

Feeling Safe in a World Gone Mad

by Jim Logan

Developing a meaningful prayer life is essential for a Christian's spiritual growth and intimacy with God.

Duration: 54:44

Scripture: Exodus 33:14, Deuteronomy 31:6, Psalm 23:4, Matthew 6:33, Matthew 28:20, Hebrews 4:16, James 5:16

Topics: "Safety"

Description

The video is a sermon transcript that emphasizes the importance of having a personal relationship with God through prayer. The speaker encourages the audience to read a specific book that he believes will deepen their understanding of God and their faith. He also shares a personal anecdote about a powerful prayer experience and highlights the significance of testimonies in church services. The speaker concludes by emphasizing the need to live in the presence of God and the power of prayer in experiencing victory in life.

Transcript

If you want to find my most favorite pass out that I like to read every place I go, from my favorite author, Calvin Miller, and you have, and my prayer letter, it's always stuff from these things, it's never, I mean you won't, you don't even know I'm married. I mean it's all about, my prayer letter says, can I encourage you to walk with God? That's the whole purpose of sending out my prayer letter, it's just to encourage people to keep on keeping on. But Calvin Miller is my absolute favorite writer because he writes like I wish I could.

He talks like Ron, you know, with proper English and all that stuff. And my wife says, I feel sorry for those people, you don't even have good grammar. Well I went to grammar school in LA, no wonder.

But, what are we doing? Everybody, no wonder they're all happy. We can't hear them, turn it down, turn it down. Centering, read it, centering, you will love it.

It is absolutely, not while I'm speaking, I beg your pardon. But it is in the middle here and these aren't numbers so I couldn't tell you to go to page whatever. But anyway, in one of my prayer letters I have Calvin Miller's thing, Living for God's Pleasure.

It's one of the pass outs in my prayer letters. And if you, nothing else, just take that one, which is the last one I gave. It's around behind these things, but it's the thicker one.

It's the one, because I always take something by Andrew Murray or by somebody in prayer and give a double page pass out in my prayer letter. So you can take that, use it, whatever. But anyway, I just wanted to share that with you.

As I was saying, there's only one secret place left. If you don't have one of these, I mean if you walk out of here with no books, shame on you. You may, as my granddaughter who went to an independent Baptist kindergarten, came home to her four year old brother and said, do you want to receive Jesus? And he said no.

She said you're going to burn in hell. That's the one who's a marine. She's just visualizing achievement for her brother.

But anyway, there's only one left. And if you don't have one of these, if you can read this book, it doesn't challenge you to draw closer to God. It doesn't open your eyes to the depths of prayer, but not overwhelming or discourage.

I don't make very much money, but I will give you the \$7 you pay for this book. And if I could, I'd put this in the hand of every Christian. Because it's easy reading.

And yet it's just, anyway, we're going to run out of time. Elmer Townes, anything he writes is excellent. You want to read about fasting? Get Elmer Townes' books on fasting.

You want to go into the Lord's Prayer? Read his book on the Lord's Prayer. And this one is just praying and a lot of struggles with praying. Elmer Townes writes where you can understand it and not where it, you know, he runs Liberty or something.

I mean, he's with Jerry Falwell. But some of the books are like overwhelming, and I read them, and it's like I'm going to start on a prayer, and the guy puts the bar at 16 feet. You know, I can't hardly jump three.

And so I don't like those kind of books that leave me discouraged. Praying Backwards is really, really excellent. I told you that at Ryan Chapel.

And this is, I'm talking about the Lord's Prayer today. And this is James White, and this is the little book back there on the Lord's Prayer. It's a little small book, but it's a very excellent book on the Lord's Prayer.

And I probably have, I don't know, 50 books that are strictly on the Lord's Prayer, maybe more than 50. That's all it is. It's just writing on the Lord's Prayer.

And I had no idea how deep the Lord's Prayer was. And I remember when I pastored my first little church, they said the Lord's Prayer every Sunday. And that was getting too liberal for me as a pastor in a little country church.

So I had them stop it because I thought it was vain repetition. Well, it could have been. But you know what vain repetition is if you look at it? It's praying without thinking about what you're saying.

It's not rapidity. So even someone that does a rosary and does the Lord's Prayer every third bead or whatever, if they're thinking about it, it may not be the same thing as in your church when you do the Lord's Prayer and no one is thinking what they're saying. Do you know what I'm saying? They're really thinking about what they're saying.

It's just off the top of your head. And a lot of our praying is off the top of our heads. This is vain repetition.

Words that really mean nothing. Okay, let's see. Did you take the thing off the front? I didn't see him sneak up here and do that.

Okay. Oh, we got something up there. Okay, how can you protect yourself from severe, unnecessary problems? And how can you also protect your family by developing intimacy with God and developing intimacy with God is really neat.

On that deal there that I told you to read on centering, one of the ladies there says, you know, I'll put it in my words, I know I really need to pray. I know I really need to develop a prayer life. And between the desire to really pray, I know I need to do this can be 20, 30, or 40 years.

I mean, is there anybody here who doesn't think you need to pray? Anybody here who doesn't think people ought to have a prayer life? I don't ask you to raise your hand, but do you have one? Do you have that closeness with God? We know we need it. But let me tell you, I really believe, see, we expect when we're dealing with spiritual warfare, we don't recognize it because we're looking for epileptic seizures. We're looking for all this, you know, ripping clothes off and breaking chains and all this stuff.

But I want to have a prayer life, and then I just kind of forget about it. I don't do it. That is an attack of the enemy.

Do you think he wants you to talk with the Lord? He thinks he wants you to have that closeness with him? No. We don't recognize how Satan works in our own personal lives. And we've got to recognize that he wants to come between me and God.

How do we do this? By developing a meaningful prayer life or a life of prayer. In different times in my life, God brought me to things like this where he would really stir me, but I never did anything with it. I was busy for God.

See, I was too busy for him to spend time with him. You know what I'm saying? And busyness has destroyed more Christian leaders and success than any other things. Failures have never destroyed a believer.

Because when a believer fails, what does he do? Brushes the dirt off his knees and goes on. But all of a sudden you have success, and wow, look what I've done. Forget it, brother.

If you did it, it's not going to be lasting. There's not going to be any eternal significance. So I want to develop this meaningful prayer life.

And I went back and started reading 2nd and 3rd century people. I'll go back as close as I can to the early church and find out what did these people say about prayer. And you'd be amazed.

I have probably 300 books that are written between the 2nd and the 4th century. I've gone back and read. And they're hard reading, let me tell you.

And the print is real tiny. But I was amazed at the prayer life that these people had and the walk with God they had, because I was always told these kinds of people didn't have that kind of stuff. The effect of prayer is union with God.

And if someone is with God, he is separated from the enemy. Isn't that beautiful? But I'm telling you, if I'm walking with God, I will recognize when the enemy is attacking. I will sense the presence of the enemy in situations that this is not a good situation.

Women, a lot of women have that second whatever. I'm not getting in the elevator with that guy with the suit on. I just don't feel good about it.

And then later on she finds out why God told her not to get in the elevator. Who taught me to pray was the demons. They tempted me so badly that I could only defend myself by them constantly resorting to prayer.

I like that one. I was so under attack I had to go to God. Prayer is not that which is found only in the mouth, but that which springs from the bottom of the heart.

And a lot of prayer is from the mouth, right? You know, words. You know, I've done all this. All I've got to tell you, I have sort of a sense of humor.

I hope it doesn't offend you. But we have all these books on prayer, and every night when we go to pray for the dinner, I say, God bless this food. Let's eat.

And my wife says, you know, do you know how much money that over 1,000 books would cost if they were just \$10 a piece? She said, it seems like we could have a better prayer dinner with all the money we spent on these books. I thought, okay, honey, I'll fix you. So the next night for prayer I sit there and I said, all right, let's pray.

God bless the missionaries in Japan. God bless the missionaries in Taiwan. God bless the missionaries in the Philippines.

She said, let's eat. I won. But I'm not good in public prayer because I want to be able to really open my heart up to God, and he's not going to judge it.

You know what I'm saying? And it may not make sense. I'm so glad we've got the Holy Spirit because he takes a mixed-up prayer and makes sense out of it. You know, I don't have to be worried about when I talk to him I don't think, what am I going to say, or you know what I'm saying, all this kind of stuff, because we have a close relationship.

I just talked to her this morning, you know, about Bill Faye and his beautiful daughters and ugly son-in-law and all this stuff. They're sitting right here and he's smiling. He's smiling.

He's all red. You know, when you love a guy, you can just love on him. Out of the depths, I've cried unto you, O Lord.

Have you been there? Where all you can do is just cry from the very depths of your being to God. Now, I remember at times when it looked like our children were going to die and certain things, and I'll tell you, I learned how to pray from out of the depths. And sometimes you're crying.

You don't know what to say. You can hardly put words to it. It's just almost like groans of your heart going up to God.

Prayer is the raising of the mind and the heart to God in praising and thanksgiving. You know, as I was looking, I just thought of Diane, you know, Ron Susak's wife. Do you know that when you praise God and

when you live a life of praise, that that expels the forces of darkness? Are you aware of that? Remember when Saul was oppressed and David came and played the harp, what happened? The forces of darkness left him.

The oppressors left him. Remember the doctor I told you that was going to kill himself with a shotgun and didn't? He hadn't slept for three months all night long, came to my office, and I said, I have a tape by two Christian girls I've known for years, really sweet girls. It's a harp tape.

It's the most beautiful, melodious tape that I know of. I've sold those tapes for the girls, thousands and thousands of them. The Chris sisters.

I gave them a copy for free. The girls gave me tapes to give away to our counselees. He bought a continuous CD player, and for the first time in three months, he slept all night long as the harp music was playing hymns.

See, it removed. Even though this man was a mess, he was a mess. When a medical doctor is trying to kill himself and all this other stuff, you know his life was really messed up, and it was.

I'm not belittling what was going on, but praise repelled the enemy, and he could sleep, and he slept from then on every time he played it. When he stopped playing it, they'd be back until we'd get through with him. We cannot know God if we're always in motion, and that's my problem.

If I'm not in motion, you know, Ron is right. I know I had to be ADD, but they didn't know what to call it when I was little. I mean I'm so wired up now.

When I take my counselors with me to Africa or somewhere, they're knocked out, and I'm running like crazy, and they're going, you know, you're old. We ought to be keeping up with you. So I probably gave my mom and dad a run for their money and the teachers when I was little, but God was winding me up when I got older.

I wouldn't get unwound down too quick. So there's hope for your ADD kids. But if I'm not moving, my mind's going.

And that's why I had the most terrible time in being quiet before the Lord. I could sit there, which was hard for me, but then my mind's going every which way. And let me tell you, God doesn't speak in the confusion of your mind.

I mean you'd have to yell, and I wouldn't recognize it anyway. I'd think it was Marguerite. Oh, is that you, Marguerite? No, it's just God.

No, my wife doesn't yell. You'd be amazed. You meet my wife.

You know how opposites? She's sweet, she's quiet, and she's a lovely Christian. Just when you look at her, you see there is a godly woman. I think all the reason the churches took me was because my woman made such a good impression of being godly.

They thought, well, there's hope for him. He'll take her. Jesus found it necessary to guard carefully his time for quiet and communion with God.

And I said, look at Jesus' prayer life in Scripture. Just go through the Gospels and look at it. See, how much more do we need to develop the same thing Jesus did? If a man cannot be alone, he doesn't know who he is.

And that's sometimes the fear of getting alone. All of a sudden the real me starts coming up. Prayer is to stand before God.

To pray is to wait upon God, not only to speak to him, but also to listen in silence. And you'll get that in Centering. That's so beautiful, which he wrote.

Oh, I went the wrong direction. There are three kinds of silence. There's the silence of the body.

You know, I need to go somewhere where I can sit down. We're talking about being alone and quiet before the Lord. I need to quiet my body.

Two, silence of the tongue. Three, silence of the soul. Physical, the tongue, the soul, my mind, emotions and will and all of that brings us in touch with God.

And this is not easy. Maybe for some people it is. It was very difficult for me.

I almost gave up many times that maybe I could never have a closeness with God because I just can't be quiet. And I kept saying, God, you've got to help me. I was like Peter sinking.

God, it isn't working. Even with my toilet running, as my daughter called it. How about that will help? It's just bubbling over the rocks.

That was a help. But still, I just needed God to help me. It just isn't who I am.

And I really needed it. It was St. Augustine that said that. Andrew Murray.

There's books by Andrew Murray back there. You will never go wrong reading an Andrew Murray book, never. They're all wonderful.

And I put a lot of Andrew Murray stuff in the stuff you got. So if you've never been exposed to him, look at the Andrew Murray stuff that's in there. And look at this.

This is so awesome. If children do not learn to pray when they are young, they will struggle with prayer the rest of their life. How many of you were taught to pray as a little child? Really taught.

Praise God. Because you still pray, don't you? Do you know that we had the president of Prairie. I can't think of his name.

He's not there anymore. And it wasn't the founder's son that left. It was a guy that replaced him.

He came to CEF. I hadn't come, and it wasn't on a day of prayer. But he came and he talked about he studied revivals around the world.

And most all of the major revivals worldwide could be traced to children's prayer meetings. And this guy had tons of books on revival. I mean, I saw his desk.

My son went to Prairie, and he was president at that time. Walked by his office. His one office is for books stacked all over everywhere.

Besides, the bookcases are full. The floors are stacked up. This guy was just as bad.

I mean, I think I got a bug from him when I started buying prayer books because they're stacked all over the house, too. We don't have enough bookcases for them. I mean, the basement.

They wouldn't be stacked upstairs. My wife would not allow that. But downstairs, they're all over the place.

And I didn't know that. What about Moody? Remember Moody? Who was the thing behind Moody's revival in England? A girl in a wheelchair. Remember that? That was crying out to God for England.

Boy, let me tell you, there's power in a child's prayer. You know why children pray? They don't have any obstacles. If God said it, that's it.

It's real easy for a child. They just believe. That's why it's so easy to work in child evangelism.

Or other ministries that are working with children. Because children, if they trust you, they'll believe what you say. And they have tremendous faith.

I mean, our kids sometimes, I was really concerned. Because they'd be praying for clothes. We didn't have enough clothes for them.

And I'm wondering, are we going to get clothes? And they're already thanking God for sending them. And he always did. Because there were needs.

It wasn't kids were praying for just stuff. They were praying for basic, basic needs. God loves to hear the cries of little children that come to him.

And woe be a child that cries because you're mistreating them. Their angels are standing in the face of God on their behalf. Let's look at the Lord's Prayer.

Now, when I started developing my prayer life, I didn't know where to go. So I thought, well, I probably should do the Lord's Prayer. I'll go back to the Lord's Prayer, which I threw out of church when I was a young pastor at a Bible school with all the answers and very conservative.

And I went back, and what I did is I just listed the Lord's Prayer by phrases. That's what I did. So I laid them down.

I wanted to look at it. What is this prayer all made up of? And as I was looking, how does the prayer start? Our what? Our Father. All of a sudden, I thought, I've got a problem.

Now, if the word Father gave me a bad connotation, that meant I had not fully forgiven my dad. And remember, I tried to kill myself because of the way my dad treated me when I was 15 1/2. I tried to commit suicide.

But I had fully worked through that, and I had fully, as best as I know how, gave that to God and forgave him. And so when the word Father came to my mind, I didn't have any bad feelings. I had no feelings.

I didn't realize that. I could have said our chair, our table. I could have said anything.

And I'm going, even though I am a fundamental Christian, I ought to have some feelings for God. It should do something, and it was doing nothing. And so I went to Dr. Rumberger, and some of you in the past have heard Dan speak at these things.

And I sat down. His office is right next to mine. I went and sat down, and I said, Dan, psychologize me.

I said, I've got an issue here. I said, there's something really wrong. When I say Father, it doesn't do anything.

Now, maybe I was afraid I'd be too much of an emotional charismatic when I say Father, I just fall to pieces or something. I don't know. But it just didn't - it was not right.

There was something radically wrong. Then it dawned on me, why didn't I have a prayer life? If that was my concept of God, but just kind of nothing, why would I pray? Do you understand what I'm saying, people? If you don't know who God is, you're not going to talk to Him. And that's when I had to go back and study the names of God by going through K. Arthur's book, Lord, I Want to Know You.

I knew who he was by name, but I didn't know him. Oh, Elion, I can name El Shaddai, I can name all those things. We sing about them.

But what did they mean? What did they bring to me? Nothing. They were words that said his name. You could say Ron Susack, Diane Susack.

But if you've never met her, never heard her, it's just what? Just a name. But now when you can associate stuff with that name, it's a whole different story. And that's why if you don't know who God is, I'm telling you, your prayer life is going to be lousy.

It just will be. I have to know who I'm praying out to. I have to know he's there.

I'm telling you, it's not that way anymore with me. But I didn't know if I could get over the first hurdle. The first hurdle is his name.

Teach your children to follow guidelines that Jesus himself taught. You want to teach your kids to pray? Here's some guidelines in teaching your children to pray or yourself. To begin with, adoration.

You start taking the Lord's Prayer and break it down. I don't even have all of this. I have a notebook just on different ways of praying the Lord's Prayer, and it isn't all on here.

But you break down what is this. The Lord's Prayer starts with adoration. Oops, sorry.

Hallowed be thy name. In the middle is what? Thanksgiving. This is probably the simplest way to break down the Lord's Prayer in teaching little kids to pray.

Thanksgiving. Confession. Repentance.

And it ends with worship and praise and glory forever. That is the simplest way to break the Lord's Prayer down for children. Just following what Jesus did starts with adoration, with his name, hallowing his name.

In the middle, thanksgiving, confession, repentance, and then worship and praise. There's many other ways we're going to see on this thing, but I'll let you write that down because it's very simple. In my prayer time, I cannot pray through the Lord's Prayer in one hour or more.

I have to break the Lord's Prayer up. That's why I have a notebook. I brought a Lord's Prayer notebook, and I just put one of those things where I have to stop.

I ran out of time. As I really learned to go through these different aspects, just of that, and there's many other ways that I try to follow in praying, five minutes. Remember Jesus said, couldn't you watch with me for an hour? I'll tell you, in the north woods we get the guys overwhelmed at that prayer seminar for a week, just guys meeting together, teaching them how to pray.

Guys say, I can't believe that. I never prayed for five minutes, let alone an hour. And we've had men stand up and weep as we just did Dick Eastman's, the 12 aspects of prayer and spending five minutes with these 12 aspects.

But if they don't even spend five minutes, if most guys spend one minute of his thing, they've prayed at least 12 minutes, 2 minutes, 24 minutes, and we had guys weeping. And I'll tell you the neatest thing of all, what the last one was in my prayer letter. Fathers can bring their sons with them to this thing.

And the very last night, the first time we prayed all together, the men sit in a chair up front and share. And most of these guys had been broken that week. And every time a father was broken and saying, I need prayer for this and that, the first one to run up and to lay hands on him was his 12, 14, 15-year-old son.

And others gathered around. And Mary, who's our cook, is weeping. You ever sense the presence of God? I've always sensed the presence of God in the Northwoods on the last night when dads are sitting there and asking other guys to pray for them and just sharing their heart, opening, not afraid to share their heart, and to see their kids come and be the first one.

And some of these kids were kind of snot-nosed teenagers that kind of came. And God worked in their life as they began to spend time with God and learning how to develop a prayer life too. This is Richard Burr.

And Richard Burr's prayer is a book we give at the office. And it's Developing Your Secret Closet of Prayer. And it's another one because we've used it here before.

That's why he did Warren Worsby. But it's another beginning book on prayer for someone. And his Chapter 4 is going into the throne room, which I talked a little bit about.

Remember what it's like to walk into the throne room of God? His Chapter 4 is on that. His Chapter 5 is how to pray scripture back to God. So Richard Burr's book, and they reprinted it.

It went out of print. They reprinted it, but they're not going to reprint the Ogilby's. I don't know.

Here's another way of breaking the Lord's Prayer down. Our, the idea here of community. It's our Father, a relationship.

Who art in heaven, authority. So you have community, relationship, and authority. Commitment.

Hallowed be thy name, committed to holiness. Because he is holy, then I should what? Be holy, live out who God declares me to be. Do you know I'm holy? I have to remind my wife that periodically.

I don't know what it is. This kid that had learning disabilities, and I told you it was there. It was so neat.

We bonded. It was so wonderful. He hated taking showers, and so do I. I said, maybe we're related.

I'll come home, and I'm just tired. I'm not going to take a shower at 4 o'clock in the morning. It just doesn't appeal to me to get to work by 5. I'm just not going to do that.

But when I come home, and it's been a real emotionally draining day, the last thing I want to do is to walk in the stupid shower. My wife just can't believe it. How can you be holy and not take a shower? It just absolutely doesn't come together.

So maybe us with learning disabilities. Who else is dyslexic here? Yeah, you are. Do you like taking showers? I'm going to change something about the Bible.

The Bible says in the mouth of two witnesses. Forget about the third. He doesn't look dyslexic, does he? No.

That's the bad problem with that particular kind of stuff we have. It doesn't show, does it? And people don't know, and they just can't understand. So if I read things wrong, even on this, just hang in there.

Thy kingdom come, a commitment to preparation. You know, never pray a prayer that you're not willing to be part of the answer. God, send your kingdom.

And so the pastor asks money to help this thing and that thing. Are you kidding? It's amazing when guys get baptized how they can hold their wallets out of the water. I don't know how they do it.

You know, I am not anti-charismatic. I'm a non-charismatic. And we do a lot of counseling with charismatics because I know the issues.

I say, are you a Baptist? No. I said, you're a non-Baptist then. It doesn't mean they're anti-anything.

You know, what flavor are you going to be? You've got to choose something. But anyway, you know, the charismatics really have got a handle on prayer. I mean, you want to go to a church that probably really believes in prayer, you're going to find more charismatic churches really believe in prayer than the fundies.

You know, being warm and so on. But, you know, are you willing to participate in establishing God's kingdom? Look at my brother back there. We met, Terry was 12, I think, the first time we met.

I'm not sure you were driving then and shaven. But anyway, I've known Terry for years. Almost got sucked into being in his same ministry but down in Gothenburg, wasn't it? Gothenburg, whatever, down there.

But, you know, he's been involved in establishing God's kingdom his whole life, and now it has changed overseas. But he's still involved doing that. Are you involved? Are you supporting missionaries? Are you praying for missionaries? I mean, don't tell me that you are concerned for a lost world and you're not doing anything financially.

But anyway, I just wish a big charismatic church would have me come. I mean, a mega charismatic church. And I'm going to have them come up, and I'm going to pray that they might receive a gift of the Holy Spirit.

And all those that want that gift, come up here, and I'm going to lay hands on you. I'm going to pray they're going to get the gift of giving. Not too spectacular, but horribly needed, isn't it? I just wish they would emphasize that one, which would benefit us a lot more than some of the others they emphasize.

I mean, I've never heard a church give an invitation to get the gift of giving. I'm serious. I mean, you just have to be in our kind of ministry, and I'll tell you, it doesn't take very long, and you're out of that ministry, if God doesn't touch hearts.

Thy will be done. Committed to obedience. You're praying God's will to be done.

Are you going to be obedient to what God's laying on your heart? I mean, this prayer can be very personal. You understand what I'm saying? I can pray this from the top of my head, or I can pray this with the purpose of what? Becoming involved. Being part of what I'm praying about.

The third petition. Our daily bread. Trust the Lord for physical provisions, like eggs and stuff.

Let me tell you a story. We've always tried to get our churches to trust God and to live by faith. And we had a brand-new couple come to church in Tacoma, Washington.

The guy was a cartoonist in the newspaper, and they were horribly in debt, and I was saying, that's not really what God wants. They got a lot of mail, but it was always from Sears, pennies, and all this other stuff. And they purposed in their heart that they weren't going to go in debt anymore.

Because once you're in debt, the credit card comes out all the time. And then you can't give because you're trying to pay off all the stuff. And so they were at the house, and that morning they had no toothpaste.

And they also had no money. And it was just cutting close to payday. And the wife said, okay, you know what they teach at our church? And they're just new-begin believers.

I mean they hadn't been saved for maybe not even three months. And they said, you know, we're supposed to trust God and so on. She said, why don't we pray for toothpaste? We don't have any.

I think we ought to have toothpaste. We've got a few days left. The kids ought to brush their teeth.

So they knelt and prayed and asked God to send them toothpaste. So she goes down to the - they lived in a big complex, you know, where all the mailboxes are together. And she opens hers, and praise God, there was a sample of Crest.

She got that one. And as the people were - and when she left there, they were giving her samples. She had 25 samples of Crest.

Okay. On Sunday night in our church, we would not have a testimony that was over a week old. We wanted a church with living testimonies.

What has God done in your life? Prayer requests, give answers to that. And Sunday night service was more fun than Sunday morning. Sunday morning was me.

Sunday night was God. And so she's getting up there, and she's talking about how she prayed and got all this toothpaste. And she's crying.

She's never seen God actually do something like that as a brand-new Christian. And she ended it by saying, why didn't I pray for steaks? I'm telling you, church can be fun when people know how to get ahold of the Lord. You know, we always had fun in church.

I mean, we didn't make fun in church. You know what I'm saying? But I'm telling you, it's not like holy laughter when people are getting excited that God really is up there, and he really answers prayer, and he really works, especially new Christians. They don't have all the doubts that we have.

You know, they read it, they see it, and they - it's like kids. They just - they are new babes in Christ. Okay.

You know, forgiveness, trust, and cleansing from sin. Remember I said, don't go through and don't do introspection. It's just not a New Testament except at what? The communion table, the starting to stop.

How am I doing on time? My watch is goofy, and I'm goofy. Fifteen minutes. I've got to tell you a story.

Remember the story I told you about - or did I just tell it to - I'll tell you about Rebecca Dubarry. Did I tell it to hear the story about Rebecca Dubarry, the missionary that was translating for me in Gabon, Africa? I mean, okay. Rebecca is a missionary with CEF.

I've known Rebecca for years and years and years. She's now in - over in - not in Guam, but in one of those islands out in the Pacific there with her husband. She was single this time, and she had spent four years in Gabon, Africa.

She was on loan to CMA. And then she and Joy, after coming back, they were in another part of Gabon working and helping these pastors. And I was in Ghana doing warfare seminars for the ten Western African countries.

The top Christian leaders and their entourages were all there and came down. And I was counseling all these Christian leaders, every single Christian African leader. That means over all the Christianity for the country were struggling with demonic issues, every single one of them.

And so I could do the ones that spoke English, but when we had the ones from the French-speaking countries, Rebecca was my translator. I could tell you a lot of stories, but this is not a warfare conference. I won't go there.

But Rebecca told me, and this was just after Easter, she said, Oh, Dr. Logan, I've never told you the story that we found out before Easter and the story that just happened at Easter. And we were just right after Easter there. She said, Before Easter, I found out that in the first church we were at in Africa, the most wonderful thing they can do for you is to bring food.

If I really wanted to show that I cared about you and your family, I would cook food and bring it to you. The lady who was a deaconess, bring it to him, was not a Christian, and she was putting poison in the food. She kept upping the poison to kill these girls, and in four years she couldn't kill them because God was what? Their protector.

They didn't know they were eating poison, but it made her think of Mark. And then Rebecca said, At our church, and this happened just two weeks before she's sitting there in Ghana with me, she said, At Christmas and Easter, our church takes new converts and has baptism and communion. That's the only time that they do it in this particular church.

So this lady came at Easter time from the hill country. They didn't know who she was, and she wanted to be a member of the church. And she spoke the right answers to all the questions.

But the pastor had, like I teach counseling, the gut-level feeling. If you're going to be a counselor, you just can't go by the list of questions and check them off and all that. You've got to go by your gut-level feeling.

You sense something's wrong, something's wrong. You know what I'm saying? You've got to have that sensitivity that all what you see is not there. And so the pastor had that gut-level feeling.

We don't need to take this lady as a church member. There's something not right. Well, the next time she came down before Easter to join, the elders said they were mad before.

There's no reason you couldn't have her. Now they're really upset with her, and you've got to take her. He took her.

They baptized her. She had communion. That's Easter Sunday.

She got sick. Rebecca and her partner, Joy, took her to the pastor's house. She fell down on the kitchen floor.

The pastor came in and stood over her and said, you tell me, what is going on here? Who are you? And she died on the kitchen floor. They had no idea who this woman was, but they knew she was from another way up in the hill country. They sent her to the hill country, and they came down and got her.

And they said, don't you know who she is? They said no. She is the most powerful sorceress in our area. And she said, I will taste of the Christian's power before I die.

And God struck her dead. You're to examine yourself at the communion table. And let me tell you, in Africa, in that area, after a while, when they talked about examining your heart and being open to the Holy Spirit, none of them wanted to be on the kitchen floor of the pastor's house.

We need a little more of that in our church. I like to tell that story. That's a good before communion story.

Shake them up a little bit. God is watching. And you can tell your kids.

I grew up in warfare. At night, before she would go to sleep, the mother would come in and she would go. Go to sleep.

The rats are coming. Go to sleep. The rats are coming.

That's how she was put to sleep as a little girl. But you can go in and tell the kids, God is going to get you. God is going to get you.

Anyway, but we need to let the Holy Spirit search our heart. Search me, O God. If you do it, the enemy is going to help you, and you're going to end up in absolute despair.

One of the worst depressions I ever had was doing introspection. And as I was going through the garbage of my life, guess what I was finding? Garbage, and I couldn't stand it. And I had to agree with God.

In my flesh dwells what? No good thing. Agree with that. And God, if there's any no good thing you want me to deal with, I will.

Just bring it to my mind. I'll put it before you, but I'm not going to muck to the muck. I'm not going to get stuck in the muck.

A lot of depressed people are stuck in their failures. So trust God for cleansing and forgiveness. Deliverance from evil.

Trust for power over temptation. Go back and the couple up here, this young couple, has memorized Psalm 91. Memorize Psalm 91.

God's protection. Put yourself under his wings. Let him put his wings over you.

You know, it's all, that whole psalm is about being protected, and stuff won't come near your dwelling and all that stuff. It's a wonderful warfare psalm, one of the best warfare psalms. There's a lot of others, but Psalm 91.

You know, trust God for deliverance over temptation. I know that if I'm trusting and walking in God, God will not bring anything into my life which is beyond his control, which will ruin or hinder God's purpose for my life. I do not believe, you know, when I'm walking with God, that God will bring anything or allow anything to come into my life which is beyond God's control, which will ruin or hinder God's purpose for my life.

I love to, a good illustration of that is we used to read biographies to our kids at night before they went to sleep of great Christians when they were little teeny kids. And my son's favorite one was John Payton, 30 years with the cannibals. And that was when Richard, before he was five.

And here he is, a youth pastor in his third church, and he said to me, you know, Dad, something's really strange. I said, what's strange? He says, you know, I really like John Payton. I don't remember reading about him.

I said, oh, Richard, when you were four, I read his whole life to you. Every night, you know, they're trying to kill him. And every night Richard would say, oh, Dad, isn't God wonderful? You know, they throw a tomahawk at him and he'd trip and fall.

They set his fence on fire to burn his house down. They're out there with their clubs. God sent a rainstorm to put the fire out.

So every night God would say, isn't God wonderful? Isn't God wonderful? A little four-year-old kid, isn't God wonderful? He was so excited, you know, wanted me to read more and more and more. But I'll tell you, where was I going? Yeah, to come into your life, yeah, that's where I was going. One day, and a real illustration of this, he is weeding his vegetable garden, which is nothing wrong with that, but there's a cannibal with a musket.

And every time he moved down the row, the cannibal moved with a musket to shoot him. And it kept weeding. And people said, how in the world could you do that? He said, well, if he's going to shoot me, I'd be dead.

But if he's not going to shoot me, this garden needs weeding. That's what I'm talking about. You know, is God my protector? Let me tell you, I've had people try to kill me in my office.

One, a lady here knows, a youth pastor, that tried to strangle me. And he threw his arms up to strangle me, and his hands were right there, and he couldn't close his hands on my throat. Could not, because I prayed God's protection.

Another missionary who has been coming to our, hadn't seen him for years, known the guy a long time ago, he supported me for 18 years, but I hadn't seen him. He was sitting on his hands, and he was crying, and he said, Logan, I'm going to hurt you. I said, you can't hurt me.

We prayed God's protection. You know, God is my protector. I'm not going to go and sit down with these screwy people while they cancel and be afraid that maybe some demon is going to get me through them.

And he said, no, I'm going to hurt you. And I said, can I talk to that spirit? Will you let me do it? It was like midnight. I was so tired.

And I said, wicked spirit, can you touch me? And I thought he was just going to talk to his mind, because he was talking to his mind. He wasn't talking out loud, I'm going to hurt you. He was telling him, hurt him.

But he spoke out of his mouth and said, no. I said, well, tell Joe why. He said, there's an angel with a sword standing between us.

I didn't see it. Another missionary said, I was going to leap on you. He was a missionary builder, and he didn't need any demonic help to hurt me.

And, you know, his muscles had muscles. And he said, I was going to hurt you. It was another one of these late night things, because I was doing this with a lot of missions, doing deliverance for many, many missions.

I won't tell you who they are, because they're not supposed to believe in this stuff, so Logan goes and helps their missionaries that are messed up. But anyway, he said, you know, Logan, I was going to hurt you. And I don't think he was going to leap on me.

Yeah, maybe he was going to leap on me too. But anyway, he was going to do something. And I said, why didn't you? He said, the shield.

I never saw the angel. I never saw the shield. I never saw this, of people that, you know, where they were so under the influence of the enemy, the enemy wanted to hurt me.

I have never been hurt by a demon. But I've been hurt by a lot of Christians. Right? That gets through.

Three-part benediction. We're going to have to stop here. Ron came in and looked at me, and it wasn't a real pleasant look.

Am I out of time? Five minutes? Go back outside, Ron. Logan's waxing eloquent. Okay, thine is the kingdom.

Focusing on God's rule. Really, who's the final authority in your life? Is it me? You know what I'm saying? Me? I? I want this. I want that.

I'm going to do this. I'm going to do that. And you can't pray this prayer.

Do you see? And there's much more than this. I think we threw some of this stuff in the back of your book. I don't know how much we put back because I have so much on Lord's Prayer.

But all these different ways are broken down differently. But every one speaks to my heart. So, you see why I can't get through the Lord's Prayer very fast? When I just take this one and I get down, I start asking

the Lord, and the Lord doesn't let me finish.

So, on Sunday, my big prayer time is on Saturday and Sunday, where I can be quiet with the Lord. So, I have to be early in the morning and spend those hours in prayer. That's for me.

I try the other stuff. If I'm dead tired, I can't do it. You know what I'm saying? Dead tired or I'm so exhausted at night, emotionally drained, I can have a quickie.

But, I mean, I can't have this kind of stuff where you're having real intimacy with God. You know, if you're married, does your wife want just a quickie? Hi, honey. Well, let's talk.

Well, we did. I said, hi. But you know what I'm saying? She may want a little more than that.

And sometimes God wants a little more than that, than your to-do list. I'll tell you, this is a real hard one for kids. You know, half of my counselees are teenagers.

I have counseled probably thousands of teenagers. And, I mean, I'm old, but somehow they don't see the oldness. I mean, it just doesn't seem to get in the road.

I thought it would probably stop and kids wouldn't come. But they keep coming. But I have to get them what? First of all, back under God's authority.

And secondly, under their parents' authority, where I failed in counseling. Because rebellion is as a sin of what? What's the next part? Stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. And what does Corinthians say when you get involved in idolatry? You're worshiping spirits.

They're both bad. So some kids may not be totally a rebel, but stubborn. And we've got to work on that.

Because they're opening their lives to the influence of the enemy. I'm not so much looking for demon-possessed people to work with. I'm looking for people who are under the influence of the enemy and they can't seem to break it and are living constantly defeated lives.

And I want them to break that influence over their life, break that power over their life by their wrong choices and get them back walking with God. And we have tons of people out there that are walking with God today because we were able to pray with them. The power.

Focus on his sufficiency. The power of God. I'll tell you, you go on the Indian reservations and you see so many believers that are fearful of the enemy.

Unbelievably fearful. Even though I try to teach them, they want me to go through their house and get rid of the spirits. I say, well, I taught you how to do it, but you know how to do it.

Remember animistic people. Three things that animistic people have in common. One is the fear.

They have fear of spirits. They've seen. You don't go on the Indian reservation, you know the enemy's real.

They go, you're kidding me? I mean, they've seen all kinds of stuff. All kinds. And there's not an Indian reservation I've been on in Canada or Alaska that there isn't overt, demonic, creepy stuff going on almost all the time.

We have tapes on that where the Indians are talking about the creepy stuff. But they don't understand. They know the power of the enemy.

They do not know the power of Christ. And that causes them to become fearful, and that fear brings them to passivity. To pray against or to stand against this, things will get worse, and it's so bad right now, let's don't do anything.

And they become very passive. So, you know, does God have the power? And I'm talking about strange power, and I'm going to test God and so on. But let me tell you, I can't tell you in my ministry I've seen the power of God through me, and I'm not a very powerful guy.

And I've seen God do all kinds of things to me, where people were designed to hurt me besides believers, situations, that kind of thing. I can tell you stories of wonderful, godly, godly men that are very conservative that it was hard to believe their story, where God's power came against people trying to kill them and so on, mobs trying to kill them and so on. It's still happening today.

You don't have to read it in the old books. You understand what I'm saying? In the old books, Hudson Taylor and these guys, we go with that, but today we don't believe it. You've got to be dead 100 years, and then you can have a book about your demonic attacks and people will believe it.

But not today. You know what I'm saying? It's like somehow it's not a today thing. It's for those godly people in the past.

See, the glory. Focus on his presence. By the fear of the Lord, what? Men depart from evil.

If we learn to live in the presence of God, you will have far more victory in your life. If you will just add that one dimension. The Lord will never leave you nor forsake you.

The Lord is with me. Am I aware that the Lord is watching? The first verse you ought to teach a child is what Hagar said in the desert. Thou, God, seest me.

Little kids need to know that. And then give them the one in the Psalms where God sees in the dark. God sees and God protects.

You know, God loves the little kids. Very special. And let the kids know.

But don't turn off the nightlight. I'm sorry, we're getting into warfare. If a kid's scared, oh, you're going to sleep in the dark, you know.

I mean, some of the things parents do, it's a wonder kids don't come out all cracked and deformed, you know. Well, I'm going to have to turn this off. We at least got through a couple of them.

Frances Hagriel, you know, that wrote Like a River Glorious, she takes one aspect of the Lord's Prayer and prays one on Monday, one on Tuesday, one on Wednesday. So in seven days you pray for the seven aspects of the Lord's Prayer. But I want you to know that that's where to start.

If you want to start developing intimacy with God, Jesus didn't say if you pray. He said what? When you pray. And when you pray, pray this.

That's not what he said. Pray what? Like this. Break that prayer down like we did.

And you have, that is the most perfect prayer that could ever be prayed. It covers every aspect of a person's life. And we only looked at a few people that did this.

But if you go to a bookstore and you see some books on the Lord's Prayer, grab them up and look at them and see what are they done with the Lord's Prayer so you can be expanded and all that kind of stuff. And I see the man's going to come up here and he's going and doing this. And I don't know if God would protect me from that kind of thing.

He's not totally demonized, you know. And he's more powerful than me. So I yield to you, brother.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/22/SID22095.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/jim-logan/feeling-safe-in-a-world-gone-mad/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

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

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

www.sermonindex.net