

Bold Witness

by Jim Cymbala

The sermon emphasizes the importance of witnessing and sharing the Gospel with all creation, and how this is a central part of being a Christian.

Duration: 36:34

Scripture: Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15

Topics: "Witnessing", "Boldness in Witnessing", "The Great Commission"

Description

Jim Cymbala emphasizes the call for all Christians to be bold witnesses for Jesus, highlighting the urgency of sharing the gospel with the world, which is filled with people who do not know Him. He reminds the congregation that the last command of Jesus was to go and preach the good news to all creation, and that every believer is empowered by the Holy Spirit to share their faith. Cymbala stresses that witnessing is not just the job of clergy but of every disciple, encouraging believers to speak boldly about their faith despite the hostile environment. He concludes with a prayer for boldness and the assurance that God will back them up as they share the message of salvation.

Transcript

Let's see if God would give us some verses here to help us pray in keeping with the message that I began on Sunday and hopefully will finish next Sunday, Lord willing. It's part of the Vital Truth series and this one is called Witness. And we learned on Sunday that the last thing Jesus told the disciples was to go into all the world and share the gospel, preach the gospel to all creation.

And we learned last Sunday that there's seven billion people in the world and that God doesn't want anyone to perish. People you and I don't know who live in Bangladesh, He doesn't want them to perish. People who are living in the Philippines, in Gila, He doesn't want them to perish.

So thus, from the very beginning of Christianity, there was an outward movement to, yes, you know the Lord, now you're saved. Now everyone is going to become a witness for Jesus because the only way people can know His salvation is that they hear the gospel. What is the gospel? We learned on Sunday, it's the simple good news that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, Jesus, to come and die in our place for the sins we've committed.

Although He committed no sins, He died for our sins, your sins, your horrible sins, my horrible sins, for all sins are horrible to God. There are no nice ones. That's the good news, that if you put your trust in Him

and confess your sins and put your trust in Him, you will be a recipient of salvation.

Salvation will not only mean pardon of sin and peace and joy like you've never known, but it'll mean that when you die or Christ returns, whichever comes first, you will live with Him. We will be with Him forever. I was just reading 1 Thessalonians today that when He returns, we're going to be caught up in the air to be with Him, and so shall we be with the Lord forever.

How many say amen to that? We're going to be with the Lord. That will open up something called eternity, which is time without end or really no time, which is very hard for our minds to kind of grasp because we're creatures of time and space and matter, and the eternal state is going to be different. We learn that this is the heart of God, that the angels rejoice when one person, your cousin, your aunt, your uncle, your neighbor, your co-worker, your mother, your father, your son, your daughter, when one of them turns away from the way they're living, self-centered, sinful, and says, Jesus, help me, save me, forgive me, I give my life to you, that all the angels in heaven rejoice.

We also learn that Christianity, for the most part, over the centuries has turned away from Jesus's first command, that all people go to all people in the world. They've turned away from that. We've circled the wagons, want to argue about doctrine, want to argue about spirit manifestations.

We want to just stay at the Father's table, enjoy the meetings, have great fellowship, enjoy the presence of the Lord. All of that has its place, but it's not the most important thing to God. God wants us to get strong, to have fellowship, to learn the Word.

Why? So we can be empowered to go out and represent Him. Most importantly, we learn that in the New Testament, there was not this horrible division of laity and clergy like we have around the world, basically, especially in America and England, the Western world, in Christian churches, where the members are on one level, and then the clergy, the pastors, are on another level, and they're to do the work. The idea that the world could be reached by pastors and preachers and missionaries is the most ridiculous idea in the world.

Seven billion people, how many of those billions don't know Jesus as their Savior? How could that small group of people do it? Well, it never was God's plan. The New Testament plan we learned was that all disciples were preachers, all disciples were witnesses. Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men, so that when Sylvia Glover, my dear sister, got saved, that God now said, I'm going to use her, I'll strengthen her, make her a woman of prayer, get my Word in her, but she is going to reproduce herself now and speak for me and represent me.

The center of her life will not be her needs, her problems, her difficulties. The center of her life will be my heart, my glory, my kingdom, and I'll use her. And while you're doing that for Jesus, by the way, you have the greatest life you could ever imagine.

The more you look at yourself and try to have a good life, the more you're going to be empty. It is a law that when you lose your life, you gain it, and when you try to gain your life, you lose it, and there's many variations to that. We learned that when the persecution broke out in the book of Acts in chapter 6 and then into 8, chapter 8, after Stephen was martyred, that all the Christians were scattered because of a persecution, but except the apostles, but everywhere that the people were scattered, it says they preached the Word.

What Word? The Word of the Gospel. There was no New Testament, so if you say to me tonight, but I don't know enough to share, they knew no verses because no verses had been written. Just think of that.

Think of the cop-out that we use. I don't know enough of the Word. They only shared what they knew about Jesus to everyone they could, but God was working with them, which was the promise.

When you go out and do this work, I will back you up with the power of the Holy Spirit. If you stay in your church and just ask for Holy Ghost, Holy Ghost, come Holy Spirit, come move into me. Why? Because we love when you move, and then that gets very polluted and very weird because God never gave the Holy Spirit to have good services.

He gave the Holy Spirit so that we could go into all the world and be strong witnesses for Him. That deserves a hand clap of Amen. Amen.

And we finally learned in summary that the words, four Greek words that are the main words used for preach in the Bible, again, just like the idea of the clergy is different than the members. The members have this spiritual level. The clergy is supposed to live up here, totally false, totally fallacious, totally bogus, bad picture of the church, but it's what we live with in so many places.

The four words that are used for preach are words that simply mean to say, to publish, to tell, to inform somebody. That's what they did. It wasn't formal preaching with a turned around collar.

Nobody went to Bible school. There were no Bible schools. No one went to seminary.

There were no seminaries. So God was using deacons and businessmen and women and young people and seniors and giving dreams to them and directing them, and all kinds of things were happening because they didn't know any better. They just remember the last thing Jesus said, go and tell.

Go everywhere. Start in Jerusalem where you are. Start with the people that you meet tomorrow.

Look for an opening. Share Christ. Just tell them what Jesus means to you.

You don't have to use verses. Just tell them what Jesus means to you, what he's done, washed away your sins, given you whatever, the promise of eternal life. Just share that.

I know, but people don't want to hear. We'll get to that in a second. It doesn't matter if they want to hear.

We're just supposed to share it in wisdom, in love, in kindness. Always remember this in evangelism, love wins the day. If you're mean and ornery and proud and religious, you're not going to convince many people that Jesus is worth serving.

People are broken down by love, not by threats, not by reciting 10 verses and looking down at them, but loving them like Jesus did. The word preach doesn't have the connotation that we've given it. A minister, reserved, changes his voice and all of that, and goes on.

Oh, what systems we've developed in church. How unnatural. What cultures we have in church that make no sense to anybody who needs to really know about Jesus.

Total distractions. Ministers talking in an unnatural way. Talk one way in a restaurant.

Talk totally different behind the pulpit. Why? Because that's what you do. You're a preacher.

Totally unfounded by scripture, and that and a lot of other crazy things we've developed. But it's easier to go to church than to go out and try to be a witness. Anybody can go to church.

Spanish church, black church, white church, baptist church, pentecostal church. That's easy. Now try to lead someone to Christ.

Hmm. Whole different ballgame, wouldn't you say? Now, there's always been a hostile environment to this goal. In other words, from the very beginning when Jesus said go, the environment was not conducive to what he told them to do.

It's never been. It never will be. To be a Christian and want to share Christ, you are always going to go against the stream.

The culture is always anti, anti-Christ, anti-gospel. People will get saved. Sometimes people in authority will get saved.

Wealthy people could get saved. But for the most part, the history of the Christian church from the very beginning is opposition, controversy, attacks, and all the rest. Will always be that way.

Jesus told the disciples, if they hated me, they will, if they spoke bad about me, they will. So don't be surprised and throw up your hands. It is what it is.

But be faithful. We learned finally that in the midst of that hostile environment of the early church, Jesus said, your job is never to convert anyone. I do the converting.

You just make the contact. You open your mouth, and when you open it, I'll give you the words to say. You don't have to rehearse them and be nervous.

Just open your mouth and share from your heart, and I'll back you up, and I'll help you. Now, after you sow that seed, you just pray, I'll do the converting. You go to the next one.

Don't be getting forlorn about, oh, I didn't see it change. Just share Christ. Invite to church.

Bring them into the presence of God. Love them. Help them.

Buy a bed for them. Whatever God leads you to do, just love them and tell them about Jesus. I will do the converting.

How many are happy it works that way? Say amen. And we have faith that if we'll do what he told us to do, he'll do what he said he would do. Wouldn't God be honest that way and fulfill his word? We do what he told us to do, and he'll do what he said he would do.

As I said, it's always hostile. I think it's hostile against us in a different way than it was against them. There, as we're going to read, you could lose your life.

Remember, they were in Jerusalem. Jesus had been killed in Jerusalem. They now were not in a very nice position.

Here he had been killed in Jerusalem, and they had a start in Jerusalem. The Jewish religious establishment was very anti-Christian. The Romans could care less.

The Roman government just wanted to collect taxes and keep peace. That's all. We don't want to hear about your religions and stuff.

And like always, to get people to think about their souls and eternity, that's the challenge. So the environment is hostile now to us, though, in a harder way in some ways, because nobody back then was cursing using the Lord's name. The Lord said they would use his name in vain, but at the beginning no one was walking around and saying, for Christ's sake, Jesus Christ.

They didn't know who Jesus Christ was. We live in a day where people are saying the name of our Savior all the time. Am I correct or not? So now when you mention his name, it's like, Jesus Christ.

You told me about Jesus Christ. I say his name like 10 times a day. Also, there was no Christian church to blame for the reason that you don't want to serve the Lord.

Today, we have all kinds of people living in denial, and you know them, and the reason that they're living in sin, sleeping around, doing whatever they're doing, and if you talk to them, don't tell me about religion, and they want to give you a church story. How they were abused, how they were used, phony Christians that they knew who let them down, some preacher who ran away with his piano player or whatever, and whatever, and so on and so forth. That was not done at the beginning because there was no established Christian church yet, and now you have all these denominations.

They fight each other. They don't root for each other. You got white churches that want to stay all white.

It's a mess. You got black churches that don't want any white people. That's the man, and they play to black anger, and you got whites playing to white, and then the Puerto Ricans don't want to be with anybody except themselves.

Filipinos are off over there, and everybody's just... That was not the way it was at the beginning. Come on. How many know that when you talk to people about the Lord, that's where a lot of them go? They look at it, and they go, if Jesus is all this stuff you're saying, how come... Explain it all.

Explain why this is such a mess. This is what we face. This is our mission field.

So there was always opposition. There's opposition now. Now it's more mock.

You're going to be mocked. You're going to be laughed at, and you're going to be thought uncool, or you're going to be called a hater. Am I correct? If you say certain things are sinful, who are you to say? Now, I didn't say it.

The Bible says it. You got to remember. Always say that.

Your argument is not with me, I said to someone the other day. Your argument is not with me. I know you're upset with what I said, but your argument is not with me.

Your argument is what Jesus said here. So talk to Jesus. Get it worked out, because your argument is not with me.

I didn't make that up. But there's an interesting thing about when it all began that I think God put in the book of Acts. He did for us to learn.

So let's just see what happened here. All right. Here we can be mocked and shunned.

There they could be killed. Here the government right now does not prohibit us from meeting. Back then they could.

If Caesar said no meetings, you have to go underground. And if he said Christians can be caught and killed, you're going to get caught and killed. So it costs way more to be a Christian then than now.

People mock you. Your family will turn against you. What do you think? You're better than us and all of that.

But there's opposition. Early on, Peter and John were going to the temple after the church was born, and they saw a man, and the Holy Spirit directed them to pray for this man and speak words of healing. By the way, some of the most powerful prayers, I was telling the pastors this, and the deacons as we pray for you tonight, some of the most powerful prayers in the Bible are five words, ten words.

So don't get upset if we don't pray over you for a long time, and if we have a lot of people to pray for. Jesus said, take up your bed and walk. Take up your bed and walk.

That's six. That's all he said. How many know it's powerful, right? Don't think long and loud prayers are heard more than when you have faith and you speak with authority and you claim something from God.

This guy started to walk. He was more than 40 years old, and a miracle had been done. A crowd gathered.

Peter preached. This is found in Acts 3. Read it before you go to bed. And sermon was preached, and then the religious leaders heard that they're talking about Jesus.

They're talking in Jesus' name. They're talking about the resurrection from the dead, and they sent the temple guard, the military arm of the temple, and to get Peter and John arrested. So they arrest Peter and John, but thousands more were added to the church because it said some more believed in the message.

See, they gave the message. Then when people believe, God saves them, but they can't believe unless they hear the message. That's all Peter and John could do.

So now they're kept in prison overnight, and they're brought before the religious Sanhedrin, the ruling body of the Jewish religion, and they're saying, all right, look, we can't deny that the guy was healed. How did you do this? In what name did you do this? Oh, you think it's a bad thing we did, that a man who couldn't walk can walk? So here's what. We did it in the name of Jesus, the one that you crucified, but God raised him from the dead.

They were very bold, very strong. So then the Bible says the Sanhedrin didn't know what to do with him because Peter was controlled by the Holy Spirit. That word is used there.

He was full of the Holy Spirit, which means controlled by the Holy Spirit. There was something extra unctioned from God on him as he refuted these guys, and he was a fisherman. How could he talk to these religious leaders being a fisherman? Oh, listen, brothers and sisters, God can use all of us.

Can you receive that? God can use all of us. That's the reason he chose fishermen. Both Peter and John were fishermen with no schooling, and they're standing down the religious leaders.

The religious leaders don't know what to do. They took notice of them that they had been with Jesus, which is a good thing to have said about you, and they kicked them out of the room, and they talked. They said, what are we going to do with these guys? This thing is going to spread, but we can't deny.

Imagine how blind they were. We can't deny the miracle. So then why don't you look at the miracle and ask how God did it? No, that will rock the boat of our religious traditions, our perks, our money, our positions of power.

We might lose those if we start going with this new message. Boy, humanity is corrupt, and religion can get ultra corrupt. So they bring them back in, and they warn them, hey, no more talking in the name of Jesus, and that's the way it is today.

Try to always, when you talk to people, don't say God, because God can mean a lot of things to people. Say God, the God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the God who created the earth, the God who gave us the Bible. That's the God we're talking about.

Remember, there's like 20 gods out there to people. There's Hare Krishna. There's God.

There's Allah. There's all these gods. So you've got to say Jesus, and the name that the Holy Spirit backs up is Jesus.

The name that rattles the demons that are in the air is not Jehovah, but Jesus, not God. Come on, let's say amen to that. Jesus.

Jesus. We've got to talk about Jesus. So they told them, they got right to the cut to the chase, and it's happening 2,000 years later.

You go on TV or anything else, they do not like when you talk about Jesus. They don't like talking about God at all. But when you mention Jesus, just go to the media, go to CNN, go to the Board of Ed, go to the New York Times, go to any outlet, and just say, we'd like to share a little message about Jesus.

Get out. Out. I want to talk about how I worship Satan.

Well, tell us. That's interesting. We want to hear more about that.

Am I right or wrong? Come on. All New Yorkers who know, that's the truth. So here's what happened.

So now they warned them, no more talking in Jesus' name. But look how bold these guys were. They said, look, you have to judge whether it's right, whether we should obey you or obey God.

Hey, what do you think we're going to do? Obey you or obey God? We can't stop speaking of what we have seen and heard. See, when you experience Jesus really through the Spirit, you have to talk about him because he's real. He's real.

If it's just a concept and I try to tell you this is what we ought to be doing, it falls flat. They're released now. First persecution of the Christian church.

They're released and they go back to the church. Remember this, they go back to the church. They're called, they go back to their people.

I love that when Christians call the church their people. Not their extended family, not the same race. That's not your people.

My people are not white people. You know that, right? My people are God's people, right? Of every color. They go back to their own, to their people.

Oh, we need that today because some people worship their family and culture and their island or country more than they do the body of Christ. They appreciate it more. Now, look what happens and then we'll just read it and pray.

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people. Ooh, yes. And reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.

When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. So if someone comes in the church says, I think this is unbiblical. I hear everyone lifting their voices up to God in prayer.

It sounds like confusion. It's not confusion. At the right moment and the right way, that is exactly sometimes what is needed.

We all lift our voices up together. At the count of three, everybody say hallelujah, praise the Lord. One, two, three.

Hallelujah, praise the Lord. See, we all say that. Sometimes that's the way we need to pray.

Everyone praying their own prayer, but out loud to God. And they raised their voices. Someone must have let out in prayer.

Sovereign Lord, they said, you made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father, David. Why do the nations rage? He's quoting from the Psalms now.

And the people's plot in vain. The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one. Who's the Lord? God.

Who's his anointed one? Jesus. And all the kings of the earth are mounting against him and saying, we don't want to hear about him. It's going on right today in the UN.

It's going on today in America. It's going on around the world. They don't want to hear about Jesus.

And now they're quoting from that Psalm and say, isn't this crazy? God is in heaven. He's laughing at all of them because they're little ants. And yet they raising their fist against God and against his anointed one.

Thank God we belong to Jesus. Thank God we belong to Jesus. So indeed, Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, that's everyone in this city, Jerusalem, to conspire against your holy servant, Jesus, whom you anointed.

And even though they did what they thought they wanted to do, they did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. God used the evil motives of other people to bring out salvation for us. They were acting evil, but they crucified him, but that crucifixion was for us.

Oh, God is awesome, isn't he? God is so awesome. Let's, here we go. Now, Lord, consider their threats.

In other words, consider our environment. Consider our situation. Consider our circumstances.

We just left them, and they said, don't play with us and don't fool with us. No more talking in Jesus' name. You know what happened to your leader? It could happen to you.

I would say that's pretty plain. Now, consider their threats. None of us probably have had that threat ever made against us.

You mentioned Jesus and we'll kill you. Probably none of us have had that. Consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word.

That's the gospel word. Speak your word with great boldness. Now, Lord, consider our circumstances.

We're in New York City. It's 2017. We're going out into the housing units.

The men got to go to Atlantic Avenue Armory. We got to go to work tomorrow. We got to tell people about Jesus.

We got to look for opportunities. But God, you know the environment. They mock.

They laugh. They make fun of Jesus. You know our environment.

So now, here's what we need. What do we need? No, don't get us out of here. We don't want to go to heaven.

We don't want to move to a smoother spot. No, this is where you put us. Now, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

God, by your Spirit, give us strength and boldness that we will speak the good word of Jesus, the loving word of Jesus, the good news about Jesus, that we will open our mouths. Notice no one can believe until someone speaks. You can't pray them into the kingdom.

You got to plant the seed first. Then you can pray. They got to hear.

Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. But how can they call unless they know? And how can they know unless someone tells them? And how can someone tell them unless someone opens their mouth to speak? But when we do it, give us boldness to do it. Don't make us be shirking.

And I'd like to share a little something if you let me say a word. Oh, you don't? Okay, then I won't say anything. No.

Lovingly but boldly. The righteous shall be bold as a lion, the Bible says. Enable your servants to speak your word with boldness.

That was the, and stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus. So what was their prayer? Look, as we go to pray. God, you see the environment? Now, give us the strength.

No, you have to do it, God. We're going to speak, but you have to enable us to speak the word, the gospel word, not argue about what day you should worship on and a lot of other stuff. Grant us the boldness to tell them about Jesus, but do it boldly.

And now, God, when we do it, stretch out your hand and back us up. Show us what word of faith, what vision, what healing, what miracle, what answer to prayer, because God, when we do it, we're telling them you're alive. How can we tell them you're alive unless you show them that you're alive? Come on, let's say amen to that.

It's on you, God. Notice how they put it on God. They put it on God.

They put it on God. God, you enable us to speak boldly your word, but when we do it, don't let us be out there by our lonesome. Stretch out your hand.

Do something. Back it up. A healing, a sign, a wonder, a word of knowledge, a word of wisdom, something that people will know, whoa, this is spooky.

This is something other than just somebody talking to me. Only God, you can back it up. Only God can back it up.

And then they ended the prayer. They ended the prayer. What's about to happen did not happen while they were praying.

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken, and they were all filled or came under the control of the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. God heard their prayer, saw their circumstances, and said, I know exactly what you need. I'm going to refill all of you with the Holy Spirit.

Now, these were the same apostles and believers. Remember, this is the whole church that had been visited by the Holy Spirit back in Acts chapter two. So this was no new experience to them, but God said, no, my answer to all your needs is always more of my spirit, more of my power, more of my grace, more of my boldness, more of my wisdom, more of my love, more of my leading, making you more sensitive to what the devil's trying to do around you.

I'll give you what you need. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit. And when they left, they went out and spoke the word of God boldly.

And you couldn't stamp them out. The early church, the more you stamped them out, the more they grew. And God was adding to the church daily those that were being saved.

So I have every right, you have every right as we close to come and pray and say, God, you know my individual situation and my family. You know who I'm trying to reach. Don't you have a loved one you're trying to reach? I said, don't you have a loved one you're trying to reach? Don't you have a neighborhood that you want to see visited with the gospel? Don't you have a job where you want to see a coworker? I mean, are we going to live passionate for this or is this going to be like a hobby for us, a sidelight? No, it's got to be everything.

What would be the main reason that I'm alive today? It's to spread the gospel. No, God wants you to have peace and joy. I'm going to have super peace and joy when I get to heaven.

I got the real peace waiting for me and the real joy. Now we have to fight the devil. We don't have to fight him then.

No. So what's the main reason all of us are alive? What's the main reason? To glorify God by spreading the good news of Jesus so that more can come into the kingdom. More.

God, more. More. More.

God, give us more. How many want to have from your own life more, more fruit? Come on, lift up your hand. More fruit.

More. More. So, God, we bow our heads.

Consider our circumstances. New York, 2017. Not easy.

But you are greater. He that lives within us is greater than the one that's in the world. Make us soul winners.

Help us to speak your word. Enable us to speak your word boldly. And when we do it, as we do it, tomorrow, tonight, on the phone, texting, whatever way, back us up.

Stretch out your hand. And as we do our thing, God, you do your thing. You told us what thing we're to do.

We can't do signs and wonders. Only you can do that. How would I be able to do a sign and a wonder? I can ask you to open my mouth and my heart that I can see people the way you see them.

I can speak the word that they need to hear. Everybody who's hungry, hungry, hungry to be a soul winner, we're going to take the next 10 minutes and longer. If you have to leave, you can leave.

But right now, right now, I'm asking those who long to be a soul winner, that's your craving. I want to be a soul winner. And maybe some of you have a focus on a person close to you.

I know when my daughter was away from God, I lived for that. I lived for one thing, to fulfill my calling. But oh God, give me Chrissy.

Give me Chrissy. Those of you who want to be soul winners, just come right out of your seat. Rumble down from the balcony.

Rumble down from down here. Come right to this altar. Stand, kneel, sit, fall on your face, whatever you want to do.

Just come. I want God to make me a soul winner. Not a churchgoer, a soul winner.

I want to be a soul winner. So God, enable us to open our mouths and speak your word boldly, the message of the gospel. And then as we do it, back us up.

Back us up in some way that people will know, wait a minute, God is with them. God is with these people. Drive out fear.

Take away shyness, timidity. Fill us with love. Let people see Jesus in me, Lord.

Let people see Jesus in us. Let them see Jesus, not Jim Simba. Let them see Jesus, Lord.

Every woman, turn and get a woman partner. Every man, a man partner. And just pray over each other out loud at the same time.

God, grant your servants boldness to speak your word. Come on, don't pray anything else. Grant your servants boldness that we might speak your word.

Help us to speak your word with boldness. And when we do it, God, back us up. Stretch out your hand.

Show the people you're alive. God, when they come in the church, show them you're alive. Show them you're alive, God.

Pray out loud at the same time. God, grant your servants boldness. Come on, the only thing you pray, grant your servants boldness.

Speak your word. And as we do it, God, stretch out your hand. Let the people know that the message is true, that you are alive.

Oh God, that you are alive. Don't let our words fall to the ground. Give them weight, Lord.

You're raising up an army here, Lord. Raise up an army, Lord. Raise up an army, Lord.

Break every chain. Break every chain. Break every chain in our lives.

Break every chain. Chains of fear, self-consciousness, break every chain. Complexes, break every chain.

Pride, break every chain. Lift up the name of someone you're praying for. Family, friend, lift up the name of someone who needs Jesus real bad tonight.

Come on, let's pray. Ask God to break through the darkness. Awaken her.

Awaken him. Visit her, Lord. Shake her up.

Get her attention, Lord. Before it's too late, get her attention. Get her attention, Lord.

Get her attention and his attention, Lord. Deliver him, Lord, from the clutches of the enemy. Deliver him, God, please, Lord, from the clutches of the enemy.

Jesus, we thank you for your word tonight to us. Amen. And now we're going to go out and speak your word boldly because you're going to enable us.

We didn't pray in vain. You're going to hear this prayer and you're going to answer it because we prayed according to your will. And as we speak your word, the good word of Jesus, and we love people, you're going to back us up.

You're going to stretch out your hand. Give us that faith and expectancy. We're not out there alone.

God is with us. God working with them, confirming the word with some signs, some wonder. Give us that kind of faith.

We're simple people, God, all of us. In this church, you have a, Lord, you know, I'm not trained. Not many of us are trained, but we have you on our side, Jesus.

So we ask you to use us. This very night, tomorrow, should you tarry, that we might see a harvest for your glory. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Turn around and hug someone. Give someone a hug and a handshake.

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