

Journey Through the Book of Acts

by K.P. Yohannan

K.P. Yohannan's sermon highlights the transformative power of the Holy Spirit and the call for ordinary Christians to engage in missions and community service.

Duration: 58:43

Scripture: Acts 1:8, Acts 2:14-15, Acts 2:41, Acts 2:46 - 3:10, Acts 5:12, Hebrews 13:5

Topics: "Filled With The Spirit"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker shares a powerful testimony of a five-minute sermon that extended to 30 minutes, resulting in 21 people on the street weeping and coming forward to ask for forgiveness and learn more about Jesus. The speaker encourages listeners not to be afraid of rejection or persecution when sharing their faith, reminding them that Jesus will never leave or forsake them. The sermon then transitions to a discussion of Acts chapter 3, focusing on the healing of a crippled beggar and the impact of a young girl named Gisela who used the money she collected to support missionary work in South America. The speaker emphasizes the importance of having a concern for others who do not know Jesus and encourages listeners to walk into the fire of God's love and experience transformation and warmth. The sermon concludes by highlighting the significance of the book of Acts as a source of inspiration and guidance for believers, providing living examples of how to live a life pleasing to God.

Transcript

Well, great to see you. Good evening. Just took a three, four days with my wife and got away, and I wanted to get back tonight and say hi to KP and meet you.

Had a wonderful time. I'm sure you were in great hands today. But out of all the people in the missions that I have known through the years, KP has been one of those personal friends.

I remember the first time I ever met him, and he was really a character. So I asked him, I picked him up at the airport, and I said, you want to get a hot dog? He was really being serious. You mean, a cook a dog? I said, come on KP, you can't be that.

He was serious. So then I said, well, he said, I have to make a phone call. I said, well, you just drop a dime.

So he just dropped the dime. I said, no, you got to put it inside the phone booth, KP. So that's how we started, and through the years we have grown to love each other.

I'm hoping that this year we can send some of the teenagers over to Texas, and begin to see what they're doing at the missions and gospel for Asia. I'm blessed. He should be in India right now, but he changed his whole schedule to be with us tonight.

So would you welcome a personal friend, KP Yohanam. I'm glad to be back here again. What Pastor Steve said is not all true.

I came here to go to In-N-Out. This is one of my rituals when I come to California. I somehow find a way to go to one of these.

We have been emailing these people, telling them to come to Texas, but so far they have not obeyed us. So how many of you were here this morning? Would you raise your hand to see almost all of you. I talked a lot about the world of missions and the incredible challenge, the possibilities we have to see not thousands, but literally millions of people come to Christ.

The nearly 300 million untouchables of India, I believe at least 100 million of them will turn to the Lord. Just recently, the government of India released a report that as far as they know, some 22 million untouchables have already become Christians. I think the numbers they're giving is not accurate, it will be way more than that.

This is huge what God is doing. One of the significant reason why this is happening is that we are able to go and take these precious children that never will have a chance to go to school or learn anything. Now they have the opportunity to come to our Bridge of Hope centers.

They get clothes to wear, food to eat, and study. But more so every day, couple of hours to hear about Jesus. Weekends, we call the adults and talk about the Lord.

Some places in the past when it took us maybe three, four years to baptize couple of 100 people, now we are able to do that in three, four months time. That tells you the impact that we have by reaching out to these children. So far, we have some 35,000 children, but we have 100 to 100,000 kids out there that we'd like to go and find a way to help them.

If you are still thinking about it, I encourage you to please stop by the table there in the foyer and fill out this card, and we will send you the children that you can pray for and help. I really appreciate your thinking about it. By the way, this is a privilege.

It shouldn't be a burden out of guilt or condemnation. For me, every opportunity I get to do something for the Lord, I see this as a privilege. It is an honor.

It's not a burden. When you think about giving your time for prayer or your resources to causes, it is very important that you pray for discernment, ask the Lord to give you wisdom. For example, there are people that come on television or radio or write letters to you and say, please send us your money.

If you don't, we had go off the air and all kind of stuff. I usually say to the television preacher, right on the television, go off the air, stop bugging me. The sad thing is, the sad thing is, did you know, this I know firsthand because a man I met in one of my travels in the United States, he changed his profession.

His job was writing fundraising letters for some of the mega fundraising Christian organizations in the United States. One of the saddest thing for me to hear, which just made me cry, they actually target the poorest people in Chicago, in Philadelphia. They find the poorest communities and they get the mailing list.

They write letters to people saying, I've been thinking about you, the Lord brought it to my mind. You're praying about a car, you're thinking about a house, new possibilities, and the Lord has spoken to me. If you plant a seed of \$100, \$1,000, even if you had to borrow money from a credit card, do that, God will bless you.

He said he was writing those letters, targeting the poor, the downtrodden, the innocent people to get money out of them. He said God convicted them so bad, so much, he quit the whole thing. He said, I won't do it anymore.

This is the reason why we have a serious problem of God's people not seeking God's face. Lord, what do you want me to do? Where do you want me to go? It is one thing to see the need and opportunities, but it's a different thing to be sensitive to the Lord and do what he tells us to do. God never uses guilt and condemnation and force and manipulation to make us do anything.

Did you know Jesus never forced his disciples to do one thing? He simply told them and they had to follow him. There was no coercion and beating them up and putting them on a trip, nothing like that. And I say this to you because we are living in such times that discernment is needed very, very much in our seeking to follow the Lord and doing what he tells us to do.

And for us, in all the 28 years of our ministry, by the grace of God, I must say this to you, we never sent out a letter from our ministry saying, we are desperate, we are dying, please send us your money. We never did that. On the contrary, there were times somebody would send us money, \$50, \$100, saying that I'm living on the street, I have no address, I'm the half a house.

What we do that, we write a letter back to them, thank them immensely, and at the same time, I tell my office, please make a demand draft on their name and send it back anonymously, maybe \$5 more than what they sent to us. And I believe Jesus is more concerned about the poor and the needy and not misusing them. I don't want to reject their gift they gave to us, but at the same time, I want to honor my Jesus by blessing them.

And brothers and sisters, following Jesus is very practical. If you don't spend time with him, how can you hear his voice? So I just say those words to you because I feel I'm part of this fellowship. First, he may happen to be like my own blood brother, and you know, I can't wait for him to come back and speak to our staff in Dallas, and you are blessed more than you know.

Now, I'd like you to turn your bibles to the book of Acts. I just want to preach through the book of Acts tonight, which means you are here all night long. Oh no.

All right. If you're writing a title for my teaching tonight, it's all about missions, by the way, but I want to call it a mighty minority. That's what I'm calling it.

Now, book of Acts is so significant because this is where we see the first generation Christian, the church in action. It covers some 30 years of history, obviously, but there is life and movement and action and verb and all the excitement in the world and suspense. I mean, you can make 10,000 movies out of this if you

wanted.

It is so fantastic. I went to seminary in Dallas and learned five and a half years and got my degrees and all those things. I remember one of the book I had to study was book of Acts, but it was all about history, all about the Greek and the tents and all this stuff and all kinds of stuff.

And by the time they finished teaching book of Acts, they said, what on earth is this? But the Lord would ask me to go back and read the book of Acts, not for getting a degree, but to see life in it. And my life was revolutionized. And you see, we always need absolutes.

If you do not know law, saying you should not steal, you should not do this thing, how do you know what you should do, what you should not do? The same way, there are absolutes through life, living examples God gave to you and gave to me that we can say, wow, this means this. And this is how I can imitate, I can follow. And that's the reason why I like the book of Acts very much.

You know, brothers and sisters, there's a false thinking that God's heroes are some special breed of people, some superstars, those who are, you know, having the high IQs and special look and certain caste they come from or background. When you read this book, you will find it is not like that. The weak, the simple, the nobodies, the common folks that came into this relationship with Jesus Christ, the risen Lord, they became revolutionaries as a matter of fact.

And you read in the book of Acts chapter 17, verse six, this fantastic verse. These, those who have turned the world upside down, they have come here also. Now in Philip's translation says, these world revolutionaries have come here also.

Think about it. In the words of Keith Green, a dear friend who now is with the Lord, God is calling us to be just all out crazy for Jesus. There's nothing, what people call normal is the way we should be living.

We are outrageous, wacko, crazy people, not dumb, stupid, I don't mean that way. But there is something about our way of life. They turned the world upside down, not because they were famous and rich and smart and good looking and movie stars, no.

They had such impact upon the generation in their workplace, in the marketplace, in all circumstances, just by the way of life. It was so contagious. And I believe even today, that is the kind of life I think the Lord is calling us for.

And this would not happen without paying the price and making some choices. God never commit himself at random to anyone. He waits for us to respond and willing to count the cost.

Jesus could never save the world without embracing the cross and going after the cross. That's what the Bible says. We want to be like Jesus, world revolutionaries, impact our children, our grandchildren, our society, just by saying nice spiritual words and knowing all the doctrines.

It never happens, it's a way of life. And often we do not want that because it cost us something, namely giving up our self-centeredness. But for the joy that is there when we make those choices is outrageous.

Now, starting from book of Acts chapter one, in the very chapter one, we find the first verse about things Jesus began to do and to teach and all those things. Now the journey must continue. Jesus began and then he's asking us to continue the journey.

Fulfill the suffering of Christ, Paul said, through his life and his commitment. Now, here's the thing. In Matthew chapter 28, verse 18, Jesus said to the disciples, all authority is given to me, now ye fellows go.

I'm with you. I mean, think about these weak little people. Thomas was one of those fellows.

You remember the doubting Thomas? He came to India to my village. As a matter of fact, when I was studying in seminary, they handed over this big, huge church history book and I was flipping through that and I found under the church planting era of India, the name of my own village, N-I-R-A-N-A-M, Niranam. That is where I was born, a tiny little village in the Southern part of India.

He came to India in AD 52, planted seven churches and one of those church happened to be three kilometers from where I was born and raised. You know what? That makes me a better Christian. I mean, today I go to Philippines or China or India or Burma, anywhere, I go to the airport and get on those 747 jets and zoom.

Here I go, I'm in a few hours, I'm landing in the other side of the globe, but it was not so for Thomas. Ask the Christian who paid him to travel like that. What was the salary? What life insurance? Who told him, I will stand by you? I mean, you think about those things.

In the end, after planting those churches, he was murdered by Hindu Brahmins in Chennai for preaching the gospel. He lay down his life. What motivated him to offer his life as a living sacrifice? It was the encounter with the living Christ.

And those who know the Lord will want to continue run the race no matter where they are. And again, Jesus telling in verse eight, chapter one, verse eight, by the way, I'm just going through different chapters, so just stay with me. When you receive the power, he said, you know, you wait.

When the Holy Spirit come upon you, you will receive power and you will become our witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost, the ends of the earth. Now here's the thing that I want to say to you. If Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will have a holy go to someone else.

You know, when the Holy Spirit come upon you, if you are baptized in the Holy Spirit, don't look for goosebumps. You know, I'm tired of this false gospel that some people are preaching. You know, when the Holy Spirit come upon you, you will fall down, you'll scream, you'll crawl like a snake and bark.

I don't know this stuff. But I'm telling you, Jesus said this. When he comes, he will take the things of mine and he will reveal them to you.

He will never talk about himself. When a preacher or a pastor or anyone anywhere glorify the Holy Spirit, promote the Holy Spirit, all about this, all about that, and Jesus is left out, you can be sure this guy is off the wall. California talk.

Because the job of the Holy Spirit is to lift up Jesus. And the power is given not to feel nice, good feelings about it, although that is wonderful. I remember the time I was baptized in the Holy Spirit many years ago back in India, all alone, praying in the room, and I tell you, I was so filled with his grace and love in there, and I said, Lord, stop it, I can't handle it anymore.

If Jesus asked me to jump off from a 10-story building, I would do it. I loved him so much, I couldn't stop loving him. That was the result of my being baptized in the Holy Spirit, not jumping up and down,

screaming, and crawling like a snake.

And I'm telling you, my brothers and sisters, if the disciples needed the power of the Holy Spirit after being taught three and a half years by Jesus himself, God himself, you tell me how much you and I need the Holy Spirit. It is our birthright. Please remember that.

And he is waiting and willing to give you the power, the Holy Spirit. By the way, I was asking the Lord to give me power to preach the gospel, I was not praying for tongues, although I spoke in tongues that I never learned before, which was not my orientation, but for me, that's what happened. But I'm telling you that the call of the Lord upon our life is to demonstrate Jesus to others through the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is a revolutionary concept and a revolutionary life. I remember my wife in Germany as a young girl came to know the Lord. After a couple of years, 13 or 14 at that time, she was baptized in the Holy Spirit.

And I tell you what, that changed her life so much as a young girl studying in Germany. She would go on the streets and witnessing to people. And while she was in high school, she led over 20 young people to Christ and started a Bible study for those lost German young people that came to know Jesus Christ.

She was so moved with the burden for the lost. While she was born in a very high affluent, nice German family, they want her to learn the graces of the high society, see the dancing, all those stuff. She said to her mom and dad, Jesus called me to be a missionary.

I cannot drink this stuff. I cannot be part of any of those things. And you know what she did? She took an American Indian, a South American Indian coin and put a hole, drilled a hole through that and put a string and tied it around her neck.

Every morning she stood before the mirror. She sees the American Indian head, the coin, which reminded her, you are called to be a missionary to serve God. And her sister, two girls, every month her parents give both of the same amount of money.

Her sister would go and spend the money and buy a new dress and this and the all kind of trinkets. But Gisela, a young 14 year old girl, 15 year old girl, 16 year old girl, she will take that money and never spend it on chocolate and chewing gums and all kind of funny stuff. She would collect the money, eventually would send it to Wycliffe Missionary working in South America.

That was a journey she made as a result of knowing Jesus and being filled with the Holy Spirit. I'm telling you, some individual who say I know Jesus and have no concern to pray for some people out there, I have great trouble in understanding them. I'm not saying we are all called to be preachers and you know, miracle workers, I'm not saying that.

But you know, the ministry that you and I have may be different, but there need to be that concern for others that do not know the Lord Jesus Christ. And so, we move to the book of Acts chapter two. Find these people again.

Now there you have this Holy Spirit coming upon the people and what a wonderful event to witness and watch. And then you will find the preaching take place. Verse 41, you can read the whole chapter by way tonight.

Don't go to bed, just stay and read the Bible. And you will find 3,000 people. What an incredible thing to happen.

In the midst of all the difficulties, Peter of all the people who denied Jesus, I don't know this man you're talking about. Now he stands up with a whole bunch of others and preaching the gospel. He was no more alone.

There's unity, others standing with him. You know, my brothers and sisters, the body of Christ, we work as a unit. There is tremendous power when there is unity.

You know, every morning, my wife and I with my son and his wife and my daughter, after breakfast, we sit together and we pray specifically for things that the Lord has given to us. We agree on things, we talk about things. Why don't we start doing that? You'll be amazed and surprised what God will do.

In a fellowship like this, don't be a spectator saying, oh, thank God they're taking care of my kids. Thank God they take care of my teenagers. Hey, listen, plug your life into something with some commitment.

It may cost you something, but it's worth. My brothers and sisters, you know, in the years past when I was living in North India, am I talking too fast? All right. When I get excited, I talk too fast.

I had to be careful. In the years past when I was in North India, in the wintertime, you know, December, January, it's very cold, no heat, nothing, and it just, you know, you shiver through the night. But what we used to do, we get one of this iron ball and we put coal in it, you know, this large black coal in it, and we start fire.

And this thing really catch fire. It all turn kind of blue flame in the end. And through the whole night, the thing keep our room warm for little fellows like me those days, you know, weighing 70 pounds.

I ate too many hamburgers in America, doubt. But you know what, think about your life like one of those black, big chunk of coal. You can stay out or you can stay in.

Why don't you walk into the fire? It will change you. It will give you warmth. The struggles and pain and agony and concerns and suspicions and all the stuff that you're dealing with will melt away.

You will find others are going the same struggles. They care about you. And we come together for the purpose of Jesus, not for self-centered reasons.

And try that out, you'll be amazed how God will move in you and through you. I remember the story from Himachal Pradesh that some time ago it happened. Some of our brothers went out to do some open air preaching and bunch of people began to stone them.

And it was really getting difficult. I mean, I've been stoned. Stoned not on drugs, by the way, I'm talking about real.

You're really throwing stones. And honestly, I ran many times as they were throwing rocks at me. And now I remember if I could run like that now, I could win the gold medal in Olympics.

And these brothers, they had no way to escape. And one brother spoke up as loud as he could. Please, just give us five minutes, that's all.

Then you can kill us. Then they all stopped. He got up on a higher ground on a piece of stone, and he began to tell about Jesus.

You know what happened? The five minutes extended to 30 minutes and 21 people on the street weeping, coming forward, kneeling before them, asking forgiveness. And they want to know more about Jesus. Sometimes we run away on the face of difficulty saying that they're going to reject me.

They're gonna throw me out. They're gonna kill me if I give a tract, what they will do to me. And listen, don't be afraid.

Jesus said, I will never leave you. I will never forsake you. And give your life away and see what God will do with that.

And this is absolutely beautiful. All right, let's go to chapter three. You know the chapter.

Since Pastor Steve talked through this whole book 10,000 times, I don't want to read through all this. In chapter three, we read about the healing of the crippled beggar. This guy was sitting there begging for alms.

And of course, you know, Peter and John says, you know, we don't have any money to give to you, but in the name of Jesus, you get up and walk. They had more faith. But I tell you what, it really happened.

It really happened. We see about 15 churches planted every single day on the mission field right now. 15 churches, every day.

A great number of these churches are planted by some incredible miracle that take place. Absolutely amazing. You know, some stories, I'm a little nervous to tell Americans because they think this is really wacko.

It can't be really true. You know, but God is still in the business of touching the lives of people and changing them forever. In Punjab, in Patiala, the name of place is there, some of the brothers were preaching the gospel one evening and bunch of Hindus, extremist radicals, they brought a man to them, bound up in large chains and said, this man is mad.

He is mentally deranged. He's demon possessed. As you people talk about, would you please pray for this man so he can be healed? And of course, you know, our brothers looked at the situation and said, oh, dear me, what are we gonna do? And it's an amazing thing, the reality of Christ's presence.

And he sincerely believed this is true. And as he was going to pray for this demon possessed man, the Lord whispered to him, I will show myself mighty tonight. And he laid a hand on this man, the whole hell broke loose.

This man snapped all the chains. He was not demon possessed. He was a normal human being.

These radical anti-Christians, to make a mockery of Christ's name, put him, chained him and wrapped him up in these chains and brought to the preacher so that he will pray. And then they will declare, you see, you see what these people have done? This is a normal human being. To make a mockery of the name of Jesus.

But as he stretched his hand, the whole thing, the guy really got completely wacko. And then they realized what was going on. Then this brother took the microphone and said, you see, we had no knowledge what you guys were doing.

Of course, the whole crowd became totally crazy. And then these fellows who brought them said, please forgive us, do something about it, do something about it. Then our brother said, you know what? If all your gods, any of your gods, all of them together can set this man free and heal him, I will stop preaching and go after your God.

I mean, you can imagine, this is a real story. In the end, this brother would pray and the Lord heals the man. That was the beginning of one of the churches in the community.

You tell me about Jesus being alive. He's not dead. You know what? Other day, my colleague, David Carroll and I, myself, we were in some American airline flight.

And by the grace of David Carroll, we got bumped up to first class. And I was quite happy. I was working on my notes and everything.

Sitting next to me is this lady. She was sneezing and wiping her nose. And I turned to her and said, you seem to be not doing so well, sick.

She said, yeah, I am sick, I got a cold. And then I found out she's a high-powered lawyer, travels all over the world and all kind of stuff. And I said, let me pray for you.

She said, who are you? And she kept her eyes open like a monkey all the time. And I laid my hand on her and prayed for her, saying, Lord Jesus, you are our savior. I preached the gospel through praying for her.

Lord, would you just touch her and heal her? As she was leaving the plane, she said, I feel so good. I said, I will send you some materials to read. And I got her address so I can send her some gospel tracts and stuff.

Obviously, she doesn't know the Lord. Wherever you may be, in the bus, in the train, standing to buy hamburger at In-N-Out or Burger King or wherever, or supermarket, your neighbor, when you run into people, those who look sad and gloomy and sick, listen, those are opportunities God is giving you to minister in the name of Jesus. You don't need to know all the Bible like Pastor Steve Mays to pray for a sick person.

Jesus Christ is the one who heals people, not you. I remember when my daughter, she was so tiny, two, three years old one night, she was screaming on the top of her lung in her room. And of course, in Dallas, you know, when my wife and I got up, ran to her room and found her just in terrible pain, just crawled up on her bed.

And we realized, two o'clock in the morning, what do you do? The little girl is hurting so bad. And I said to her, you know, we'll pray for you. Jesus will heal you.

And Gisela and I, we laid hand on little Sarah and said, Lord, you are the one who promised you will hear our prayer. And you died on the cross for our sins and you are able to heal us, Lord. Would you touch her and heal her? Instantly, she stopped crying.

I'm not saying you got any sickness, anytime you pray, instantly everything will be healed. I'm not saying that to you. There are some time I get a headache, I take aspirin.

I pray all the prayers in the world and nothing happens. Jesus says, you got aspirin, take a couple of aspirins. Doctors and nurses are God's gift to us in medicine.

But what I'm telling you, with or without medicine, why don't you first trust in the Lord? Let him be the real physician. Let him be the real doctor. Your dependence is not on any of this stuff.

God will use all those stuff. Hey, listen, you want to be a revolutionary, impact through your way of life, start praying for sick people wherever you find in Jesus name and watch and see how the Lord will do wonderful things in their life. And so when you read the book of Acts, read about a crippled man, let it not be just a story to read, but let it be something for us to learn and follow.

Now in chapter four, you'll find, you know, these people are in big trouble. They are brought before Sanhedrin, Peter and John. You know why their problem? He said, you fellows stop talking about this Jesus, your Jesus, stop it.

We're tired of it. We don't want to hear it anymore. Well, I wonder why they are so upset about Jesus.

There is something about that name. Isn't that true? There is something wonderful about that name. And you know, the beautiful thing is this, the answer to all problems people have, it is Jesus, it is Jesus, it is Jesus.

You know, this morning I talked about the bridge of hope, taking care of the children. Did you know 23% of all the food grains in India eaten and destroyed by rats, R-A-T-S. When you talk about food grains, rice, beans, wheat, 23% destroyed by rats.

You say, why don't they kill the stupid rats? Well, I'm asking the same question. You want to know the answer? Go with me to India, to Bikaner, Rajasthan, to a large Hindu temple with compound walls. In the temple compound, you will find couple of million rats crawling all over the place.

Then I will show you people coming, rich, famous, educated, crawling among these rats, not hurting them, hoping some white rat will crawl on them. And then I will show you truckloads of grain brought and dumping into the compound for the rats to have a wonderful seven course meal. You say, what? They are worshipped as gods.

The 300 million people's travesty of life and poverty and illiteracy and brutality and the terrible life they go through. The 400 million backward caste, the product of Hinduism. You can take the whole America and dump into India.

You will never have the answer to their poverty, their problems. The real answer is Jesus changing the lives of people. I am one who walked and traveled years all over this country of India, my native land.

I'm telling you, I'm still convinced. The number one answer is Jesus. We cannot ignore the poverty.

We cannot walk away from the suffering children. We must go after them. But if Jesus is not there, it's an interesting thing.

The tsunami took place, the tsunami a year ago. We sent about \$9 million worth of medicine and food to Sri Lanka to help the people there. And we start building houses and taking care of 3000 kids, the product of tsunami and all these different things.

And all of a sudden, I get telephone calls from BBC in London, Chicago Tribune and Philadelphia newspapers and all kind of radio stations from Australia. You know what they want to know? Why on earth are you people exploiting these poor suffering people in the midst of their problems by preaching Jesus? And one lady from the BBC, she was on the telephone. She was really angry with me.

It is illegal, it is bad, it is wrong. And she went on his English accent, you know? She, I mean, I said, I thought you are a reporter. And she used some very big words to attack me for our telling people about Jesus.

And I said to her, madam, may I ask you a question? She said, yeah. She was so mad. I said, see, I'm a psychiatrist.

You came to me, of course, you know, you are in England and well-fed and taken care of and live in a mansion with air-conditioned buildings and beautiful, nice circumstances and a nice car and everything in the world you got. You got plenty of money, but you are ruined emotionally. And you are on the verge of committing suicide.

And I, being a reputable psychiatrist, you come to me for counseling. And you come and sit on the sofa and look at you. I know exactly what you should do.

I know the answer. But then I said to myself, well, this poor lady is a basket case. She is so ruined emotionally.

If I tell her to do something that's taking advantage of her weakness and emotionally devastated time in her life, so I decide not to tell you anything. I said, lady, please go home and get well, then come back and I'll tell you the answer. I said, if I do something like that, what would you say to me? There was silence.

I said, you know what? You sit in London and I just came from having walked and wept in Sri Lanka, in India, among tens of thousands of tsunami victims. I said, I saw people who made a decision to commit suicide and the last minute our people met these people and talked to them. And when they offered rice and beans and clothes and drinking water and tents, some of them refused.

We don't want it. And then they find out they didn't want it because that night they were going to kill themselves and their remaining children. And as they began to talk to them, read Bible verses, pray for them, every one of those people found hope in Jesus Christ.

I remember meeting one widow, a beautiful, beautiful young lady, 23, 24 year old, incredibly beautiful lady carrying a tiny baby in her arms, tiny little thing wrapped in kind of dirty clothes. The baby was born a week after the tsunami. And our pastor said to me, yesterday we met her.

When we offered food, she refused. Knowing she's sick and weak and tired and hungry, we sat down and began to talk to her, read Bible verse from the book of Psalms and prayed for her. And finally she said, thank you for telling me about your God, about Jesus.

Somehow, something happening in my heart. Then she said, tonight I was going to kill my baby and end my life. Thank you for telling me about Jesus.

Then she took the food, then she took the clothes, and the following day I see her with a little baby. There is some hope in their eyes. You know, we still serve among the tsunami victims.

We care for the poor and needy. But I'm telling you, America is full of so-called Christian organizations that are crying out to help the poor and needy in the name of Christianity, yet they do not promote Jesus, never tell people he is the ultimate, the only answer. I'm telling you, Jesus remains the real answer.

To the problems of the world today. And by the way, by the grace of God, we have now more than 80 churches planted among the tsunami victims. Isn't that wonderful? Hallelujah.

Hallelujah. And you know, I just came from India, I told you this morning, I was in Delhi before coming here. And some of my brothers were telling me they were in a prayer meeting, and a lady began to scream and shout, forms coming out of her mouth, you know, crawling on the floor, I mean, manifesting all kind of demons.

And eight, nine people tried to hold her down, they couldn't, she was so powerful, the powers of demons in her. And the pastor was telling me, he simply went to her and said, in Jesus' name, you leave her alone, she belonged to Jesus, instantly, all the demons left. Hallelujah.

And then she said, what happened to me? What happened to me? What happened to me? You know, I don't know about you, a lot of problems we deal with. We sometimes think it is visible, it is not. Our battle is not against flesh and blood.

It is against principalities and the powers of darkness. Worry and care and depression and agony and fear and anxiety, anger, bitterness, when these things are playing, you know, with your brain and your brain becomes like a ping pong ball, and the demon just beating you up. Listen, stop just and say, in Jesus' name, leave me alone, don't attack my mind, I belong to Jesus.

And if there's some sin in your life, confess it, and you'll be amazed, you'll be amazed. I mean, I tell you, talk, A. W. Chaucer wrote this book, I Talk to the Devil. I tell you what, I talk to the devil, I don't know how many million times.

The devil is a liar, you belong to Jesus, and the name of Jesus is good enough for you, you try this. And we see this always in what? In Jesus' name, you have the victory, in Jesus' name, you have the authority, and don't walk away from it. No wonder why people hate the name Jesus.

The devil hate the name Jesus. This is your name, this is your privilege, because you belong to him. And I hope you take that serious.

All right, our time is running. Chapter five, we have this situation with a husband and wife, you know, not being very upright, you know, Ananas and Sapphira, and you know, people were giving money to the work of God, and they were kind of being talked about, and they realized, my goodness, we need to get some credit, so let's do this, so they played games with God, in the modern language, and in the end, they both lose their life. You know, God is more concerned about honesty than great performance, and a lot of external, our impressions we make on people.

As a matter of fact, the definition of holiness, I tell you, is honesty. You know, remember, the two thieves on the cross, one guy pretended. The other guy said, Lord, I deserve this stuff.

This is me, and he walked into paradise with the Son of God. The other one lost it. Did you know Judas and Peter both did the same stupid thing? Denied their Lord.

They both did it, but one committed suicide, and the other ended up being the greatest apostle. What was the difference? Judas' faith was insincere, while Peter's faith was weak, not insincere. My brothers in those days, God will work with the worst kind if they're honest with Him, but God cannot help people who are dishonest.

I remember the early days of my life in the United States, falling into materialism, going after all the good stuff of this country, and my church, I was pastoring. They thought I was the greatest thing that ever happened to their church. People were getting saved and being baptized.

I was marrying people, burying people, all kind of stuff. It was a very busy life, and I memorized a lot of Peter Marshall's prayer and added my statements, and my prayers were outrageously wonderful. In my seminary, my professors thought I was the best student that I was, but I was dying on the inside, and finally, I remember sitting in my room, not on the fancy, nice, leather chair, but on the carpet, like a little Indian boy, and I remember saying these words to Jesus, Lord, I am lost.

I don't know what to tell you. My heart is cold. I can't cry anymore, and I know all the stuff in my head.

Everybody thinks I'm wonderful, but Lord, I don't know you anymore. Is there anything you can do to help and change my heart? If you ever heard a grown-up person praying simple words like a little three-year-old kid's, you now heard it, and you sat there in helplessness, just didn't know what to do. I was lost, like a little kid among 100,000 people having lost touch with their parents, running around, screaming mommy and mommy and daddy and daddy.

I was like that. You know what? Jesus came in the room one afternoon, and he began to talk to me. My life was completely changed.

That was before Gospel of Asia began. My brothers and sisters, you can study all the books in the world, memorize all the answers in the world. I tell you what, that will be all in your head.

It will help maybe, but please learn to come before the Lord and be open and honest. You want to raise your children in godly ways? Be honest with them. Don't pretend.

They will never become like what you teach, but they become what you are. When my son was in Nepal, somebody asked him, you were born in America and had all the wonderful opportunities in the world. So why on earth you made a decision to be a missionary and come to Nepal? And he never told this to me, by the way.

Some other people that talked to him and heard this said this to me. His answer was, well, obviously the Lord called me, but everything goes back to one thing. Whatever my mommy and daddy were teaching and talking to other people, I saw them leaving behind the doors.

They never told me to go and be a missionary, never asked for it, but we couldn't resist. My sister and I, I couldn't resist this Jesus because I saw in my parents. Honestly, I feel so bad often because I don't think

I'm a good father.

I failed a thousand times and a thousand ways and I wish I could go back and do things differently, a lot of things, but even my failures, my sin, my lack, my children saw I was not covering up. Times of punishment and anger, I would go and say, I'm so aggrieved that I did it wrong. Forgive me, my son.

He saw my getting angry with my wife, but they would always find out I asked her forgiveness. They always saw my struggles, my sorrows, my failures, but I didn't pretend. I'm not saying I never pretended.

I'm sure a thousand times I failed that I did not know about, but my brothers and sisters, God is not disappointed about our failures. As a matter of fact, I am now convinced failures, our falling in sin, God allows. That is my theology.

If you don't like it, no problem. Pastor Steve will still love me, I think. You know why? Because that is the only way we find out the grace of God sometime.

Peter, Jesus could have stopped all the devil and demons and kicked them out. Jesus said, Peter, they will ask to find you like chaff, and I prayed for you that your faith may not fail. He did not say, I prayed that you will not fall in sin.

You will not deny me. You will not do the dumb, stupid thing. No, I only prayed when you make the mess of your life that your faith and assurance in your Lord will not fail.

No wonder when he backslide, take bunch of people with him, go to do the old business, Jesus comes after. After Jesus rose, you know, the only name he picked and said, tell my disciples and Peter, and he goes after him. Peter, what a rascal you are.

I did so much for you, you denied me. How can you do this? I will kill you. You will never catch a fish again.

He didn't even ask one question. Isn't it amazing? If I were Jesus, I just want him to repent about 10,000 times, not one time. Jesus only asked, Peter, do you love me? And you see Peter melting and crying.

And then says, Lord, what can I tell you? You know, I do love you, but I'm a miserable creature. And the Lord simply said, I'm giving you the highest responsibility. Go and be my shepherd.

Did you know in the Old Testament, God the Father said, I'm the shepherd. Jesus said, I'm the good shepherd. In the New Testament, Peter, you are the shepherd.

He takes the weak, failing, backsliding individual and put God's name with him. You know, Jacob wasted 20 years of his life. He was clever, smart, and dumb also, I think.

But finally, the encounter with the living God changes him. His name is no more Jacob. But from now on, you are no more a deceiver, but the Prince of God, Israel.

Ah, but something strange and interesting. After that, you read throughout the Bible, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and what happened to Israel? God forgets stuff or what? I mean, if your name is changed, you should use your new name. God is saying, I'm still the God of the failures.

I'm still the God who makes people the best, not the second best, when they miss out everything they think they lost and missed out. You know, to me, chapter five in the book of Acts is a lesson that I must not

forget. That is, the Lord is not concerned about big amount of money I give or amount of work I do, no.

He just wants sincerity from the inside. When you talk to children, talk to others, and giving our resources, you know, one more thing I tell you, nobody will know how much money you give to God or anybody can ask you. When I was a 16-year-old boy, I made a decision that I will never miss giving tithe to the Lord's kingdom.

There's no law that somebody says, you have to do this thing or I'm gonna kill you, nothing like that, no. You know, by the grace of God, now I'm 55 years old, my wife and I can tell you, before the Lord, we remained faithful to him, not please anyone, and we cannot condemn the blessings we received from our father. And I encourage you, in your money, in your time, in your discussions, whatever, stare true on the inside.

You'll be amazed how the Lord is pleased with that. But even if you fail, hey, listen, he's much more loving and gracious than you are, than I am. Run back to him.

Well, I got to chapter five, this means my brother, Pastor Steve, may have to ask me to come back again. I did that deliberately, so I will have another chance to come back. Thank you.

Blessings on you, and may this week and this month be a time when you are renewed and encouraged to serve the Lord and go out of your way to reach the lost world, and it's worth doing that by the way. The Lord's coming is very near, also. May the Lord speak to us.

Thank you.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/17/SID17050.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/kp-yohannan/journey-through-the-book-of-acts/>

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