

Knowing God (Eng to German) (9.6.1985)

by Peter Maiden

Peter Maiden's sermon emphasizes the importance of prayer and revival in knowing God and reaching others with the Gospel.

Duration: 1:04:29

Scripture: Psalm 103:17, Matthew 6:33, John 17:3, Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 6:14, Philippians 4:19, Titus 2:13

Topics: "Knowing God"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker shares a personal story about a journey and reflects on the importance of knowing the living God. He emphasizes that life without God's love is meaningless and wasteful. The speaker highlights that God's love brings purpose and value to our lives. He also discusses the goal of conforming to the image of Jesus Christ and the importance of relying on God in all aspects of life. The sermon concludes with three principles from Philippians 3 on how to know Christ.

Transcript

Well, being from England, you know what our problem is at the present time. Our problem is football hooligans. And I'm here tonight to tell you that I have found the answer to football hooliganism.

Margaret Thatcher is struggling, but I have the answer. Listen to this report from the Welsh Revival. There were no robberies, no burglaries, no rapes, no murders.

So the local councils held emergency meetings to discuss what to do with the police. They were unemployed. In one place, the sergeant of the police was sent for.

Police boss was sent for. Chief. He was sent.

He was asked, what do you do with your time? And he said, before the revival, we had two main jobs. One was to prevent crime, and the other was to control crowds, the kind of crowds which go to football games. Since the revival started, he said, there's practically no crime, but we do go with the crowds.

So a council asked, what does that mean? Well, the sergeant replied, you know where the crowds are. They're all going to church, so we just go with them. He said, we've got 17 police in our police station, and we have three gospel quartets.

So if any church wants a quartet to sing, they just call the police station, and we send one along immediately. You've probably heard that we've got another problem in Britain. We've had a little difficulty in the mines, the coal mines.

Some people say the problem is we're bringing too much coal out to use, you see. But I have the answer to the problem. I want to read you a report from the Welsh revival.

During the revival, there was a slowdown in the mines. You might say, how could a revival cause a slowdown in a coal mine? Well, when the Welsh coal miners were converted, they stopped using bad language. There were certain horses used to drag the trucks which carried the coal, but they could no longer understand the language of the coal miners.

And this report says that until they learned the horses, the language of heaven, coal production slowed. If you think that's a bit fanciful, the record of that is actually held in Westminster Abbey in London. Those two examples are taken from this pamphlet.

It's called, *The Role of Prayer in Spiritual Awakening*. And the whole argument of Edwin Orr, the author, is that every time there's really been a move of God's Spirit, it's been begun and continued in prayer. One book had a tremendous effect upon the revival in Wales.

It had an even greater effect upon the Great Awakening in North America. It was a book by Jonathan Edwards which spoke of the necessity for what he called extraordinary or special prayer. And he argued that whenever there's a real move of God's Spirit, there's always extraordinary prayer.

In other words, in our churches, as well as the worship meetings and the prayer meetings, there are extra times of prayer. He argues that you'll see Christians praying at six o'clock and at midday and half the night. Not long after I read that pamphlet, I wrote a paper.

The paper was entitled, *The Role of Young People in the Evangelization of the World*. And I did some homework. And I was absolutely amazed by how groups of young people have been so instrumental in the evangelization of the world.

Take, for example, the Moravians. Count Zinzendorf. You can't really imagine world evangelization without the Moravians.

Count Zinzendorf, who was very much at the center and the heart of that great move of God's Spirit, studied in Halle in Germany. And with five other students, they would meet for prayer regularly. It was from that little prayer meeting of just a few students that the great march of missions through the Moravians began.

On the other side of the Atlantic, there was another extraordinary prayer meeting. This was to have a massive impact on world evangelism. It was in 1806, and the prayer meeting was led by a 23-year-old student.

Samuel Mills was his name, and every Wednesday and every Saturday, I think it was, he used to pray with other students on a riverbank. And one day, as they made their way to the place where they prayed, there was a tremendous thunderstorm. And they sheltered under a haystack and prayed there instead.

And God met with them in a dramatic way. And they committed their lives in that haystack to the evangelization of the world. It's become known in missions history as the haystacks prayer meeting.

According to the great missions historian Kenneth Scott LeTourre, that was really the, I'm going to quote him exactly, the initial impulse, he says, of the foreign missions movement of the churches of the United States. Young people, extraordinary prayer. It's had a massive impact on world evangelism.

And I definitely believe that God can do it again. Do you believe it? God could do it again, and it could start here in June 1985. If just a few of us were really to get serious about meeting with God, there could be another wave of world evangelism starting here.

Wouldn't it be a marvelous thing if all over this place, little groups were meeting during, you know, queuing for lunch. Seems to be a fairly lengthy queue. Queuing for lunch.

A brief time here, a brief time there. Groups of people meeting for extraordinary prayer. Let's pray that God will do that.

I want to introduce you now to a few books. You've seen the book table. I hope you're going to make extensive use of it.

There's two ways of buying books at this conference. You buy with cash. We appreciate that because we don't have very much cash at this present time in this conference center.

But you can also buy on credit. You can take books today and promise to pay us before the 30th of September. And you can pay your bill in your home country.

In order to do this, you have to take from the book table two of these forms. You have to fill them in. Take them with the books that you're buying to the accountant on the desk there.

The accountant will fill extra details in. You will be given one copy and they will keep the other. There is, however, one book you don't have to buy.

It's a free gift. And it's George Bower's book, No Turning Back. Only in English, I'm afraid, free at least.

It's a tremendous book, a tremendous challenge to wholehearted Christian commitment. I don't know how many are left, but you can pick up your free copy right after this meeting. We often find that young people who come to these conferences have real problems about the Bible.

Is it really the word of God? Can it be relied upon? One book which helped me enormously with that question was this one. The New Testament Documents, Are They Reliable? by Professor Bruce. If you have any doubts, difficulties about the canon of Scripture, about the authority of Scripture, I recommend this book to you.

Another book you'll find immensely helpful is this book by Josh McDowell, Evidence That Demands a Verdict. It's an incredible collection of quotations and arguments covering this whole area of apologetics. It's quite expensive, but it's probably one of the best buys you'll make.

I bought my copy years ago and I use it very, very regularly indeed. We're going to talk tonight about knowing God. If you haven't read this book yet, you've missed one of the Christian classics of the 20th century.

I hope you're into the writings of John White. Please raise your hand if you have read a book by John White. It's encouraging, but there's a long way to go.

I hope if you haven't read a book by John White yet, you'll buy one of his books at this conference and start reading it. He is one of the best Christian communicators of our generation in print. The chapters in this book, *The Fight on Faith and Guidance*, I found quite unforgettable.

Most of you have read *True Discipleship*. It's a rough book, isn't it? You come away from *True Discipleship* gritting your teeth, don't you? Well, I suppose it's biblical and I'd better do it. John White has also written a book on discipleship.

I came away from this book smiling because I wanted to do it. The cost, the challenge is just as great as the challenge in *True Discipleship*. But John White concentrates on the sheer joy and the sheer common sense of being a true disciple.

You can read it in an evening. It's a very brief book and it's great. I'm sure you'll find encouragement from biographies in your Christian life.

This is a very new one, *My Big Father*, and it's a story of a brother, a Turkish brother who was a great friend of OM for many years and made a remarkable impact upon many OMs by his life and testimony. This is his biography. You won't only learn about him if you read this book.

You'll learn a lot about Turkey and you'll learn a lot about the tremendous challenge of the Muslim world. Then one of the most thrilling stories of all. I love church history.

And this is the best one volume church history I've come across. One of the most thrilling tales of history. If you want to get a basic grasp of church history, it's an excellent little introductory volume.

Now let's turn to the greatest book of all, to *Philippians* chapter 3. We're going to read from the middle of verse 4. I'll read in English. Please follow in your own language. Paul is giving his testimony and we take it up in the middle of verse 4. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more.

Circumcised on the eighth day of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews, in regard to the law, a Pharisee, as for zeal, persecuting the church, as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. But whatever was to my profit, I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss, compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.

I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ, and be found in him not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness that comes from God, and is by faith. I want to know Christ, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so somehow to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it, but one thing I do, forgetting what is behind, and straining towards what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things, and if on

some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

Join with others in following my example brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. For as I have often told you before, and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their God is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame.

Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly await a saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies, so that they will be like his glorious body. Tremendous, tremendous words from Paul.

What is operation mobilization? What is this strange group that you have become a part of? Sometimes we have the image, don't we, of being a kind of literature distribution machine. That's some people's image of life on O.M. You stand on a street corner, and you get a very sore right elbow. Well, we do distribute literature.

Maybe 400 million pieces of literature have been distributed through O.M., maybe more. Other people think that we are a group of half-starved, always tired young people, and there's absolutely no truth in that whatsoever. Other people think, you know, we're a short-term mission.

They think that everyone who comes with O.M. comes for a month or a year, but no more. Fred, how long have you been with O.M.? He's forgotten, it's so long. 21 years.

I'm just a junior, I've only been around about nine years. So O.M. is not a short-term mission. So what is operation mobilization? It's a fellowship of worshippers, a fellowship of people with a real desire to know God.

That was Paul's desire, Philippians 3 verse 10. That's the phrase that sums up the life of the Apostle Paul. He wasn't fundamentally an evangelist or a church planter.

If you want to understand the heartbeat of Paul, it's there in Philippians 3. He says, I want to know Christ. That's the great purpose of this summer campaign. I trust that you have come on this campaign because you want to know Christ.

You want a fresh meeting with the living God. Yes, we do want to reach every town and village in France, that's true. And we're not going to do that, by the way, with 65 people.

Yes, we do want to reach into Belgium and we do want to reach into Austria, but that is secondary. Our desire is that you, through being with us, will come to know Christ in a new way. How does it happen? My first summer campaign was in 1967.

I was 17 years of age, I think, so do some quick mathematics. I was brought up in a very, very strong Brethren home, Plymouth Brethren. I can't remember a day when I did not know Jesus Christ.

The earliest recollection of my life is literally sitting on my mother's knee and being taught the Scriptures. Now, you might get very concerned about me at this point, but I've never made a decision. I can't even remember singing, into my heart, into my heart, into my heart, Lord Jesus.

Now, if you want to counsel me afterwards, I'm available. I can remember many days when I haven't loved Jesus as I should, but I can't remember a day when I wasn't to some degree in love with Jesus. It's tremendous to have an outbringer like that, taught the Scriptures, taught to love the Lord from your earliest days.

But as a 17, I thought I knew it all. I'd learned the Scriptures from two or three. I preached my first sermon when I was 14, and then when I was 17, I left home and joined OM, and I left home then for the first time.

Now, my home wasn't only a godly home, it was a fairly well-to-do home. Materially, I didn't lack for anything. One of the early verses I learned when I was a child was Philippians 4.19. My God shall supply all your need.

So as a 17-year-old with this kind of background, I went on OM. I went to Spain, and on the second day, on my little team in Valencia, a Mexican who was my leader came to talk to me. His name was Pepe.

He came to me and he said, Peter, we don't have any money. Second day on the team. I said, that's, that's serious.

He said, I'll tell you something else. We don't have any food. I said, pardon? He said, we don't have any food.

I said, what are we going to do? He said, we're going to get down on our knees here, and we're going to remind God of His promises. This had never happened to me before. There was nothing like this in my Plymouth Brethren Assembly back home.

I said, are we? Are we going to get down on our knees here? We were in a main street in Valencia, and we did. Right on our knees. Do you know what that man did, Pepe? He quoted Philippians 4.19. Quoted, said Philippians 4.19. My God shall supply all your need.

There's a major crisis in my Christian life on my knees on a street in Valencia. I'll never forget it until the day I die. The crisis was this book.

I learned it from childhood, but I'd never ever been in a situation like this where I had to prove whether or not it was the Word of God. And I can remember to this day the struggle in my mind. Could I trust it? Was God a living God? Would He provide? Now the fact that I'm here this evening.

I may be a bit thin, but I'm alive. Yes. Yes, God did provide.

For two and a half months, I saw God alive providing. I saw God saving Spaniards. I saw God protecting us in some of the most amazing vehicles I'd ever driven in.

Coming back from Spain as a 17 year old, I was the only driver. I'd never driven on that strange side of the road before. I'd certainly never ever driven a vehicle like this before.

30 kilometers from Zabentum, all the electrics on the vehicle went. Four o'clock in the morning, fairly dark, but there was a ferry to be caught. Pepe said carry on.

So we carried on, just trying to keep our eyes, one of us on the white line in the middle and the road at the side of the road and about two hours later we made the 30 kilometers. Now I'm sorry we can't, I'm sorry we can't guarantee these things in 1985. We can't guarantee you'll run out of food on the second day.

I know you're disappointed, but we can't guarantee it. Things are slightly more organized, slightly more organized. You should at least get to the third day.

Praise God the vehicles have improved and that's a victory, but I believe that what's going to happen to you this summer is that you're going to come to know the living God in a new way and that's what OM is all about. So I want to help you just a little bit tonight and I want to give you, let's have a look at these notes, four principles to help you to get the most, the maximum out of this summer campaign. My advice to you number one is concentrate on the everlasting love of God towards you and I want you to turn to the 103rd Psalm and I want you to look at the marvelous 17th verse.

If you're into marking your Bible I'd love you to mark this verse. It's a favorite of mine. From everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear Him.

You're going to hear a lot this week about being committed to Christ and the cost of commitment, but I've got a better subject than that this evening. What I want to say to you is that God is committed to you and God is committed to me. From everlasting before the world was made to everlasting right through my life and right through eternity God has chosen to love me.

I don't know why. I don't understand the eternal counsels of God, but I can read it in His word. He is absolutely committed to me.

He doesn't say I am committed to you Peter on the mornings when you have your quiet time. For me it would be a very mixed kind of commitment if that was the situation. He doesn't say Peter I'm committed to you when you're a success.

He says Peter success, failure, sin, victory, I am eternally committed. I love you. Now this tremendous statement is made even more wonderful if you look at the two verses which precede it.

These verses describe how transient and useless human life really is. Human life says the psalmist is just like a flower. You see it one day and it's just gone the next.

It's so short, it's so uncertain. Do you know life without the love of God is life without value, without meaning? Recently I had to take a funeral service. It was the death of a man who was a distant relative of my wife.

He'd had no time for God throughout his life and he left very clear instructions in his will. He said I've had no time for God in life and I want nothing to do with him in death. I don't want to be associated with church, a funeral service, and he left his wife with a bit of a problem obviously.

She heard that I was religious so she rang me and she read this will to me. She said will you come down to the front room of my house and conduct a funeral service here. So I agreed and three days later we went around.

There were seven people gathered in that room sitting around a coffin. As I stood and looked at those seven people and looked at that coffin I couldn't get one word out of my mind. It was the word waste.

I was looking at utter wastage. Here was a man who'd wasted 74 years and was now in hell for all eternity. And that's life without the love of God.

It's nothing. It's without meaning, it's without value. It's God's love which brings purpose, value, significance to our lives tonight.

Romans chapter 8 tells us that nothing can separate us from this love. Many things may happen to us this summer. Just a few hours ago one of our American sisters had to ring home.

Her father had died. I want you to pray for her tonight. What a shock.

But nothing can separate us from the love of God. Height, depth, nothing can separate us. And I want you to concentrate this summer, whatever might be happening to you, concentrate on this fact.

God is committed to love me. Second thing, the second piece of advice I want to give you is never forget your position in Christ. I want you to look at the third verse of this marvellous 103rd Psalm.

He forgives all your sins. That's our position. We are forgiven children of God.

Now we know from the Bible that Satan is the accuser of the brethren. You know, it's not just the Plymouth brethren. And you're going to feel, you're going to sense his accusations this summer.

You're going to feel a failure from time to time, I'll assure you now. There may well be sin in your life before the end of today, never mind this summer. And I want you to remember this tremendous phrase.

He forgives all your sins. I was preaching up in Glasgow a few months, maybe it's even a year ago now. When we got back from the meeting, we entered the house of the man where I was staying.

And the burglars had been in whilst we'd been at the meeting. The house was utterly ransacked. Do you know what the man did? He went to his study.

And he looked for his insurance policy. And he went around the whole house asking himself, is it covered, the silver candlesticks, the golden watch, is it covered, is it on the policy? Now the word atonement is a word used in insurance. And the wonderful thing about Calvary is that everything is covered.

There's not one sin, there's not one failure which isn't covered by the policy. But not only has God forgiven our sin, if you look further down the psalm, you'll see in verse 12 that he's removed our sins. He's taken them so far away that no one can ever bring them back.

You'll never be rebuked, you'll never be condemned again by your sins which are covered. In fact they've been taken so far away that even Satan can't bring them back. They're absolutely gone.

That's the second thing I'd like you to remember as you go through this summer campaign. The third thing I'd like you to remember is God's great goal for your life and mine. Now what is that goal? Well you can see it in Romans 8 and verse 29.

Those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son. Just turn over to Titus chapter 2 and you'll see exactly the same thing. The end of verse 13 we read about our great God and Savior Jesus Christ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own.

That's God's great goal for my life and yours. He wants to conform us into the image of Jesus Christ. He wants us to be something for his glory.

Now we're living in a very high achiever age, aren't we? It's interesting that when you talk to a stranger it's not long before they ask you, what do you do? What do you do? What is your job? In other words, what status, what achievements have you accomplished? There's a marvellous little club meets in London. It's called the Club for Successful Failures. They're fighting against this emphasis of you have to achieve to be something.

They actually have a lunch once a month in a hotel in London and after a really good dinner they discuss their failures of the past month. There's actually a book, you can buy it in England, which describes many of their failures. I'm sure some of them aren't true.

It's the story of a little lady who always wanted to parachute. She was very light. So when the great day came and she jumped out of the aeroplane, the story goes that she went up.

It's one of the great achievements, failure achievements of this club. But God is so much more interested in what you are in yourself than what you do. And this summer, without Jesus, we can't do anything.

John 15.5, Jesus said, without me, you can do nothing. And that's why a meeting with God is so essential. That's why it's vital that prayer is built into our lives as the great priority.

And if we don't show you this week and this summer, the priority of prayer, we have failed. I have to confess to you that one of the greatest problems in my life is living in the light of this fact that without Jesus, I can't do anything. I still find that so much of my living and so much of my service is prayerless.

Samuel Chadwick wrote this, the devil fears nothing from prayerless preaching, fears nothing from prayerless witness, but he trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees. Now, why is prayer so vital? Last Sunday, I was talking to an old man. He just couldn't understand prayer.

He said, why should we pray? Have a look at Ephesians chapter two. And just look at the first three verses. We won't read them.

Here, Paul is describing a non-Christian. He says, what's a non-Christian like? And first of all, in verse one, he says a non-Christian is dead. Now, I don't know whether you've ever stood beside a corpse.

I've had to do that from time to time. Let me tell you something. You can stand in front of a corpse and you can shout at a corpse, but a corpse will remain a corpse.

You can even take the four spiritual laws in front of a corpse and you can go right through the whole system, but a corpse will remain a corpse. And people who don't know Christ are dead. You see why you need to pray? People of France are dead.

And unless God gives life, what are we doing this summer? We're wasting our time. Without Jesus, we can't do anything. So if you find your team prayerless, do something about it.

Don't waste your summer with prayerless service. You'll find, as I find, that Satan causes you to substitute anything for prayer. You notice how you can be very fresh through the day and suddenly the prayer time comes and you feel so tired.

It's genuine, you really do feel tired. I can tell you it's much easier for me to preach than it is for me to pray. It's much easier to read books about the Bible than it is to read the Bible.

It's much easier for me to work in my office than it is for me to worship. Activity I find so much more simple than intercession. Satan will do everything to keep you and me from prayer.

Because without Jesus, we can't do anything, but with him we can do everything. I hope you're never going to forget this summer, those words. Without me, you can do nothing.

So what's OMA all about? What's this summer campaign all about? It's all about meeting with the Living God. It's all about experiencing His eternal love. It's all about resting in the finished work of His Son.

It's all about learning how useless we are without Him. It's all about remembering His great goal for our lives, to know Him and to be like Him. Finally, how are we to go about all this? Well, I want you to look again at the passage we read in Philippians 3. We've seen Paul's great cry, I want to know Christ.

Now how did Paul come to know Christ? This passage gives us three great principles. Number one, he realized that everything else was rubbish by comparison. Paul had many things to be proud of.

Some of these things he'd received by inheritance. He was circumcised on the eighth day of the people of Israel. He was of the tribe of Benjamin.

He was a Hebrew of the Hebrews. He received all those things from his family. But Paul had also some things which he had done to be proud of.

In regard to the law, he says, I was a Pharisee. As for legal righteousness, I was faultless, says Paul. It's hard for me to believe that, but it's the inspired Word of God.

Why is it hard for me to believe that? Well, Paul, as a good Pharisee, had over 600, I can't remember the exact number, was it 623 or something, laws that he had to keep in order to be a true Pharisee. Every Sabbath day of his life, he had 70 specific laws just for that day. Paul says, as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

You know, as this young man walked down the street, I believe heads turned and mothers pointed their children towards this young man and said, if you'll just become like him, that's all I want from you. But Paul says, I've turned my back on his all. All of this is rubbish compared with knowing Christ.

Now, maybe tonight you feel you have many things to be proud of. Your personality, your education, I don't know what you're relying on. Compared with knowing Jesus, it's worthless.

I want us to realize just how vital, just how important this is. Everything else is without value compared to knowing Jesus Christ. Second great principle from Paul is that he realized that to know Christ was something which would take a lifetime.

Look at verses 12 to 14. When I first read them as a teenager, I could hardly believe them. I'd read Paul's testimony and by the time I got to the end of verse 11, I thought, if only I could be like Paul.

Then he says in verse 13, forgetting what is behind, I'm straining towards what is ahead. I hope you've got nothing to do with this instant religion which is so popular in our world today. Of course, we have instant coffee and we have instant this and instant that and we all want instant spiritual experience and instant spiritual maturity.

Knowing Christ is the work and the joy of a lifetime. I'm nervous of all spiritual experiences which suggest to you, this is the ultimate. If you have this, you have it.

I'm very nervous of that. I'm very keen on all spiritual experiences and all spiritual blessings which will help you along the road to maturity. I want them all.

Let's learn together that this summer, however much we learn, will just be part of the process. The process will be continuing when you're 70 by the grace of God and 80 by the mercy of God. However long you live, the process will be continuing.

So don't forget, when joining OM, you're just joining a bunch of people who are in the process of getting to know Jesus Christ. There's no person in OM who has arrived. You think George Vowa has arrived, spend five minutes with him or get hold of his tape, testimony of a stumbling missionary.

We're all in this process, this lifelong process of learning. Then the third great principle from this passage, you can see in verses 18 to 20. Paul realised the kind of life he was aiming for was totally different from the normal life of the people of his age.

He says at the end of verse 18, many are living as enemies of the cross. Their destiny is destruction, their God is their stomach and their glory is their shame. Their mind is on earthly things, but our citizenship is in heaven.

Here's something radically different. There's about, I think it's eight or nine characteristics in those verses, characteristics of people. And you'll see that half of them describe the character of the non-Christian and the other half the character of the Christian.

And the characteristics are in total opposition to each other. The person who puts everything else aside and commits himself to this lifelong process of knowing Christ is going to stick out like a sore thumb in our and in every generation. Unless you're willing for that separation, unless you're willing for that difference, you'll never get along this road of knowing Christ.

So this is our prayer for you and I hope your prayer for us this summer. You're joining a fellowship of worshippers who just long to know more of Jesus Christ. We want to say tonight that everything else is rubbish in comparison with knowing Him.

We're committing ourselves to it for our lifetime. We are willing for the difference, for the separation from the world that this is going to mean. I really think if that's the cry of your heart, you're really going to feel at home in this movement.

And I think you're going to have a tremendous summer. At the same time you're going to be reaching France and Austria and Belgium and everywhere else with the Gospel. I'd like you just to get into groups now of two or three and just spend a few moments in prayer together.

And I want you to pray about something very, very specific. I just want you to cry out to God to implant this desire for Him in our hearts. You see this isn't a natural thing.

We can't engineer it within us. It comes from God. And let's just plead with Him for a few moments together to give us this burning desire to know Him.

And then I'll close in prayer in just a few moments. Let's just begin to draw to a close. And then when you're finished, turn in your hymn book to our final hymn, number 30.

Do we have anybody who can handle this one on the piano, Love Divine, All Love's Excelling? Anyone at all in an auditorium with a congregation of this size? I can't believe it. Thank you very much, sister. Number 30, Love Divine, All Love's Excelling.

Joy of heaven to earth come down. We'll rise to sing. Let's rise to sing.

Love divine, all love's excelling. Joy of heaven to earth come down. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure unbounded.

Son of Mary, serve me, finish that. Let us see thy great salvation.

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