

Living to Die

by Leonard Ravenhill

Leonard Ravenhill's sermon 'Living to Die' calls believers to embrace suffering, seek spiritual maturity, and live with the expectation of Christ's return.

Duration: 1:17:57

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:54

Topics: "Death To Self"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker expresses gratitude for the blessed hope of the second coming of Jesus Christ. Despite the denial and scoffing of others, the speaker firmly believes in the imminent return of Christ. The speaker also acknowledges the suffering of those in slavery and persecution around the world, but holds onto the belief that ultimately the gospel will triumph and people from all nations will be gathered together. The sermon concludes with a reminder that as believers, our mortal bodies will be transformed into immortality, and we will enter into eternal life.

Transcript

Thank you, we can say with an old hymn writer. He is coming and his coming draweth nigh. In my heart I have the witness that his coming draweth nigh.

All the scoffers may deny him, and no change around may see, but he tells me he is coming and that's quite enough for me. We thank you for this blessed hope. Lord, at this moment we think of thousands, maybe millions, groveling in slavery in Russian camps.

In China and elsewhere. And one day they're going to be gathered into the most awesome event in history. Because you said that ultimately the gospel will triumph, people will come from every kindred and nation and people and tongue.

And then in the noblest, sweetest song we'll sing thy power to save. When these poor, lisping, stammering tongues shout victory o'er the grave. Lord, we bless you for this blessed hope tonight.

Lord, we thank you we're not what we used to be. But Lord, we thank you we're not what we're going to be either. We thank you this mortality will put off, put off mortality and put on immortality.

This corruption will put on incorruption. This human life will enter into a fuller measure of eternal life. We can sing triumphantly.

So be it Lord, thy throne shall never like earth's proud empires pass away. Thy kingdom stands and grows forever till all thy creatures on thy sway. Lord, we can not in any shape or form stretch our minds to any conception at all of the marriage supper of the Lamb.

That blessed event without precedent and without antecedent. When we see the King in all his glory. When we see the saints of all the ages.

But when we see those cripples that Jesus healed in the days of his flesh. When we see those who are redeemed out of the revivals through the centuries. We bless you in that day.

There'll be one great glorious family. If they speak in a thousand tongues we won't need translators. We'll all behold the King in his beauty.

I think of the times of dereliction in the life of Moses when he staggered through the jungle with murmuring, grumbling, sour people. He'd been their leader out of bondage and slavery and all they did was chastise him with words and hate him. And yet Lord, ultimately in eternity your word says we're going to sing the song of Moses and of the Lamb.

Lord, it would be worth it if it was seven deaths between here and there. If you were to be lashed with a thousand lashes. If you were to have more suffering even than the Apostle Paul.

It would be worth it all. As we sing sometimes it will be worth it all when we see Jesus. Life's trials will seem so... Lord, we look so stupid in your presence.

Lord, we fall over matchsticks. It doesn't take persecution and prison and privation. Lord, we get a headache if we have a flat tire.

We're distressed over trivia. Lord, give us some heroic spirits. Give us some holy boldness.

Take away this unholy coldness and give us holy boldness. Lord, reduce this flesh to nothing. If there's still flesh, take it, put it away.

Lord, we don't want to live in minimum Christianity. God help us. We've lived too long in waters to the ankles.

We've not pushed into waters to the knees or waters to swim in. Lord, we've handicapped ourselves. Our eyes have been unanointed.

Our souls have been without passion. Lord, we hardly dare murmur that holy word of sacrifice. Where is it? We live in luxury, all of us, compared to other people whose sewage runs past their front door as the brothers saw in Belize there, as we remember seeing in parts of Canada.

People who are sadly clothed, if clothed at all. People who live very much like the animals in the bush. Lord, we're so drugged.

Lord, God, I believe the greatest drug in America tonight is creature comfort. Our homes are too comfortable. Our cars are too comfortable.

Everything's comfortable. It's become an anesthetic. Lord, again, I pray, bring that holy boldness.

Divorce us. Divorce me from everything, Lord, which is unchristlike, which is unworthy of the holy name I profess to bear. God baptizes with a holy recklessness that we'll turn this world upside down.

When we think of those men coming from the upper room, they had no money, no organization, no system. And yet they went and turned the world upside down. They penetrated the military power of the Roman Empire.

They penetrated the intellectual power of the Greeks. They penetrated the sleepy satisfaction of the Jews of the day. Lord, I thank you tonight for every area in the world where the spirit of the Lord is and having his liberty.

Lord, we've so frozen him into our theology. We made him the prisoner of our creeds. Lord, I think how many millions of people over the world will say this weekend, I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, Jesus Christ is on this and our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary.

And they'll go on to profess, I believe in the Holy Ghost. Lord, they don't know the first thing about it. Or millions more will say, thy kingdom come.

And they've said it for 50 years. And you don't have an inch more room, as it were, in their hearts than 50 years ago. Lord, purges of pretence and hypocrisy.

Lord, I'm a candidate to go to the school of the Holy Ghost. I know so little. I don't want to start.

I will start with ABC, that's it. But Lord, take us on to maturity. Lord, I'd be embarrassed if you came tonight.

Your church is so dirty. We're so immature. Millions of your people tonight believe in hell.

And yet they're stuffed in front of a machine, laughing and screaming at idiocy, while the world goes to a lost eternity. Lord, I think of what the world said about the disciples from the upper room. These men are not drunk, as you suppose.

Lord, nobody ever dreams we're drunk. They think we're asleep, but they don't think we're drunk. Lord, give us that holy intoxication that makes us reckless.

I know when a man's drunk, he'll fight the man twice the size of him. Lord, God, I pray, give us that holy drunkenness that we'll tackle principalities and powers. We won't see as men see.

God, we see too often like others see. We see like the TV. We see like Time magazine.

God, take us from it. Circumcise our hearts of all flesh. And anoint our eyes with eye salve that we may see.

We thank you for the liberty we have today. We bless you for this country. We thank you for this holy word.

We thank you that holy men of God speak as not brilliant men of God, not rich men of God. Not warriors necessary, but holy men of God. Men whom God inhabited.

Lord, I think of Ephesians 2, I believe it is, where it says, what, they were under the dominion of Satan. And at the end of the chapter, it says, you hear, the habitation of God. God, what are we the habitation of

tonight? Covetousness, pride, selfishness, boasting, ministry.

God, what is in it? Lord, work by your spirit tonight. Lord, we don't know our own needs, so how can we ask? But we thank you the spirit is here to do that. Take the things of Jesus, reveal them to us.

We give you praise in his name. Thank you. Be seated.

From a chapter that everybody loves, I guess. Romans chapter 8. Only Americans preach without their coats. Englishmen can't preach without coats.

Okay, Romans 8. Do you ever open your scripture and as you start to read, a scripture kind of jumps off the page? And you think you've never read it before in your life? Oh, two of us are the same, thank you. All the rest are intellectuals. You know what you say about this chapter? Romans 7 is what? A funeral march.

Romans 8 is a wedding march. Romans 8 is not the picture of a saved man, I'm sure. It's a picture of an unsaved man.

And remember it finishes by, he recognizes the flesh and his bondage. How does he finish? Verse 24 says, O wretched man that I am. And that means women, so don't feel too bad.

O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from what? How many of you have the King James Version? Let me see. Praise the Lord. I thought it was a bit of a smile.

The other versions are here too. O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death? What's he talking about? Again, I think I reminded you before of the, what is it? The Romans had the cross like this. They had a cross like that.

And they had a cross like that. On this one, a man's head was allowed to fall back. There's a kind of projection here, so his body couldn't hang on it.

So it wouldn't pull too much on the flesh. On the X, he was stretched out with his members. So it's a letter X. Okay.

But the other form of punishment crucifixion was when they took the living man and tied him to the man he killed. He had a body of death. And after they strapped him to that body, they pushed him off and he staggered under the burden of it.

And every day he woke up looking into those horrible eyes. The stink came out of that carcass. And he had to carry it until that body corrupted him.

And Paul says, I have a body of death. Who shall deliver me? The law can't do it. Resolution can't do it.

I thank God. He says, through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Actually, you go back into the sixth chapter.

Remember what it says in Romans 6, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him. Actually, we died when Jesus died. And until you reckon that, you'll be in bondage.

When he died, I died with him. And then we're raised in newness of life. I do it this way.

You say, here's a man standing in the water and he's going to be baptized. So you dip him under the water. What happened? He can't see the world above.

He can't talk to the world above. He's cut off entirely. And if you and I are baptized into his death, the world above us, we don't want it.

No participation. When he finishes in Galatians 5, what does it say? No boasting. Moffat's translation, don't usually quote it.

Moffat's translation says, no boasting for me, saving the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, by which I am crucified to the world and the world is crucified to me. Again, a man crucified at six o'clock. You could throw any filth you wanted on him.

Once he's nailed to a cross, he has no rights. He has no civil rights. He has no religious rights.

His name's crossed off the, what do you call it? Role of honor, a citizen's role of the city. His name is crossed off from his synagogue. He's totally cut off from everything.

You can do it. A man on a cross, you can throw rotten eggs at him. You can throw rocks at him, filth.

He can't do a thing. And at six o'clock at night, thousands will go see a man crucified, particularly if he's a Barabbas type. And you could do as you like.

And there's this humiliation. You see, the man, to be decent, I don't know why, because there's no decency in this world anymore. But when you see a picture of Jesus crucified, he's clothed, partly clothed.

He wasn't. Part of the humiliation was the nakedness, the shame. But at six o'clock in the morning, the birds came for breakfast.

They pecked out his eyes. They reached down with those horrible big vultures. I saw them in India about this height, monstrous.

They ripped the belly open. The inner part, the guts came out. The blood ran out.

Nobody went to... A woman might watch her husband crucified, which was terrible. She didn't go in the morning and take the relatives to see him. He was so disfigured.

He was so horrid. He was so wretched. And Paul says, listen, when I was born again of the Spirit of God and got a new nature, the world is as ugly to me as that body is on the tree.

And not only that, I'm ugly to the world. I'm an idiot. What do you think the people said when Paul was going up the hill in Acts 16? He met the intellectuals, the stoics, the epicureans, the poets, the philosophers.

And they discovered he knew as much as they knew. And they marveled that this man had given all his genius to that fellow that died on a cross. Yet was there ever a better investment? You see, the world isn't crucified to us.

That's why some preachers want to be politicians. Pray for Pat Robinson. Pray particularly that he won't win.

What's a stupid man want to do that for? The highest job in the world is preaching the gospel of the grace of a God. And don't you get by for a moment, because you say once you're born again, you have as much responsibility for the lost world as I have. You're made a priest unto God.

You have the right of access like the rest of us. Well, there's the introduction. Let's look now in Romans 8. If I put a title on this, I call it the two threes.

Verse 8. Romans 8, 8. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit. If so be, get a hold of it here.

This is what you claim. You claim that you are born of the Spirit. You claim you're filled with the Spirit.

Now look at it. This is awesome. There's nothing in any religion in the world comparable to this.

Verse 8 says what? Ye are not in the flesh, in the Spirit. If so be the Spirit of God dwelleth in you. Now look at verse 10.

If Christ be in you. Now look at verse 11. If the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead raised in you.

Come on. Good Lord, this isn't a Quaker meeting. What are you reading? You're reading the Spirit of God is in you.

The Spirit of the Son is in you. The Holy Ghost is in you. But why are you such a miserable failure? Why is your Christian life so erratic? Why do you need a revival meeting to warm you up? And then tomorrow morning you're not only God's chosen, you're God's frozen.

Come on, let's stop boasting. Is this true? The Spirit of God dwells in me. The Spirit of Christ dwells in me.

The Holy Spirit dwells in me. A threefold cord is not easily broken. We are the habitation of God.

Forget all about glass houses. And what do you call the others? Uh, cathedrals. God doesn't dwell in buildings.

He dwells in personalities. He dwells in a human being. Well, there are three things.

The Spirit of Christ dwells in you. The Spirit of God dwells in you. Verse 10, 11.

The Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead. You know, that's the supreme miracle of the ages. The supreme miracle of the ages is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Oh, you tell me it's a stone. Oh, no. Again, it wasn't just a stone here.

A big stone that they put over the tomb. It ran in a groove there. There's only a stone there against it.

All the sin of the world is against it. Not only all the sin of the world is against it, every demon in hell has his shoulder against it. And all hell is waiting.

If we can keep him there, we can wreck the universe. And Satan says to every demon, increase your strength. Put your shoulder against it.

Don't let it move. I quoted the other day, when Napoleon was getting his army together, he'd been conquering through Europe. So what happened? He ran into a stumbling block.

He called his generals together. And he pointed, he put his finger like this around a ragged big country. He said, there lies a sleeping giant.

If that giant ever awakes and harnesses its manpower to its mineral power, it will shake the world. Do you know what the country was? He said that on the 18th of June in 1845. If that nation ever wakes, it will shake the world.

What country was it? It was China. China has a million men on its border ready to come into Russia. That's why Russia's terrified of it.

If that nation ever awakes and harnesses its power, it will shake the world. Okay, change the characters. Instead of seeing cocky little Napoleon, brilliant strategist as he was, instead of seeing him run his finger around China, instead of seeing Napoleon, see the devil.

And he takes every demon. He says, look, here's a map of the ages. This thing here is called the Church of Jesus Christ.

Oh, pardon me. What Napoleon said was, that nation of China is sleeping. Let it sleep.

If it ever sleeps, if it ever wakes, it will shake the world. Okay, so Satan says, look, there's the Church of Jesus Christ. She's 26 translations of the Bible.

She's more churches than ever in history. There are more people professing the name of God. But the church is sleeping.

Let it sleep, says the devil. For if the church ever wakes up and harnesses its manpower and intellectual power, it will shake the world. The devil doesn't care.

I never said a damn and he doesn't. He doesn't care a who about the church today. We've no power.

Our people can't live in victory over sin. I met somebody recently. I said, well, how's your sister? She's furious.

Well, that's normal for sisters. So what's wrong with her? She's furious. She wants to join the Mormon.

She wants to join the Jehovah Witnesses. Why doesn't she join? She's a chain smoker. You can't be a Jehovah's Witness and be a smoker.

You can be a Baptist and be a smoker or a good Pentecostal and be a smoker. You cannot be a Mormon and smoke. You cannot be a Jehovah's Witness and smoke.

Isn't it something when the world has a better standard than we have? The greatest nervousness in the world today. We're nervous about the Holy Ghost. I read an old statement today where somebody said, we've wrapped the Holy Ghost in our theological terminology until he has no freedom.

I got news for you. He's going to have some. He's not looking for a new denomination.

Or as the old lady said, I go to a different denomination than you. So what? 26 times in Romans, yeah, 26 times in Romans, the Holy Spirit is mentioned. And only seven of them are outside of this chapter.

Wesley's favorite message, he preached on the witness of the Spirit. If I ask you, are you, oh, I'm saved. Are you the witness of the, what do you mean by the witness of the Spirit? If I ask you, are you regenerate? What's regeneration? I ask you, are you adopted? I ask you, have you a living relation? Our people don't.

They go to an altar in a crusade. God helped them 10 years after the still of dwarfs. We need to get into this awesome ministry of the Holy Ghost.

Well, there are three lovely things. The Spirit of Christ in you, the Spirit of God in you, and the Spirit. Okay, now there's three other things.

Switch a little further down into the chapter. Well, you talk about a book of wisdom. This is more wisdom than all the books in the world.

Verse 22, we know the whole creation groaneth and troddeth in pain together until now. Did you hear that? The whole creation is groaning. God says it is.

I think every earthquake is a part of a groaning creation. Every tidal wave. But the whole system is groaning.

It's groaning by prisons loaded with prisoners. Dear Lord, I saw a young fellow. You saw him the other day.

This meeting we're having Tuesday night is really something. I enjoy it. There's a young man there.

And when he got saved, he straightened out with the law, as you say. He went and confessed. And they sent him to jail.

And while he was in jail, he got born again. Do you know what he did when he came out? He was asking the Lord to clean his lap. The Lord showed him five, two.

That makes seven. The Lord reminded him of 70 burglaries he committed when he was unsaved. And he went back to the police and straightened them all up.

That's the kind of stuff I believe in. Not just coming and say, Lord, I'm sorry. When all the time you're lousy to destroy it from his life.

True repentance, hour of restitution with it. Whatever it costs. And this blessed chapter is a chapter from which Wesley preached so much.

The witness of the spirit. I remember a little boy in England, five years of age, singing a hymn that said, Then on each he setteth his own secret sign. They that have my spirit, they set thee at mine.

Okay, 24. We know that the whole creation groaneth together and traveleth. Verse 23.

Not only they, but we ourselves also have the firstfruits of the spirit. We groan within ourselves. Come on, have you groaned today? Have you groaned? Oh, you've laughed.

Oh, you feel nice. You bought a new shirt. You bought something nice.

Somebody sent you an offering. So what? Come on, get down to business. Have you groaned within yourself tonight? Are you groaning for a new creation? Go over into verse 26.

Likewise, look, here's the Holy Spirit again. He helpeth our infirmities. Notice it says he helpeth our infirmities.

He doesn't cure them. The best thing in the world you have is your infirmity. Once you get strong, you'll strut.

The expensive thing of praying. Here's the most handsome man in Israel. He goes to pray all night.

What happened? He comes up in the morning with a lame leg. He dragged the rest of his life. That's God's gift to him.

It was his blessing. Sure, he changed his name and said, your name is Israel. Then the 41st chapter in Isaiah, what does it say? Fear not thou worm, Jacob.

That's my friend out there. You're a worm, Jacob. Fear not thou worm, Jacob.

Oh, we want to be something and somebody. Oh, he said, if thou eagle, Jacob. Oh, in the previous chapter it says, mount up with wings as eagles.

It's something. You know, most of our people mount up with Sunday as eagles and live like parrots all the week. They repeat everything they hear or the preacher says.

Isn't there something? Likewise, the spirit out of our infirmity. We know praying in the spirit is not praying in tongues. It may be used sometimes.

Praying in the spirit is praying with the illumination of the spirit. The wisdom of the spirit. The strength of the spirit.

The love of the spirit. We take our hymn sometimes, breathe on me breath of God. And it says that I may love what thou dost love and do what thou wouldst do.

So what does the spirit do? It does the same as the other two characters we just read. Here in verse 26. He helpeth our infirmities.

We no know what to pray for as we are. The spirit helpeth our infirmity and maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. That precious little woman we talked to on Tuesday night, Hannah.

She prayed and got victory. What did she pray for? A child? No. What did she pray for? A man child.

What did she get? A man child? No. What did she get? A girl? No. What did she get? A prophet.

God did more than she could ask or think. But her lips moved, her voice was never heard. The highest form of prayer is speechless.

It's groanings which cannot be uttered. Truly it's the Holy Ghost who groans in us. He doesn't have to explain.

He doesn't give me vocabulary. He asked me to be in league with him and groan over a dying creation, over a paralyzed church. Groaning.

Which cannot be uttered. Skip back a moment here, please. I'll tell you where in a moment.

Exodus 32. Here's one of the most, to me, amazing prayers in the whole Word of God. Remember at the end of chapter 31.

Oh, no. Okay, let me cover it in my own words. Aaron has got the jewelry off all the people, the gold, the silver and everything, gold mainly.

And what has he done? Remember, this was a man that was initiated with holy oil on his head. He had a plate on his forehead, holiness unto the Lord. He had garments that had to be washed before ever he could go in the sanctuary.

This is the first high priest, Aaron. And yet he leads the people into false religion. Moses is up in the cloud there with God, in a blazing fire and wrapped in blackness so nobody can see.

It's private. You see, God takes us to the greatest things in our lives. They're not in prayer meetings usually.

It's alone with God, the world forbidden. Alone with God, oh blessed retreat. Alone with God and with him hidden to hold with him communion sweet.

Moses is wrapped up in the cloud. Down here they've taken the silver and gold. These people who've seen the mighty hand of God deliver them.

He split the sea. He sent angels food from heaven every morning for them, manna. A man hit a rock and split it and they got water.

They're down to all these mercies from God and yet they go whoring after a strange God. Look at verse 7, Exodus 32. The Lord said unto Moses, go get thee down for thy people which thou hast brought.

You brought them, he says, out of Egypt. They've corrupted themselves. Verse 9, and the Lord said unto Moses, I've seen this people.

They are stiff-necked people. Now therefore, let me alone that my wrath may wax hot against them, that I may consume them. And Moses besought the Lord his God, verse 11, and said, Lord, why dost thy wrath wax hot? Why hast thou brought them out of the land of Egypt with great power with a mighty hand? Okay.

But God says, let me alone. It's a wonderful thing when almighty God reaches from his throne and takes hold of a man. There's one thing greater than that.

That's when a man reaches up and takes hold of God. This is not Moses crying because God has a grip on him. It's God crying because Moses has a grip.

Let me alone. Let me alone. You see, this is a depth of prayer I don't know anything about.

Do you? Go a bit further now over into Numbers. Sorry, Numbers, chapter 11. And verse 11.

And Moses said unto the Lord, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? And wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all these people on me? Have I conceived all these people? Have I begotten them that thou shouldst say unto me, carry them on thy bosom? Now look at verse 14. I'm not able to bear all these people. It's too heavy for me.

Now look at verse 15. Kill me. Nobody in history except Jesus ever said, kill me.

This man isn't concerned to get a medal as leading the greatest party of slaves out of bondage. He's concerned with the favour and smile and blessing of God. And he said, if there's only one way to do it, kill

me, I pray you.

Get me out of it. I don't care. I said that to say this.

Let Moses in the spirit groan. This is the paraphrase out of the old Methodist hymn book. Let Moses in the spirit groan and God cries out, let me alone.

In essence, I won't let you alone. I'm prepared to die for this people. You know, that reminds me of these ministries on TV the last few years.

Oh, send us a few million or this ministry is going to die. And stupid people sent money. It should have been dead years ago, those ministries.

A ministry that hangs on dollars isn't of God. We need the Holy Ghost. That's all we need.

Let me go down a minute here now into... Let's go to Hebrews for a minute, please. Chapter... I'm trying to emphasize here the awesomeness of real intercession. The awesomeness of knowing the very heart of God.

Okay, Hebrews chapter 5. Let's go there into verse 5. So also Christ glorified not himself to be made a high priest, but he saith unto him, thou art my son, today have I begotten thee. And he saith unto also to another, thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek, who in the days of his flesh, when he offered up prayers with supplications and strong tears and crying to him that was able to save him from death and was heard in that he faded. Notice that? Now this, I believe, is Jesus Christ in the garden of Gethsemane.

The most awesome thing the world has ever known. He's by himself. It's darker than dark, if you want to put it that way.

What's it say? With tears. It doesn't say that. It says with strong crying and with tears.

I don't know much about Greek. I look at the word tears or crying. There's a, there's a verb in the Greek.

There's a noun, and after the noun, there's a Greek comes. There's another word. Let me put it here.

Do you remember that woman that came running after Jesus? Her child was possessed with the devil. And she went after him. She didn't just go and say, excuse me, sir.

I know you do miracles. I don't want to interrupt your schedule in any shape or form. She saw Jesus, the man that opened the eyes of the blind.

She ran like a woman possessed, and she screamed. She wept as she shouted. She cried.

What did she cry? Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on my daughter. The devil taketh her. Come on, so you have relatives the devil's taking them.

When did you last scream in prayer? When did you last get burdened? If your preacher doesn't weep for the loss of your evangelist, forget them. They're not worth a hair of beans. Jesus with strong crying and with, listen, Jesus went to the grave of Lazarus, didn't he? And then when he went to the tomb, he cried.

It's the same word, cried with a loud voice. What's he crying for? What's he weeping for? Is he bereaved? No, I don't believe that. He sees what death does.

This young man should have lived longer, and here he's being cut down. He's, he's dead. And he sees the power of death.

And so he cried. The woman cried, have mercy on my daughters. The devil taketh her and casteth her down.

There's a word there in the 22nd chapter of Acts. Let me read that to you. Acts 22, verse 19.

I said, Lord, thou, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat every synagogue, then that believed on thee. And verse 21, he said, depart. I will send thee to the Gentiles.

And they gave him audience unto his word, then lifted up their voices and said, away with him. It's the same word there. They screeched, they screamed, away with him.

They didn't say, just do you mind moving this man? Why, why are you going to get rid of him? I'll tell you why. Listen, if you want to be a preacher, preach like this. All hell will be scared.

Verse 23, as they cried and cast off their clothes and threw dust in the air. They stopped the procession. They didn't just say, hey, we should take a vote and sign a paper.

They were frantic. Here's a man endued with power. Listen, brother, if God ever open the doors of window of heaven on you, the devil will open the doors of hell.

You'll be caught between the two. Hudson Taylor said that. I couldn't say that.

I'm not clever enough. But he said, I discovered when God opened the windows of heaven, the devil opened the door of hell. And I was caught in the middle.

Verse 24 says, oh, 23 again, they cried out, cast off their clothes and threw dust in the air. And the chief captain commanded him to be brought into the castle and bade that he should be examined and scourged. And they cried so against him as they bound him with thongs.

What were they doing? Away with this fellow from the earth. He's not fit to live. Why? Is he a criminal? No, he's a Christian.

He's upsetting the synagogue. He's contradicting the tradition of the elders. Everything he does has no explanation.

It's supernatural. Who put Jesus to death? The Romans? No, the Jews did it. The Pharisees, the Sadducees and the other so-called aristocrats of their religion.

Get rid of this pestilent fellow. Now, this is original with me. I'm going to claim the rights to it.

I believe that all hell had a day off when the apostle Paul died. I believe the devil said, listen, we can ease up, but we'll never find another fanatic like him. We've killed him every day.

That's what he says in Death's Soft. I died daily. They lashed him 195 times enough to kill a bullock and he's still living.

He hung on a piece of wood in the Mediterranean for 36 hours. There's something in him. You can't lash it out.

You can't burn it out. You can't threaten it out. Why? The spirit of God was in him.

The spirit of Christ was in him. The spirit of revelation was in him. The spirit of authority was in him.

What are you going to do with a man that just when you think you've got this man killed, I'm going to lay him away? Oh, they say, oh, we'll stop his revival meeting. He preached too long and he fell out of the window. We let all the town know.

We make headlines in the newspaper. So what happened? Paul just went along and raised him from the dead. On every turn, he beat the enemy.

He was more than conquerors. The very word he wrote, used in Romans 8 himself. More than conquerors through him that loved us.

You know, the great thing about the Apostle Paul, he's the best example of his own theology. Friends, sit down there. Don't stand.

You'll get too tired. Again, as I've used that cliché so often, and I mean it, a man with an experience is never at the mercy of a man with an argument. You tell me Jesus doesn't liberate you too late.

He does. There's ten or more folk here with jail sentences and crime. And Jesus liberated them totally.

Let me read another scripture from Hebrews here. We're talking here about the Lord Jesus again in the seventh chapter of Hebrews. This verse we need to memorize all of us.

Hebrews 7.25. Listen, in case you get somebody who's been a prostitute for ten years or a man who's been in jail for umpteen years. I learned this years and years ago and I love it still. Hebrews 7.25. What? He is able to save to the uttermost.

Why? Because he ever liveth to make intercession. Come on! I read to you a few minutes ago from Romans 8. The Spirit helpeth our intercession. So my intercession, his intercession, the groanings which cannot be uttered, the Holy Ghost reads them and transfers them to the Holy Spirit of God, to Jesus up there in the sky.

What does John say? If we sin, not when we sin. The scripture says, when you fast, we've changed that to if you fast. He says, if you sin, we've changed that to when you sin, as though you can do it automatically.

But he says, if we sin, we have an advocate with the Father. Well, the smart people will tell you, John, in John 16, where it speaks about the Holy Ghost, the paraclete. He comes to bear witness of what? I have an advocate with the Father.

I don't need two advocates. The Holy Spirit is not my advocate. He's the Father's advocate.

Thou art my advocate above. Christ is my advocate within. O speak the truth and make reply to every argument of sin.

That's why we must keep in tune with God. We live automatically, dear God. Some of you, you've got your plans for the next year.

Go do it. But don't tell me God ordained it. I won't believe you.

Particularly if it's easy and comfortable and rewarding. The very fundamental of Christianity is sacrifice. And if there's no sacrifice, there's no success.

I don't care how it looks in your newsletter. Hebrews 7, okay. Wherefore, he is able to say to thereto most all that come unto God, he ever liveth to make intercession.

Come on. Look up there a minute. What is Jesus doing at this moment? What is he doing? Verse 26 says, for such a high priest became us who is, listen to his qualifications.

He's holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens. He needeth not daily of those high priests to offer sacrifice, first of his own sins and then for the people's. For this he did once.

I love that emphasis. It begins in the first chapter. Remember, he, when he had by himself purged out all sin, not with the help of the Virgin Mary or somebody else, by himself he did it.

Let me jump over now to Hebrews 9. I'll come back in a minute. Hebrews 9, verse 7. Into the second he went every high priest once alone. Look, if you had a plan, if you had a floor plan of the tabernacle, you could make it as simple as this.

But this is a tabernacle here. And let's say HP is the holy place. And HH is holy of holies.

Now listen to what it says here. Okay, chapter 9 again. Verse 13.

If the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean sanctify to the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God. What did we read earlier there? That he's praying. In the days of his flesh when he offered up prayers and supplication with strong crying and tears to him that was able to save him from death was heard in that he feared.

He isn't saved from the death. He's saved from the fear of death. This is the next stop.

There's one after this. And that's the most horrible, unimaginable suffering that Jesus had there on the cross. When he said, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? It says here the priest went how often? Verse 27.

I'm jumping around but get a hold of it. Chapter 727. He needeth not daily as though high priest to offer up sacrifice first for his own sin.

What did the high priest do? He went in the holy of holies with what? The blood of a bullock and with incense. And then he had to come out and make another offering. But he had to do it every year.

Think of all the millions, billions of people in the world. And there was only one man out of one nation, out of one tribe in that nation, out of one family in that nation. One isolated man who once a year went into the holy of holies.

Dear God, and you can go every day and it doesn't give you goose bumps. You're praying sideways. Lord, Lord, bless the meeting tonight.

Oh Lord, help me get that thing in Sears. Some other junk. Come on, how often are you burdened with the lost world? Forget it.

Our hypocrisy is going to be torn off before long. If I have the spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead, he's going to, he's going to twist everything I have. My lifestyle, my prayer pattern, my sleep pattern, my eating pattern, my spending pattern.

You can't live as you've lived and claim to be a Christian, forget it. You may be a good Baptist, you might be a good Pentecostal, but are you scripturally what God wants you to be? But when he had by himself purged our sins, by himself, he goes into this place forbidden, the holy of holies. And yet when he stood there, he superseded every priest that was living at that moment right back to Aaron.

I believe when John the Baptist stood in the Jordan River and shouted, behold, I believe all hell panicked, do you know why? I believe the synagogue and the temple panicked, do you know why? Behold the lamb, that one little pet lamb, if you like, of God, is going to do more than, as Isaac Watts puts it in one of his 3,000 hymns, not all the blood of beasts on Jewish altars slain could give one guilty conscience peace or wash away one stain, but Christ the heavenly lamb takes all our sins away. You think of a priest, he goes into that holy place and it's totally dark, isn't it? It's totally dark, except the presence of God comes. And there he is with a burden for the nation.

Going back a minute to the woman that cried, have mercy on my son, he's a lunatic. Can't you see her frantically going past everybody else, pushing past and saying, have mercy on my daughter, my daughter rather. She's possessed of a demon.

The demon's going to tear her up. This is my one chance. But Jesus stands there, he's not praying for a lunatic child, he's praying for a lunatic world.

Do you know a million prayers, 10 million prayers have gone through Jesus today? He's living to make intercession for us. There never has been a priest like him, there never will be a priest. He went into the holy place, what, with the blood of bullocks? No, with his own blood.

All heaven gasped. Immediately, John Baptist says, behold the Lamb of God. The devil began a countdown from there.

You see, in the 17th chapter, isn't it the 17th chapter, John, at the beginning? Jesus says, I finished the work thou gave us me to do. But he lived a long while after that. He finished the miraculous, but he still has to be lifted up.

He's finished his work for the people. He's not going to do miracles of ministry and healing. He's going to do a supreme need, a supplier supreme need.

He's going to die on that old rugged cross, so despised by the world. I believe it was a day later, he said, I'm on the phone today, 10 years from now you'll be a fanatic if you go to a fundamental church. Everybody's so crazy, you've got so many side issues.

We're not preaching the blood of the everlasting covenant. I can't tell you how this got hold of me. I saw Jesus here, here he is.

He's no disciples. He can hear the tramp of feet, men coming with spears six feet high, to thrust through him, to put him to death. He's in the garden of Gethsemane alone.

It's as black as hell itself. And Psalm 42, all thy billows passed over me. You see, and you understand the speak.

Jesus did not die on the cross, he died in Gethsemane. The cross was a manifestation, he was already dead. Not my will, but thy will be done.

And here he does, it's going to take eternity to unfold this to us. Jesus standing there, bearing the burden of everybody as he prays. He prays for that heartbroken person today.

You say, I don't think he's doing that, don't you? Well, let me enlighten you, if you're so ignorant. I'm not rough tonight, I'm gentle. I've a couple of things to say that'll be through.

There's a fellow in France in, uh, what time is it today? 1654. I think the greatest brain the world ever saw, Blaise Pascal. Do you know in 1555, he invented a computer? Do you know the omnibus system that's used in Paris today, was designed by him 400 years ago? I could tell you a lot about him, but I won't.

He had a place where he went into a monastery for a quiet time. It was the 23rd of November, 1654. And he said, Jesus came and personally spoke to him.

It didn't say I saw him, I heard his voice at the side of me. And he said this to me, I was thinking of thee in my agony. I have shed such and such drops of blood for thee.

The moving dialogue reached a culmination of grandeur, and Jesus finally rested from Blaise Pascal, this utter consecration, Lord, I give all to thee. From that moment, one of his firmest convictions was that Jesus will be in agony until the end of the world, and we should not sleep. That Jesus is in agony? How is he in agony? How isn't he? If he's the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Listen now, G. Campbell Morgan, the Welsh preacher put it. You say Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. I am not at this moment interested in the last stupendous world forever.

I am intensely interested in yesterday, and today, what he was, he is, and what he felt, he feels. I ask your patience while I emphasize that. Do we believe it? Do we act as though we knew it and believed it? Are we not in awful danger of imagining somehow that the crown Lord of all, of whom we sing, is far removed from all actual human pain and suffering and human sin? Have we not some subconscious conception of him as in a land where the glory never fades? Now listen, we have to commence by reminding ourselves that he is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

He has a broken heart at this moment. He's seen all the corruption in the church. He's seen all this dirty cheating on TV, all the raising money for their own ends, for the lifestyle.

Now here, his conception of the responsibility resting upon himself as the servant of God in the compulsion of his own nature of infinite love is the same. He has not changed. Did he see the multitudes in olden days harassed by wolves, fleeced and fainting by the way? So he sees the multitudes today.

He was moved with compassion then, so he is now. May God deliver us from any false blasphemous idea that God has no sorrow, that he is impassive and unmoved in the midst of this universe, of the presence of human sorrow and human sin. Faber knew it well when, remember, Faber, he was Dr. Joseph's favorite

poet.

Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot feel. You see, our touch with this world is mainly theological. But if the spirit of the living God, if Jesus there at the throne, is grieved over this world, I believe the father is grieved.

He gave his treasure, the only begotten son. What are the churches doing tonight? Most of them are locked up. They've no brokenness, they've no intercession.

Do you know there's nothing almighty God can do for this world? He's revealed his plan. He says, I bled and died, go bleed and die. Forget your Sunday school class if it doesn't make you bleed.

Forget your preaching if it doesn't prostrate you in brokenness. Just say, God, I want to be like Jesus. And he had a broken heart.

He was wounded for our transgressions. I can't look at so much. I don't like TV much, but I like some of the news items.

But I was looking at one recently. They showed one of Ethiopia with kiddies with big fat bellies. But you know, the media never says anything about the 7,000 people that are locked up in jails in Ethiopia.

Right now, that's all covered up. But Jesus sees them. Jesus saw that young man that was bruised for him.

And in Russia today, he got beaten. He saw that little dear woman give birth to a baby in Afghanistan. Her poor little precious thing died within half an hour.

He sees this hell of a world in which we live. I believe it's still broken for it. Doesn't it say he's touched with the feeling of our infirmities? We quote that when somebody comes up with a hangnail and tries to suggest Jesus went through agony just to cure a hangnail.

Dear friend, there's resources in the Godhead we haven't dreamed of yet. That phrase, and I can't remember where I saw it today. I skipped through two or three other books.

Where he said we've got the Holy Ghost tied up in our theology. Again, we recite the Apostles Creed, and I think it's nice. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and life.

So I believe in money. Does that make me rich? I believe in the Holy Ghost. For what? To make me eloquent to preach? To let me give a beautiful message in tongues? Forget it.

Ask him for the language of a broken heart and a broken spirit. For that's what he says. He doesn't say an eloquent preacher.

He says a broken, a contrite heart thou will not despise. You can't find a man in history that God has used that hasn't been broken. Everything that Jesus took, he break it.

He says, this is my body broken for you, and they broke it. He took bread and break it. A woman took an alabaster box of ointment and break it.

You see, the trouble with your life, you may be a smart preacher. You may be a good teacher. The reason there's not that flowing out of you, you aren't allowed to break you.

You've got your ideas of greatness, your ideas of preaching, your ideas of teaching. Forget them. As I try to preach to the weak there.

When you get to the end of the story with Samson, remember, he starts with a marvelous display of the supernatural. Then he loses it. Then it comes back again.

Israel started with the supernatural. She's lost it. She's going to go through hell in the next few years.

Reagan isn't going to save her. I believe Russia's already got Iran in its hip pocket. And I believe he's going to bring his millions right across.

Now, when he gets Iran, he has a bridgehead straight to it. He's already promised Jerusalem to the Arabs. We're going to see the most tormenting things in the next few years.

And the only answer to it is a revived, quickened, energized church. You better get to a prayer. Some of your children will end up in concentration camps.

The only revival in the world right now is Islam. The last time there was an invasion of Lebanon, they said the next day, the recruiting offices in Lebanon were lined up 50 deep. Young men, they didn't say, can we fight for our country? Do you know what they said? Can we die for our country? They don't care that much about living.

Dear God, if they're willing to die for that corrupt thing, what should we do? You see, you don't have to die on a tree. Die to your lifestyle. Cut your spending down.

Give it to missions. Cut your social life down and get to some intercession. Cut your feasting down and get to some fasting.

Sure, you think I'm a fanatic. I don't care a hell of beans. Abnormal days demand abnormal men with abnormal anointings for this generation.

What did Samson do? He said, God, strengthen me just once. And he meant it. Why? Because he said, if I die, he'd pull the house down.

And the Word says he'd kill more than he's dying than he's living. Sure, I believe there's going to be a Holy Ghost revival. I haven't prayed for revival for 60 years and believe that that's not for my sake.

There are five billion people in the world. Jesus looked in a little pocket of people called Christians here. They possibly don't even number a billion through the world.

I doubt if there's half a billion. Genuinely, blood wash, spirit anointings, praying in the spirit, walking in the spirit, loving in the spirit. This is a colossal thing.

It's totally supernatural. So it's beyond going to church Sunday morning and being nice and shaking hands with a gracious pastor you love. Love him, sure.

But tell him the truth, too. Tell him he's dead. He doesn't preach with anointing.

You see, what we've had for 25 years hasn't moved this nation to God. We've had more millions of dollars than any period in history. What have they done with it? Built lovely places and stuck my names on it.

God is going to do a new thing. But he's going to have to initiate me. I don't know about you.

I'm on that spirit of prayer and supplication. Jesus cried with a loud voice. Sure, he wept.

He wept over Jerusalem, didn't he? He's coming around the shoulder of the hill and there's Jerusalem there. He weeps over it. Because Jeremiah walked those streets.

What did they do? They shut him up. Isaiah walked those streets. All the prophets and yet there are dumbfounded people in captivity to the Romans.

In captivity of false religion. And Jesus weeps over their stupidity. Sure, he wept with strong crying and with tears.

He wept at the grave of Lazarus. But he never wept as he wept here for the sins of the people. Here he is torn and he's going to taste hell.

What is hell? In a nutshell, hell is separation from God. And he understood why Peter ran off. Peter was always volatile.

Peter like made as many commitments as you made. How many times you go to a children's camp? And every time you went, you got resaved and re-sanctified and re-dedicated. It's a wonder heaven can live without you.

What did he do? Just about nothing. He's going to have to be coming to that place of total brokenness. Well, Lord, I can't live like this.

I'll die. I'd like to be brave enough to what I read to him. What was it? 11th chapter of Numbers.

Lord, kill me. I can't bear this burden any longer. Is the devil going to take four and a half billion out of the five billion on earth? Do I believe there's going to be a universal awakening or a worldwide? Yes, sure I do.

Supposing we had a super revival of Pentecost, Pentecost, Pentecost. And in the next year, one billion people were born again in the spirit of God. Taverns closed, never opened again.

Dance halls, movie houses. That's one. In fact, if we had one billion, there's still be four billion left to go to an eternal hell.

Is that pleasing to God? Do you know the most reckless people in the world? And not people that go 15,000 feet and skydive. That's pretty stupid. Not skydivers, not divers that go down there to the Titanic.

Not men that walk on the moon. Who are the most reckless people in the world? The folks sitting in this meeting tonight that say I'm filled with the spirit of God. I'm filled with the Holy Spirit.

I'm filled with the spirit of the Father. And yet we're stagnant. We're reckless.

It can't be true. I don't know how you read the word. But when I read it, there are times I say, Lord, there must be distinctions in heaven.

And there are. One star differs from another star in glory. The dying thief won't have the same reward as John Wesley.

All these big shots on TV, but at the end of the line, I'm sure of that. The last should be first. The first should be last.

We're going to be staggered when we get there and see these precious people who seem to be nobodies. They couldn't finance these big evangelistic efforts, but they prayed and they fasted. Let me say this in close.

We were in Scotland a few years ago in the city of Perth. There's a Perth in Western Australia named after it. After a meeting, a lady came to us.

She said, there's an old lady in a certain place. She lives in a tenement. That's a big block of apartments, you call it.

She's in room, I think it's 101. You have to knock hard on the door. And when you go in, she's 100 years of age.

She can't see a thing. She can hardly hear. She can hardly speak.

She's one of the saints, almost high God. Her son was a wicked drunkard. She used to go in the streets, these narrow streets.

And proclaim with a loud voice, read the word of God, and tell them to want to flee from the wrath to come. And she said, one day the devil said to her, what are you shouting about that woman's son going to hell? Your son's going to hell, he's not saved. She stood in the street and said, Lord, I resign.

I'll never witness again for you till my son passes from death unto life. And it wasn't a week after. A couple of years after that drunken, fighting, wicked son who robbed his mother and did a thousand despicable things was born again of the Spirit of God.

And he became one of the outstanding holiness preachers in England. We went in that room. We were told she, oh I told you she's 100 years of age.

And there she's lying on her bed. I guess her arms are not thicker than my two fingers. And they were yellow with age.

I don't know where her dentures were, they weren't in her mouth. Her cheeks were weighing. Her eyes were sunken.

Her hands were all gnarled. And I said to my buddy, go to the other side of the bed. I reached down and took her hand.

It seemed like death. I thought, here's a praying saint. Once she was a charming woman.

Now she's a hideous, she was. Honestly, she was repulsive. She was just a mere skeleton.

I took her hand and she kind of looked up. Her eyes blinked. And I shouted in her ear, can you hear? And I called her the name of Jesus.

I'll never forget it. That old big cave of the mouth opened. You know what she said in a Scottish dialect? I said to my friend, what does she mean? We stood there speechless.

I got hold of her hand. I said, we're talking about Jesus. Yes, croon him, she said.

Croon him, Lord of all. You wouldn't have given her two bucks for everything in that room. There was no water.

It had to be brought from a tap on the corridor. She had an emerald basin there. Her daughter had to be out all day.

She came and fed her. She fed her before she went to work and fed her at night. And she said, you know, afterwards we heard, she said, you know, she has the most adorable worship with the Lord.

You'd think her eyes were seeing right through the floor of the sky into eternity. See, it's spells of adoration. She has times of intercession when you can hardly bear to hear her.

She was depending to a great deal on what mysteries have told about the lost in the world. But they said, you know, lots of mysteries have victory because of that woman. I preached at a conference at Lake Okoboji.

Who was the big shot president at, what was the school? I slipped my gears. Where did I get it? He wrote a book, They Knew Their God. Pardon? Well, what's the school? Oh, Wheaton College used to be president at Wheaton.

Who was the president at Wheaton 40 years ago? Come on, don't be afraid of losing your age. Well, they asked him to testify and he said, I went to, he was a brilliant scholar, knew his Hebrew and his Greek. And he went down to Uruguay.

I think it was Uruguay. He'd only been there about a year. He was taken sick and had a chronic fever.

It was in such a mess, the doctor said he can't survive till morning. So his wife took the only dress she had, apart from the one she wore, a wedding dress, and got some berries and dyed that wedding dress black and hung it on a tree. The wife stayed with her husband.

I was going to say Newman. It wasn't Newman, something like that. Anyhow, she stayed with him.

And she's mopping his brow. He's laid flat in the forest and he's great beads of perspiration and gasping. She was almost terrified.

And suddenly he sat straight up and she nearly died. He said, darling, I feel great. He came back to a conference and gave his testimony.

A little old lady literally came to him with a two-cent notebook or something. And she said, please, Mr. I can't think of his name. What day was that? She showed a diary.

And the time he was sick, somewhere at midnight or just after, was about four o'clock in the morning somewhere in Boston. And she said, I woke up and the devil told her by name, I'm going to kill, terrible name won't come, I'm going to kill him. And she said, I got out of bed and said, Lord, I plead the blood of Jesus Christ.

That man is needed to translate languages. His need to help missionaries. He must not die.

He cannot die. And when she looked the reference up, obviously it was the very moment that she prayed at five o'clock in the morning. And the hour corresponded with the time down in Uruguay.

And the Lord let that man live. I don't know how many years after that to be the head of that school. I had the privilege of preaching with him a number of times.

Preaching at Wheaton too. Every time I saw him, I thought that little woman in eternity, she's going to get a half of his reward. It would have been a dead.

Not so you guys that go and have your big crusades or little crusades. You didn't travel for those people. You preach a sermon.

You came up the road. You passed a cemetery there. There's some bones rotting in the grave of an old grandmother that prayed for that boy that got saved in your meeting last night.

Forget it. You don't have 10% interest maybe in that person that was miraculously born again. There's going to be some shocks in eternity.

Some of the life should be first. The first should be last. The unknown should be well known.

Wouldn't it be wonderful when the Lord gives out the rewards? Would you like to go up for your reward right after the Apostle Paul? Would you, Bob? No? I won't ask you why. She might tell me off when I see her next time. You know, we think, oh boy, oh boy.

I'll tell you what. I'm in one of the top five or six evangelists in America. Forget it.

That's not saying much. It's disgraceful. What do you mean? Making money or damaging hell? Are you known in hell? There are precious people all over this country.

A young man called me tonight just before I came out. And he said, God did a miracle in my life through reading your book. I got a letter today from a young man.

He said, three years ago, I read my Revival Tarot. I said, God, I don't pray. I don't love souls.

I don't weep. I tithe. I do the nice things.

He said, Mr. Ramey, I got to prayer and said, Lord, within a year of this time, I want to pray two hours a day. And God did it. He said, Mr. Ramey, I want to tell you to the glory of God now.

I think he said I'm 21. He said, I'm praying five hours a day now. I'm just receiving the anointing of God to intercede.

Those people are more scarce than archangels nearly. When God takes the curtain away from the Iron Curtain, and we see through there into Russia. You've never, you haven't prayed today.

When did you last pray for Estonia or Latvia? Those nations in the belly of the big fat Russian bear. When I was a youngster, evangelists used to come from Latvia and Estonia and elsewhere and stir our hearts and tell us then how they were preparing. And suddenly the whole thing shuts down.

You know, martyrs have been born and they've died today in Russia, in China and elsewhere. And the poor church goes on its way. Everything's so sweet and lovely.

It won't if we were in tune with the infinite, will it? You don't believe that. If we're in tune with God, won't he disturb us on areas that we don't even think of? Dear God, I'm just waking up now at my age. I'm near eternity by, obviously by years.

But I believe I'm nearer to God than I've ever been in my life. I've more brokenness, I've more sorrow. And I want it that way.

I don't want God to take it away. Paul has written all those epistles. Out preached everybody, out fasted everybody, out prayed everybody.

What's he doing? He says that I may know thee and the fellowship of his suffering. Not a bigger crown than anybody else. Dear God, you're all forging epistles if you give him Hebrews.

Think of his reward in eternity. You see, we're time conscious, position conscious, possession conscious, personality conscious. But we're not eternity conscious.

You write eternity and stick it on the mirror where you do your pretty face of every morning. Or on the kitchen sink somewhere and see it every day. I have a sign on my, at the side of my desk.

Lord, keep me eternity conscious. We're not supposed to live in this world like other people. If you claim to be spirit filled, you'll have a far more difficult judgment than the man who never claimed that.

Did you say I speak in tongues? You want to know why you don't speak a stammering language that breaks your heart to the last? Our values are so empty. Before God there's nothing I want but to live this book. I want to believe it.

I want to behave it. This is the most critical hour in America's history. And just as it was turned around by those Puritans, those guys back in the 1600s.

Before that one great outpouring of the Spirit under Jonathan Edwards, what does it say? It says they prayed all night. What does Wesley say? You know, my trouble with Wesley is, he was more spiritual when he wasn't spiritual than I am when I am spiritual. Do you know he prayed till four o'clock in the morning, he wasn't even born again? Do you know he prayed till he was frozen to the ground in Georgia, and he wasn't even born again? He came out of sympathy and compassion for the Indians.

Said I wriggled and got one arm free, pulled the other one free, got one leg free, got the other free. Then I got my hair and I pulled it out of the mud, it had frozen in the night. At four o'clock in the morning he said I pushed all the light snow and frost off it, and I sang the doxology.

One of our preachers did that, he'd gone to 700 club and everybody else did. To tell the world about his sacrifice. You young guys, don't be cheated.

Get to know God's mind and do it. As I've said, eat as little as you can within reason, sleep as little as you can, pray as much as you can, and study. It's going to be over before long.

I want to be there as a cheerleader when you go up to the judgment by yourself, and get your reward. The dear Tosa said to me one day, he said Len, when you walk up to him, none of us will walk up to him, and

look him straight in the eye. His eyes are like living coals of fire, he'll read through us.

Another week and I'm through with this. He said, Brother Lena, I've been listening. Well, I finished the last sentence, but anyhow.

He said, I want to tell you this. I've been thinking since you were here last time of this. I don't think I'm ashamed of what I've done since I was saved.

I'll have to answer to God. He said, it's not that that troubles me, it's what I could have done if I'd been in tune with God that troubles me. Another week he said, it's not what I've done that troubles me, it's why I did it.

It's not what you've done. Why did you do it? Did you preach to the biggest crowd? Did you expect the biggest love offering? Do you expect some flattery? Listen, hide away all your ministers as much as you can. I'm convinced of this.

I don't care what guys get those love offerings. I'll tell you what, if you get overpaid there, you won't get anything up there. You say God doesn't demand payment twice for sins.

He doesn't give rewards twice. You got your reward from the congregation. You got a reward when they applauded you.

And you lost it up there. There's going to be some terrible embarrassments up there. You don't have to live this standard.

I don't care. I'm sure of it. Sometimes I think I'd like to preach to all the preachers in the country.

But they wouldn't let me. Well, I'm going to let you go if you wish to go. I hope you'll stay and pray.

And let me remind you, please pray tonight. There was a preacher here last week. He said the meeting was pretty good, but the praying was silly.

Why some people start preaching. We're not here to preach to God, to tell him what to do. We're here as beggars.

Bow down thine ear and hear me. I'm poor and needy. There's a lost world.

I don't know much about the will of God. I know two things about the will of God. He's not willing, but then he should perish.

And the other thing, the will of God, your sanctification. And since my eyes are anointed, I have to live according to the light I have. And so have you.

I almost tremble to preach that most of us can't handle the light we have now. Never mind, get more. It's going to be awesome.

The day that I have this total library in my hands for 70 years, know so little about it. Know so little about the interceding Christ. That's thing.

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