

Camp Half-Way

by Randy Jones

God is calling us to intimacy and spiritual growth, but we must persevere in seeking Him despite the battles and opposition we may face.

Duration: 44:30

Scripture: Exodus 24:9, Exodus 33:18

Topics: "Lukewarmness"

Description

In this video, the preacher reflects on the story of the Israelites in the Bible and draws parallels to the current state of the world. He emphasizes that whenever the Israelites prospered, they would forget about God and fall into idol worship. He urges the audience to recognize the importance of fully committing to God and not just following Him partially or when it is convenient. The preacher also highlights the need for believers to prioritize spending time with God, seeking Him, and waiting on Him, even if it means sacrificing worldly pleasures.

Transcript

Exodus 24, verse 9. Today I want to talk about the children of Israel, those rascals that are always in trouble in the Old Testament. They did things none of us would do. The Bible said they were hard-hearted and stiff-necked.

And we're all, we're always pleasing God in perfect, so we don't have to worry about that. The children of Israel wanted food, so God sent them food every day, manna. And they griped about it.

And they called it, what is this? Manna means what? What in the world is this? Here's God's miraculous provision, and their response was a derogatory name for it, manna. What? What in the world is this? And they griped and complained about it. Keith Green said they had manna pudding, manna cottie, manna bread, manna casserole.

I don't know, they had every way they could boil manna, fried manna, baked manna. They got tired of it. Eventually they said, our soul loathes this manna.

And I want to focus in on a particular incident today. And what I'm talking about covers Exodus 19, Exodus 24, Exodus 32, 33, and 34. We're going to read a few verses in Exodus 24, verse 9. I hope you brought your Bible.

They look like this. A famous theologian said if all the dusty Bibles in the world were dusted at one time, there would arise such a dust cloud that it would blot out the light of the sun for three days. But my favorite quote, my favorite quote about the Bible was Charles Spurgeon.

He told his congregation, he said, some of you have enough dust on your Bibles to write damnation in it. That's pretty strong. He said that.

I didn't. I wouldn't say that, but he said it. He had the first mega church.

The title of my message today is Camp Hathaway. Exodus 24, verse 9. And then Moses went up, also Aaron, and Nadab, and Abihu, and the 70 of the elders of Israel. And they saw the God of Israel.

And there was under his feet, as it were a paved work of Sapphire stone. And it was like the very heavens in its clarity. But on the nobles of the children of Israel, he did not lay his hand.

So they saw God and they ate and drank. Then the Lord said to Moses, come on, come up to me on the mountain and be there. And I will give you tablets of stone and the law and commandments, which I've written that you may teach them.

So Moses arose with his assistant Joshua and Moses went up to the mountain of God. And he said to the elders, wait here for us until we come back to you. Indeed, Aaron, her and her are with you.

If any man has a difficulty, let him go to them. Then Moses went up into the mountain and a cloud covered the mountain. Now the glory of the Lord rested on Mount Sinai and the cloud covered it six days.

And on the seventh day, he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. The side of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. So Moses went up into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain.

And Moses was on the mountain 40 days and 40 nights. This is one of the most exciting stories in the Bible and one of the saddest stories in the Bible. And today I feel so strongly that this is a word from the Lord.

There are some messages, you know, you just finally figured out what to preach. This is something that's been on my heart for about six or seven months. The first thing that happens when things get into chaos and ruin the children of Israel, the Bible said that every time Israel prospered, they forgot the Lord and they would start getting in a bad shape and worshipping idols.

And every time things got bad, God had a solution right now in the world, things are bad. We're living in a fear of nuclear war again, germ warfare, terrorists, dirty bombs. Right now in New York city, the number one problem health wise is people can't sleep.

And in the Bible, when Israel got in bad shape, whenever a nation got in bad shape, that was supposed to be a Christian nation. God always had a solution. He still does.

It's the same solution. He raises up a man or woman and he calls them up the mountain to seek him. And my first point today is come up as you're here today.

And, and I don't know your spiritual condition and some of you got up today and it was good weather. And you said, I'm going to go to church. And you think maybe you decided that, but I know that God influences

us to, to get us to the house of God.

And not just to get to church, not just to be a run of the mill Christian, average Joe Christian, but God's calling us in these last days to come up. The second thing he'll call is come out. But first you have to hear the call to come up.

And God came down. The children of Israel made it out of Egypt to Mount Sinai and God came down. Now I'm going to come down here because it's cooler and I can see you better.

God called the children of Israel out of Egypt, worked miracle after miracle after miracle. Now, if we had seen the red sea part and seen the 10 plagues and all the miracles of God, uh, see God drowned the Egyptians behind us in the red sea. I mean, I think that'd be pretty excited.

You'd be on fire for God. That's I think I'd be at least a day or two. So they were, they were on fire for God.

They got to the bottom of Mount Sinai. God brought them there to meet with them and the children of Israel around the bottom of Mount Sinai. And, and God tells Moses, come up to me and Moses goes up and God says, go back down and tell everybody not to touch the mountain or come closer.

They'll die. Then Moses said, Lord, I already told him, you told me to tell him before I came up and I told him, he said, get down right now and tell him because this was a, not just an everyday happening. So Moses goes back up, but he takes Joshua, Aaron and her and the 70 elders of Israel.

Two of those were Nadab and who, and they come up halfway. The Bible said they came up halfway to meet with God. The Bible says they ate and drank with God.

We just read that when God touched the mountain and its presence came down on the mountain, it turned clear. It's crystal. That's pretty impressive to me, but something happened.

Now you got to understand God loves us. He's calling us up the mountain to himself. And this mountain is the mountain of intimacy with God.

We don't struggle up a physical mountain today, but a mountain of obstacles and opposition and difficulty between us and God. And we're climbing that mountain of intimacy to get close to God and get intimate with God. And a lot of us, first of all, most Christians don't get off the ground.

The majority never got out of the camp, but a bunch of representative number, the leaders and some of the people, they got up halfway up the mountain and right there, God, he loved these people, but he knew there were bad things in their hearts and he wanted to deal with that. And he wanted to cleanse them and he wanted to them to be able to come into his presence. So he said, stop right there, Moses, you come up by yourself and meet with me.

And they go up, they stay there. Moses goes up by himself, sits. I don't know what he's doing.

He's sitting on the rock up at the top of the mountain. But when Moses gets to the top of the mountain, God's not immediately there, his powerful presence, but God says, just sit there and wait. Moses waited six days, six days.

Now, first of all, how many of us would just sit there for six days? About one in a million. Is this working? Preachers been going 10 minutes. I've been praying five minutes.

I prayed for everybody I know. And Moses is here for six days, just sitting here. Well, something happened while he was gone.

And this is incredible. After all they saw, all those elders and leaders, except for Joshua, left and went back. And I've tried to think what, what did they think? And I had Tyler made a video and we were trying to examine why in the world would they go back? Now you got to understand too, we have Nadab in this video.

And it's either his girlfriend or his wife. I'm not sure, but they're from the Southern part of the wilderness in Egypt. As you'll see.

Nadab, where are you going? You can't just leave like this. We all told Moses that we'd wait for him until he got back. Joshua, I'm sick of listening to your whining.

You're like a little child. You'll believe anything. I believe Moses.

He's always been true to his word. Why would he betray us now? It's been six days, Joshua. Okay.

Six days. What could he be doing after that could take that long? Nadab, there you are. The people sent me to come looking for all of you.

We're getting restless. Where's Moses? Moses, he's dead. What? He's dead? I knew it.

I knew he'd lead us here to die. How could you say he's dead? You saw him walk into the glory cloud. He said he'd be back when he was done meeting with God.

That was probably another one of Moses' tricks to fool us into believing he's been chosen by God. Another one of his tricks? What was one of his other tricks when he he made it look like he parted the Red Sea? Yeah, exactly. Or, or he some way fooled us into believing the sea closed back up and killed the entire Egyptian army.

That's right. Or, or how about this? How about the time he made us all think that billions and billions of locusts were in Egypt destroying all the crops and stuff? Yeah, I don't know how he did that one. He's good.

This is ridiculous, Nadab. Moses has proven he's God's servant over and again. Oh, Joshua, come on.

All Moses has proven to us is that he's selfish and that neither he nor his God care about us at all. That's right. If Moses really cared, then why are we having to be so bored? How could you not trust God? He's been so faithful to us.

What evidence have any of us ever gotten that even almost proves that God exists or that he cares about us? You heard his voice when he spoke. That was probably just thunder. You saw the mountain turn clear as crystal when God touched it.

Yeah, I was probably drunk. Drunk? How could you have been drunk when you weren't even drinking? Joshua, you're missing the point. Okay.

What kind of God and what kind of leader would make the people wait on them for six days? That's absurd. We're sick of waiting. This is so boring.

Back in Egypt, we got to party whenever we wanted to. You call living in slavery a party? We got to have fun. We need to get drunk.

I don't want to wait on this so-called God that we've never seen. So-called? So-called? You saw God part the Red Sea. You saw God deliver us from slavery.

You saw God... Joshua, shut up. You're so deceived. Don't you understand? God and Moses have proven that they are untrustworthy.

He lied to us about life being better out here. He lied to us about coming back from the mountain. Back in Egypt, they used to have parties where they'd worship golden images.

They'd dance and drink and commit fornication. It looked like so much fun. Yeah, that did look fun.

Moses would never let us do anything like that. Even more evidence that he does not care about us one bit. I've heard enough.

I'm going to go back up that mountain and I'm going to wait on Moses. I'm not going to forsake a God who's been that faithful to me. You go do that, Joshua, okay? And I hope you're down that mountain like Moses did.

Come on, let's go make a golden calf and worship it. You know, I'd rather serve a golden calf than Moses and his imaginary God who supposedly has some powers. Yeah? What were they thinking? They got up halfway, waiting, and Moses clearly said, I'm going up to meet with God.

Wait here till I come back. And at the end of six days, I believe they were all gone. And I believe it started, we know they were gone when Moses got back.

But I believe that Nadab and Abihu were probably first. And they, because we know what was in their heart, they were adulterers. And they led a rebellion against Moses and against God.

And these people, they had all these things in their heart and God knew it. And if I could say there's a great one thing that we don't do much anymore in America, especially as a church, it's waiting on God. We can't hardly spend 30 minutes.

Today, if we got down and prayed for an hour, it would kill a lot of Christians in America. The Bible says, they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles.

They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint. That's the answer to about everything going on in our lives.

It's waiting on God. Spending time in the presence of God. They got up halfway and they stopped there.

And one of the points today is that at camp halfway, you face a decision. Now, I couldn't get a real mountain. Hey, it's Nadab.

And Joshua. This is good, right there. Thank y'all.

I was going to cover this with a cloth and make it look like a mountain, but I thought about it. Thought I'd probably kill myself if I did that. So, I'm not going to cover it.

I want to see those steps. This represents the mountain of God. Intimacy with God.

Now, I don't know about you, but I am not content to mill around at the bottom with other people that just aren't real serious about seeking God. I want to go up that mountain and I've heard that call, come up to me. And I believe that call is going through the whole world in the last days that God said, it's time.

I'm getting ready to come. And there's one last chance. One last time period where God is saying, come on up to me.

And you can either hear that call and keep milling around the bottom or you can start climbing and go up. Yes, it's hard to climb. Nancy and I went to Cancun one time and I climbed this Mayan pyramid.

It was right on the ocean. It was beautiful. It was a Mayan ruin there on the pyramid and we climbed up this pretty high Mayan pyramid.

And one thing I didn't realize is it was easy to climb, but when I turned around and looked down, it was straight down. And I was petrified and I froze. I almost never came back down.

And when we start talking about coming up out of the crowd, coming up out of the masses, and we hear the call of God, we start climbing. You're taking a step up and you're leaving this part behind and that's a serious decision. And the devil will say, no, you don't need to do that.

You just stay down here. Don't worry about that. You're fine as you are.

Yes, you can watch TV three or four hours a day. Yes, you can gossip and you can go to church and sit in the pew and be there like a dead person. But that's okay.

That's the normal Christianity. But there's a group I believe right now hearing a call from God saying, I don't want to be like that. I want to start climbing up to God.

I want to get serious with God. I want to be real. Folks, listen, this is one of my main points.

If there's anything to this, it's everything. If any of it's true, it's all true. You can't just say, well, I'll do part of it part of the time.

God's calling us out of the crowd to come up. And there's some that will start climbing. And I'm not going to tell you it's easy because it's not.

It's a battle. You've got to seek God. You've got to spend time with God.

You've got to wait on God. You've got to turn the TV off every once in a while. And you've got to stay home every once in a while.

And get on your knees and wait on the Lord. Well, these people, they sound boring to them. And when you're down here in the carnal crowd, it does sound boring.

But when you start climbing, first of all, as soon as you get up, you can begin to see better. You get a better view. And I want you to know that God has wonderful, powerful things in store for us.

But we can't see them because we're down at the bottom of the mountain. And I used to wonder what would make us want to climb here. Because I want to share just a little bit of my testimony with you.

About 13 years ago, God told me to do this. I was praying one night, late Saturday night at the church alone. And I was really having a powerful time of prayer with God.

And the Lord spoke this to my heart very clearly. Come up the mountain and seek my face like Moses did. That's what the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart.

And I was on fire for God. I was a pastor of a church, a good fiery church. We had all kinds of outreaches.

We were doing great works. I felt and I didn't know what the Lord meant. And the Holy Spirit started dealing with me.

You know, you're not praying like you should. You're not praying for your children like you should. You're not interceding and travailing.

You're going through the motions. You're just laying your hands on them on Sunday morning and blessing them. Or in the mornings before school.

But you're not on your knees interceding and travailing and weeping for them. And for my church, you're just kind of doing it halfway. And I was a successful pastor.

And the Lord spoke that to me and I said, Well, Lord, I'll try. And the first thing I did was say, I'm going to spend a day in prayer. You know something? That's one of the hardest things I've ever done is spend a whole day in prayer.

Because I shut the church down on Wednesdays and told everybody to stay home. And I turned the phone off. We had an emergency number for some of the other staff.

But I locked myself in the church. And it was so hard. I told you how the first day I got down and made an eight-page to-do list.

I got on my knees to pray with my pad and pen to write down things I got from God. And I started remembering everything I needed to do. I remember stuff I didn't do when I was four.

Oh yeah, I forgot to do that. And I would write it down. And at the end of that day, I had made a wonderful, long to-do list.

And I thought, this is pitiful. Yeah, I prayed 30 minutes or so. But after that, I just prayed out.

Because I didn't understand that the main function of prayer is communion and fellowship with God and spending time in the presence of God. As Christians, that should be our number one desire and goal to behold His face and His presence. And yet, we can barely get there sometimes.

Well, the next week I did better. I read a lot of the Old Testament. I got on my knees to pray and ended up reading.

You know, I hadn't read the story of Joseph in a long time. The Code of Many Colors, that's cool. And I read the Bible the whole day.

And it was a battle like you wouldn't believe. When I would finally start praying, there would be a salesman at the door. Pastor, I know you're in there.

I see your car. I need to talk to you. And it was, I can't describe what an awful battle.

So, I said, Lord, I hear the call. I'm going to start going up. And I started up.

But I went back down. Because it was a battle. There was opposition to keep me from going up.

And I want to tell you that if you're determined to climb up here, your flesh is going to scream and cry. Other people are going to distract you and try to pull you back down. But, and it's difficult.

It's pretty steep sometimes and rocky. But when you start going up here, it's like the devil said, I see that little spark. I'm going to put it out.

And I just said, this is, you know, I didn't realize what was happening, but I actually turned down, turned around and climbed back down. Well, a few months later, Nancy and I went to a minister's conference in Houston. And they gave an altar call.

And I just went down front to pray and seek God. An evangelist from Australia knelt beside me. I'd never met him in my life.

And he said, I got a word from the Lord for you. And I thought, oh man, not another word from God. This one really was a word from God.

And he said, thus saith the Lord. I told you once and you didn't obey me to come up the mountain and seek my face as Moses did. I knew that was God.

And at that moment, I got convicted because God had, we go around all the time. You got a word from God. I want a word from God.

I want a word from God. You got a word from God. And we got our notebooks out and God did give me a word, but I didn't obey it.

Well, I thought God's pretty serious about this. So I went back and I determined with all my might, I was going to get up the mountain. And I did, man, I want to tell you something.

I started fasting and praying. And I started seeking God. And I started having powerful experiences with God.

I saw a vision of the blood of Jesus. I preached on the blood of Jesus every night for several weeks. And we had a powerful revival in our church.

We were renting souls. We had 20, 30 visitors sometimes on Sunday morning that weren't even saved. People coming to the altar.

And God was moving powerfully. We had about a dozen outreaches. We were feeding 50 families per week.

And I got up here and man, I was sailing. I was flying. I got up to camp halfway.

And that's where the crowd gets very, very thin. See, this is the place right here. Please, if you've ever listened to a sermon in your life, I'm begging you to listen to me.

Because the Lord's coming soon. And He's saying it's time to get serious. It's time to come up to me.

And the Holy Spirit's issuing a call. And I have found there's only one motivation to get us up here. It's not religion.

It's not going to church. It's not reading the Bible. It's not praying.

It's not the things I thought would get me up there. But what will cause you to climb is when you get a new vision and a new revelation of Jesus Christ and who He is. And that desire, I'm going to, Neda asked a question Sunday night.

I'm going to teach on that tonight because I didn't have time to answer it. She said, how do you get that desire for the Lord? I want to teach on that tonight. But that's what, when you see Jesus and you fall in love with Him all over again, like when you first got saved and you're sick of the same old, same old and the status quo and just Bible reading.

Folks, Bible reading's not going to cut it. Mormons read the Bible. Jehovah's Witnesses read the Bible.

But there is a place of love for the Word of God. There's a place where you're weeping tears over the Word of God, saying, I need the revelation of Jesus Christ out of this Word. He's the Word of God.

And you're not going for Sunday school lessons or sermons. You're wanting to see Jesus in there and you're weeping and crying over the Word of God. And that is what will cause you when you see the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

When you behold the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, you'll start climbing. Lord, I'm coming. I'm coming, man.

I'm excited. Lord, I'm coming. And that was me.

And I got up halfway. And I want you to know I was on fire and I had powerful experiences with God. But all of a sudden, all hell broke loose.

The devil attacked my mind. All hell broke loose in the church. It was a warfare like you wouldn't believe.

A spirit of gossip started attacking. I saw it in the spirit realm. And everything was designed for one purpose, to keep me and our church from going up to meet God.

And listen, I don't know about you. And I love any church that preaches Jesus. But I don't want to have church as usual.

I don't want to just come on Sunday morning and hit the lake. I want to have that so fiery in me that I can't wait till it's time to go to church. I can't wait to get in here and sing.

I stand, I stand in awe of you as the heart, as pandas after the water brooks. So my soul longeth after you, oh my God. I don't want to just sit in front of my TV and miss the rapture.

I want to be on fire for God. And I'll come in here and I feel and love you and you love me and we love Jesus Christ together. That's not normal church.

And I got up there and I was so excited and I was so on fire and all of a sudden I entered the worst battle of my life. And I was taken down by attack from the enemy. But I want you to know, halfway was wonderful.

Halfway was wonderful. And these men, they got there and they ate and drank with God. And they saw God come down on the mountain.

But God also knew what was in their heart. He said, why do I ever have to go through anything that's hard? Why can't it all be easy? And must I be carried to the sky with flowery beds of ease while others fought to win the prize and sailed through bloody seas? Because it's a battle. The enemy wants to keep you down here.

And when you start up there, it gets tough. And the crowd, listen, they went from 2 million at the bottom to 70-something right here. Because the crowd got real thin.

Because a lot of Christians are playing church in our generation. And they're just playing around. And the Bible said the children of Israel ate and drank and rose up to play.

Boy, does that describe our generation? The Bible said in 2 Timothy that in the last days, people will love pleasure more than they love God. I'm not against going to the lake. I'm not against going on vacation with your family.

But we live in a generation where that's the norm. And then we try to fit church in around that. And you know, when I hear how hard some people work, I almost want to tell them, well, you don't have to come to church.

You're just too tired. But I want you to know you will not survive in the last days. You will not make it if you don't stay in the house of God.

And maybe you want to be just a Sunday morning Christian. I don't know. That's okay.

You'll probably go to heaven. But I don't just want to go to heaven. I don't want to just barely get by.

I want to go up that mountain. And these guys, these elders of Israel, they got up there and within six days, I believe, Nadab and Abihu probably took off first because their heart was so corrupt. And Aaron, the high priest left.

Moses' brother. We know he was jealous of his brother and he was jealous of Moses. God knew that was in his heart.

He was trying to cleanse them again. God loved these men. He wanted to deal with them.

He wanted to meet with them. If it had been me, I'd say, I see what's in your dirty hearts, just don't even come up here to me. But God loved them.

You say, well, I'm in pitiful shape. I'm really bad. We serve a God that can cleanse you from anything you've done.

I don't care how far or how close that's what's great about God. You can start over today and you can be on fire today. You can say, man, I was in bad shape yesterday, but you get up today.

Great is thy faithfulness. It's your mercy that we're not consumed because your compassions fail not great as that faithfulness. Oh Lord, they're new every morning.

There's a lot of mercy and grace, but folks that we're at the end of the age of grace, it's almost over. The time of grace is almost over. We're running out of time.

And the world has risen up and it's showing itself and it seems so real and it seems to draw us. But if you'll listen real close in the spirit, you'll hear that call of the Holy Spirit. God saying, come on up, come on up.

And you know something that excites me? If we'll head up there someday, he's going to say, come on up all the way. Come on up here to me at my right hand. And it's not going to be just everybody sitting in the church pew, but it's those who hear the call.

Listen, it says to those who love him, those who love him, shall he appear the second time without spot and without blemish. It's not just getting by or barely getting in. It's those who are so in love with him that when he comes, he's going to catch them up because they love him.

Well, these guys, they turned around and they left. Listen to me close. You know what's shocking? A few days later, they were dancing naked around the golden calf.

Aaron, the high priest of God, stripped the people naked. That's what it says. And when it says they rose up to play, in the Hebrew, those root words being include sexual immorality.

And we know in Numbers 25, they committed fornication before idols. First Corinthians 10 says God was displeased with them. Can you see why he called them? He came down.

He spoke audibly. It sounded like a trumpet. When God's presence came down the mountain, shook with an earthquake, and they saw God come down on the mountain.

And just a few days later, they're dancing naked around the golden calf because their hearts were hard. Their hearts were full of unbelief. And if you'll ask God and repent, he'll break that old hard heart.

He'll give you a new heart that wants to please him, and he'll take away that hardness and that unbelief. He'll put faith there. Well, those guys, they turned around and they went back down.

And we tried to imagine their reasoning. They didn't have a reason. God blessed them, delivered them from slavery, brought them out with a mighty hand, parted the Red Sea, appeared to them visibly on the mountain.

They ate and drank with God. And a few days later, see, another thing this teaches me, you can't live on past experience. Well, I got blessed in 1904.

I got the Holy Spirit in 1912. That's wonderful, but you've got to have the presence of God every day. And they came down, and just a little while later, they're dancing naked around the golden calf.

And Moses is up on the mountain. And he said, God said, Moses, get down. The people have corrupted themselves.

And Moses must have thought, God, you're wrong. I told him to wait on me. God said, no, they're down there, and they're in corruption.

Moses goes down and Joshua's waiting there for him. And Moses said, let's go, Joshua. And Joshua said, listen, I hear the sound of war in the camp.

Moses said, that's not the sound of war or people fighting. That's the sound of sin and corruption. If you've ever been to Mardi Gras, I took students there for counseling and witnessing every year for five years.

You can hear a million drunk screaming at the top of their voices about a mile away. You've never heard a sound like that. It sounds like hell itself.

And Moses heard that sound in the camp. It wasn't war. It was sin that he was hearing.

And he went down to the camp, and he saw him dancing around a golden calf and offering up offerings and saying, this be our God that brought us out of Egypt. He threw the tablets down, and he broke them. And he looked at them, and he Aaron is standing there in front of the golden calf.

And Moses said, oh Aaron, what have you done? Aaron said, it was the people. They wanted a God. And you know, Moses, it's the strangest thing.

Moses, we threw gold in the fire, and a calf fell out. The Bible clearly says Aaron graved it with a tool. Added lying on top of everything else.

And Moses, this is one of the most horrible things to be in the Bible. He said, who's on the Lord's side? Let him come to me. And only one group stepped out of the crowd, the sons of Levi.

They stepped out and went over to Moses' side. They said, we're on your side, Moses. Out of two million people, a small handful stepped over, said, we're on your side Moses.

And you know what Moses said? Go through the camp and smite your brothers and kill them. And your neighbors, and your friends. And the Bible said they did it.

Do you understand? I don't understand that kind of commitment. That, I know I don't have it. That kind of obedience.

That whatever God said I would do it. And God told them through Moses, go kill your brothers. And some, it had to be wives and sons and daughters and their neighbors.

And they did it. Why? Because that, they knew that was the word of the Lord. And I'm not that committed yet, but I want to get to the place where whatever God says, I'll do it.

I don't care what it is. And they went through the camp and they killed their brothers. And you know, they did it with tears running down their face.

The Bible said they killed 3,000 of them to stop God breaking out among them. That's so utterly committed. We're in a generation that we can't stay married or we can't stay families together.

And because there's, that commitment is gone. And we live in a generation where Christians are committed if it's easy and comfortable. And what I feel the Lord is saying to us today, he's calling us up and out.

It's time to quit playing church. It's time to get quit being halfway committed. And they were at camp halfway.

That's what blows my mind. They were halfway there because I can relate to them because I was too when I turned around and went down. And for 11 years I stayed at the bottom because I didn't want to encounter that anymore.

For 11 years I said I'm not going to go up there. It's just too hard. It is hard on your flesh.

It's hard on your old man. 11 years went by. And I was Christian.

I prayed. I preached revivals. I went to church.

And I was walking as close to the Lord as I could. But I wasn't obeying God. I wasn't going up where I was supposed to be.

I'm going to stay down here where it's comfortable and where you don't encounter those kind of attacks and battles. And it's just easier down here. That's the way I was subconsciously doing it.

It's just easier down here. And about six months ago or seven months ago God spoke to me three times in one day. Because see, when you stop traveling with God you can't go anywhere until you go back to where you left the path at.

And I didn't understand that. I was trying to serve God and go with God without going back there. And the Lord showed me very, very powerfully, that call is still there and I'm waiting on you.

I've been sitting here waiting for 11 years as Moses sat there and waited. God waited six days to see what they would do at Camp Hathaway. And probably when they were gone I believe God came down and met with Moses.

But God spoke to me and said, that call is still on your life. And I believe there's some of you I know not everybody's going to go but I believe there's some of you that are sick and tired of just playing around and just dabbling at it. And I know many of you are on fire many of you are way beyond me.

But there's some of you that the Lord is saying to you come on up, lay down your toys lay down those things that are coming between me and you and lay down your sin. Because God told Moses He said, you go ahead Moses later on and I'll send my angel and you'll win the battles and you'll win the victory but I won't go with you. Boy, God bless Moses.

He said, Lord if you're not going, I don't want to go. You know what's missing from the scene today? It's the presence of God in this chaos that's going on. We've got to have people rise up and lay hold of the presence of God in our lives, in our homes, churches and that's one thing the Lord spoke to me so powerfully I cannot be with you and if you want my presence in your life, you've got to get rid of the corruption in your life.

Please listen to me. If you want God's presence in your life, you've got to get rid of the corruption in your life. I went through my videos my movies I quit watching a whole lot of television some of those movies, they may be, you say they don't have sex or nudity but they'll curse God all the way through it you know, there can't be anything worse than people taking God's name in vain and saying Jesus Christ this and Jesus Christ that and we sit there and we become numb and inured to it and we say well I'm on my way to heaven, I'm on the highway to heaven, I want you to know you have come to a stand still and the Lord told me get back there where you were because that call is still there and I can't really do anything till you get

back and I heard that call and I went running back and I said God if it kills me I'm going to do it and if it kills me I'm going to do it and I started climbing back up and I'm hoping I'm getting close to Camp Hathaway but if God will help me, I'm going to keep going past Camp Hathaway and I want to go all the way up and I want to keep climbing till the Lord comes and I challenge this church to keep climbing and don't stop, let's don't take time for the devil, when the devil says come down to me, I've got a great work to do and I can't come down and we're going to keep climbing and if we do, guess what the reward is? The presence of God and the glory of God What's the glory of God? His Son The glory of God is His Son Moses said oh Lord show me your glory You know what happens to a church, they start climbing and the devil sets off fires everywhere sets off hand grenades and somebody doesn't like the way that light shines, I went to preach in a church in Cincinnati and the greeter that met me at the door, here's what he said he didn't know I was the evangelist, he said how you doing? I don't know why they paid so much for these lights.

The first thing he said was a criticism of somebody, I don't know who paid for it but that's how the devil stops the church, instead of keeping focused, we're climbing we're going somewhere and my last point is come out Moses when he went back, he moved his tent outside the camp and he lived outside the camp from then on he had to leave the place of corruption God, what does he say to us? Come out from among them and be you separate so Lord, then I'll receive you as my son or daughter and I'll be your God and your Father and when we look back, maybe I look back and Carol's struggling and she I'm climbing and I'm climbing, I'm having a party I'm worshiping God, I'm on fire but Carol, the enemy's trying to single her out and attack her and I'm going to reach down and I'm going to pull her up with me I believe there's so much glory and unity that when we don't go just by ourselves but we're a church, we're the mind and heart of God expressing Jesus Christ and we look down and I see somebody struggling and I pull them up in the name of Jesus, that's what God wants us to do and if we'll have that spirit of seeking God and one goal, the presence of God and the revelation of Jesus Christ guess what? We'll keep going past Camp Hathaway and we'll get to the top and what's at the top? Moses said, show me your glory and God said, I'll show you my glory and God showed him his glory and told him his name the Lord God, merciful and gracious stand with me, let's pray for the altar call today, please listen please obey God I know I'm not just preaching to myself I am preaching to myself I could get my seat but this is a step of faith, this is the place of surrender, sacrifice and dedication, you're telling God, the devil everybody I want to go up and the second thing the Lord is speaking to us come out, examine your hearts you know, I'm so concerned about our generation of Christian children, they're watching things that our grandparents would have never watched you can't do it and not be influenced and corrupted the Lord is saying, come up come out, would you come this morning, come on some have already come, would you come the Lord is calling us today, the Holy Spirit is saying, come up and your response is, Lord I'm coming, help me give me strength Lord, help me, give me strength the Lord is saying, come out He's so wonderful, He's better than this world, He's glorious, that's it, God bless your heart He will meet you here, I promise come and seek the Lord while He may be found

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