

(The Book of Acts) Session 11

by George Verwer

The sermon emphasizes the importance of humility, reality, and spiritual warfare in serving the Lord, and calls for a return to godly humility and brokenness.

Scripture: Acts 20:19-20, Acts 20:23-24, Acts 20:35, Acts 20:37, Acts 23:12, Acts 23:21

Topics: "Acts"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker addresses the need for Christians to take action and make a difference in their country through prayer, witness, and distributing literature. The Holy Spirit is emphasized as the chief executive officer of all missionary work. The speaker also discusses the challenge of materialism and the importance of giving and supporting the weak. The sermon concludes with the mention of five major biblical motivating principles from the chapter, with a reference to chapter 23 as another important topic.

Transcript

The great sin of the average Christian is the failure to reach their potential. I'd love to give you a red hot controversial message, I'm not going to do it, I'm just going to wet your appetite, that I got from an African woman. And this African woman is one of the greatest speakers I've ever listened to.

I had a lot of men speak at our conference down in South Africa, including me, and she made us all look a little bit boring. Her name is Judy, I'll send you her book, we just published her book. And Judy, who's quite conservative and believes the Bible is God's word, and she's not into some extreme feminism, but Judy has this phenomenal message of releasing women into ministry.

And when we men are listening to that message, we're repentant, we're crying out for mercy, we're asking God not to hold us against us at the judgment seat, and she just has this powerful message about releasing women into ministry. There would be no women's event here two days ago and the day before, if it wasn't for that biblical truth. That woman, I got her tapes by the way, she has been released into ministry.

Takes a little bit of humility and reality on the part of the husband. But I tell you, you ever heard of Kay Arthur? Any of you ever heard of my good friend Kay Arthur? Is she released into ministry? Huh? If she's not into ministry, you know, then I'm a french fried dinosaur. She is a phenomenal example of God releasing women into ministry.

We have some of that in the book of Acts. And in this fast tour, there's a lot of things that we haven't got to. I want you to turn now to the Mount Everest of the book of Acts, chapter 20.

I'm probably going to give a simple invitation. Sometimes I give an invitation every night. I've been very easy on you.

Tonight I'm going to give an invitation for people that have been stirred by the Spirit of God this week and would like me to pray for you that when you go from here, you'll be more committed, more spirit-filled, and more cutting edge for the kingdom. Whether it's in your own quiet way or if you're a bit noisy, your own noisy way. So I warn you ahead of time because we're not interested in manipulating people.

We're not interested in playing on emotion. But I want to and feel constrained at the end of this time together to give that invitation. Remember, I've started speaking quite a lot later than other evenings.

So, you know, don't judge the clock the same way it was on other nights. The Mount Everest of the book of Acts to me is chapter 20, where we have Paul giving a farewell to the elders. Now there's a lot in chapter 18 and 19, but we're battling the clock and so we're going to chapter 20.

I especially am always amused by that story when there was such a long message. I'm known as the longest preacher in Europe. Many a church will never touch me because they've heard that I'm so long.

But that's not true when I speak Sunday morning in somebody's church service. This rumor goes back to OM conferences and other special meetings. Once in Germany, I was going on.

It's a wonderful country. They tend to worship clocks. I was going on for about an hour and a half.

The young people were taking it in like a desert, you know, blotters out of the Sahara. And an older man, I guess he wanted to go home and watch the news. He tried to stop me by waving his watch at me.

And I saw this watch. I was preaching about the need to give, the need to go, the need to pray. And I saw this watch.

I stopped the meeting. I said, praise God. Look at this dear man.

He's donating his watch for world missions. Well, there was a long sermon there in chapter 20. In the early part of the chapter, Paul preached onto them.

Verse 7, ready to depart on the next day. He continued his speech until midnight. I love it.

Then a guy fell out the window. This is why I don't do this. Because this guy fell out the window.

Paul went down, verse 10, fell on him, embraced him. Trouble not yourself. Some believe this was a kiss of life that we only learned a few decades ago.

Trouble not yourselves for his life is in him. It's an amazing story, isn't it? There in the book of Acts, this guy, you know, he's probably a teenager. Fell asleep on the window and fell down quite a distance.

But he didn't die. It reminds me to pray for the family of the man who a few days ago here in the lake, 49-year-old man drowned by this tremendous undertow that can come sometimes in Lake Mission. We have had a number of people drowned in our movement.

It's a horrendous thing. We had another one in Turkmenistan two summers ago. Korean.

Swimming in a lake that the Soviet Union had used for military purposes. They dug old trenches. They never told anybody.

There were no signs. He was a new swimmer. Suddenly there was nothing under him but a trench, a military trench.

He was gone. Not easy when you're there as a team of young people and one of your close friends drowns. Praise God.

This guy was raised up and he was alive. And then we move on to this great farewell message and farewell experience. The best place to pick it up is verse 19.

Serving the Lord with all humility of mind with many tears and trials which befell me by the lying and weight of the Jews and how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you but have taught you publicly and from house to house testifying both to the Jews and also to the Greeks repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. And now behold I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem not knowing the things that shall befall me there except that the Holy Spirit witnesseth in every city saying that bonds and afflictions await me. You remember what we read this morning from the life of Paul in Corinthians? Let's not forget those things.

That's powerful biblical neglected material in our culture and our society. Verse 23. Except that the Holy Spirit witnesseth in every city saying that bonds and afflictions await me.

That's a great promise from God. My favorite verse. Verse 24.

None of these things move me neither can I my life dear unto myself so that I might finish my course with joy and the ministry which I've received of the Lord Jesus to testify the gospel of the grace of God. And now behold I know that ye all among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God shall see my face no more. And we know that some of us since I live in Europe you live in Michigan some of us probably will never see each other again until we're in glory.

It's just a fact. That's why I so love telephones and email and letters because it's not the same as being with someone personally but it's the next best thing. And quite a few people that I've corresponded with after meeting them I never saw them again.

They're in glory now. They're gone. Paul was given the idea that he might even be martyred.

He went on to say in verse 26. Wherefore I testify unto you this day that I am pure from the blood of all men for I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock over which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers to feed the church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood.

There's the blood of Christ. We haven't talked about that a lot but it's always there. For I know this that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you not sparing the flock.

Also of your own selves shall men arise speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch and remember that for the space of three years I cease not to warn everyone night and day with tears. And now brethren I commend you to God through the word of his grace which is able to

build you up and give you an inheritance among all them who are sanctified.

I have coveted no man's silver gold or clothing. Talk about the challenge concerning materialism. Yea you yourselves know these hands administered unto my necessities to them that were with me.

I have shown you all things how that so laboring you ought to support the weak to remember the words of the Lord Jesus how he said it is more blessed to give than receive. When he had thus spoken he knelt down he prayed with them all. They all wept much and fell on Paul's neck and they kissed him sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke that they should see his face no more.

They accompanied him onto the ship. I'd like to give you five maybe seven we'll just in the light of the time think in terms of five major biblical motivating principles from this chapter. In some ways I didn't want to close with this chapter because chapter 23 is another one of my favorites that I've especially spoken on as I've had the privilege of speaking to tens of thousands of pastors and Christian leaders around the world.

I've often spoken to them from chapter 23. Maybe we could just take a glance at it and then I'll go back to my five words from Acts 20.

When I've been having some fellowship with my partner Roger Buss and he's he's a lawyer he's got a lot of hassles and he's had hassles in his church and he's been he's faced a few challenges in life so we were having a we were out there for the picnic tremendous food we had there for supper never take those things for granted we had more food there tonight even the little I eat and many people eat in two days in various parts of the world but I said to Roger hey Roger going back to Kalamazoo by the way when I first spoke here at the beginning of the week I said Muskegon about that church where the door opened for me to preach I never preached in any church in Muskegon in my whole life I guess you know they heard my reputation from here and so all the doors are closed but this was

Kalamazoo where they hadn't heard about me and Roger got me in there and so that was a great morning so I got Kalamazoo mixed up with Muskegon please forgive me so I said to Roger hey is anybody back there planning to kill you you know he sort of looked at me not you know what everybody says to you at a picnic and you know he's I don't even remember what he answered I think he said there wasn't anybody that he knew about he probably thinks I have an inside line the apostle Paul had 24 men that said we will not eat not even a burger king until you're dead now I dare to say some of you most laid-back Michiganian conservative Dutch people if you get home tonight and there's a note on your door with 25 people sign that they're not going to eat until you're dead I dare to say your laid-back

metabolism would move into a little bit of a higher orbit than I've had the privilege of seeing up until now this isn't fantasy this isn't little stories for the Sunday school this is reality when you do something for God some people are probably going to hate you they may even be among your own friends thank you very much let's just read this verse 12 in case you think I'm making this up you can look in your bible how many of you brought your bibles hold your bibles up we don't want to you know anybody to feel bad that doesn't have their bible you're probably a backslider but we'll pray for you they have free bibles available over there in some little corner I saw a bunch of old bibles but let's just look at this verse and when it was day a certain of the jews banded together bound

themselves under a curse saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed paul and later on in verse 21 but don't yield unto them for their lie in wait you know some of the king james english is very easy to understand there you know they're waiting they lie and wait for him more than 40 men the women

praise god were a little more self-control that is the general situation by the way on the planet 40 men who had bound themselves with an oath that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him and now are they ready looking for a promise from you so the chief captain then let the young man depart charged him see that you tell no man that thou has shown these things to me paul was removed by night another you know apostle paul escape it's great in the movie the

paul you ought to get to see that so i just leave that little chapter with you with this thought there is a conspiracy against men and women of god and if you are a man a woman of god and most of you are then you can be sure that satan has a specific strategy to destroy you to destroy your marriage to destroy your kids to destroy your and to destroy your town i may have misunderstood something on the radio this morning but it sounded like in the little sleepy town of holland just south of here there's some really heavy stuff going on and they just had some kind of march in holland to try to counter some of the terrible things that are going on my beloved brothers and sisters as a fellow american i can tell you that what happened in that high school and other killings in our country over

the past year or two it is only the beginning and as we move into the year 2000 there will be more killings there will be worse things in the white house than we've seen in the past couple of years and you and i better fasten our holy ghost safety belt if we're going to live in america and jesus never promised us anything different you may get some little bright-eyed kooky reconstructionist theologian that's trying to tell you you know heaven is on earth and we're going to get a born-again spiritual president in the white house and we're going to have revival and everything is going to be just like it was way back poor soul has never even studied history to know how miserable it was way back way back ever since adam and eve called caused a mess in the garden it has been a mess everywhere

on this planet we were never a christian nation though we had a much greater christian influence years ago of course than we have today and i could send you some brilliant material about that in fact i recommend you get in touch with tal brooke the president of the spiritual counterfeits organization and get their brilliant journal to help you understand all the cock-eyed cuckoo things especially that are being poured down the ears of our beloved young people as they go to school and get drummed into their heads every kind of crazy new age concept and humanistic concept the world can ever imagine the fact is some of the people who go to those schools sometimes come out as better more radical disciples of jesus than people who go to some backslidden sleepy christian school there's no one

quick easy answer there are also dynamic spirit filled christian schools so don't go misquoting me now back to five great mega motivating here comes the airplane to remind us that we're in a spiritual warfare here's my five words from acts chapter 20 the first word is humility perhaps the greatest need in my life and when you pray for me you could just pray lord humble him i mean don't pray it too hard because i've had a few thousand humiliations in the past 43 years you could also you know just sort of whisper a prayer you know encourage him in the process the apostle paul actually wrestled with a lot of discouragement so i never i never fear i never feel i'm alone as often daily i wrestle wrestle with this god this darkness in my my soul and discouragement in my mind my heart sunk as i

called a friend this morning a woman only in her 40s who's in the extreme end of cancer with five months to go the tumors just hit her spine she's paralyzed from the waist down people have prayed people laid on hands she loves the lord and but it looks like it's all over for her her teenage son is not handling it well her husband's not a hundred percent sure about his job they don't really have enough insurance to do what needs to be done when i finish that conversation i can tell you i was not dancing on my bed i thank god

there's a place for weeping because i have wept much i know when my dear mother died in 1988 i wept so much so hard i had to go way into the woods so no one would hear me and let my soul out because i'm as human as anybody else billy graham once said life at its best

is filled with sorrow and if you and i don't learn how to be holy ghost prize fighters against all the sorrow disappointment and heartbreak this world can bring even through our own kids then we'll not be the marathon runners that god wants us to be the apostle paul had this as his very life it says here in verse 19 serving the lord with all humility of mind can i just say this carefully the thing that is stunning me about some of the christian leadership in america and i'm in touch with many many people and i love these people but when i watch some of it on television when i read some of the books when i hear people speak i listen to endless tapes i feel that there is often a lack of humility among american leadership in the body of christ you know that our culture is known worldwide as

the culture where people boast the most that is the reputation of america across the world we boast from the white house we've been doing it for decades but in the day of email and mass communication these boasts immediately go all over the world someone this morning on the radio i was reading an anti-canadian uh research some americans did some research that proved that the canadians were not as far as smart as the americans i'm sure as this letter gets distributed in canada it wins us many friends north of the border the average american is almost totally ignorant of canada a wonderful nation we are privileged to have a nation that is relatively friendly don't try pakistan and india for size or germany and austria or sweden and norway or mexico and texas and the mexicans are actually

fairly good neighbors as well especially if you look at history how sad it is that in our country today mexicans are discriminated against everywhere including here in my beloved state of michigan we need more humility we need to repent of all forms of arrogance because it's wrong in the sight of god and forgive me if anything i have said has smacked of arrogance because i have the ability to do that please write me as i will quickly repent because i detest every form of arrogance and try to repent immediately on even a shred of it coming into my soul or ending my into my mind or into my heart i leave you with a challenge of godly humility it's involved or connected with brokenness the message of that book calvary road which went out on the first two days here you can still get copies

from our warehouse we have another big warehouse in waynesboro georgia but i'll tell you if you invest in distributing copies of calvary road the message of humility and brokenness you will be rewarded in heaven the second word is one of my favorite words in fact i am the original title of one of my books which now is back as a title when tindale house published it they called it come live die but then i put the original title back hunger for reality and that's my second word reality there's not time to expound this chapter to look in depth at verse 20 to look at that in depth at verse 24 this this total abandonment to god this this counting not the things of this life is that important the main thing is to run the race it's to finish the task it's to do god's will it's to love jesus but

i'm sure as you read this chapter you feel there's a ring of reality in this man isn't there is something about paul that attracts me there's something that scares me as well that's good look at verse 31 therefore watch and remember that for the space of three years i cease not to warn everyone night and day with tears tell me have you met many of those types did any of you ever had the privilege of meeting leonard ravenhill how many even ever heard of leonard ravenhill his magazine books been sitting on the table all week no one's even touched it like some kind of had you know and smallpox on it i will tell you leonard ravenhill is one of the most anointed men i've ever met he's an englishman he came over here and he just shared a

message about prayer about the holy spirit i was with him

on his 75th birthday in fact that's when keith green walked in on ravenhill and i during an hour of birthday prayer when i think of some of these great men who have influenced me alan redpath francis schaefer ravenhill oswald j smith donald barnhouse dr culbertson i could list a hundred other men and women like eugenia price whose books first started to bring me into grace and balance i sometimes wonder where are those who will step into the shoes of such mighty men and women of god we are ordinary flesh and blood but we by god's grace can step into the shoes of those who have gone on before us yes there's a ring of reality in this chapter look at verse 27 for i am not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of god take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock over which

the holy spirit has made you overseers to feed the church of god which he has purchased with his own blood tozer another man that influenced me said that our seminaries have graduated a generation of mascots instead of a generation of prophets vance havener the tozer of the south said the average church you have to backslide to get into fellowship when's the last time you really got angry about the situation in our country when's the last time you got a little bit of a head of holy ghost steam and said thus far no more and decided to do something about it through prayer through witness through distributing literature through making yourselves available to the holy spirit of god praise the lord for the ring of reality in this chapter my fourth word is a word we already had in acts 13 but

we need to just mention it again it's the word holy spirit verse 28 the holy spirit hath made you overseers to feed the church of god it's very very clear that the holy spirit is the chief executive officer of all missionary work and maybe as i give this invitation in a few minutes maybe there's some of you that if you're honest you're not really sure if you're filled with the holy spirit we're full of the holy spirit there's a lot of controversy about that but we've tried to emphasize this week what billy graham said i don't care how you get it just get it some seem to have a crisis with the holy spirit i had a number of them but if the crisis is not followed by the process it will become an absence i don't believe the holy spirit and the fullness of the holy spirit is some kind of weird

strange life for a few super spiritual people that stay up at midnight praying and fasting i believe it's a normal christian life normal christian life and i believe the women working at home maybe in the kitchen and with all the children changing the diapers and doing all that needs to be done i believe they need to be as filled with the holy spirit as the man who goes out to witness in the open air i believe we've made a great mistake in overemphasizing the spectacular there's a certain part of the body of christ that puts us such a an emphasis on the spectacular than a high percentage of all the people within five years they're back they're backslidden because it's life isn't that way a lot of things in life are very routine fifty percent of all my life would be routine but i know how

to work excitement into the routine one more letter one more phone call one more time cutting the lawn one more time taking out the rubbish to the garbage one more time starting up the car when it won't start in the middle of the winter and one-third of all the cars are no hammer junk that need to be transported to another planet but uh that's the way it is on the mission field the holy ghost will bring a holy go you're either evangelizing or fossilizing there's no middle ground and the reason a lot of people aren't experiencing the joy of the lord and the fulfillment of being his disciple is because they're not in the battle they're on the retreat i'd love to talk to you for some extra time about this retirement thing but there might be some of you that would really end up feeling so

miserable at the end of it all somebody said i had the gift of of misery people hear me and they feel miserable i try that's why i try to stick to the word of god the verses i believe are stronger than anything i say be hot be cold are lukewarm i'll spew you out of my mouth think that's a george verver quote you might just try the book of revelation i know some of you got a little tired up in hebrews but just press on the fullness of the holy spirit is for every believer he gives different gifts we all experience something of the fruit we have to grow in that remember the quote i gave the other day about moody always went on about being filled again and again that little little lady said to him moody why do you keep talking about being filled again and again he looked her in the eye and

he said madam because i leak you've discovered this week most of you how weak how leaky george verver and andrina verver are but we know where the the refills are i want to ask you have you been refilled this week if so would you stand up in a few minutes and let me pray for you that it may be real the rest of your life that's my burden that's my burden and with that invitation you get the privilege if you want to think of it that way of any time the rest of your life phoning me or tracing me down and asking me to pray because you're finding it rough you're finding it tough you're being bombarded and we will immediately put you higher up on our prayer list we have a quarter of a million people on our prayer database across the world not any one database but on a national basis a quarter

of a million people are involved in praying for operation mobilization a hundred thousand pray for me quite a few are going to heaven so i could use a few more this week praise god for the ministry and the reality of the holy spirit and then the fourth word is the word sacrifice we see that as paul is ready to go to jerusalem realizing he might be martyred we realize that verse 31 that we read about him going day and night for three years we read in that we read and pick up that vibration later on where he says i haven't coveted any man's silver gold and apparel tozer aw tozer felt materialism was a major problem in the body of christ any of you think you could agree with tozer in that point i love pastors don't don't misunderstand this but i want to tell you in our pulpits today we have

a nation of materialists we have a nation of materialists and we wonder why so many are committing adultery i've heard of another horrendous pastor case just today i don't go around looking for this it came to me again today that guy's in jail many more pastors will be in jail believe me and worse because i want to tell you a christian who's not walking in anointing and discernment he often does things more stupid than a non-christian there was a christian in his office recently he didn't have enough brains to know that if he's going to look at pornography he shouldn't be looking at it on office time on the office computer no this little evangelic fish didn't have enough in his upper story and so he's there feeding on pornography they caught him and he was fired and i just wonder if his

marriage has lasted through that experience a top mission society just took a survey and found out that amazing percentage of all their missionaries are struggling with pornography on the internet we are in the midst of a pornography internet epidemic that is spreading across the world and i say that as someone who is committed to carefully prayerfully using the internet though i myself have not yet taken that step i let my secretary do it what a challenge to our present culture you have young people today at 15 they know more about pornography than people that are running pornographic bookstores bookstores uh at 50 years of age because the internet is where it is today and now you can engage in things that i don't even want to mention i don't even want to mention in a public meeting we

must go back to the word of god we must go back to the kind of of reality expressed in romans chapter 12 after 11 great chapters of heavy theology romans 12 says i beseech you therefore brethren to present

your body as a living sacrifice holy acceptable unto god i want to ask you have you ever done that as you have you ever with all your heart young person and i know some of this may be a little heavy for some of you but there's some of you i believe young people that are prepared for this kind of heavy message because i can tell you teenagers today at 15 and 16 i meet them quite a few of them are on the move for god and their parents are stunned when they find their little 15 year old praying intercessory prayers and wanting to go on a prayer walk throughout the town to do business for

the king god is using children god is using teenagers and often it's the parents who in some cases are holding them back and then my fifth and final word is the word extremism i haven't talked about that much this week though we see some of it in the book of acts and when we read through acts 20 and see verses like uh this verse warning us in verse 29 that wolves would be entering in among you not sparing the flock then we of course begin to open our eyes we are going to see an increase of false doctrine extremism new age cocktails disguised with an evangelical petticoat we are going to find more cults some of them like the children of god cult you remember that cult where they sent their members out to commit sex to win people to their cult we were right in the middle of that in london

we prayed a man out of that who ended up as a great missionary we are going to see an increase of this kind of thing and i say let's listen to men like tozer who said the greatest gift we need in the church today is discernment we can talk about we can talk about love but without discipline without discernment grace and love not enough we need the whole counsel of god that takes time it's not easy and i honor you for being willing to sit through a week a pretty intensive teaching straight from the book of acts no i'm not claiming it'll be easy to put this into practice and i myself have failed many times i hope that you at least give it a major try in the power of the holy spirit as you go back to your church your family and your town for the glory of god because his glory and piper's

great book on the supremacy of god and world missions let the nations be glad sorry i don't have it here with me john piper emphasizes so clearly that god's glory god's glory is involved in all this mission stuff and god is far more interested and concerned for you than you are for yourself and for this great task and all of us are together and i believe what has been done here this week in prayer in offering in relationships in decisions i believe it has brought glory to god let us rejoice in that and let us take what others further steps are necessary as self is crucified and christ is magnified in our midst let us pray together let's have a moment of just silent prayer just search your own heart have you taken some steps of faith this week have you asked god to fill you with his holy

spirit or would you do that tonight right now where you are in humility and reality in confession accepting his love realizing his mercy receiving his grace no more shame-based religion no more legalistic cocktails no more just playing church but grace and glory and reality and the fullness of jesus and the fullness of his holy spirit that day by day you may know what it is to have a spiritual spring in your step and joy in your heart to be god's man to be god's woman whether it's in your own town or out to the ends of the earth make that decision and make it with all of your heart if you've made a serious decision this week concerning your relationship with jesus world missions the church the holy spirit and i'd like you to not worry about what anybody else is thinking and just take a

moment to stand up and i can pray a prayer of consecration for you whether it be few or met whether it be many i've had many people write to me and urge me not to stop giving these invitations though there's part of me that runs away from this because it always gets criticized but i in the name of jesus give you the opportunity to have an outward expression of an inward transaction the inward transaction is what counts

but just standing up may help it be a milestone in your life it'll help me see you and pray for you the bible talks about confession before people and this is an opportunity though most people are just praying for you to stand an outward expression of an inward transaction and i'm hoping that my hundred thousand or at least ten thousand are praying for me right now and the

spirit of god who lives in you is going to break through you and fill you and do greater things in the months and years to come for the potential needs to be released for his glory even on this very evening if there's someone listening this by cassette tape i pray you would turn off your machine and just get before god and present your body as a living sacrifice to jesus christ to go where he wants you to go and do what you want he wants you to do god bless you god bless you anyone else that will stand before the lord at this time as an expression an outward expression the inward transaction that has taken place in your heart maybe as a couple together maybe on your own this is not primarily to do with mission field this is primarily to do with jesus the holy spirit the truth 11 12 major

truths we've been expounding from the book of acts god bless you god bless you i know it's harder for young people to stand up surrounded by your peers that probably scare you right out of your shoes but i believe young people you are not here listening to me by accident i pray you search your heart maybe later in the week maybe at home you'll make that commitment anybody else want to stand up i want to pray for you god bless you god bless you many of you don't stand because you feel in your christian life reared the way you reared you've stood many times and so you're hesitant to stand again i understand that we're not putting anybody who's remaining seated in any kind of guilt trip but just just believe the best about others who find that standing up at this moment for this prayer of

consecration will be a help for them i'm that kind of person when oswald j smith i told you the other day preached in moody church i was the only one out of 2 000 people that responded moody students also don't easily respond to invitations i never forget vance havner speaking to pastors at a moody pastors conference he gave us a stronger message than i've given here and at the end gave the pastors a chance to come forward and repent 200 pastors came forward at moody auditorium in repentance i tell you we miss we miss vance havner in this country we miss aw tozer but we got the holy spirit and that's what counts is there anybody else wants to make this decision god bless you in the name of jesus it's with fear and trembling but i believe it's been in an atmosphere of grace despite my

loudness and sometimes harshness i believe and i don't mean to be that way if you're if you're not from new jersey you'll never understand that but i i believe it's been in an atmosphere of grace that god has been working in people's hearts and so i give this invitation in that atmosphere of grace is there anyone else receive his grace be cleansed be filled be renewed right now in the name of jesus christ amen lord i pray for each one standing before you i pray also for those that are trying to run away from this message or from others who want more time i ask lord that you would fill us each one standing before you fill us afresh with your holy spirit that we may know the kind of reality we're looking at in the book of acts these days and that we will take the necessary steps of faith to

continue to grow in grace and a knowledge of you lord i'm reminded of second timothy chapter two verse two that what we've received from you we need to share with others who can share with others also and so we pray for operation multiplication back to our church back to our community back to our pastors many of whom who do not know any better because of what they've been taught in the environment they've been reared may we always have despite our strong feelings grace awakened attitude toward christians who are struggling in the area of reality in their lives in their marriages oh jesus we pray for

moral renewal of our nation we pray that it may start in our churches and we pray that it may start in our homes as we present our bodies as a living sacrifice to you thank god we just give

you all the glory we give you all the praise through jesus christ amen

Audio: http://archive.org/download/SERMONINDEX_SID18159/SID18159.mp3
Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/george-verwer/the-book-of-acts-session-11/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net