

What Is True Repentance And What Is True Faith

by Zac Poonen

This sermon emphasizes the importance of repentance and faith in truly following Jesus. It highlights the need to strive to enter through the narrow door of salvation, giving up sin completely and committing oneself to Jesus like a marriage. The speaker stresses the significance of bearing fruits of repentance and living a life that reflects a genuine commitment to Christ in all aspects.

Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9, Luke 13:24, Acts 20:21, Matthew 3:8, Luke 19:8, Romans 13:8, Matthew 18:20

Topics: "Repentance", "Commitment to Christ"

Description

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Transcript

Yeah, thank you very much, dear brothers and sisters. Great pleasure to be able to speak to all of you. So, if I can see all your smiling faces, it inspires me to speak to you.

I can also find out if anybody is sleeping. We praise the Lord for preserving us in these difficult days. Many are falling sick.

There are many dying. God has preserved us. So, we have to be thankful for that.

So, I want to turn to Luke chapter 13 and verse 23 onward. Here is a question that someone asked the Lord. And it's a good question.

It's good for us to know the answer. Lord, are only a few people going to be saved? Now, the Bible says God wants everybody to be saved. That is written very clearly in 1 Timothy 2. God wants all men to be saved.

In 2 Peter 3, it says God wants everybody to repent. That means everybody in the world, everybody in India. But not everybody is going to be saved.

You can see the Lord's answer here. Luke 13 verse 24. Strive to enter through the narrow door because many will try to enter but will not be able.

Now, very often we hear the gospel preached in such a way that it is very easy to enter. But is it easy to be saved? This first word here, strive. Struggle to enter it.

How did you get saved? Did you strive to enter? Did you strive to enter? Or did somebody say, no, just say Lord Jesus come into my heart and you are okay. So many people have just said some simple prayer like that. Why did Jesus say strive to enter and why did he say that many will seek to enter and will not be able? If somebody comes to me and says he wants to be saved, he wants to go into the kingdom of God.

Most preachers will tell him, oh that's very easy. Just pray a simple prayer right now. Say Lord Jesus come into my heart, I believe you died for me.

And that man repeats that prayer. And the preacher tells him, you are saved now. Did he strive to enter it? Was that door a narrow door or was it a wide open door for anybody to walk in? And is it possible that the preacher said, you know, it's possible, verse 24, that you may strive to enter, you may not be able.

Not one or two, many will try to and they will not be able. Then how is it there are so many people in the world who say, I am saved, I am on my way to heaven. They have been deceived by false preachers.

They have been fooled to imagine that they are saved when they are not saved. We must be sure of our salvation. If you went to a doctor one day because you had some pain in your stomach and the doctor gave you a test and said you got cancer.

What would you do? You would do everything possible to get rid of it. How much money you are willing to spend to get an operation to get rid of cancer. Because you hate that cancer.

And if the doctor says you have to have 3-4 operations, you are ready for 3-4 operations. Even one operation is painful and expensive. But you are willing to go 3 or 4 because you want to get rid of the cancer.

In the same way, remember that you cannot be saved if you don't have a desire to get rid of sin from your life. Many people are trying to be saved, but they have no desire to get rid of sin. It's like telling the doctor, I want to be healthy, but don't get rid of this cancer.

We love our physical life so much. Supposing you are a smoker and the doctor examines your lungs and says your lungs are in a very bad shape. If you smoke one more cigarette, you will not live more than two weeks.

I tell you, even if you are a chain smoker for 25 years, you will give it up immediately. I tell you, even if you are a chain smoker for 25 years, you will give it up immediately. How? You will not say, what is so difficult doctor, I have smoked for 25 years, how can I give it up? Why do you give it up immediately? How do you get rid of all the cigarettes from your house? How do you get rid of all the cigarettes from your house? Because you love your life.

You don't want to die. Then why is it when the Lord says there is some sin in your life that you must get rid of? Then why is it when the Lord says there is some sin in your life that you must get rid of? Why are you not willing to give it up immediately? Even if you have been doing it for 25 years. Would it make a

difference to you if the Lord said, if you are going to lust after a woman one more time, you will go to hell? Would it make a difference to you if the Lord said, if you are going to lust after a woman one more time, you will go to hell? Would you be very careful then? Would you be careful with your eyes not to sin with your eyes? Would you be careful not to view any dirty pictures on your phone or computer? Would you be careful not to view any dirty pictures on your phone or computer? Because the Lord says to you, if you do it once, that's the end.

You go to hell. You will be able to give it up. Because you don't want to go to hell.

But why is it then we say, no, no, no, it's not difficult to give it up brother. But why is it then we say, no, no, no, it's not difficult to give it up brother. We can't give it up.

If it was smoking, you would give it up immediately. It's all a question of whether we believe that this thing, this sin we are doing is going to take us into an eternal hell. It's all a question of whether we believe that this thing, this sin we are doing is going to take us into an eternal hell.

I want to explain what Jesus meant by strive to enter through the narrow door. First of all, the way into God's kingdom is a very narrow way. It's not a broad way.

The door is so narrow, only one person can go in. You can't take your wife or children with you. You have to go alone.

If they want to come, they have to come alone on their own. Because this door is so narrow, only one person can go at a time. You can't say I belong to this church and we are all going in.

It's a very narrow door. Second, it's not easy to go through it. You have to really work hard, strive to go through the door.

That's what Jesus said. Many will try, but they will not be able. But so many preachers have said, if you want to be saved, you can be saved.

Here it says, there are many people who want to be saved who will not be saved. See what it says. Why does Jesus use this expression, I tell you, in verse 24? Everything Jesus is saying, why does he emphasize I am telling you? When we are talking to somebody, talking to your children, you are telling them something serious.

You say, I am telling you this, don't do that again. It's enough to say don't do it again. But you say, I am telling you, my son, don't do that again.

When you add the words, I am telling you, it's an emphasis, very serious. Here Jesus is saying, I am telling you. Believe this is going to be true.

What is Jesus saying? Many will try to enter and will not be able to enter. I want to ask all of you a question. Have you entered through that door into God's kingdom and been saved? How did you enter it? Whenever you did, was it very easy? Or did you strive? Did you find it was a very narrow door? Or did you come along with so many people in front in some public meeting and sign a card or raise your hand or something? You cannot come with other people into God's kingdom.

You have to come alone. Each person has to choose themselves. So let's see a little bit of what this narrow door is.

Why is it so difficult to get in? In the Bible we read about the Apostle Paul who has proclaimed the gospel in many many places. And he is the one who has explained the gospel very clearly in a number of his letters. And he says something about what he preached in every single country he went to.

Turn with me to Acts of the Apostles chapter 20. Here we read what the most famous gospel preacher Paul preached in every single place. Acts 20.

He is talking to the elders in Ephesus. He says, Everywhere I have gone, I have preached two things. And that is repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Everywhere I go, Jews or non-Jews everywhere. That's like saying today's Christians or non-Christians, same thing. Repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now if these two are not preached the way the Bible talks about it, then you can make the door very wide. If we preach repentance the way the Bible teaches it, the door will become narrow. If we preach faith the way the Bible talks about it, the door will become narrow.

So let me explain to you what repentance and faith are. Some of you may say, Oh, well, I know all that brother Jack. These are all kindergarten lessons.

I know it very well. But many people think they have repented. They have not repented.

So I will explain to you what repentance means and I'll explain to you what faith means. So that none of you are in any doubt. The word repentance means turning around.

See that Telugu word Marumanasu. That's exactly the thing. In Tamil, it is even better.

It says Manantirambal, which means turning your mind. That is the correct meaning of repentance. It's a turning of your mind.

That is a little stronger than just Marumanasu, not just changing your mind a little bit. Complete turning around. So what have we got to turn our mind from? See, basically our life when we are born as children is very, very self-centered and selfish.

You can see that in middle children. They grab things for themselves, fight for their rights. They do whatever pleases them.

And as we grow up, we may try to hide some of these things, but still our desire is the same. Whatever pleases me, I'll do. What God has said doesn't seem to be so important.

What was the sin of Eve and Adam? They liked something and they wanted it and they took it. They didn't bother about the fact that God said you must not eat that at all. What was their attitude? It's a very small thing.

Yeah, I'm not killing Adam or something bad like that. I'm not killing my husband. I'm just eating a little fruit.

Yeah, it was a small thing. But it was very big because it was a disobedience to God's word. So that is how sin comes when the devil says this is a very small thing.

The question is not whether it's big or small. Is it disobeying God's word? The question is not whether it's big or small. Is it disobeying God's word? If you cheat somebody of money, whether it is one rupee or one

lakh rupees, it makes no difference.

You're a cheater. Yeah, so it's like that with sin. Sin is like a disease.

If you get one germ inside or a thousand germs inside, you get sick. See, now there is this disease called COVID-19. It's going all over the world.

We cannot even see it with our eyes. This virus or germ is so small that even under a microscope, it is very difficult to see. And you don't need thousands of them to get sick.

Just one. If one of them gets into your body, you can die. Many people believe that.

Most people who have read the newspapers and read what's happening in the world, they believe it. Even though it's very inconvenient to go around with our mouth closed, we still go around like that. Because we don't even want this one small, tiny virus which we cannot even see, we don't want it to come inside.

Because we don't want to die. I want to ask all of you. Just ask yourself.

Do you have the same attitude to a small sin? Then you know whether you are a serious Christian or not. What is a sin? Something which the word of God clearly says is wrong. Or which your conscience tells you that's wrong.

Small thing. Eyes of a COVID-19 virus. If you hate sin like that, you have really repented.

I don't know whether all of you have turned around from sin like that. Because you don't believe that sin can destroy you. I've come across so many people in different countries who say, oh, there's no need to wear a mask and all.

No, it's okay. They get sick and make other people sick. They die and other people die.

Be very careful when it comes to sickness. If you can find a church where everybody hates sin, just like they hate sickness. That will be the most powerful church in the whole world.

Even if it's only 10 people. It's not numbers that makes a church strong. It's how much they hate sin.

You can be a very big built man. But this small virus can still kill you. It can kill a small baby and it can kill a big built man also.

This COVID-19 virus is a perfect example of sin. And in these days, when all of you also are hating COVID-19, learn to hate sin also. So next time you're tempted to get angry with somebody.

Then pull away all anger. Next time you're tempted, ask yourself, supposing this is a COVID-19, will I play the fool with it like this? No, no, no. You be so careful with COVID-19.

Why aren't you careful with anger? Let me tell you something. COVID-19 will never send anybody to hell. It will only send them to the grave.

But anger will send you to hell. Which is worse? Matthew 5. Verse 22. Everyone who's angry with his brother is guilty.

Before the court. And that is if it's only in his heart. If you've got anger in your heart, you're already guilty.

Then you go to another step, second step. The anger comes out of your mouth. You speak to him and say, you're good for nothing person.

Then you become guilty in a higher level. And then something more comes out of your mouth and anger against that person. More serious.

Then you go to hell. So anger has got three steps. It starts in the heart.

Guilty. Comes out through the mouth. More guilty.

And it keeps on coming. You are ready for hell. What shall we do? The same thing the man does when the doctor tells him, one more cigarette and you'll die.

He'll stop. Even if he's smoking for 25 years, he'll stop. Many people say, I can't give up this cigarette habit.

Let the doctor tell him only one more cigarette and you'll die. He'll stop immediately. Many people say, brother, I can't get rid of this anger.

My mother had it, grandmother had it and I still have it. Let God say to you, one more time you get angry with your husband or wife, you'll go to hell. I tell you, your anger will stop in your house immediately.

But we fear the doctor's words more than we fear the words of the Lord. Repentance means turning around. A hatred for sin.

Just like we have a hatred for disease. When I think of Jesus dying for our sins, we know that he did it out of love. I picture it like this.

You know, a mother with this newborn child. And supposing that child has got some terrible diseases. And is struggling and struggling and struggling.

If you as a stranger look at that child, it doesn't bother you. It's not your child. Look at a child in somebody's house, struggling and struggling, it doesn't bother you.

But if you're a mother, don't child. Can't breathe. Always having some problem in the body.

You know how that mother will feel, a good mother. Oh God, please give me that sickness and take that sickness away from the child. All of you who are mothers, if you're a good mother, I know you'll say that.

Fathers don't love the children like that. Mothers only love. I'm saying that from the Bible.

It's not my theory. You read Isaiah 49, 15. There it says a mother loves a nursing child.

God's love is like that. That's what happened on the cross. God saw us in sin, which is worse than any disease.

And you know that poor baby doesn't know how serious the sickness is. Because it's ignorant. We are also like little babies, we don't realize how serious sin is.

But God knows how serious it is. Oh God, give me that sickness and save that child. And Jesus knew how serious sin was.

So he said to his father, give it to me, let me suffer and save these people. Do you know that Jesus loved you like that? So what does he want from you in response? He doesn't want your money. A lot of preachers say God wants your money.

Let me tell you in Jesus' name, God is not a beggar. All the beggars on the street, they ask for money. Preachers have made God also like that, sitting there asking you for money.

Only in CFC we preach God doesn't want your money. We don't take an offering. No preacher takes any money.

We have 150 elders in all our 100 churches. In about 10 or 12 countries. Not even one person takes any money.

I've never taken any money. 45 years I've been in CFC Bangalore. Support myself.

Because God gave everything freely to us. And we cannot sell it to other people. Jesus said freely you received, freely give.

That is the true way to preach the gospel. The true way to build the church. That's what we have sought to do all these years.

What do we tell people to give up? Not money but sin. You can keep your money. Give up sin.

Another thing that will send people to hell. 25, 29. If your right eye makes you to stumble.

How does an eye make you to stumble? It says in verse 28 if you look at a woman. And you lust after her. Or it may not be a woman.

It may be a picture of a woman. You see it and lust with your eyes. You have committed adultery with that person.

Very serious. So the Lord says pull out your eye. And when you pull out your right eye.

You can still lust with one eye. What is the meaning? Pull out that eye also. The meaning is be like a blind man.

So putting your hand over your eyes. You don't need the hands. God has given us eyelids.

We can turn our eyes away. This is serious. Because it says here if you don't do it.

Verse 29 you can go to hell. It's a serious thing. Lust with the eyes.

Repentance means Lord I have done all these things in my past life. I want to turn from it now. I want to turn completely.

If you have been telling lies. Jesus said in verse 33. Do not make false vows.

But he says don't take an oath. Verse 34. Verse 37 let your statement be yes yes and no no.

Anything more than that is evil. So when a person says I swear. I did not do that.

He is actually saying basically I tell lies. But now I am swearing I am going to speak the truth. He said we must always say yes yes or no no.

You don't have to tell other people everything that is in your mind. You are allowed to keep secrets. He asks me something.

I say no I don't want to reply to that. But I won't tell a lie. I am sorry I am not going to give you an answer.

We can do that. But tell a lie. You know that Jesus said that the devil is a liar.

John chapter 8. John's gospel chapter 8. Verse 44. He says that your father is the devil. The last part he says when the devil speaks a lie he is speaking from his own nature.

Because he is the father of all lies. Now a father cannot produce a child without a mother. So if the devil is a father.

Producing lies. He needs someone like a mother through whom he can tell that lie. So what the lord is saying is.

When you tell a lie. Like a woman gives herself to a man. You are giving yourself to the devil.

Like that wife gives herself to her husband and gets a child. You are giving yourself to the devil and you are getting a child called a lie. You are the mother of that lie.

But the devil is the father. Every lie that you have spoken in your life. Is a child that the devil produced through you.

He is the father and you are the mother. What does repentance mean? Lord I want to turn from that. Lord I have done so many terrible things in my life with my eyes and my tongue and everything.

I am not only sorry for it. I want to turn from it. That is repentance.

It is not just saying Lord Jesus come into my heart. It is a strive to enter through this narrow door. In the military.

When they stand on a parade ground all the soldiers. I am sure you have seen that. Even the children have that in the NCC in the schools.

They say left turn. They all turn to the left. Or right turn.

Then they turn to the right. Then there is another command called about turn. You go completely round to the opposite side.

I am facing here to the left. About turn means I turn to the right. That is repentance.

I am facing the world and my flesh and sin. And behind me is God and holiness and purity. And God says turn around.

That means I face God now. But that is not all. My back is now turned to my old way of life.

My old way of life and my sin and selfish ways are all behind me now. That is about turn. Many preachers don't tell you that.

They ask Jesus to come into your heart. And that is why the lives of many believers are no better than the lives of unbelievers. Not because they don't believe in Jesus.

They have never repented. Or if they have turned from sin. They have not turned completely around.

They have turned a little bit. I am facing sin and I turn a little bit this way. I can still see sin.

That is not repentance. If I turn 90 degrees, that is not repentance. Repentance is when I turn 180 degrees and turn completely around.

About turn. That doesn't mean I have become perfect. Then I can start running towards the goal which is many thousands of miles away.

Repentance does not mean I have reached the goal of my Christian life. It just means I have turned my back to my old sinful way. And now I have come to the starting point of my Christian race.

In any race, whether it is a school or Olympic games or anywhere, everybody must start at the starting line to take part in the race. You can't join a race in the middle. You have to start at the starting line.

The starting line of salvation is repentance. It doesn't matter who you are. I want to say to you in Jesus name.

If you have not repented like this, you have not even come to the starting line of the Christian life. Even if you call yourself an elder of some church. The other thing we see here is, there is some proof that we have repented.

The Bible speaks about the fruit of repentance. You know an apple tree or a mango tree, it produces mangoes. A mango tree will produce mangoes.

Repentance also, there must be fruits of repentance. See Matthew 3 verse 8. John the Baptist said, Don't just say you have repented, bear fruit in keeping with your repentance. If you are really repentant, there will be some fruit in your life.

Just like a mango tree produces mangoes. One fruit of repentance is this. That if you have hurt somebody, by your words or your actions, you will go and ask forgiveness from that person.

Jesus said in Matthew 5 verse 23 and 24, It's when you are coming to prayer. You remember you hurt your brother in some way. Stop praying.

When he says leave your offering verse 24, stop praying. Remember this every single time you pray. When you are praying something to the Lord, If you remember, You hurt your wife, You hurt your husband, You hurt somebody else with your words, Open your eyes, stop praying.

Go to that person. Whoever it is. Husband, wife, anybody.

Maybe a servant in your house. You got angry with her. Ask forgiveness.

Or call up somebody, they are some far away. I'm sorry for the way I spoke to you that day. Then come and pray.

Matthew 5 verse 23 and 24. You think everybody does that? That's why Jesus said strive to enter through this door, because it's very difficult. And here's one more example.

Luke 19. Jesus went to the house of a very rich man called Zacchaeus. But he was an income tax collector.

And he cheated a lot of people of money. That's how he became rich. But Jesus knew by the Holy Spirit, this man wants to change.

Sometimes we judge some rich people, oh that fellow cheated so many, he's a crook. That's what the Pharisees said, this man is a crook, don't go anywhere near him. But Jesus didn't go only to poor people.

He even went to a rich person, if the person is repentant. Repentance is hard, this guy has got some repentance in his heart. He looked like he was sitting on a tree, come down, I want to go to your house.

Luke 19. He didn't say, I want to visit you for a few hours. He didn't say, I want to stay in your house.

Maybe one or two days. What an honor for Jesus to come and stay in my house. So they go towards the house.

And verse 8, it says that he has stopped. He stopped. Why did he stop? He came to the gate of his house.

And he stopped. He said, Lord, I'm happy to have you stay in my house. I'm going to tell you something.

This house is made with a lot of money that I cheated from other people. It's an unholy house. Lots of people I cheated from when I built this house.

So I want to make you a promise before you come and stay with me. All the people I cheated, I'm going to give the money back. With interest.

That interest, in as many years, I'm going to have to give four times. I'll give four times what I took. That says in verse 8. And there are so many other people whom I cheated, I don't know where they are today.

I don't have their address. But I cannot keep that money in my bank. I will take that money, which is a lot of money, like half my wealth.

I'll give it to the poor. That's how they gave to God in those days. Put it in the offering box.

Money that you wrongfully got, but you don't know where the address of that person is now. That is repentance. I've done that.

I was converted 62 years ago. And before I was converted, I was working in the Navy. And I cheated the government of some tax and all that.

When I got converted, the Lord said, you've got to return that money. So I sat down and calculated. And I had to pay back about four months salary.

And that took me quite a long time to save that much money. Gave it back. 61 years ago.

If I had not done it 61 years ago, I would have had a chain on my leg and I would have been walking with that chain on my leg for 61 years. And I would not have been able to run this Christian race. God would

not have called me to preach the gospel.

Because some little money I was keeping for myself. So I saved up that four months salary. Gave it back to the government.

Bank account was empty. My heart was full of the joy of the Lord. You know what Jesus said about Zacchaeus then? Salvation has come to this house.

He will say that to you also. Salvation has come to this man. Because he is even willing to give back money that he cheated.

Praise the Lord. Have you borrowed money from somebody? It says in Romans 13. And verse 8. Don't owe anything to anybody.

He is not saying be careful now. He is not saying don't borrow money. Sometimes you are in need and you don't have that much money.

You may have to borrow from the bank or borrow from a friend. To buy a house you have to borrow from a bank. Or some emergency hospital treatment.

You don't have the money to borrow. Bible doesn't say don't borrow. Don't keep that.

Pay it back. What he is saying is don't remain in debt to somebody. Little by little pay it back.

It may have taken a long time for Zacchaeus to pay back all that money. But when a person does that Jesus will say to him also. Salvation has come to this man.

Don't be happy that some brother tells you you are saved. Jesus told Zacchaeus you are saved. Let Jesus tell you you are saved.

Then you are really saved. Some man who doesn't know your life tells you you are saved. It means nothing.

It's not difficult. You may have to give up a little money that you have cheated somebody. Or that you have borrowed.

Give it back. Give up that bad habit. And if you don't have the strength to give up some sin.

Oh my lord, lord, I want to give up this. Please help me. Oh my lord, lord, I want to control my tongue.

I want to control my eyes. I don't want to sin. God will help you.

Repentance does not mean I have overcome sin. It's not saying I have overcome some bad habit. In repentance you are saying I want to give up all my sins.

I want to give up all my bad habits. That is repentance. That's what I am asking you.

Not have you given up all your sins. Do you want to give up all your sins? Is there one sin in your life that you do not want to give up? Maybe you have given up many sins. Turned around 90 degrees.

You need to turn completely around 180 degrees. That is repentance. Then we can come to faith.

Faith is to commit ourselves to the Lord. One of the best pictures of faith is a woman getting married. Think of those of you who are married.

You were sisters. You were a single girl once. One day you decided to give yourself completely to one man.

Not one or two days. After your whole life. Because you trusted him.

That is faith. Faith is not saying I believe in you. A girl does not get married by telling a person I believe in you.

Goodbye. When she gets married she commits herself to him. She gives up her old house.

Now lives with him. Not for one or two days. But for her whole life.

If he is poor she is poor with him. If he does not have a house she lives with him. A rented house or something.

Her whole future is linked with that man. If he gets transferred far away to Delhi she goes with him to Delhi. After one year if he gets transferred to Calcutta she goes with him to Calcutta.

That is faith. Committing yourself to Jesus 100%. You are completely committed to him for the rest of your life.

Like a marriage. Where everything you decide asking him what should I do. She is a woman who gets married.

She cannot go where she likes after that. Wherever her husband goes she goes. Where her husband lives she has to live.

The house where her husband lives big or small she has to live there. Have you given yourself to Jesus like that? 100%. Every day Lord I want to live with you.

I don't want to be attracted to any other man. There are many things in the world that will try to attract you. There are many things in the world that will try to attract you.

Money. Sinful pleasures. You say no I won't do that because I am married to Jesus.

So one way to find out what can I do and what I cannot do. So many times young people ask me Can I do this? Can I do that? Can I take part in this or that? Can I play games? Or can I play games at home? Or can I play games at home? I say the answer to all these things is this. Can you do that with Jesus sitting next to you? Or is he with you? People ask can I go to this place or that place? Can I go and watch this movie in the cinema theater? I will give you the answer.

Do you think Jesus will come with you to watch that? Then go. Wherever you can take Jesus with you go. What am I permitted to watch on television? Tell you.

Whatever you can ask Jesus to sit with you and enjoy watching. Watch it. I am not going to give you a list of programs you must watch and list of programs you must not watch.

I am not going to give you a list of programs you must watch and list of programs you must not watch. Much simpler than all that. See if Jesus can sit with you and watch that.

Then watch it. But if you feel Jesus will not sit there There is a solution to everything. There was a church there with very good believers.

There was a church there with very good believers. But many of them had a habit of smoking. So many preachers had gone there and nobody preached against smoking.

After so many years they were still smoking. So one day I spoke there. I did not say give up your smoking.

I said, can you smoke or not? I said, next time you smoke, take out another cigarette. Say, Lord Jesus, I want you also to smoke. And if Jesus will say, yes, give that to me, I like that, then please go and smoke.

See, I never told them not to smoke. I should just give a cigarette to Jesus also. That's all.

Next day meeting, my translator said, Jack, I have given up smoking. I said, why? I never told you to give up smoking. No, he said, I tried to give a cigarette to Jesus.

He won't take it. So I stopped it. I said, what a wonderful testimony.

He answered to everything. Can you do that in fellowship with Jesus? Faith means I have committed myself to Jesus as my husband for my life. I will never go anywhere where I cannot go with him.

I don't want to watch anything which I cannot watch with him. So I am not going to give you a list of what TV programs you can watch and what TV programs you cannot watch. You decide yourself whether Jesus can sit and watch it with you.

Husbands, how should you talk to your wives? Can I give you 25 rules? No, only one. Remember, Jesus is between you and your wife. Where two are gathered in my name, I am in the midst, Jesus said.

Matthew 18, 20. You were united in Jesus' name. Jesus is in your midst.

When you talk to your wife, talk in such a way that if Jesus were physically there in your house at that time, that is the way to speak. You don't have to give any rules. How will you speak if Jesus is standing there listening to the way you speak to your husband or wife? Speak like that always.

Morning till night throughout the year. Your life will be changed. Your home will become like heaven.

Your children will grow up and when they get married, they will say, Lord, give us a home like my parents' home. Be an example to your children. Strive to enter through the narrow door.

Then he will try and they will not enter. Not because the door is shut, the door is wide open. But they don't want to give up their sin.

They want to be the Lord of their life. I want to speak whatever I like. I will speak the way I want to speak to my wife.

Then you let us tell the Lord Jesus to get out. Please go out because I am going to get angry with my wife now, so you go outside the house. We drive Jesus away from our house so many times.

Dear brothers and sisters, there is a wonderful message we preach in CFC. We have been preaching for 46 years. We can walk in the presence of the Lord every day.

God is my witness. That is how I seek to live. It was not like that in the beginning.

I was a defeated Christian in the beginning. But I repented and I came to faith. My life changed.

God bless you all. I pray there will be many wonderful Christians and wonderful families and wonderful churches in Andhra and Telangana. You say Lord I want to do my part.

Let us pray. It is very easy to forget what God spoke to us today. Will you pray and say Lord please remind me every time what I heard today.

When I am tempted to do something wrong. Let me not look at other Christians. Let me not look at the standard in other churches.

I want to look at Jesus. I want to follow the example of any brother or sister who is following Jesus. Be an example yourself also to others younger than you.

Heavenly Father, please imprint these words strongly in every heart. Everybody who heard the word today. Holy Spirit of God, remind them of it tonight when they go to bed.

Help them to set right as early as possible everything that is wrong. Fill them with the Holy Spirit so that they can live this life. Help them to come to true repentance and true faith in Jesus Christ.

We pray in Jesus name. Amen. Thank you brothers and sisters for patiently listening.

Thank you brother Ravinder for an excellent translation. God bless you all. Amen.

Video: <https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/3VcGdEqw6x4.mp4>

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