converted. Even if they make a profession, after being healed, within some months or a year, they go back.

There is only one person who can bring a true conversion. And He blows it where He wills it. Some great things were done.

And all the believers were together. And we have what I call 20th century Bible studies. We take the verses we like, and we leave the verses we don't like.

And days ago, men studied the word of God with pen and paper. Impossible. They studied the word of God with pen and paper.

Those verses we don't like, we keep. Of course, we can do that with our own lives. But if we want verse 41 to 3000, then we cannot reject verse 44.

And verse 45, let me demonstrate. Sold their possessions. I'm preaching that one.

I'm trying. Well, I didn't regret doing it. They sold their possessions and goods.

And parted them to all men, and every man as he. Well, the Americans especially, immediately get excited about this. Because there are things sensitive to Communism.

Or Socialism. And they want to insist there's no Communism or Socialism in the Bible. So they put the scissors on these verses.

Or you can call them whatever you want. I call it. There was no rule.

There was no new political party for the selling of possessions. By the way, if you see the Russians when they're leaving, George Sidney says, by the way, all the Russians have gone to space. So when they leave, literally with all these goods back to us.

Now if you look at the Russians today, what happened to the Russians? What are they trying to do? What love should do. What love still works. There are still people living like this today.

As much as they can. In their particular situation. I'm sure when these people went back to their own private homes, in different countries all over the world, they had to make certain that that's it.

But the fact of the matter is that in our materialistic age, this aspect of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is over. And we have been so deceived by the materialism of our days, that there are a few of us that know how to say, truly, this is what has to be said. Then notice verse 46.

And they continuing daily with one accord, and breaking bread from house to house, to eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, were of one accord. Can you imagine? That was before the Baptist state. That was before the Pentecostals came.

Before the Anglicans got there. Before the Brethren came. Prejudice.

They're just old police. You will think that is one of the main themes of the Evangelist. Now I'm not saying that we're going to be able to go back to this.

And in all of our churches, I think one would have to be to think that way. In different centuries, God has raised up different movements. One century, it was a mess.

Another century, the Brethren. Another century, Pentecost. And of course many other groups, before that.

And of course in some places in the world, people from different groups come together. And they have their different works. In some places, it works very well.

In other places, as far as Israel, that's for you to decide. But one thing we know, is that it is still God's desire today, that all believers, have love and unity. We may have different jobs to do.

We may have different visions. We may have different methods. But we still, I believe in this day, can be of one heart and of one mind, concerning the basic rules of our faithful system.

At least 80% of the young people, are absolutely finished with denominations. Because they're patient, they want to be loyal to their own group. But they will not be the kind of denominationalists, that will persist on this issue.

They will insist on fellowshiping with all believers. They will insist on uniting with other believers, for an angelism. And I believe this.

One of the ways, we're going to be able to get back to the New Testament, and back to real evangelism. And it's not just here in Acts 2.46. And many, many other places. And it's saying, oh, there's a word of God.

A word of God. Look at the results. Look at the results.

Verse 47. Praising God, having favor with all the people of the Lord, and to the church there is such favor. Then as we go into chapter 3, Peter and God out on a walk, not far from here.

And they met a man, who was asking for money. Peter gave his testimony. Silver and gold have I not.

I don't know how many of us have that testimony. It's a good one to have when you're arriving at customs. Silver and gold have I not.

But I have, I give. In the name of Jesus Christ, there's a silence. How many of you have gotten a ministry from that ministry? There's many people that would like that ministry.

We got a lot, especially in California. Like that ministry. But I've never met one yet that has that testimony.

It's the same story. We want the blessing, but not the responsibility. We want these miraculous breakthroughs, but we don't want to pay the price for this kind of life.

Well, I'd like to move on a little quickly, because there's a lot of stuff going on.

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