

Luke 9:57-62

Sunday 7/13/2003

I am doing better right now, so I praise the Lord for that. Keep me from walking, I am in bad shape. As Pastor Alexander said, at the age of 74, I started a new career, and that was helping out in a Bible school for a while to get started out in Long Island, New York. How many have been to Long Island? It is pretty out there. It is the ministry of the International Baptist Church out of Brooklyn. The man pastors two churches: Brooklyn and Long Island. It is totally Brooklyn and Long Island. But we have 13 acres of ground out there, a beautiful campus. They bought it 10 years ago, trusting the Lord to start a Bible school in the East to try to keep preachers in the East and build the churches out in the Northeast, which is badly needed. That is the burden of the ministry. That is a soul-winning church, fundamental, independent, toe-stomping preaching, which I like. So I am in hog heaven out there.

I am a farm boy originally, so if I use some farm expressions, that is part of my vocabulary. You just have to overlook that. It is good to be here this morning. In fact, at my age, I am glad to be anywhere.

Before I get started, I have one preacher joke here, and I will try not to live up to it. There was this preacher who had a habit of preaching a long time. He would come to the point, he said, "In conclusion." But after "in conclusion," he would keep on going. Then he would say, "In conclusion," and keep on going, over and over and over again. So finally, a fellow on the back row got up and walked out. Later on, he came back in, and the guy was just finally wrapping it up. He said, "Why did you leave?" He said, "Well, I got a haircut. How come you would not get a haircut?" He said, "Well, I did not need it when I came in." So I will try not to be that long, all right?

If you are going to be a Bible church, a preaching church, a Baptist church here, you have got to have your Bible. I trust you have your Bible with you this morning. Before we went to New York, I got new eyes. I do not have to wear glasses anymore to see with. I had these laser transplants put in here. But I do have to have them for fine print. So I am going to be a college professor; I will take my glasses on and off, all right? If that is all right, turn with me to Luke chapter 9 for our text. We are going to be kind of running around the country a little bit this morning.

And it came to pass, that as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead, and go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Let us pray. Father, we thank You for Jesus today. We thank You, Lord, for Your goodness and Your mercy to us. Thank You for the opportunity, Father, to be in Your house this morning with this group of people gathered together for one purpose: to worship You and to learn the Word of God and to be a witness and testimony for You in their lives. Bless each one. God, meet their needs. Lord, meet my needs this morning as I stand before Your people to feed the sheep, Lord, and not these lips of clay, in Jesus' name. Amen.

I. A New Beginning

This is a new church. You begin a new church here. I will call my message this morning, "A New Beginning." I believe the foundation for it is found in some thoughts in this verse here. Then we are going to look at some other things to share with you. If you look here in precisely verse 62, "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

He is talking about these who said, "Follow me." One said, "I have got to go bury my father first, and I will follow You." Another said, "I have got to go say goodbye before I can follow You." No, if we are going to follow the Lord, there is an urgency. What He is talking about is urgency. I do not mean you neglect your family. I do not mean the Lord is not saying, "Do not take care of your family," and you cannot say goodbye to somebody. But the emphasis is, "Who is first in your life? Who do you follow?"

The foundation here, He said, "You cannot always eat." The illustration here of the plow. Again, as I said, if you did not have experience on a farm, you do not fully understand this verse to me. But anyway, looking back, if you are going to go plow a field, you cannot look back. What do I mean? When you go lay out a furrow in the field to plow, you would step yourself off from one corner of the fence on this end, then you go down, mark it off the other end, and then you put your flag down to the other end, maybe a quarter mile away or half a mile away, and hope you see it. Then when you start plowing, you would never take your eye off that flag. You would not move. Why? If you moved your eye off, then you look back and you have a furrow this way, or you may be going halfway across the field. If you are going to have a straight row down through there to plow, to lay it off to start plowing, you had to stay consistent. You could not be looking back.

What Jesus is saying to me here is, you cannot be spending your time looking back in the past. You cannot be looking back. If you are going to have a new beginning, you are going to be looking at the now and looking straight ahead. Many of you have had different pasts here. You have had different experiences over the past number of years. Pastor Alexander has had different experiences over the years here and all the history. But you cannot dwell on yesterday. It is on the now. You are living in the day. Today, you are living today. Yesterday is gone, and you cannot be living today.

If you have got anything in your heart, let me say this. When you have different experiences and you have had some maybe bitter experiences, some people have hurt you, said things about you that are not true, and so forth. But if you have got any bitterness in your heart this morning, if you cannot go up to a person that even wrongs you and say, "I love you," you had better get a confession going and get that right, or you cannot have a new beginning. You cannot be looking back always at what yesterday was.

I have had to go through that. I have gone through that in recent months. You spend 33 years of your life building an endeavor to reach people and build a church with a testimony and build the buildings. I literally am a jack of all trades, master of none. I would be over that building and working on that property and building buildings at night, three or four o'clock in the morning. I would wake up and did not know if I was dead or fell off the ladder on the floor where I might be at the wee hours in the morning. But I did not do it for a man; I did it for the Lord. To see someone come in and tear it all apart and all that kind of stuff, that has been a little battle. That has been a little battle.

When it comes to this conclusion, I was reading John chapter 21 or 20, somewhere in there, concerning the laborers where one was complaining because he worked all day and only got one penny, and somebody came in later and also got one penny. God used that to speak to my heart. I said, "Preacher, you get your reward for what you have done at New Hope. What takes place in the future is no longer your accountability. Your accountability now is what you are doing now." When that struck me, I had a burden lifted. I said, "Praise God, a building, a building, the people, the church, and the property sold to the Mormons." I got my reward for it. That is where you have got to look at your past.

You come from Kansas City Baptist, other places, but you have known each other for a long time, and you kind of tried to hang together during difficult times. It is difficult times. But for a new beginning, you have got to be looking ahead. I think a new beginning starts clean.

Just a way of introduction here, go back to just think about this. Go back to the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve started out clean. They started out with no sin. They were complete. They had a perfect beginning, a perfect environment. They had it made, had food to eat, everything provided for them, had health, had fellowship with the Lord, had complete freedom to do everything they wanted to do, except for one thing: "Do not eat that one tree." Everything was going good until Satan came along and said, "Who says you cannot do that?" God said, "Well, who, who sees?" And they listened to Satan, and you know the results. Sin came into the world. They lost their status. They hid from God. God said, "Where are you, Adam?" And they tried to hide themselves. "Well, we are naked before God." Well, they had been that way. But they blew it, and they blew it for us. Sin came into the world, and we are all sinners today because Adam and Eve cursed one breath away from hell. But praise God, God did not stop there, did He? He sent His Son to replace the sin of Adam that we might have life everlasting.

So, do not let Satan get into your new beginning. Do not let him get into your new beginning. He will try to do it. He will try to do it. So you keep your eyes focused on Jesus, right? "Follow me," Jesus said. "Follow me." Keep your eyes on Jesus, not on each other. You love each other. You

can disappoint a person, and a person can disappoint you. Even Pastor Alexander can disappoint you, and you can disappoint him. It is a two-way street. A lot of times, the pastor gets blamed for all this. No, it is a two-way street. You disappoint the pastor sometimes. I have had a lot of people disappoint me. But you do not quit going on. You do not quit following Jesus. Someone is trying to point out, that is my emphasis, I guess, this morning: this new beginning, keep your eye on the now and what God is going to do.

Man, this opening this door for that church down here, that building, man, that is, we did not have that at Lighthouse Baptist Church when we started here last summer. We did not, we did not, we started, I did not start it. The people started, and I went along. They called me in as pastor for several months until we got a pastor. Praise God, a pastor is coming this month from Virginia. I guess you do not have camps, so to speak, but we do have camps. You do have preachers that you relate to more than some preachers. I know Pastor Alexander, he is going to relate to him because he is just a down-to-earth Virginia fellow. Same with the grace of God, a great big guy, a great fellow. I mean, he is a monster of a fellow, but I think he will do a good job. I am rejoicing in what God is going to do. So that is kind of background.

I am going to challenge Old Path Baptist Church this morning, that has a new beginning. I want to share some ways with you that may help you here. Keep your eye on following Jesus and do not get sidetracked.

II. Be a Bible Believing Church

1. First of all, be a Bible believing church. You say, "Preacher, we are a Bible believing church." Let me turn over to 2 Timothy. You do not even have to see it. Most of you quote it, but we will just read it for good measure. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. All scripture is God-breathed. "Well, I believe that." You listen to me. 2 Timothy chapter 3. "I believe that." Well, believing it is revealed in how we practice it. How we practice it. So I am going to be a Bible believing church.
2. Here it says, "for doctrine." That is the principles of the Word of God. That is the teaching of the Word of God. It is profitable for that. Brother Alexander said, "I will teach you, I will help you in the Bible, and where you can know it." That is the backbone. That is the backbone, the Word of God.
3. I was reading in Psalms this morning, the 73rd Psalm, and I got a blessing. I came along there. Someone said, "I was in this, people had money and all their prosperity, and I was suffering here and going through all my problems." "I was in this until I went into the house, I went into the sanctuary of God." That is why the child of God has got to go to church. "I stay home." I was talking to a fellow yesterday. I rolled his eyes because I have known him for a long time. I rolled his eyes anyway, but I knew his dad going way back to the dark ages. When you know who I am, you go back to the dark ages. Next month, I will be 53 years old in the Lord. So, 53 years, you meet a lot of people.

4. In my home church, the St. John's Baptist Church on Truman Road over here, a hell-fire and brimstone preacher. I mean, I spent more time on the front on the morning events than I did in the pew when I first got saved. He knew what I did on Saturday night. He knew what I did on Monday morning. He knew, he had every sin in the book on me, and I praise God for it. Praise God for it. Brother Alexander, he was my pastor. I have had a few other pastors in between, but he has always been my pastor. I was saved under his ministry, went into the church, baptized in St. John's. I was saved at a citywide meeting in Kansas City downtown in this laboratory in 1950. They had a citywide revival meeting here with Southern Baptists back in those days. They had a Youth for Christ with the God of the Emeritus of New York from California, a priest. I got saved out of the Catholic Church on the last meeting here on August 11, 1950. I have not been the same since. God did something to me that I did not understand. I did not know what took place. I just knew something took place. It hit me later. I realized what God had done for me. In fact, when it hit me, I was driving down Truman Road, working at Sears and Roebuck at that time. Then I had me a shouting fit. I was baptized in the Gospel that day. I believe you can get excited about your salvation.
5. I have had people say, "Well, preacher, you are young now. You will calm down." I had one lady in my church out in Indiana say, "Preacher, you will calm down someday when you get older." I said, "You pray, honey, that I never get calmed down because we do not need to get calmed down. We need to get fired up for the Lord." Anyway, that is how I got all in all that. How many wonder something? Your mind goes first when you get older, and I forget what goes after that. So you will forgive me if that is the way. I am justified for doing that at an old age, all right? Pastor Alexander, young, he is not justified for that. But I can justify myself at an old age in that fight.
6. It is good to see all these young people here. This is young. I like being around young people. They keep me younger that way. This young adult class, you have energy. You knock on doors and you get out there and talk to people. You have energy and youth ahead of you. That is great. That is great.
7. It says, "for reproof." So the Word of God reproves. By the way, your preacher, he may rebuke you sometimes. "Well, he is our friend." He is your friend, but he is not your friend if he does not rebuke you. So do not get mad at him, all right? I am just talking to you this morning. I am just saying, if you do not like what I have to say, you cannot fire me. So I have a good—this is what I am enjoying about this time of life. I can say what I have been wanting to say for years. They cannot—I mean, they never want me back. They will never want me back, but at least they cannot fire me. They are not paying me. That is a good advantage to my position in life.
8. "For correction." The Word of God corrects us. It says, "We would be wrong." And then after correction, it gives us instruction how to do it right in righteousness. That is the Word of God. "That the man of God may be perfect, or complete, thoroughly furnished, unto all good works." The Word of God will make you and complete you for good works. We ought to be doing good works. Good works which glorifies the Lord. Winning souls is good works. Winning church is good works. What you are talking to your neighbors is good works. The list could go on. So be a Bible believing church.

III. Be a Bible Preaching Church

9. Secondly, be a Bible preaching church. I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. The time will come. That time has come, folks. We are living in that day. That time has been down through Paul's time, but it is our time as well. Now, I believe the Bible, but believe it, then we have got to preach it. Preaching the Bible can involve stepping on your toes. You want to preach here, not just tickle your ears. You want to preach there, step on your toes and make you mad to make you glad. That is Bible preaching. In season, out of season, not just once in a while, but all the time. I am talking about if you are going to be an independent, fundamental, hell-fire and brimstone, King James Baptist Church, you have got to be a fully Bible preaching church.

10. The reason I say that, look what happened. Why do we have the problems we are having in the world today? It is because we have gotten away from Bible preaching. I got this from the CLA, Christian Law Association. It is going to be a monthly deal here. Just some highlights of what is happening in our country. I am going to try to share a few of them with you. Sexual Assault

67% of victims sexually assaulted are under the age of 18.

34% of sexual assault victims are under the age of 12. Why do we have so much of it? We have perverted people, sinful people, but we do not preach morals anymore. You cannot preach them in school, in the public schools. So you cannot uphold anything. You cannot even uphold the simple Ten Commandments. 60% of Americans believe that divorce is morally acceptable.

One out of four Americans believe that abortion should be allowed under any circumstances.

50% believe that having a baby out of wedlock is morally acceptable. In the last 20 years, the number of children raised in single homes has gone up 230%. The home is deteriorating. 34% believe that gambling is wrong. Only 34% believe it is all right.

Six out of ten say that sex outside of marriage is okay. That is the morality of our country. Why? We do not have any preaching against sin. We do not have any preaching against it that it is wrong to lie, that the home is sacred. Abortion is sin. Homosexuality is sin. That does not mean you do not love the people, but sin. God calls it that. God calls it that.

"Well, we have got to love people." I do not say you do not love people, but you do not endorse sin. Our kids were growing up, they knew we loved them. But I said, "We are not going to endorse your sin. You will be wrong. You are going to pay the price. You are going to pay the price for it." I said, "We are going to stand by you. We will stick with you. We will not forsake you, but we are not going to endorse it." That is true all through their lives. Last year, one-third of all lesbian households had children living with them.

One-third of all births, including 40% of the births given last year, were to unmarried women. The list goes on. You can read the list. It is kind of an interesting list, but just to show you some of the conditions. I believe it is taking place because of not having Bible preaching in churches. If you are going to be an independent, fundamental Baptist church, then do not get mad when Pastor Alexander preaches the Word of God. Be a Bible preaching church.

IV. Be a Bible Obeying Church

11. Be a Bible obeying church. I am talking about obeying in church attendance. Hebrews 10:25 Obey in soul winning. Matthew 28:19-20 Obey in tithing. Obey in giving. I believe that tithe is just the beginning point of your giving. You do not really give until you get way beyond that. I have had people say, "Well, preacher, I do not believe in tithing." I said, "Well, the Pharisees did." And Jesus said, "You see the Pharisees, so just do more than the Pharisees and you are all right." So, if you do not believe in that, then you go and give more. Just outdo them and you will be in good shape. You will be in good shape. Obeying the Scriptures in loving one another. John speaks about that. 1 John speaks about loving one another. Obeying His commands. John speaks about obeying His commands. 1 John speaks about obeying His commandments. Having a forgiving spirit. Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. If you do not have a forgiving spirit, how are you obeying the Bible? You say one thing, I said, "Believe in it," and then "preaching it," but you still have got to obey it. That is where the rubber meets the road. God says something. Are you going to obey it and say, "Well, God really does not mean that"? I get so disgusted with that phraseology in our day. "Well, the Bible really does not mean that, preacher." I said, "Well, if God does not mean it, what does He mean?" "Well, I believe He means something else." No, you do not make it fit your philosophy. God's Word means what it says. If you do not want to believe it, you do not want to practice it, say, "I am just not going to pay no attention to it. I am not going to obey it." But do not say God does not mean what He says. I am going to charge you for that one. Have compassion on someone. You and I can be, it is easier to like certain people over other people. That is our human nature. Some people are just more likable. Am I right? It is just true. And then someone, "Well, that person, that person, a little dirty, a little cruddy down there, I do not want to get too close to that person." No, you reach out to that person. You have compassion for people. You have compassion. Obey and train your children. The Bible says, "Train a child in the way you should go." Parents have the responsibility of training the child. Babysitters, that is not the responsibility of the babysitter. I do not know how many of you may put your children in daycare because you have got to work in all this struggle. But those are not the ones to raise your child. Moms and dads are given that responsibility, not somebody else. I know the economy of our country today is very difficult. People have to work to survive. But sometimes I wonder if the work is not surviving to take care of what we want, and we might be able to get by on less if we did some reevaluating. When my kids were growing up, I was in school. I started college when I was 24 years old. I finished graduate work when I was 34 years old. We were married and had three children. I worked all the way,

I worked 40, 60 hours a week going to school. All through the years, my kids grew up without a daddy. But my wife was home with the kids. They got older in high school and gone, but then she went to work, and that was a mistake. But they helped out financially. You just do without things. We were coming down the road this morning. A car had an old side that was torn off. My wife said, "Man, that thing is kind of a rattletrap, is not it?" I said, "Let us think back. Think back. We had a '51 Plymouth that the Lord used to help pay my tuition several times because I would get hit by somebody, and I would take the money rather than fix the car and pay my bills." The thing just kept getting hit. I had the door on my side, it was frozen, but I could not even get it closed. I had to put a screen door hook on it to hook the thing so I could drive down the road. They said, "When you trade it off," we did not have any money to trade it off. The '51 Plymouth, best car I had, drove about nine years. They gave me a hundred dollars for it, sold for 50 per junk. It was probably still running until it hit a rock down in Georgia, and the crankcase was hit, and the rod was hitting the deal, so I had to finally junk it. But I am saying, we have been there. We have been there. The Lord has been good to us over the years. We never dreamed that the Lord has been good. The Lord has blessed us. We have been in 22 foreign countries preaching. I have been to Israel twice. It is nothing but the goodness of the Lord. But I did not have to go back then. What I am saying is, we need to train up our children, teach them, and where they grew up. All of our kids are grown. All my grandkids are grown. My baby will be 50 years old this year. They are all steadfast, faithful people, and I believe it is because we tried to train them right. I never did uplift my family and my kids. My kids had all the problems they had. They went through the same frustrations that other people's kids go through. I always told people, "Just remember this: a preacher's kids are no different than your kids." They all face the same problems. Sometimes people put preacher's kids up on a pedestal and say, "Well, they are different." No, they have got the same problem your kids have got. Any difference? You have got to have an understanding for that in your life. Obey separation from the world. Obey the study of the scriptures. Remember who you belong to. You belong to the Lord. Your body belongs to the Lord. Do you know that? He bought it with a price. It says, "Glorify God in your what? In your mind? No, in your body." In your body. So your body belongs to the Lord. He says, "Well, I can mind my own self. I can do as I please. Do not they tell me what to do?" No, God tells you what to do. God tells you your place is you are not to go. I do not believe Christ is being a gambler. I do not believe you either. So, preacher, I am a type one. If you are good down there, a gambling place, you get your meal cheap. That is enticing. I like cheap meals. But I said, "No, I am not going to go to one of them because if I came out of there, and somebody who knows me saw me coming out, they would not know I had not been gambling." I said, "No, I do not have to gamble. I am not going to be around the place." I believe that is carried out. So much I could say.

V. Be Led by a Bible Preaching Preacher

12. Be led by a Bible preaching preacher. You have got that. You have got that. Be led by a Bible preaching preacher. There are all kinds of preachers. I want to share with you. I read this article, picked this up somewhere. I wrote it down. I thought it was pretty good. Five Types of

Preachers:1.) A preacher who just teaches the Bible. You have got to be a teacher. That is true. You have got to be a teacher of the Word of God, but they just emphasize teaching. They spend all their time in study, and you never see them walk out on Sunday morning and maybe then walk back in their office. They do not get everything out to others, which you need to do that too. But as far as hospitals, they never make a hospital visit. They never go knock on a door. They say, "Well, I am just a studying preacher." Well, that is not my style. That is one type of preacher.2.) A revivalist type. All the preacher's salvation messages. People are starved to death on salvation messages. That is for lost people. The Bible says, "Feed the sheep." So I always bring in salvation when I preach down through the years. But the emphasis was feeding the sheep because I got more sheep there. If I preach salvation, people are going to dry up. That is that kind of preacher. But that preacher never gets in too much trouble because he never hits any sin. He does not hit home base anywhere. He never steps on anybody's toes. So he has a little easier life.3.) The celebrity type. Everything Hollywood style. I was down that celebrity type, and they have got to have the only operate on. They have a following that just hangs around them all the time and worships the preacher and so forth. You have to worship the Lord. You honor the pastor, and you follow the pastor because he is an under-shepherd. He is the overseer, and he cannot be the overseer if he is not the leader. I always said this is only one final boss in the church. The Lord is number one. As far as the earthly one, it is the preacher. I do not mean you do not work with people and consider people and all this stuff. I am not talking about dictatorship. I am not talking about that type of person. But there has to be a boss. There has to be somebody with the buck stop here, as Truman said. That is the pastor. But he is in that light. So, the celebrity type. I can name one here in our area, in the metropolitan area, that I call a celebrity type preacher.4.) The contemporary type. Anything goes. Any kind of singing goes. I appreciate your singing this morning. I appreciate the message. Daniel here, man, that was my liver. I used to say, "Get it all the time." Somebody pointed out to me, "People do not have gizzards." So in my teen years, they pointed out one time, "Preacher, you do not have a gizzard. Chickens have gizzards." You let the younger generation straighten you out on it. They will straighten you out. They will keep it straight. Anyway, contemporary type, anything goes. I am odd. I am old-minded in many ways. I do not apologize for it. The modern thing today, and I know why people do it, I understand why they do it, but you will never see me clap hands as far as somebody's singing is concerned. Why? You clap for entertainers. When you sing for the glory of God, you are not entertaining. I am preaching; I am not entertaining. I know why people do it. I know why when you get through, we get a blessing from singing. It is like saying, "Amen." I know the subject for it. But you know what blesses my heart? It is just to have some good old glory. "Amen! Praise the Lord!" That blesses my liver.5.) The whole Bible preaching pastor. He preaches as led by the Lord, lives his life. He walks his talk out before the people. He will be at your side at the hospital. He will be at your side when you need him as your pastor will be. Now, he cannot do all that and work full time, folks. If he is going to be a part-time pastor working, you get organized where you can support him financially. That needs to be your number one goal. He did not tell me to say that; I am saying it. Your number one goal is to sacrifice, dig, get people saved, get people in the church where you have support to support the man of God where he does not have to be out here on

a secular job. He cannot do everything. That is bare facts. I have tried it. You cannot do it all. You cannot do it. Even doing that, he will be doing his best to be there when you need him. He will be there. That is that preacher. That is my type of preacher. That loves people. Loves all kinds of people. Not partiality to one person or another person. Loves the old, young alike. Loves teenagers. I love teenagers. My wife and I have traveled with teenagers year after year. The greatest thing we ever did was take our kids to the mission field. I am talking about home here in the States. But we went to New Mexico and built a church on the mountain. We built a church on that whole reservation for a missionary. My teenagers, with a few adults, but I mean, I had some strong teenagers. It made them. Out of that ministry, there are four or five of them in the ministry today. God has called them to preach. I believe it is by his postman. Is not it rough? We did not have running water. We had outside facilities. Girls said, "Preacher, I wash my hair every day." I said, "Honey, out here you are not going to wash your hair every day." "I have got to have a shower every day." I said, "You are not going to get a shower every day. You are going to sponge bath. We all get stinky and the same. You will not know it is different." We had more fun doing that. We did that for completing our building. In fact, when we resigned the church, I was 70 years old when we resigned. We left them out. We were out in New Mexico. We headed out for four months of traveling. We traveled four months. That is where we resigned. They came back. We went west. They came east. Hardest departure time. Being around. I just had a soft spot for teenagers. They even liked the old man. That was the amazing part about it. They even liked traveling with the old man. So we had fun and enjoyed life. That is five types of preachers. The list could go on. We have got to shut it up here. But I was there to tell me how long I could preach. So that was a mistake.

VI. Be Controlled by the Holy Spirit

13. Be controlled by the Holy Spirit. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Anybody knows or has been around drinking, drinking controls the person, right? A man is drunk, he is controlled by the alcohol. You do things you do not do when you are sober. Many men become violent when they are drunk. They do not do it when they are sober. It has got control of you. God makes a comparison. The Holy Spirit is to control us. Yes, the drunk is controlled by alcohol. You are to be controlled by the Holy Spirit of God. So we need the filling of the Holy Spirit daily in our lives.

14. "Speaking to yourselves in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. Giving thanks always for all things under God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." This is a test. How you can get some filling of the Spirit. You have got to empty yourself, and that is another message. I did not sell a lot of messages. But empty yourself. Confess your sin. You cannot have sin in your life if you are going to get full of the Holy Spirit. You get the Holy Spirit when you get saved. You get the Holy Spirit when you get saved. But that does not mean the Holy Spirit controls you. That does not mean you are full of the Holy Spirit. When you are full of the Holy Spirit, God has

control of you. God has control of me. So you have got to be a clean vessel to be filled. You cannot fill a dirty glass full of rocks with water. It has got to be empty to fill it with water. You put water in it, but it is not full. Same way, empty. Be full.

15. We have got to empty ourselves that God takes over our lives to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. This is something you ask God to do every day. For a Spirit-led church and a Spirit-controlled church, you will not have trouble following the leadership of your pastors. Some of you guys, he said you can preach and fill in everything. That is great. That is great. But just remember, Brother Alexander is your pastor. "Well, I can do a better job than he can do." If that is the case, then go out and start your own church. If you want to serve as a servant and work together, that is great too. That is the way it is to be. But you do not have any trouble. You do not have any trouble submitting to authority if you are filled with the Holy Spirit of God. If you have got trouble submitting to the leadership of the pastor, check your filling. Check your filling.
16. If you are going to have a new church with a new beginning, you are going to have to be Bible-believing, Bible-preaching, Bible-obeying, and then being led by a Bible preacher and being controlled by the Holy Spirit. You will have harmony and fellowship and a great time serving God. It is great to come to church and just have a great time in the Lord. But when you go out, you do not sit on your fanny all week. You go out to serve. You come in to receive. You go out to serve. New beginning, let that be your emphasis.

Let us bow our heads as we look to the Lord in prayer. I will turn it over to the brothers. Heavenly Father, we come to You in Jesus' name this morning. We pray, Father, that the Word of God has found soil. That people hang on to the truths. Go forth to serve in this new beginning of the Old Path Baptist Church, Father. We will give You the praise for it in Jesus' name. Amen.

You know, a lot of preachers today study their Bibles, put sermons together, and then they go preach. That is fine, but one of the things I have learned over life is, this is what he does. He studies his Bible, and he preaches. What he preaches draws on from what he has done and what God has done in his life. That was a straight, plain, practical message based on a man who has given his life to serve God. You go to a Bible college someplace or go to a seminar on how to go to church. You get a lot of frilly things and they charge a lot of money and you would get nothing. You got the basic right to the mode where you need to be. I have got to tell you, I believe the King James Bible too, so that is a plus, but you have figured it out by now, I am sure. That was good today. I appreciate that, and I really do. I know it is tough to give an invitation in a room like this. But let me say this to you. I do not know where you are at today. I do not know where you are at with the Lord. As far as I know, most of you are saved, and almost all of you, but you may have some struggle in life or whatever. Let me just tell you this. Come and see me if you need to afterwards. We will be around for a little bit while you shake a hand with the pastor. We can go to another room and we can talk or whatever. I am glad you are here today. We love you.

When we are dismissed here, after we get out of here, we are going to eat at Oak Country Buffet over in Fortinola. We know them. We figured that was bad. We want to invite you all to come over there. If you want to come by and eat with us, we are going to take you to Pastor's Wack

over there. You are welcome to. If you have got other plans, that is fine. But we always want to include you into whatever we are doing. Thank you for being here today. If you are a visitor, we love you. You are welcome to come back as much as you can.

Next week, we will be in our new building. I expect everybody to bring somebody with you. We need to fill that place up as quickly as we can so we can get to 300, Mark. Amen. Get to the other place. I am just kidding. God will bring it in His own time. But you know what? It is up to us to be out there in the highways and byways. If everybody here has somebody that you know that God has put in your life that you can influence, maybe they are not saved. Maybe they are saved. They just do not have a good church to go to or go anywhere. Ask God to show you this week and try to bring somebody with you next Sunday. Do not forget, there is a 9:00 Bible study. You will be right here. We will have it here this week, and then we will move over to the church on Sunday. Boy, we are looking for a time with that. Chris is so excited. I tell you what. I have never seen him talk in tongues, but he did. I was there. I heard you say on the phone, "You got the Holy Ghost?" What is your name here? Just remain Baptist College School. He is gone, man. He is gone. He got the baptism of the Holy Ghost. He is ready to fly. I love you to death. Thank you for being here today. Let us just close in prayer and stick around and visit for a few minutes and shake hands with the visitor. We are glad to have you. Troy, thank you for being here today. I hope you come back before I let you love you. Troy and I go back. He is in my high school class, you know, 40 years ago, I think it was. Anyway, we are glad you are here today. All of you. Minders, good to see you back. We love you too. Let us ask God to bless you. Father, we thank You and praise You for all You do for us. We love You. Thank You for today. Thank You for the man that You brought.