

# What Next

by George Verwer

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*George Verwer's sermon challenges believers to commit to prayer and compassionate action in evangelizing the world, especially in closed countries.*

**Duration:** 44:28

**Scripture:** Romans 12:1

**Topics:** "Christian Life"

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## Description

In this sermon, the speaker highlights the urgent need for spreading the Gospel in East Pakistan, where 90% of the population has never heard the Gospel. The speaker emphasizes the missed opportunity to share the Gospel freely in the past and encourages the audience to be willing to go anywhere and receive necessary training to be effective in their mission. The speaker also emphasizes the importance of prayer as a powerful ministry, sharing a personal experience of committing to learn to pray at a young age. The sermon concludes with a reference to Romans 12, urging the audience to present their bodies as living sacrifices and not conform to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of their minds to discern God's will.

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## Transcript

It's been my privilege a number of times to minister together with Andrew. I don't know why it ends up usually that I'm last. We did everything tonight to make him, well, we're going to put him first and last.

We weren't going to speak, but he told us when he arrived that he had to leave at 830. Since it would completely break tradition, history, and everything else to ever end an OM meeting in one hour, we decided we better just have these few closing thoughts. Could you turn with me in your Bible? To Romans chapter 12.

The book of Romans chapter 12. It's my favorite chapter in Romans, though I love the whole book. First 11 chapters give us some of the greatest theology.

In fact, most of the great theology is summed up there. And it seems to come to Romans 12 and say, now in the light of all this, this is what you must do. In the light of Romans 7, 8, 9, and all the rest of these tremendous verses, this is what you should do.

Look at those words. I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, wholly acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Let us pray for a moment. O Father, speak to us from your Word, from the facts we've heard tonight. We ask in Jesus' name.

Amen. As I was in my office praying, and listening to Brother Andrew over my loudspeaker that I have from here up to my office, my own heart was challenged afresh. The very first countries that God ever spoke to me about, almost 13 years ago, apart from one or two other places like Mexico and Spain, were these communist lands.

And about 14 years ago, I went everywhere before I'd ever left the states except to Mexico, crying out that there was no such thing as a closed door and that this was a lie of the devil. In fact, the whole movement of OM was to some degree built on this principle, that no place is closed to those who believe in the God of the impossible, and that these lands must be evangelized, whether it was ever going to be our part or not. We knew this was on the heart and mind of God.

My heart was stirred tonight again, as I heard Brother Andrew's challenge. And I just hope that none of us will just go from here saying, oh, I've heard Brother Andrew, I've heard God smuggler. You'll be able to tell some of your friends, and they'll say, oh, I didn't even know he was in town.

But I hope that as you go from here tonight, it will be with a decision to do something about what you've heard. And there's a lot that you can do. When God first spoke to me about these communist lands about 14 years ago, before I'd ever been in one, before I'd ever even hardly left my own country, I saw that the main ministry that I could have was prayer.

In fact, it was when I was about 17 before I had this vision of the communist world, that I knelt down by the side of my bed, just shortly having been converted, and said, Lord, one thing I want above all else in life, and that's to learn to pray. Have you ever come to that place? You should. You'll find some tremendous books on prayer in the bookstall, like Hallowsby's book, or Bounds's book, or Andrew Murray's book on intercession.

Samuel Chadwick, a mighty man of God, a man who won only God knows how many precious souls to the Lord Jesus, once said these words, and I hope you'll write them down or remember them. The one concern of the devil is to keep the saints from prayer. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion.

He laughs at our toil, he mocks at our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray. We'd welcome you to come here on any Thursday night and spend a night or a half night with us in prayer, as we pray for one country after another all over the world. Of course, you can do the same thing in your own home, your own church.

You can have a day of prayer, it doesn't have to be at night. But I believe that if you and I really felt what our brother Andrew said tonight, then we're going to want to say, Oh God, teach me to pray. That is the only way these communist countries will ever be penetrated.

Do you realize with all the literature that is going in from different groups, how few people in these countries have ever had a piece of Christian literature? Nobody knows, but it's only a few. You see, you

have seven or eight hundred million people in China. You have more than two hundred million.

Only those who've been engaged in this work can tell you how hard it is to get even a thousand Bibles in. That isn't too much. Praise God for the way they circulate.

But beloved, though these doors are slightly open and though there are some keyholes that we can crawl through, there is a tremendous amount of work that must be done on our knees before we ever see the breakthrough. And if we don't believe that, we're just fooling ourselves. In some ways, I believe O.M.'s entrance into these lands was premature, God only knows.

I was young, had far more zeal and wisdom. The first thing I did when I arrived in Europe in 1961, ten years ago, was study Russian. That was in 60.

In 61, I was on my way. Yugoslavia, we got a lot of literature out, and then we were arrested, thrown out. Czechoslovakia, we did all right, and the second day in Russia, we were all arrested.

That was my smuggling career. I thought I'd write a sequel, actually, to Brother Andrew's book. Call it God's Bungler.

When I came back with these armed machine gun guards through Russia and through Czechoslovakia, that time, O.M. did not exist. We had no particular plan as it came to be, because I had such a passion for these communist countries, though I don't believe I was really ready for that work. And as I came back, I went into Austria, where I'd been giving out a lot of tracts during my time of learning to type in Russian.

And we had been working in Spain. We had seen God do a whole series of miracles in Spain. That was a closed country then.

But I think it was a bit of presumption to think because we did it in Spain, we could do it in Russia. We needed more prayer. We needed more wisdom.

We needed more training. This is why when people come to Brother Andrew, they say, Brother Andrew, I want to go to Russia. He says, go to O.M. And get some training, because this kind of work needs thorough training.

It needs men of prayer. It needs men of wisdom. And so when I came back through Austria, through a number of other things that had happened previously, the Spirit of God was tugging with my heart, and I was thinking that unless we could make an impact in Western Europe, and unless we could prove that we really had something in Western Europe, what would we ever do in the East? And it was just a week after I was thrown out of Russia, in the mountains of southern Germany, actually in the top of a tree where I was praying, getting alone with the Lord, one of my peculiar habits, that this vision and this idea of mobilizing a mass of European young people to reach Western Europe with the Gospel and to overflow into Eastern Europe in God's timing.

That's when that vision and idea came. I went back to Spain. I met with a few Spaniards in the mountains of Madrid, in another day of prayer and some fasting and waiting on God.

And these Spaniards agreed, yes, this is the will of God. Daniel Gonzalez, the director of our work in Spain, who will be speaking, I believe it's next week, or this week, at Europe Night. He may have to go home next week, so he will be speaking this week, probably Thursday or Friday.

He is, I believe, one of the few who is here today that was at that very small gathering. Not many North Americans had even arrived. Britain was not even involved at all at that time, in 1961.

A little after that, a few came from North America, and we had the first annual conference, 20 of us. This is our 10th annual conference, 400 of us. God fulfilled that vision and that prayer completely beyond all we could ever ask or expect.

And only the Lord knows what's spilled over into other lands and other places. And I believe that as we have come to a new decade of Operation Mobilization, that God wants to do greater things than ever before. But during that year, after I came out of Russia, I began to pray and to see just what God's will was for my life.

And God showed me very clearly that He had better men than myself and wiser men than me that would do this work in these Iron Curtain countries, and that our ministry in OM should mainly be one of intercession and fulfillment. And in 14 years, never has a night of prayer gone by in this movement that I've ever remembered when there has not been fervent prayer for the evangelization of these communist lands. And this I only say because it's to show you what you can do.

Most of you are never going to have the privilege of running Bibles through the Iron Curtain. Some of you will. If you want to know how, just write Andrew.

But every one of you can have the privilege of intercession on the part of those who are involved in this dangerous work, in which literature is lost, in which vehicles are lost, in which people get imprisoned. Yes, there's another side to this kind of work that is not always talked about. It's not a game.

Brother Andrew never got involved in this in order to write a book. I'm sure he never dreamed of writing a book. Only after many, many years did he do that.

It's not a game. And I believe the great need of this hour, if we want revival in Britain, if we want evangelism abroad in the free world and in the not-so-free world, though we've seen that's a misnomer tonight, then you and I are going to say, Lord, teach me to pray. Teach me the reality of extended prayer.

Teach me the reality of living in the closet. Teach us as families to pray. Teach us as children to pray.

And without that, we're never going to evangelize the world. And we have proved it, because we have so totally failed to reach even lands that are wide open. Have you realized that? Northern India is more un-evangelized than even most parts of Russia.

And yet in northern India, a great majority of the people have still not heard, even once, even once, most of them have not even received a gospel tract. In fact, 50% of the people of India have never once heard the gospel. And if we're not careful, and if we don't move now, we're going to discover that India is going to be another China.

And while we're going into China, India will become another China, and it will be too late to do anything but a very, very small work. You all know that India has signed a major pact with Russia. You all know that the state of Kerala is very strongly moving toward communism.

Bengal is communist. Our days may be numbered in India, not only by the threat of communism, but other difficulties. In fact, some political leaders believe that India and Pakistan, China and Russia, will be in a

full-scale war before the year is out.

These lands are wide open. We've got 30 trucks and cars in India now, ready to move. Some of them can't move, we don't even have a driver.

Others don't move because we don't have any tires, or parts, or some other problem, or mechanics. The task seems incredible when you think of the fact that one-seventh of the world's population is in that land. And yet it's wide open.

We moved into Madras with a ship, as if we were the lost brother of Indira Gandhi. The chief minister came aboard, we had 20 minutes on all India radio, we had nationwide press coverage, and 100,000 people visited the ship. Do you know how long and how hard it is to reach 100,000 people behind the so-called curtain? Do you know what that would involve? And yet 100,000 Indians, many of them just as unreached, march onto our ship, through our doors, receive our literature, watch the gospel on television, listen to us preach on the deck, sometimes 10 hours a day, go off, and some came back.

And almost every day there were souls that accepted Christ. The door is so wide open. We saw a similar thing in Cochin with the ship, and we hope this year by a miracle of God to see it in Bombay and Calcutta and in other ports as well, but we won't see it unless we can get an army of people who will literally pray this ship in one port after another.

God has wrought a miracle in giving this ship. Those of you who can stay, you'll see this very interesting film. When the ship moved out of Rotterdam, a miracle in answer to six years of prayer.

And when this ship came into our minds seven years ago, you can be sure, though I can't say anything about it, you can be sure that there was a burden for the whole world. The whole world. We've seen some thrilling things with that ship in trying to reach communists.

We've had a burden. Brother Wormbron has challenged us about this, to reach communists in the free world. Do you know how many tens of thousands there are? I've stood in the docks in Las Palmas with hundreds of Russians coming in in their lifeboats, wishing I could speak some Russian.

I could have preached freely to them. We were able to get on the Russian ships. We have Russians coming on our ships, sitting down in our lounge.

We present them with free gifts. We gave Christmas gifts to the Russians who visit us in Rotterdam. Secret of happiness in Russian.

We even got on Chinese ships. There was one big Russian spy ship in Las Palmas, among 15 other Russian ships. We couldn't get on that ship.

But we found a drunken second officer, a second engineer, and he was really moving back and forth, and he was so happy he took gospel tracts in Russian in all his pockets, and he went back on the ship. I wonder how many people sitting here have gone to Las Palmas for a holiday, but never thought of reaching the thousands, tens of thousands of Russians that come into Las Palmas every few months. The biggest Russian shipping center in the whole of Europe, outside of the Iron Curtain area.

Where there's a will and a prayer, there's a way. And you and I can be involved far more than we ever dreamed, but it has to start with prayer. It has to start on our knees.

And linked to this, it has to start, as described here in Romans 12, with a complete presentation of our bodies as a living sacrifice to Jesus Christ. And I believe, ultimately, this is the most important decision you have to make. Brother Andrews spoke to us about the authority of the Lord Jesus.

Last week we had Brother Alan Redpath in our midst. God used him in a mighty way, as he spoke about the Lordship of Jesus Christ. And I would ask you, tonight, is Jesus Lord in your life? Have you presented your body as a living sacrifice to him? You say, well, how do I know if my body is presented as a living sacrifice? How do I know whether my life is really on the altar? How do I know whether I'm really walking in the fullness of the Spirit as God wants me? I believe the man who has made this kind of commitment will have some very distinct marks, very distinct.

Do you have them? You say, well, what are they? First of all, I believe the man who has made this kind of surrender is a man of compassion, a man of compassion. I've seen this in Brother Andrews, long before he was ever known. I came to know him, and I saw he was a man of compassion.

He was motivated by compassion. It wasn't publicity, but compassion and love for those people behind the Iron Curtain, and in his own country as well. If you're not a missionary in Britain, I doubt if you're going to be a missionary in Russia.

If you can't reach an immigrant down on your corner, I doubt if you're going to be an ambassador for Christ in India or Pakistan. One of the reasons this year we're starting a team, a full-time year program team to reach immigrants in Britain. How in the world can we only go abroad when there's so many hundreds of thousands of precious immigrants coming here? I'm one of them.

I immigrated nine years ago to this country. I've hardly ever had anyone try to reach me with a gospel. I have only once or twice ever been given a tract in all these nine years in Britain.

Beloved, you are tonight either a missionary or a mission field. You are either evangelizing or fossilizing. There's no middle ground.

And I believe there's a danger that some of us may have come here tonight for evangelical entertainment. What in the world would God's smuggler do? He certainly would have a fantastic program. But I pray that tonight you'll go from this tremendous factory that God miraculously gave us for this month, free of charge.

God knows how we stand, and so he ministers in amazing ways. It's not because he can't supply money. I believe if we had to pay 100,000 pounds for this factory, he would supply it.

God knows that we want to put our few pennies out in that literature in India and Asia and in those other things in other parts of the world. We don't sleep on the floor in a factory because we're poor and don't have money. God supplies.

He's a debtor to no man. But because God has given this passion to us of putting a piece of literature into the hands of every man, woman, and child in the world, working together, of course, with all of God's people. And I believe that if you and I have this kind of commitment that the Bible talks about, that Andrew has spoken about tonight, we're going to have compassion.

In Matthew chapter 9, Jesus goes to all the towns and villages in the heat of Israel, moved with compassion. Today in America, if you want to get a key preacher in a big church, you've got to have a little more than compassion. You've got to give them a salary of about 7,000 pounds.

There's many a good American preacher that holds in 7,000 pounds a year, lives better than some of the top class people in Britain today. And even in the States, for preaching the gospel. Rather different from Peter who said, silver and gold have I none, but what I have I give.

Rise up and walk. But the church, I'm afraid, has been buried in the fog of materialism. And because of it, the world goes without Bibles and without Gospels and without tracts and without even Scripture texts.

Right now, there are 7 million refugees in India. Maybe more. They are living in absolute squalor.

They would consider a building like this among the refugees a paradise, and they would sleep no less, I'm sure, than 20,000 people in such a building. Tonight you and I sit here, maybe some are standing and feel already uncomfortable. But can you put yourself for a minute in one of those refugee camps? Where things have become worse, as all foreigners, with all their help, have been thrown out, all of our vehicles have had to stop.

The Indian government has refused any foreigners to work among the refugees. In some places it has been stated, we don't want to make it too good for these refugees, we want them to hate it and to go back to Pakistan. I don't think that's the official government position.

We have only one team left, an all-Indian team, working among the spiritual needs of the people. Some have tried to pass this great crisis off by saying, oh, it's the judgment of God, be careful. Because there are thousands of Christians among those refugees.

How do you explain that? And they are suffering. And so we have gone in among those Christians with literature, with Bengali New Testaments, we're trying to make little makeshift shacks that they can worship in and start Bible studies, and somehow maintain a ray of light among those believers in the midst of one of the greatest crises of history. Seven million refugees.

Seven million. What happens in your heart when you hear of this, when you read of this in the press? Are you moved with compassion? I was recently at a meeting and I poured out my heart about this. Nothing happened.

Except one ex-OMer, who had labored in Asia, came and it seemed to me from what was in the envelope, gave everything he probably could scrape together around his house. That was the only thing that I know of that happened. We can hear challenges.

I could bring Brother Andrew, Billy Graham, Richard Wurmbrandt. I could bring back a dozen missionaries and they could weep, they could show films, and you and I become so callous, so deceived, so cold, so blinded, we could go home and have a cup of tea and forget it all by morning. And this is the plague on Britain today.

It's not the porno shops. It's not the low morale and the low morals. It's the fact that the Church has lost her compassion.

It's the fact that the saints of God have been rocked to sleep. I'm not concerned about Joe Porno. God will take care of him.

I am concerned some, but not so much. I'm not concerned that all these crazy things are happening. Yes, I am concerned, but nothing compared to the concern I have for God's people, who seem to be able to

maintain such a lukewarm heart in the midst of such a drastic world.

Do you have that compassion, that compassion that will lead you to a life of sacrificial living, the kind of living we read about in the Bible, the kind of living Hudson Taylor knew when he lived in London on bread and apples? You can call it fanaticism if you want, but where are the Hudson Taylors in 1972? Would you please, 71, introduce me to a few? We in OM are conscious that we are a generation of cripples. We do not claim to be the big disciples. We are weaklings, failures, and sinners, and we have become more aware of our state of affairs, and we believe it's partly because we have been brought up in softness and ease, and we've been told to do what we feel like doing, and there's been no discipline in many of our homes, and sometimes less in the churches, and no spirit of sacrifice, and everything's been handed to many of us on a platter, and now we want to go, and we want to fight, but we can't.

We can't. Without compassion, without sacrifice, without a willingness to suffer, we're doomed to merely holding festivals in Hyde Park. We'll never get across the ocean.

We'll never get into the back villages of India. We'll never get to those 10 million Nepalis, where there's only 500 believers, or those 14 million Afghans, where there's only 20 believers. Think of it.

14 million tough, rough Afghans, the toughest people perhaps on earth. Mountain people. Missionary girl who was just shot to death in a car outside of Kabul.

This is tough territory. You have to leave your car behind, your O.M. van. You've got to put a pack on your back, and you've got to be strong and tough to go into the mountains of Afghanistan.

We don't have one candidate for Afghanistan this year. Beloved, don't misunderstand what I'm saying. I'm not judging you.

I'm not pouring cold water on the church. I love the church. O.M. has fought all these years to stay and to work with the churches.

You don't think we've been tempted to become a bunch of rebels? Do you think I want to wear neckties? I have enough rebel blood in my veins. I don't know what would happen if I ever let it loose. We wanted to break from the churches.

We wanted to just forget all this establishment, throw our ties in the trash can, let our hair down to wherever we wanted, and go start our own churches. But God told us, no. You stick with God's people.

You pray for God's people. You work with God's people. You submit to God's people, and you believe for revival among all of God's people.

And we, despite the difficulty in doing this, feel this is where we must stand. But it's not easy. It's not easy.

I pray that God will show us the results of a full commitment. Compassion. Compassion.

It's not easy. It hasn't been easy for my wife, 11 years, married to me. Three children.

We don't have any home. And I live on the ship eight months of the year. Some people think, oh, these O.M.ers, they have an itch for this kind of life.

They sort of, I've got an itch. I've got an itch for a nice beach, a Coca-Cola, ice cream, and a good long sleep. That's what I've got an itch for.

I don't know about you. But the compulsion from within by the Holy Spirit goes beyond the itch of the flesh. And woe is me if I preach not the gospel.

Woe is me if I choose the road of least resistance. Woe is me if because of a few problems along the way I turn back and seek for an easier solution. Praise God.

When we get to heaven, we'll have plenty of time to relax, plenty of time to count the blessings. But we've only got this short life to fight for Christ. There are two favorite men of mine in the Bible.

I'm sure you know both of them. They both started with the same name. One was Saul, and the other was Saul, and he changed his name to Paul.

And at the end of their life, they both had a testimony. The testimony of Paul was this. In Timothy you can read it.

I have fought the good fight. I have fought the good fight. Not a game, not a religion, not a contest.

I have fought the good fight. Warfare. But Saul, he chose the role of least resistance.

Better economy, better living. And so this great man Saul, and he was also a great man in many ways, at the end of his life he gave his testimony. You can read it.

Do you know what it was? He said, I have played the fool. I have erred greatly. And I believe that God has brought some of you here tonight because you have to make the biggest decision in your life.

And that decision is going to determine whether at the end of your life you'll be able to say as Paul, I have fought the good fight. Or whether you have to utter those words of Saul, I have played the fool. Oh beloved, the choice is ours.

God says present your body as a living sacrifice. And when we do that, He will fill us. He will work through us.

The decision is yours. Another thing that will happen when you make this commitment, and there's not much time now, is that you will be willing to go anywhere. The tendency is only to see our own country.

Some people don't even see past their own village. But we are called to the whole world. There's not one verse in the New Testament that indicates that God's vision is a national vision.

That went out with the old covenant. Now it's the world. And it's got to include Afghanistan.

It's got to include Iran. We've been praying. We've been pleading.

We've been calling for people to go to Iran. And this year, we have less than four candidates for the land of Iran. Oh beloved, that land has 24 million people or more and just a handful come to Christ each year.

And think of East Pakistan. I don't want to take much more time, but I just came from East Pakistan a month ago. If you're interested, you can write to me and I will send you a very earth-shaking report on East Pakistan.

Confidential report, signed by a friend of East Pakistan. But what I saw there, I can never forget. When West Pakistan moved in with their aircraft, they opened up those machine guns and they killed everything that walked.

Babies, animals, men, women, they laid in the villages of East Pakistan. I can't pronounce the name of that village and I lie, I believe. But there were dozens of such situations.

And those people were living there in East Pakistan in absolute fear. Gospel work has almost been completely stopped. The Bible Society is not doing hardly any more distribution.

Most missionaries left, though some have returned. People are afraid to write into their Bible courses. We were involved in helping in a Bible correspondence course ministry.

Almost no one writes back now. I have never seen such a tragic situation. Because of some tremendously stupid mistake or negligence, though they were warned by satellite communication about the weather, they missed it.

And a million people were swept into their death approximately. And then on top of that, this tremendous crisis that's facing them now. But we don't seem to care.

For 14 years, I've pleaded with people to go to East Pakistan. One of my best friends is there and is now the director of his mission. But very few others have gone.

Out of the 76 million people in East Pakistan, 90% have never once heard the Gospel. And that nation has been comparatively open. A year ago, I was in the streets giving out tracts completely freely, thousands in one night.

Not now. We missed a golden, God-given opportunity in East Pakistan. And I could go on all night but I believe when you present your body as a living sacrifice, you'll be willing to go anywhere.

And you'll be willing to go through the necessary training that will make you effective when you get there. The answer isn't just to run off. You see a war's going on, you don't just pick up a gun and run off.

You're liable to fire it backward and kill yourself. But you've got to train. And I believe there's a tremendous need for increased training in East Pakistan.

We want to train young people. We don't care if they stay with us. We're willing for them to go with Brother Andrew.

One of his key men was with O.M. for five years. He was so young and green when he came to us I wasn't even sure we were going to keep him. But he went to India.

He went to Bible school in India. He worked in India. Lo and behold, now they call him Brother something, I forget.

But we need training in the Word and in prayer and in discipline, in spiritual warfare. It will take years, not one year program. But I believe with such an army of trained disciples who learn how to pray, we can, by the grace of God, see this world evangelized, especially when you consider what other greater movements than ours are doing in these days.

Let us unite hands in many doctrinal disunities and become of one heart and of one mind in love and compassion. It's now. I pray tonight will not just be another message, another meeting, but a time in which you say, Lord Jesus, I give you my life anywhere, whatever the cost, as you, my Lord.

Is he Lord? I believe there are some of you who need to make at least some form of outward commitment tonight. You know down in your heart that Jesus is not Lord, that Christianity for you is not really a warfare, that you're not really a disciple, a soldier who has presented his or her body as a living sacrifice. And I don't want to take much time, but if tonight you want to say, Jesus, you are my Lord, if you want to say tonight I present my body as a living sacrifice, this only can be the beginning.

This is not some great one shot, now it's all over experience, but it can be the beginning of the road to discipleship. And many have begun on that road in these conferences over the years. And I believe there's some of you who want to say tonight, Jesus, be my Lord, so that at the end of your life you'll be able to say, I fought the fight, not I played the fool.

And if you'll make that commitment, it's between you and God, but I would like you to just stand where you are so that we can have a prayer of dedication. Wherever you are, there may only be a few, many stood last week when Alan Redpath gave such an invitation. And many of you are new tonight.

So until you have this opportunity simply to take this step of faith. You see, the Bible says if you don't mix the word preached with faith, it will be of no avail. That's the problem.

That's why you can go home and have your tea and forget it all because you don't mix it with actual faith. So if you would like to mix the word preached with a definite commitment of faith and make Christ Lord of your life, he may not even be your Savior. Stand up.

Now I want to have a prayer of commitment. Praise God. God knows your need.

If you're already standing, maybe you just want to step forward a few steps, just some outward action of this inward transaction. Maybe God's saying to you tonight, you have got to be willing for the first time to be a missionary. The last thing I ever wanted to do was be a missionary.

And you're willing to say, I'll go if God wants you to go. Maybe it means someone saying, I'm going to serve Christ next summer with OM. I'm at least going to get involved in some training, at least see what it's like and begin to serve.

Maybe that's your decision. I can't tell, but God can. So in this closing moment, we're not even going to have a closing hymn.

Just stand and say, Jesus, be my Lord. I present my body as a living sacrifice. Not just young people.

I know always the young people stand up first. But it is possible to arrive at a ripe old age and still not have Jesus as Lord. And you may have made this decision years ago, but is it fresh? Is it real tonight? Is he Lord tonight? Are you on fire tonight? Is your life on the altar tonight? Is there nothing worse in his sight hardly than a lukewarm heart? Anyone else before I pray wants to make him Lord? Just stand where you are.

Yes, praise God. Not easy. Pride.

Fear of what others may think. Fear of failure. If you have a fear of failure, I just want to tell you, I guarantee you will fail.

There will be some failures even after tonight. And you will bounce back like a lion released from a cage. I've made so many failures down through the years, I could produce an encyclopedia, a small one, on my failures.

Told you, just about a few tonight. So if you're a failure, maybe it's time to stand up and say, Oh Jesus, become Lord of this great failure. And watch him work through you despite your weaknesses and your failings.

Anyone else? Stand up on him. He can live the life through you as Alan Redpath so clearly showed us last week. It's Christ in you.

Christ in you. It's the only way I could ever stand up. Christ in you.

His Holy Spirit. Brother Andrew's not with us but I know he's praying for us right now. He often gives such invitations.

Let us pray. You can join those who are standing even as I'm praying. I pray for each one of these who has stood before you and has asked you, your son, to become Lord of their life.

And oh God, I pray that it may be a burning reality. I pray, oh Father, that they may see Jesus, your son, in a new and fresh way and that they may be filled with compassion, love that will burn across this lost world in this generation to Muslim lands to all lands to their next door neighbor as well. Oh Lord, we present our bodies as a living sacrifice to you in the name of Jesus Christ who will make this a reality as we trust him.

Amen.

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