

# Freedom From Ruts

by Glen Kerby

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*We are all stuck in some way, but Christ offers us the freedom to escape our ruts and live a new life through acknowledging our brokenness, seeking God, trusting in His power, and surrendering to His plan.*

**Duration:** 47:11

**Scripture:** Psalm 118:25-26, John 11:43-44, Romans 5:1-5

**Topics:** "Spiritual Freedom", "Faith And Trust"

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## Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of seeking God's deliverance and trusting in Him, highlighting the need for brokenness, seeking, and trusting in Christ. It discusses the power of miracles, the challenges faced by religious attitudes, and the call to find freedom and hope in Christ amidst personal struggles and societal changes.

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## Transcript

Thank you. That's really sweet. And Dean says I've got a watch for you guys in particular over here because you know in this church you sort of seemed to teach this way for some reason so I'm going to stand over here a little bit more so you don't feel left out.

You guys feeling okay? See, in the kingdom the least of all things this is the greatest of all things. So I guess that means this is the greatest section. Is that right? Okay, okay.

But now that they're the greatest, that means you're the greatest anyway. It's one of those Christian things. You're the greatest anyway.

What I wanted to do is I wanted to come, it's almost exactly the time that our service is starting in Phoenix, Arizona. And I thought it'd be sort of cool for us to sort of bridge the space between the two places and pray with one another. If that'd be okay, just ask Christ to come and be the light of this place and to be the light of the place in Phoenix where I normally teach and every place in between.

That'd be sort of cool thing to do to start. Why don't we ask for help? Father God, we just come to you. We don't come in the strength of a building.

We don't come in the strength of a denominational idea. We don't come in the strength of our knowledge. We don't come in anything except for the blood of Jesus Christ.

It's all we have, Father. There are no perfect people here, Father. None on stage, none in any of our sections, none entering our church family in Phoenix this morning, none coming into any of the buildings or the places of meeting or the homes or the halls or the schools, the places that are being transformed into churches all across this country this morning.

We just ask that you would be the strength and the light of your people, Father. Lord, I pray a special prayer that in my sanctuary at home that your light would be moving in the center of it and it would be expanding. And that in this sanctuary, Father, your light would be moving and expanding because we know that the darkness cannot stand against the light.

And we just pray that you would capture these places that are being offered to you in prayer. Lord, we haven't come for a show. We haven't come for a movie.

We haven't come for an hour of entertainment. We've come to see you, to witness you, to have hope in you. We just ask that you would be the one thing that we lift up here today.

The strength of a God who loves us, who gave us his son, Jesus Christ, because he loved us so much. We lift up the name of Jesus Christ. And I ask Holy Spirit, come, come and take this place and take our hearts, we pray in the mighty name of Jesus Christ, amen, amen.

Dean's wanting to do a few weeks as a church family and he's got this new theme. We're going to work through the very beginning of it today called Unstuck. And to give you a small amount of testimony in my own life, I came into a use of drugs when I was about 13 years old and wound up at a place where I was committed to committing suicide by the time I was 21.

And it was in the midst of that decision for suicide that God came to me on the very night that I decided to take my own life. And he came and showed me as real, as a real hope and a real opportunity and a real change. He literally intervened in the midst of that time of darkness and difficulty in my life when I saw no hope and no opportunity.

It's funny, a girl from the first service came up to me in the prayer time afterwards and she said that she's got a testimony that's permanently etched onto her body because she was committing suicide and she pressed a gun into her stomach and just before she pulled the trigger, she said, Jesus, can you forgive me? And she pulled the trigger and she woke up after the bullet had gone into her and God delivered her from her attempt to commit suicide. And the answer that she found was the same answer that I found, is that yes, he was capable. He was more than worthy of forgiving me.

See, it's interesting. I think what we have to do is we have to look not just at the extremes inside these situations because if we wanted to talk about extremes here today, there would be many people that we would be able to talk to inside this congregation about the extreme things of darkness in life, addictions, drugs and alcohol and pornography and abortion and divorce, the extreme things of pain that many of us have lived through, grief, the loss of spouse, the loss of parent too early, the loss of child. There are people inside this congregation, inside this family this morning that have experienced these things of incredible pain and incredible difficulty and some of us in the midst of that pain, in the midst of that difficulty, are being asked to make a choice about what direction our trust in our life is going to go.

Some of us, the pain that we're talking about is not so extreme. For some of us, we find it very difficult to get through a day without being angry at somebody. For some of us, we struggle a great deal with raising

our voices even to our own children or treating them in a harsh way.

Some of the children that are coming into the church have been through multiple marriages or have been torn up by the issues of divorce and although they have not been divorced themselves, they've been a product of divorce and they seek stability in their life in any way that they possibly can as long as they can control the stability. Sometimes you see this in adults and sometimes you see it in children but part of the way that some of us control our world is by isolating ourselves. We will find a safe place to go and we will lock the door or we'll go into the backyard or we'll go into the machine shed or we'll go wherever we need to go where there's no accountability and where we can be by ourself and just try and find any way to just get away from the things that we don't think we can control.

Some of us can't have an argument with a spouse or a friend or go through a difficult time without going to the supermarket and buying a lot of food and eating it at three o'clock in the morning. Some of us wind up in a situation where food becomes our comfort and we reach to it. And for some of us, we're in a situation where when God is pressing down on us the most, we're facing some of the greatest difficulties of our life that we will create a religious facade.

Do you know what I'm talking about? The religious face, the religious facade. And if we hope in the religious idea that we've all come here today to try to rely upon something other than Christ, like if I just knew this well enough, is there value in knowing this? Absolutely. But if this becomes your knowledge and not this, that which has been written upon, then you are alone and religious and cold and isolated and broken.

Have you ever run into this? Have you ever seen a deeply religious person trying to minister to a broken person? Have you ever seen it? Where we just come beside people and we try and push them with scripture quoted out of context to move them forward in their life, and they get this idea or notion that God hates them, that somehow they could just measure up in a different way. See, this is the tension in coming in front of a church family and talking about these things, because isn't it in every one of us, in some way, shape, or form, to wanna walk through that door this morning and have people recognize us for the good things that God is doing in us? So sometimes in the midst of our greatest despair and our greatest difficulty, when this, this meeting time, this meeting time would be a place that you could come and you could see me and you could run up to me and say, Glenn, my daughter's sick and I don't know what's wrong with her and I'm afraid that we could hang on to each other and cry with one another. I'm doing something that I wish I didn't do.

I'm doing something that's driving me crazy. I'm angry, I'm angry, I'm angry with my kids. My kids do one little thing and I yell at them and I get angry and I'm yelling at them and 10 minutes later I feel so naked and so stupid and so lost.

Why am I doing that? Why do I yell at my children? I love my children. My dad yelled at me. My dad beat me.

I don't wanna beat my children. I don't wanna yell at my children. I don't wanna be in that prison.

Why am I doing it? Why? Why am I afraid? Why am I afraid? They make an announcement on the news about a flu and we're living in a country of people who are afraid to die, afraid to be sick, afraid, afraid of losing their children, afraid. You can feel the fear everywhere. Houses are being lost.

Jobs are being lost. Companies that we thought would last forever are disappearing, right? Everything's changing. Even the Detroit Lions won a football game a few weeks ago.

Everything, everything is changing, right? Can you sense it? Can you sense the change? And as God is raising up a group of believers, it's not enough for us to just believe anymore. We are coming into a season of Christianity where the power and the strength of a living God will be our only testimony. Do you understand what I'm saying? It has to be so.

The buildings don't mean anything anymore. The speeches don't mean anything anymore. The religious ideas don't mean anything anymore.

We have a world of hurt around us and they don't need speeches. They need the living, flowing, breathing revelation of Christ to come beside them. And you know what he's done? He's given two primary instruments for that.

He's given the Holy Spirit that he died to release upon the church. I was praying even just before I came up, Holy Spirit, I'm a wacko by the way. I am just a lunatic in love with the idea that Christ is alive and that his spirit has power.

I prayed before I came up here, whatever it is that's blocked any person in this place from coming into a new position of authority in Christ that it would be destroyed and made as though it was nothing today. That the light of the Holy Spirit would come and fill this place and push back everything that's pushing down on you today, everything, your feeling of unworthiness, your fear, your religion, your anxiety, your provision. Where's tomorrow coming from? How are we going to keep the house? Where am I going to work? Are they ever going to open the plant again? What am I going to do? What if this pandemic is really true? What if my children get sick? How do we keep going? What do we do if in the midst of Christian fellowship, in the midst of our relationship with one another, we cannot speak to one another as people who love a living God and can be together with one another and call on him and trust in him because the world knows all the shows that it needs to know.

You can go down to the movie theater in downtown Toledo and see 16 of them all at the same time. Shows do not change people's lives. If you come to this church to watch movies, then when you're in trouble, a movie is what you'll get as an answer for your trouble.

If you come to this place of meeting to meet the living Christ and to ask him to help you, to help me to overcome the pain and the fear and the bitterness and the resentment, there are people here today that are already so uncomfortable with this message. All they want to do is get up and leave. Why? This is the message of hope in Christ.

This is the message of renewal in Christ. He is alive. He has overcome death and he'll meet us.

If we ask him to meet us, he'll meet us. I was flying here from Edmonton and we got on a plane in Chicago and a young man about 21 years of age sat beside me on the plane and he was in all the gangsta gear. He had it all going on, slick, by the way, really slick.

Embroidered pants, big red embroidered pants. And he had the big cross on, the gangsta cross, and the \$250 shades. And he was just sitting there in his stiffness because he's sitting beside me.

So who can blame him for being stiff? And I was sitting there, just minding my own business, and God put it on my heart that he was going to a funeral. And I said, leave me alone, God. Why do I want to know this? Funeral, funeral, funeral, funeral.

Okay, okay, okay, okay. And I turned to him, every gangsta 21-year-old coming from New York to Detroit wants to sit beside a pastor on the airplane from Canada. Right, right? And I looked him in the eyes and I said, I know this is gonna seem weird.

And by the way, that's how I start about three quarters of my conversations with people. I know this is gonna seem weird, but God's put it on my heart that you're going to a funeral. And he just about died, he was going to a funeral.

His best friend in Detroit was killed in a rollover. And he was going back to try and go to the funeral and bring comfort to his mother. And I believe with all of my heart that it was the first time in his entire life that he had an encounter with a living God who was speaking to him through me to tell him that he was not going to the funeral alone.

Right? I prayed. I was thinking, why do you want me to talk to this guy? What do you have for this guy? And before the plane landed, I had a note from him, a note from him, from the Lord, a note. These are the notes that point us to the living relationship with God.

And you know what God told him? Nothing you have ever done has separated you from me. I will give you the courage and the strength. When you feel me pressing down upon you, trust in me and I will lead you to freedom.

I don't know what he did. God knows what he did. Right? This is a note from God to somebody who's completely unworthy to receive it in the terms of the world.

Do you know who else is unworthy to receive the note from God? Every single one of us. Every mother's son and daughter in this place today is unworthy to receive the note from a living God, but yet Christ died for us while we were still sinners. And Paul says, how much more now? If I believe now and Jesus died for me while I was lost and a sinner, how much more love does God have for me now that I have invited his son into my heart? See, this isn't about scrubbing up and being perfect.

This is about understanding that we are imperfect people and that brokenness needs to come. And then that brokenness shows us that we can walk with him, not because of what we've done or because of who we are, but because of his sacrifice. He can begin to work through us in ways that are miraculous and wonderful because that kid on the airplane has seen so many shows that a new show is not going to reach him about the reality of a living God.

But God coming to him and telling him who he is and that he's afraid and that he's ready to meet him in the midst of his pain, that will change his life. That kid on the airplane is closer to Christ in that moment than I am. Do you know why? Because the butterflies in his stomach are four times larger than mine are.

Do you remember what it was like? Do you remember what it was like to receive a living God? There's people here that don't know the feeling of the butterflies. They all know what's next feeling. But this is the living hope of God.

And while we have those butterflies in our stomach, nobody can ever move us away from trusting in him because it's all we can rely on is trusting in him. We don't trust in ourselves. We don't trust in how much we know.

We don't trust in how much we have in the bank. We don't trust in anything except him. Right at that moment, right at that moment of trust and hope, there's people sitting in here today that feel it rising up inside of them even during the time of teaching.

They hope for something. And Paul is telling us in the fifth chapter of Romans, therefore, since we have been justified through faith, this is, by the way, a message to those who believe. Who believe in a living God.

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, our faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Peace, what we're talking about, the word peace? Peace, peace in a country. Peace in a community.

Peace within the heart of an individual. Peace between you and God. Anybody here at war with God today? What? I've hardly spoken to so many liars all at the same time.

Darn it, I promised Dean I wouldn't call you names. Sorry about that. No, come on.

We are in constant battle with him. Constant battle with him. And this message is a message that says to us we can be at peace with him because we come today to say this thing of brokenness and seeking who God is like the way we were through these steps.

Brokenness into seeking and seeking into trust in God. It's not trust in you, it's trust in him. We're all sinners.

We're all the scum of the earth. I have the epistles to prove that, by the way. I'm not calling you names again.

This is our name collectively. This is our name. And do you know why we've been given that name? It's so we can stop trying to measure up religiously and we can start living as people that have a peace with God and who can move in the strength of a spirit that's more powerful than this world understands.

We are Christians, not some milquetoast philosophers that can't get their way out of a phone booth. We're Christians. We have the power and light of a risen God within us.

We're Christians. We are not afraid, we are not alone, we are not discouraged. The enemy will try and come to us constantly and say, you are still in the darkness.

You are still in the darkness, you are still in the darkness. When you yell at your kids and you know you shouldn't be, the enemy comes right away and says, you're still in the darkness. You're still a sinner, you're still lost.

When you can't do anything except eat for comfort, when you can't do anything except get to that computer screen to look at a picture that you know you shouldn't be looking at, when you can't wait to get everybody away from you to get to the 72-inch sewer pipe in your living room to spend six hours in front of it in the blue glow of death, right? You are at war with God. I recognize it. I'm fighting with Him all the time.

Think about my poor wife, right? We can admit that we're at war with Him in the moment that we admit that we're at war with Him and we're putting these other things in front of it and it gives us a chance to come into real brokenness. When we have real brokenness, we have a chance for real seeking. Real seeking.

Not pretend seeking, not show seeking. Real seeking of a real God. And when we sought a real God in the midst of some of the most difficult pain in our lives, I was molested by a family member when I was seven years old.

My dad threw us all out of the house when I was eight. I moved in with my grandmother when I was nine, who was the light of my life, and she came to me six months later and said, son, I've got bad news. I've got cancer of the bone and I'm only going to live six months.

And I prayed and I prayed and I prayed and I prayed and I said, God, save her. Save her. I prayed as only a nine-year-old can pray.

God, help Grandma. You love her. She was great.

She died. What do we do when we hate God? What do we do? We'll have a doorway opportunity in front of us this morning. Even right with this piece of scripture, we have this doorway opportunity because Paul's trying to tell us something, that there is a hope in God.

It says, and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. We hope in the glory of God. There is a progression in this, but I'm going to skip to it in Romans.

It tells us that we as believers are given an opportunity to go through a progression of faith, just like this steps thing that Dean wants to do at the church. It says that in the third verse of the fifth chapter, and not only that, but we also glory in tribulation, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance and perseverance character and character hope. Now, hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is given to us.

Do you see the progression? Tribulation. Tribulation, in this translation, actually means to be pressed down upon, to be pressed on. We feel pressure, and in that pressure, God's asking us to rely upon him so that we can stand firm.

The word for persevere means to be established, to stand up, to stand up, stand up in the midst of difficulty because I'm with you. Persevere through the midst of trial. Recognize when something's trying to suck the very life out of you, to destroy you and destroy your family and destroy this community.

We recognize it, and we stand up in it, and when we stand up in it, you know what happens? God comes in a new way, in a way we've never seen him before, and what he does is he brings character to us. This word for character is like legal tender. Like if I take a dollar out and I give a dollar to you, you know what it's worth, right? It's worth a dollar, right? That's what the word means.

It's something tested. It's like currency. It's something that can be relied upon.

Character, see, Christian character has nothing to do with apple polishing. In the midst of a war, apple polishing is really not particularly helpful, right? It's about the living God flowing through us, and when we have character, we have hope. We hope in something larger than us.

We hope in the return of Christ. We hope, and our hope will not be disappointed because our hope is built upon a living God. See, this is interesting.

I wanna jump up to another story because the other story is exactly like this story in a completely different way, and what it's going to do is it's gonna give us an opportunity this morning to actually go through the process of brokenness and seeking and trusting. God's coming to us this morning, every single one of us, and He's challenging us. He's challenging us to come through these first steps of brokenness and seeking and trusting.

I don't care if you've been a believer for 45 years. There are portions of your life that you are not turning over to a living God. If you've walked in this morning and you're not even sure about who the living God is and you've heard something and you felt the butterflies in your stomach, or if you're sitting here wondering how quickly this ends, this is for you.

You know that feeling that you've got about when is this gonna be over and how do I get out of here? Will the parking lot be bad on the way out? I wonder if there'll be a lineup at Tim Hortons on my way home, right? Where do you think that fight comes from? This is where we are right now. We're in the meeting with the living God with our family of faith. We don't care about the lineup at Tim Hortons.

We don't care about the congestion in the parking lot. We don't care about any of it. We've come to the meeting so we can be a church.

We've come to this meeting so we can be a church. We haven't come to a church so we can have a meeting. We've come to a meeting so we can be a church.

The church is built on the strength and power of Christ. If we move in any other power except His, we're lunatics. And we will continue to go back to the big, huge, blue glow of death unto the pornography, unto the isolation, and the spending money in stores, and the eating, and everything else that brings us comfort.

Our money, our savings account, our stock. Listen, I had a stock portfolio years ago. God was kind enough to take all of it away from me.

But what a great relief it is. I don't have to look at the newspaper anymore. Hey, I'm rich.

Hey, I'm poor. Hey, I don't know what I am. It's not even on here anymore.

Wow. How exciting. How exciting.

My living hope in the New York Times. Wow. Do you know what I'm saying? And see, the world sees it.

The lost see it. They want to meet the truth. They want to meet the miracle.

They want to meet something real, not something pretend. The world wants it, right? And this is why the story in John is so interesting. John writes this in his gospel, and the gospel of John is so interesting to me because John loved Jesus so much.

And you see the word meanwhile? Meanwhile, a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came. And the meanwhile has to do with the story of Lazarus, a friend of Jesus, being raised from the dead. Cool story because Martha and Mary, who loved Jesus, and Lazarus, who is a friend of Jesus's,

send a messenger to Jesus when he's in a different land and say, please come because Lazarus is sick.

And Jesus basically says to the disciples, he is not sick, he is sleeping, dead. He's dead. And they're trying to encourage him to go back.

And Jesus is saying, it's okay. I know when to go. I know what the timing of the miracle is.

I know when to go. And he turns his face back towards his friend, and he arrives there four days after Lazarus had been dead. And I was saying in the first service, it's funny for me, because in the old King James version of this translation, Lazarus had been dead for so long that he stunk.

It says in the old version of the King James that somebody says to the Lord, don't go near the tomb. He stinketh, literally, he stinketh. He stinks.

Four days dead. Jesus meets him in his stinky place. Anybody got a stinky place today? Anybody dead today? Anybody got any dead place in their life today? You know, I came to this service not just to talk about deliverance, but to receive it myself.

I want to be freer than I've ever been before. And the offer is in front of us to be freer than we've ever been before. The people that come to receive Jesus on the day that he rides through Jerusalem come, some of them, from the miracle of the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

Some of them come from that place. Some of them come to block Jesus. It says, so the chief priest made plans to kill Lazarus as well, for on account of him, many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and putting their faith in him.

Isn't that interesting? See, the religious are always trying to destroy the living message of hope in Christ. It's always gotta be about something they're in control of. What control do I have or you have over raising somebody from the dead apart from Christ? What control do we have over praying with somebody, walking with somebody, weeping with somebody, rejoicing with somebody, except for the strength that Christ gives us to do it? These are not things that we do in human terms.

We can't do these things by ourselves. They have to be done in Christ. It says, the next day, the great crowd that had come for the feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem.

They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the King of Israel. Blessed is the Christ.

Blessed is the King, the ruler over all Israel. Blessed is the Christ. Why are these people shouting Hosanna? See, it's interesting because what we have when Jesus walks through the gate of Jerusalem, when he rides through on the donkey, is we have a conquering king that has never fired a shot coming into a city that is about to bow its knee to him.

That's the way it works. And why are they shouting Hosanna? Hosanna literally means they're yelling something in Hebrew and Hosanna means deliver me now, now. It doesn't just mean deliver me.

It means deliver me this instant. Help me, help me now, help me now. And this is a miracle that is just beyond my scope of understanding and I'll just give you whatever small bit of it that God shared with me.

This is a microcosm of where we are in seeking brokenness as individuals within a church. And what we have represented at the gate of Jerusalem is every kind of brokenness that you could ever imagine mixed with a new thing. The new thing is hope in Christ.

Do you know who the people are who are hoping in Christ? They have seen their dead friend raised to life. Right? They have seen a miracle and they've believed in Christ because Lazarus stanketh, right? And now he's alive. And you know what the religious people do immediately? They wanna kill Lazarus, not just Jesus, but Lazarus is a huge complication.

These dead people walking around talking about miracles are a huge complication, aren't they? Doesn't it really get the religious box a problem when God shows up and begins to do what God does in a person's life? Every religious argument in the world comes out and the people of religion will constantly be trying to destroy the living Christ within the midst of this place. And when you're crying out, Hosanna, Hosanna, deliver me, deliver me, somebody will be coming and saying, shh, quiet, crazy charismatic, put your hands down. Are you crazy? What are people gonna think as you try and find a living Christ? What are people gonna think as you try and find a living Christ? Who's there? The people that saw the miracle, the people that wanna destroy the miracle, the people that came only because they heard about a miracle.

Anybody here today who hasn't seen a miracle yet but heard about one? Anybody? Do you feel it in your stomach even when it goes out in the air? You can feel it, can't you? That a living God wants to show every single person in this place a miracle today, that he's alive and that he can take care of you, he loves you, he sees you, he sees the pain you're going through, he sees the things you struggle with, he loves you more in your struggle than he does without your struggle. He loves you, he loves this town, he loves this church, he loves every man, woman, and child in this place and all he wants is for us to just give it away, just give it to him. Some of us have come because we've heard about the miracle, some of us have come just because there's other people there.

There's a crowd, what do they do? I don't know, come on, let's watch. Who's the guy in the donkey? That's sort of stupid, isn't it? What's with the palm branches? Yip, yip, yip, yip, yip, yip, yip. Somebody's gotta take the time to say, hey, it's Jesus, and he just raised Lazarus from the dead and he can set you free too.

All you have to do is cry out for help. Some people are standing there yelling Hosanna and all they want is a new political ruler. Did anybody go to the polls this year hoping for change? Right? Isn't this what all political rulers are always promising us? Change, a new wing on the factory.

Vote this way, vote this way. Count on me, trust in me. So they're all sitting there yelling Hosanna, Hosanna, hoping Jesus is gonna be the king of Jerusalem and he's gonna kick the bloody Romans out in their rear ends.

Anybody here trusting in politics today? Thank you. Thank you. I don't know who that guy is, but I'm gonna get him on stage.

Come on, man. Right? And it's not because of who's in office. It's because it's broken, guys.

It's broken. It's been broken for 220 years. We can't count on it.

We're Christians. We count on the light. We count on the light.

Some of us feel it in the teaching. Some of us receive a new hope of peace in prayer. Some of us in worship.

And I was preparing to come up. I asked the guys if they knew the song Hosanna. And I was so encouraged to hear that it's something that's been done in the church.

Because God was just pressing on me like crazy that there would be people here today that would receive this message of hope and they would feel the butterflies in their stomach and they would rise up in a new way today. We would have fresh starts. People would receive Christ.

People would go into ministry. People would be moved to put down things that have been stopping them. People would literally get unstuck today.

Some of you felt it in teaching. Some of you felt it in prayer. Some of you will feel it in prayer when I pray.

Some of you will feel it when the congregation sings. It's not a show. I can't make the butterflies come into your stomach.

I can't make that happen. Only he can. When you feel, just like the little guy on the plane, when you feel him pressing down on you, give yourself to him and trust in him.

And whatever way you came into this place with today, set it down. And when we worship, cry out, Hosanna, in your spirit or in your voice or in your song or in your dancing or in coming forward in whatever way God leads you. Put down the weight.

Put down the weight. Let's be free. Should we be free? Yeah.

Should we be free? Father God, I just comment, I wish I could pray for every single person in this place, one person at a time. Father, you know their hearts. You know the pain that they've been through.

They know that you are a loving God. Somewhere in their spirit, the notion of freedom in the sacrifice of Christ has come and it's permeated. It's soaked all the way into this place.

It was seed planted by other men and women than me, Father. And I just come and ask for rain in this building, Lord, that the Holy Spirit would rain in this building and the seed that's been planted would grow and grow and grow and grow and grow, that the light in this place would confound the darkness around us, Lord, that the kingdom of wickedness would be put on notice, that today in this church community, a new light and a new glory and a new hope and a new trust is coming together and the light is pushing out against the darkness. We ask for your help, Father, for those who struggle with all of the things that we've talked about.

Release us from our anger, Lord Jesus. Release us from our fear, Lord Jesus. Release us from our poverty.

Release us from our wealth. Release us from our lives and help us to die so that we might be raised up in a new way. Release us from our religion and our hypocrisy.

Release us from our foolishness. Release us from our reliance in anything except you, Father. And as we reach for those things, even now that we've had an assurance that you love us and hope on us and hold us and fill us in every conceivable way, even now as we've been made free people from this darkness

today, a new light has come into our lives.

Even now as we go from this place and fail again, we go with a new strength and a new light that cannot be turned off. We are no longer measuring ourselves by what we do. We are measuring ourselves by the love of a great and faithful God who will not abandon us or forsake us.

Every child, every man, every woman held in the palm of the hand of God by the sacrifice of Christ, every one of us made new, every one of us made whole, every one of us assured that regardless of our failure, regardless of our difficulty, that we will not be abandoned or forsaken. There is no condemnation in Christ Jesus. I pray against the words that would condemn in the mighty name above all names, in the name of Jesus Christ.

And Father, I would just ask as we worship together and as we follow this worship team and we follow Bill who has the light of Christ in his life and every person that's assembled on this stage to bring worship, not a show, Father, but a celebration of your might and glory that we would sing Hosanna in a new way today, that it would be our confession to you that we need you to deliver us now. Deliver us now. Deliver us now.

Our light is great. Your mercy is greater. And your love surpasses mine, understand.

You are the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Have your way with us, Father. Have your way with us, Jesus.

In that mighty name, we pray.

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Video: <https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/ioXjqIkWooo.mp4>

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