

Job 26

Sunday 11/16/2003

Let's turn to the book of Job today, Job chapter 26. As you know, we have been coming through the Bible, dealing with how to build a relationship with God. What an important thing for us as a young church. We took some time and we talked about how to build a church, which shows you the things that this church needs to have. Our goal in building people and doing things in our church ministry, as a ministry, is to grow in time.

Right now we are small; we are just getting our feet on the ground. But in time, you will see these avenues of ministry open up. It is just the natural way that it goes. But first and foremost is the fact that we must build our own personal relationship with God. This church will never be what it needs to be unless the individual people that are in it are what they need to be.

If you are going to build a skyscraper, you have to put a foundation down deep. You do not just build it on the surface; you have to go down deep before it can go up. That is the way it is in our Christian life: we need to go down deep before we can go up. Our job here is to help you do that by talking to you about building a relationship with God.

I. The Doctrine Of The Judgment Seat Of Christ

We have taken the last three or four weeks and really defined for you a doctrinal issue that is paramount to every Christian: the doctrine of the judgment seat of Christ. The word "doctrine" means to teach. The Bible says that is what the Bible was written for first and foremost: for doctrine. The Bible says that the Word of God is profitable. The first thing it is profitable for is for doctrine.

So, we put a lot of emphasis on teaching what the Bible says and showing you things for your life that are defined in the Word of God. That is something that is missing today in Christianity: the ability for God's people to define things in their own lives from the Word of God. We have been defining for you, and will continue to define as we move through our lives, that this is just one aspect of it, because the most important doctrine for the church is the judgment seat of Christ.

I told you, as we studied it, there are two days in the Bible. One of them is called the Day of the Lord; that is the Second Coming of Christ. That is God's day. The other one is the Day of Jesus Christ; that is the rapture of the church and the judgment seat of Christ. That is Christ's day. For you and for me, the Day of Jesus Christ is very important because someday the Bible says we are going to see the Day of the Lord, and we are going to stand and give an account.

We looked at a couple of references last week, obviously 1 Corinthians chapter 3. We also talked about 2 Corinthians chapter 5. Two phrases there are what I want to start with today. You do not have to turn back there; I want you to be in Job chapter 26 here. But the two phrases that I want to talk about are found in 2 Corinthians chapter 5.

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

*For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:
If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.*

*For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed,
but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.*

The other verse talks about the fact in verse 11 that the judgment seat of Christ is called the terror of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:11

*Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God;
and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.*

II. The Terror Of The Lord: A Glorified Mind's Realization

The thing that I want you to understand is this: for years and years and years, I heard this taught. I heard it taught that in the judgment seat of Christ, God was going to whip us and beat us and just make us feel terrible for what we did not do and all the things that we should have done and everything that we should have done. I hope that if you thought that or believed that, that coming through our little biblical aspect of sinner, son, and servant, you now see how that is not true.

Let me just tell you for a second and give you an idea here of what is going to be so terrible with the judgment seat of Christ. Here is the kicker: when you understand this, it will be much better to get a good whipping from the Lord than to have this happen. Here is what is going to happen: at the judgment seat of Christ, when the rapture takes place, you are going to get a glorified body. When you get that glorified body, you are also going to get the glorified mind, the mind of Christ.

In other words, you are going to get into your cranium what is in this book right now in its entirety. For all practical purposes, at that point, you are going to know everything that God knows because the Bible says that you are going to get the mind of Christ. You are going to get a glorified body like Christ and you are going to get His mind. When that takes place, for the first time in your life, you are fully going to realize everything that we have preached to you in the last couple of weeks.

You are going to fully understand the cost. You are going to fully understand the consequences. You are going to fully understand all of those issues that we talked about. For the first time in your life, you are going to actually realize what this life was all about. You are going to finally see it without you or myself in the way. You are going to finally see it in its purest form, understanding it in its entirety, exactly the way God wanted us to see it.

You are going to see now and fully understand what Christ did, why He did it. We are going to be faced with the foolishness of everything that we did that let us get off track while we were here on planet Earth. In other words, we are going to finally and fully see everything that God had, everything that God wanted, and we are going to see how we missed it.

It is not going to be the fact that you are going to be sorry because you did not do what you should have done, though that is going to be part of it. It is going to be the fact that you are going to fully realize now what He did for you. You are going to fully understand and realize how little we did for Him. To me, that is where the terror is going to be: the terror of looking into those eyes that loved me, looking into those hands that still bear the nail scars, looking into that side that still has the scar from the Roman spear, recognizing fully and understanding the agony of those three hours on the cross when God turned His back on His Son.

Fully understanding that He turned His back on His Son for me, because He wanted me to fulfill something for Him, and me, because of all the foolishness of my life and what I was doing, just did not pay any attention to the Word of God, the things of God, or whatever, missed it. There, my friend, is going to lie the tragedy of the Judgment Seat of Christ, because the real issue is, you are not going to get anything in a glorified body that you cannot have right now in this book here.

Now, you may not understand it all like you will then, and you may not put it all together like you will then, but you have everything you need in this book to get you through this life so that you do not have to stand there and look at Him, knowing that you did not do what God wanted you to do.

III. The Bible: A Book Of Profound Questions

This morning, I am going to get a little personal and honest with you. I am going to talk to you about some things that bother me about the Bible. I love the Bible; I always love the Bible. There is never a day, no matter where I am at, that I do not recognize what the Word of God is. But I must confess to you today, when it comes to the Bible, there are some things that I fully do not understand that bother me.

When I look at the Bible, I look at it differently than probably most people, though a lot of you look at it the same way. I believe the Bible is the complete, absolute, inspired Word of God, given to us in the English language, exactly the way God wants to have us. I think that if God is going to judge us someday by the Word of God, He had to give us that Word so we would have something to see; otherwise, He could not judge us.

That is where I am at: I believe it is alive. I believe it is alive. Years ago, when I was just a young kid, I used to hang out with some older Christians, and I was trying to find my way along. We would go down in a square in Canton, Ohio, and we would do street preaching. We would get out there and try to get a crowd. I was just a young guy, and I went a couple of times, and I could just watch before I got to get up and do it. I watched how these guys did it, and it was kind of comical when you think back on it.

One of the tricks they did, the first time I ever went, was this guy standing. We were on a square on a busy afternoon, and people were walking up and down the street. He got this big Mexican sombrero, and he put it on the street, and he put a Bible underneath of it. Then for the next three or four minutes, he proceeded, he had a little microphone, and for the next three or four minutes, he proceeded to yell at everybody, "Look out for that! Look out! It's alive! It's alive! It's alive!"

He was going up to people, and people thought there was a rattlesnake under that hat or something, and people would just start to stand around, and I never forget it. It was kind of a unique way to get a crowd, because then once you got a crowd, and they were there, then you got the chance to preach to them. I never forget, he was dancing all around, saying, "It's alive! It's alive! It's alive! It's alive! It's alive!"

Finally, there must have been about 30 people kind of looking around and checking that thing out. Finally, a police officer came up, and he broke into the crowd, and he says, "What's going on here?" The guy said, "Well, it's alive, officer, it's alive!" The officer said, "What's alive?" That is what he was waiting for. He walked over and picked up the hat and said, "The Word of God." Then somebody stood in and started preaching.

I believe that. I honestly believe that when you sleep at night, this book walks around the house. I believe it is alive. I believe it is absolutely alive. I believe it is God's Word, and I believe it has power in it. I believe that every word, every phrase, and everything in there is in there for a reason. The fact that I cannot see it is only a testimony to my stupidity, not to the book not being alive. I believe it is alive. I believe it is a living book.

John 21

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

That tells me that there were a lot of other things that Jesus did, said, and places He went that are not recorded in here. It tells me that God handpicked what He wanted and put it in a book because it had meaning. When I saw that years and years ago, it changed my whole perspective about the Word of God because now I knew there was nothing in there by accident.

IV. God's Questions Versus Satan's Questions

Saying all of that, what really bothers me about the Bible? The thing that bothers me about the Bible is not just what it says. Most people look and they do not like the Bible because of what it says. People think about the fact, "Well, the Bible says this, and the Bible says that," and somebody says, "Well, that's just your interpretation." Well, I have another whole terrifying concept for you. What really bothers me about the Bible is not what it says. What bothers me about the Bible is the questions that God asks.

I do not know if you ever thought about that or not. I am telling you, one of the greatest studies you will ever find anywhere in the Word of God are the questions that are asked in the Bible. Do you know what the first question is in the Bible? You would think that God would ask the first question in the Bible because it is His book. God did not ask the first question in the Bible. The first question in the Bible is asked by Satan.

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

He did not say, "Yea, hath God said." He said it with a question mark. He said, "Yea, hath God?" He was trying to get them to doubt, "Did God really mean what He said?" The first question in the Bible, the devil asked, and he says, "Did God really mean what He said there when He said that?"

Do you know the first question God asked in the Bible? The first question God asked in the Bible is after the fall when He comes down in the garden in the cool of the day, and He says to Adam:

Genesis 3:9

And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

Now, that does not seem like much to someone who says, "What's the big deal?" Do you realize those first two questions in the Bible are the questions that come down all through human history? From the first two questions in the Bible, the course of human history is set, and those two questions have been asked by those two individuals from that point on.

Do you know what the devil's job is? The devil's job is for you to question what God really said. Do you know what God's job is?

Luke 19:10

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

His job is to find out where you are at. I always thought it was an incredible thing. Adam and Eve sinned; they are out there sewing fig leaves together and hiding in the bushes. God comes down because every day they used to meet and have prayer meetings in the garden down there and have Bible study. That is why I do mine on Thursday night; that was the night that they met. They were coming down through there, and Adam did not show up. So God comes down and says, "Adam, where art thou?"

I always thought that was kind of unique because you go to Isaiah chapters 40, 45, 46, 47, 48, and it lays out in all these chapters how unbelievably powerful God is, how He knows everything, that He does everything, there is no other God like Him. Here is God, who is all of that, and all that great powerful Being, and He cannot find Adam?

The truth of the matter is, God knew where Adam was all the time. It was not like, "Well, God says, 'I wonder where he's at? Adam, where's Adam? Anybody seen Adam?'" Then He calls down some angels, and the angel says, "Did you guys see Adam?" "No, I haven't seen him. Have you seen Adam? Michael, no. Gabriel, have you seen him? No, Lord, I don't know. He's supposed to be here, it's seven o'clock, and I don't know where he's at. Where's he at?" Finally, the Lord says, "Well, okay guys, here's what we'll do. Let's beat the brush for him. You guys run down through there, we'll flush that sucker out."

He knew exactly where he was. When He says, "Adam, where art thou?" God knew exactly what bush he was hiding under. The thing is that God knew where Adam was, but He wanted to see if

Adam understood really where he was. When I used to deal with people in a counseling situation, and I have men or women come in and I do not think they are Christians, the standard technique is to say, "Oh, are you a Christian?" Oh my goodness, everybody is a Christian today. I never asked that.

I always took my cue from Genesis chapter at the beginning of Genesis. I always took my cue from there, and I always said to them, "Let me ask you a question. Where are you at in your own relationship with God?" That requires more of a complete answer, and somebody will give you the ten-second answer of whether that person is saved or not. Because the question God is asking today, and started in Genesis and all down through history, is, "Where are you at?"

Do you know what the question is today? Saved or lost, where are you at? Where are you at? Where are you at with this book? Where are you at with God? Where are you at with your ministry? Where are you at with people? Where are you at? That is the question that God asked, the first question He asked, and it has been the same question He has been asking all down through history.

The devil's first question, "Did God really mean what He said?" He has been asking that question for the next 6,000 years. Do you know the issue today in theology? Do you know the issue today with Bibles? Do you know the issue today in churches? It is simply this: "Did God really mean what He said?" You have people now that do not even believe the Bible is anything. You have people who just believe it is something.

I had a guy tell me one time, he said, "Well, he says, 'Yes, I believe the Bible is truth, but I don't believe the Bible contains all truth.'" Well, that is a nice little safe spot to be in. The problem is, it is wrong. The Bible is truth, and every other book on the planet and every other thing that man ever wrote from Genesis chapter 3 on needs to be evaluated in light of that book. The book is alive.

So, questions always bother me. I will tell you, looking through there, I found in Job chapter 9:

Job 9:2-3

I know it is so of a truth: but how should man be just with God? If he will contend with him, he cannot answer him one of a thousand.

Do you know what he is saying? He says, "How is a man going to be just to God? You people out there thinking that you are righteous and you are going to do all your things and your good works." He says, "How are you going to contend with God? If God started asking you questions, you couldn't answer Him one in a thousand." That is what he said. Do you know what that leads me to believe? God is going to ask somebody some questions.

Years ago, when I saw that, I started to study a little bit. I found in Job chapter 38, down around verse 3, he says to Job:

Job 38:3

Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.

Do you know what I found in Job chapter 38? I found a set of questions that God is going to ask an unsaved evolutionist and a scientist at the Great White Throne Judgment. I started a little bit farther on and read down through there, and I found over there in Job chapter 31 some questions that God is going to ask Israel in the Tribulation Period.

I got to study a little bit farther, and I read over there in Isaiah chapter 45, down around verses 4 through 10, and I found a set of questions that God is going to ask an unsaved man at the Great White Throne Judgment, that believed in his own power and his own strength. Then I got looking at it, and I got studying over there, and I saw in Isaiah chapter 50. I got studying the crucifixion, and I got over there in Isaiah chapter 50, down around verse 8, and I found the questions that God asked.

Do you know what the crucifixion really is? Christ dying on the cross and all that, yes, that is true, but there is a battle going on there between two beings. In fact, it is the same two beings you found in Genesis chapters 1, 2, and 3, where the first question is, "Did God really mean what He said?" And then Jesus, God, comes in and says, "Where are you?" Here at the crucifixion, those two forces come together, and there it is, in Isaiah chapter 50, the questions that Christ asked the devil at the crucifixion.

You will not find that in Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. You will not find that anywhere but in the Old Testament, where these questions lay themselves out, and you will find that there, as clear as the nose on your face, are some questions that God is asking the devil on that fateful day. When I started to look at questions, it got a little scary for me because I believe the Bible is the Word of God, I believe it is absolute truth, and I believe there is nothing in there that is there by accident, including the questions. When I started seeing the questions that God was asking there, it struck me unbelievably. It struck me that if God is asking some questions, someday somebody is going to have to give some answers, especially after I saw Job.

V. Job 26: Six Questions For New Testament Christians

That brings me to Job chapter 26. I am telling you the truth, the thing that bothers me about Job chapter 26, verses 1 through 4, is that there are six questions here. The thing that bothers me about this more than anything else, in light of what I just said, is look and search the scriptures all you want, and look at every people group in the Bible, and look at every part of the family of God—and there are seven of them—and lay all those things out, and I am just telling you the bottom line: I do not know anybody else in the Bible that can answer these six questions other than New Testament Christians under grace in the time that we live in.

What I think I am looking at, you may disagree with me, it is fine, I could care less. But the bottom line is, he said, "I demand of thee an answer." God asks the questions; He does not do it just to hear Himself pop off. He will demand an answer. The Bible says that. I have a sneaking suspicion that at the judgment seat of Christ, when we sort things out of what sort it is, six questions are going to pop up. Because I look at these things, and I am going to go through them with you. You look at these things, and I do not know of anybody that can answer these other than a child of God.

Let's look at it.

Job 26:1-4

But Job answered and said,

How hast thou helped him that is without power? how savest thou the arm that hath no strength?

How hast thou counselled him that hath no wisdom? and how hast thou plentifully declared the thing as it is?

To whom hast thou uttered words? and whose spirit came from thee?

Father, we thank and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We ask You now to bless us. We ask You now, Father, to help us understand Your Word today. Help us take these things to heart as we study Your Word. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

Now, when I look down here, I see six questions. When I see six questions in Job chapter 26, I know I am dealing with something because in the Bible, six is the number of man. Man was created on the sixth day. The number for the Antichrist is 666. Do you know why? Because there are three parts to that unholy trinity, and the number of man is six. When you have three parts of the unholy trinity, it is 666. Here are six questions in Job chapter 26. It has something to do with man.

VI. Question 1: Helping The Powerless (The Unsaved Man)

When I looked at the first question, it says, "How hast thou helped him that is without power?" I am going to tell you something: that is a question to me. Because a man without power today is an unsaved man. Do you realize that an unsaved man, an unsaved woman, has no power of their own? Do you realize that they are in the bondage of sin, and they do not have any way, shape, or form of overcoming anything in their lives?

I know, and I look at all the things that man tries to do to help. I thank God for all the things that are out there that try to help people get a handle on things in life. I am not knocking it, but I am just simply saying, until you get Jesus in your life, your problems are not going to be solved. We think, "I've got a problem. Well, let's go take a vacation." Let me tell you something: changing geographic locations never solved anybody's problem. You are not going to solve your problem by moving away. You solve your problem by dealing with them with the Word of God.

Alcoholics Anonymous is a great organization, and I have used them with people that had to, because in part, they do a great job. But do you know what their philosophy is? Their philosophy is that you will always be an alcoholic. Any alcoholic member of Alcoholics Anonymous that has not had a drink in 20 years, do you know what he will say? He will say, "Well, I'm still an alcoholic. I'm a recovering alcoholic, because at any time I could go back into it."

Well, I have a better deal than that. My Bible says:

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

I have a deal that will make you a new person. We think that those things, whether it be sin, whether it be drugs or alcohol or depression, whatever it is, an unsaved man has no power over them. Because those are part of his old nature, what he is stuck in, and he cannot get around it. That is why the Bible says that:

Ephesians 6:10

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

An unsaved man has no power. He has not the ability to overcome the things in life. You say, "Well, I knew a guy that was an alcoholic, and he overcame, and he hadn't got a drink, and he made a great million dollars when he went into the corporate world, and he's successful, and he's not an alcoholic anymore, and he's not this." Oh, that is great. He overcame alcohol, he built a great empire, he made millions of dollars, and then he died and went to hell. Do you know why? Because in all of that, he did not have the power to overcome the first thing in his life that he did not overcome: sin.

Sin binds us. I look at the life of Samson. What a picture of a child of God who gets all caught up in sin, and his life gets ruined, and his life gets wrecked. But in the life of Samson, there are three things about sin that are absolutely true, and it is taught in the book of Proverbs, and you see it displayed in his life, because it is true in an unsaved man's life or a saved man's life.

> *Sin, first of all, blinds you.*

> *Second of all, sin binds you.*

> *Third of all, sin grinds you.*

When you look at Samson's life, he lost his eyes; he was blinded. Sin bound him; he got bound up in his sin, and he could not get away. Finally, the Philistines took him and strapped him to a grinding wheel, and he was there in a filthy, despicable way, naked, pushing that old grinding wheel while they made a lot of fun of him and laughed at him. His sin not only blinded him, but his sin ground him. It binds you, it blinds you, and it grinds you. More and more, we see it all the time. You do not have the power. An unsaved man does not have the power.

But I want to tell you something: you and I have the power to forgive sin. Not you personally, but if you have the Holy Spirit of God living inside you, and have the Word of God in your heart and in your hand, the Bible says, Jesus said to His disciples, "I'm going to send you out, and you're going to go to the highways and the byways, and you're going to preach the Word of God, and you're going to bind and loose sins."

I get that question all the time in Bible study: "What does it mean, 'We have the power to bind and loose sin'?" It is simple. I meet an unsaved man. I tell him the story of Christ. He has no power. I tell him he has no power. I tell him he needs to get saved. He says, "I will get saved." I

open up the Bible, and I show him how to be saved. Do you know what I have just done? He gets saved; I just loosed him from his sin with this book.

If I show him the Word of God, and I show him his sin, he knows he is a sinner, but he says, "No, I'm not going to get saved. No, I'm going to do my own thing. Thanks, but no thanks." And he goes his way, and I will go mine. The Word of God has just bound him to his sin.

Acts chapter 8 is probably the greatest example anywhere in the Word of God about soul winning. Here is Philip, who is down there having a great revival. Philip is down there having a great, great, great revival, and he is having some great results, and people are getting saved all over the place. Then God pulls him out and sends him on the backside of the desert to an Ethiopian eunuch. The story is incredible.

There he is, God plops him down in the middle of that desert. There is an old Ethiopian eunuch sitting on his chariot, and the Bible says he is reading a copy of Isaiah chapter 53. Wow, what is Isaiah chapter 53 all about? It is about the death of Christ on the cross. The Ethiopian eunuch says, "Hey, who am I reading about here? Is this about Jesus? That prophet?"

I often looked at that story and I thought to myself, "My, my, my, my, there it is." There is a picture in point of a child of God loosing somebody from their sins. But do you know what you have? We will not know until we get home to glory who gave that Ethiopian eunuch a copy of Isaiah. That is an incredible thing to me. I promise you it was no accident that he got a copy of Isaiah.

I am telling you, the Bible says that the Son of God is coming to seek and to save that which was lost. By the way, you see both questions involved there. Jesus says, "Where art thou?" Do you know what the Holy Spirit of God is asking that Ethiopian eunuch? "Where is he at?" What was the devil's question? "Did God really mean what He said?"

So the Ethiopian eunuch says to Philip, "Who is he talking about here?" God was working on him; the devil was working on him. Somebody gave him the copy of Isaiah. I do not know where he got it. It will be fun when we get home to glory to learn all these things. We will really get to know who shot JFK. We will get to know all of those things. It will be an incredible thing when we get home to glory to find out where and who gave this guy this copy of Isaiah.

Then he just happened to what? Did he have a flat tire in his chariot? What was the deal? Were the horses tired? Did he have half the water? What were the circumstances? Why did he pick that spot? Why? Because God said, "Pick that spot, read this chapter," and here he is. Then God brings somebody to him.

Do you know what the Bible teaches by all of that? It shows me very clearly and plainly that God prepares sinners. He prepares sinners. Right now, while we are here, somewhere out there, somebody connected to your life who is lost is working through some things because of something you said, or something somebody else said, or something they heard here, or whatever. Right now, they are thinking those things through.

Do you know what God is doing? God is preparing sinners. That is His job. The Bible says the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. He is the true light of the world. Every man that comes into the world, and every woman, every man is faced with that idea of God and Christ, and God asks that question, "Where art thou?" They are reading the Bible, and they keep mulling it over, and God keeps dealing with them, and dealing with it, and the question God keeps asking is, "Where are you? Where are you? Where are you?" They hear something, and in their mind, they try to put it aside, and the Holy Spirit of God says, "No, where are you?" God forces us to look at where we are at. Because God asks unsaved men, "Where are you at?"

Have you ever seen the question in the Bible God asks Christians? He asks unsaved men where they are at, but He asks God's people, "Who are you?" That is something to go through and study. I am not even going to tell you more words there; I am going to make you find it yourself. Those questions, they kill me. I wish somebody would come out with a translation just to call the questions off. I would buy that. Because when I read my Bible, if it is just statements, I can preach them to you. But if it is questions, I have to deal with them.

They put out new Bibles that take all the "thees" and the "thous" out, do they not? They put out a Bible that takes out the "shes" and the "hes," or takes the "hes" and puts in the "shes," whatever they do. Why do they not put one in there and just take all the questions out? Because somebody is going to have to answer them.

The Bible says, "How savest thou the arm that hath no," excuse me, it says, "How hast thou helped him that is without power?" That is an unsaved man. I have a sneaking suspicion that when I get to the judgment seat of Christ, God is going to ask me how I helped unsaved people. He is going to say, "Bob, I put you down there. I saved you for a reason. I gave you a Bible that told me My whole plan. You had one job, you had one job, you had one job, you had one job. That job is to be a lighthouse for Me and to win people to Christ and talk about Me. I told you that if I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto Me. I put you down there, and you had one goal. That one goal is to emulate Me and My Spirit and My power, that people would see you and be drawn to the light and get saved."

"Bob, let me ask you a question: How hast thou helped him that is without power, unsaved people?"

VII. Question 2: Saving The Arm With No Strength (The Young Christian)

Then the second question. He says, "How savest thou the arm that hath no strength?" I will tell you right now, the first question he is asking has to do with unsaved people, no power. But this question has to do with the arm that has no strength. That is a young Christian. You see this person here, whoever it is, "How savest thou the arm?" He is part of the body. He is not like the man that has no power. This man is the arm. He is "How savest thou the arm that hath no strength?" This young man, this person he is talking about here, is part of the body, but he has no strength. That is a young Christian.

A young Christian gets saved. Let me tell you something: right now, if you are a young Christian, the moment you got saved, you have living within you all the power that God has when He created the universe and the galaxies. The moment you got saved, you now have that power in your life. Somebody says, "Well, how come I'm struggling with the way of things that I am?" Because you have the power, but you have no strength yet. You have to take power and develop it into strength. That is our job.

John 15:16

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Everybody loves that verse. That is the verse the preachers always use to try to manipulate you to go out and win people to Christ. That you are ordained. The day you got saved, you are ordained to go and bring forth fruit. That will get out there and win them to Christ. Read the rest of the verse: "and that your fruit should remain."

Anybody ever come to this church, gets involved for a little bit, and goes somewhere else or does not go anywhere or whatever, I hope that never happens, but I know that it will. But the one thing I make sure that it, the reason why it never happens, it will never happen because somebody was not willing to spend downtime with them, to teach them the Bible, to help that arm who has the power of God in their life the day they got saved, but has no strength, develop that power into strength. That is our job.

Proverbs 27:23

Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds.

Do you know what that means? That means every time you open up the book to teach the Bible, every time you work with somebody to help somebody, you are looking out for them, and you know what the bottom line is, and you take the Word of God and you give them everything that they need to give them the best chance they can.

You see, the devil's plan is real simple. It is not hard, it really is not. The devil's plan, Plan A, is this: Plan A is to get you and me in hell. That is Plan A. That is the devil's plan. The devil's plan is to get you to doubt God's Word, "Yea, hath God said," and to get you to the point where he gets your soul in hell.

You say, "Well, I'm saved." Here comes Plan B. Plan A failed when you got saved. So he moved to Plan B. The devil knows he cannot get you in hell; you are saved now. So what he is going to do is to use the same questions to get you off track so you will never plug in to be the powerhouse that God wants you to be so others around you will go to hell. It is so simple.

If he cannot get you, he will get your mother. If he cannot get you, he will get your father. If he cannot get you, he will get your sister. He will get your brother. He will get your aunt. He will get the guy you work with. He will get your girlfriend. He will get your boyfriend. If he cannot get you, he will get you off track to the place where if he cannot get you to doubt what God said

about eternity and salvation, then he will get you to doubt what God said about the victorious Christian life of just believing the book and living it by faith. It is simple.

Do you get how you overcome that? You take the power that you get the day you get saved and you develop that power into strength. "How savest thou the arm that hath no strength?" How do you do it? You exercise it. It is so easy, I do not know how anybody can miss it.

Hebrews 5:12-14

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Exercise, exercise, exercise. When you get saved, our job is to put you on a spiritual exercise program. We do it on Thursday night, we do it on Sunday morning, we do it one-on-one. You sit down and you have a chance to exercise your understanding about the Word of God. Asking questions, finding out this, putting two and two together and coming up with four instead of six. Pretty soon, you learn how to do it, and pretty soon you are not just dealing with what Jesus said one time.

He says, "If you're faithful in the little things," he says, "I'll make you ruler over many things." Now, I know that verse is talking about the millennium, I understand that. But in a practical sense, if you are faithful in the basic little things that you do right now for God, God takes those and adds to those, and in time, through that exercise, He develops you so that pretty soon you understand the big things.

That is why most pastors, when they start out building the church and they get a small group coming, they want to electrify the crowd. So they will pick some, they will buy a full-page spread or put an ad out front of the church and talk about the fact, "Gonna study the book of Daniel, gonna study the book of Revelation, come," because they want to hook everybody, because everybody is interested in prophecy, and anybody will come.

Somebody, I promise you right now, if you went out to your friends and said, "Hey, Bob Alexander's going to teach this great study this coming Thursday night. He's going to teach this great study about what really happened in the Kobe Bryant case, and who shot JFK, and who did this, and all that, and who Charles Manson really was. He's going to show you, he's going to teach the book of Revelation, he's going to name the Antichrist, and he's going to show you and he's going to give you the time, the date that Christ is going." This place should be packed.

You go to that same person and say, "Hey, you know what, Thursday night, we're going to study the book of Ecclesiastes, and we're going to go through every philosophy that man got and find out where it's at and find out why this world got in the mess that it's in today." You will be here.

Maybe. It depends if you can get *Survivor* taped or not before you get here. Why? Everybody is interested in the exciting stuff.

Oh, I am telling you, yes, that is exciting, but do you know what the bottom line is? It is not going to help you a bit tomorrow when you have to go out and face the things you have to face at work. It is not going to do a bit tomorrow if you have parents or you have brothers and sisters that give you, or friends that give you a tough time because you love the Bible and are trying to learn the Bible.

I am just telling you, the issue needs to be that you have to lay, we talked about it, we lay the foundation and then we build upon that foundation: gold, silver, and precious stones. I am telling you, questions in the Bible are something else. When you get saved, God brings you to the place where He exercises you. He brings you to the place where He just, He exercises you, just like going to a gym.

I watched this Russian guy one time, and I watched him. This Russian guy, he was a weightlifting champion in the world, and I saw it on television. This was years ago; I think he may even be dead now. But if he is not, I do not know why he is not, the way he lifted all that weight. This guy, I do not know, it was incredible. It was something like 70,000 pounds or something. It was a lot. I am not kidding, you know they have a steel bar. I am not kidding, when he picked this thing up and got it there, that steel bar was bending.

He is grunting and groaning, and the pelvic muscle on his body is popping out, and he gives that last jerk, and he throws everything up over his head. It was like, realistically, it was like 600 pounds. I do not know what it was, 600 pounds, it was incredible. I looked at that guy, and I always like it when they, I do not care that they, I like to see him throw it down. That is the great part to me. He just throws it down, and the whole building shakes, and the weights bounce, and to me that was the whole test of it. Anyway, 600 pounds.

I watched that and I thought to myself, "That's incredible." But do you know what? I promised you last week, he was not shopping with his wife at the grocery store and saw a Wheaties box with some weightlifter on it and said, "Oh, I can do that." He did not just write his name in there, "Yeah, I'm Paul Bunyan, I want to lift 600 pounds, and we're going to go to the World Weightlifting Championship," and then walk in there and just pick that thing up. "600 pounds, yeah, slap a little more on it," and say, "Yeah, that's good, okay, let's see here, oh, yeah, okay, okay," and to just pick that up.

He did not do it that way. He started out, I do not know how much he weighed, but I think if I remember right, in my weightlifting days when I was in the Olympic weightlifting team, I think you start out with half your body weight. In my case, I only weighed 20 pounds, so I started with 10. You put that weight on there and you start working it, and then you do all kinds of things, and you learn how to lift so you do not hurt your back, because I will tell you what, you can do some serious damage with 600 pounds if you do not know what you are doing. That is a lot of weight.

You put that weight on, you start working it, and you start doing all kinds of work with it, and pretty soon, you can tell in weightlifting, they call it "burns." You get burns in your arms. You

feel your muscles stretching, so you want that burn, man, you want that burn. If that does not work, you get some steroids, anything will work. You work that weight, and pretty soon, you are comfortable with that, and then you slap on some more weight. Pretty soon, you are up to 200 pounds, and you are doing really good with that. Then pretty soon you burn, you got the burn, and you put another 50 pounds on, now you get 300 pounds, and then you got the burn, you put another, and pretty soon you are up to 400 pounds, and then you put the, and you are like five and a half pounds, you are working that and working that, and you get to 600 pounds, and you just, you get that thing where you can, you almost, you got it just a little bit there, you do not want to burn too much here because you will kill yourself, so you just, you just. Now this tape is going to go all over the world as a weightlifting seminar, and that is not what it is.

After a while, you build that thing up. Do you know what you do? You exercise. You exercise your legs because, hey, you can pick up 600 pounds with your arm, but if you have pretzels for legs, you are not going to make it. You have to have some legs. I am telling you right now, lifting weight, you lift it with your legs. If you try to lift it with your back, your spinal cord will rip right out of your back. You lift it with your legs, and this guy could have, from up here, and then have legs that big. I mean, put wings on him, and he looks like an ostrich running off through the field. You get those legs. So you work your legs. You work your arms, you work your chest, you work everything. You exercise.

You do not just say, "Oh yeah, here they have a world chance." Try that at a kung fu match sometime. "Oh, world champion kung fu, yeah, I can do that. I know that, you know, I can do kung fu." You will be killed. You have to practice, you have to practice, you have to practice. Find some old guy and try to grab the stones out of his hand, and you cannot get there until you can get them. He has to call you a little grasshopper, or you are not going anywhere.

It is the same way with weightlifting. You have to exercise and exercise and exercise and exercise and exercise, and you start out with 10, 20, 30, 40, 100 pounds, and you will work up, and someday you get the belt that says he is the world champion weightlifter, and he has got nine hernias to prove it.

Let me just tell you, it is the same way with the Bible. You do not start out lifting 600 pounds spiritually. You start out with understanding you laid a foundation, and you build on that foundation: gold, silver. Learn what the gold is, learn what the silver is, learn what the precious stones are. Then you find out, you go back and you find out gold, what He did for me, and you look at the cost, and you look at this, and you get the consequences, and you look at the cause, and you look at all the different things, and you add. Then pretty soon God shows you something else.

So God slaps a little more weight on the bar, and then you learn a few more things, and you put this together, and you see this. You come to Thursday night Bible study, and you learn something here, and suddenly that thing that you learned six months ago ties in with what you learned last night, and bang, a whole new concept comes in, and then God slaps some more weight on you. Then you do some other things, and you just keep growing, and you learn how to build a relationship, and you learn how this, and then God gives you an opportunity to do this, and you

begin to speak to somebody at work or somebody in your family, and you begin to tell them the story of Christ.

It is a fight; it is never going to be easy. People give you opposition, and they get mad at you, but you stay with it, and you are faithful. Do you know why God, you get the opposition? God slaps a little weight on. He puts more weight on and more weight on, and pretty soon you learn how to sidestep the issues, and you learn how to take the Word of God, and pretty soon you are standing there at the judgment seat of Christ as the world heavyweight weightlifter of the world, because you learned the Bible, and you learned through exercise how to take the power that you get when you are saved and convert it into strength.

That is why a young Christian who gets saved today can have everything that the greatest man or woman you ever met in your life knows about the Bible, who you hold up as, "Man, that is my hero of the faith in his life," and that person really knows the Bible and God. He really, she knows, he knows, whatever and whoever that person, whoever they may be, is, does not have any more than a guy that just gets saved today. Not an ounce. The same power that the man or woman over here that has it is the same power that young person gets or young Christian gets the moment they get saved.

The difference is one took it and exercised it and converted that power to strength. The other one never did. One of them came to the place in their life where they realized when they got saved, the devil could not get them to hell anymore, but they also realized that the devil was going to try to get everybody else around them because they got them off track, and they dedicated themselves, exercised themselves to come to the point where nobody will ever get me off track ever. The other person got saved, got off track. Simple as that.

VIII. Conclusion: The Demand For Answers

We only got through two today. These questions are something else, and these questions, as all questions in the Bible, somebody is going to have to answer because he says, "I demand of thee an answer." He says, "Gird up thy loins like a man, I will demand of thee an answer." You think you are so smart, you think you are so tough, you think you are so big, you think you are so intellectual, "Let me ask you some questions, and you can't answer God one question in a thousand." Incredible.

The only one who can answer these questions, and so far you have seen it, is an unsaved man, and a child of God, an arm, part of the body, somebody who has power but has no strength. When we come down through the rest of these next week and get through these things and finish out our study on the judgment seat, you are going to see what we are dealing with here. We are dealing with six questions that only one people group that I know of can answer, and that is you and I. I have a sneaking suspicion. Next time we get together and we finish the thing, I am going to show you how they tie into the judgment seat of Christ.

Let's pray. Father, we thank You for all that You do today. We love You, we thank You for Your Word, we thank You for the truth of it, for its power. We thank You, Lord, for those that have come today. May the Word of God be a blessing to them. Lord, we just love You so much and

thank You, Father, for all that You have given us, the insight, the wisdom. Lord, thank You, Father, that You have given us a book that tells us everything we need to know. We love You, Father, and we will thank You and praise You. Bless us throughout this week. Bless these people, Father, in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.