

Counting the Cost

by Phil Beach Jr.

God wants us to hear His voice and follow Him, even if it means suffering the loss of all things and facing the fear of man.

Duration: 1:00:48

Scripture: Philippians 3:1

Topics: "Discipleship", "Surrendering to God"

Description

Phil Beach Jr. emphasizes the importance of discerning the voice of God through the Holy Spirit, urging believers to count the cost of discipleship. He highlights that true following of Christ requires a willingness to forsake all earthly gains and attachments, including family and personal desires, in order to fully embrace God's will. Beach warns against the dangers of covetousness and the excuses that hinder our relationship with God, calling for a radical commitment to surrender everything to Him. He encourages the church to heed the Spirit's call and to prepare for the challenges that come with a genuine pursuit of Christ. Ultimately, he reminds us that true freedom and fulfillment come from relinquishing our lives to God's purpose.

Transcript

That God has whispered some things into my spirit, and I'd like to read them now. And may the Lord help us to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. I think it's very significant that in the book of Revelation, the first three chapters, when Jesus addressed the seven churches which were in Asia Minor, after each word that he spoke, he specifically said, He that hath an ear to hear, let him hear what the preacher is saying to the... Doesn't say that? Let him hear what the television evangelist is saying to the church.

No? Let him hear what the first, what the top three best-selling Christian books are saying to the church. No. What does it say? He that hath an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Have you ever considered that Jesus wants you to know His voice through the Holy Spirit? Did you know that part of the inheritance of being born into a family is having the incredible privilege of hearing your Father's voice? May I ask you a question? Are you learning to hear the voice of God? Are you learning to hear the voice of God in your spirit? My sheep hear my voice. It's very important that we learn the voice of God. Listen carefully as I read in Philippians chapter 3, while in the presence of the Lord Jesus this morning.

These are words that I believe the Holy Spirit was speaking as something He would want us to understand in relation to God's heart cry. Philippians chapter 3, beginning in verse number 1. Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord, to write the same things to you. To me indeed is not grievous, for you it is safe.

Don't be surprised when you find the Lord speak the same thing over and over and over to you. The Bible says that it's not grievous, but it's safe. When God has something in His heart that He wants to speak to you individually or to us as a church or to the church in general, He most likely will say it over and over and over and over and over again because He knows our tendency is to forget and to let slip from us those things that we have heard.

So don't be discouraged and don't become despondent or impatient when God speaks the same thing to you over and over again. But listen to Him. Let Him speak to you.

Beware of dogs. Beware of evil workers. Beware of the concision.

For we are the circumcision which worship God in the spirit and rejoice in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh. Though I might also have confidence in the flesh, if any other man thinks that he has whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more circumcised the eighth day of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews, as touching the law of Pharisee, concerning zeal, persecuting the church, touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gained to me, those I counted lost for Christ.

The Holy Spirit is searching for a people in this late, dark hour as we stand on the eve of perhaps one of the greatest demonstrations of the Spirit of God that the earth has ever seen. We also stand on the eve of perhaps one of the greatest demonstrations of evil that the earth has ever seen. And in this late hour, the Holy Spirit is searching for a people who will lay hold of the heart of God as Paul expresses it and as the Scripture says, what things were gained to me, those I count lost for Christ.

There is a clarion call by the Spirit of God, He that has ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the church. There is a clarion call from the Holy Spirit to the church saying, you must consider those things that are gained to you as loss. You cannot have the fullness of a life in God and yet retain in the grip and clutch of your hands those things that are of worth to you that are not related to the things of God.

You cannot hold on to your life. You cannot hold on to your will. Teenagers, young people, listen to Brother Phil now.

You cannot hold on to your own life. You cannot demand your own way and at the same time pray, God, I want to know you in your fullness. The two are incompatible.

You cannot demand your way and expect to live in the fullness of God. God's people in this late hour are going to be people who according to the words of the Holy Spirit count all things lost in comparison to Christ. And as we were worshiping the Lord, praising God, and the Holy Spirit threw near, I so clearly heard the Spirit of God cry out these words.

Oh, that we would cry to know Him to the point where nothing else matters to us. Let us read on. Yea, doubtless, I count all things.

May the Holy Spirit of God bring clarity and conviction to such a statement. The word all is inclusive. There is nothing outside of all.

Yea, I count all things. The Holy Spirit of God is searching the house of God and He is seeking to put His finger upon everything in our life. The all things.

And He is seeking to test us and to try us so as to see whether or not we are willing because of love for Him to let go of all things. There is nothing that the Lord will not allow to lay dormant in your life and my life if we go with the flow of the river of living water that's coming from the throne. Jesus Christ will have a people that will be crowned at the end of the age with glory and honor and splendor and then they'll take the crown off and throw it at His feet.

But these people will be virgins. They will not have known women. They will not be defiled.

And what that indicates is not only that they will be partakers of the righteousness of Christ Jesus. Not only will they be partakers of the free gift of righteousness but they also will have chosen to forsake all things to follow Jesus Christ. For it is one thing to be a partaker of the grace of God and the gift of salvation but it is another thing when God says, Look what is before you and what will you do? We confirm the genuineness of our faith by making decisions that coincide with God's will and saying no to our own will.

God is searching in this hour that we live in today, beloved, for a people who will forsake idols, who will forsake covetousness and greed. A very well-known, internationally known minister has recently wrote a letter and in it he said, One of the sins that he fears the most in this hour of apostasy is the sin of covetousness. The sin of covetousness.

The insatiable desire that is in the world and that is creeping into the church more and more and more. The desire to have more and more and more and more and more and more to the point where our hearts are in a state of idolatry. We want more and more and more.

And this spirit of covetousness is destroying the spiritual life of the church. It is seducing the spiritual life of the church. The Bible says, when God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, the ten fundamental laws of God which reveal the character of God, Thou shalt not covet.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's car.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's clothes. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor.

You don't need to covet. You need to seek God who says, Seek first the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you. Yea, doubtless I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things.

Listen carefully, beloved. Following Jesus Christ will result in suffering the loss of all things. All things that we in our natural self would count dear to us.

This is what the Word says. It doesn't matter what we're being told by the tele-evangelists. It doesn't matter what we're being told by some books.

The fact is, you will suffer the loss of all things. That is, you in your heart of hearts will become detached from anything and everything other than a holy passion for God and His will. It's a heart matter that God is

after.

I have suffered the loss of all things for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and do count them but dung. Rubbish. Have you come to the place where you have come to count as rubbish those things that the world esteems highly? The Bible says that the things that the world esteems highly are an abomination to God, that I might win Christ.

Turning your Bible now to Mark chapter 10, beginning in verse number 24, the disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his Lord. Some kind of spirit from hell has come into the church in these days that we're living in and somehow has made us to believe that we are somehow above our Lord and that somehow the things that befall Him are not going to befall us and the things that befell the early church are somehow not going to befall us. But I would like to now by the power of the Holy Spirit come against that lie by reading the words of Jesus, the disciple is not above his master nor the servant above his Lord.

It is enough for the servant that he be as his master and the servant as his Lord. If they have called the master of the house bells above, how much more shall they call them of his household? Do you see what the words of Jesus are now speaking? If they have called the master of the household, the Lord Jesus Christ bells above, which some believe is not the devil himself, but a principality or a power that takes direct orders from the devil, how much more shall we who are of the household be called that very thing? But I tell you, beloved, that we're not going to be called bells above unless it is by union with Him. Listen carefully to the words of Jesus here.

Fear them not therefore, for there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed and hid that shall not be known. What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light. And what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul. Do not fear them that are able to kill your body. Do not fear those who are able to do destruction to your reputation.

Do not fear them who are able to take your goods, to take your possessions, to take your home, to take your land, to take your children. I don't know what it is, but don't fear them, Jesus said. Don't fear man.

The fear of man is a snare to the soul. The Spirit of God is saying to us now that if we live in fear, we will never know the freedom of faith and obedience to God. Fear is the opposite of faith.

Now there is a human fear that Paul had, fears within and fears without. But the difference between that fear and the spirit of fear is that fear didn't hinder Paul from obeying the will of God. So you might have fears within and fears without, and your humanity might be like an earthquake, but as long as that fear doesn't cause you to be arrested and paralyzed in God, it's okay.

But don't allow yourself to submit to a paralyzing fear that lays hold of you and robs you from the power to obey God. Because that's the fear that Jesus spoke of when He says, Why are ye fearful and unbelieving? That fear produces unbelief. And unbelief ties the hands of God.

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore.

Ye are of more value than many sparrows. Wherefore, or whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.

Verse number 34, in keeping with Philippians chapter 3, Think not that I am come to send peace on earth. Jesus wants us to know the nature of His coming. He's not talking about the second coming now.

He's talking about the presence of His coming by the Holy Spirit in the life of the church during this church age. We mustn't misunderstand the words of Jesus. Too many people think that the cost for the presence of Jesus or the results of the presence of Jesus in their life is going to be a nice, happy, easy life.

Everybody loves Him. Everybody accepts Him. Everybody is just so happy about what God's doing.

But Jesus said that's not true. Prepare your minds and your hearts. Prepare yourself.

Meditate on the Word of God this morning. Think not that I am come to send peace on earth. I came not to send peace but a sword.

Now, how many Christians are praying for revival and praying for the manifest presence of Jesus in their lives knowing that it's going to result not in peace but a sword? For I am come to set a man at variance. That word variance means to put apart, to separate against his father and the daughter against her mother and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. Listen, and a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

Jesus is now dealing with the need for you and I to understand that when He comes in the power of His presence, there can be no rivals. The Bible says, As much as lies within you, be at peace with all men. But when peace with all men means I must compromise, then I cannot pursue peace.

I must be faithful to my Lord and Savior. If Jesus is telling me to go to Jerusalem and there I'm going to be beheaded and my brothers and sisters are bidding me not to go, I could disobey God and be at peace with my brothers or I could obey God and risk possibly being misunderstood by my brothers. He that loveth, that word love means to have common interests.

He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. He that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross and followeth after me is not worthy of me.

He that finds his life shall lose it and he that loses his life for my sake shall find it. Luke chapter 14, Luke chapter 14. Please suffer the word of exhortation this morning.

Permit it as I believe it is the Holy Spirit speaking to us, helping us to see, helping us to understand the cry of God. Yes, God wants a love relationship with us. Yes, God wants us to be intimate with Him.

Yes, God wants us to delight in Him. But He also wants us to understand that to invite the Savior of the world into your home and into your hearts and into your household and to say yes to His Lordship, yes to His holy will, yes to the movement of His Holy Spirit is going to result not in peace but a sword. You're going to stir up the powers of devils.

You're going to stir up the powers of flesh. Men with carnal minds and natural understanding will come and misunderstand you and question you. Beloved, Jesus is wanting us to know the days that are right before us are days of great glory and great majesty and great demonstration of His power.

But it's going to be a day of sword, not peace. And we're going to have to make a decision. Who do we seek to please? The great glory of the martyr's crown in eternity will be the testimony that they sought not to please men but God.

Amen? The whole issue with the martyr is what? Who will I please now? God and lose my head? Or man and save my neck? May God search our hearts. Search our hearts. He calls us to be of those who love not their lives unto the death.

Beginning in verse 25, verses 15 through 24, Jesus talks about a parable. And in this parable, He says that He had a great supper prepared and He bid many to come. But when the invitation went out, in verse 18 it says, they all with one accord began to make excuses.

The Spirit of the Lord, He that hath an ear to hear, let Him hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. The Spirit of God is saying to the church, I have had my fill with excuses. I've had my fill with excuses.

And as we read this story here, one said, I've bought a piece of ground, I pray that I be excused. Another said, I've bought a yoke of oxen. And another said, I've married a wife.

Verse 21, And the servant came and showed his lord these things, then the master of the house being what? What? Angry. Did you know that it makes the loving Savior angry when He comes into the midst of His house and by the Spirit bids us to come to the supper, come to the banqueting table, come to the place of intimate communion with Him where God's Spirit causes our hearts to become like Paul, where we consider all things but done, where our eyes are filled with a vision of heaven, where we consider those things that were once important to us, yea, unimportant. Do you know it angers the Savior when He bids us and then all of a sudden we start giving Him excuses? It is time, beloved, to declare war on the excuses that we've been making to God.

It's time to declare war on excuses. God doesn't want an excuse. He doesn't want excuses.

Now He'll take feebleness, He'll take a person who has failed, He'll take a person who has blown it a hundred times, but He won't accept excuses. So the Lord was angry and said to the servant, Go out quickly into the streets and the lanes of the city and bring in hither the poor and the maimed and the whole and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as Thou has commanded and there is yet room.

Verse 23, And the Lord said, Go to the highways and the hedges and compel them that My house may be filled. And He said, None of those which were bidden shall taste of My supper. And then having communicated this great lesson, because when Jesus walked on earth, His heart was grieved because He constantly encountered excuses.

He constantly encountered excuses. The religious people held on to the religion more than God and they didn't want to let go of their religion. Judaism was so married to their system.

Judaism was married to, this is the way we do it, right? This is the way we do it here, I'm sorry. This is our tradition. And Jesus said, By your tradition you have made of no effect the Word of God.

So the religious people held on to their tradition and they made an excuse, We can't follow God because that's not the way we do it here. And then the rich man, he held on to his money and he didn't want to let go of his money and he didn't want to let go of his pleasure and he believed that God wanted him to prosper. And the man of high reputation in the city couldn't let go of his reputation, Brian.

He held on to his reputation and when the Lord said, Follow me, he made an excuse and he said, If I follow you, people will think I'm strange. People will think I'm weird. People will think I'm out of touch with the 20th century coming into the 21st century.

What excuse are you bringing to the Lord? Well, I just don't have what it takes, Lord. God never calls a man who has what it takes. Did you hear? God doesn't call people who have what it takes.

He's got what it takes. All you need to do is be a broken vessel that trembles at His Word. If you tremble at His Word and you know that you can do nothing, then you are a vessel fit for the Master's use.

It's too costly, Lord. It's too costly to follow You. What excuse are we bringing before the Lord? Well, we just don't have it.

Just don't think it's possible. None of those are valid excuses in the heart of God. And it's time that we declare war in our lives on the excuses that we're bringing to God.

And as a result of this, verse number 25, and there went great multitudes with Him and He turned and said to them, If any man come to Me... You see, Jesus now is speaking in response to the little story that He just told. And basically what He's doing in this portion of Scripture and in the one we read in Matthew is He is basically disarming every possible excuse that a man can give Him and saying, I won't accept your excuses. I won't accept your excuses.

He's saying, if a man come to Me and hate not his father. Sometimes the failure to follow the Lord has to do with an excuse that we're making regarding our natural affection. Father, mother, son, daughter, wife, husband has to do with the natural affection.

And sometimes Jesus requires us to say yes to His will, yes to His way, that might necessitate us saying no to natural affection. No to possibly what we would want to do. How many knows that Peter was a married man? It says Jesus healed His mother-in-law from a fever.

And Paul said, didn't Peter have the right to have a wife? But how many knows that church history along with Scriptures give the impression that Peter lived much of his life alone? Women, listen to me. Are you willing to give your husband up for God? Are you willing for him to say yes to God if it means no to how you would like it to be? Have you taken him to be your personal property? Or have you laid him at the altar and said, Lord, he never was mine to own. And I give him to you.

This is what it means to follow the Savior. We let go. We hold to nothing.

If any man come to me and hate not. You say, well, how can the Bible support hating? Jesus here is not telling us that we must hate our father and mother and wife and children and brethren and sisters. He is saying that when we compare our father and our mother and our sister and our brethren and our husbands and our wives and yea, our own life to the will of God and have a choice to make as to whether we will fulfill the will of God or fulfill our own will or fulfill the tendencies that we have in relation to our commitments to those around us.

If it's one or the other, then if God's asking us to follow Him, then it must be as if we hate everything else. That's what Jesus is saying. You cannot serve two masters.

Even the good things that God has given us must be laid at His feet because they can become a snare and they can become a thing that takes us from God. Your Isaac must be laid on the altar. Consider the claims that these things have in your life right now.

Listen carefully. Father. Mother.

The claims that they have in your life right now. Consider the claims that they have. Father.

Mother. Wife. Children.

Brethren and sisters. Yea, your own life. Now, if those claims and whatever it entails in your life, whatever they entail in your life, if those things are causing you to fail to follow the will of God for your life, then you cannot be His disciple.

That's what it says. I recently heard a story of a young couple who had fallen in love. I can't remember where I heard it, if I read it in a book, if I heard it on the radio, but I know I heard it.

And as they fell in love, their hearts panted and they really, truly loved each other. Yet, to their despair, they began to realize that each of them felt a very different call. One felt to minister in the United States and the other felt to be a missionary in a foreign country.

And they prayed and prayed and prayed and both came to the conclusion that it was better to obey God than their love for each other. And after, I believe it was in graduation, they might have been in Bible school together, they parted with tears and hugs and allowed their love for one another to be as if they hated one another in order to fulfill the will of God on their life. And each one went to their prospective place and they never saw each other again.

He that loveth whatever more than me is not worthy of me. Beware. Most people will listen to this and say, well, I've given up drinking and I've given up smoking and I've given up fast cars and I've given up this and that.

And that's good, but Jesus is not only talking about the unlawful things. A husband and a wife and a children are not unlawful. God's not against them, He's for them.

But Jesus speaks those penetrating words and says even the things that are lawful you cannot take hold of and get lost in them or you will find yourself falling short of the Savior's will for your life. I understand that there's a great recovery going on in America, particularly in the church, regarding families, but a word of warning from the Holy Spirit. Listen carefully.

Do not make your family and your family life the most important thing because when you do, it becomes selfish. And each other then, you get an attachment with each other, but it's for a selfish thing. And you're holding on to one another.

And when you hold on to one another, guess who you fight against? God. Because God comes and says, excuse me, where am I in the equation here? Well, Lord, you're the one giving us this good family. Beware.

This is a warning, I believe, from the Holy Spirit. I am thankful for the national programs that are on the radio now that are helping families get their acts together. I am thankful and God knows my heart.

But as I listen, I rejoice but I weep. I say, yay, but I say, oh my, because there seems to be an overemphasis of family and family life and relationships and an underestimate emphasis on the fact that only the cross can put a family together. So be careful, beloved.

Be careful. Enjoy richly all that God has given you, but don't lay hold of anything. Keep it at arm's length.

Verse 27, And whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you intending to build a tower sitteth not down first and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest happily after he hath laid the foundation and is not able to finish it, all that beheld it begin to mock him, saying, this man began to build and was not able to finish it. You see, what Jesus is saying in this little story here, verse number 28 through 30, is this.

Understand, Jesus is saying, what it means to say yes, Lord, because what it's going to mean is this. It's going to cost everything I've got to follow Jesus. And if I go on in this journey of saying yes to Jesus, I might go so far and then realize, hey, I don't want to part with this thing.

I don't have the goods. Not to have the goods to finish the project simply means that I am not willing to die. I'm not willing to let go.

And Jesus is addressing this issue because he knows the thing that hinders the church the most from fully following him is simply an unwillingness to realize that we lose our life and our rights. Though God gives us all things richly to enjoy, nothing is ours personally. It belongs to God.

Children have to go. You may go. I don't want to hold you up if you have to go with the teachers.

And so, listen, when you think about the goods necessary to complete, don't be looking into yourself thinking whether or not you've got enough holiness or enough perfection. Don't be looking in yourself to think whether or not, well, for the past three weeks, I only sin twice, so I must have the goods. No, that's not what the goods are.

The goods are not, in your eyes, living a good, holy life. The goods consist of being willing to let the Holy Spirit work in you a release from everything that you're holding on to so that nothing but God's will alone is what you're after. Or, verse 31, what king going to make war against another king sitteth not down first and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an... That word means an ambassador of peace and desires conditions of peace.

Listen, so likewise, whosoever be of you that forsaketh not all. So, having the goods to finish the tower and having the goods to overcome a king with less men than he has is interpreted by Jesus. It's interpreted by Jesus.

It simply means he that is not willing to forsake everything. So, having the goods to follow Jesus is having a heart washed and immersed in grace, washed and immersed in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, so that whatever the Holy Spirit speaks into your life, whatever he puts his hand on, whatever he is requiring of you to lay down by his grace and because of the love of God that's in your heart, you're willing to say, Lord, this is painful. Lord, this might hurt, but nevertheless, I lay it down at your feet.

I will not lay hold of it. Young people, what are your dreams? What are your desires? It's okay to have dreams and desires, but let me say something to you by the Spirit of God. Take your dreams and your

desires and lay them at the feet of Jesus Christ and say, Lord, this is what I would like, this is what I think would be nice, but nevertheless, Lord, I am willing for you to take my desires and dreams and completely set them aside and reveal to me something totally different than I have chosen for myself.

The most liberating joy that you can have, young people. I pray God will cause you to remember these words fifty years from now. The greatest joy you can have, young people, in this world, is the joy of knowing that your heart is not set on doing anything except what you think is a good idea, but nevertheless, at your bidding, I'll take the net and put it on the other side.

Young people, pray that God will give you a heart that desires His will. Listen, it's easy to say, yes, Lord, Your will alone, when your heart's not entangled in something. But you let your heart get entangled.

You let your expectations build up. You start giving yourself to it, your desires to it. You start dreaming about it at night and then let the Lord come and say, that's not My way.

See if that same zeal is still there. See, it's easy to say, Lord, not My will, but Thy will be done. It's easy to say it now when there's nothing specifically that God's dealing with.

But all the test comes. All the night of darkness comes when the will of God suddenly dawns upon us and it requires that we lay at His feet and let go of something. Right? Amen.

Hallelujah to God. So likewise, whosoever of you that forsaketh not... Listen to what the word forsake means. This is a beautiful thing.

The word forsake means to place away from us so as not to become a part of us. Boy, that's good, isn't it? Jesus is requiring that we forsake everything. Is that not His words? He that forsaketh not all that he hath.

To forsake doesn't mean that you negate your responsibility as a father. It doesn't mean that you negate your responsibility as a mother. It doesn't mean you negate your responsibility as an employee of a particular job.

It doesn't mean that you get weird and that you start using these Scriptures to justify irresponsibility and careless living. No, not at all. And of course, Jesus' words have been misunderstood and people daily try and use the words of Jesus to justify an irresponsible lifestyle.

But God is the judge of those who do such things. We can't neglect preaching the truth for fear that people will misunderstand it, right? Because if we did that, we would preach hardly nothing. Because everything that Jesus spoke has been misunderstood.

Cults have used these very words to gather people around themselves and forbid them from contacting their parents, haven't they? That's a cult. So what does that mean? We can't preach on this because, boy, people might think we're a cult. No, not at all.

We have to preach the Word of God. This doesn't mean that you rally around some cult leader who tells you not to talk to your parents and not to talk to your children and to live in some communal situation and give your money to him. That's not what this means at all.

What this means is that nobody tells you what to do. Nobody sets rules on you. Nobody commands you to do anything.

No leader is telling you anything right now what to do with your family. But the Spirit of God is saying, what is God saying to you? That's the key. And so whatever is in your life now must be placed away from you so as to prevent it from being a part of you.

And if you allow something to become a part of you, it will become a rival. It will compete with Jesus. And if it competes with Jesus, then you are in danger of breaking your allegiance to Him because of that commitment that you have with that thing that's a part of you now.

Take your dreams. Take your desires. Take everything that God has given you and say, Lord, I lay it at Your feet.

I set it apart for me so that it will not become a part of me. I keep it at arm's length. Lord, I thank You for what You've given me, but I keep it at arm's length.

He that has an ear to hear. Let him hear what the Spirit of God is saying to the churches. Father, thank You for Your presence.

Lord, here we are. We hear Your claims. We sense the passion of Your heart.

We recognize the intensity of Your desire for Your house to have a heart that says yea and amen to these words that You have recorded. We ask, Lord, in this holy moment, You would do in us what we cannot do. We come before You in Your presence, Lord, and ask that You would grant us by Your grace and Your mercy the power to lay down at Your feet and to pray the prayer of relinquishment, relinquishing all things into Your hands and in exchange receiving the peace of God that passes all human understanding, all human understanding, casting our burden upon You, casting our care upon You.

O Lord, grant us grace to hear Your voice. Father, help us not to allow the enemy to come and sow discord and anger and argument regarding these precious words, Lord, but rather help us, Lord, to look to You, to perform Your Word. Jesus.

I am a blessed Savior, I so... Yes, Lord. I... Thank You, Lord. Let's all pray now.

Young people, I want to invite you to pray. Alright? In your hearts. I believe God is going to honor this moment.

You don't have to understand everything or understand the implications of what this means. God sees your heart. God sees your heart right now.

I believe in this holy moment God's Spirit is going to record in heaven and take notice. We're going to pray. I'm going to pray aloud and everyone can just pray along with me in your own heart and believe, believe that as you pray this prayer God has responded and have confidence that in responding He is going to lay hold of your life and order it according to His desires.

Let's pray, okay? Father, thank You for Jesus. Thank You for loving me. Lord, I give my life to You.

I surrender to You today. Lord, I take my desires, I take my dreams, I take my plans and I lay them at Your feet. I refuse to lay hold of them with all my might and not let them go.

I give them to You and say, Father, these plans and dreams and desires are in Your hands. If they please You, fulfill them. But if not, I let go and surrender my life to Your will, to Your plans and Your desires for

me.

What a holy, sacred moment, isn't it? What a sacred moment. God has heard everyone's prayers. Who prayed that prayer? Lift your hand if you prayed that prayer.

If I could lift both of my hands, I would. I prayed it. Right along with saying it, I prayed it in the depths of my heart.

And you know what? I believe God has heard our prayer today and God is pleased. Are you thankful for everything that God has given you? But aren't you thankful when Jesus comes into our midst and keeps everything in proper perspective? Well, may the Lord just do a great work in our hearts. It's only 5 of 12 now.

Perhaps a few others have something they'd like to share. Oh, praise the Lord. We have communion.

That's good.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/30/SID30447.mp3>

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