

# Be Strong and Do Exploits

by Leonard Ravenhill

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*Leonard Ravenhill's sermon calls for the church to awaken from mediocrity and embrace its God-given strength to perform great exploits.*

**Duration:** 1:22:44

**Scripture:** Judges 15:13-15, Judges 16:6, Judges 16:17, Judges 16:19, Hebrews 11:30-31

**Topics:** "Exploits"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses the current state of the Church of Jesus Christ, describing it as 'sleeping through revolution.' He emphasizes that while the world is constantly changing, the pain, crime, and sin in society remain the same. The preacher also highlights the power of the gospel in bringing salvation and the importance of maintaining a strong prayer life and connection with God. He shares a story about Samson and warns against neglecting prayer and the word of God, as it leads to spiritual deterioration. The sermon concludes with a story about a man who risks his life to bring Bibles to Nicaragua, highlighting the need for true power and action in the Church.

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## Transcript

In the service we had this morning, three little boys came to me and each of them gave me an envelope. And it was their week's allowance, spending money. And I received it very gratefully, very joyfully.

And I told you yesterday, I think that ever since I was married, the first day we were married, that's almost 50 years ago, we've been married 50 years. Ever, ever since the first day I've given Martha every penny I ever earned, and she's really looked after it. It's a one-way street, but it's not bad.

And then today I got three envelopes with some coins in. And yet yesterday, I didn't tell Martha this, dearie, I had a gift of money yesterday. Brother Mike gave me some money, and he didn't want to do it publicly tonight, so he just pressed my hand, and he gave me this penny.

Somebody says it's like Mike. It's not, he's not stingy, he just knows how to control his generous impulses. Maybe we'd better close the meeting, we're getting too happy.

Can you hear all right? Good, thank you. If you didn't hear that message this morning that our precious son David brought, you certainly should get a copy. I'm pretty prejudiced, I suppose.

I think it was a masterpiece. It was on the subject of Samson, and the parts in it, he had, I would say, almost exquisite exposition. And not only that, there was eloquence, but more than that, there was authority.

It, to me, it was a verse after the Lord. One phrase he used there has been with me, and will be with me a long while. David left a church in New Zealand with a congregation like this every Sunday morning, 1,600 with 600 in Sunday school at the same time.

And the Lord told him to come to America. All kinds of promises were made, we'll open doors and open doors, they were never opened. And he's had a year, I don't say it's starvation point, but doors have not opened when he hasn't come.

And he, you can speak with authority. A man with an experience is never at the mercy of a man with an argument. And he had experience in the things he preached this morning.

And one phrase was very beautiful. He said to his wife at one point, Nancy dear, please, what did you say, don't help me, oh don't rob me of this wilderness. Isn't that a classic phrase? He'd been talking about men on the backside of the desert.

About Jesus in training for 30 years. John the Baptist for 30 years. Moses on the backside of the desert.

And he'd been on the backside of the desert. Don't rob me of my wilderness. And if you haven't been there you will.

Because God has no spoiled children. I'm going to take that same theme tonight from the 16th chapter of the wonderful book of Judges. It says in verse 6, and Delilah said to Samson, tell me I pray thee wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict these.

This is a question of a woman of the world to a man of God. It will be a very wonderful day when the world again begins to ask the church, what is our strength? Right now it thinks we're bankrupt, I'm sure. If I remember correctly, that brilliant Christian scholar Dr. Carl F. Henry was the founder editor of Christianity Today.

Just before he retired from that position, he sent out a questionnaire, he said, to a hundred of the most brilliant preachers in America. I didn't get one. But the questionnaire was this, what do you see for the Church of Jesus Christ by the year 2000? I forget most of the answers.

I know one was from Billy Graham's brother-in-law, Layton Ford. It was pretty good. The other was from a Quaker philosopher called Elton Trueblood.

And Elton Trueblood said by the end of the year 2000, or by the year 2000, the world will be a conscious minority in the midst of an arrogant, oh I'm sorry, what did I say? Oh sorry, the church will be a conscious minority surrounded by an arrogant, militant paganism. We're living today in the third chapter of the second letter of Paul to Timothy. We're living in a time of aggressive iniquity and slumbering Christianity.

One of the greatest military leaders in all history was Napoleon Bonaparte. But he lost his greatest battle on the 18th of June, which happens to be my birthday, make a note of it. But it was on the 18th of June in 1815, which is not my birthday, he had had successive victories until he was one of the few men that wanted to dominate the world.

Do you remember Alexander the Great at the age of 27 conquered the world and sat down and cried because there was no more world to conquer? The only thing he never conquered was his own appetites. Napoleon gathered his warlords together. He had an office with a huge map of the world on it.

And he took his finger and he ran his finger around the ragged edge of a great country. And then because some of the officers there were a bit restless, he commanded them to attention. Look at this, he said.

And he outlined that great country again. Then he thrust his finger into the middle of it. And he said there lies a sleeping giant.

Let it sleep. Because he said if that nation ever wakes up and puts all its resources and all its manpower together, it will shake the world. He said that in 1815.

About America? No, about China. We're told now China has a thousand, have a million men on the border of Russia. We don't know exactly what power she has.

But anyhow, he said if she ever begins to march, the world had better take notice, because she has such awesome strength. Change the characters. Instead of seeing a map of the world, seeing a map of the ages.

Instead of seeing Napoleon, see the devil. And he goes to a spot there and he runs his finger around it and he says to all his demons in hell, look at that. Just as Napoleon said, and I didn't quote it exactly, he said of China, there lies a sleeping giant.

Let it sleep. Because if it ever wakes, it will shake the known world. I imagine the devil says to his demons, look, there is the church of Jesus Christ asleep.

Let it sleep. If it ever rises and gets the resurrection power of Jesus Christ, harnessed to human endeavor, human zeal, human holiness, it will shake the world. And if we don't get that, we won't shake the world.

Do you know the most famous story from America around the world, even in Russia? It's the story of Rip Van Winkle. Do you know who wrote it? Mike, do you know who wrote it? A brilliant American answer, he says the author. I wouldn't have known.

Mike, you don't need to go to Australia. You need to go to school. Isn't that disgusting? Where's his wife? You do homeschooling.

You've got new students. Anyhow, everybody knows the story of Rip Van Winkle. I forget the name of the guy.

But I'm an Englishman. I'm not an American. Well, I'll come down to your level.

Who wrote the story Little Old Nanny? You don't know? I'm sorry. I'm running out of zeros. Anyhow, the story about Rip Van Winkle is, you know, he went up a hill.

It's in a place called Sleepy Hollow. I've been in that area, up the, what do you call the river, up the River Hudson, up behind New York there. We saw this sign, Sleepy Hollow.

I said, well, that's where Rip Van Winkle went. Well, some people say he slept for a year. Some people say he slept 20.

Some people say he slept for a hundred. But that's not the point. You see, when he went up the hill, there was a sign hanging outside a tavern, and it had on it, it had the head of George III on it.

Because England had some money and power at that time in this country. But while he was sleeping, somebody erased the picture of George III, and they put the head of another, well really an Englishman, by the name of George Washington. The point of the story isn't he slept 20 years, or 30 years, or 50 years.

The point is he slept through a revolution. Exactly what the Church of Jesus Christ is doing tonight. Sleeping through a revolution.

A moral revolution, an intellectual revolution. You can't get a map of the world anymore. It changes every year.

You need a new map. Everything's changing. And people say to me, you know, we're not living in the days when you were a boy always.

They listen. Some people have said, things that change very much are the same. Is pain any less today than it was a hundred years ago? I know a precious woman has a gorgeous daughter.

She came home a little while ago and told her mother she's pregnant. She's 16. She's a beauty queen.

Is that mother's heart not as broken as a woman a hundred years ago? Is crime any less? Is sin any less? No, and the gospel is no less. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation. I like this wonderful man for many reasons.

Here is a woman, there's always a woman in this story. And she comes to this man, Samson. You know, I've been around the world a few times and I like to go to art galleries and I say, do you have any religious paintings? And very often you see a picture of Samson.

He's, you know, he's a superman. He's about 12 feet high, enormous muscles, mountains of muscles and everything else. Trees like red, legs like redwood trees.

A chest you could almost run a truck over it. And here is this monstrous guy. Now women can ask awkward questions, I'm sure.

You see, Saul, the king of Israel that you heard of this morning, was head and shoulders above everybody else in Israel. And Goliath was head and shoulders above Saul. And you try to persuade me that this man Samson is head and shoulders above the rest.

Do you think a woman's going to say to a man 12 feet high, hey buddy, what's the secret of his strength? What kind of wheaties do you eat or something? I think the wonder of it, he wasn't any different physically than anybody else. But he's typical. He's a remarkable man.

It gets into that list of most amazing people that ever lived in Hebrews 11. As I told you before, I can read that chapter of Hebrews 11 every day and nobody needs to preach to me. I read it and then I fall on my face, embarrassed.

People in that chapter did exploits. No, they didn't have degrees like you have. They're not famous and clever and brilliant.

They were poor and sophisticated people. You know much that they don't know, but they knew much you don't know. They knew God.

What's it say in the Word of God? The people that do know their Bibles? Is that what Daniel says? We've never had more Bibles in America. We have 600 million Bibles in America. That's three for every person in the nation.

We have more Bible schools in America than all the other nations of the world put together. We have more gospel broadcasts. We have more preaching.

But do we know God better? The Word of God says the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits. And so in Hebrews 11 you have this amazing list. If I'd been writing Hebrews 11 I'd have changed the whole thing.

Do you think if I'd written Hebrews 11 about faith I'd have put a prostitute in it? God did. He put, what was her name? Rahab, thank you. Rahab.

I would have put Joshua in. He isn't in. Oh he's there by inference.

By faith the very walls of Jericho fell down. But his name isn't mentioned. Surely I would have put Elijah in.

Boy what a man Elijah was. Superstar. If he lived today he'd be booked for the next 15 years in every church.

There's a wonderful record. But he isn't mentioned in Hebrews, in Hebrews what, 12? 11, 11. He isn't mentioned.

There are people in the chapter I wouldn't put in. There are people not in the chapter I would put in. But Samson is there.

The author says time would fail me to tell of Gideon and of Barak and of Jephthah and of Samson who through faith did what? Subdue kingdoms. There's a very old saying it goes back about 200 years ago that one man with God is a majority. God never raised up Methodism.

He raised up Wesley. Now to Wesley, Wesley was born Methodism. He didn't raise up the Salvation Army.

He found a man who was half Jew and half Gentile, filled him with the Holy Ghost and caused him to lead a Christian army called the Salvation Army that went into 70 countries, not cities, 70 countries in 90 years. The richest people in England joined it. People came from America to join the Salvation Army in England.

And God finds men. I look for a man to stand in the gap. And here is this Superman Samson.

Oh, this morning David mentioned the fact that he was a Nazirite. There were three things a Nazirite could not do. He could not drink wine, which is a sign of a worldly pleasure.

He could not touch anything that was dead. That's a type of people dead in trespasses and in sins. And third, he had to have long hair.

His hair had to be long to bear the reproach. People scorned him as looking effeminate. And that comes with the Christian too.

We have to be separate from the world. We have to be separate from dead people. And we have to bear reproach for Christ's sake.

But here is this man. And let me get this straight here a minute. The woman again asked the question, tell me what is the secret of thy great strength? Do you know the curse of our day is mediocrity? If you're going to one Pentecostal church, you'll be in every one of them in the nation.

You know what they'll do? They'll stand and clap for the first 15 minutes, go to sleep the next Spartan, and go out all happy. Doesn't matter where you go. There's a dreadful mediocrity.

There's nothing about this man which is normal. He is abnormal. These are abnormal days.

They demand abnormal men with abnormal messages and abnormal anointings. There's a phrase recurring in the story of this man over and over again. I give it from chapter 14 and in verse 6, oh pardon me, in verse 5. Samson went down and his father and his mother to Timnath.

And they came to the vineyards at Timnath. And behold a young lion roared against him. Now that lion, in my, in my thinking, that lion is typical of the power of the devil.

Who goeth about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. He could have gone that way to Timnath. Don't go that way.

There's a lion in the way. What did he care? It says repeatedly in the story, read it, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him. And there is no substitute for the anointing of God.

Scholarship is no substitute. Human genius is no substitute. Organizing is no substitute.

Financial backing is no substitute. There is something which God alone is able to give. That is the anointing of the Spirit of God.

And repeatedly it says the Spirit of the Lord came upon him. It says in the in the 13th chapter and in verse 25, the Spirit of the Lord began to move on him at times in the camp between Zorah and Eshterhal. Well there's nothing in this world that equals that mighty anointing of God.

Many of you don't remember World War II. That's a blessing. Or World War I. I remember both of them.

But you know Hitler was a superman. This is God's superman. Hitler was a genius, an evil genius.

He rallied the whole nation behind him. Millions of people died for him. Okay, he had the sports palace in Berlin often.

He got 200,000 men in full army rigged. They wore steel helmets, packs on their backs, their guns with their bayonets in. And they stood in a torrid heat to hear him with that tremendous thrust that he had, that orgy that he had.

And on one occasion he stood up and he spoke for about 15 minutes and he got nowhere. As flat as could be. Usually the people would get up and yell and cheer.

But not a thing. It was like a cemetery. And behind him he had his staff.

One was a man by the name of Goring and the other was a man by the name of Goebbels. And Hitler stood there a little while quite restless and shifty and uncertain. And then he started speaking again and suddenly he went up.

The whole bunch of men were there ready to fight. Cheering madly. Do you know what Goebbels said to Goring? He's all right.

The Holy Ghost is upon him now. That suggests to me they had known something of God in some meetings. And yet he realized there's a moment of release.

Some people, some orators, maybe the Greeks called it the nimbus. Others called it the athletus. We call it unction.

You can't buy it. You can't make it. You can't give it.

It's the prerogative of God. And sometimes that holy anointing is there and you feel you want to close your eyes. God is so near.

This awesome thing came. David reminded us this morning. These people have been in captivity to the Philistines for 40 years.

And so the way to get to him is through a woman. Listen to the story quickly here. I read to you that sixth verse.

Delilah said to Samson, tell me I pray thee we're in the secret of thy great strength liar. That's number one warning he got. Look at verse 10.

Delilah said unto Samson, behold thou hast mocked me and told me lies. What did he say? He said, if you'll get green ropes that were never used and bind me, then I shall be as another man. Isn't that awesome? Look, she knew he wasn't an ordinary man.

He knew he wasn't an ordinary man. The Philistines knew he wasn't an ordinary man. He was more powerful than an army.

And yet he sold out. We've had some of the greatest preaching, with a question on it, at least men with the greatest audiences in history in the last few years in America. They talk to the whole world.

But tonight nobody wants to hear them. They sold their privilege. They got arrogant.

They were cursed with money, not blessed with it. They were cursed with favor. And tonight the world laughs and mocks at them, just like these people mocked at this man.

Samson said, if they bind me with seven green wrists that were never dried, then I shall be like other men. He doesn't say that. Listen to it.

Then shall I be weak. The other morning on TV, I don't watch much of it, it showed the progress of Japan. And it said that dropouts in school are almost unknown.

Children beating up the teachers are not known. Because in Japan almost all the teachers are men. Whereas in America all the teachers are women.

And all the teachers in Sunday school are women. It's a tragic situation. The true husband is the king in the home, and he's the priest.

We were reminded this morning that this son was born of a woman who herself was a Nazirite. She didn't drink wine. She wasn't foolish.

She wasn't careless. Going out Sunday morning, a young lady, where's Jeff? Somewhere here. Jeff's wife said to me, well, you said lay on your tummy and worship God.

She said, I'm five months pregnant. Can I lay on my tummy? I said, no, lay on your back. It's just the same.

But you know, it makes a difference. If you're pregnant, talk to the child. Sing to the child.

Maybe one reason I love hymns was, my mother could sing like, oh boy, she was like a canary. And she was beautiful looking. And they say, you know, if you blend those two things together, harmony, music, and quietness, talk to that child, and the child will become like its mother.

And my mother was beautiful. Look at me. Listen, why settle for mediocrity? Demand of God that that child you're going to bear is going to be an abnormal child.

Claim it as abnormal appetite for God. In the revival in the 1720s, boys and girls, six, seven, eight, nine years of age, didn't want to go to bed. They traveled all night in prayer, in that revival that launched the greatest mystery, opposition to the devil since the day of Pentecost.

All because those young people had been trained properly in the homes where they lived. Well, I mentioned again here, verse 14 of the 15th chapter says, when he came against him, the spirit of the Lord came upon him and cords were upon his arms, became as flax, as though they were burned with fire, and his hands loose from off his. And then it says in this verse again, you see the stupid things God can use.

He found the new jawbone of an ass, and with it he slew, what, ten men, a thousand, with a jawbone of an ass. Isn't that amazing? I remember in, somebody saying in England, a fellow was preaching on this, he said, well, the preacher said, well, no, the lady said, we were studying that study, the other day we were talking about the story of the Samson, and he took the jawbone of an ass, and he slew a thousand men. And, well, God, that was in that day.

God doesn't use the jawbone of an ass anymore. She said, he does at our church. He says, he went up to the city, and when they heard that he was in the city, they locked up the city, and said, we'll take care of him now.

So Job, this man got up, flexed his muscles, took the gates of the city, carried them up on the mountain, and said, you'll have more difficulty getting them back than I have getting them here. The Spirit of the Lord is upon him. He's the type of this people who are anointed, and there's nothing can stand against them.

And the one thing the devil hates, he doesn't mind you giving up your smoking, he doesn't mind you giving up your silly habits. He's very, very much afraid you might get filled with God, the Holy Ghost, and be under divine control. Your intellect will be illuminated by the Spirit.

Your strength will be of the Spirit. Your love will be of the Spirit. Your emotions will be of the Spirit.

Your compassion will be of the Spirit. Because he's come to invade that wonderful personality of yours. So they bind him with new robes, and he gets out of them.

And then this woman comes again. She asks him at least three times. Let me jump over this for time.

Three times she comes and says, what's the secret of great strength? That's the warning. Listen, whatever's happened on TV to those men, it wasn't that they slipped. Every man begins his spiritual deterioration in the place of prayer.

Neglecting the Word, neglecting the secret place to the most high. The devil says, oh you're so busy. A friend of mine came to see me not long ago.

He'd been right across America preaching in the greatest churches in the country. And he asked me had I been to a certain church. I said yes.

I've been. I've never preached there. I was there Sunday.

There were over 3,000. I told the pastor I'll come and preach here on Sunday, if I can have fellowship with you on Monday at lunch. And so he said that Monday I went.

And he said I've been wanting to ask you a question for three months. Tell me this. You're the pastor of this fabulous church.

You use stacks of money. You're known throughout Pentecost. Tell me this.

How much time do you spend personally in prayer? He said, he laughed. He said, hey what do you mean spend time in prayer? I've 3,000 people to look after. I have so many committees.

I go to five or six meetings. I haven't time for prayer. Well then you ought to get out of the job.

The devil doesn't say it's organizing. He says it's agonizing. It doesn't matter who we know if we don't know God.

And it doesn't matter we don't know if we know him. To know him he is the source of all power, all strength, all wisdom. And in every situation that this man came, he's more than conqueror through him that loved him.

There's no failure there for a while. Anyhow, it came to pass, listen what she did. She pressed him daily with her words and urged him so that his soul was vexed.

She pressed him, she urged him, she got him vexed until he told her all that was in his heart. There is no razor come upon my head. If I be shaven, then my head hair shall be shaven.

I shall become weak and become as another man. And when Delilah saw that he told her all his heart, she called for the lords of the Philistines saying, he has shown me all his heart. Now look it says what? She said, look you're getting tired.

You've been overworking. You carry the gate to the city where everybody's talking about you. Just lay, just get down a minute and lay your head on my lap.

You know if it stayed on his knees, it never got on her knees. It's just a subtle thing that the devil says you're tired. Sure he'll tell you that everything.

He'll make any excuse as long as you don't touch the throne of God every day. As long as you don't touch resurrection life. As long as your vision is blurred.

As long as he can get you mesmerized by materialism and fascinated with all the wretched stuff, trivia that we have around about us. She said to the Philistines, when you walk out of this sleep, can you imagine him? Pardon me let me go in verse 19 again. She made him sleep on her knees.

She called for the man and she caused him to shave the seven locks from his head and began to afflict him. She, a woman began to afflict him. A man that had recently, what did he do? Well there was a lion in the way.

And when he met the lion he got all of it and he tore its jaws apart. Doesn't it say in the Hebrews chapter 11, subdue kingdoms, wrought righteousness, stop the mouths of lions. You say that's Daniel.

Daniel didn't stop the mouth of the lion. The Lord shut the mouths of the lions. But on this occasion this man beats the devil head and meets the lion head on.

The devil's having a millennium today. We're fighting more enemies in the true church of Jesus Christ than ever. You see what you sow you reap.

You can't break God's laws. Two of the greatest curses in the world today I believe are Mormonism and Jehovah's Witnesses. They were both born in America.

We threw them out to the world. Mormonism and Jehovah Witnesses. Spiritism was raised in America again in 1834.

That's mesmerizing. You know I believe America and England are the same in this. They're being crushed.

All our young people and others are being crushed by two walls. This wall is the occult and the other wall is drugs. All over the world the pressure is on like this.

And you can lecture as much as you like and talk as much as you like and shout over tv as much as you like and do all the rest. Until the manifestation of God, manifestation of God's holy power in America will do nothing. You can't do it by hand bills.

There's got to be such a holy attraction in the sanctuary that people want to rush here. Dear God if you're watching a stupid film tonight you could have had more joy than when you're raising your hands and singing here. Rose, hallelujah Christ rose.

We need to recapture the majesty of the gospel. A critic in the New York Times book review said recently the trouble with modern Christianity. The modern preachers have lost two things.

They've lost sight of the awesome beauty and thrilling majesty of the gospel. That's a critic. We've lost sight of the awesome beauty of the thrilling majesty of the gospel.

That the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. They shook, took the hair off his head. It's a sign of a broken vow.

And they began to afflict him. And she said unto him, Samson awoke out of his sleep and he said I will go out as at other times and shake myself. And he wished not.

I heard G. Campbell Morgan say 50 years ago, this is one of the saddest texts in the whole of the Bible. He didn't know the glory had gone. The anointing left swaggered two years before that wretched mess in his life.

Of course you can get excited and weep. I can do that every day of my life, whether I have anointing or not. I can do it so natural hate for sin.

That the devil is such a chronic and rotten taskmaster. Yeah I'll tell you what, there are some people discovering right now. They're dying at this moment.

They're gasping. They had a few nights amusement and they got a damning disease called AIDS. And they're suddenly discovering the Bible is right.

That if you sow to the flesh, you of the flesh reap corruption. Somebody said for a man to have AIDS, it's like taking hold of a man and sitting on a red hot stove. He's burning like hell.

It's hell on the way to hell. And yet people who get it tonight. The lust of the flesh is so much they have no dominion.

I can't give you the statistics. Maybe sometimes brother Mack can tell you about what did. What's the preacher of the prophet say? Yeah.

There'll be three, three strides of AIDS given by, told us by Paul Kane, a man that you love very dearly. And this is the worst, isn't it? Oh, there's one more coming, which will be worse than what we have. We have no power against it.

Where is our power? I'm sick of performance and talk. You don't like this. It's English.

Listen, it was a very charming young guy came into my office. He works alone. He carries a pack on his back.

He's a fine young American. He calls himself God's mule, M-U-L-E. He packs his back with Spanish testaments and Spanish Bibles.

And he's been going into Nicaragua and to the Sandinistas and bullets are whizzed by his ears. He's a precious man. And he came in my office and with tears, he said, Mr. Rainer, I've been away.

And he said, well, I've been away. He said, I went to the Sandinistas. I went where the Nicaraguans were.

There were no TVs, there were no telephones, there were no radios. Guess what they were talking about? Well, one of two things, either sports or politics. No, they were talking about the sin of preachers in America.

But he said, look, he said this last year in 1988, number one, we had a national day of prayer. Number two, we had Washington for Jesus. Number three, I understand the Rock Church in Dallas says they have

at least a hundred thousand people that pray 15 minutes a day for America.

So you have a national day of prayer. You have Washington for Jesus. They prayed from midnight till three o'clock.

You have a hundred thousand people in America praying 15 minutes a day. What did it do? Nothing. We've had a drought, the greatest drought in a hundred years.

Why? Oh, there's a hole in the sky. Forget it. God says that when he's angry with the people, he says, I'll send, I'll lock up heaven.

And do you know what? The drought this coming year may be even greater because there's no snowfall. Where the snow usually melts and fills up, there's no snowfall there. So despite our so-called praying, we had the greatest drought in a hundred years.

We had the greatest fires on the West Coast in a hundred years. We have AIDS devastating us. We have a little fellow there in Panama thumbing his nose at us.

He doesn't care if it's 50 million airplanes. He doesn't care if it's 10,000 atom bombs. He's getting his millions of dollars, drugs, and pushing them in this country.

And he sits and laughs at us. Prayer didn't move him. I think every day, I hope you Americans do.

I think what about 10 young men locked up in Lebanon in rotten, dark cells. And they talk about it in the United Nations. And they talk about and have their fun up in Washington.

Do they care if those men, those men can go to hell for all they care. I'm not only embarrassed at the politicians, I'm embarrassed at the church. I'm going to suggest to you people in this church, start some target praying.

Say this month we're going to pray about prostitution in this town. Next month we're going to pray about drugs and believe God will give us some of the leaders. Why in God's name don't we go for some big things? We're always praying for money for a new rug or something.

I'd like to see some people that are full of the Holy Ghost. I don't know if there's a dozen in America. Get together and say, like Rachel said when she discovered the barrenness, which David emphasized this morning.

She says, give me children or I die. Listen, the most expensive thing in America today, and you know spends the most money, the mafia. And I'll make a guess, there isn't one evangelical in the mafia.

Think about the rest. Sure we've had our sins and our failures. Why don't we pray? Oh I go to conferences, a lot of talk, doctor this, doctor so and so, this fellow founded so many churches.

So do you know the hardest mission field in the world today is America? We've less real genuine new births than anybody else. We've people coming forward. Dear Lord, I looked at a TV about two years ago and they said this has been a wonderful conference.

Two thousand people have been filled with the Holy Ghost in two days. Forget it. Were the two thousand in the upper room? I read and read and read.

That book, *Seven Pentecostal Pioneers*. I read the latest version of *Azusa Street*. On the first page Bartleman, who wrote the book, says there are 70 million Pentecostals in the world.

I had a Pentecostal theologian in my office and I said would you answer a question, just one. He said I'll try. I said here's Bartleman's book and Bartleman says there are 70,000 classical Pentecostals.

I almost touched him with my finger and I said brother you're a theologian, tell me this. I have a stack of his books on my shelf. I said tell me this, there are 70,000 people in the world, classical Pentecostals filled with the Holy Ghost speaking in tongues.

He said no there aren't. I said well I'm sorry it says so here. No no no no, that book isn't updated.

Mr. Raynall at this moment he said, this is six months ago in my office, this brilliant theologian, a solid 100 cent uh Pentecostal. He said there are not 70 million Pentecostals in the world Mr. Raynall, there are 120 million. I said God in heaven, are you serious? Yes there are 120 million people speaking in tongues filled with the Holy Ghost.

My anger was stirred. I moved to him, I almost hit him in the eye. I said brother tell me this, were there 120 million in the upper room? Well of course not.

Well then what's the difference between their Pentecost and ours? The scripture says from everlasting to everlasting now our God. God doesn't get tired. God doesn't run out of resources.

The Holy Ghost is the same. God loves this sinful world as much as ever he did. The shortage is not on God's side, it's on our side.

I wanted to preach on vision tomorrow night, all of a chance. But the greatest need that we have today, again in this day, is vision. We need a vision of deity, we need a vision of depravity, we need a vision of duty.

We need a vision of height, I saw the Lord high and lifted up. We need a vision of depth into the abyss of our old nature. We need a vision of deity, and then upward vision of deity, and inward vision of depravity, and outward vision of duty.

We need a vision of holiness. You know I'm praying for this with all my heart. I don't know where I'll go to find it.

I want to find the people, I don't care if there's fifty, that are so pure in heart that when you worship on the Lord's day, the Lord walks in the midst of those who are visible, and you walk out of that room and you can't say a word. You're so awed with the majesty of God, the holiness of God. We've lost sight of the holiness of God, and because of that we've lost sight of the lostness of men.

This man says I'll go out as at other times. You see if he'd been 15 feet high and God shrunk him to six feet, or ten feet, or eight feet, he'd say what's happened to me. But when he lost his hair, he was the same man.

His muscle was the same, his eyes were as good as ever, until again they came and they bound him, and then they put out his eyes. You see there are three pictures here. There's the story of Samson himself, his miraculous birth.

He was born of a woman who was barren, like so many of the great heroes of faith. And the church of Jesus Christ is more barren tonight in America than she's been for a hundred years. So he says I'll go out as at other times.

And he wished not that the Spirit of God had departed from him. I know nothing more tragic than that. I was reminded today of World War I, and we were on a vacation on the east coast of England, and my daddy took me to see the wreck of a big sailing ship, one of those things with four massive masts, and there were tons and tons of wood on the rocks.

This ship had crashed in the night, and there it was. And people sighed too. I think it's terrible when a man has had sight for years, he loses his sight.

I think it's terrible when somebody for some reason or other loses their sanity. The most awesome thing in the world is a man who has had the anointing of the Holy Ghost and he tries to carry on in the flesh. He goes to a gesticulation, says all the things, turns the watch on and weeps, and yet the anointing isn't there.

I was in Australia a few years ago, and looking up there brother, I always forget names now brother, Noel, Noel, good old Noel. I was in an audience not as large as this, and the pastor nudged me, you see that man up there? You know, all these intelligent men have big bald heads, like Noel and Socrates, and this man over in Australia, and he said, listen to me, listen to me, you see that man there with a bald head? I said yes. And the more I preached, the man's head went down and down and down.

He said, you know, 20 years ago that man could go to any city in Australia and get crowds of 20,000 and 30,000 people, and then after trivia, he lost his anointing. And you can't give him any consolation. You can say to him, you're the greatest preacher in Australia that ever had, it doesn't make any difference.

And that anointing does not come back. There are some of you preachers here tonight, you remember a time when you had more anointing than you have now. You had more compassion, you had more tears, you had more authority, you had more love.

You were married to the will of God. And something spoiled you, maybe business. Unless there's a new anointing in the pulpit, we're sunk.

Samson surely is a supreme example again, that it's not thy might, it's not thy power, but as a good book says, it's by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts. Can you imagine the rejoicing in the camp of the Philistines, when they spread the news. They said, you know what, you know that fellow that's always made a joke of us.

The man that one day took the jawbone of an ass and slew some of the best men that we had. Made everybody laugh at us. They don't, they're not a very war-like people, they're not a very rich people, they're nomads.

And yet they've one man and he's a terror. You see, I've said to preachers all over, I don't care a hill of beans where you're known. I don't care if you were the top three preachers in the Baptist denomination, or the top three in the Nazarene denomination, or the top three in the Assemblies of God, doesn't matter, a hill of beans.

Tell me this, are you known in hell? I've only one ambition of my old age, getting into my 83rd year. My one ambition, I'd like the devil to put a notice up 10 feet high in hell, beware of Ravenhill's moving, beware

of Ravenhill. Some women in our town were talking and one woman said to the other, I go and hear Ravenhill, I won't hear Ravenhill.

Well she said, we've invited him to our church. She said, you have? Well let me warn you, let him go in your pulpit, but don't let him pray. Boy that was a lovely thing to say.

Boy I want to know how to tie the devil up. I'm sick of the devil embarrassing the church, it's time we embarrass the devil. It doesn't say the people that do know their God should be best at drawing a crowd.

It says the people who do know their God should be strong and to exploit. Samson says, if you tie me up I shall be weak. Tamsin says, if you take my hair I shall be weak.

But God is a merciful God. Can you imagine the people saying, do you know the latest exploits of Samson? You know that lion down the road that tore two people up and ate up two or three children. Samson went down the other day and took it by the jaw and ripped it apart.

The devil doesn't care a hell of beans about this. You can have all your organizations, you can have your, you can have your little tea parties for profits. What does he care? I'm suspicious of this profit business.

I was going to preach on it tomorrow night, I won't get a chance now. I think the pastor got nervous. Oh it's nice to say you come out, I know your name and I know you and I know you'll listen.

Why can't we put up a barrier that the devil can't get through? Don't tell me greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. I won't listen to you falling. You faint in the way.

He's not greater in your prayer life. He's not greater vision to you. He's not greater compassion to you.

Everybody laughs and makes fun of this. The Philistines took him and put out his eyes. Samson begins in the miraculous.

His life dips. It finishes in the miraculous with greater miracles than we had at the beginning. The stories about Samson, the stories about Israel.

Israel began. She was born in the miraculous. Dear God what a time.

Every morning he got up. Cereal came down from heaven. They called it manna.

Their shoes were 40 years old and they didn't wear through. They didn't send their clothes to the dry cleaners. Sweat didn't have any trouble with them.

And they had all this miraculous stuff and yet they forgot their God. God has to keep saying to them, remember, remember, remember. Particularly remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

Remember my mercy. Remember when I intervened on your behalf. We forget.

The hemorrhoids at Calvary, I think it was, said when all thy mercies oh my God my rising souls of age transported with the view I'm lost in wonder love and praise. But we forgot now to worship. We forgot now to render the glory that's due to his name.

The Philistines took hold. Let me say this quickly as I think. I said last night.

I'm dreadfully sorry. I'm embarrassed to death. When people tell me last night on TV or somewhere.

The comedians were making jokes about PTO and about shrugging. About them running off with women. All this muck.

What the world says about the church we deserve it. But listen when the Holy One, the Lord Jesus Christ who died to redeem us. When he said in the last days, these troublesome days, these terrible days before he comes.

The church will be the Laodicean church laid back. And he says it's not a critic. It's not a liberal.

It's not an atheist. It's not an agnostic. It's not a Mohammedan.

It's not a JW or somewhere. It's Christ himself. As his church is poor, wretched, naked, blind and miserable.

We're blind. And preach if you're blind to a lost world. Your congregation will be lost blind to a lost world.

I had the privilege of praying a number of times with one of the great giants of modern life. Who had revival in 1949 and 50 in Scotland. Dr Duncan Campbell.

And I said to him one day. Well listen tell me one thing. I know you had revival.

It was the first day of World War II. And I had the privilege of having some tea and cakes with him in a little church in Glasgow Scotland. And afterwards I had the privilege of praying with him in the morning between five and six.

I said to him one day. Listen you had revival 15 years you told me. Before the first day of World War II you had revival.

Okay. Whole communities were moved. Yes.

And then you lost the anointing. Yes. What happened? He said I came home one night.

And my beautiful daughter was about 18. A student at the university. A Jewish I would say NA student.

A clever girl. And he said. She just looked across the table and said.

Daddy please could I ask you one question. He had his clerical collar on and his three quarter coat that the Presbyterian preachers wear. He said darling what is it? She said.

Daddy. He was a teenage girl looking a brilliant daddy in the eye. And he said.

Daddy you don't have the anointing you used to have. Why are you so different? He said. I said.

Good night. I went into a room. Took off my coat.

Took off my crazy collar. Threw them down. And got down to pray at midnight.

I heard the clock strike one and two and three and four and five. About six o'clock I heard some footsteps coming across the room. And I knew it was my daughter.

And he said. She didn't know a thing that was going on. But at that moment she put a hand on my head and just prayed.

Oh God. I don't know what's wrong with my daddy. But something's wrong.

Lord would you touch him please. Please don't let him go mad. There's no sign of insanity.

She waited a few minutes again and prayed. God don't let my daddy go insane. There's something wrong here.

And he said to me with his tears. He said. Brother Raymond at that moment.

And he done some amazing moments in revival supernatural manifestations of God. But he said. At the moment my precious daughter put a hand on me.

I was looking into hell. I could see millions of lost people. I could hear them in their torment.

I could hear them in their agony. And he said. It completely revolutionized my life.

William Booth the founder of the Salvation Army said. When you graduated in my school. If I had the chance.

I would hang you over hell for 24 hours. We've lost sight of hell. When did you last hear a sermon about hell.

When did your faithful preacher ever say. Warn you to flee from the wrath to come. Why did he tell you that.

And so that sinneth it shall die. When did he tell you that. Once you're going to hell.

There's no exit. We tell so many lies about people when we bury them. We try to be kind and we're unkind.

The first thing they did with this man then quickly is this. First thing they did was bind him. The church has been bound for years now.

Bound by theology. Bound by formalism. Bound by ritual.

Bound by customs. It's freezing. So when they bind him.

The next thing they do is blind him. They put out his eyes. What kind of eyes do you have.

Sure you drive down the road. Sure you live in this lovely city. Kansas City.

How many times do you pass a prostitute. You don't think she's going to live forever in the presence of God or in hell. Of course you know the youngsters are going crazy about drugs.

How often do you shut the door and say now we're going to have a prayer meeting for the youth. This church is going to spend a month praying for teenagers. That's our goal for this month.

Drunkards is our goal for next month. Prostitutes for next month. And get some targets and believe God.

And make hell get terrified. Again when Napoleon says there is China. Let it alone.

And the devil says there's a church. Let it sleep. After all you're not dead.

Your eyes are just closed. But you might as well be blind. But they took Samson.

He couldn't see anything. And then they put him down in the basement. Boy the humiliation.

He can't see anyone. He can't reach out to help anybody. If any more lions to destroy he can't see them.

There he is down in the basement grinding corn for the Philistines. And he's pushing there going round and round and round day by day. Do you know why? Because one day the humorist the joke.

He not only destroyed a lion. He not only destroyed 200 people. But one day he set fire to the corn.

And he destroyed the crops of the Philistines. And so they in turn said we'll make him grind corn for us. He stole it.

Now we'll make him grind and make bread for us. And he's going round. Can you imagine it? A man with a thing like this.

Pushing it day by day. Day by day. Year after year.

The man who once took a lion and ripped it apart. The man who once left the gates of a city. The man who once took the job and threw a thousand of his enemies.

And here he is now a serf. He's in bondage to that machine. Okay see him going round and round.

Suddenly he hears some footsteps. He has acute hearing. And he says who art thou? And this boy said I'm a boy.

I'm just a boy. I'm just a Philistine boy. What are you here for? Well you know the National Auditorium is packed with people.

And I have to take you up there. And he takes him by the hand and brings him up the steps. And all the crowd roars.

Is this him? This crippled blind bound man? Is this the man that terrified our fathers? Is this the man that delivered us from our enemies? Is this the man that delivered us from the lions? Can this be the same man? And it says they mocked him. But there's one thing they didn't notice. And this I think is one of the most merciful things in the word of God.

You see when his enemies took him and cut off his hair. Then the next thing says his hair began to grow again. Can you imagine him putting his hand up and saying.

Well praise God. God favored me again. My hair is coming.

I'll never make that mistake again. I'm going to be a faithful Nazirite. And his hair grew again.

And he began to rejoice in the Lord. It came to pass that when the hearts of the people were married. They sent for Samson and made sport of him.

They took him out of the prison house. And they set him between the pillars. Now they should have had more sense than to do that.

They put him before the pillars once before. All he did was breathe and push the whole thing out. And they thought well now he's lost his power.

We'll put him here. So what did he do? He said in verse 26 Samson said unto the people. The man that led him by the hand.

Suffer me that I may feel the pillars were on the house of standards. That I may lean upon them. Now the house was full of men and women.

And all the lords of the Philistines were there. Do you see? Here's a gathering of all the celebrities. This is a national event.

They're going to ridicule and mock and scorn the God of Israel. And this man still has a heart for his nation. The priest can't do anything.

Nobody else can do anything. And here's a man who's been afflicted. He's blind.

What does he pray for? It says there are 3,000 men in the gallery. I guarantee there were 10,000 people there all laughing at this man. The poor blind helpless idiot of a seller.

And God has left him. The people have left him. What does he pray for? Does he fall down and say oh God have mercy give me my eyesight back again? No.

Does he say Lord give me power of the Philistines. Give me freedom again? No he doesn't. He prays an awesome prayer.

We very seldom classify Samson as a man of prayer. But here it says that he prayed. Verse 28 Samson called on the Lord and said oh Lord God remember me.

I pray thee and strengthen me. Notice he doesn't say give me six more years to live and I'll recover my backsliding. I'll make up for my lack of prayer.

I'll make up my lack of devotion. I'll make up for my lack of giving. He doesn't say that.

He doesn't say give me a year. He's so embarrassed that the enemies of God are having fun. That the God of Israel is rejected and scorned.

That he cries this prayer. Lord strengthen me just once. And he says then as he finishes that prayer in verse 30.

Okay verse 28. Strengthen me I pray thee just once that I may be avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. For Samson took hold of the two pillars on which the house was.

And he pushed one with his right hand and the other with his left. And Samson prayed what? Let me be strengthened just once. He meant that.

Why did he mean it? Because he said listen let me die in victory. Strengthen me just once even if I die. I can't die miserable like this defeated.

I can't die in the camp of the enemy blind, bound, useless. They'll build a memorial to the greatest failure among the judges that the Chimney's ever had. I can't do that.

Dear God please come just once. I've failed you so often. Give me one chance.

Listen there are 50 men here tonight I believe. And years ago you had an anointing in prayer. You love to pray.

You love to seek the lost. You love to weep for the dying. And your anointing's gone.

Dear God what good are you? You're no good as a preacher. You're no good as a deacon. Come on.

It's time for us to get so desperately angry about the devil destroying our youth. That we've more millions of people ever in America as slaves than ever we had when slavery was legal. We've slaves to drink.

We've slaves to lust. We've slaves to money. We've millions of slaves.

And the only thing that will happen to deliver us is that we come in humility. I know you've made vows at conferences. Made vows here and vows here and vows there.

But as David spoke this morning and he spoke about the lost blessing, the lost anointing, the lost vision. Well God had said that to me early this morning. I've never put that emphasis on this message before.

That there are those in the congregation who have lost their anointing, lost their compassion, lost their tears, lost their love for Christ. Are you jealous for the Lord God of hosts? Are you more jealous for your local football team? Do you watch them every Sunday afternoon or do you agonize in prayer for a lost generation? Samson says give me this. Let me die with the Philistines.

And he fell upon the Lord and upon all the people that were there. So the dead he slew in his death were more than those that he slew in his life. That's why I believe he's a type not only of Israel that's going to return in glory.

He's a type himself of the believer that lost his power. I believe the church of Christ is going to end in a blaze of revival. A Pentecost that will allow Pentecost, Pentecost.

It won't have a name on it. It won't be a denominational revival. It will be a revival of everybody who's ever breathed the holy name in prayer.

Samson doesn't offer a tribute. He doesn't say, Lord, you see, let me go out, I'll do this, I'll do that, I'll do that. He's done that before.

He says, Lord, take away my reproach. He didn't say take away my blindness. Show me your glory.

Don't prove my strength. Prove your strength. Prove you're the great deliverer.

You know, this has happened over and over. I won't take any more time. This has happened over and over and over in history.

God has found men who got to the end of their resources. God has used some men who were total failures. I guarantee there's a dozen, there's 20 preachers here.

At one time you used to pray that the lost were saved. You rejoiced in prayer. You knew victory in your life.

And tonight you have to say with Samson, Lord God, that anointing has gone. People mock, scorn, ridicule me. Lord, give me one more chance.

Dare you do that? Let me tell you something. All hell is looking on this meeting. And Satan wants to keep you in defeat.

You're no good to yourself. You're a disappointment to yourself. You're a disappointment to your church.

You're a disappointment to God. Have you the courage to say, God Almighty, I don't care what it is? He didn't say pull the house down. He said, strengthen me just once.

Let me feel that holy anointing. Let me feel that divine compassion. Lord, let the enemies of God know.

Strengthen me just once, even if I die. And God answered both his prayers. He died on the crest of revival.

He killed more in his dying than in his living. Right now, the whole world is watching on. Because the only revival in the world at this moment, religious revival, is a revival of Mohammedanism.

They say it's the most rapidly growing religion even in England. The land that gave us the Bible. The land that birthed the Salvation Army revival.

The land that birthed the Western Revival. And a glorious God. The whole key is this.

I'm through with this. The key is our hunger after God. Are you dissatisfied that your denomination, your church, nobody bothers about it.

People go past it every day to hell. Your preaching doesn't get broken. So why should you be broken? I've been asking God, and I'm a stranger here in one sense, I've been asking God these last two or three days to make a womb here in Kansas, where something will be born that will not just bless a community, but go to the very ends of the earth.

This morning as I prayed, I saw like a wheel and the roads coming down from every direction. And I saw people converging, coming here into this city for what? To fill this place? No, to see the magic power of God. I believe we're going to see something so great, no man will dare put his name on it.

People say, this is God, how do you explain it? And he comes to the theologians and say, we can't explain it. God has just caused this place to shine upon us. As the 80th psalm says, cause thy face to shine upon us and we shall be saved.

Israel knew when God turned his face away, they were in darkness, God was angry, and they cried over and over and over in that 80th psalm, cause thy face to shine upon us and we shall be saved. We don't need help from Russia. We don't need to be friendly with other nations.

What we need is a favor of God. What I need is a touch of God. What I want is that love that burns in my heart, the love shed abroad by the Holy Ghost, that I don't care whether I go back and live in Texas or I come and live in Kansas, does it matter? I'm not going to die, I'll tell you that.

I refuse to die until God rends the heavens. Let me stop there. After all this, if, if, if Isaiah hadn't had a vision of a God and a vision of his nation, he'd never have cried, oh that thou wouldst rend the heavens.

David said something of the nature this morning, we are trying to rend the heavens, we're trying to do this. Oh here's a new prophet, here's a man with a bit more vision, here's a bit more, man with a bit more wisdom, forget it. Every problem that we have will be answered when the Holy Ghost comes.

When he came on Azusa Street, who were they? One of the leading men was a Nazarene. What was a black man? As black as my precious brother there. And what did he do? He used to come and sit on the, on the, on the, on the back of the platform and he buried his head in a shoebox.

He didn't come in a smart suit and a nice fancy watch and something. But when that man came in, do you know what they said? It says in that record in Azusa Street that when the Holy Ghost was in that building, people three blocks away got on the conviction of sin before they could see the building. The very presence of God was moving.

The same thing happened in the, in the Shang Tsung revival in China. The people up the street, the Holy Ghost in waves was there. Listen it's hour, it's later than we think tonight, it's a terribly late hour.

Either God comes in tremendous mercy to America in a way we've never known or he'll come in gentler than we've never known before. Listen somebody, you better pray for those children and build them up in the most holy faith. Because the tribulation coming.

We've had more favor, we've had more preaching. Don't tell me the churches are filled. The divorce courts are filled.

The churches are filled one hour on Sunday morning. The jails are filled 24 hours every day of the year. People say you get excited.

Excited? What in God's name is to get excited about outside of the will of God. So you think more about the stars and stripes than you think about the cross. The British think more about the Union Jack than they feel about the cross.

But it comes all down to this. Don't keep a record of all you've done. Tonight where are you? Are you spiritually bankrupt? Are you spiritually blind like Samson? Are you bound with fear? Are you bound with a theology that doesn't work? As demons look from that angle.

As angels look from this angle. As God looks from his throne tonight. I challenge you, particularly men.

I'm not going to ask the women at this point. You say, Brother Amiel, my spiritual life is stagnant. I'm prepared to lay it on the line physically.

I'm prepared to become an intercessor. I'm prepared to know tears I've never known. I'm prepared to know strength I've never known.

I just want to pray once. Dear God, I'll pray the prayer of Samson. Lord strengthen me just once.

What should be setting sin? Is it lust? Is it laziness? Is it blindness? What is it? Come on you fellows say, I can't live like this. I'm prepared to come and lay myself at the altar and say, Lord strengthen me just once. Give me one more chance.

I'm not going to sing to try and move you emotionally. Get up right now and come and admit your bankruptcy. Lord strengthen me just once.

May take courage while people watch. Everybody will watch you at the judgment. Millions of eyes will watch you at the judgment.

And you'll wish to God you'll come tonight. See there's no emotion around. I'm not asking you to intellectually make a decision.

I'm going to be God's man. I'm going to die. I'm going to die to my sports programs.

I'm going to die to my own ambitions. I'm going to die even to my ministry. I want to be alive in Christ tonight.

I want the Holy Ghost to possess me as I've never known his divine possession. Let's pray. Joanne, come on up.

I want you to sing this song in a minute, but let's pray. Let's, we're going to wait on the Lord a few minutes first. Father, I ask that you would raise up intercessors right now in the house of God.

Lord, I ask that you would mark men right now as intercessors. Lord, I ask that you would mark women across this crowd as intercessors. I ask that you would come by the hand of God and that you would reveal the intention of the heart right now.

I ask that you would expose ambition in the business and ministry and all the things that keep us out of the out of the presence of the Lord. God, I ask you right now to reveal by the hand of God. Lord, your intention, your destiny to these men.

Lord, cause the destiny of the Lord, that the Lord Jesus has for each of them to loom before their eyes right now by the power of revelation. Lord, come as they give themselves to you and touch them. God, we ask you that prophets would be born right now, even in this hour.

Lord, I ask that there's men that are kneeling that you've marked unto holy things, that you would mark this day in heaven as the day of bringing them forth in that holy destiny. Lord, I ask that the Spirit of God would come and break the hearts of everyone in this auditorium, Lord. Men and women like those kneeling, those sitting, come and break the hearts of your people.

Lord, that you would give them a new passion, a new vision for yourself, for the glory of the church, for the glory of your of your son, Christ Jesus. God, I ask that you would come and give your people an undivided heart. Lord, release a vision for an undivided heart, I ask you.

I ask that you would open up hell as you did for Duncan Campbell. Lord, that you would make real to the people the reality of the judgment seat. Lord, come in the name of Jesus.

Lord, come and visit. Joanne's gonna sing this song, Make It Your Prayer. This is an anointed song, a prayer before the Lord.

Let's turn the piano itself down and turn her voice up. Yeah, eyes from the ear, yeah. Thank you, Lord, as I dwell in your court forevermore.

Oh, others call my name and they beg of me to come. Oh, but I, I have eyes for only you. I will always have eyes for only you.

I sing this song, my heart is dead, never to be moved. Distraction's worthy, all day spiteful, but my devotion will only be true for only you. I am my beloved, those are the words that echo the angels to say, and through the ages, let this story be told.

Forevermore, we have eyes for only you. Yes, we have said forevermore, oh, and they beg of me, we have eyes, yeah, forever, we'll be only yours. Father, we thank you in the name of Jesus that I ask that right now that you begin to speak to these men, these women in this group.

You begin to give them a new priority of their schedule. God, I ask that you would give clarity about the scheduling of their time. In the name of Jesus, Lord, I ask specifically for the light of the Spirit to speak about two and three hour portions of time in these lives that you're not pleased with.

30 and 40 minute portions of time in a weekly schedule. I ask that you would begin to give wisdom in a structure of a schedule. Lord, that they would be able to hear you, that they would be able to hear your voice.

Lord, that you would talk to them. I ask by the ministry of the Spirit right now. Lord, grant a ministry of the Holy Spirit dealing with wisdom in the area of time, in the area of schedule.

Lord, that you would give them a vision to wait before you in the secret place. God, I ask that you'd release faith, Lord, that people could touch you in the Word of God. Oh, Lord, I just speak against that spirit of unbelief that says I could never, ever hear God when I read the Word.

I can't feel the presence of the Lord. I ask that the spirit of unbelief that says you can't speak to your own offspring, I break that now over these minds. That evil, lying spirit of unbelief that says they can't make it with God because God doesn't ever draw near to them.

Lord, I ask you to really, for an infusion of faith in their spirit. Faith to draw near to you. Lord, that you will, in fact, draw near back to them in due time.

Oh, Lord, release the faith I ask. Oh, God, give faith that you will draw near, that you will reward those that speak to you in due time. Lord, I ask you to speak to them now.

Oh, come and talk to them right now, Lord, as we wait just a few minutes. Come and give wisdom, give understanding, Lord, that you really, really can rearrange their schedule and their priorities. Yes, bless you, Lord.

We're going to wait just a couple more minutes. Joanne, I want you to sing this song about come talk to me, how the Lord, just receive the ministry of the spirit even in this. We'll end after this.

Lord, give wisdom in this area. Just be talking to the Lord right now, this next three or four minutes. Be in agreement as the Lord gives you wisdom on how to rearrange your schedules right now.

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Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/20/SID20710.mp3>

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