

4 Ways God Corrects Us

by Shane Idleman

God corrects us through humility, pain, and circumstances to teach us, discipline us, and help us become more like Christ.

Duration: 43:48

Scripture: Proverbs 3:9

Topics: "Spiritual Growth", "God's Correction"

Description

Shane Idleman emphasizes that God corrects us out of love, much like a parent disciplines a child. He outlines four ways God directs us: through humility, pain, highlighting our weaknesses, and hindering our progress. Idleman encourages believers to embrace God's correction, as it leads to spiritual growth and maturity. He stresses the importance of honoring God with our possessions and being open to His guidance, even when it challenges our comfort. Ultimately, the sermon calls for a return to wisdom and prayer in our lives, reminding us that true happiness comes from making wise decisions aligned with God's will.

Transcript

The title of the message this morning is Four Ways God Corrects Us. Did you know that God corrects us? Just like a loving father and a loving mother, God will correct us and get us back on the right path. I'm in Proverbs.

Proverbs 3, chapter 3, verse 9. Honor the Lord with your possessions and with the first fruits of all your increase, so your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine. The key there is honor the Lord with your possessions. Honor means to respect.

Respect what the Lord has done for you and for me by giving back. That's how we honor the Lord with our possessions. We realize that, you know what, everything I own is not mine.

It's hard to get our hands around that, isn't it? Even the breath that we breathe. God has everything. Everything is his.

We don't take anything with us. So we're to honor the Lord with our possessions. Now what does that look like? Well, I could spend the whole sermon here, but we all know individually, if God's dealing with this in a particular area.

I remember when Rick shared on a Wednesday night, he talked about, God talked about, was told to him, spoke to him through just a deep sense of conviction maybe to get rid of some of the cars in the garage, you know, because it's collecting and collecting and collecting and it really had no value in spiritual things and others, you know, their house is theirs, is God's. So maybe opening up their home for studies, vehicles, maybe allowing somebody, have you ever given somebody a car? It's a very encouraging thing. I think the church we've given about a half dozen away or so and got people cars who need a transportation.

It's just a wonderful thing realizing that God, God owns everything we have. So what this is talking about is honor, respect the Lord through our possessions. And how, what's the best way to do that in many cases? You allow people to have certain things, you can give them monetarily, or you can say, you know what, Lord, this is yours, how do you want me to use it? How do you want me to use it to further your kingdom? So we honor God with that.

And also I believe he's talking about here, lack can be the result of being stingy. When we lack things, it can be the result of being stingy. But most people say, especially in America, but I'm doing okay financially.

Yes, but are you honoring the Lord with your possessions and receiving the benefit of obedience in that area? Well, how do I know? Two words, ask him. In prayer, ask him, Lord, am I being obedient in this area? Am I honoring you with my possessions? Do I have too much? Because remember, the more you own, the more owns you. Things are a wonderful, wonderful servant, but a terrible master.

So once they begin to control us, once they begin to take away the joy of just, you know what, Lord, freely you've given me, freely I've received from you, and freely I want to give to you. And ask the Lord, he'll convict you, it'll be hard, right, it'll be challenging. That's where the rubber meets the road when it happens, right? I asked a few people if I should tell you this story before I tell you it, because I never want to, and people sometimes take the wrong impression, or get the wrong impression from when I share my personal stories.

On one hand, I get text people, thank you for being so transparent. You know, your struggles, that you're not, you know, super pastor, that they have no struggles, and being transparent. But on the other hand, you want to be careful, because you don't want to, you know, try to elevate yourself.

But I went through a difficult thing. It was Friday, many of you knew I just flew back from Washington, above Seattle, and there's a lot of believers up there, praise God, because we think, oh, it's Seattle, like Hollywood, right? But there's a lot of believers, I don't know how many pastors and Christian leaders I had the privilege of speaking to. It looked like 600, 700, maybe or so up there.

It was like a pregnancy resource meeting for their whole organization, for all their county. And they had me fly up and be the keynote speaker to that. And when they first asked, they said, well, how much do you charge? I said, oh, don't worry about that.

I'll be glad to be there if my schedule allows. If there's anything in the budget, that's up to you. If not, you know, I'm coming either way.

So many years ago, I decided not to put a fee on anything. So there are places where you go, and Lord rewards you. There's other places where they might have a budget.

And so I just leave it up to God. I never come with that, because then you're coming. God forbid, I would pay people to preach there sometimes.

You guys think I'm joking, but I would give Joel Steen thousands of dollars if he'd let me have that pulpit for 30 minutes. I would love that opportunity. So God dealt with me on this many years ago.

I don't even, if there's a blessing, that's great. But long story short, I was touring their clinic, and it's in a harder part of town. So there's moms coming in, single moms.

They get diapers. They get kids' clothing, like what we have here in Care Net. And I was just so convicted.

Like, even if she tries to give me a check, I'm just going to give it back. You know, I can't, you know, I don't feel good taking, you know, I don't know, \$500 or something. I don't know what.

I didn't plan on anything. So the evening was just about closing. She gave me the envelope, and God said, remember, you know, give it back.

You know, I'm like, yeah, absolutely. So I opened it, and I want to put the check back in there. And it was \$4,000.

Like, I was just, I couldn't, like, this is, there's no way. There's no, and I actually told them, you don't need to pay somebody this much money in the future when you have, and just being serious with them. That's, if somebody's coming for that, you don't want them there.

So anyway, I put the check back in there, and they were just blessed. And I said, put it where the need is the most. I'm sharing that to tell you it hurt a little bit initially.

I'm like, \$4,000. I texted my wife, you're not going to believe this. I just, I just gave them back \$4,000, because we're on a, we're on a mission to try to pay our house off way early.

And where the finance, where financial things, the culture is going, you can tell, you know, we want to pay our house off at some point. So any extra, we try to do that. So she said, well, if God told you to do it, I'm glad you did it.

You know, he'll, he'll, he'll reward in other ways and things. So I'm just telling you it hurts a little bit. You know, it wasn't not a big deal when it was \$500.

You know, even that was like, oh, but then I opened it. I just could not believe it. So just told them to use that, put it back to their, their, their, their, their organization.

And again, the reason I shared it is there's a struggle between what the Spirit of God tells you to do and what the flesh wants you to do. It was telling me, it's like, well, you don't have to really commit to that. You know, it's, you know, I mean, that, that will pay off a lot of, you know, months in advance on mortgage and, but like, well, okay, God told me to do it.

And I just, I just didn't feel right taking that from this organization that, you know, they, their, their whole idea is to help those less fortunate. It just didn't make any sense. So that was a challenge this weekend.

But again, if God puts something on your heart, and the reason I didn't get on the last specifics is God will deal with people differently. Maybe some things aren't possessions they need to give up. Maybe they

need to start honoring God with their time.

Maybe they need to start honoring the Lord with, with instead of watching TV all day or Facebook or YouTube, okay, do something for me. So we honor the Lord with our possessions. And then verse 11, my son, my son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord.

Here we get to the sermon topic. So he's saying, my son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest his correction. Those words basically mean discipline.

It has linked to it, a spanking paddle. And it's okay to, you know, discipline when it's needed. I remember I went to a school right there in Lancaster, Bethel Baptist.

And they had me, and they get out that big paddle, and you can hear it pop, pop, pop three times. I must, I think it happened three or four times. And it was for chewing gum or talking or making noise.

Those are the top problems in the schools back then. But that would change us, and that would discipline us. Don't we see that today? You look at, you look at a 22 year old fresh out of the Marines, compared to a 22 year old out there protesting and acting like children.

What's the difference? Chastening, discipline, because at a young age, God has given us the wonderful ability to help shape our children, and guide them and discipline, and keep that spirit in check. You don't want to wound their spirit. You want to chisel away at that will, that self-determination.

And that's what discipline does. It begins to bring us back into the image of Christ in us. When we despise, here's why this is so important.

When we despise it, when we despise it, we fight against it. And when we detest it, we become bitter. In other words, if I'm despising God's correction, I'm going to fight against it.

I'm going to resist God's discipline in my life. And if I begin to detest it, then I will become negative, bitter. You know how many people are mad at God right now because of his discipline? And instead of bending their knee to God's will, they put up fists? So he's saying, listen, the Lord's discipline is to correct you because he loves you.

So the context, though, can include chastening, discipline as a result of being stingy. God can discipline us when we're being stingy and not giving. Correction and discipline are essential to spiritual growth.

That's what I said earlier. Actually, if God didn't discipline us or correct us, we would be very immature spiritually. We would be whining, crying, get our way, Christians.

Just like a three-year-old who's not disciplined. Have you seen that before? It's like, what little Johnny wants is what little Johnny gets. And that little Johnny's not going to do very well as he gets older.

Because you discipline. That's why, like I mentioned, the military, that's why it's so important. Discipline is.

It's the number one thing. They're disciplining you. They're breaking you of your old self.

They're breaking you of the laziness and apathy and discipline. So God will do that. But let me just give a quick note to parents.

Overbearing discipline will break their spirit. Don't punish in anger but love. But passive parenting produces exactly what we see in the news today.

And finding that middle ground will be a struggle for young parents. I encourage you. Let me just encourage you.

It's hard to find that exact perfect balancing in this area. Because sometimes we'll go to this end. Too extreme.

Or I'm just letting them get away with whatever. And we have to discipline and love just like God does. And we often don't see the results immediately in this area.

That's why you can have two, let's say two seven year olds that pretty much act the same. You won't really see the fruit sometimes until they get a little older. 11, 12, 13 when the freedoms come out and the mouths come out.

And the self will and things. You do see it in seven year olds. Don't get me wrong.

But my point was, I know, don't worry there's none that go here. But I know families who have just their kids are like perfect. But they're not good parents.

They're not in church much. They're not, I don't know how this happened. But as you watch that kid get older and that discipline is lacking, then that's when they'll start to act up and lash out.

Then verse 12, for whom the Lord loves, he corrects. So if the Lord's correcting you, it means he loves you. Is that interesting? But we see the same thing in our children.

Or if your grandchildren, you're helping with that with them. If they go out into the street and you pull them back. No, no, no.

You're correcting them. Why? Because you love them. And often when people don't say anything, they don't try to help you.

It's not that they don't love you. They don't care for you and do whatever you want. You'll see that often in kids.

Many people don't raise other people's kids like they do their kids. In other words, if they're over at your house, I'll do whatever you want. But my kids have to act this way.

Why? Because there's a deeper love often. So parents will discipline their children. God will discipline us just as a father, the son in whom he delights.

So here's the four ways. This is what you've been waiting for, I think. Four ways that God will direct you.

So if God's speaking to you this morning, take heed and listen to the lyrics of that song. Spirit lead. When you say go, I'll go.

When you say stop, I'll stop. I'm gonna follow your lead and not follow feelings. So the first way is he humbles us.

There's nothing like being humiliated, is there? There's nothing that will change you like being humiliated. Being caught, maybe, red-handed, or being exposed, or being humbled. If pride knocks us off course, humility gets us back on course right away.

When we're doing good financially, relationally, and socially, we often don't listen. I'm doing good. God must be blessing me.

You know how many people say that? They're not living according to God's will, but look at how I'm being blessed, God. Well, the devil can bless you with money too. The most of the musicians, secular musicians, movie stars, the enemy can open financial doors as well.

James 4.6, God is opposed to the proud, but he gives what? Grace to the humble. Psalm 25.9, he leads the humble in justice and he teaches the humble his ways. So that's interesting.

God's saying, if you're humble, I'll teach you. If you're humble, I'll teach you. Are you teachable? Are you humble? I'm gonna teach that person.

So pride, proud people actually are resisting against the will of God. That pride acts as a barrier. First Peter, humble yourself, therefore under God's mighty hand that he may lift you up in due time.

So here's the application. If you are being humbled, don't fight it. Don't fight it.

If God is humbling you, exposing something maybe, or bringing something to light, or maybe taking that job from you, taking that and humbling you, the last thing you want to do is fight it. What does that look like? Well, it looks like Mr. Defense Attorney within comes to the pulpit or comes to the plate. Or what I mean by that is excuses.

You can know that somebody's not allowing God to work in their life when they have excuses of why they're not changing. Excuses on why God is doing something. Excuses on why this is happening.

They won't take responsibility. They'll take partial responsibility. So God humbles them to teach them and instead of growing and learning, they fight.

They resist his area of discipline. Now this happens a lot in marriage. You'll see that maybe a spouse will temporarily leave.

I can't handle this anymore. And the person should be humbled, but instead, boxing gloves. Well, you, you, you.

And God's saying, no, you, you, you. Look in the mirror. Humble yourself.

And God won't give up. God loves us so much that he will not give up. We think God's sometimes like people.

We just, well, if I resist it long enough, eventually he'll give in. No, he never gives in. So if God is using humility to humble you, don't fight it.

The best way not to fight it is just to admit it and say, okay, Lord, thank you. I'm being humbled. I know I was wrong.

And then what happens is when you grow in, the Bible talks about growing into the image of Christ or being conformed actually into the image of Christ. It's like clay. If I had a big lump of clay here and you start to mold it into an image.

So humility is part of that process. I humble myself. That means I become like clay in the hand of a potter.

Ah, now I can work with this humility. It's soft clay. Have you ever tried to work with hard clay? You can't.

It's not moldable. You can't conform it into anything because it's already conformed into its own image. And this is just, I guess, maybe a point that I really like to get across because so many people think they're humble and they're not.

Isn't that the irony? They think they're humble and they're not. And then another way that God corrects us, please take this the right way, he hurts us. He hurts us.

Pain can be a wonderful motivator and it usually follows humility. What I mean by that is, have you ever had a kid touch the hot pan? Ow, the hot stove. They're not going to do that again.

So he'll often use pain. And often the deeper the pain, the better, the deeper the relationship with God. What I mean by pain, I'm not talking about necessarily physical pain, but emotional where you feel the damage that you're doing.

It hurts. And sometimes it hurts our pocketbook. Most people change when their pocketbook is hurt.

He'll begin to hurt in those areas. But again, the deeper the pain, often the deeper the relationship, the deeper the anointing. For example, the song we sing, it's a new song, Spirit Lead Me.

I'd rather hear that sung by a 40-year-old who's been humbled than a 25-year-old who's never been humbled by the Lord. A 25-year-old, I got to listen to my voice, I'm great, I can do this song. Oh, I want to hear the 40-year-old who can weep as he's singing that song.

He's been broken, he's been hurt. And then through that anointing, then the truths you're singing become real to you. When all hope is gone and your word is all I've got, I still believe you're the God who brings water from the rock.

I want to hear the person sing it who's lived it. See, through that pain, often, often the best sermons, the best worship comes from broken people who have been humbled by the God and hurt deeply, in a good way. Meaning hurt deeply, meaning their pride has been hurt deeply.

That's where great, some of you guys, you tell me these books you like to read of certain people, and these good books, these goods, they come from often brokenness. And you can tell sometimes that God will, you can say, well that person's gifted, but they're not anointed. Meaning, yeah, they can sing, they can write, they can preach, but they're missing, they're missing that brokenness, they're missing that humility, they've been hurt deeply.

Their pride has been hurt deeply. So again, the Lord disciplines the one he loves and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son. One way he does hurt us is through circumstances.

Anybody been hurt through circumstances? You get an email you shouldn't have or a text you shouldn't have, or you accidentally come across information that hurts you deeply, or others hurt you, and it's part of

this process. But also, fortunately in the church, sermons can hurt us, in a good way. I sometimes tell people when they ask me what I do, I say I'm a heart surgeon.

Spiritually. Sermons can hurt us. I'll just share something I spoke on Friday night, you could have heard a pin drop.

And I tried to, one of the points, I talked to the people there, I tried to erase it throughout the week and make it something different, but God kept bringing it back. Oh goodness, Lord there's pastors here. Okay.

One of the points was, I reminded them that the silent pulpit is not God's pulpit. I said your silence is deafening. God told Timothy to convince, to rebuke, to exhort.

The pulpit can't be silent on difficult truths. And it convicted people. And it hurt, and I'm glad it did.

Because it needs to hurt us deeply to wake us up. He told, God told Jeremiah, you go and you speak to who I tell you to speak, and you say what I put in your mouth. That's amazing.

But many times we don't want to say what God tells us to say. And I went on to explain that there are two main reasons for this. The pastors are either seeking the approval of men over the approval of God, or they're not mightily filled with the Spirit of God.

And I got some looks. But I explained to them, I'll explain to you, this is interesting. I've noticed I have a problem.

It's a good problem. This might make some sense to some of you who are struggling with certain things. My problem is, and again good problem, the closer I draw to Christ, the more I read His word, the more I'm worshiping sections of my day, the closer I draw to Christ, the bolder I become.

Because people say, oh, you're just, you know, I have a reputation of hard-nosed, legalistic preacher, because of the hard things. They don't realize that the boldness comes from the time with God. When I'm filling my mind with the things of the world, like when you are, you don't become bold for God.

God's voice becomes quiet. Oh, you can just do whatever you want. I'm not going to say anything.

The closer a person draws to Christ, the bolder they will become, the more loving they will become. Yes, of course. And then another way God directs us is He highlights.

He highlights our weaknesses through the word, through relationships, and through circumstances. He highlights our weaknesses, so we change. Have you ever heard of constructive criticism? How many like constructive criticism? I'm just curious.

One, two, okay, three, okay, well, that's not too bad. That's not too bad. But most of us don't, right? Constructive means it's good from someone who loves you.

And God will highlight certain areas in our life that are not good that He wants us to change. That's how He directs us. I'm going to highlight, I'm going to show you certain areas you need to change.

And we don't like the highlighting process. It's like putting out a big floodlight, big flashlight in our eyes. But the Bible tells us to ask God, examine me.

Examine me, oh God. Is there any wicked way in me? God, examine me. Highlight those weaknesses.

Show me those areas I need to work on. So as God is humbling us, we feel the pain, and then He's highlighting areas that need to change. That's part of the directing process.

He loves us so much to tell us the truth. But here's where conviction and condemnation come into play. I think I talked about this last week.

Condemnation is what the enemy uses against you. And he'll use it like beating you up. Look at you trying to be a Christian.

Look at how you messed up. You don't deserve this. Look at this.

And just condemning and condemning and condemning. But convicting is the work of the Spirit saying, I love you enough to tell you the truth. You need to change that.

I'm convicting you. I need to change this. And you feel good about it.

God, you're right. Isn't it beautiful when you're open for feedback? When you're open for constructive criticism? It feels good once you, oh God, thank you for that. Thank you.

I do need to work on that. There's nothing more powerful than a Christian walking in brokenness and humility. That joy comes from admitting these things.

That joy and peace that God promises. But when you're fighting against these things, it's a rebel. It's rebellion.

We're fighting against God and I don't want to be corrected. And then he also hinders us. He hinders.

Aren't you glad God doesn't just let us get our way? Boy, if my kids got their way, we'd have donuts in the morning for breakfast, Captain Crunch for lunch, and pizza for dinner. And then go get ice cream. And then start, does that sound good? Maybe some of you do that, I don't know.

Well now this is not going to work. I need a new sermon illustration. But because parents love, they hinder progress.

You're going to hurt yourself. This isn't good. It isn't godly.

So God will hinder us from progressing in certain areas. And I've often told this to young adults before too. Let's say they're dating somebody and God closes that door.

He hinders that. Don't try to fight it. Because even when God closes a door, I've noticed you can prop that thing open.

You get a big cheater bar, you get in that door and you go, I'm propping this thing open, I'm propping this thing open. And you can push and push and get that door open. People don't realize that.

Well, God closed the door, but now it's open again. It must be God. No, if you're pushing and pushing and pushing, God might say, alright, you want it, you got it.

So he will hinder. If God breaks up a relationship, praise him. Thank him.

But the day you say I do, then it changes. You're always putting that relationship on the altar until you say I do. Now you've made a commitment, a covenant, now it's a whole new ballgame.

But often God will hinder us. He will stop us dead in our tracks. Why? Those he loves, he chastens.

He rebukes, he disciplines. One way he will hinder us or when we feel hindered, have you ever felt hindered? That word means I'm going in a certain direction, right? But I'm, I can't, I'm hindered. There's something stopping me.

Do you ever, is there tremendous joy when that happens? Often it's the opposite. So one good way to see if God's in something, are you hindering this? There's a loss of joy when we're going in the wrong direction. There's a loss of purpose and joy.

So many Christians are just going through life. You know, what's that series people like, the walking dead? I don't know why they like it, but anyway, it's, but it's like many Christians are like that. They're just no joy, no purpose.

They're just going through life, the walking spiritually dead because they're fighting against God's direction. And what, when he hinders, if you're pushing that door open, you won't find the joy when that door is open. You won't have to find the peace and the purpose.

We have to submit to God hindering us. The failed business venture. Anybody have any of those? The relationship that is not working.

You're a blocked at every turn. It could be that God is hindering. It's interesting too, when God grows a church.

There's a book written about that, I think. But it's interesting. I've seen it.

When God grows a church, he often does it one step at a time. You know, you've got this in place, hang out, bring in some more people. Now you've got this in place, it's a process.

It's a process. I remember when we started, we didn't have any elders. We didn't have anybody on staff.

And then God began to bring people. And there's a process, same thing with our lives. There's a process and God will begin to open doors that he shut if we begin to not be hindered by our own ways and turn to his way.

But how do you know something is worth fighting through or if God is using it to redirect you? What I mean by that is, as believers, following Christ, you will have hindrances. Amen? Life is not just a bed of roses. It's not smooth.

So there's hindrances. But how do you know what hindrance is something that God is initiating or just a hindrance because of your following God? It might be the work of the enemy. It might be the work of the flesh.

The question to ask is, where is your heart? Where is your heart? If a person is coming before God, they're praying, they're removing these things I talked about, they're fully repentant, they want to be used by God, they're praying, they're worshiping, then you can almost rest assured that the hindrance is some other type of hindrance. Okay, Lord. In other words, if there's a hindrance to this church, planting this

church and growing this church, am I going to say, well, God, you must not be in anymore.

Let's close it down. Or is it a spiritual hindrance? Maybe a demonic type of attack. Maybe just a difficult season in life.

God will use the difficult seasons also to refocus us and get us back in the prayer closet. So if you're saying, I don't know if this hindrance is because of disobedience or just a part of life, take it to God. And look where your heart is.

I mean, maybe I'm not talking to everybody here, but I think we know more often than not when we're out of God's will. Amen? I mean, not too often we go, gosh, I don't know if I'm out of his will at all. I don't know if he's convicting me of things.

I don't know if I'd be setting sin. I just really don't know. We know when God is convicting us of certain things.

How do we know? Because the conviction's there. That's the point of conviction. It's convicting.

There's no peace. There's no joy. So those are the four things.

He highlights certain areas. So is he highlighting weaknesses in your life right now? Is he hindering you in any way? Is there any hurt, any pain that's being caused because God wants to redirect you? Right? We often won't change directions unless there's some pain involved or a feeling just no joy, no peace. And then he also will humble us.

So is God humbling you? And even preaching sometimes as the word is going out, people are being humbled in their heart. They're being convicted in their heart. They're being challenged by the word of God.

So what do they do with that challenge? And then verse 13, happy is the man. Of course, you could say woman. They're talking about both here.

You're happy as the person who finds wisdom. Isn't that interesting? You can find wisdom, which is living, making choices according to God's word, or you can find foolishness. Where are you looking? Where you look determines what you find.

Where you look, are you looking for wisdom in God's word, in the house of God, from Christian friends, from things that are godly and edifying? Are you searching for wisdom, like find gold? Or are you searching for foolishness? Because you will find one or the other. So happy is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding. For her proceeds, her return, her proceeds are better than the profits of silver and her gain is better than fine gold.

So he's talking here, satisfied and filled with joy is the person who finds wisdom. And then here he's taking us back to proceeds again, the return of your investment. For her proceeds, the return on her investment, when you find wisdom, it's better than silver and gold.

Did you know that? I would rather, I would rather leave my children lots of wisdom instead of lots of money. And so many people are pursuing, even Christians pursuing riches, money, wealth, and they're neglecting wisdom. God says, get wisdom first and all you're getting, get understanding, and she will exalt you.

Understanding means the way God thinks. How does God think about this situation? Happy is he who makes wise decision and who seeks to learn more, is what it boils down to. Are any of you struggling with happiness this morning? Depression? But we know that happy is he who makes wise decisions and who seeks to learn more.

Again, this is what I love about God. If you're not on the right path, you can get on that right path today. You can just say, Lord, I've been wrong in these areas.

I've been walking on the wrong path. I'm getting on the right path this morning. And God says, now I can work with you.

Now I can lead you again. Because it's all about the leading of the spirit over the leading of the flesh. Those are the two voices you're going to hear.

Those are the two contrasting, conflicting voices that we hear. And here's why I talk about feeling so much. They will get you in trouble.

I just feel like it. I just feel like whatever. I just feel.

But what's the fruit that's going to be produced? Wisdom, that's why wisdom is so important. Wisdom means you actually make choices when you don't feel like it, that are good and God honoring. Then the feelings will come later.

So Nike, just do it, is a good slogan for sales, but a bad slogan for Christian living. Just do it. However you feel, just do it.

And wisdom is being mocked in our culture, isn't it? More and more. I learned up there that people like you and me, conservatives, are being labeled anti-choicers. And, if you can believe this one, there's a movement to stop saying breastfeeding and stop saying chest feeding so we don't offend transgenders.

Listen guys, if what's going on in the culture doesn't prompt you to pray more, I don't know what to tell you. We've got to get back to that making wise decisions, electing people who hopefully are going to make wise decisions, not counting on them. Chest feeding.

There's more to it. Also, I just can't say it from the pulpit on what they're wanting to change. Just remember, the Word of God, powered by the Holy Spirit, is your greatest teacher.

Your greatest teacher is to get in the Word of God with the Holy Spirit and get back on track. We're doing baby dedications after the second service, but I wanted to share with you what I was going to read. And it's actually the theme verse of where I spoke Friday night.

It says, let this be written for a future generation that a people not yet created may praise the Lord. Let this be written, wisdom, for a future generation that a people not yet even created may praise the Lord. Now if you're like me, you like context.

So here's the context. The psalmist says hear my prayer, oh Lord, hear my prayer and let my cry come to you. Do not hide your face from me in the day of my trouble.

Incline your ear to me in the day that I call. Lord, answer me speedily. He goes on to say, for my days vanish like smoke.

My bones burn like glowing embers. In my distress, I groan aloud. I'm reduced to skin and bones.

All day long my enemies taunt me. Those who rebel against me use my name as a curse. You ever feel like that? Thank God he doesn't leave it there.

But you, but you oh Lord shall endure forever and the remembrance of your name to all generations so the nation shall fear the name of the Lord and all the kings of the earth your glory. So it's giving God the credit. It's getting everything back to God.

And then he says, then let all this be written. Let this be written, the word of God. So future generations will know that there is a God who sits on the throne when all hell is breaking loose, when the news and media is coming apart, when civil unrest is escalating.

There is a God who hears in heaven, a God who will always sit on the throne. His throne endures forever. Remind the generation, remind the children that there is a God that loves them.

Remind them. Listen, this battle is so huge. That's what this is about.

This whole thing that you're seeing all over the news, all over, civil unrest, civil disobedience, whatever. It's to get God out of the picture. To get wisdom out of the picture and let man, every man do what is ever, whatever is right in his own eyes.

And you'll read in the Old Testament, and every man was doing what was right in his own eyes. And judges, and there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord. Christians, we've got to get back to a praying church.

Not just here, but in our homes. It's got to be about God and the gospel. Okay, Lord, I've been distracted.

I got it. I got it loud and clear this morning. I'm not honoring you with my possessions.

I'm not honoring you with my time. I'm not honoring you in my life. See, your whole lifestyle is worship.

Think about that. What we get in, what we put into our mind, things we shouldn't be watching, we shouldn't be, things, we just keep filling our mind with the things of the world. And once that happens, you don't want to do anything for God.

I don't know about you, but after I watch something not good, movie, maybe I shouldn't, or spend just countless hours watching sports, and just, it's just this walking dead. We have no passion for the things of God. I don't have time for his word.

I don't have time for prayer, but I have time for all this other stuff. You got to get back to the main stuff. You got to get back to the things that are going to build your relationship with the Lord.

Listen, I don't just say this to say this. I lived it. And people say, why are you so passionate? I want to say, why aren't you? Passion just comes from time with God.

You can, all of you can be very passionate if you focus on the right things. Because all that is, is you're feeding your mind on the word of God. You're feeding your mind on worship.

You're being built up spiritually. And what happens is the Holy Spirit is indwelling the believer. It's, he's filling the believer.

Filling what? To come out. I'm not talking about ghost stories and weird, but coming out. The Holy Spirit's in, it's coming out in the words I say, and in the actions, the way I live.

Out of your belly will flow rivers of living water. Praise God. And again, I think that's why God has called me to maybe harder messages, because we have to wake the church up.

We have to wake the church up.

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