

Let God Get the Most Out of Your Life

by Santosh Poonen

This sermon emphasizes the importance of surrendering to God, especially for children, highlighting the need to focus on knowing God's ways rather than just observing His actions. It challenges listeners to choose knowing God intimately over seeking physical miracles, and to prioritize understanding His ways. The sermon also discusses the concept of being like a pencil in God's hand, being sharpened through trials, and the significance of having a clear conscience and focusing on inner transformation.

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Scripture: Matthew 5:4, Matthew 5:6, Isaiah 53:10

Topics: "Surrender to God", "Inner Transformation"

Description

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Transcript

Yeah, thank you children. I would actually like to speak today primarily to the children. And if you think you're too old to be a child, then this message is especially for you.

But before that, I'd like to just briefly mention that our book for this month is Knowing God's Ways, where it's, I think, 21 chapters, if I remember correctly. Yeah, 21. So we'll just do the first 10 this month.

If you want to skip ahead, you can. And we'll finish it next month. So two months to read this book.

There's a lot of difference. This is the introduction to this book. There's a lot of difference between observing God's actions, even his miracles, and understanding his ways.

And unfortunately, I think that for most of Christendom, they're more taken up with seeing God's actions. And, you know, whenever we talk about most of Christendom, please understand, it's not that we think we're better than others. But we see the direction in which the world is headed, the direction in which Christendom in general is headed, copying the world, and the types of things that people are taken up with, the types of things that even Christians boast about, in their church meetings, and seeing that tendency, even in our own flesh, and wanting to fight that.

And I think if you were to be honest with yourself, if I was to be honest with myself, if you were to pick between a church meeting where you see God do a genuine miracle, a genuine miracle, let's say somebody who is miraculously brought back to life from the dead, or a really lame person is completely healed. If you were to pick between a meeting where you see that happen, and a meeting where you genuinely know more of God's ways, in a secret way where nobody else knew it, but you knew God more intimately, which would you pick? Which would you pick? That's the real question that I think we should ask ourselves. Would you really pick to know God's ways a little bit more deeply? To know the divine nature, partake of it, to know Christ more fully today than to see him do a physical miracle? I wonder how many churches and how many Christians would honestly answer that question and say, I would rather know God's ways.

And I say that as one who, even as I sit here, I wonder, Lord, what would it be if I come here Sunday after Sunday, and the emphasis as it is in this church is on knowing God's ways more than seeing his mighty works. Does it somehow become ordinary and nothing exciting because, oh, I just knew a little bit more of God's ways. That's all.

I didn't see a dead man raised to life or anything like that. It's because our value systems is so upside down. The world is taken up with what is showy and flashy, and worldly Christians are taken up with what is showy and flashy, supposedly, even in God's kingdom.

But true Christianity is to know his ways and understand his ways. It says that about, even in the Old Testament, that the people of Israel, they saw God's actions, but Moses knew his ways. Moses was not as interested in whether he would drink water, but he wanted to know God.

Read Exodus 33, and he says, show me your glory, Lord. I don't care if I don't ever drink water again, show me your glory. That's what I hear him say.

I don't care if you never drop food from heaven or bring the quails or do another miracle. I don't care about that. I want to see you.

I want to see your glory. Moses had it in the Old Testament. How much more you and I, for whom God has put his nature within us, his Holy Spirit within us, and a lot of Christendom, sadly, is taken up with outward things, even long prayer meetings, song sessions, so-called revival.

Let's be taken up with knowing God's ways, partaking of his nature. He goes on to say in his introduction, most Christians observe only God's external actions. They are impressed by physical miracles.

They eagerly seek for healing and for material blessings. Most of their prayers are also related to such earthly matters in which they want to see God act on their behalf and bless them in the physical realm. This is because they are in a state of spiritual babyhood.

Now, again, I think what my dad's saying in this book is not that you have to beat yourself up because you're taken up with physical things and miracles. It's okay. But that means you're still a baby Christian.

It's okay, to use an analogy, if you give your child a \$100 bill in a glittery envelope, for the child to be more taken up with the envelope than the \$100 bill, right? If you give your three-year-old or your two-year-old a \$100 bill in a nice glittery envelope, I guarantee they're going to be more taken up with the glittery envelope and throw away the \$100 bill. Now, if your 25-year-old son is doing that, that's a problem. If your 25-year-old son, you give him a \$100 bill, he says, wow, what a nice envelope, nice glittery, and they cast

aside the \$100 bill, you would say you failed as a parent.

You'd say that you failed to teach them a right sense of values. And that's our burden as elders in the church, is that we teach in this church the right sense of values, to be taken up with the right things. Even if the rest of the world is taken up with the flashy envelopes and the glittery covers, we want people to partake of the divine nature, to experience eternal life, to see the transformation of God, of the Holy Spirit in their marriages, in their relationships with their children.

Children, for you to learn to obey your parents and to do so joyfully, that's more than... I'm so thankful that you all say your memory verses and keep doing that. But much more important than what people think of you in the church, and whether you're a part of RLCF or anything like that, that's great. Are you experiencing the life of Christ? So I hope this book will be useful for children as well.

If these are the things that still excite us, these baby things, then we have not seen the glory of the New Covenant. One mark of those who are mature is that they are not taken up by God's external acts as much as with knowing God Himself and understanding His ways. If you want to know more about God and His ways, read this book.

So that's what we have to look forward to these next couple of months. Children, before I move on also, anybody tell me what's a bond slave? A number of you said that the Lord, that God would pour out His Holy Spirit on bond slaves. Anybody know what a bond slave is? You can raise your hand if you think you know what it is.

Yeah, we don't really see bond slaves thankfully in this day and age, but a bond slave was somebody who was sold into slavery. Today you might have servants in some homes, but those are servants who would or should get paid for their service. You can say, I'm a servant of my company.

I do a service for them and they pay me. That's a contract. So in that sense, I'm a servant.

If somebody, you know, even a gas station, they do full service, they offer. Or you go to somebody and say, can you service my vehicle? They're not going to do it for free. You have to pay for it, for them to service your vehicle.

A bond slave was different though. He was sold into slavery, he or she was sold into slavery in a way that they had no more rights. It was like property.

You know, if you have a bicycle, can your bicycle ever complain about how you treat it? You know, some of you boys, I know you like to put the little cardboard thing over there so it makes a sound, so it sounds like a motorcycle and all that. Can the motorcycle, can the bicycle ever complain? Hey, why are you doing that to me? That's a bond slave. You can do whatever you want.

You can kick it, you can throw it, you can jump over the ramp and crash it. It has no rights. And there was a time when there were people who were treated like that, didn't have rights.

And in the Old Testament, you read about that. Joseph, he was a bond slave. The time of the Old Testament, there were bond slaves.

And even in the early days of the New Testament, there were bond slaves. And if you saw a bond slave, you wouldn't even say hello to him or her. You wouldn't even, you know, you ever think about saying hello

to the coffee maker in the back? That's a bond slave.

It serves coffee. It's its job. You don't ever say thank you to the coffee maker.

And bond slaves were like that. They couldn't even be, couldn't even demand a thank you. That's how they were treated, like property.

And God says, I have a plan even for bond slaves, both men and women. So let's look at that verse, Acts chapter 2. It's a good verse for us to know. Acts 2 verse 18 that the primary class is memorizing, Acts chapter 2. I'm so glad they're doing that passage.

Our prayer, dear children, for you is that you will all be filled with the Holy Spirit. And not just in a way that the world thinks of being filled with the Holy Spirit, but it will be a genuine experience you have. You don't have to wait.

Some of us, for us, it was old when we were older in life. Some adults maybe still waiting to be filled with the Holy Spirit, but you don't have to wait. You don't have to even wait to be 18.

If you're old enough to understand what we're saying, if you're old enough to understand even this sentence that I'm saying right now, you're old enough to say, Lord, I want to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Just pray that simple prayer. Because you just go to God on his promise and say, Lord, you said in Acts 2 verse 18, I even memorized it, that you would, even on, Acts 2 verse 18, even on my bond slaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of my spirit and they shall prophesy.

This is the promise of God. I hope every single one of you children, even if you didn't memorize this verse, at least you know that there's a promise in Acts 2 verse 18 that says that God wants you to prophesy. He wants to fill you with his Holy Spirit.

Even if you are a bond slave and all of you, I want to tell you children, you are higher than a bond slave from the world's standpoint. You have privileges. You have rights.

None of your parents will treat you badly. You have good parents and you can expect a sense of fairness. For example, you know, if, if I don't think that's true in anybody here, but if you had a parent that treated one of your siblings better than you, you have a right to say, Dad, you give that to that other person, or you're not treating me fairly.

Now I know that that's not true of any of you here. All your parents treat you fairly, but there may be some people in the world, some children in the world whose parents treat them unfairly. They're partial to some other, maybe adopted or stepchildren or foster children that are treated not equal to the, the biological children.

Even if you were one of those, God says, I want to pour out my Holy Spirit upon you. There are no foster children in God's family. There are no stepchildren in God's family.

There are no, we're all adopted, but we're, you know, I like to think of it like this. They were not, it says in Ephesians one that we're adopted us, but it's also true biologically. We have the blood of Jesus Christ in us.

That means we're biologically related to Jesus also now. And it says that in Hebrew seven, that the lineage is not the lineage of physical relationship, but that of an indestructible life. So if you have the

indestructible life in you, you're biologically related to Jesus.

So you're not only just adopted, you're made biologically related to the father, if you have the life of God in you. So it's a wonderful thing that God has made you his child, made you his son, made you his daughter. He wants to pour out his Holy Spirit on you.

So he wants us to prophesy. And the other verse that the adults and the other classes memorized is from Isaiah 50. I'd like you to see that also Isaiah chapter 50.

How do we prophesy? You know, it says in, uh, on my bond slaves, men and women in those days, I will pour out my Holy Spirit and they shall prophesy. But before that happens, I see that there's a condition that God is looking for. And that's in Isaiah 50 verse four, the other verse that was memorized this week.

Uh, the Lord God has given me the tongue of disciple. There's that prophecy to know how to sustain the weary one with a word. Is that the longing of your heart, your children, some of you very young, even 10 and up memorize this verse.

He, this is the whole verse you memorized only part of it, but the whole verse says that God, God has given me the tongue of a disciple to know how to sustain the weary one with a word. I'm convicted by that. Even as I sit here, I meet weary people.

Sometimes you can look at somebody on their face and you see, man, that person's going through something really hard. They're weary, they're tired or they're discouraged. And I don't know what to say.

Sometimes I'm sure you meet people like that too on the, on the street, maybe it's a, a grocery store clerk, and maybe you see that they're, they're rude to you because of something that they're going through. And you see, there's a tiredness, there's a weariness. So many people in this world have to work long shifts on their feet perhaps at work and they're tired.

And God allows you to run to the grocery store late at night because you forgot something for tomorrow. And the main reason he sent you there was actually because there's a lady who's at the end of her shift, who's weary. And do you go there thinking, Lord, I want the tongue of a disciple.

I'm going to talk to this lady for about two minutes while she's checking my items out. But I want you to give me the tongue of a disciple to sustain this lady so that when she goes home, she, she knows how to reach out to you. I want you Lord to give me a prophetic word on my tongue.

That's what prophecy is. It's not saying that set the Lord in a meeting or anything like that. I tell you, most prophecy should be practiced outside the church as well.

With those we meet a prophetic word. You read the prophets of the old Testament, they didn't just stand in the temples. They stood on the street corners and they preached.

And maybe you don't practice it like that today. But what about the grocery store clerk? Can you prophesy to her a word that sustains the weary? This is prophecy. So how does that happen? In order for that to happen at four o'clock in the afternoon, let's say something must have happened at seven o'clock in the morning.

That's what the rest of that verse says. That before you, you know, say, Lord, I want this four o'clock in the afternoon tongue of a disciple to prophesy. It says, okay, what did you do at seven o'clock in the morning

when you woke up? Did you immediately grab your phone and see, oh, what happened? Or what's going on in social media? What's in the news or who won the cricket match and all this stuff? Or was it like he says here in verse four, that God awakens you morning by morning and awakens your ear to listen.

He says, I want to see, are you willing to listen at seven o'clock in the morning? And you may not even know why God knows that tomorrow or later that same day, there's a something prophetic he wants to give you, but he's going to see, first of all, are you willing to have your ear open by him? So I pray that all of us, if not, that hasn't happened even this morning, that tomorrow morning onwards, as soon as you wake up or you go to bed tonight, say, Lord, I want to wake up with you awakening, opening my ear. And I want to hear something from you. And maybe nothing will happen that first day, but you do that the second day.

And then you do that the third day and we'll do that the fourth day. See a disciple is not proven in the first day. Disciple and discipline are related words.

If you want to develop a discipline, it's going to take at least 21 days. I think they say in the world, if you do something for 21 days, it'll become a habit. So you do that for 21 days, you wake up every morning, say, Lord, I want you to open my ear so that I will have a tongue of a disciple.

Maybe nothing will happen, or you don't know that anything's happening, but something's happening inside. God is training your ear and he's training your tongue. And little by little by little, suddenly you'll find your tongue is loosed.

And you say one sentence to somebody, it's prophetic. And you don't even have to know. You may walk away from that grocery checkout counter not knowing what happened, but that lady went home changed.

That man went home changed. That co-worker of yours that you had a two-minute conversation with went home changed. Why? Because three weeks earlier you said, Lord, open my ear.

Open and loosen my tongue. Oh that we will do that. A lot of people covet sitting up here and preaching or standing and preaching and wanting to share the word and all that.

I tell you, there's something that's far more important for the ministry of this church. And that is the tongue of a disciple that comes from the ear that's opened. May we all have that.

I've been thinking children, I want to continue to speak to you, but it's for all of us children, young and old, that it's so important that you receive, that you know the truth. So important that you experience the truth. It's wonderful that you're in a church where you hear the truth.

You can have fun memories together and all of that, but it's so important because the time will come when you will have the opportunity to choose for yourself. Right now, all of you children who are living at home, you come to this church, I would say mostly, I think you like it here and there are friends here, but I'll say mostly it's because your parents have chosen to come here. That's why you're here.

And you know the truth and the kind of things that we emphasize. The way you dress, sisters, modesty. I believe a lot of that has to do with how your daddy and mommy tell you you should dress.

Boys, what you choose to do, what kind of conversations you choose to have with your friends in school. A big part of that has to do with what your parents tell you, how you can talk and how you can't talk. What

you watch on the phone, when you see a picture, a billboard or an advertisement, or you see a girl walking by and you're sitting next to you in your classroom, whether you choose to look at her lustfully or not.

Boys, maybe to some extent there's a little bit of a conscience pricking in you that says, you know, I shouldn't do that. My dad and mom tell me to be careful with my eyes. In the church they teach about being careful with your eyes.

But the time will come, young boys and young girls, when you can do what you want with it. You can do what you want with your eyes, with your ears. You can listen to whatever music you want.

You can watch whatever movie you want. That time is coming. What will happen then? And our burden in this church, our burden as parents and our burden as elders, is that when that time comes, you will make the right choice.

I know you all look good now and with your memory verses, and I'm not saying that to slight it in any way. But as one who grew up in a church, where it might have looked a little bit different than our church meeting here, but it was the same essential foundation that I received growing up. The same things that we emphasize here was emphasized in the church that I grew up in.

But I know that that time came when I had to make that choice for myself. And I know plenty, many children in the church that I grew up in, who are not walking with the Lord today. Or are taken up with another form of Christianity, a worldly form of Christianity.

I'm not saying that if you leave this church and go to another church, it has nothing to do with RLCF, honestly. But it has to do with a radical commitment to the things that we emphasize, which are in God's Word, especially in the New Covenant. There are people who are children who have been in this church, and I see the quality of life that they're living now, not in a judgmental way, please understand, because that could be me, could be my children, I know that.

But I see children who have grown up in this church, have heard the truths that we've emphasized, and as they've grown up older, have chosen a different path. A path that looks like dressing just like the world, and talking just like the world, and being taken up with the things just like the world. And what that does is it brings a fear in my heart, because I see that the children in this church, all of you are under the age of 18.

You're 17 and younger. And I have a burden, and it's not just me, I want you to know, I believe I'm speaking for all of us parents. We have a burden that when you have the opportunity to choose for yourself, when you're old enough to set up your own little apartment, or have your own job, and you have freedoms that you can choose for yourself, what will you do? Is the life that we have exemplified, and the things that we have talked about, worth giving up everything else in the world for? Is it worth it? Let's turn to 1st John chapter 2. I love that John, at the age of 90, had this burden.

A 90-year-old man who had walked with Jesus for three and a half years, he was related to Jesus, he was Jesus' first cousin, and he walked with Jesus. So I assume that he played with Jesus when he was a kid. Imagine what it must have been like for John and James, the first cousins of Jesus.

Maybe they got to play with him, cousin vacation, with Jesus himself. And then something got a hold of James and John's life, along with the other disciples. They followed John the Baptist, and then they followed Jesus.

And it says that John, you know, was a very sensitive person, you can say. He had a soft heart. And on the last day that he's spending with Jesus, you see him leaning.

He's so in love with Jesus, in a pure way, in a genuine way, that he just leans his head on Jesus. It was late in the evening, they'd been walking a lot that day. He's tired, and he's so drawn to Jesus that he just leans his head on Jesus' shoulder, and Jesus lets him.

And then you read later on that he was beaten, because he stood up for Jesus in Acts chapter 3 and 4. And then later on, he's persecuted, and he's put on a prison, locked up in a prison on an island all by himself, for years, on the island of Patmos, and he gets a revelation of Jesus in the book of Revelation. But when he writes in 1 John, after 60 plus years of following Jesus, more than, imagine if you walked with Jesus for 60 years, you planted churches, you walked with him, what's your burden? Is it some sort of deep philosophical theological thing? No, he says, I want to write, talk to your children. He has a burden for the children in the church.

He has a burden for the young people in the church. He has a burden for the fathers in the church. You see that in 1 John 2, let's read.

Verse 12, I am right, now imagine if you could, I hope for a moment you can just picture John the apostle sitting here at the age of 90. You know, they say when John was old, or was that Timothy, I forget, but they used to, yeah, I think it was John. He was so old, he couldn't even walk, so they'd bring a chair, and they'd carry him in the chair to the meeting, and they'd sit the chair in front, and he would sit there and speak.

He was so old, he couldn't even walk, and he would speak from there. Imagine this frail, quiet voice, not like Peter, brash Peter, this is quiet voice, and they didn't have microphones back then, so you have to listen very carefully. So imagine there's a pin drop silence.

We've got to hear with this 90-year-old man. He actually saw Jesus, put his head on Jesus' shoulder. What do you think this man would have to say? And he looks at the children.

Well, first, let's read verse 18. Children, it is the last hour. First John 2, verse 18.

Children, it's the last hour. Jesus is coming soon. Let's go back and read verse 12, and he says, I'm writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for his name's sake.

I want to ask you, children, can John, if John the apostle was to sit here and by the prophetic utterance of God say, I'm looking to you, children, and I know your sins have been forgiven. You know, John says that, not to the adults, but to the children. Children, I'm writing to you because your sins have been forgiven.

Children, I want you to know, if there are any sins in your life today, it's the last hour. Don't wait. It's almost time for Jesus to come.

Almost time for Jesus to come. Your sins can be forgiven too. And John, the Holy Spirit can say, children, your sins are forgiven.

That's why I'm writing to you. Wonderful. He says it again in verse 13.

The end of verse 13. I've written to you, children, because you know the Father. Is that possible, children? You hear about knowing the Father.

It's not, yes, it's for us adults, but think, children, if you can start at this age, if godly John the apostle, at the age of 90, he's got discernment. He says later on, discern the spirits. So he's somebody who can discern.

He can look at a child and know what's really in the heart of that child. I believe John could know it. Imagine if a godly man like John the apostle was to come and look at one of you little boys, little girls, and say, I know your sins are forgiven.

I know you know the Father. Can't fool John. You may be able to fool a lot of the other immature, undiscerning people, even some of the undiscerning elders.

You may even be able to fool your parents if they're not discerning. But think if there was a discerning man and a real, genuine apostle of God who's in touch with the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit says, that little boy, his sins are forgiven. He knows the Father.

That little girl, her sins are forgiven. She knows the Father. What a testimony.

Think, children, if you can set this as you go. Lord, I want you to be able to say this of me. My sins are forgiven.

I know the Father. Then he says, I'm writing to you young people. In the middle of verse 13, I'm writing to you young people because you've overcome the evil one.

Think about it. If John the apostle was to sit here and say, young man, I know what you've been battling this last week, and I see you're overcoming. He saw it.

John wasn't there watching what your eyes were watching on your phone or the computer, but he knew through the witness of the Holy Spirit, young people, I know you. I see that you're battling. And even if you've fallen, dear young people, I want you to know that the voice, that what Jesus would say to you is just keep fighting.

Have you gotten up today? Then you've overcome. Okay, you fell last week. That's great, but did you get up? Are you standing today? You've overcome then because it's not how many times you fell or how many times you failed.

It's how many times you got up. Are you standing today? Then you've overcome the evil one by the power of Jesus. Young people, John is writing to you.

The Holy Spirit's writing to you through John. I'm writing to you, young people, because you've overcome the evil one. He says it again, verse 14.

I've written to you, young men, because you are strong, young people, and the Word of God abides in you, and you've overcome the evil one. Dear young people, I hope you'll take this to heart, that the Holy Spirit wants to be able to bear witness of you, that you are strong. The Word of God abides in you.

It means the Word of God has gone into your heart, into your spirit, and you've overcome the evil one. And lest we think us adults are off the hook, he says, I'm writing to you, parents or fathers, he says in verse 13, because you know him who has been from the beginning. Is that true, parents? Not, I know the doctrine.

I'm a member of RLCF. I know him who has been from the beginning. And this is the one that he repeats again in verse 14.

I'm writing to you, parents, fathers, because you know him who has been from the beginning. Take that to heart. Lord, I heard what you said to the children.

I heard what you said to the young people. Now, Lord, let it be so that I know you who have been from the beginning. And then he goes on to say, why is this so important? I'm writing to you.

You're overcoming, you know him who has been from the beginning, your sins are forgiven, all these things. Why? Because I want you to know you should not love the world, verse 15. If you love the world, the love of the Father is not in you.

Very simple test. And that's what I was saying earlier, that the time will come when this verse 1 John 2 verse 15 will be proven in your life or not. If the love of the world is in you, then you know that the love of the Father is not in you.

If you love the world. And that's what I see. Like I said, there's a lot of young people who grow up in godly churches, children who grow up hearing the truth.

And they love the world today. They want to be like the world. They want to dress like the world.

They want to talk like the world. They want to post on social media just like the world. They want to act like the world.

They're interested in the things of the world. And God forbid that any of you children sitting in this church, it was just a cover. You just didn't have the opportunity.

The love of the world was there in you all along. You love the world. And when you saw your friends at school doing this and being able to do that and talking like that and behaving like that and having girlfriends and having boyfriends and all this stuff.

And a careless attitude towards it and speaking disrespectfully to their parents and to adults and to their teachers. Deep down you wanted to do the same thing. Because you had you love the world.

And our prayer is that you will not love the world. Now while you're at home we will restrict certain things. We won't let you just have freedom on the phone to do whatever you want.

We won't let you just sit on a laptop in the room with a locked door and get on whatever website you want. We'll be careful whose house you go over to so that you're not misbehaving. We'll limit what you can do with your friends because we care about you.

But what are we after ultimately dear children? We want you to not have the love of the world. We want you to see in us first of all and parents let me speak to us first of all. If our children, if you were to ask if God was to come privately to our children.

You know you hear about child investigators privately to have conversations with the parents. What's dad really like? And they do that away from the parents if there's an abuse situation and things like that. Child protective services will often interview the children privately.

Now if the Holy Spirit was to come privately and ask child what's dad really like? Does he love the world? What's mom really like? Does she love the world? I mean you see them you child you see what your dad talks about and what he's excited about and well you know you see well how much he's on his phone or what he spends his time doing. Does he really love the world? It's convicting isn't it children, parents? If God was to ask my children what does Santos really love? Does he love the world? Okay the times of ignorance God overlooks but now he commands men everywhere to repent. Say Lord I want my children to be absolutely certain.

Not oh I heard dad talking about the love of the world. No he actually doesn't love the world. Because the other day he got a little bit of a bonus at work and he was like yeah okay it's a little bit more money but it's the world.

It's going to be taken away from me at some point it's passing away. I'm more interested in the things of heaven. I'm more excited about gathering together with the saints than with some other party that we got invited to where there's nice food and games or somebody gave me free tickets to watch the basketball game playoffs.

No I'm more interested in meeting with God's people. There's nothing wrong with doing things in the world that are exciting. 1st Timothy 6 makes it clear God has given us all things freely to enjoy.

Enjoy them by all means but what do you love? Now how do we free ourselves from the love of this world? You can say well Lord I don't want to love the world. I don't want to love the world. You could try and I can tell you now itself you will fail.

But how do we free ourselves from the love of the world? We're told in that verse that it's by having the love of the Father. The proof that I don't love the world is the proof that I have the love of the Father is that I don't love the world. So the lack of love for the world, not loving the world.

Children please listen I want to try to explain this in as simple a term as possible so that you understand it and then hopefully us adults will get it too. I know that I have the love of the Father in me, the love of God in me by the fact that I don't have the love of the world. But if you're busy trying to not love the world, oh I don't want to love the world, I don't want to love the world, that's going around it backwards.

You're trying to not love the world. But instead if the love of the Father was in you, if you had the love of the Father in you, what would happen as a result of that is you lose interest in the things of this world. Because the love of the Father is so filled your heart that there's no room for the love of this world.

I want to tell you that if there's even a little bit of the love of the world in you it's because that's a little bit of the lack of the love of God, the love of the Father in you. So then children you should ask me, well how do I have the love of the Father? I'm glad you asked. Romans chapter 5, Romans chapter 5. So children if you want to write down these verses you can.

We were in 1 John chapter 2 verse 15 and it says, if you read those later verses, what is the love of the world? The lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, the boastful pride of life. Essentially everything you see in the world can be summarized in those three things. Lust of the eyes, that is wanting things.

I want a nicer car, I want a nicer house, I want a better job, what I see I want. Lust of the flesh, that is especially sexual lust. Desire for pleasure and that can be true for girls as well.

That you want pleasure, you want that what will feel good. People drink alcohol for that reason, they take drugs for that reason, they're addicted to sexual habits for that reason. All of those things that's the lust of the flesh and the boastful pride of life is saying I am better than somebody else.

I want to show off that I'm a little bit better and you can bring that into the church even. I want to show that I memorize my verse better than everybody else or I'm good at this, I can do this better. I can always, you know what about what is the boastful pride of life? Always wanting to win.

Now I hope that you'll keep trying to win but if you don't win it's okay and if you find that when you lose in the game you're so discouraged and you're angry and you're upset and you're in a bad mood for the rest of the day you probably have the boastful pride of life and it's the world and you see that your friends act like that when they lose but you want to be different children especially boys it's probably in you and maybe some of us some of you girls as well. I want to tell you this is something that I struggled for many years and I still find it crops up. The boastful pride of life I must win and yes I'm sure you will all feel disappointed if you lose but that's why as most of the children will tell you most of our games end in a tie.

Nobody has the boastful pride of life because our games tend to end in a tie that's why I like ties so much but Romans 5 verse 5 it says that the how is it that the love of God is poured out within our hearts. Hope does not disappoint verse 5 because the love of God the love of the Father has been poured out within our pride. I like the King James I think it says shed abroad that means it's overflowing it's like a you know sometimes you see these hydrants that are broken somebody car runs into the fire hydrant and underneath that is a water under a lot of pressure and if that hydrant is broken this water is released you see it flying up into the air with such pressure.

Think about the love of God like that how through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. So where does it start children at a young age ask God to fill you with his Holy Spirit that's what it comes down to ultimately say Lord I want the baptism of the Holy Spirit I want it to be like a cup that's empty I want you to pour out your Holy Spirit within me that it's overflowing and there's such power of the Holy Spirit within me and it's not just me coming to the prayer meeting say Lord please fill me the Holy Spirit because that's what my dad mom told me to pray no Lord I want to ultimately I don't want to love the world I see that when I when my friends are doing these other things I want to do what they want to do as well I want to be like the world will you change my heart Lord children is that the cry of your heart Lord I don't want to be like that because I tell you the time will come when there won't be dad and mom around to tell you you can't hang out with those friends you can't go to that movie you can't um you know listen to this music or whatever the time will come when dad and mom won't be around and then what if you if you've cried out for the baptism of the Holy Spirit within you and God has filled you with his Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is shed abroad his love in your heart the love of the Father fills you so much that you don't have room for the love of this world anymore I want to tell you children I'm on this journey myself I don't want any even a little bit of the love of the world I see it coming it's a battle you'll have to fight all your life that even when you're 20 30 40 50 60 I mean you ask an 80 year old person 90 year old person the temptation to love the world is still there and how shall we be free from that how shall we resist that temptation it's not by gritting our teeth and saying oh I guess I shouldn't love the world let the love of the Father fill your heart through the Holy Spirit so cry out from a young age for the fullness of the Holy Spirit within you let's turn to Matthew chapter 5 there are two things that I've been thinking about recently and again children I want you to think about this as well because if you get it I think us adults will get it why is it that people are not filled with the Holy Spirit see ultimately we don't want to have the love of the world because the love of the Father is within us kind of working our way backwards right we don't want to love the world because the love of the Father ultimately

the love of the Father is the most important thing because guess what in heaven there's not going to be a world to love all we'll have is the love of the Father we'll have the love of the Father because we see him and we're in his presence that's ultimately the pinnacle the love of the Father in us but the manifestation of that while we're here on this earth is that we don't love the world because the love of the Father is within us and like I was saying that comes through the fullness of the Holy Spirit the baptism of the Holy Spirit remember I started this this message by saying what would you choose to see a dead man children what would you rather choose to see somebody dead brought back to life or to have a little bit more of the love of the Father in you I hope you'll choose that a little bit more of the love of the Father I heard a message you can say that inspired me or I heard I sang a song that that God spoke to me and said Lord I want more of your love fill my heart with your compassion Lord if you sang that song it said Lord I want that and the love of the Father in my heart okay so what comes then for the for the God to fill us with his Holy Spirit I see two things I want you to see in Matthew 5 verse 4 and verse 6 I believe you know that know these verses already but these are two things as I've seen a lack of the fullness of the Holy Spirit in my life and I've seen some even this week a lack of the fullness of the Holy Spirit in my life which results in a lack of complete love for the Father which results in a little bit of the love for the world that's how I see it and I see that immediately I don't say okay at least I'm not that bad no even 0.1 percent of the love of the world is a serious thing for me because it means that I don't love the Father that means that the fullness of the Holy Spirit was not there why was it not there and the Lord showed me two things as I've been meditating on it and that is first of all there's a lack of mourning there's a lot of talk about rejoicing in Christendom and oh yes there's there's rejoicing in the presence of the Lord there's fullness of joy but long before the rejoicing comes a mourning when you see a little bit of the love of the world dear family dear children is there a grieving within you say Lord I'm not like you I'm not Christlike I see in my attitude towards my wife I see my attitude towards my children I see my attitude towards the world or something I'm not like you and there's a mourning is there a mourning adults in your life is is your life characterized by a secret mourning over unchristlikeness in your life if there isn't I want to tell you you will never be filled with the Holy Spirit you won't be filled with the love of God and you will have the love of this world in you your children might overtake you our children might overtake us because they take it seriously but is there a mourning is it Matthew 5 verse 4 blessed are those who mourn for they shall be filled with strength that's what the word comforted means they will you know what to me the the key to that word comforted is the word fort is there's a fort in your life is there a fort around your heart around your mind around your eyes around your ears around your tongue is there a fort around it so that your tongue can't just slip out and do say some word like that why there's a fort protecting it your eyes just can't look at that in lust why there's a fort protecting it your ears can't listen to that gossip easily why there's a fort protecting it how do you get that fort through mourning you mourn over it when you fall in the sin is there a mourning in your life say Lord I I hate this please I don't want to be like that I don't want to use my tongue like that or even a thought when a little thought a bitter thought an angry thought or a resentful thought or an unforgiving thought towards somebody is there a fort around your mind those who mourn shall have this fort around them verse 6 blessed are those who hunger and thirst these are the two things the Lord's been reminding me and showing me why there's a lack of the fullness of the Holy Spirit in areas in my life because I don't mourn enough over my my sin and my on Christ likeness and I don't hunger and thirst enough for it because I'm I ate a meal I had my coffee I slept well life's pretty good therefore there's no hungering and thirsting and I tell you my dear brothers and sisters I believe that the greatest danger we faced in a first world country like the United States is that there's a lack of a hunger and thirst for righteousness because we're not in need I tell you the poor people in the third world countries their lack of physical things the necessities will cause them to be hungry and thirsty for God they'll grope for him say Lord I can't see or I don't have food I'm

gonna grope for you and they'll come in touch with God remember that verse in Acts 17 says you'll grope for God who are the ones who grope for God the ones who are not who are hungry and thirsty they don't have things on this earth that can satisfy them that's where they're groping where are you Lord perhaps what it will take then is fasting fasting for a day or fasting for a meal deny yourself the foods there but will you take some time to deny yourself that food because you you say Lord I see a love of the world in me that means there's a lack of the love of you in my heart that means I'm not filled with the Holy Spirit and that means that I'm not hungry and thirsting for you for righteousness so Lord I want a hunger and thirst and you'll say it's okay skip a meal skip three meals children before you do that check with your parents you may need to eat maybe for you the hungry and thirsting comes from eating what you should eat eat your vegetables that's that's fasting for us children but seriously though you each of us must stand and answer to God ultimately and rather than simply looking at that and saying oh I love the world I don't have the love of the Father instead of that say Lord there's a lack of a hungering and thirsting in my life so yeah before I move on before I close I wanted to share something also for the children it should only take about 10 minutes or so I was in London recently and I spoke again primarily to the children hoping that in that in speaking to the children even the adults would understand and I spoke about letting God get the most out of your life letting God get the most out of your life children I think you have the opportunity to start at a young age to let God get the most out of your life for us adults it's it's a different thing because we're adults 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s even but you can still get let God get the most out of your life at whatever age you are but think children if you can start now you're eight years old six years old if you're old enough to understand what I'm saying and you're paying attention you're six years old let's say say Lord I want you to get the most out of my life I want to give it to you today I remember hearing the testimony of a young of an older lady who served God as a missionary for many years I heard her testimony myself live in Bangalore years ago and she said she I believe she was five years old five or six years old maybe even younger when she was sitting in a meeting and she heard somebody say something about giving yourself to the Lord fully and she said okay I'm gonna give myself to the Lord fully by the time I met her I think she was in her 80s and she'd given her life to the Lord at the age of five or six and God had used her she didn't you know I don't think there's any biography written about her but we're gonna hear about it in heaven and she was such a godly woman saintly woman you sat and talked to her the joy of Christ was on her face in her speech there was graciousness in her speech and you know all of us have different personalities but all I'm trying to say children is that you too and the greatest example of that is Jesus at the age of three months six months nine months and yes he was like you and he had to also learn but from the earliest age he gave the most to his father and he says now follow me Jesus says follow me so you children at a young age can say Lord I want you to get the maximum out of my life I tell you what a RLCF will be a hundred thousand ten thousand times better if you children can all of you decide at young age at your age whatever age you are Lord I want you to get the maximum out of my life I don't want even to take one minute for myself again and adults if we can take that to heart what a difference this next the rest of this year will be if today we decide Lord I want to give you the maximum out of 2023 maximum no more just sitting on the pity pot bad moods angry fighting with the in the home arguing complaining no more of that Lord I want you to get the maximum out of my life that'll be greater than a hundred dead people raised to life so what I told them was I used a pencil as an example I thought I would just share that with you children so you can remember how are you gonna let God get the most out of your life I use a pencil as an example some characteristics form of pencil so children I want you to pay a special attention as I'm speaking primarily to you a pencil is helpless without a hand holding it see if I drop this pencil it just drops it doesn't have any strength on its own even a plant you can say or an ant or a spider or a little bug has some ability on its own to do something but a pencil has zero ability to do

anything on its own a pencil is helpless without the hand holding it and remember that children unless God is the one who's filled you like I talked about unless your hand is placed completely in the hand of God your life is useless it doesn't matter what you can do doesn't matter if you finished first in class you can dunk the basketball you can score a goal from the halfway line none of that matters if God is not the one holding you you're good for nothing there's a wonderful hymn I sing I love to sing Jesus lover of my soul we sing it maybe we can sing it later there's a few lines in there that's go like this other refuge have I none think about a pencil saying to the hand I don't have any refuge except you hand the only place I want to be is in you hand pencil doesn't want to be over here doesn't want to be in the showcase doesn't want to be in front of anybody else it just says hand I want to be in you that's it other refuge have I none hangs my helpless soul on thee all my trust on thee is stayed all my help from thee I bring cover my defenseless head with the shadow of thy wing thou O Christ art all I want more than all in thee I find you know I thought about it like this the pencil's goal is where's my hand where's the hand that's supposed to be holding me you know this pencil sitting there doesn't think oh look at me I'm so beautiful and I could write so many wonderful things the one thing that occupies and preoccupies the mind of this pencil is where is my hand the hand that is supposed to be holding me and think family think children if throughout our day it says Lord I where are you in this situation you're the hand that's wanting to hold me I just found out this news or my child just fell and got hurt or my child is sick or I don't know what's gonna happen with my children's future and and all this where are you hand a pencil is useless unless it's without the hand holding it the second thing I seen a pencil is that a pencil is useful only if it's been sharpened you get this pencil has a very sharp point that's why if I was to write with it you could see very clearly have you ever tried to write with a blunt pencil you can't hardly make out what does it say it's blunt and the reason so many people are use are not useful to God they're not clear messengers of Jesus Christ is because they haven't allowed God to sharpen them and children God will use your times when you're at home especially when you have to obey daddy and mommy and it it's the last thing you want to do it takes everything within you to obey them what's God trying to do he's trying to sharpen you when you want to do something else or if your parents ask you to do something or not do something and you ask them well why dad and mom and dad and mom say well because I love you and that's it you don't have to understand why God's trying to sharpen you all of us adults can testify it's that during those times when we're perplexed we don't hear we don't know why God is doing things a certain way in our life and we're not sure he's allowing something to happen and I if it were up to me I would I would have a much different better plan God is sharpening you God is sharpening you because he wants to write a clear letter in your with you there's a poem I'll read it's it's it's a beautiful poem but listen to it even if you don't understand it see if you can understand the words when God wants to drill a man and thrill a man and skill a man when God wants to mold a man to play the noblest part when he yearns with all his heart to create so great and bold a man that all the world should be amazed watch God's methods watch his ways how he ruthlessly perfects whom he royally elects think about this pencil going into our sharpener have you ever thought about what would we be like if somebody put your head into a pencil sharpener and the blades are spinning you around that's what you do to a pencil without thinking about it you just stick it in there and it comes out sharp it's not pleasant for the pencil it's very unpleasant and think about the circumstances God is taking you through frustrations disappointments things that you wish would be different you hoped it will work out this way it worked out differently God is sharpening parents when you see God doing that in your children maybe they didn't come first they failed in something or they wanted something else they didn't happen what's God doing in their lives he's sharpening them the little success or failure here is not as important as God's purpose how he ruthlessly perfects whom he royally elects how he hammers him and hurts him and with mighty blows converts him into trial shapes of clay which only God understands while his tortured heart is crying and he

lifts beseeching hands listen to that carefully this you're like a pencil and you feel like your heart is tortured while his tortured heart is crying and he lifts beseeching hands you would think finally God would have mercy have you ever prayed said Lord why why me will you make it stop I have I look back now and I'm glad God didn't make it stop because I was still blunt I remember times I think I've shared this at times I felt like I was a rag doll in God's hand and he was just beating my head onto the ground just non-stop I felt like that it wasn't true but God was sharpening God doesn't want to just use you in this dispose of you he has a purpose and if you feel like that if you feel like your tortured heart is crying and you're lifting up beseeching hands saying Lord why he's sharpening you there's a purpose that is coming how he bends but never breaks see God knows exactly how far he can bend you and sharpen you he knows when's the right time how he bends but never breaks when his good he undertakes how he uses whom he chooses and with every purpose fuses him by every act induces him to try his splendor out God knows what he's about God knows what he's about says in Isaiah 53 verse 10 it pleased the Lord to crush him you know that verse Isaiah 53 let's look at it very quickly Isaiah 53 verse 10 and speaking about Jesus now if you think well Lord I'm the first one that's suffering like this no you're not first Corinthians 13 verse 10 verse 13 says that no temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man and God is faithful and will not allow you to be tempted more than you're able to bear but with the temptation will provide the way of escape so people have gone through this and most importantly Jesus has gone through that he went through much more sharpening than you have ever gone through and here it says in verse 10 of Isaiah 53 if the Lord that is the father was pleased to crush Jesus putting him to grief you meditate on that phrase sometime putting him to grief if he would render himself as a guilt offering and then he will see his offspring he will prolong his days and the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in his hand do you want the good pleasure of the Lord to prosper in your hand but meditate write that phrase down or look at it sometime Lord I want your good pleasure to prosper in my hand in your hand sorry I want your good pleasure to prosper in your hand you do it God will do it another thing about a pencil is every pencil has what on the end of it some child tell me an eraser every pencil has an eraser and the end of it to set right the things that have you've done wrong I know you've all already done a lot of wrong things children but God's given you an eraser and that is the blood of Jesus Christ and a conscience to set right the things that you've done wrong there are things you've done wrong maybe you fought with your sibling you told a lie set it right today God's given it to you you can set it right to erase that once it's erased it's gone completely it's erased it's not covered over it's erased God's given you a razor keep a clear conscience you can have that today children if there's something you've done wrong and you and God reminds you of it right now or sometime later set it right go go to your sibling go to your parents set it right whoever it is that you've harmed another thing about the pencil is it's what's inside the pencil that matters it doesn't matter if the outside looks ugly scarred broken whatever it's inside the graphite inside it that matters so don't worry about what gifts or talents you have what you look like you look in the mirror don't look at the face because that's what the world will tell you to look at it's okay make sure you're presentable but don't be vain about whether you think you're good-looking don't be don't complain about whether you think you're not good-looking enough it's what's inside that's the only thing that will matter at the end we will all have a resurrected body we'll all look like Jesus those who are conformed in his image and it's what's inside that matters that's the most important thing the next time you stand in front of the mirror children say Lord Jesus I'm looking at my mirror and I can see what my face looks like but will you show me what's inside and you know how you'll do that it says that the Word of God is like a mirror if you read the Bible what will happen little by little is God will show you what the inside of your life looks like and that's much more important than what the outside of your life looks like lastly what happens when you write with a pencil does it get longer or shorter yes the more God uses you the smaller you'll become how do you know that God is using you are you

better bigger more well-known more famous more important then you're a different you're not God's not using you but you know that God is using you is that the more he uses you you get less and less and less you're more humble you're more broken you think less of yourself because God's writing and the more he writes and think what delight you know if you say God you can write with me but make sure I get bigger he says no I can't use you then but are you willing to you let me use you and I write and write and it gets shorter and then he puts you in the in the sharpener you get even shorter and then you write some more gets shorter put you in the sharpener gets even shorter and what happens at the end of my life I'll tell you I've set it as a goal the end of my life it'll be nothing left God will have used every little bit of the graphite that is in me the world is trying to die old God I want to die empty I want to die with nothing left I say Lord I give my life to you remember that poem that CT stud wrote only one life it'll soon be passed only what Christ does through me will last and when my life at last line says when I see you at the end of my life how happy I'd be if the lamp of my life had has been burned out for thee what a goal to set for our children children you can start now you can say Lord here's my pencil it's still pretty big because I've got a whole life ahead of me I want it to be so that the end of my life it's all written completely written completely burned out for you amen

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