

# (February 1987) 01 - Arise and Measure the Temple

by Ray Lowe

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*Ray Lowe emphasizes the urgent need for spiritual revival and a radical change within the church by measuring its true worship and structure.*

**Duration:** 1:09:18

**Scripture:** Ezekiel 40:1-42, Revelation 10:9-10, Revelation 11:1-3

**Topics:** "Temple"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher talks about a revolution that is taking place in the country, which will be followed by a revival. He shares a story about a preacher in 1964 who experienced a strange anointing and changed his text to preach about Samson and Delilah. The preacher emphasizes the importance of thinking like God thinks and not being concerned with what people think. He references the books of Ezekiel and Zechariah, urging the audience to read specific chapters and underline the word 'measure.' The sermon emphasizes the need to declare God's message to the house of Israel.

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## Transcript

Good to see all the smiling faces. I'd like to say with the pastor, as he's already said, I wish you could come every night and hear what the Lord is saying. How many believe the Lord is speaking to us in this hour? And I don't know why, but I spent my first sleepless night up here last night.

I was real tired, got to bed around midnight. Two o'clock I was back up again wide awake and stayed up most of the night. And I come to realize I've made some statements that were not true.

I've been telling folks all over this country that God's not dead, He's alive. That's true. And I've been telling them He wasn't sick, but He is.

He's sick on His stomach. Okay? You come every night, and when you get sick on your stomach, it ain't long you do something else. Okay? I've made aware that God is sick on His stomach.

Okay? I want you to turn with me this morning. Boy, that's the way to start a revival, isn't it? Well, we're going to have revival this week. I want you to turn with me this morning to the book of Revelation chapter 11.

I certainly appreciate the pastor and his confidence to allow this open door to speak to you this week. I'd like for you to come and be here every night. And number two, I'd like for you to buy a tape.

If you can't buy it, I'll see if the pastor will give you a tape of every service. And after we're gone, go back over, because it is impossible to sit here and... Now, y'all's steak's going to be well done today, I'll tell you that right now. You've roasted them once you got cooking.

But it's impossible to grasp everything the Lord will say sitting this morning. Listen to the tape. Let's read together Revelation 11 and 1. There was given me a reed like unto a rod, and the angel stood saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar in them that worship therein.

But the court which is without the temple, leave it out. Don't measure it, and measure it not. For it is given unto the Gentiles, and the holy city shall they tread underfoot forty and two months.

I want you to turn with me to Ezekiel. Let me find my chapter. Chapter 40 and verse 1. Ezekiel chapter 40 and verse 1. In the five and twentieth year of our captivity, in the beginning of the year, in the tenth day of the month, in the fourteenth year after the city was smitten, in the seventh same day the hand of the Lord was upon me, and brought me thither.

In the visions of God brought he me into the land of Israel, and set me upon a very high mountain, by which was as the structure, says frame in the King James, by which was as the structure of a city on the south. And he brought me thither, and behold there was a man, whose appearance was like the appearance of brass, with a line of flax in his hand, and a measuring reed. And he stood in the gate, and the man said unto me, Son of man, behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears, and set thine heart upon all that I will show thee.

For to the intent that I might show them unto thee art thou brought hither. Declare all that thou seest to the house of Israel. I brought you here for this reason, he said.

You're here for a reason. I brought you here to show you something. I brought you to show you a structure.

And you declare all that you have seen, all that I'm going to show you, all that thou seest, to the house of Israel. Now don't do it now, because you've got to listen to me, and you can't do what I'm going to ask you to do and listen. But this week I want you to read chapter 40, 41, and 42.

And I want you to take a pencil, underline if you underline your Bible, and I want you to underline the word measure. Okay? Underline that word measure, how many times it's used as this begins to take place as God is speaking and Ezekiel is beginning to see this in the vision. Then I want you to turn with me to the book of Zechariah.

The book of Zechariah. We'll read in verse number 2, excuse me, chapter number 2 and verse number 1, I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand. Then said I, whither goest thou? And he said unto me, To measure Jerusalem, to see what is the breadth thereof, and what is the length thereof.

Now, I want to ask you something. If you was in prayer or in meditation or whatever, and you heard the Holy Spirit speak clearly to you, these words in Revelations 11, Arise and measure the temple. What would you do? If the Holy Spirit spoke clearly to you, that you knew beyond any shadow of a doubt, that

you was hearing God's voice, what would you do? What would you measure? If the Spirit says, Measure the temple, what would you measure? Would you measure your building? Would you, you know, what would you measure? If the Spirit says to you, Arise and measure the temple.

But he doesn't stop there. He says, Measure the worshipers. Measure the altar, but don't measure the out of court.

Leave it out. Don't fool with the out of court. Measure the temple.

Measure in the temple, the altar. And measure those that's worshiping in the temple. Now, in chapter 10 of Revelation, is a story where John sees an angel with a book.

And the Bible says he goes up to the angel and says to the angel, Give me the book. And when he takes the book from the angel, the angel says to John, I want you to take this book and eat it. Don't just take the book.

You've got to eat the book. Eat the book. And John, he explains to John, he said, Now, when you eat the book, or when John eats the book, it was sweet to his mouth, but bitter to his belly.

And then the angel said to John, You are going to prophesy again. John was on the Isle of Patmos for a testimony of Jesus Christ. He was the last surviving apostle.

The church Pentecost had gone. Paul had come and gone. Peter had come and gone.

A.D. 96 is on the scene. John's on the Isle of Patmos because of persecution and his testimony for the Word of God in Christ Jesus. But the angel says to John, You are going to preach some more.

It's not over with you. You are going to preach some more. And then the next account, man put the verses, the chapters in it.

God didn't do that. Arise, he says, and measure the temple. Now, you cannot measure the temple until first there's a measuring stick, rod, instrument, tool, whatever, until you have the measuring stick in your hand.

It's impossible to measure something unless you've got something to measure with. Is that right? Now, we're going to deal probably this week with John's writings more than we are any other writings in the Word of God. Because they are writings, I believe I said this before, they are writings that are different.

They're different in this respect. They are an antidote. They are a countermeasure to stop the church in the trend that she has, in the direction she is going, and the way that she is conducting herself.

This Pentecost is already subsiding. Amen? The apostolic doctrine is already getting mixed in, mingled with leaven. And the church is losing, has already lost some things that God never intended for the church to do.

So to counteract this move and this trend that the church is headed in, Jesus appears to John, give him these instructions, and said, you're going to get off of this island, and you're going to go back and preach again. Now, we are not going to have revival in the church until first we have a revolution. We are on the verge of a revolution in the church.

Oh, a revolution, what is that? That means a radical change is characterized, Mr. Webster says that a revolution is characterized by a radical change. If you're not ready for change, you're in the wrong place. You've got the wrong preacher.

We're in the day that we don't need to just make a change. We've got to have a radical change. Because there's some radical change that's been made in the structure of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Ezekiel's prophecy, the Lord lets him see structure. He saw a structure. He saw the frame of a city which is the structure.

It's not the city. It's the structure of the city. It's how the city was going to be built.

How the temple was going to be built. He sees structure. Now, for the first time in all of my life, I'm 23 years old in God, I've never heard God, and I've witnessed the Holy Spirit in every circle that's open to the Holy Spirit.

God is dealing with structure. The structure's wrong. Hello? Now, he says, son of man, I brought you here to show you something.

And here's your responsibility. You just tell them what I've showed you. That's all I'm going to do.

What you do with it, I have no control over what you do with it. But there's a revolution taking place in this country. Amen? And Father's revolution is going to follow revival.

How many believe we need a revival? 1964, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Oral Roberts stood up to preach. 1964. As he walked to the pulpit, a strange anointing that he had never felt before came on him.

And he changed his text instead of preaching what he was going to preach. He preached and took his text from the book of Judges on Samson and Delilah. And he told the story of how Samson lost his strength and slowly drifted into the arms of Delilah.

And through her, whatever you want to call it she had, stripped that man of his power and his strength. But that ain't the end of the story. Samson winds up in the city square, a laughing stock of the city.

Now if there's anything that we are today to that world out there, we've become a laughing stock. And the very man that prophesied that is one of the men that's helped bring it on. We're a laughing stock.

In western North Carolina, all the newspapers, all the newspapers in Mississippi, the church is a joke. We're on the joke column. We're on the cartoon column.

Are you listening to me? The preachers are the cartoonists now. They've left the politicians. The preachers are the cartoonists.

You know why? Because of a statement that that man just made a few days ago. How many has heard the statement? The church has become the laughing stock of this country. But I want you to know God's going to change that, brother and sister.

He's not going to change it for Jim Hite's sake. He's not going to change it for Oral Roberts' sake. He's not going to change it for Ray Lowe's sake.

He's going to do what he's going to do for his name's sake. It's his name that's at stake, brother. It's his character that's at stake.

It's his everything that's at stake. And what God's getting ready to do, He's going to do it for His name's sake. His name's coming out of the mud.

His name's coming out of the joke column. His name is coming out of the cartoonist column. His name is holy.

It's holy. It's holy. It's reverent, can you say, man? Read Ezekiel 36.

Read Ezekiel 36. Don't read 37. You read 36.

You shout over 37 of the regathered in the army that one day will stand. Read 36. Read what caused the devastation of 37.

36 says, You have made my name profane among the heathen. What I'm going to do, I'm not going to do it because of you. Oh, we talk God loves us and He's going to do this because He loves us.

Oh, it's going to be far beyond that. Brother, He holds His name. The name of the Lord is a strong power.

The name of the Lord represents holiness. It represents the very character, the very power, the very everything that God is is wrapped up in His name. He's going to do what He's going to do for His name's sake.

Here's Ezekiel. He sees the structure. He sees this city being built.

And he sees the structure of this city. Now you'll have to read the rest of it to get what he's saying. He's seeing something being built that out from under that thing will flow a river.

Okay? A river. As this river flows, it flows down through the valley. And the Bible says everything that this river touches, life comes into it.

Because that's what it is. It's the river of life. How many of you believe God wants to flow through the church the river of life? But he sees the structure.

And he says to the people, he says to the prophet, he says, I want you just to declare I brought you here to show you the structure of this city. Now here's what Oral said in his message. I wish I could get the copy of the magazine that he wrote it in.

But here's what he said. He said, I have never felt this anointing before. He said, there's something like a prophetic anointing came on me tonight.

And he said, the church will become like Simpson. And she'll become a laughing stock and a joke. And they'll make sport of her.

But he said, one day, one day, I might not be a part of it, but one day it will begin to change. And Simpson's hair will grow back. Hallelujah! Somewhere, he says, in the future, and he says, I may not be there, but the Simpson's hair will grow back and his strength will return once again.

Hallelujah! I want to tell you something, folks. Simpson's hair is beginning to grow back. You can only see a sprig of it, but it's coming back.

And you listen. I predict that in five years, this is not a prophecy, this is a prediction. Okay? I predict in five years an old Roberts will leave the scene.

1965, God showed me a vision of old Roberts and how he would die. He told me that he would fade away like any old man does. He'll die from old age, in other words.

He'll live out a full life, my wife's here, the only one who can vouch for the vision. But he will fade out, pass away. He'll not die like, you know, he'll fade out.

1970, He showed me another preacher. He showed me A. A. Allen. He showed me how A. A. Allen was going to die.

He told me, A. A. Allen, this may not go good. Some of you that knew Allen, and he may be your personality that you like. He showed me A. A. Allen would die from alcohol.

I saw A. A. Allen one night in a vision, turn up a fifth of whiskey, or a bottle or jug of whiskey, and chug-a-lug it, what we used to call in the bars, chug-a-lug that fifth of whiskey, and I saw him fall over dead. Brother and Sister Cox is here this morning. They happened to be in the church where I was in revival at that particular time, and told it that A. A. Allen was fixing to die.

It would first come out that he died from natural causes or some other causes. I said, but when the truth comes out, it's going to be a proven fact that he died from alcohol, and it took 12 days for the coroner to reach his verdict, but when he came out, he said he had 35% alcohol in his blood, which means he was pickled from alcohol. Now, I predict, I predict in the next five years, within the next five years, Oral Roberts will leave the scene.

1965, God showed me, when he leaves the scene, it will be the sign of the beginning of a brand new day and a brand new ministry and a move of God in the land again. I predict in five years. Okay? But now, where are we now? What is God doing now? Okay, we're not in revival yet.

No, we're in the preparation for revival. Now, this week, I've got to accomplish one thing through the power of the Spirit. I've got to get the right measuring stick in your hand.

I've got to take the one you've got out of your hand, not me, but the Lord, and get the right rod in your hand. Because the problem today is, we are measuring, but we are measuring with the wrong measuring stick. It's not just coincidental that when John wrote his account of the Gospel, you ever notice how different John's account of the Gospel is? It starts out like this, John 1 in 1, In the beginning was the Word.

He didn't say, In the beginning was the Scriptures. Hey, there wasn't no King James Version back then. Or English translation.

Or Moffat's whatever. In the beginning was the Word. The living, the logos.

Hallelujah. The quick hand, the Word that wouldn't fail. The Word that would create.

The Word that would not return to God. Hallelujah. In the beginning was the Word.

Now, we're going to have to have first a revolution. Revolution is taking place in our minds. God has got to deal with your mind.

Why has He got to deal with your mind? Because you've got two main reflectors. Amen. You've got two main reflectors.

Oh, let me back up. Your mind is the eye to your spirit or your soul. Amen.

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 6, I believe it is, or 2 Corinthians 10, that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but they're mighty through God, to the pulling down of strongholds. Where's the battleground at? Casting down what? Imaginations. Bringing what into captivity? Every thought.

So, the mind does play an important role. In fact, it plays a major role. So, you've got to have a revolution in your mind.

Why do we need a revolution in our mind? Isaiah 55 and 8. You know, you folks have spent a lot of money for that which wasn't bread. You paid tithes. Help me, Jesus.

And supported and backed up stuff that hadn't produced the bread of God. Because nothing produces the bread of God but the Word of God. Not Scripture.

Not quoting Scripture. The living Word. The quickened Word.

Somebody say Amen. But Isaiah 55 and 8 says, My thoughts are not your thoughts. My ways are not your ways.

Now, how different are they? Somebody says they're 10 degrees out. Uh-uh. They're 180 degrees out.

Your thoughts and my thoughts are totally 180 degrees opposite of one another. Amen. There's no... You can't... You're not even close to thinking like I think.

Isn't that something? Isn't that something? Well, you can never know His ways until you learn how to think like He thinks. And the word logos in the beginning was a word. It's actually in the beginning was a thought of God put in a form.

God just took His thoughts and put them in a form, spoke them through His mouth, and those thoughts was the living Word of God, and they never did come back empty-handed. If God sent His Word to heal, it healed. If God sent His Word and said, Son, stand still, the Son stood still.

If God sent His Word and parted the Red Sea, the Red Sea parted and stayed parted until God sent His Word to come back together. If God sent His Word and closed the heavens up and said, It will not rain, but according to My Word, those Old Testament prophets was the logos of God and said, It will not rain, but according to My Word, you could squeeze a drop of moisture out of God's heaven. I don't care how many rain clouds you've seeded.

I don't care what you've done. Hallelujah! If God shut the heavens up, nobody opened the heavens up until God said, Let them open again. So, number one, there's got to be a revolution in our minds to get us back to thinking like God thinks.

Because I'm going to tell you something, I've been delivered from what people think. I'm only interested in what He thinks. I was in a meeting down in the Ramada Inn recently.

I saw this lady come in the back. Boy, she watched me like a hawk. She didn't know, but I had an eagle eye on her too.

She told a friend of mine, after the meeting, I watched her, boy. I picked her spirit up real quick. See, you have to judge folks by their spirit, not what's on their face.

Them looks will lie to you. She told a friend of mine, she said, He needs a good course in grammar. I said, I sure do, but she needs a good case of salvation.

I'd rather have what I've got than what she's got. I said all of that to say this, what you think don't bother me. You know what I'm interested in? I don't know what he's thinking about me.

I said, I don't know what he's thinking about me. Hallelujah! You know, I don't even care what I think about myself. Brother, you'd think something about yourself.

God don't think that way about you. Okay? Okay? Mark, you'd think you're something when you ain't nothing in God. Or you'd think you're nothing and you're something in God.

See, it can be reversed. See, you'd be putting yourself down, and God's trying to get you up. Or you'd be putting yourself up, and God's trying to get you back down.

See, what counts is how He's looking at this thing. Can you say amen? And the only way you can know what He thinks about it... Amen? They used to ride me about my nose. Ain't I got a pointy nose? That's a Jew nose.

I don't try to hide it. I didn't make it. Say amen.

See, that don't count. Somebody say amen. That don't count what you look like in the physical physique.

What counts? What does God think about you? Some of you folks have got so much stinking pride in your heart and life, you think you're Mr. It. And if you could just never let God really see what He thinks about you, He'd think you stink. He thinks you're the stinkiest thing around town.

And you think you smell the best. See, we've got to have a revolution in our minds. We've got to get back to where we can think like He thinks.

What does He think? What's He thinking about this situation? See, what you call a laughing matter, He may be crying about it. When you get back to thinking like God thinks, you start crying over what He cries over, laughing over what He laughs over, rejoicing over what He rejoices over. Can you say amen? See? So there's got to be a revolution in our minds.

We've got to have a radical change in our minds. We're thinking wrong. Our structure and our thinking is wrong.

And there's three structures you can never separate. When God deals with structure, number one, God never deals with the corporate structure first. Never.

Never, never, never. Number one, and I don't know that this is number one in the sense of place, but there's three things. That's the home.

The structure of the home God deals with. Because you can't have a church until your homes are right. See, you ain't got no business ruling down here if you can't rule back your house right.

But before He deals with that, He deals with the individual. The structure of this individual. And I'm going to deal with the structure of the individual this week.

And you're going to know yourself before we get through this revival if you come and hear what God's saying. God deals with your structure. See, you can't set your house in order, the home that you first set yourself in order.

And you can't set this church in order until you're in order and the home's in order. Then the church can set it in order. And I'll guarantee you the thing that's going on in the church is just the outcropping as a result of what's going on back in our homes and in our hearts.

You get the folks living right, walking right, two or three gather in His name, He'll come and be in our midst and deliver set free whatever we need to be set free. Okay? See, it's not the place you meet. It's not how many of you meet.

It's the character you meet in. So He deals with the individual structure. Structure in this life.

Dealing with you. Dealing with me. God, when He spoke to me and said, measure the temple, He didn't say go up that stone mountain and measure that brother sitting on the back row with that gray suit on.

He said, I want you to start measuring yourself. I started measuring myself. Of course, I couldn't measure myself until He showed me how to do it.

Showed me what to do. He put the rod in my hand. He put the Word in my hand.

Here's what He said to me, and I'm going to say it to you. He said, from this day forward, do not measure by anything but the Word of God. Don't you throw them books you got away for a while.

You can pick them back up in a little while. But right now, let me have your book. Here's a book.

Here's a book. I don't care what you say. You're a liar in God's words of truth.

This is a book right here. This is a book. We're coming back.

We're on our way back. But when we come back, though, you can't come back until there's a revolution that takes place in your mind. Because when God begins to reveal that book, it won't agree with the way you think.

He'll mess up your mind. How many believe He'll mess up your mind? God has to restructure your thinking. And see the problem we have today.

Oh, don't nobody want to be... Oh, brother, Lord, we've had it like this for 40 years. Don't come in and tell us we've got to have some changes. We like it the way it is.

Well, if you like it the way it is, you're one of that crowd that God's sick over. You know, there's a song out now by the Henson's about 1,000 churches in the United States. And all they're good for is they're taking up real estate.

The other movement let them raise chickens on them to feed the hungry. I read in Liberty Magazine just a few days ago in the state of North Carolina, for every 760 people in the United States, as young'uns and all, there is a church building for every 760 people in the United States, there is a church structure. We ought to all be saved and ready for heaven.

But we're looser than we've ever been. This generation's farther from God than it's ever been. How many will agree with that? What's wrong? There's something wrong with our structure.

There's something wrong. The devil's come in and stole our structure and replaced it with another structure. But God's going to restructure this thing, build Him a church, and in this last day, then it can become the vehicle of expression.

And before Jesus returns a second time in the power of glory, He's going to return the glory to the body of Christ and to the church of Christ. Hallelujah! And make Himself known to this generation one more time. But there cannot be revival until there is a revolution in your mind.

Radical. The church don't need just surgery. It needs major surgery.

It needs radical surgery. You don't need alcohol robed on your head. You need the sword laid to the root of your problems.

Amen. How many wants to get down to the root of your problems? I watched the president speak the other night. And in my area, they had about four panels that went on into midnight discussing what he said.

You know what they do? They just tear it apart and just go to this direction. Then they come back to this direction. I watched four panels just switching, watching them.

Here's what they said. Here's what they said. Here's what they boiled it all down to.

The president knows we've got problems. The Congress knows we've got problems. The Senate knows we've got problems.

The Democrats knows we've got problems. The Republicans knows we've got problems. The news media knows we've got problems.

But the bottom line is nobody has an answer. They absolutely had to admit, young lady, that nobody has an answer for our problems. I have to disagree with them.

There is an answer. There is an answer. But it's not in the halls of Congress.

It's not in the Republicans. It's in the pulpit and in the Church of God where the answer lies. But God's going to have to restructure us before He can ever send revival.

He is not going to put new wine in your old bottles. Now, He's going to bust your hide and restructure it. If He put it in us, we'd bust with it.

Is that the right way to say it? Bust or burst? Hell, I ain't fooling that junk. Y'all know what I'm saying. We couldn't handle it, brother.

You think I could handle the glory of a supreme God? Well, I'd have you folks pat me on the back until it was pitiful. I'd have to have that glory. See, I can't handle it.

But He's going to restructure this thing. He's going to restructure your life. You think you're walking in God now.

We don't even know what real church life is. Some of you folks, the only time you serve God, you come down here three services a week. Some of you don't come up one.

And all you're doing is paying a premium on fire insurance. You don't want to go to hell. Well, I paid my premium this morning.

Praise God, I'm good for another week. Pay your premium. Pay your dues to a club.

This ain't no club. You ain't paying no dues. This is the church of the living God.

The body of Christ. The tabernacle of God. The temple of the Holy Spirit.

Hallelujah. It's God's vehicle of expression. It's the channel that God's going to run a river through pretty soon.

Hallelujah. But number one, He's got to bring a revolution in our minds. Hallelujah.

Romans 12 and 2 says, Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove, that you may prove, hallelujah, unquestionably, what is the good and the perfect and the acceptable will of God. God's not concerned about your will. He's concerned about His will.

It's not what you think that counts. It's what God counts. God don't give two cents what you think.

It's what the Word says. The Holy Ghost is saying. And God has said, it's the only thing He's concerned about.

Can you say amen? There's got to be some radical changes in the way you think. Because until you do, you're going to do like I was doing. How's your church doing? Doing good as anybody.

Getting anybody saved? No, ain't nobody else either. How are you doing? I'm good as anybody in town. Trouble in town? Everybody else is screwed up.

How's your church? Boy, we're doing good. Well, see, what I was doing, I'd been in the ministry 17 years, and I'd learned all them religious things. And I proved them by bumper stickers on my vehicles.

If you don't believe I'm religious, look at my vehicles. I've got bumper stickers hanging everywhere, buddy. I've got trinkets in my house that you can just read anything you want to read.

Somebody say amen. I don't believe I told this when I was here before. And this is hard to tell because it's against me.

I've got a sign on the front of my van that says Jesus never fails. And on the back I've got a bumper sticker that says you're in good hands with Jesus. Boy, that's the testimony.

You get in front of me and He'll never fail you. Get behind you and you're in good hands if you'll stay in His hands. I was coming through Meridia, coming to Columbus, Georgia, to the medical center, to the burn center, because my nephew had been burnt real bad.

I was trucking on about 55 right downtown Meridia on the four-lane I-20. This human being, I called him a creep then, come around me in a Japanese Toyota. And I was in the right-hand lane minding my own business.

He whirls around me. And there's a turnoff right up to the right just a few yards. He whirls around me and gives me the sign, the finger.

And I hit my brakes and I thought, well, I made that boy mad. He wants to turn off. And I'm in the right lane and he can't turn off, so I switch lanes and I switch lanes and he just kept giving me the finger.

But you're in good hands with Jesus and He'll never fail, brother. So I almost come to a dead stop to let that creep get in that road. And he just kept on.

He just almost stopped to it. He would just... It's a boy in the backseat not to drive. Boy in the backseat just giving me that finger.

And he just ought not to have done it. I had a .32 pistol in my van. You're in good hands with Jesus, but you take that .32 to make sure.

One thing, that's one thing that He won't ever give nobody else. I'll shoot it off. And I meant it.

I reached back in anger and grabbed that .32 pistol. I brought it out and held it up where he could see it. And I shook it at him.

And I said, buddy, I'll shoot that finger off of you. Of course, it scared me so bad he reached down the seat and grabbed the baby and held the baby up while I shoot the baby. Of course, in the meantime, me and my wife was battling in that van.

She was taking my weapons of protection away from me. She said, what a fine example you are. And I noticed the man was reading my side.

Jesus never fails. Somebody say amen. And I don't believe he was fingering me.

I believe he was fingering me because I had them religious. He was fingering Jesus. But shoot, it makes the answer.

It stopped him getting the devil out of him and getting him saved and he'll quit doing that. Instead of giving somebody a finger, he'll lift his hand to heaven. Can you say amen? Well, I went away from that little incident knowing that I wasn't in good hands.

Say amen. Say amen. I went away feeling I'd shot somebody's mule or stole it.

And from there to Columbus, my wife and Jesus chewed me to no end. Thank God for these wives. She said, look what's on the front of your van.

I said, oh God, I'm going to take that sign off. But let me ask you all something. Who did I let down? Whose name did I profane? Tell me! There you go.

That guy didn't know me from out of his housecats, they say in Georgia. But he recognized that name on that van. He says, you're in good hands with Jesus.

And I guarantee you he went away saying, I'm in better hands in my own hands than I am with that guy. Of course, now some of you will call that righteous indignation. And some of you name it, getting up on the wrong side of the bed.

But it ain't that. You're just being used for the powers of darkness. And the name of Jesus is being drugged lower and lower and lower.

But I want you to know, brother, sister, God is on the verge of doing something in this land. One more time. Samson is coming back on the scene.

Hallelujah. The strong man with the power of God that can take the devil's foxes and catch them and tie their tails together and run them into the Philistines' cornfields. There's a church going to stand one more time with the power to snatch the gates of gays up by the roots and set up on the top of the mountain to take an army to bring them back down.

There's a church going to stand up one more time, thank God, with the jawbone of an ass. They're going to whip the devil barehanded. Can you say amen? I said Samson's going to stand up one more time.

Hallelujah. But God's going to have to do some things in our minds. He's going to have to restructure our minds.

And there's going to have to be a radical change in our minds because God's going to restructure. You say, well, there ain't no change going to take place in my life. Well, I'm going to inform you right up front.

God's going to do what He's going to do with you or without you. With you or without you. With me or without me.

God is going to do what He's going to do. Hallelujah. From this day forward, you're going to have to start measuring yourself by the Word of God.

God 2,000 years ago stood a rod on this earth. Isaiah 11. There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse.

God put a measuring stick on this earth and said from this day forth, you don't measure by Moses. You don't measure by Elijah. You don't measure by Elijah.

You don't go back to Abraham. You don't go back to Noah. You don't go back to Adam.

I've put the second Adam on this earth. He's your measuring stick. He's your pattern.

This is the way I want you to construct your life. This is the structure I want you to have. This is the way I want you to walk.

This is the way I want you to talk. This is the way I want you to act. This is the way I want you to live.

This is the way I want you to love. This is the way I want you to move. Somebody say amen.

This is the power I want you to have. What I've got you can have. Hallelujah.

God put a measuring stick on this earth 2,000 years ago. And when He got ready to go, He told those disciples, don't you go nowhere. You go to Jerusalem and I'm going to send my spirit back to you.

And you shall receive the power to be my witnesses and my martyrs. You're going to walk through this earth and you're going to be a witness that I'm here. I'm the Christ.

I'm the one. Hallelujah. And for just a few years, they was His witness.

Can you say amen? They even had the attitude. Jesus said the foxes have holes, the birds in their ham nests. But the Son of Man hath nowhere to lay His head.

That first church had that attitude. Where they laid their head didn't count. Where they worshipped didn't count.

It was what they worshipped and how they worshipped. Can you say amen? Give the Lord a hand. I'm going to show you by the Word of God our worship's wrong.

God's going to restructure our worship. He's going to put the altar back where it belongs. Hallelujah.

When you measure the altar, you don't measure this thing. This ain't no altar. This is just something for preachers to jump over and fall.

The altar's in your heart and your life. Hey, you'd come down here and shed enough tears to call them crocodile tears. And I've seen it over and over and over.

You've noticed most of our Pentecostal churches, everybody gets saved. The same folks get saved in every revival. I call it recapping them.

We just recap them. The recap's still three or four weeks. They're slinging off.

Another band comes through, cap them again. We're going to try to keep them capped until the Lord has wrapped them out of here. If He don't have them coming, there ain't going to be nobody left though.

Because we're going to run out of recapping rubber. The altar's in your heart. Man, if you ain't got an altar in your heart, coming down here is a mockery to God.

God's going to restructure your mind. He's going to bring a revolution in your mind. You know what I saw Him do? I saw Him reaching there and taking my mind and just scrambling it like a bunch of eggs.

You say, well, if He ever does that, you can't re-scramble an egg, you can't put an egg back together. You can, but God can't. How many of you believe God can take an egg, scramble it, put it back in, and thwart the chickens if He wanted to? Don't you? Don't you never? Pray for me, preacher.

I need prayer this morning. God can do anything, sister. Who do you think we're serving today? God's not a joke.

He's a holy, all-powerful, all-seeing, all-knowing God. Was there any frost this morning? There wasn't? Well, God didn't breathe too strongly, because His breath creates the frost. Okay? Okay? It's my song of praise.

Structure. You tell the people what you saw. He saw structure.

I'm fixing the clothes. I've never had but one angel come to me. Never had but one.

1968. An angel of God came in my trailer and brought me a message. He said to me, the church, the glory has departed from the church.

The glory is gone. Oh, brother Lowe, that's an insult to us. I know it, because you're still thinking wrong.

You're still measuring yourself by yourselves. Hey, I challenge either one of you this morning to stand up and measure yourself by the Lord Jesus Christ. I'll tell you what, I'll show you one area that you're so short, you'll be ashamed of it, is your prayer life.

How many got up this morning early while the dew and the frost of the water of the night was still fresh? How many of you got up this morning and went somewhere and prayed? How many of you done it? What's wrong? I'll tell you what's wrong. You don't measure by Him no more. Well, ain't nobody praying, brother Lowe.

You remember when this thing went through the church? Well, everybody's doing it. What if everybody goes to hell? You want to go with them? You're measuring yourself. You've got the wrong rod in your hand.

What about love? I've got a message this week I'm going to preach on love. Ain't nobody in this building, including the fellas talking to you, got the love that Bible talks about. If you believe you've got it, when's your next social, brother Jim? Where are you going to gather the folks? I believe there's one mentioned in that bulletin.

Ain't there something mentioned here about gathering to eat? Huh? Ain't there one in here, something about y'all going to do something after service? Next Sunday night, you're going to eat. I don't want you to count everybody that's there. I mean, I don't want you to count them.

And I don't want you to write their name down. And then next Sunday night after you have church, I don't want you to call a prayer meeting. All night.

And I don't want you to count them. Don't tell me we've got love. Love lays down their life.

Where are we at? We have got to be restructured. God's going to remake us. He's going to change us around.

Hallelujah. Praise God. He's going to take that old mind you've got and fix it where you can think like He thinks.

And then you can walk like He walks. And we don't even know His ways. His ways.

How far His ways above our ways. They're immeasurable. They're as far as the heavens are above the earth.

And this is not my hobby horse. And I don't ride this one. I just say it when I feel led to say it.

But the very core of our end-day message proves to us that we do not know God's ways. God's ways is never out. It's through.

Never out. It's through. Did He fly them over the Red Sea in a helicopter? Or send some construction engineers and put a tunnel under it? Or did He send some guys down there to chart them out of course around it? He shot them right through the heart of it.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Menachot stood before Pharaoh's fire furnace. Not Pharaoh's, but Nebuchadnezzar's fire furnace. Did God take them around it? Did He take them around it? Wouldn't He take them right straight through the heart of the fire? And the very thing that we teach concerning the end time proves to us that even the men that's leading us do not know God's ways.

God's ways is not out. God's ways is through. Through.

He'll take you through. He'll keep you through. When you go through the waters, I'll be with you.

Through the fire, I'll be with you. Through the storm, I'll be with you. Through your problems, I'll be with you.

My grace is sufficient. I won't set you free from your problems. I'll go with you through your problems.

I'll walk with you, fight for you. Hallelujah! We do not know God's ways. The reason we don't know His ways, we don't know how He thinks.

And you can't know how He thinks because our mind has got to be renovated and transformed. And there's got to be a radical revolution take place in our minds. And slowly in this country, slowly but surely, there is a revolution taking place in a few leaders' minds.

I'm going to tell you one that's taking place. There is a revolution taking place in that man's mind. I do not know yet what he'll do with it, but there's one taking place.

Hallelujah! And there's a few more. Thank God that God's beginning to restructure their thinking and they're beginning to see things in a light they've never seen it before. And I'm going to tell you right now, I'm becoming an outlaw.

I'm already an outlaw. I don't want to be an outlaw. I was an in-law until a few years ago.

God's making me an outlaw. I was with the program. Now I'm against it.

I'm marching to a different drummer. Hallelujah! A revival's coming. Praise God.

Revival's coming. Now, we're going to have a revolution this week. And if you'll get your mind revolved real quick, like we have revival before we shut down.

But we've got to have... Okay? I'm going to put some heavy stuff on you, okay? Can you take it? Are you ready for it? You ready for some heavy stuff? Are you ready for some heavy stuff? What if it turns up your thinking? What if it restructures everything you thought? How many of you ever thought something was right and it wasn't right when God showed you what it was? How many of you ever believed the Scriptures you thought you really had to handle until the Holy Ghost real quickened it to you and it doesn't even mean

nothing what you thought it meant? How many of you ever had that to happen? What if God had done the whole book that way? Wouldn't you have a problem? Let me ask you another thing. Now I'm closing. How many of you want Virginia White, Holy Ghost, Heaven sent, sin condemning, Christ exalted, devil destroying, revival, hit this land one more time? How many believe we can have it? How many believe the church does have an answer, praise God, to all the problems? See, the Bible said, the character of the end time will be a time of great distress in the land.

Upon the earth, distress of nations with perplexity. That means a quandary. Nobody will have an answer.

Nobody will know the way out. Somebody said, what are we going to do with the national budget? I said, I'll tell you what I'm praying. I'm not praying the American system will survive.

I'm praying it will collapse where the kingdom of God will come. Somebody say amen. The answer is not American system surviving.

It's of the devil anyhow. It's part of babbling. The answer is not for the American system to survive.

The answer is for the kingdom of God to come. And as long as we'll, the quicker we'll let this thing start working in us. Praise God.

And I'm not preaching the kingdom message. The kingdom message says we're going to take this thing over. Uh-uh, brother and sister.

When Jesus comes, he's going to smite that Gentile. That stone's going to roll out of that mountain. We're not going to take this thing over until Jesus returns again.

But when he does come back, he's going to have a church that's going to rule and reign with him on this earth a thousand years. Can you say amen? I'm not praying for American survival. I'm praying for the kingdom of God to come.

Can you say amen? And see, when you get this, you'll quit marching against abortion. To legislate morals, you'll start praying for the kingdom of God to come. And we won't have to shut down the abortion clinics.

We'll get all these girls saved. And these boys that's causing that, they'll go out of business. All of my folks is Church of God, so I can say this.

You know what they're telling all their teenage girls? Get on the pill. So help me God. I told mine, you don't need the pill.

You need to live right. Sex before marriage is sin. They'll send you to hell.

Okay? But to tell them folks, my folks, tell them their teenage kids, they're going to church every Sunday. Y'all get on the pill. I know you're fooling around.

There ain't nothing I can do about it. That's where we are. How many wants a real revival in your heart and in your life? Are you ready to be restructured? Number one, you.

No point. Boy, God needs to do something. I'm a pastor.

You need working on it. How many is ready for God to restructure you? I'm talking about changing some things in your mind and your heart. Looking at things differently.

How many of you would like to look at things differently? Ain't y'all tired of looking at the same old thing in the mirror every morning? Y'all ever get tired of looking at the same old thing in the morning? Wouldn't you like to look? Walk up there and say, Boy, you a good looking dude this morning. God done something for you. See, the first thing God do for you, in the Spirit, He'll make you start work, quit worrying about how big your nose is and how long your ears are and what color your hair is and what color all that bunch of food is.

All that's a bunch of flesh. Ain't got nothing to do with God. He'll start letting you see yourself like He sees you.

And if you got sin in your life, He ain't gonna pat you on the back. But if you're living right, He ain't gonna let the devil put you down. He'll put you where you belong.

How many is ready to get in your place with God and let's do something for the Lord? How many is ready for Stone Mountain Church of God and let's move? Hallelujah. How many is ready for this church to become a soul-saving station where God can bring the helpless and the hopeless and the down and the out and the nobodies into this place and you set them free by the power of the Lord? How many is ready for that to take place? I'm gonna say this and then I'm closing. You notice now, He said, don't measure that out there.

That's that out of court. Now that out of court is never measured. You know why it's never measured? Because there's no measurement for it.

Anybody can come into this. That's for anybody. Everybody.

Okay? Now what we've done is measured the out of court. We've got a set pattern for folks to come into the out of court. Okay? They've got to be thus and so to even get into the out of court.

They've got to come across our religious wall before they even get to the out of court. He said, don't measure that. There's no measurement for that.

As for whosoever will, let him come. He said, you get down here and measure these other courts, this holy place. Hallelujah.

Measure them. Make sure they're right. Get them right.

Because see, this is where God lives. This inner court is where God lives. That temple is where God lives.

That temple is where the fire is at, where the power is at, where the deliverance is at, where the salvation is at, where the blood was shed, the mercy seat. Praise God. It's all there.

It's all there in that inner court. Measure that. But no, we've reversed.

Everybody's harping on how messed up that world is out there. Boy, things are messed up. I'll show you an area of real estate a whole lot more messed up.

That's right here in the confines of this wall. You know why they're messed up? Because we're messed up. Boy, I don't believe that preacher.

You just come to beat us over the head. I ain't going to beat you over the head. I'm going to show you what the Lord showed me.

How can you blame the meat from rotting when the salt was supposed to preserve it? Smarty, I got you. I've come to show you the pattern, the form, the structure. So help me God.

So help me God. God, let me stand. So help me God.

And this is not something glory, and this is something with an awesome responsibility. God, let me stand where Ezekiel stood. And so help me.

In a vision, I saw the structure of the city. I saw the structure of the city. It took it 20 years this year, 20 years ago, this February, 20 years ago.

God, let me see the structure of the kingdom, of the temple. How it had to be. How it had to operate.

How it had to be put together. How it was supposed to perform. What it was supposed to do.

Brother and sister, quit playing games with yourself. Let's quit measuring ourselves by the world. Amen.

How many of you believe we've measured ourselves by the world? Hasn't this prosperity message told us that we prosper in the same way the world prospers? Is that not true? Are you not measured today as far as measurement is concerned? Are you not measured as far as prosperity? Are you not measured by what you've got? That ain't right. That's wrong. A friend of mine just told me he set his dickens up by his tithing record.

The highest tither's got the highest office. What about that woman that didn't have but a quarter to get in? You wouldn't even let her in the door. Stand with me, please.

I want you to catch this. There's three structures that has to be formed together. In other words, God works on all three of them at the same time.

First of all, number one right here. See, you've got to get this life in order. Yourself, you've got to come to order first.

God has to put this thing. How many believe this is the temple of the Holy Ghost? Okay, if He sets the church in order, this is the first thing He works on. Then He moves into the home.

He sets the home in order. How many believe there's an order for the home? How many believe the Lord established an order for the home? And then number two, that'll spill over into the church and He's got an order for the church. And when it's functioning like it's supposed to function, you know what it'll produce? Children.

Children. Offspring. The promise God made to Abraham, I'm going to give you children.

It'll produce offspring. Offspring. Offspring.

Father, Lord, I know that this was maybe not what they wanted to hear, but Lord, there's got to be a revolution. There's got to be some radical, radical, radical things said and done. Because Your ways and Your thoughts are not like ours.

They're not even close. There's no comparison. In our terminology, Lord, they're 180 degrees out.

The very thought, the logos of God, the Word of God in the light of the Holy Spirit is so different. And I pray that everybody here looking at the individual, not looking at their neighbors, but looking at themselves is ready, is ready for change. Lord, if they don't want to change, God, if this church is not going to change, then let me know early.

And let this pastor know. And let the other folks. It won't change.

Let them know. If you're not going to bring change, that for the next how many years before you return again, that the Stone Mountain Church of God cannot be what it's been in the last six years or however many years it's been established. God, this church cannot be the same after this revival.

If it is, you're going to spew it out of your mouth. It must change. It must change.

It must submit to change. I rebuke the power of stubbornness and rebellion in this church. It must submit to change or get vomited out.

It cannot stay the same. We're running a little late, but I believe you ought to bring everybody to a place of a definite decision when you preach. I'm going to ask you this morning if you're ready for God to bring a revolution in your mind.

Number one in your thinking that He can begin to show you His ways and structure your life. Number one yourself, your personal life after Him. Number two, your home.

And number three, your church. You're ready for God to take the sword which is sharp, cut in and cut out. I want you to slip out of your seat and come stand in this open space up here this morning if you're ready.

I'm telling you, don't come if you're not ready for change. If you want to continue measuring yourself by yourself, brother and sister, there's not a church in this county you need to measure this one by because they all make God sick. He's sick.

He's sick of His church. He's sick on His stomach. Spirit of the living God, Lord, we want to change.

We don't want to make it. We want You to do it. Lord, if we do it, it'll just be another fleshly thing.

God, we want the Holy Spirit this week to take hold of this thing. Take hold of us. Take hold of this corporate body and these families that's here.

God, we want You to just renovate us. We want You to strip out of us and snatch out of us everything that's carnal and of this world that we've programmed after the world. We want You to snatch it out of us and replace it with the thoughts and the ways of God.

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