

Seven Life Changing Words

by Jim Cymbala

Jim Cymbala emphasizes the transformative power of admitting our wrongs and seeking forgiveness through the story of King Manasseh.

Duration: 38:21

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 33:1-2, Psalm 23:1, Matthew 6:7-13, Matthew 6:33, Luke 1:28

Topics: "Humility"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of engaging the heart and mind when speaking words of faith. He contrasts Christianity with other religions that use mantras, explaining that in Christianity, the power of words comes from a genuine confession of faith. The preacher encourages the audience to understand and embrace seven specific words that will transform their lives and bring blessings. He assures them that if they adopt the right attitude and speak these words from the heart, they will experience a new peace, joy, and blessing in their lives.

Transcript

So in certain religions, there's something called a mantra. A mantra, you've heard that word, a mantra that you say something or by repeating it or by just saying it, it has certain power and it's connected to the practice of religion. Christianity has no mantras.

By saying words, there's no power connected to it unless the heart is engaged. If it comes from the heart, then words have tremendous power because it's a kind of confession of faith. God says in one place, when you come to me, bring words with you, but not just repetitious words like the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want or what can happen in the Roman Catholic system, hail Mary, full of grace or I'll do an Our Father and all of that.

So you're saying words, many times your heart, your mind's not engaged, but you're taught by saying those words, there's some value. Christianity does not have that in it. But I wanna tell you something today that you can take this to the bank.

I guarantee this on the authority of God's word. I wanna give you seven words that will change your life, seven words that will open heaven, seven words that will bring greater blessing on you than you could even imagine, seven words that you can only say today, but you can have these seven words with you, that attitude from your heart that will change your life every day. The end of 2018 will be totally different for

you if you just understand, if we understand these seven words, just seven words, totally will transform.

In fact, there'll be a new peace in your life. There'll be a new joy in your life. There'll be blessing in your life.

How many are interested? Anyone interested, say amen. Just seven words, I'm not gonna run you all over here, just seven words, seven words, oh my goodness, understood and then said from your heart. To get to these words, I wanna tell you a very sad story from the Bible.

I wanna tell you about one of the wickedest people who ever walked the earth at the time that he lived. And on top of that, he was the king sitting on the throne in Jerusalem where David had sat, where Solomon and other great kings. In fact, his father, King Hezekiah was one of the best kings but like father, like son, not so fast in this case.

Second Chronicles, Manasseh was 12 years old when he became king and he reigned in Jerusalem 55 years, long reign, he did what was evil in the Lord's sight. Didn't matter what people thought. At the end, it just matters how the Lord looks at our life.

He did evil in the Lord's sight, following the detestable practices of the pagan nations that the Lord had driven from the land ahead of the Israelites. So there you see again, influence. Instead of following the Lord, he was influenced by the people around him, the pagan culture around him.

That's still a battle we fight today. Do we follow the Lord and it's our influence this or do we go by the culture? So the Bible tells us that he rebuilt the pagan shrines that his father Hezekiah had broken down. He undid the good things his dad did.

He constructed altars for the images of Baal and set up Asherah poles. He also bowed down before all the powers of the heavens and he worshiped them. He worshiped the stars and the planets and astrology.

He built pagan altars in the temple. Talk about losing it. He went into the holy place in the temple of God and he set up idols.

The place where the Lord had said, my name will remain in Jerusalem forever. He built these altars for all the powers of the heavens in both courtyards of the Lord's temple. Manasseh also sacrificed his own sons in the fire in the Valley of Ben-Hinnom.

Do you get what I just read? To these filthy abominable gods, he sacrificed his own children and yet he was the king of God's chosen people. He practiced sorcery, divination and witchcraft and he consulted with mediums and psychics. He did much that was evil in the Lord's sight, arousing his anger.

Manasseh even took a carved idol that he had made and set it up in God's temple, the very place where God had told David and his son Solomon, my name will be honored forever in this temple and in Jerusalem, the city I have chosen from among all the tribes of Israel. If the Israelites will be careful to obey my commands, this is quoting that command from God, all the laws, decrees and regulations given through Moses, I will not send them into exile from this land that I set aside for your ancestors. But Manasseh led the people of Judah and Jerusalem to do even more evil than the pagan nations that the Lord had destroyed when the people of Israel entered the land.

So get it, it would be like in this church, we would do more evil than what's going on out in the street. That's what Manasseh did. That's what he led the people to do.

The Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, no matter where you go, God's love is so great. He's always speaking, always trying to get our attention, am I right? Doesn't matter how obstinate we are, no matter how we rebel against him, God never stops talking. He spoke to Manasseh and his people, obviously through the prophets, but they ignored all his warnings.

All these warnings came, don't do this. Hey, don't do this. You're violating God's commands.

Don't do this, it'll be really bad for you. And I love you, I don't want it to be bad for you, but there's a law in life, what you sow, you reap. So don't do this, please.

Prophet after prophet, decade after decade, and Manasseh and his minions went, hey, later for you. I don't wanna hear about this. You're correcting me.

That's hate speech. I like to practice what I like to practice. Who are you to judge me? You're very judgmental.

No, I'm a prophet of God, and he loves you, and he tells you, you lost your way. That's what your opinion is. I have my truth, you have your truth.

Manasseh probably went through all of these exercises that we hear today all the time, in and out of church. But then, of course, there comes a day when you have to pay the piper. So it says, so the Lord sent the commanders of the Assyrian armies, and they took Manasseh prisoner.

They put a ring through his nose, and I'm not talking about a decorative one. I'm talking about a ring through his nose, which was two things, very painful, and it was the ultimate insult of submission. You submit to me.

I put a ring through your nose. And they dragged him in bronze chains and led him away to Babylon. So here we have, right here, before I get to the first three words of the seven words that will change our lives forever, constantly, unbelievers and believers, we have the story here of a guy with great privilege, great father, great honor, sitting on the throne, but what a rebel, what a stubborn, proud ox he turned out to be in his heart.

Wouldn't listen to anybody. Wouldn't listen. You know, that's what dooms people.

They won't listen. They won't listen. We won't listen.

We know. Hey, hey, don't tell me, I know. Don't correct me.

You can do anything, but don't correct me. I have my way, you have your way. You prophets, be careful, I'm the king.

I can make you disappear. But the prophets were brave. They kept telling Manasseh, thus sayeth the Lord, don't do this.

How do you sacrifice your children? How do you set up idols in God's temple? But Manasseh, you know, there's always a rationalization for everything we do that's wrong, you know. If we're really rebellious against God, we can rationalize everything. But now here come the first three words.

You can't believe what happened. With his hook in his nose, and then carried away into Babylon, you won't believe this. Look, but while in deep distress, Manasseh sought the Lord as God, and sincerely humbled himself before the God of his ancestors.

And when he prayed, the Lord listened to him, and was moved by his request. So the Lord brought Manasseh back to Jerusalem, and to his kingdom. And then Manasseh finally realized that the Lord alone is God.

After this, Manasseh rebuilt the outer wall of the city of David from west of the Gihon Spring in the Kidron Valley to the Fish Gate, and continually around the hill of Ophel. He built the wall very high, and he stationed his military officers in all the fortified towns of Judah. Manasseh also removed the foreign gods and the idol from the Lord's temple, undoing all the junk he did, tore down all the altars he had built on the hill where the temple stood, and all the altars that were in Jerusalem, and he dumped them outside the city.

Then he restored the altar of the Lord, and he sacrificed, listen, peace offerings and thanksgiving offerings on it. He also encouraged the people of Judah to worship the Lord, the God of Israel. What brought about that change? Because he's the biggest mess of a person you can read about.

What in the world has him back on the throne? How does he get restored? How does he have this blessing from God? How does that happen? Don't you get it? It's the first three words of the seven I'm gonna give you. He finally got to the place where he said, I am wrong. That's what opens heaven for all of us.

I am wrong. I didn't listen, but now I'm listening. The prophets came, I got rid of them, but now I finally see I am wrong.

I've always been wrong. That is wrong. What God said is right, and I was doing the wrong.

I am wrong. And when God gave the order in heaven, come on, let's get him back to Jerusalem. Put him back on the throne.

I can imagine the angels saying, what is this about? Don't you know what he did? Don't you realize what he did in the temple? The dude sacrificed his own children, but go, restore him. No, we can't do that. The guy is a criminal.

No, he said the three words that I can't resist. He said, I am wrong. When anyone says I am wrong, God says that I'm gonna make you right.

Amen. When anybody humbles themselves and says I am wrong, God says, no, I resist the proud, but I give grace to the humble. When you say I am wrong, all heaven opens.

All grace begins to flow. Mercy, blessing, every kind of thing. And I don't care what you and I have done in the past.

This is for me and you. How many times we've been out there, rebellious, left the reservation, gone off the track. It doesn't matter.

Once we get to the place where we mean it and say I am wrong, that's it. It's a game changer. Everything stops because that is called confession.

What is confession of sin? It's agreeing with God. It's not justifying, making excuses, rationalizing, giving all the drama of why you did it, why I did it, and all of that. You stop all of that nonsense and you say I am wrong.

God's word is right. I shouldn't have ever had those idols. Never should have, oh God.

Never should have offered my children. Never should have put that junk in the temple. Never should have been a bad influence.

What was I thinking? I am wrong. God, God, I am wrong. And when he said I am wrong, everything changed.

And those are the hardest words that you'll ever hear in society. No one says I'm wrong. Am I right? That's funny.

Am I right? Yeah, I'm wrong. You don't hear that from Republicans. You don't hear it from Democrats.

You don't hear it from anybody. We're never wrong. Some people who profess to be Christians hold the most preposterous connections to policy and people and lewdness and horrible stuff, murder even, and no.

Don't tell me I'm wrong. Don't tell me I'm wrong. Don't you tell me I'm wrong.

I know, but that's hate, that's bitterness. Jesus would never act like that. Don't tell me I'm wrong.

Don't tell me I'm wrong. I thought you were a pastor. I thought you loved me.

Pastors are supposed to love me, which means you're always supposed to reinforce what I'm doing. No, then what kind of life will we live? That's getting rid of the prophets like we all have. It's very hard for our egos to say I am wrong, but that's what opens the windows of heaven.

That's why so many Christians are living down here when God wants us living up here. Why? We're just too stinking proud, excuse the expression, to say I am wrong. We can say you're wrong.

No, you're wrong. We're very good at that. But I am wrong? Tell me how many times you hear that.

Tell me what you hear out in Fulton Street, Living Sin, Fifth Avenue, anywhere you go in the country. Tell me how many times you hear people say I am wrong. So now ministers have picked up on that and now have diluted the gospel and won't preach against sin because they know that if you mention sin and the commandments of God and his holy nature, what you're implying is that some of the listeners are wrong and people don't like to be told they're wrong.

They will not come back next week. So if you wanna grow your church, stay off the wrong business. Am I correct or not? But what's gonna happen in the end? How are ministers gonna face God? What's gonna happen? That's Manasseh religion.

I'm okay, you're okay. But everything changes when we say I am wrong. Say it with me.

I am wrong. Check your attitudes today. Check your relationships with people.

Check how you talk about people when they're not present. Check how what you watch, what you read, anything filthy coming in your eye gate or your ear gate. Just check it out with God, not me.

I'm just a guy. I need to learn to say I am wrong. Whenever God puts his finger on something and convicts us in the most gentle way, the moment we read God's word and that word cuts us, you have to say I am wrong.

Don't you want God to bless us? Don't you want God's life-giving spirit flowing in your life? It all begins with I am wrong. Until you say I'm wrong, God's hands are tied even though he's God. He could not help Manasseh whatsoever.

Send him prophets, couldn't help him though until in a hard place with a hook in his nose, he said I am wrong. So I'm not gonna judge anyone here. I have to look out at my own salvation.

But I'm telling you the first three of the seven words that will change everything is I am wrong. Doesn't God send his own prophets to our lives? Maybe not physical men and women, prophets and prophetesses, but little nudges, little things to just, that's not good. And God's waiting to say I am wrong.

I am wrong. No, no, we justify, we rationalize. You don't know how I was raised.

My father was an alcoholic. Doesn't matter that my dad was an alcoholic. I'm wrong.

A lot of years in the other facility we had, we had our staff meeting in the office and people were gathering in my office. We only had like nine or 10, 12 people in the whole staff. So they all came to my office to talk about things.

And as we were gathering, somebody in the staff came in, one of the guys, and was saying something about someone who visited the church and something about one of their physical characteristics or something and it wasn't polite, it wasn't nice. And they said that to me as they were just sitting down. And next to me was one of the administration, one of the young ladies who worked in the church as a secretary.

And as he told it to me, I laughed because it was funny, but it wasn't nice. And I laughed and then I caught someone gazing at me and I turned and there she was just looking at me. Like how could you? How could you laugh at that? How could you as a Christian, much less a pastor, how could you do that? Now she was a secretary, I could have looked at her and said, excuse me, I'm the pastor.

She was right, I was wrong. When the meeting was over, I had to apologize to her and say, I'm sorry, I never should have laughed at what he said, that wasn't funny, that was wrong. Ooh, but what lightness came into my spirit.

What peace, what joy. The moment you say, I am wrong, it's like you got that weight off your back. The moment you're justifying and rationalizing and making excuses, the three words Satan has never said in his life is I am wrong.

And when Satan injects his spirit into us, spirit of pride, that's what he keeps us from ever saying, I am wrong. And think of all the bloodshed and all the feuds going on and all of the separation of family members and all kinds of things that go on because people are held back because of our pride and stubbornness. We can't say, I am wrong.

I wanna help you, I want God to help me. I want the blessing of God on your life and I know it all begins like it did for Manasseh. Look at what God can do the moment someone says, I am wrong.

And now of course, in our culture, the battle is not just against our pride, but the battle is against the fact that there is no truth, there is no right, there is no wrong. So if you say to someone, even as a pastor, I'm supposed to, with all patience, I'm supposed to encourage people, correct people, rebuke people. Guess what? The encouraging part's not hard for the people to take.

It's the correction and the rebuking sometimes because what people say is no, that's your opinion. No, it's not my opinion. Here's what God's word says.

No, I'm not interested in what God's word says. I don't hear that in the church I used to go to. I think you're being judgmental.

But listen, God is never judgmental. He wants to help us. He wants to heal us.

How many lift a hand and say amen? He wants to bring us to the place where the blessing is. As Spurgeon, the great English preacher said, God keeps the best wine in the lowest part of the cellar. When you go down is when you get the best from God.

The haughty, the people who justify and won't say I'm wrong, they miss out. First three words, I am wrong. Say it one more time, I am wrong.

And you can say it to a person and restore a friendship. I am wrong. To your wife, that's a hard one.

To your husband, to your child, I am wrong. Not gonna justify, not gonna cover up because I have a certain relationship or authority. I am wrong.

Ask the pastors like Pastor Hammond. He and I have been counseling people from before some of you were born. All the tragedy we see because nobody can get to the place with one another to say I am wrong.

They bring their parents into their marriage, just run them through the marriage, living on top of each other. I just dealt with a case not here in this church. The husband and wife couldn't go on a vacation without his parents going for 15 years.

Shared the same room and they slept on the floor. The parents slept in the bed. Guess what? That husband needs to say I am wrong.

But for the life of me, I couldn't get him there. Push back. No, you don't understand.

No, don't you understand how that affects her? Just say to her now, I am wrong. Can't get him there. So thus there's no trust, thus there's no relationship because no one's willing to say I am wrong.

Second two words, just two now. We're down to four left. Two words are what Manasseh said when he was there.

Not only I am wrong, but forgive me. That's what he said to God. Forgive me.

Have mercy. I'm wrong and now I'm asking God, would you have mercy on me? Would you forgive me? I know, but after what you've done, I know, but you're so merciful. You're so great.

I don't have a hope in this world unless you would show mercy to me. God, forgive me. You not only have to say constantly every day, be ready to say I am wrong.

You constantly have to be asking God for mercy and say, forgive me. Don't we stumble every day? Wait a minute, I'm the only one who stumbles every day? How many stumble every day? You say a thing, do something, and immediately when you're walking close to the Lord, the Holy Spirit just whoop there, and you gotta learn to say, I'm wrong, forgive me. Not just I'm wrong.

That'll lead to depression. Forgive me. Remember the story about, I'll read it to you.

Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else. Nah, everybody else is not what they should be, but not me. Two men went to the temple to pray, Jesus said.

One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. That was the low life as religious people looked down on them. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer.

I thank you God that I am not a sinner like everyone else. For I don't cheat, I don't sin, and I don't commit adultery. I'm not like that tax collector.

I fast twice a week, and I give you a 10th of my income. But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, oh God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.

I tell you, Jesus said, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled. The Pharisee was parading his great works and all his strong points, and the other guy couldn't even look to God.

He was so overwhelmed by God's holiness and greatness, and he just pounded his chest and said, just have mercy, please, forgive me. And Jesus said, guess who went home accepted by God? Not the religious person, the tax collector, who just said the magic two words, forgive me, have mercy, forgive me. Isn't that amazing that God waits until people say that before he can do anything? Those five words go together.

I am wrong, have mercy, and God is rich in mercy. But you gotta understand this about God. He does not show mercy until you ask for mercy.

He's rich in mercy to everyone who calls upon his name. You have to call and just say, it's there, it's available. Satan will tell you two lies, that you've done too much wrong to ever get mercy, or he'll go on the other side and say, just don't ask him, don't go through that, just don't worry, he loves you just the way you are.

Keep on rolling the way you're rolling. But God, the Holy Spirit, is saying, no, stop and say, I am wrong, have mercy, forgive me, forgive me. Maybe there's somebody in your family or in this building today that God is ready to open the windows of heaven if you would just go to them and say, forgive me, forgive me.

You know, we hold onto these things, and who do we hurt by holding onto them? Ourselves. You don't hurt the person. By not saying, forgive me, oh my goodness.

I've told you before, let me just remind you, in the other building, on the way to church that Sunday morning, my wife and I had some words. I know you don't believe that, but we had some words. And she said something I didn't take a liking to, so I replied in my own little sick, sarcastic way or whatever.

So we had a wall between us, and we go to church, and she's on the other side playing the keyboard, and I'm on the other side. We start to worship, Pastor Hammond, I think, was leading, and we start to sing, and I lift my hands, and I want to worship with all of you. And it's like the Holy Spirit speaks to me and says, are you kidding me? You gotta be joking, right? Go over there and apologize, say you're sorry.

Ask her to forgive you. Oh no, this is not the voice of God. This is an evil spirit that has come to torment me.

That's the truth before God, it's the truth. Because it's so hard to say to another person, forgive me. Isn't that something about us? Come on, husbands, come on, wives, come on, people, isn't it so? So then I had to take the long walk.

You know the execution chamber they have in prisons? I was just like. And just before I got to her, she was playing the keyboard, just before I reached out, I was crying. She turned to me and said, I'm sorry, before I could say even please forgive me.

But then I could worship God. How could I preach with that in my spirit? How can you preach if you have unforgiveness towards someone? So let's say to one another all the time, just forgive me. Even if you're not sure you hurt the person, if they feel they're hurt, what does it cost you to say forgive me? What, do you have to have a legal case, do law and order episode? Just say forgive me.

Everybody turn to your left and right, even if you don't know the person, just say forgive me, come on. Forgive me, forgive me, forgive me, forgive me, forgive me. Did you do it? Don't you feel better? How many feel better? You don't even know the person.

Let me close, so whether it's with God or whether it's with people, I am wrong, say it. I am wrong. Forgive me, say it.

Forgive me. There's one last thing, change your life. Keep that spirit, ask God to keep that spirit in you.

Constantly, not for the message today, constantly, every day, be ready to say I am wrong. Oh, God will see that humble attitude. He will say I will bless you, exalt you.

I'll bless your children and your great-grandchildren. I will do everything because you went down and I will lift you up because that's what I said I'll do. But if you justify, rationalize, fight, eh, I don't like you anyway, all that, you lose out with God.

So I am wrong, forgive me, last one. Thank you. When he got back to Jerusalem, he said get the sacrifices back.

What kind, Manasseh? Oh, sacrifice of thanksgiving. I gotta thank God for all he's done for me. Don't be mopey, don't be complaining.

Look what Colossians says. Watch the three repetition and I'm done. Watch the three repetition from Colossians.

And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts for as members of one body you are called to live in peace. That's a verse against all fighting between Christians, all fighting about anything. If you're fighting with another Christian, I don't care what you're fighting about, you're out of the will of God.

You're out of the will of God. We're not supposed to be fussing and fighting. Can I get a loud amen from everyone? For as members of one body, you are called to live in peace and always be what? Let the message about Christ and all his riches fill your lives.

Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with what kind of hearts? Thankful hearts. And then finally, and whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

I was just thinking as I was walking to church today, I thank God for Daryl Wynn. I don't even know him, but I thank God for him because he's helped me. Has anyone ever helped you along the way? I said, has anyone ever helped you? I wonder if you told them thanks.

I wonder if you say thanks to people or you just assume they'll know. You ever stop a choir member when they come off and say, you practice so hard, you pray together, you sing week after week, you've lifted me at times when I'm down. Why don't you give one of them a hug and say thank you? You have some problems? Look down and see your shoes.

A lot of people don't have shoes. Why don't you thank God for your shoes today? Why don't you thank God that you can sit in a seat? Some people can't sit in a seat. Whatever is happening around you, don't count your problems and be depressed and be that kind of person.

Who wants to be around that person? And what kind of advertisement is that for Jesus? No, but I feel depressed. I feel very this. Well, stop being depressed and start giving thanks.

I have found this. The best antidote for anger, when you feel angry about something, start praising God. The anger will fly out of town.

It'll go right out of town. You cannot be thanking God and be angry at the same time. How many lift your hand and say amen to that? No, so don't combat your anger.

Don't say anger, I'm gonna overcome you. Just start praising God. Just start thanking him and the anger will dissipate.

If you got melancholy feelings, remember we're all chemical. We're all got things going on and there's sad things that have happened to us, lost family members. Just start thanking God.

But pastor, I don't feel like thanking God. God didn't ask you to feel anything. He told you to thank him.

Just start thanking him and the feelings will come. This is what many people don't understand. When Manasseh came back, he started just thanking God.

The hook was out of his nose. I would have liked to been there for that surgery, right? When they took that thing out and they were thanking God, praising God. After all my sins, here's something to thank God.

How about this? For all the horrible things you and I have done that many people don't know about some of the things we've done and said. How many are happy they're all under the blood of Jesus and have

been forgiven? Listen, you can't thank God for that. I know, but my child is struggling in the sixth grade.

I know, God will work that out. But how about thanking him? How about just thanking him? Why focus on the problem? Life is nothing but problems. And if you focus on them, they'll overwhelm you.

So just say it's another day. I'm gonna have new problems every day. And there they come, well, praise God.

But now let me think about the blessings of God. I'm not gonna forget any of your benefits. No, I'm gonna be thankful in everything.

Because my problem could be worse. I cried when I had no shoes until I met a man with no feet. And then I started thanking God that I had no shoes.

But at least I have feet. Am I right? Be thankful. Those are the seven words.

I am wrong. Forgive me. Thank you.

And say it to people. Say it to people. You got a mom or a dad who is good to you? Call them today and say thank you.

You got a friend that's been kind to you? Say thank you. Because the impoliteness now of our culture, our culture is just, it's sad, it's sickening. And leaders are exacerbating it.

No thankfulness, no humility. We live in a generation of you owe me. Entitlement.

Even if you're nice to me, you owe that to me. No, nobody owes you anything. Everything, even a glass of water, we should say thank you to people.

If someone opens the door for you, say thank you. Say thank you. Say thank you.

Everybody say thank you. Not only thank you to God, but thank you to people. I'm so blessed today.

Yesterday, let me close. Yesterday, something happened that just reminded me how God is just looking. It's so good.

There's a prayer band lady. She's sitting in here somewhere. I bought her breakfast yesterday.

I'm not telling you that because I bought her breakfast, because here's the story. I just told her the story now as we prayed in my office. So I went to the diner to get some food for my wife in the morning.

And I sit down, I'm reading a paper while I'm drinking coffee, waiting for her breakfast to be made. I could bring her something. I can't cook.

If I made her breakfast, she would say, no thank you, I'll move on to something else. I'm waiting for that, reading the paper, for drinking my decaf. And lady sits down next to me and goes, wow, I'm gonna have breakfast next to my pastor today.

So I don't know her. She's from New Jersey. She came in for a missions meeting.

She might be here. She's sitting there. We say a few words.

Then as she's leaving, the owner's son comes up to me and says, she paid for your breakfast. And I went, no, no ma'am, don't do that. Sister, don't, no.

She said, no, I wanna do that. So I said, thank you, the best I could. But she's walking out.

While I'm dialoguing with him, a little elderly man kind of walks by me and he stops and he shakes my hand. He's heading to the bathroom and I go, hi. And he goes, hi Pastor Symbolus, so he must know me.

So he goes in the bathroom. I'm thanking her. Now he comes out and he puts out his hand again to shake my hand again, which was odd.

And then there's something in his hand and he says, take your wife out. Take your wife out. And inside is a \$100 bill.

I mean, no, take your wife out. So I'm going, I'll make like \$10,000 if I just sit here. I'll be rich.

That's the truth before God. So now I have his \$100 bill. It's right in my wallet upstairs.

I don't know what to do with it. I told my wife it's like sacred. I'll spend it.

All right, all right, all right. As I'm getting up, I have my bill paid for. I have a \$100 bill.

So this prayer band sister who comes every Sunday morning to pray with us, she just sits down and I just look at her and she goes, hi. And I go, I'm buying you breakfast this morning. And she was like, what, what? And I went, no, no, everything, steak, eggs, whatever she wants.

God blesses us in so many little ways. How many have a track record that God has been so good to you in so many ways? Let's lift our hands and just thank him. Everyone, open your mouth.

Just thank him out loud. Choir, thank him out loud. Everybody, thank him.

Thank you, Lord. We thank you, Lord. We praise you, Lord.

We thank you, Lord, for all of our blessings. We have problems, but we thank you for our blessings, Lord. Father God, as we close, inject your humility into our hearts and teach us to be able to say very quickly, I am wrong.

Help us that. Take away the pride and the crustiness and the image preservation. Help us just to be able to say, I'm wrong.

I am wrong. Because God, I have been wrong so many times. Even when I thought I was right, I was wrong.

Teach us also to run to the throne of grace and be able to say, forgive me. Not just to you, but to people that we hurt or offend, even though we didn't mean it, even though we didn't mean it. And finally, God, would you fill my life with thanksgiving? Thanking you all the time, repeating myself just over and over all day long in every prayer with thanksgiving, every song with thanksgiving, every intercession with thanksgiving.

Help us to be thanking you all day long. We know the enemy never says those seven words. Satan has never said I am wrong.

He never says forgive me. He never says thank you. But we are not from the darkness.

We're from the light. And we give you thanks. Let your face shine upon us, for we pray it in Jesus' name.

Everyone in the choir and in the audience, stand, hug someone, and say not only hello, but I thank God for you. Come on, everyone hug someone. I thank God for you.

I thank God for you.

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