

(The Church Needs to Know) 3. God and Music

by Miki Hardy

The sermon emphasizes the importance of discerning Godly music from worldly influences in worship, guided by the Holy Spirit.

Duration: 55:30

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, John 16:13, Hebrews 5:11

Topics: "Contemporary Christian Music"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker addresses the issue of young Christians being influenced by worldly music and entertainment. He emphasizes the importance of resisting the temptation to be carried away by the flesh and urges listeners to examine their behavior and body language. The speaker compares the celebration of God to the celebration of the world, highlighting the need for humility and brokenness before God. He cautions against indulging in secular music genres and encourages young people to gather together in a way that glorifies God.

Transcript

Okay, welcome everyone here this morning. So it's wonderful to be here. I trust that we are going to have a good time in the Word of God.

We need always to be reminded about what God says for our lives, what is the plan of God for our lives. That's why the Word of God is important. And I would encourage you to just open our hearts this morning as we pray.

Father, we thank you for this time together in your Word. We are grateful for the Holy Spirit. We open our hearts as we receive your Word.

Let it become part of us. Bring revelation to our hearts. We don't need information, we need revelation in our hearts so that our lives may be changed and transformed to your image.

This is our desire. It is to grow, to never stop growing so that we may become men and women of the Spirit. Lord, we give you praise.

We give you praise and we thank you for this time as we open the Word of God. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

So I just want to remind you we are talking about what the church must know. We've been speaking about this theme for the last few weeks and we are going to talk on this theme again. And I would like to share with you about God and music.

What God says, what does the Holy Spirit testify to our hearts, because we are living in a time where the world is trying to invade the church, the influence of the world in the church. And we Christians, we must be aware of that so that we do not flow with everything that is even being done and shared and spoken in the church. We will have to make the difference between what is of God and what is of the world.

We must not open our hearts, the doors of our hearts, to the influence of the world, because this is not going to build up our lives. On the contrary, it is going to draw us far from God instead of drawing us near to God. So it's important for us to understand that there has been and there is today, if we are honest to accept, that there is a worldly influence that has come to the church as far as music is concerned.

Praising God with music, praising God with dances, praising God in the church. So I believe that we must be aware of these things. When we look at the Bible, we do not have a real direction of how God wants us to play music.

It's not written black and white, you know, the rhythm or the beat or how we must dance or how we must play music. You won't find it black and white in the Bible. But praise God that the Holy Spirit is there to witness to our hearts what is of God and what is not of God.

You see, you can go through the whole Bible. It will not tell you how you must dance before the Lord. It won't tell you what gesture you must do.

It won't tell you the type of music. It won't tell you. It's nowhere to be found in the Bible.

But God has given us the Holy Spirit in the new covenant church. The Holy Spirit has been given to us. He is our teacher.

He is the one who guides us. He is the one to witness to our hearts what is of God the Father and what is not of God the Father. So we have the Holy Spirit in us.

That's why we cannot just describe the word dancing and the word music in the Bible. You can't define it. Are you all with me? Do you agree with me? You can't define it.

It's not written in there. But in the new covenant, it is the leading of the Holy Spirit. He is the one testifying to our hearts of Jesus.

He is the one who glorifies Jesus. He is the one who leads us. He is the one who guides us.

He is the one who draws us to God the Father and to Jesus the Son. So I'm happy that we have a guide. We have someone.

We have God the Holy Spirit in us to show us, to make us feel in our hearts. How many of you understand that the new covenant is a covenant of the heart? It's nothing to do up here. It's not an explanation.

It's not how much we know things in our heads. It's the heart that speaks. The Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts.

He witnesses to us, teaches us, guides us. It's very important for us to understand that. Now the first verse of scripture that we are going to read is in fact in the book, in the gospel of John chapter 16.

Chapter 16, verse 13. However, when he, the spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak and he will tell you things to come. He will glorify me, talking about Jesus, for he will take of what is mine and declare it to you.

Very clear. Now, in other words, the Holy Spirit will teach us and lead us the way Jesus would talk and the way Jesus would act. That's what Jesus himself is saying.

The Holy Spirit is going to teach you and guide you of about my ways, my words, the way I speak and the things I do and the way I do it. I'm glad the Holy Spirit is here. I'm glad he lives in our hearts and I believe that everything that Jesus said and did carried a perfume, an aroma, a good one.

That's why everything we do, everything we say, the way we do it, must carry a perfume of the knowledge of Christ. That is what will make the difference. It's the perfume that comes out of what the church does or of what you do, you say.

It's a perfume, it's an aroma of the knowledge of Christ. If the aroma is not good, if the perfume in the Spirit is not good, it tells us something. That's why the perfume and the aroma that is being brought forth from what we say and what we'll do will define if it is of God and not of God.

Am I correct? Everything comes from our hearts. The action is one thing but behind the action there is the perfume. Correct? There is a perfume.

That's why Paul says, that's what Paul says in the book of Corinthians about the perfume and the aroma of the knowledge of Christ. This is our guide and it's the Holy Spirit that makes us distinguish between the aroma of the knowledge of Christ and the aroma of the world. The perfume that comes out from the world is a different spirit.

That's why praise God for the Holy Spirit. It's not our head that will determine what is of God and what is of the world. Our head cannot distinguish the things of the Spirit.

Our intelligence cannot make the difference but God has given all of us very intelligent, less intelligent, not too much intelligent, black or white or rich or poor, the same heart where the Holy Spirit comes and dwells. And he is the one who makes us feel the things of the Spirit, the spiritual world. The Spirit of God makes us to feel the things of the Spirit.

He makes us distinguish between the spiritual world belonging to Satan and the enemy and the devil and the spiritual world that is in direct contact with God. You see, that's why you cannot look at the guy behind it. If I take an instrument and I start to play the instrument, don't look at me, don't look at my talent, don't look at what can I do with this guitar, but you must feel from your heart what is coming out from my heart.

That's the point. That's the key. It's what I feel.

Very important. Many times we do not distinguish between the spiritual and the emotional. And if we stay in the emotions, we don't catch the things of the Spirit.

And we are all emotional to some extent. All of us, to some extent, we have emotions. But we must not allow our emotions to dictate us.

We must not allow our emotions to decide for us. We can't. Because then we are drawing far from the spiritual things of God.

Emotions is one thing. We need them sometimes, but we don't need it as far as our spiritual state and spiritual plan of God for our lives. We don't need our emotions.

They are deceiving. But unfortunately, somehow in the church, our emotions have prevailed. And when your emotions prevail, you open up for the things of the world.

Because the world is very emotional. Am I right? You know, if you want to get someone to walk in sin, you just have to present to him things of the flesh and things on the emotion side. Then you'll get him right in sin.

Because this is where your emotions will drive you. This is where your flesh will drive you. It will drive you to sin.

That's why we can't depend on it. We can't reassure ourselves that the emotions and the flesh will give us something to please God. No, the flesh cannot please God in any way whatsoever.

Our emotions cannot draw us to the things of the spirit in any way. But unfortunately, this is somehow, not all, but somehow what we see in the church. And worst of all is that the Christians, brothers and sisters, are brought, are carried up, carried away, and are taught to react emotionally to what they are being offered.

Dangerous. That's why we Christians, we need to be very, very, very careful. And not to be caught up in every Christian music or gospel music.

We cannot be just, when we hear it's Christian, we go for it. No, we need to be aware that even in the Christian world, there are very emotional and carnal things happening. So the label of Christian does not prove anything.

It's not because it is called Christian or labeled Christian that it will be good for your heart and your spirit. That's unfortunate, that's sad, but that's reality. I'm not trying to give you a very dark picture of the church, but I'm trying to warn you about some things that are existing among the people of God.

This tendency to use music, to use it for our own self-motivation. You know, today in the church, you see people that have got talents, that have got good voices, and they use music, they use music for their own benefit. We must be very careful.

And I believe that in the church there is music, there is even dancing, that has got a good perfume, a good aroma, that your heart witnesses that it is okay, it's of the Lord, it's moved by the spirit, it's led by the spirit. But there is also in the church, music and dancing, that has got a perfume of the world, a perfume of carnality, carnality and world. Oh Lord, help us.

That's why today we cannot just take the word of God to the letter. If the word of God says, praise him with dancers, then we go and dance the way we want. Yeah? Praise him with music, praise him with the tambourine, praise him with the harp, praise him with the lute, praise him with all his instruments, praise him, praise him with the cymbals, praise him.

It's not just because it's written there, praise him with the instruments, that we've got to take these instruments and at the same time take the beat of the world, and take the rhythm of the world, and take the spirit of the world, and bring it into our music for the church. It's written yes, but brother it's written we must dance, it's written we must dance, it's written we must use music, it's written. Yes it is written, but is it being said how? Show me how.

You can't show me how. I can't show you how, but you and I can of a witness, a testimony in our hearts. We can feel, we are people who can feel the things of the spirit.

We have a detector in our hearts, we have something in our hearts that can detect. So the bible says, so let's do it. It's written let's do it.

Are we seeking to please God, or are we just seeking to do it? Because when you do it, you must at the same time please God. You can't just do it and forget about what God thinks about it. Open our bibles in 2nd Samuel, 2nd Samuel chapter 6. It's got nothing to do with what you see at the discotheque, that I can assure you.

It doesn't contain movements of your body, where your flesh and your emotions are so much involved, that you look like someone in the world. So it makes no difference if you are a Christian or a non-Christian, you dance before the Lord, hallelujah. You just dance before the Lord.

Now we see a story here where David had the revelation from God to bring back the ark of the covenant to the city of God. For many years the ark of the covenant had been stolen, and king David wanted to bring back the ark of the covenant, which represented the presence of God among his people in the city of God. Now it was told king David, saying the Lord has blessed the house of Obed-Adam and all that belongs to him because of the ark of God.

So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Adam to the city of David with gladness. And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. Then David danced before the Lord with all his might, and David was wearing a linen ephod.

He danced before the Lord. Now I want you to have a picture of David right now. How did he dance before the Lord? Was he like someone possessed by demons? Was he like someone where he would give up to the flesh completely? How did he dance before the Lord? We don't know, but he danced before the Lord.

So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet. That was moved from the heart of David because a victory has been won. The joy of the Lord completely filled his heart because the victory that he just had, the ark of the covenant, was brought back into the city of God.

God was present now in the city, and it was an instantaneous act, an instantaneous reaction from the heart of David, and with all the joy that he had, celebrating the victory of God for having allowed the ark of the covenant to be brought back to the city of God. He leapt and he danced before the Lord, and he rejoiced for the victory and the miracle that God has just brought. That was instantaneous, yeah, from his heart.

And the daughter of Saul could not understand what was happening. And she said when she saw David, she said, how can we react like that before the daughters of Israel? And David, if you read the story, he

told Mikau that, you know, I'm ready to humble myself even more, and I want to tell you now that the daughters of Israel are honoring what I am doing. They are honoring what I am doing because they saw the heart of David, but this woman that he had could not see his heart, and she felt ashamed of David.

But he was right now in the spirit, rejoicing and jumping and dancing. That's why I told you earlier on, just make a picture of how this man was leaping with joy and dancing before the Lord. Make a picture of it.

I'm sure there was innocence in there. I'm sure there was godliness in there. I'm sure there was humility in there.

I'm sure there was everything godly in what he was doing right now before the Lord. He had to use to express himself by his body. He was not a statute.

He was not a robot. He was leaping with joy, yeah. And sometimes when you look at some gospel concert and you see these thousands of young people being brought up, not brought up, but brought to react in their emotions and in their flesh, and you just have to look at it.

You just have to look at their behavior. You just have to look at their body language to feel and understand that this is carnal. They've been brought in a place like that, yeah.

Being brought in a place like that and then you've got a band and you've got this. I mean, I'm not judging. Please understand my heart.

I'm just giving you a warning. I'm not criticizing, but I'm saying things that are real. And these people here are bringing all these young Christians, innocent people who somehow love the Lord in their hearts to react.

How long can you resist? How long can you stay without moving? How long can you stay without your flesh being carried away when you've got a music that is from the world? When you've got that beat, that rhythm that comes from the world? You are not a robot. And you finally get caught up in the move. You're caught up.

Your flesh, and you can't stop it anymore. You can't stop it. You're carried away.

Your flesh, your emotions. Well, but brother David danced. Yeah, he danced.

He danced, but he didn't dance like these, you know. I don't have the description because I don't want to hurt anyone. He danced before the Lord with a humble heart.

He knew it was not him who brought that ark of the covenant back. He knew it was not in his own strength. He knew it was the plan of God.

He knew he heard from God. And when God honored it and brought the ark of the covenant in the city of God, that man could not do anything else except celebrate the victory of God. The miracle that has just gone happened.

The Bible says in the book of Acts chapter 3, when Peter and John came to the temple, you know, he came to the temple and right at the door of the temple there was this man who was lame. He couldn't walk. And you know the story.

Peter said to him, gold and silver I don't have, but what I have given to you in the name of Jesus, rise up and walk. This man leaped up. He leaped up.

He walked in the temple and he leaped with joy and he danced in the temple praising God for the miracle that had happened to him. It's not a problem. He could not keep the joy.

He couldn't keep thanking God in silence. He could not. He could not keep rejoicing like a robot.

He moved. He leaped. He praised.

He danced in the temple. And everyone, the Bible says, everyone saw him leaping for joy. It's different, man.

Brother, it's different. Hey, my sister, it's different. You can't mix the two.

You can't compare the two. And I'm sure that from that day in the temple, from that day, it did not become a habit or a principle that every day now they've got to leap and dance for joy. I'm sure it didn't become a habit.

It was not a habit. They said, okay, look at this man. Hey, he's praising God.

He's dancing before the Lord. Let's do it ourselves again. Again we go.

No, I don't think it was like that. I'm sure it was not like that. Hey, that's why today when people of God get together and some people say, now it's time to dance.

And the guy, he's got his long face like that. He's got nothing to rejoice about. He's just fought his wife before he came or what happened to him.

And he's got to dance now. If he doesn't come to dance, then the person on the platform is going to come to him and shake him and make him dance. Oh Lord, help us.

You can't make someone who is hurting inside leap and joy with joy and dance before the Lord, unless the Holy Spirit takes him, leads him. And you would say that I've got an intelligence. I've got a will.

I've got a mind. I've got things to decide. Yes, you can decide if the Holy Spirit, you feel, you feel that the Holy Spirit tells you, okay, in the midst of your problem today, you can do it right now.

I'll give you the grace to do it. Then you can do it, but don't make it, don't make it a principle. 1 Samuel chapter 18.

Now we see another victory. Another victory. David had just slaughtered Goliath.

He had just slaughtered him, cut his neck and finished with him. And when that happened, the people of God, the people of Israel, they got courage and they went out and fought the Philistines, the army of the Philistines. Watch now.

Now they are coming back from victory. Now it had happened as they were coming home. Now remember that the people of Israel before David fought Goliath, they were trembling before that giant.

And God had to take a little boy, looking after the sheep, unknown to everyone because Saul would, after the victory, Saul would look at David and say, who are you? Where do you come from, young man? He didn't even know about David, but God had to do something to deliver his people. And he took that young man looking after the sheep and he came and faced Goliath and he slaughtered him. Now remember the people of Israel were in fear and trembling.

The Philistines were strong, strong. Now they had come back, they had come back and they are coming back into the city now. Now it had happened as they were coming home.

When David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the woman had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing to meet King Saul with tambourines, with joy and with musical instruments. Can you see what happened? Same thing, same thing that happened to David happened to this woman of Israel. The victory had been won.

The people of Israel were now safe. The Philistine had been conquered. Yeah.

And what did they do? They were in joy. They were rejoicing. The Bible says they were leaping with joy, dancing, rejoicing.

I don't know what type of music there was at that time. I don't know what was the music that they was playing. I don't know, but I'm positive.

I am certain that it didn't sound like the music that came, that comes from the world today. They leap for joy, they rejoice, they dance before the Lord because they were celebrating a victory. They were celebrating a victory.

They had won the battle. Now the people of Israel were safe. They were safe now.

You know what? Let me tell you something, just a little illustration. All right. Now imagine there's a big problem on our island.

Okay. And there's war. Now we're talking about the people of the world.

There's war. Okay. And some people here are fighting these people there.

And one has got to win. Okay. One has got to win.

And let's say you winning. They're gone. Now you winning.

And now you get together after the battle. What would you do? You're people of the world now. What would you do? What would you do? I'm sure you will get your CDs of, how you call them? Bob Marley or I don't know.

I don't know these guys. I don't know much about their names and what they do. But you know, sometimes you want to hear the news and you get some sound music coming out of this radio, you know, these guys, and you put these cigar, these reggae, these sege, these rock music, this, uh, uh, go that, what do you call that again? Um, uh, techno music.

And you buy, you buy about 40 cans of beers and you start celebrating. That's what's happened in the world. Huh? That's what happens in the world.

But our way of celebrating God, our way of celebrating the King of Kings, how a way of praising God for our victory is how our heart humbles himself and is broken before God. And we can rejoice and we can sing the choruses and we can sing and even dance before the Lord. It's another spirit.

It's another heart. It's another beat. It's another rhythm.

And I'm sure no, not one of us here would go and buy the CDs of Bob Marley and sege and reggae and techno and would go for it. I'm sure no one here will do that. And even if you've got Christian words on the type of music.

Now we want the same beat, the same rhythm, and we put some biblical words in it. There was a time on our Island here in Mauritius that some Christians had made a CD with Christian words. And you know what? For my big surprise, this song was played in all the discotheques of Mauritius and all the worldly people were dancing on this tune.

I'm talking about the truth. I'm talking about the truth. How can people of the world rejoice and dance on Christian music? Have you ever seen that before? Hey, have you ever heard of that before? There's one music that attracts the flesh, that revives emotions, that bring back to life all sorts of carnal thoughts and reactions and experiences.

It's not for you. It's not for me. It's not for you.

And it's not for me. I think this is a shame. It's a shame.

We cannot hide behind gospel music to explode ourselves in the flesh. I repeat, we cannot hide behind gospel music to explode in our flesh and our emotions. How many of you know that flesh does not produce life? Flesh does not produce spiritual life.

It doesn't. It doesn't. Therefore, the moment your flesh gets involved, stirred, awakened, watch out.

Okay? The moment your flesh reacts to a type of music, you're in danger. It's not building your life spiritually. It's not helping you.

It's not a positive asset to your life. We must be able today, as spiritual people, to make the difference between what is of God and what is not of God. I believe sincerely that music has got two sources.

One from the heart of God. One from the heart of God, where men and women like you and me are led by the Spirit. They are led by the Spirit to create.

Create a tune. Create a melody. But God, God himself, leads his people.

And the Holy Spirit creates in them music. You know, many times, maybe I should not do that, but I do. Many times when I hear some old choruses, men of God, broken, men of God that was serving the Lord with all their lives, ready to lose everything.

Men of God that were led by the Holy Spirit. Sometimes they were like me, didn't know how to even sing. But God, when God is in something, when God is in something, the Holy Spirit witnesses to your heart.

And so many times today I hear these songs, I won't say choruses, I will say songs from different people. It's just talented music. Talented music with good words.

Not all of it. No, I'm not putting everything in the bin. No, no, no, no, no, no.

But I'm saying that we need to know what to choose. Some of them today, you can't make the difference. I believe that God creates.

He creates in the heart of men music to worship him, to praise him, to give him all the honor and the glory and the power. And when you know that something is from God, your heart melts. Your heart is connected.

Your heart is drawn. There is a unity of the Spirit. There is a presence of God.

There is a presence of the anointing of God. You know, I don't know how to express it, how to explain it, but all I know is that it's different. It's another spirit.

But there's also music that comes directly from the will, with rhythm and beats that are carnal and everything that comes with it. The body movement, I wonder how men and women, you know, can move their bodies in all directions and claim to praise God. I understand.

When you look at them, you know, it's flesh. It's flesh. I can't understand how these brothers and sisters can move their bodies with specific movements.

And I don't know how to explain it, but, you know, it doesn't feel good. It doesn't have a good perfume. You know it's not of the Spirit.

You know it's the flesh. You know that they are being moved by their emotions and by the flesh. Music that comes from the devil revives your senses and your emotions to bring you to one place, one place, sin and destruction of your life.

It's amazing what happens in the Christian world today. The things, there's so many things that the Church has opened its doors to. There is also buying and selling of the product that you have made.

Yeah. So everything has come with it. You know, you open your door to the world and, you know, the world doesn't give you drop by drop.

It invades. The devil does not inject you with little things. If he can inject you one go, the whole thing, he'll do it for the destruction of the people of God.

Worldly music cannot bring people to repentance. It cannot. If it doesn't have the true and the right spirit, it cannot bring people to repentance.

And the music that God creates brings our heart to respond in humility, in obedience. We know the type of music that we hear. Does it have any identification to the world? You know, when you hear some music, you know if it identifies with the world music.

You know. You tell me, but brother, God can do anything. I know.

God can use anything, can do anything the way he wants. Yeah. But one thing we know, that the Spirit of the Lord leads us to do the things according to the Spirit and according to Jesus.

We must be careful of all these gospel concerts that are going around in the Christian world, in the Christian church. You must be careful what you listen. You must know what you listen, what CDs you buy,

what music you choose to listen.

Everything that comes from the world, all the rhythm and the beat and everything, it drives people. It's always accompanied by carnal dancers. And sometimes you look at what's happening in the church.

People are dancing like the world, expressing themselves like the world. And we know that is leading to one thing. I'm not going to make any judgment, but I'm asking myself a question.

What happens after these youth gospel concerts between young boys and girls? What happens when their flesh and their emotions have come to the highest level? And when they leave that place full of excitement, the flesh has been fed, the flesh has been alive. I'm asking myself a question. I don't have the answer, but I'm wondering what happens after these gospel concerts between young boys and young girls.

I don't know. But I believe that if nothing happens, they are very, very, very, very spiritual people. Because when you yourself, you look, you watch it and you listen to it, you yourself, you know what is present among there.

You know, you feel. I believe the church must know that there is a big difference between the world music and Christian music. There should be.

It's two different spirits originated from two different sources. And you can't bring that in the church. One day I had a little sharing with somebody because I was in a city and there was a big youth gathering with gospel music and gospel and concert, big thing.

And I told him, how do you see that? He said, I think it's fine because I believe that many young people can be saved. You know, as they gather together like that, you know, they are young people and they like music. They like entertainment.

And it's good. They gather together. You know, it's not gathering between old people and themselves.

You know, it's them. It's for them and it's okay. I said, but can you tell me, is there a possibility that Christians that go to these gospel concert, backslide after having attended to them? Is there a possibility that that type of music will cause them to backslide? Why are you just trying to show me that if you can be saved, but why can't you see the risk of, what's the word, exposing young Christians because they can be young, not only of age, but young, just born again, attending these gospel concerts with all type of music and rock and roll.

And you know what, what I'm talking about. Is there a possibility for them to get caught up by the world, by the excitement and by the flesh and by the emotions after that? Maybe this person will find it now normal for them, these young Christians, normal for them to listen to all type of music that has got a Christian language. It's deceitful.

It's injecting poison bit by bit. We can't hide behind worldly music. When I say worldly music, Christian music with worldly beat and rhythm to try and save souls.

No sir, it doesn't happen that way. You say, but I've seen. Okay.

God can do anything. Yeah. But have you seen the wreckage and the, and how we destroyed many others? You know, for me, it's very simple.

I don't know about you, but for me, it's simple. What does the Holy Spirit tell me? What does it reach? I can talk to you. I can expose things to you.

I can reason. I can give you examples. I can, you know, try to explain to you many things.

You know, we, we can argue, we can share, we can do many things. But my question is, what does the Holy Spirit tell you and witness to your heart when you hear and watch and see? We do not have a different spirit. We have the same Holy Spirit.

But when you are a carnal Christian, you can't feel the same thing that a spiritual person feel. You can't. That's a danger.

The danger is being, is being caught up and swallowed by this carnality and this emotional stuff that you can't even hear and witness what the Holy Spirit tells you. You can't anymore. You know, in the book of Hebrews, the author of the book of Hebrews, let's turn to it and see.

In chapter five, you know, my brothers and sisters, if you leave the gospel of the cross behind you, you'll end up with all sorts of deceptions. If you leave behind the fact that we are called to give our lives, to surrender our lives, to lose it, to deny ourselves and take up that cross and follow Jesus, if you leave that foundational message out of your Christian life, you will surely end up in deception. Now, in the book of Hebrews, chapter five, we'll read that verse, a couple of verses here, just to show you how dangerous we can come to the place where we cannot discern anything.

Chapter five, verse 11. No, chapter six, excuse me. No, chapter five, verse 11.

I'm there. Of whom we have much to say and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the world of righteousness, for he's a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use are their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Let me tell you something.

You've got your life laid on the foundation of the gospel of the cross of Jesus Christ. As you grow, as you mature, as God deals with you and I, as we are broken before the Lord, we will know what to touch with our hands. We will know where to go.

We will know how to be led by the Spirit. We will not be drawn by what men say. Yeah, we grow.

We need growth. We need spiritual growth. We need maturity.

We need the cross. We need to lose our lives. Paul says, I'm crucified with him.

It's no more me who lives, but Christ who lives in me. He's come to the place where he knows that who he is now, it's a product. It's a product of what God was busy doing in his life, losing his life for the life of Christ.

And when you come to that place and you experience that growth, and when you listen to the music, you know what you're listening. It's like a radar that you've got. We must be very careful not to bring God's people into deception, to try to make them believe that everything is fine, all is good.

You can do this, you can do that. And they come to the place where the gospel is totally compromised. Compromised.

You've got the youth that go to church, and at the same time they leave a carnal life, live in sin. They live in sin. At the same time, the gospel is compromised, diluted.

That's what's the problem of the church today. We are hearing a gospel that is compromised. As long as you believe in Jesus Christ and you come and give your offering and praise the Lord and go to church on Sunday morning, you are fine.

Lord help us. I tell you, we must realize that there is danger ahead of the church. If we do not stop and consider the message of the gospel, of the cross of Jesus Christ, that is the power of God.

It's that or nothing. May God bless you all. May God bless you and open our eyes so that we may see clearly the plan of God for our lives.

Amen? God bless you all. So we can get some music here now, good music, and we are going to praise the Lord.

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