

The Deep Dealings of God Pt 26 - Let Us Go on Unto Perfection - God's Love

by Phil Beach Jr.

Spiritual maturity is a state of being that reflects the qualities of Jesus Christ, characterized by humility, kindness, and love, and is possible through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Duration: 1:12:29

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:4

Topics: "Perfection", "God's Love", "Spiritual Maturity"

Description

Phil Beach Jr. emphasizes the transformative power of God's love in the journey toward spiritual maturity, urging believers to seek the presence of Jesus as their ultimate passion. He highlights the importance of humility, kindness, and the absence of envy as essential qualities that reflect Christ's character in our lives. The sermon calls for a deep introspection and a commitment to prayer, particularly for the next generation, to cultivate a home environment filled with God's love and unity. Beach Jr. warns against self-righteousness and encourages believers to acknowledge their weaknesses, relying on the Holy Spirit for true transformation. Ultimately, he reminds the congregation that spiritual maturity is a continuous process of surrendering to God's will and embodying the virtues of love as described in 1 Corinthians 13.

Transcript

Look on your hands. Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand. Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

Nothing compares. Nothing compares to the promise I have in you. Nothing compares.

Nothing compares to the promise I have in you. Thank you, Lord, for your presence. Thank to see the beauty of Jesus Christ.

Oh, Lord, may He become our preoccupation. May He become the passion of our soul. We're going to begin now.

And if those who are in children's church want to quietly get up, please, and stand in single file there while your teachers go. Beloved, we just want to continue in the presence of the Lord. Lord, thank you, Lord.

Lord, we pray for our children, that you'll bless them. We pray, Lord, that you will use the Word and the Holy Spirit today to change their life. Father, we are so aware that unless you lay hold of our children, and

lay hold of their hearts and open up the eyes of their understanding, then, oh God, they will simply continue in sin and continue in their own ways.

And so we pray, Lord, that you would touch them. I pray, Father, that you will give us as parents a burden for our children, that we would not just casually assume that everything is going to be all right. Father, that you would give us your love and your passion for our children, that you would teach us to pray for them, that you would teach us, oh God, to bear their soul before your throne, oh God, that you would teach us, oh God, to weep for them in our prayer closets, that you would teach us, oh God, to just pray without ceasing for our children, asking that the eyes of their heart would be opened, and that they would be apprehended and preserved by the wickedness that lies within their own hearts, as well as the allurements and many deceptions that are in this present age.

Oh God, please, please make our homes, once again, houses of prayer, places where Jesus Christ is honored and worshiped and glorified. Deliver us, oh God, from those things that have destructive influences in our homes and in our lives. Deliver us, oh God, from those things that are not beneficial, but contribute, Lord, to that which is ungodly.

Oh Father, help us, we pray. Lay hold of our hearts, lay hold of our minds, lay hold of the very affections of our hearts and turn them toward you. We pray, oh God, that you would pour out thy Holy Spirit in our lives and in our homes, that you would give us tender hearts and soft hearts, we pray.

In Jesus' name, amen and amen. Brothers and sisters, we're in the presence of the Lord now. He is here in our midst.

And all of our Christianity is about His presence and His power and His word and His enabling and His Holy Spirit. That's what it's all about right there. And it's only through the power of His Holy Spirit and the power of His presence that we are able to see Him fulfill His promise in our life.

We're looking this morning at 1 Corinthians chapter 13. We're continuing along with the heart cry of God's Spirit. Let us go on unto perfection, Hebrews chapter 6. We're continuing to look at what spiritual maturity or spiritual perfection looks like.

And we're discovering that spiritual maturity has nothing to look like what we look like. If you want to find a picture of spiritual maturity, you must go to the Holy Spirit and the Word of God and you must say, Oh dear gracious God, give me a revelation of the blessed Son of God. In Him alone do we find the qualities that truly constitute spiritual maturity.

In Him alone do we find those virtues that please our Heavenly Father. Was it not to Jesus that Father said, This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. How many here have a desire to please God? How many here have a passion to be pleasing? Well brothers and sisters, our desire and ability to please God hangs entirely upon the working of the Holy Spirit in our life, freeing us, delivering us, and bringing to death all of those things in us that are contrary to Him and producing in us those virtues that are in the Lord Jesus Christ.

And so as we look at 1 Corinthians chapter 13, we must always remember that these are qualities and virtues that are of divine origin. And it's going to be a hard road. This is prophetic, listen.

It's going to be a hard road for the proud and the haughty and the high-minded and the rebellious and the stubborn. It's going to be a hard road for these qualities, these character qualities of 1 Corinthians chapter

13 to become a part of our life. And the way to spiritual maturity is a road of humbling, a road of lowering.

He that seeks to exalt himself shall be what? Abased. Or he that seeks to exalt himself shall be humbled, but he that humbles himself shall be exalted. It's a hard way.

It's a way where we lose our life. We lose our pride. We lose that fight to want to do our own thing, to want to have our own way.

Oh, how argumentative we are. Oh, how we're always, always wanting to argue. Are you prone to being argumentative, especially when someone crosses you? But if we are to come to know the virtues written of in 1 Corinthians chapter 13, we will have to be cornered by God.

And our argumentative spirit, our argumentative tendency is going to have to be put to death. Oh, how easily offended we are. So easy, it's so easy not to be offended when everyone is doing what you like.

But oh, how easy it is to be offended. How prone we are to be offended when something happens that we don't like. And so the way, the way for these character qualities to be formed in our life, which constitutes spiritual maturity, is going to be a continuous lowering, a continuous humbling.

As we learned last week, in order to possess forbearance and in order to possess the ability, the God-given ability to maintain unity, spiritual unity in our families, among our children and in the church, in order to possess love suffers long, as we looked at. The quality of being patient in particular with one another in relation to our faults, in relation to our shortcomings, in order to possess this long-suffering quality. How many have come to realize that you don't possess long-suffering in yourself? You can't put that on, you can't pretend.

It's not a matter of willpower, it's not a matter of, well, I'm just going to be long-suffering today. That's not the way to spiritual maturity. The way to spiritual maturity is acknowledging, oh dear God, I am bankrupt when it comes to long-suffering.

As long as we think that we're quite a patient person, we have yet to experience the crisis of realizing we're not. Listen, brothers and sisters, every form of self-righteousness, self-righteousness is simply the attitude of, well, I'm not as bad as you say I am. Every form of self-righteousness will have to be exposed by the loving hand of God and acknowledged by our own heart.

We will have to acknowledge. This is why it's so important to pray, oh God, keep my heart tender, keep my heart soft, keep my heart pliable. Lord, don't let me get proud, don't let me get haughty.

Let me tell you, the proud and the haughty will never know the way of spiritual maturity. They might be gifted people, they might be able to speak, they might have impressive gifts, but they'll never know the way of spiritual adulthood because spiritual adulthood is only for those who under the hand of God are lowered, renounce any glorying in themselves. We learned, and then we're going to go on, we learned a few weeks ago that the qualities that God must possess in us in order for unity to be maintained in our homes and unity to be maintained in the church.

And there is a great need for unity. And brothers and sisters, unity is not going to come by uniformity. It's not going to come by an organizational thing.

It's not going to come by a doctrinal thing. But unity can only come as we all are reduced to equal ground. All at the foot of the cross and all partaking in the character qualities of Jesus Christ.

Unity comes when we all come to know something of the humility of Christ. Unity comes when we all come to know something of the gentleness of Christ. Unity is not something that we can force.

It's only something that can be produced in us as we are all lowered in His presence. The first character quality that is necessary in order for the quality of long-suffering to be developed in our life is that of lowliness. Now, these are found in Ephesians 4.1. I'm not going to read it.

We read it last week. But lowliness is the state of being low, not high. In mind and in attitude, base and humble, this steaming of ourself as small.

Listen, brothers and sisters, you and I are not as important as we think we are. Lowliness, not having a high, inflated, unrealistic opinion about ourself. Kings have high, inflated opinions about themselves.

You know what it is? I deserve to be served. I deserve you to treat me in this way or that way. Brothers and sisters, I want to lovingly warn you about the latent and subtle opinion that we have of ourself.

And it is just that we feel oftentimes that we're kings, that we have the right. But lowliness of mind reflects that of a servant who has no rights but is dedicated to doing the will of his master. Secondly, we saw that God must form within us the quality of divine meekness.

Meekness is the result of God's Spirit working in us, giving us a mild, calm, gentle touch. Towards people and in our reactions toward God's dealing in our life and in the life of others. You know, you can touch meekness in a person's voice.

And you can touch the opposite of meekness in a person's voice too. This brings us to 1 Corinthians chapter 13, where we're working our way through this incredible list of words that simply describe Jesus and all of His beauty and ought to be describing the church, seeing we are His body, the fullness of Him. The church is to be the place where Jesus now expresses all of these divine attributes that reveal His Father.

The church ought to be the place now in the world where men and women are seeing a life, a character, an attitude that is other than that which is earthly, other than that which is commonly found in mankind. It's not the church's occupation or purpose to compete with the world. It's not the church's occupation or purpose to try and be like the world.

No, the church is ekklesia. That word means a called out people. Called out.

God wants to satisfy the desire of His heart by calling out a people from darkness, bringing them into His marvelous light, depositing in them the very life of His Son. And then through His child training and His Holy Spirit and His Word ever increasing in our lives a continuous display of the eternal, moral perfections of the Son of God through the church so that when the world looks at the church, they say, Wow! These people are incredible. They don't hold grudges.

They forgive. Wow! I saw this person or these people take advantage of that Christian and I never saw or heard come out of that Christian's mouth a word of violence or a word of retribution or a word of bitterness or unforgiveness. This is why we are here, beloved of God.

This is why we exist to show the world what God is like by manifesting His Son through the power of the Holy Spirit. But it's a costly way. He that seeks to save his life shall lose it.

He that seeks to save his pride, to save his own way, he that seeks to save his own interests and his own desires will never know his true life which is Christ. Christ is our life, Paul said in Colossians chapter 3. Christ who is our life. When He shall appear, we shall appear with Him.

Church, every born-again, blood-washed child of God, Christ is now your life. Young people, Christ is your life if you're a Christian. Christ is your life now.

All of the perfections you see in Christ are now to be displayed through you. What a liberating message. What a gospel.

This is good news, brothers and sisters. This is good news. We have been rescued from the corruption that is in the world, Peter says.

We have been rescued and we have become sharers, partakers of the divine nature. And when that divine nature... It's not deity. We are not God.

We are partakers of the character of God as manifested in His Son. And when that character is fully blossomed, it turns into this, a living display of 1 Corinthians 13. Let me ask a question before we go on.

Is this where your heart's treasure is today? For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. When our Father looks down upon us, looks down upon His church, the one thing He longs to see more than anything else is a burning desire within our heart, a value. A value is something that is meaningful to us.

A treasure is that which we place value upon. The Lord wants our heart's value to be upon His Son. And our being delivered from the wretchedness of what we are after the flesh into a life governed by and displaying the beauties of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the call of the church. 1 Corinthians chapter 13, beginning in verse 4, Our charity suffers long and is kind. Love is kind.

Brothers and sisters, this kindness is much more than just acts of goodness that you might do. This kindness is of divine origin. It is not of human origin.

Before we can know the kindness of Christ, we must come to the place where we acknowledge we don't have the kindness of Christ. In Titus chapter 3, we have a beautiful picture of the kindness or what it is to be kind. Beginning in verse number 3 of Titus chapter 3, For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish and disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

But after that, the kindness and love of God our Savior toward men appeared. Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior. That being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of the promise.

Kindness, brothers and sisters, is a grace that God must work in us that permeates our entire being, mellowing our spirit and removing, listen closely, removing all harshness that springs out of retribution.

Harshness that comes through us because we think someone is deserving of punishment. Kindness is the absence of harshness.

Jesus showed us what kindness was. What did He do? He came as a man. And when we all deserve to be damned, what did He do? He walked in our midst and He loved us.

That's kindness. Kindness has nothing to do with being sweet to someone you love. Any sinner can do that.

Any person can be kind to someone that smells good and looks good. But after that, the kindness and love of our Savior appeared. Oh, my kindness turns into garbage when I compare it to the kindness of Jesus Christ who came and was born of a virgin in a manger, never grumbled or complained.

You think when He turned a teenager or His young twenties, He looked up and said, Father, why was I born in a manger? Do we know anything of kindness? I think not. And I don't say this to our shame, but I say it to our spiritual health. We know nothing of the kindness of God.

We only know the fake kindness. We turn it on and we turn it off. And it's all connected to ourself and what we get out of it.

But there is a kindness that was displayed in Jesus Christ who walked in the midst of humanity and knew that He was suffering the wrath of God for them and yet was kind. Kindness. Do we know kindness? Oh, Lord, help us.

There is a harshness that motivates our actions and our words that disqualifies us from showing genuine, divine kindness. And this harshness can only be removed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Being kind is words and deeds and actions that are springing from a clean spring.

Not a dirty spring. Not a mixed spring. A clean spring.

It's the actions and tenderness and life that is springing out of a clean spring, out of the grace and out of the power and out of the provision of God in our spirit that moves and demonstrates itself where there is no human harshness. Love is kind. Number three.

Love does not envy. Envy. Envy.

Being envious. The word envy simply means to be zealously affected in a wrong way. It's good to be zealous for the Lord.

We know that Jesus had zeal. It was the zeal for His Father's house that moved Him to overturn the money tables and to throw out the thieves and the robbers that were in God's house there, that temple. And so envy is to be zealously moved and affected in a wrong way.

Love does not envy. The root of envy, lack of contentment. The reason why we are prone to be envious, to zealously be affected in a wrong way, you envy a person.

You envy a position that a person has. You envy a gift that a person has. The reason why is because we have failed to come to a place of contentment.

Being content frees us from envy. Being content is a quality of divine love. And so therefore, it is impossible for you and I to be free from envy unless we pray, O Father, let me find perfect contentment in You and Your provision.

Now, envy breeds a whole lot of other troublesome sins. Can we name some? Jealousy. Greed.

Covetousness. That's where backbiting and backstabbing is springing out of. So see, envy starts it all.

Envy is a zealous movement in our heart towards someone or something that is demonstrating our lack of contentment, our lack of satisfaction with God and His provision. There's a lot of envy hidden in our lives. And it can only be cured and healed as we find Jesus as our all and all.

And brothers and sisters, beware that when envy is not dealt with, brothers, the moment you sense, the moment God reveals to you through His Word or through the Holy Spirit, that there is a movement of envy springing up in your heart. Brothers and sisters, I beg you to go before God and to beg Him to deliver you from that movement in your heart. Because when envy is not dealt with, when envy is not properly handled, when envy is not confessed and taken to God and we pray, O God, deliver us, all of these other sins start developing.

Jealousy and greed and covetousness. And today's society is filled, the fabric of our society is built upon greed and covetousness and grasping and wanting what another man has and wanting what another woman has and men want another wife. Wives are discontent with their husbands.

They become envious. Oh, I wish my husband was like him. Oh, I wish my wife was like him or her.

Nowadays it's not uncommon to even say that. It's all springing out of that and my heart is zealously moving in an evil direction. Who can deliver us from this wretched state of envy? Who can deliver us from this law of sin and death? Thanks be unto God.

Through Jesus Christ I am free. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death. This is the law of sin and death, envy.

And through Jesus and His power and His Word and His presence we can be free from the tyranny and control of envy. And though in the flesh our flesh is corrupt and we might feel the movement of envy, we might feel the movement of impatience, we might feel the movement of unkindness, this is not sinless perfection in the flesh. This is living by the perfections of Jesus Christ and escaping the corruption that is in the flesh.

Escaping it. You don't have to be brought into the captivity of what your flesh is. Though you will never be free from the presence of sin that lurks in your flesh, you can be free from the dominion and control of sin through Jesus Christ.

Greater is He that is in you than He that is in the world. If we abide in Him, we sin not, the Scripture says. Sin is not our master anymore.

We are no longer servants to envy. We are no longer servants to pride. We have become servants of righteousness through Jesus Christ now.

Hallelujah, there's deliverance. There's deliverance. Envy is killing the world.

Envy is destroying families. Envy will destroy your home. Envy will destroy your marriage.

Envy will destroy your relationship at work. If you envy your boss's position, you'll never be able to love him. If you envy your neighbor's success, you'll never be able to serve him.

Right? Right? How can you love the one you envy? But oh, thank God for Jesus. You say, what's the answer? Jesus. It always goes back to Him.

Jesus. Jesus. Next, two words.

Thank you, Holy Spirit, that you are committed to taking your word and performing it in those who are weak, in those who are foolish, in those who are are-nots, nothings, according to your word. Thank you, Lord. I pray God that you will keep us all in that place of recognizing that we are nothing and that it's you who's working.

It's your power. It's your grace. Let me tell you, brothers and sisters, these things are hid from the wise and the prudent.

These things are hid from the high-minded and the mighty. These things are hid from those who feel they have no need. These are hid from the Laodicean church.

You remember in Revelation chapter 3? I want to read this real quick. Verse 14. Brothers and sisters, this is why the Lord was so displeased with the Laodicean church, because they lost sight of these things.

These were no longer the desire of the heart of that church. These qualities, this treasure, this is wealth, this is treasure, this is eternal wealth. It's these things that make us rich in the age to come.

The will and want of the people. Whenever a church is reduced to simply wanting and ruling and desiring for themselves, they fall spiritually into a state of blindness, not knowing that their hearts have grown cold. Laodicea.

The will and the want of the people. Oh, may God preserve us from the Laodicean heart. Amen? May God preserve us.

It's not about what you and I want. It's not about what you and I think we can get. It's about, oh, gracious Father, what is Thy will? What is Thy plan? How can Your kingdom increase? I know it's hard for us to think this way, isn't it? Because we live in a world and it's all about us.

It's almost Greek when you talk to Christians and say, So, how can Father's will be done in your life? How can the Lord be glorified in your life? It's like, what are you talking about? My life revolves around me. Even in the Christian church. My service for God is connected to how it benefits me.

How I get enlarged. How I increase. How I get a name.

How I'm satisfying my desires. It's almost, it's like Greek to talk to Christians like this. But blessed are you if you hear.

And blessed are you if you see. And blessed are you if your heart says, Yes, Lord. This is what I want.

Listen closely. Revelation chapter 3. Then we're going to go to the two qualities in love that we're going to look at next. Which are very powerful.

Verse 15. I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot. I would that you were cold or hot.

So then, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth. That's what the word spew means. Now, let's just think this through just for a second.

I don't want to spend much time on this. But I just feel it's important that we recognize the trap of the Laodicean. And don't say, Oh yeah, that church down the street is a Laodicean church.

Don't get caught in that trap. Don't point your fingers. Don't be listening to this and say, Oh, I wish brother so and so was here.

Oh, I wish sister so and so was here. They could sure use this. No, don't fall into that trap.

Say, Lord, it's not my brother. How's the song go? It's not my sister. But it's me, oh Lord, who's in need of prayer.

It's me, oh Lord, who's in need of prayer. This Laodicean church represents a heart condition. A heart condition.

And the meaning of the word reveals the heart condition. I'm going to rule. I'm going to rule.

Here's what the end result of that heart condition will do. It'll make Jesus sick. When you vomit, what does that mean? You're sick.

Something made you sick. And you got to listen to this. Because thou sayest, I am rich.

They didn't see how they were bankrupt. I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing. And knowest not that thou art wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

Do you see that? The most frightening part about that whole scripture is not what they said. Thou sayest, I am rich, increased with goods and have need of nothing. It's not what they said.

It's the words that follow. And thou knowest not. You know the greatest form of deception? Self-deception.

Laodiceans are self-deceived because they think something about themselves. And they don't know that it's not true. May God help us and keep us.

1 Corinthians chapter 13. Two words. Charity vaunteth not itself is not puffed up.

Vaunt. It means to be a braggart. To speak of oneself too highly.

Proverbs chapter 27 verse 2. Let another man praise you and not your own mouth. A stranger and not your own lips. We have a braggadocious nature and live in a society that brags a lot.

But the presence of divine love being perfected in the church will free us from bragging. The presence of divine love rescues us from the snare of bragging because we come to realize we have nothing to brag about. Because all that we are and all that God has ever done innocent through us is because of Him.

Beware of flattery. Don't believe the good things that people say about you. Don't believe them.

It was A.W. Tozer who prayed, Oh God, when men begin to praise me, help me to remember that if they knew me as well as I know me, and if they knew me as well as you knew me, they might not even want to

be with me. Don't let the fine words of men go to your head. You get a little successful.

God blesses you and prospers you in some way. Don't begin to think it's because of your great skill or your great giftedness or your great wit and wisdom. Oh brothers and sisters, stay close to Jesus.

Stay close to Jesus and realize that He alone is the one worthy of bragging about. Don't be a bragger. Puffed up.

Love doesn't vault itself. Love never brags about itself. And love doesn't get puffed up.

This actually means to breathe so as to inflate something. To breathe so as to inflate something. To blow it up.

Figuratively, this word is spoken as meaning inflating oneself by one's own words. Let me ask a question. If words inflated you, how big would you be today? If your words inflated you, how big would you be today? Could we fit through the door? Lord, forgive me.

Forgive me, Lord, for being a bragger. Forgive me, Lord, for getting puffed up. Lord, I stand guilty before you.

Teach me, Lord. Teach me about this love that doesn't puff itself up. Doesn't brag on itself.

Doesn't want people to see what it does. Doesn't require people to acknowledge how good of a job it's done. Doesn't need a pat on the back.

Oh, how far we are. But yet, how close we are to him who is the source. I hope you're seeing that these are the very things that hold our families and our marriages together.

Can't you see it? Can't you see the absence of these qualities in our life that is the source of the troubles that we're going through right now? Come on, guys. Come on, guys. Ask for the Holy Spirit's courage to say, Oh, God, the problems going on in my home right now, Lord, they can be traced to these things not working in my life.

This is what makes a family work. This is what makes church work. This is what makes it all work.

Jesus holds it together. Without him, there's no holding it together. Love does not behave itself unseemly.

Unseemly to be dishonoring. Love does not dishonor. Love is not ugly.

It doesn't act ugly. God's love doesn't hurt people with a wrong spirit or a wrong attitude. This is God's love.

Now, we've got a whole lot more here that we're going to look at as we continue to meet together. But for the moment, we're running out of time. We're going to stop.

Remember, love is kind. Love does not envy. Love is not puffed up, nor does it vaunt itself.

And love does not act unseemly. It doesn't act in a dishonoring way. This represents God's heart cry for you and I today.

Let's bow our hearts for a few moments. As I believe that God's word has spoken to us today. Thank you, Lord.

Father, in your presence, our hearts cry out to you. Through your word, we have come to see the beauties of who and what you are and our lack in ourself. But we recognize, Lord, that the beauty of being a Christian, a child of God, is that we don't have to find the resources and the goods in ourself.

But we find them in your perfect Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. In this moment, Lord, we ask for the grace that will enable us to acknowledge our need. Help us to confess our lack, not only to you, but to those that we have hurt and wounded because of no wrong suffering, because of the absence of patience.

Because of envy and pride, we have hurt and wounded. But we thank you, Lord, that with you there is abundance of mercy. God, I pray that you will lower us more, lower us, lower us, Lord.

Deal with that resistance that by nature we all experience. Give us multiplied grace even now that will enable us to do what we have to do and humble ourselves. Parents, confess to your children that you've hurt them and wounded them because you've been impatient.

Children, apologize one to another. Husbands, humble yourself before God. Confess.

Say, I'm guilty. I'm guilty. I'm stubborn.

I'm proud. I'm strong-willed. It's hard for me to admit when I'm wrong.

It's hard for me to say I'm sorry. Wives, say I'm sorry that I withheld my love from you because you didn't act the way I wanted you to. I'm sorry.

I need grace. There's healing here today. There's healing, brothers and sisters.

Cry out to him. Remember, the proud will know nothing of these things. But to the poor and the needy, the Lord says when they cry, I shall hear and respond.

It's time now for a few minutes as the girls sing. Let's make it right with God. Listen, the most difficult thing for us to do on this road that we're taking together to spiritual maturity, it's not going to be listening to this stuff.

It's going to be humbling ourselves low enough so that we can acknowledge our need for these things. Father, do what only You can do now in our hearts. We pray in Jesus' name.

If you want special prayer, you may come forward if you want. Someone might want just to move out in faith. Please come forward.

If not, I want to encourage you, obey God, confess your need, and get things right so we can move on with this. Only by grace can we enter. Only by grace can we stand.

Not by our human endeavor, but by the blood of the Lamb. Into your presence you call us. Call us to come.

Into your presence you draw us. And now by your grace we come. We come.

Now by your grace we come. Only by grace can we enter. Only by grace can we stand.

Not by our human endeavor, but by the blood of the Lamb. Into your presence you call us. Call us to come.

Into your presence you draw us. And now by your grace we come. We come.

Now by your grace we come. O Lord, if you mark our transgressions, who will stand? But thanks to your grace we are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb. Only by grace can we enter.

And now by your grace we come. We come. Now by your grace we come.

Only by grace can we enter. Only by grace can we stand. Not by our human endeavor, but by the blood of the Lamb.

Into your presence you call us. Call us to come. Into your presence you draw us.

And now by your grace we come. We come. Now by your grace we come.

We've run out of time, so we're going to have to begin to put things away. But I want to strongly encourage you, dear ones, make it a point to pray and get alone. Discuss these things among yourselves.

Pray for one another. Pray that each one, your family, your children, husband and wife, if you're not married, connect with other believers. Pray for these things.

Pray. Ask your brother to pray for you that these will be formed in you. Be transparent.

Listen, husbands, I dare you to say to your wife, sweetheart, would you point out the things in my life where I'm falling short here? Come on. Men, hello. Do we want this? Listen, we're not going to get it our way.

We're going to get it His way. And His way is confess your faults one to another and pray that you might be healed. Wives, do the same thing.

Come on, let's get to talking about this stuff in our homes and in our families and not about things that don't profit. God bless you. We love you.

Be strong in Jesus.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/30/SID30481.mp3>

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