

## I. Introduction to a New Ministry Phase

I want to preach to you today, though it may break into someplace along the line there, but I want you to really listen to me today. This is going to be a good thing. So many preachers, when they come, they have, I guess in the country western term, a "country come to Jesus meeting." It is always a bad thing, but it is not today. I think one of the most exciting things that I know personally, when we started this church so many years ago, this was the goal that I had, and we finally are getting close to that.

I want to talk to you today out of the book of 2 Corinthians, but I want to talk to you about how it is going to impact us from this point on. Most pastors, when they start churches or they build churches, they really do not understand, I think, in many cases, the biblical model for it and really how to put it together. I look at all of the things that we have in the Bible that really show us on one level and then take us down on a deeper level.

In the world today, you hear a lot about the pyramid schemes that people send around, and you get on it and send it to the next person and all that stuff. A while back, not so much anymore, but a new age movement came out with "pyramid power," where you take dead lettuce and put it under a pyramid, and in the morning it is back to life again. All of that stuff is goofy. We know that. But if you have been around in the Bible for any length of time, you know that everything that is goofy out in this world has to have a basic element of truth to it.

## II. The Great Pyramid as a Biblical Model

I do not know what you know about the world, but one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, which is really, I think, the only one that is still left, was the Great Pyramid over in Cheops. It is called the Great Pyramid of Cheops. It is not like the other pyramids in Egypt. The other pyramids are much smaller, and they were built for tombs of the pharaohs. When you study the Great Pyramid, it never was intended to be a tomb. There are many, many books on it, both secular and religiously written about it, but the Great Pyramid is one of the greatest mysteries in all of the world.

If you have your Bible and you know your Bible, you know that back in the book of Isaiah, he talks about a monument in Egypt that breaks the northern and the southern aspect of it. Years and years and years ago, when the British were excavating it and looking at it, they found that that Great Pyramid is built right on the baseline that divides Upper and Lower Egypt. It is one of the most amazing things you have ever seen in your life. They have never found the door to the entry level to the Great Pyramid, never have. The way they got into it was back in the 1400s that a bunch of Arabs were trying to plunder treasure out of the pharaohs' tombs, and they began to drill in crossways and actually hit one of the passageways. But they have never found a door, never found an opening to that pyramid.

Most pyramids that are over there have a capstone on them. This Great Pyramid never has had a capstone on it, never has. When the world looks at that, they line it up to one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. But when you understand your Bible and you see by the mathematical precision, by the way that it is made, there is no architect on the planet today with all the technology that we have and everything that we put into all that we know. There is no way today that we could duplicate anywhere close the precision by which it was built, the angles by which those stones were cut, everything that went together is impossible to duplicate today. It does not matter if you are cutting with a laser or you have the ability to make something down to the finest degree. It still could not match what was done.

Personally, when you put it all together in the Bible, and Clarence Larkin has a great aspect on it in his *\*Dispensational Truth\**, it is probably pretty clear that Job was connected some way with the Great Pyramid in its building. The Great Pyramid is not only a marvel of science and engineering, it is a great marvel of Bible truth and history. There are a number of chambers in there that match up to all the aspects of the Bible. There is a bottomless pit in the Great Pyramid that goes down, that is directly down beneath it. It has a queen's chamber, it has a king's chamber, it has the sarcophagus, which normally they put a coffin in for the pharaohs. There was no coffin ever put in it, but the dimensions for it are exactly what is given in the Old Testament for the Ark of the Covenant. It is an incredible study. No man on earth has ever unearthed it all. I have studied it for years and years and years. I have read every book on it and took every study I could on it, and still, with all the learning and the knowledge of men who are much smarter than I am, there is still so much that they did not know.

They think there is another chamber in it that they have never discovered yet. It happened one time when they were doing something else, and they heard something fall and hit the floor in a chamber, which would make another room, but they have never been able to find it. They have X-rayed it, they have done everything, and the X-rays really will not penetrate it. They could never find it. But when we understand the Bible, we know that the queen's chamber would match up to the nation of Israel, would it not? The king's chamber would match up to the Lord Jesus Christ as the King of kings. But there would have to be another chamber that would not ever be able to be found, and that would represent the church and why it has never been found, because the church in the Bible is a mystery. You can take the stairs and the steps, and I have heard guys lay out that it lines up to the first coming and the second coming of Christ, and it is incredible. The Great Pyramid in some way or form represents a monument on this earth to what God has done and what God is doing and what God is going to do.

I am not going to get into all the dynamics of it today, but if you could understand some concept of the universe and you see those pictures over there, I took those pictures. I have been in astronomy and science long before I was saved, but I have somewhat of an understanding of the concept of the universe and the cosmos and all of the things that go on it. Taking what I learned before I was even a Christian, and then once I got into the Bible, I do now know that the Bible displays, and I do not fully understand it, and I am not here to explain it this morning, but I am trying to set up where I am going, that this our universe is some kind of pyramid shape. I believe that the Great Pyramid over there in Egypt is some kind of monument to what God has done.

There is no capstone on it because the Bible says in Job that right now the top of the second heaven is empty, but there will be a day when the New Jerusalem comes down as that capstone and fills that void, and that is why the Great Pyramid has never had one on it. It is prophecy which is yet to be fulfilled.

### III. Building the Church: The Baseline Principle

Now, putting all that aside, I learned to build a church by studying the Great Pyramid. That sounds kind of goofy probably, and most pastors would say, "Well, wherever you go, that is because I am a lot smarter than you are, pal. That is your problem." I believe everything in the Bible is there for a reason. When I got studying the Great Pyramid, I learned a great truth about studying the engineering aspect of it. Whoever built the Great Pyramid understood one fundamental principle, and it is a fundamental principle you have got to have in building a church. The fundamental principle was that its baseline is in conjunction to how high it is. In other words, whoever built it realized a great fundamental: that you cannot build up without building out. That is a great principle in building a church. The baseline is what holds it all together.

They cannot even find a millimeter of distance between the stones that are put together. The Great Pyramid is an artifact that was built that defies everything we understand in the world of engineering today, and the tolerances between the stones put together is almost like it is one stone, even though it is made up of probably millions of stones. It is a picture of the body of Christ. In fact, probably over there in 1 Peter, where he is talking about living stones, he is talking about in one case the nation of Israel, but spiritually us. The Bible says that we make up the body of Christ. Your body is the temple; that is a building. We, just like the Great Pyramid, are fitly joined together. There should be no cracks or crevices between us. We are one body. We are everything fitly together and joined together by the Holy Spirit of God, that in everything we do, even though we are all separate here today like the individual blocks of the Great Pyramid, we are still all connected together, and we are one.

Yet, when they built that great marvel, the men who built it understood the fundamental principle of building a church because every church has to have a baseline. The problem with most churches today is simply this: they want to grow high, but they do not want to grow out. You saw what happened to the Leaning Tower of Pisa, did you not, in Italy? It is called the Leaning Tower for what reason? Wisdom beyond his years. But I needed that. Thank you. And he could cook too. Honey, you ought to marry him. Oh, you already did. I am sorry. Because he can cook. I hear you are a pretty good cook too, so that is okay. Now that I made you all hungry, let us break for lunch. What do you say? We are talking about pizza. I am leaning toward pizza today. How does that sound?

You know why it is leaning? Because there is no base to it. It is the same size all the way up, and it is high. Therefore, if it is not anchored into something, it gets top-heavy. That is what happens to churches today. That is the mark of the Laodicean church. The mark of the Laodicean church is that it is top-heavy. It goes up a long way. You have a lot of people in it, great attendance, but you can only get people and grow as your baseline. It has to be in proportion. The Great Pyramid

taught me that. It taught me that if I am going to build a church, if I want to build it upward and build people, which I do, I am going to have to build the baseline to support it.

I think the problem with many big churches is that the pastor, it is obvious that a pastor cannot, you get a church of a thousand people, two thousand people, how can one guy handle all of that? He cannot. If he has not reproduced himself and built the baseline, then it just begins to deteriorate and fall apart. So the idea of building a church and establishing a ministry within that church, my goal has always been that principle: to never build the church higher than the baseline, the baseline of leadership and the foundational people who hold it all together. You know as well as I do that there is a cornerstone, and everything is tied into it. For you and for me, the Bible says that the chief cornerstone is Jesus Christ. So we are all tied into Him. But in any church, just like any structure, certainly the pyramid here that I learned it from, you have got to have a baseline that is strong. You cannot grow up without growing out. It always has to stay in proportion.

My father and Lord, Mel Sabaka, used to tell me, he drilled into my head, that God will never give you more people than you can take care of. That is a true statement. But what happens today, because we are so motivated for people and we think that a lot of people echo success in the ministry when it does not, is that we get so busy to get the people, we do not take care of the ones that we have. That is why we can never get to that point. As we grow, our baseline has to stay the same. You can have a wider baseline than you are in height, but you cannot have a higher height than your baseline. You can be bottom-heavy and be just fine. The problem is when you become top-heavy, and there is nothing holding it all together at the bottom. That is where we are at as a church.

#### IV. The Purpose of Ministry and Personal Growth

I told you last week that I think the quality of people that God has given us here is pretty exceptional. I do not think it is any accident that you are here. I believe in the providence of God. Last Thursday night, somebody asked a question in Psalms 139, and it talked about how David was talking, and he talked about how that before he was born, when he was in his mother's womb, that his members were written in God's book. God had you born for a reason. God let you live and grow up and put these circumstances, good and bad, in your life for a reason. God brought you at some point in your life here for a reason, and that reason is the fact that God has something that He wants you to do.

I think personally that dealing with people and working through problems with them, in my own personal opinion, I think it is the greatest job in the world. That is the ministry. The ministry is not ministering to an object. The ministry is people, and the ministry is getting involved with people in their problems and their issues in their lives and helping them through. The truth being known, I know that not all of you are probably where you need to be today with the Lord, and I understand that. I learned a long time ago, once I understood what a church was really for, and I realized that church is a place where God brings people who are not ready, and the job of the church is to get them ready if they want to get ready. I learned very quickly to look past the

baggage that people bring in when they come. The church ought to be in every sense an equal opportunity employer. Everybody gets the same chance.

Even though maybe not all of you here are where you need to be, I recognize the fact that I think that most of you, if not all of you, really have the ability to be used of God in ministry. I really believe that. That does not by any stretch of the imagination take away from the fact that probably many of you will never get there. Remember that thing I drew on the board back there? We talked about the roads from Kansas City to St. Louis, and that is the path that God has for you when you are born, and it is a straight shot what He wants you to do. As long as you stay in Jesus Himself, then straight is the way and narrow is the way. But the problem with us, if that represents life when we go down that road to get to heaven, the problem is all the side trips we take. I would tell God's people today, based on that little illustration we talked about, for you and me, the best thing we can do is take as few side trips off that main road as we have to. That does not change the fact that if you are here this morning, God has something for you to do.

I have watched this church over the years. I have watched you respond to every level of commitment that God has brought us through, and so many of you have matured, and you really have found yourselves. It is amazing to me. Sometimes when I go to volleyball or I was sitting at Jason's Deli even last night, when everybody is there and I see everybody, and I get everybody in one little spot where I am not focused on half what I have to say, and I could just take it all in, it overwhelms me sometimes. But how God, I remember many of you when you first came in, and I watch what God has done in your life. It is an amazing thing.

In every church, and I know this and I realize this, there is no perfect church. I understand that there is no perfect person, and there certainly is not any perfect pastor. But the key to it all is, we do have a perfect Book. That is the great equalizing process in all of this. In every church, you are going to have people who do not want to do anything, and that is okay. I realize that everybody has to come in their own time. My job as a pastor is to keep a challenge before you that God has saved you for a purpose. I never focus on what I do not have. I try to tell people this all the time. I think one of the things that keeps me positive in just about everything, and I have my down times too, but they do not last very long, and one of the keys to that is simply this: I never focus on what I do not have. I think too many times we spend most of our time focusing on what we do not have, and I think that is always a dead-end street.

Some of you gals focus on the fact that you are 19 and you are not married yet. Some of you guys focus on the fact that you are 20, you do not have a girlfriend, or you are not committed to a serious relationship yet. That, if you do not put it in perspective, drives everything you do, and you get off track. Instead of focusing and looking around you and seeing what you do have and focusing on what God has put in your life, you focus on the one thing you do not have, and in time that becomes the driving force in everything you do. That is just the way it works.

We talked about Restart and going down and what God has given us in our Operation Homeless ministry, and how much I appreciate that. But I have got to tell you the truth, I think that those things have done more for us than we could ever do for them. Somebody brought up in Bible study a couple of weeks ago, somebody brought up Proverbs 11:25, and it talks about a great

verse there. If you do not have it in your Bible already or someplace in your promises, you better put it in. It is a great one.

Proverbs 11:25 The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

That verse is such a plain, simple, profound verse. It basically works off the concept that for every forward motion, there is an equal backward motion. You shoot a gun, the bullet goes out, the gun kicks. It is just that simple. In ministry, the Bible says that when you do something for others, when you minister, it is not just ministering to them, though it is. What you get back out of it is probably more than they get out of it. I think that most of you that work with people would completely understand that. It says, "The liberal soul shall be made fat." Now, "fat" in the Bible has two connotations. It can be in a bad case or it can be in a good case. Somebody could be fat with the things of the world, but that is a bad case. But somebody can be fat with the things of God; that is a good case. In this case, it is the good way, and it is talking about a liberal soul. That is somebody who is liberal, not as a Democrat or whatever, but in what they give to God in all that they are. They open up themselves. They take the position, "God, You saved me for a purpose. Here it is." And then God takes you and uses you, and that is really what it is all about. That is really how it lays itself out, and it is a great verse.

It is a great verse because it says that when you water, water being a type of the Word of God, when you give out the Bible, you get watered yourself. The most valuable people in any ministry will be the men and the women who get to that level where they start investing their life into somebody else. That really is the determining factor. I think from my own personal experience in dealing in the ministry for many years, that is the crossover point. That is the point where something changes in your life. We talked about the seven stages of spiritual growth. One of those stages is the father stage, where you basically pick up responsibility. Just like a father does, when you are young and 20 and not married, you can do whatever you want to do. Your life can be whatever you want it to be. You can go wherever you want to go. You can stay late as long as you want to. You are pretty much your own person to make your own choices. But once you get committed to marriage, and then a little bit later on you get committed to having a child, that all goes. Where you used to drive around in a Corvette, now you are driving a four-door station wagon. It changes everything about it.

In the ministry, it is the same way. You are pretty much free to do what you want to do, but when you come to the point in your spiritual growth that you step out and now you take responsibility for somebody else, not responsible to give them the Bible, to teach them the Word of God, or help them stay accountable, your life changes. The ministry is a situation where you do not have a lot of life that is your own. You have to find that and detail it out. Many guys do not, but if you do not, you are going to get into problems. You have to realize that the majority of your time is spent where, when you come home from work, your problems are basically over for the day. In the ministry, your problems are never over. There is always some other issue.

I honestly forgot to turn my phone on this morning. I just got sidetracked. I am not kidding. I honestly forgot to turn my phone on this morning because I just got sidetracked. When I finally

was walking out the door to turn it on, I thought my phone broke. It just was going crazy. It was on vibrating. It was vibrating. I was, "Oh, that feels good on my shoulder." I could put it, and I had 15 messages. It is never over, never does. You are going to see that is the difference between just growing up and getting to a point now where you begin to take responsibility, and you begin to do something with where you are at. The Bible says that once you get to that point, the more you give out, the more it comes back, and that is really what God takes to help you grow.

## V. The New Ministry Training: 2 Corinthians as a Field Manual

I have talked four or five years now about taking a group of people on the inside of understanding ministry. I know that we have talked a lot of things, and we have done things, and I have given you, we have not even scratched the surface. I guess it would be probably the official terminology would be the beginning of a basic New Testament biblical counseling ministry. I hate the word "counseling," but to put it for a lack of a better term, learning the absolute cutting-edge principles that I have gleaned out of people's problems and issues in lives and seen through the Word of God, and aided by what other people have shown me and learned from them. It is the final phase. It brings you to the point where I do not think that there is nothing I could ever add to you again once you get it in this particular area. Dealing with people, it will take you the distance.

You heard me say a couple of weeks ago that there are, and I said 20, but in reality, there are probably 20 to 30 hardcore biblical principles that you have to know. You have to get them down. You have to get them to the place where you really understand how they work in your own life first, and then you add to that probably in the Bible, I was looking at it the other day, probably 50 to 75 scenarios. The Bible gives you in the Old Testament, mostly the Old Testament is made up of stories, and there is a reason why the Old Testament is basically made up around stories and the New Testament is basically made up around principles. Once you get past Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, the stories end. It is all hardcore principles. Most people have never figured out why that is. It is because the Old Testament stories are the illustrations of the problems that people get in. The New Testament books of the Bible are the principles that go along with the illustrations in the Old Testament.

You are going to find in your Bible there are seven suicides in the Bible. When you lay out those seven suicides and put the New Testament principles to it, you understand exactly the seven different things that bring people to an aspect of suicide. Suicide is not just easy to do, but it is complicated to understand. But the Bible shows you through the Old Testament examples, and each one is different. Each one brings a piece to the puzzle. Each one gives you another aspect, and then you put the New Testament principles to it. When you are up against something like that, you do not have to call Dr. Phil. You already understand what the biblical principles involved are, and you operate under those biblical principles.

Depression is the same way. Depression is something that everybody is, it is incredible today. We have what we call today a "Prozac Christianity," and it is an incredible thing that how God's

people are so defeated today, and they are defeated today because of the fact that we live in a society that says, "Give it a pill and keep it under control," instead of getting into the biblical principles and dealing with it. Every aspect, every problem that man or woman is ever going to find out, get into, come up with, discover, or make up on their own is covered in the stories in the Old Testament. The job is to isolate each one, pull out that story, see it for what it is, and then add to it the principles that make it the solution to what you are dealing with. That is the key. That is what has to be done if you are ever going to get to the point where you are truly effective.

For where our church is at right now, the baseline has got to shore itself up. The baseline has got, from where this thing is going and how God is blessing us, it has got to get to that point. This is like the ABCs right now. When you went to school as a kid, you learned your ABCs, and right now you are learning to take A-B-C-D-E-F-G, and you are learning to spell little words: cat, dog, and then your own name: Bill, Bob. Then a little bit later on, you take those little words and you put them into sentences, and it is, "Bob saw the cat," "Bill saw the dog." You have taken the ABCs, built little one-syllable words. You are leaving because I am talking about cats. We are just getting ready to kill the cat. Do not leave. You found your cat. Her cat came home, by the way. Just want you to know. Got a text the other night, nine thousand people died and went to hell. She just cared about her cat came home. That is all I can tell you about. We are glad you are missing the part about the demon-possessed cats. You do not want to leave. I am just kidding.

You have taken those little words, and you build them into sentences, and then as you get older and you grow, the words become more complicated. The sentences turn into paragraphs, and pretty soon, where you basically started out with your ABCs and learned the fundamental aspects of putting little words together, now you are 18 or 19 years old, or you are in college, you get on that computer and you type out a thesis paper. You communicate through everything that you do, and now you have mastered the ABCs that you can communicate just about on any level with anybody you care to. Well, take that concept and put it in what I am talking about this morning. Right now, all we have had, as good as it has been and as good as you have done, trust me, we are just starting to put the ABC words together with "the cat saw the dog," "the dog saw the cat," "the cat killed the dog," "the dog ran out of the house, got hit by the car." That is all we are doing.

I want to take you to the level where you begin to communicate on a level unparalleled in dealing with people's issues. I want to take you inside and down deep where you see and understand every problem in its process, the cause and the effect, that when you have to deal with somebody, immediately the principles begin to bring themselves in, that you are ready to go. You have a principled mindset, letting the principles of the Word of God lead you in any situation. My goal by the end of this year or the beginning of next year is to take a group of you and take some key time where we begin this process. We have talked about this many times, and sometimes I talk about the principles, and I give you some of the principles one at a time, but we have never connected the dots. We have never taken them all and put them into a context where you actually see the scenarios versus the principle and then get the bedrock fundamental things that you have got to have to understand.

As much as I wanted to take some of you, and we have, some of us have talked about this, I knew it was premature up to this point. The whole church had to get to a place where it could be offered to everybody. There were two ingredients that I was looking for. One was your level of handling people, and I must tell you, I stand in awe, and I do not say much about it, but it blows me away. I listen to the way that you deal with people. Many of you call me and tell me, "Hey, I just had this situation with so-and-so or this or that. Here is what I did." And I have to just kind of step back for a moment, and I think to myself, "That is textbook. That is exactly the way I would have done it. That is exactly from beginning to end exactly what should have been done." And you are sitting there, "I hope I did not screw it up." And I am thinking to myself, "Screw it up, man, you did it right on the money the way that it was needed to be." I had to see that element, and that element is now in here.

Last night is a classic example. Here is one for you. Nobody saw this. I did not see it out of the chute, but I saw it immediately. This is what I am talking about: a church working together when they do not even know. This is the Great Pyramid with the stones fitly joined together. We killed a cat, by the way. You missed it. It was gory. You know why she wears black, do you not? She is the cat woman. Do not ask her to scratch your back. It will be a terrible thing. Anyway, we are like that Great Pyramid, and this what I am going to tell you is showing you how the stones are fitly joined together. We do not even know it. It is happening in our circles because it becomes, in time, it becomes automatic, and it will become automatic in your life when you deal with somebody.

Here is the example: Last night we were at Jason's Deli. I was sitting over there and just sitting there eating, and I was not really paying attention. Joe came over to me and said, "Hey, there is a couple up here that cannot find any seats." I said, "Okay." And I looked around. We had pretty much taken the place over, and they are sitting there, and I think Joe said, "I sure hate for them not to be able to stay and have to leave." So first thing is, Joe saw it. Joe said it to me. I saw it. I got up, looked around, was not any place. Saw a place down there where William and Courtney were sitting, two seats. Went down and said, "Hey, anybody sitting there?" And they said, "No." I walked over to them and said, "Hey, I am sorry, guys, we kind of took this place over tonight, but come on, I will get you a couple of seats." I think they thought I was the head waiter, I am not sure. I took them down, put them down there, and the rest of the night I stood back and watched. I watched them sit there, and I watched them watch all the events that are going on. We are saying happy birthday, and all that stuff, and I just watched them take it all in. Next thing I know, they are over there, and they are watching, talking. Joe and Christie were sitting next to them, and they were talking back and forth, and they were laughing. And the next thing I know, other people were over there talking to them, and they were laughing. Then I am watching this thing evolve, and I am saying, "Nobody understands what is happening here," because it has gone automatic now. It is just second nature to some of you people. You see somebody you do not know. I will be honest, Joe, if I had looked up there and ate, I would have stuffed my face. I would have gone right on with it, man.

God got somebody involved who got somebody else involved who got somebody else involved, and everybody did the job. He did his part. I did mine. You guys did yours. That guy came up to

me, shook my hand, and said, "I want you to know, thank you so much for finding us seats with those people. I want to thank you so much for doing that. We had a great time." And I invited him to play volleyball, and he said, "You know what? If we did not have so much going on with our kids, we would." And I said, the last thing I said to him, "You know what? If you get a loan from him and you are hungry, we will be here next week the same time." And he laughed and shook my hand. Throughout this week, they are going to remember what you gave them last night, and it was not one person. It was like the Great Pyramid. We are all stones fitly joined together. Everybody got involved. I did not have to go around and say, "There is a young couple down there, you need to go talk to them." Everybody knew it. You did not think about it. You did not say, "Should I do this or should I not?" It was automatic in our lives. That is what I am talking about. That is where this church had to get. That is where it is becoming. It is the aspect of becoming aware of what is going on around you. You do not do anything anymore just because you want to do it. Now the aspect of people in the ministry becomes second nature. It just automatically is there. It is what I have told you for how many years: the opportunities are all around us every day of our lives. We are just not paying attention.

Now, we are at a point where we are. The correlation of events, how God has brought us together as a church, has made it clear now that we need to prepare for this great undertaking that will literally, I told you when we started a couple of months ago that this was going to be a defining year in many of your lives, and I am telling you right now, this is going to change some of your lives for the rest of your life. Some decisions you make will change your life for the rest of your life in a bad way. Some decisions you make will change your life for the rest of your life in a good way, and this is one that will change your life in a good way.

Seeing things from God's perspective. It is easy to look at Operation Homeless and Restart and see it for what it appears to be because it appears to be just another good thing that we do that needs to be done, that in time we have got some goals. But I am telling you right now, that is looking at it from a very short-term perspective. There is a thing in the Bible called the Tower Concept. That tower is called David's Tower back in the Old Testament. That Tower Concept is getting higher than the circumstances around you because when you are on ground level, you see everything in one dimension. When you are on a high tower, you see everything in three dimensions. For the Christian, you want to get up in that tower as quickly as you can because life, most Christians, most people deal with problems, circumstances, situations, or they just view life in a one-dimensional format. You have to learn to look at life and people and circumstances that you deal with from a third dimension, from three dimensions. That means you have got to get higher than the problem. That is exactly what the high tower concept is.

When you look at Restart and what we are doing down there in Operation Homeless, the standard one-dimensional scenario would simply say, "Ah, I am not going to get involved in that. It is going down there and passing out hot dogs and doing this and doing that." But that is the one-dimensional way you look at it. The three-dimensional look at it is, "It is not just one ministry. What it is, it is a launching pad that out of that thing, God is going to launch a hundred other ministries." But you cannot see it in the one-dimensional form that most people look at it in. You have got to get into that tower and look at it and see the absolute lives that are going to be

impacted. The doors that God is going to open to you are going to be incredible. The very fact that He challenges your heart. There are some of you right now that God has got a ministry way out here someplace that has nothing to do with this, and He is using this to get your attention and focus. So down the line, He can give you that. If you do not see that, you are one-dimensional, and you are looking at things. That is the problem today with most Christians.

Now, I needed something that we could base off of, and that something now is the book of 2 Corinthians. 2 Corinthians will be our baptism of fire, so to speak. The principles of ministry and everything that is in that chapter will form for us a basic field manual of ministry, and we will take that concept and we will build into it in everything that we do. Now, I could have just looked without me and seen 20 or 30 or 40 people that are working with me in ministry, and I could have said, "You know what? I am going to take those people, and that is what I am going to do this with." But that would not have been right. I will tell you why it would not have been right: because that is not what God does. God always gives everybody a chance. I believe that there are people in here that are right on that edge that are going to, this is going to take you the distance. Even if you do not, these are the principles of life that will just make your life. You are not even ready to get into this yet. These principles, if you just take them and put them in your everyday life, these things that we are talking about in 2 Corinthians, these principles will absolutely give you and get you where you want to go in time.

## VI. The Ministry Training Exam and the Judgment Seat of Christ

So I have looked at this thing, and I figured the best scenario would be to let you make the choice. We have talked a lot about the process of spiritual growth. This will be built on and followed at four simple concepts: examine yourself, know yourself, take heed to yourself, and improve yourself. Then toward the end of this year or certainly by the beginning of next year, once we get 2 Corinthians under our belt to a great degree, I want to open up this, and I want to begin this aspect of ministry. But now here is where you have got to listen to me. There will be an entry-level exam on this. This training ground, as anything to whom much is given, will simply be the book of 2 Corinthians.

At some point down the road, I am going to give you the scary stuff first, and then I am going to come back and make you feel better about it. At some point in the beginning of next year or mid-next year, I am not sure when, we will see how it all progresses. Some of you, all of you I hope, will come into this thing on a Saturday morning about nine o'clock, and you will be here for the next three or four hours. You will detail out for me every principle that I am laying out in 2 Corinthians. There are probably going to be 200 or 250 by the time we are done. Key principles that we are going to use as a baseline. You are going to be required to be able to sit down and show me you understand them, explain them to me, and it will probably take you, I did this one other time years and years and years ago, and there were some people there for six, seven hours doing this test. I have changed it, and I know right now the word "test" paralyzes you because you are all like me, you did not take tests well, and you did not do well with tests, and the word "test" scares you. I just use that for a lack of a better word. I do not know what else to say. You

will see it is not going to be as bad as you think. But you will be required to have an understanding of all these principles and aspects. This test, exam, whatever you want to call it, will be for anybody who desires to be in this level of ministry. I will not exclude anybody. You will exclude yourself because this thing is so perfect in its format that it will do whatever needs to be done. It will accomplish everything and keep everybody accountable. The folks who pass the test will go into the class. The folks that fail the test will not go into the class.

Now, my job between now and then is to give you all the best chance you can. I know you are scared that, "Well, test, how in the world does he expect me to memorize 250 concepts and principles?" I do not. I do not expect you to do that. I do not. In other words, the format that I am going to follow with this is such an easy format. You know why the judgment seat of Christ is going to be a bust to some of you folks? You know what the shame in the judgment seat of Christ is? I thought about this all week. The shame in the judgment seat of Christ, and everybody should be concerned about that to a certain degree. But there is a degree that you should not be concerned about it. The judgment seat of Christ is the great question mark in most God's people's lives. It is called the judgment seat of Christ in 2 Corinthians chapter five for a reason. We know all the ramifications of that, and all of the, it is a scary concept. We all know that. We all understand that.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

But where there should be no fear of the judgment seat of Christ is the fact, and we have talked about this before. I have had people ask me all my life, "What is going to happen? What is God going to do?" I have heard preachers get it completely wrong. "God is going to put you up on shackles and beat you with a whip." I have heard everything in the world. Bottom line of truth of the matter is, the judgment seat of Christ is going to be about six questions. Those six questions are found in Job 26.

You know why the judgment seat of Christ, it is going to be such a shame for some of God's people? How do you flunk a test when somebody gives you the answers to the test? Do you know what the definition of really stupid is? Most people think if you cheat on tests, put them in here, write them on your sleeve, put them on your shirt collar or your cuff, that that is a terrible thing. I think that shows real ingenuity. But you know what the epitome of the word "stupid" is? Take a test when for six months before you had to take a test, somebody gave you the questions, and it only was six, it was not 100, it was six questions. All you had to do was learn those six questions, and you refused to do it, and you failed the test. I cannot think of anybody more stupid than that. But I guarantee you, God's people are going to go up to that judgment seat of Christ. They are going to cut up there and lose everything they have simply because they just were so inept and did not care that they never took the time to find out what the questions were going to be that He was going to ask you. It is the easiest thing in the world. There should be nobody that should max the judgment seat of Christ, but it goes back to the attitude. Attitude, there is the key. It is not really about the six questions, it is about your attitude about those six questions. Some of you just do not care. Maybe not you, some of God's people just do not care. They do not care. "Oh man, I am going to a party tonight. Oh, I am going to help up with so-and-so. I am not going

to worry about that. I am a young person. I have got the rest of my life to live." Yeah, right. One of these days, the questions are going to come out. There are questions that you and I had access to every day of your life since the day you got saved or since you heard me lay them out for you. I heard them 30 years ago. It is all right there. That is the format. My job between now and then is to do just what God has done: make sure you all have the best opportunity you have to be successful.

I told you before, I am like Paul. Paul said to them, "My goal is not just to minister to you, my goal is to get you to the place where we minister together." In this evaluation, examination, whatever you want to call it, you will be allowed to use your Bibles. You will be allowed to use your Bible. If you have chapter by chapter disciplined yourself and structured yourself on a weekly basis to get the material that I am breaking down for you out of 2 Corinthians, you ought to already have chapter one in your Bible. When you get to that point, all that material will be right at your fingertips, and all you have got to do is look. I am under the persuasion, I follow the basic idea that if you structure enough to put it in your Bible and you have it laid out in your Bible, then you are going to know the material. I will tell you why in just a minute. So if you do the work and you lay it out week by week, you make that your process that you are putting that breakdown of 2 Corinthians chapter by chapter in your Bible, and you are getting it all together, you are not going to have any problem with it. It is going to be a piece of cake.

To give you an even better chance, every two chapters, we are going to do it today, we probably will not get to it now, but we will do it next week. Every two chapters, I am going to take off a Sunday, and I am going to go back, and I am going to give you every concept, principle you have to be accountable for. I am not only going to give you the questions, I am going to give you the answers. I am going to give you the format by which it is going to be. It is up to you to have the desire and the discipline and the structure to put it in. So when we come a year from now, and you come in on that Saturday morning or whatever day it is, and that thing is laid out in there, if you have done your work, if you have got it in there, you just open it up, have your format, a biblical protocol of how you work with people and the concepts that I have already in your Bible, transfer it from one to the other, you are done. That sounds simple, does it not? But the genius of it is in its simplicity.

The reason why I did it this way is because the patience you are going to have to use in doing this, the time that you are going to have to prioritize in doing this, the self-discipline you are going to have to have to keep up with this, because you get two weeks behind, you are history. The structure you are going to have in your life that you are going to have to have to do this, the accountability and the perseverance that you are going to be able to have to have to do this on an ongoing basis are exactly the same qualities you have got to have when you start to sit down and work with somebody through their problems. If you do not do it there, you will not do it here. It is just that simple. I do not have to go down and get into everybody's world. The self-discipline and the self-structure will either make you or break you. But it is your choice. It is your choice. The format that we are going to do this will be the book of 2 Corinthians. I would say you would probably have to have 250 principles or so down. You are going to have to understand how they

work, but if they are always in their Bible, it is not going to be a problem. That is just the way it needs to work.

You come to the place where, if I were you, I would start a place in the back of your wide margin Bible where you have the lined pages back there, and I would start a section on biblical principles. I would take the book of 2 Corinthians, and I would begin to break that thing down as we break it down week by week. You take it and you begin to use it. You begin to structure it out. It is not hard. I am going to give you, starting next week, I am going to give you the first 30 principles that you have to have down. All you have to do is get them down, put a short definition of them, keep adding to it, and then break down the book of 2 Corinthians week by week, chapter by chapter. You totally get the first 30, you get them down, they are already in, and you put them in your Bible somewhere, put them on a blank page, put them along 2 Corinthians chapter by chapter.

My advice to you is simply this: If you are going to do this, and whether you are going to get into that deeper level aspect of really learning it and getting the cutting edge down, it is immaterial to me. I do not carry it away. I will use you wherever you are at. This is not a thing where those that do are good and those that do not are bad. Do not even think that way. Everybody is important. I am not doing this to make the ones who cannot do it look bad and the ones that can do it look good. I am doing this because this is what we have got to do to keep our base going where we are going upward. If you are not ready for it right now, it is okay. I am telling you right now, these principles will change your life on an everyday concept if you never get to that point. But I believe that most of you probably will because I believe that God brought you here for a reason, and I believe that you will.

If I was you, if I could give you some advice, I would drop whatever study you are doing right now. I really would. I know a lot of you do little personal type studies, and you bang around with this and bang around with that, and that is fine. But if you want some good advice, I will tell you right now, I would just drop your studies, and for the rest of this year, this is what I would study. I would get this down on a weekly basis. I would get this down to the place where you get it to the point where you work on it. The disk becomes what you do. Our next around the prayer groups, we are going to kind of restructure things a little bit, and I am going to have the majority of the prayer groups are going to take these concepts, and they are going to have the ability, if they choose to, to form into little study groups that you stay up with the concept, that you help each other, that you look at each other, how they are putting it in. Glean from it, man. You have some of the greatest minds I have ever seen in this church. Some of you people structure your Bibles incredibly. Mine looks like a spaghetti dinner without the sauce. Some of you guys have an absolute ability to structure and organize. That is an understandable way because that is what you are going to have to do. The reason why I want you to put it in your Bible is because you have then a ready reference at your fingertips of any circumstance you get into.

How do you think I answer questions on Thursday night without the cuff, any question you want to ask about the Bible? Do you really think that I am that smart? Do you really think that I have memorized the Bible? Do you really believe, I hope you do, do you really believe that I am that intelligent? Absolutely not. I found a workable structure in my Bible that I can put in there

because I cannot remember it because I am stupid and lose my car keys 20 times a day. I cannot even remember people's names half the time. When I put it in that book, no matter what fails, that book never fails. I have a ready reference for anything you ask me. I am not asking you to do the whole Bible yet. Start with this. Start by getting the principles. Start you a principled handbook of biblical principles that are going to tie into what we are going to do. Once we get into the scenarios, once we start making it happen, once we start getting all of those things in place, you will see how it all pulls together. It is just the way it works.

I am telling you this: Do not set yourself up for failure. If you are not structured enough to do this, if you think that you have a better way to do it, then I am telling you, you will not pass this test. I am telling you. I am giving you the answers. I am giving you everything I am going to ask you. You just have got to write it in your Bible. How much simpler could it be? But having said that, many of you will not pass that test because you are not going to do the work. I feel good about that because that is not me telling you cannot get in. That is you saying, "I do not want in." I would rather have it that way. My job is to give the opportunity to everybody. Of course, I want to see your Bible. One of the things that I will do before we do it is I want to see your Bible. I want to see your format. I will sit down with you, and I will line up as we go through 2 Corinthians. I know what you are thinking. I know what people think. I have already had several people ask me this that I ran this by. Somebody will say, "Well, what keeps so-and-so who is doing this or doing that, who is really just playing the game out here but yet have things in their life? What keeps them from just writing that stuff in their Bible?" Oh, I will tell you what keeps it. What keeps them is you have not seen where we are going in 2 Corinthians yet. Everything in that 2 Corinthians is going to detail out everything you and I could hope to get into. We are going to cover, well, we have only been to chapter 2. We are in the nice stuff. We have not got to the nitty-gritty side of it yet, but there will be a time coming where that will get itself laid out. It is a foolproof system, but it will demand all of our attention. We have to get them working in our own lives first. We need to learn to speak a new language.

I have seen this happen. In the last couple of weeks, maybe the last month, dealing with a course of problems in people's lives and situations that have come up. When people talk to me on the phone, I start to hear them talking of the very principles. Several times last week in seven scenarios, somebody called and said, "Well, I want you to know that I really have responded to this and not reacted." Saying, "Wow, somebody heard what I said." Over and over again, it is starting to sink in with some of you. This is the language we have got to learn to speak. We have got to learn to speak the language terms of biblical concepts and biblical dealing with problems in the Bible. This is what we have got to do. We have got to learn how to do this. It is a thing where we will take it chapter by chapter. Next week, we will start coming through, and I am going to talk to you about these aspects. I am going to take chapter one and chapter two. We have not finished chapter two yet, but I do not want to get any more than 30 at a time. I want to go back and I want to tell you, "Okay, here is one, here is two, here is three, here is four, here is five." Now, if you do not ever want to get into that depth of it, these are the principles that if you just put them down, they will change your life. You can be a brand new Christian, just saved yesterday, and these principles will change your life and begin a process of thinking that is going to lead you to the right path. It is just that simple.

## VII. The Military Analogy: Commitment and Teamwork

I believe that this church is ready for that. This church has never failed in responding to it. I have made it available to everybody. It is not me coming up and saying, "Well, I am going to take you 20 because you are already working with people, everybody else." Anybody can have this if you want it. It comes down to simply this: Do you want it? I am fine if you do not. I have learned, I look past that, and I just realized, some people, it takes time to get where they are at. Maybe you are not already there. I really do not think all of you are, but that is okay. That is for you to decide, not for me. I will use you wherever you are at. I will use you wherever you are at.

Let me sum it up by saying this, and I want you to think about it. Let me put it into an example we can all grasp. Ephesians chapter six says that we are to put on the whole armor of God. The Bible says that Christ is the captain of our salvation. The Bible says that we are to endure hardness as the good soldier of Jesus Christ. Most of the songs in your hymnal have to do with war. They have to do with battle: "Onward Christian Soldiers," "Am I a Soldier of the Cross?" I know you do not find those songs sung in most churches today because most churches are not made up of soldiers. They are made up of conscientious objectors. But this church is not.

Let me sum it up for you with the best example I can put it into that you can grasp. I want you to hear me on this. This is how I feel about it. I think personally in our country, our military is probably the best in the world. Leadership is not very great, and every time you get politics in it, a lot of boys die for no reason. But as far as the young men and the young ladies, I would say maybe outside the Israelis, there is no army on earth that is better than ours right now. It may change, but that is the way I feel about it at this point. We have the best men and the best women. We have the best weapons. We have the best equipment. We have the best training. We have the best of everything. But we all know that within every branch of service, there will always be a group who will aspire to a greater level. This is the concept I want you to grasp. I want you to see this today.

In the Army, we have the Delta Force or the Special Forces. In the Marine Corps, you have the Marines, then you have the Force Recon. In the Air Force, you have the Air Force people, and then you have the Air Force Rescue. In the United States Navy, you have sailors, and then you have Navy SEALs. These men from all these groups, they basically form the tip of the javelin, so to speak. They are the cutting edge in modern warfare. Simply, they are trained on a higher level. They are trained on a higher level because they made a higher commitment. They wanted something more than just being in the Army.

Joe and I were coming back from a place yesterday in Leavenworth, and we were talking about a guy that we know, and he is one of my dear friends, and the name is Bill Irwin. Bill Irwin was a Lee's Summit police officer, but he was also in the Navy Reserve, and Bill was a SEAL. Bill was one of the most unbelievable guys you would ever meet in your life. I have never met a guy who kept the balance of what he did. Bill was a man among men. He was a warrior. Yet he loved the Lord and loved the Word of God more than anybody else that I have ever probably met in my life, and he was a great guy. He and I, I have not seen him for years, but he and I were great friends. He paid me the highest compliment a number of years back on his website when

somebody called me up and said, "You need to see his website, what he said." "You are going to like that." And I found the website. I do not know how I was looking for it. I found it finally. This guy, he said, he was talking to somebody, I did not know who he was talking to, he said, "There were two men in my life that have shaped who I am, and I am eternally grateful. One was some Lieutenant Colonel that he had, and the other one was Bob Alexander, teaching him and giving him the Bible." This guy was an incredible guy. He taught at the Academy for the Police Department and just about killed all those guys down there. He was the kind of guy that would put you at the end of a 50-foot pool, when you hold a cinder block, and you would have to run to the other end on the bottom without coming up for air. Joe told me that we puked every day. He just worked us to death. He would always get in trouble with the Lee's Summit mayor and the Lee's Summit Police Chief because he was head of the SWAT team in Lee's Summit. His idea of training tactics was to break into city hall by windows that they left open six stories up. He is an incredible guy.

I had the privilege of winning two of the guys on the SWAT team to Christ a number of years ago, and we got to be pretty good buddies, and they all came one night, and they were all soaking wet and out of breath. I said, "Where did you guys do it?" And he said, "Oh, Bill had us out for field exercises tonight, and we just swam across the, what is the lake up here at Lee's Summit? Longview Lake." He said, "We just swam across Longview Lake." I said, "Well, that is a pretty big lake." And he said, "Not for Bill. He thought it was a small lake." The guy was incredible. I used to hold Bible studies at Marion Lab down here years ago. This is when I first met Bill. Bill would always come to Bible study, and I always thought it was strange because he lived in Lee's Summit, but he always showed up in his jogging shorts with his little fanny pack on, where he carried his pistol, and all those things. He is a police officer. So I asked him one day, I said, "Do you work out before you come here?" He says, "No." I said, "What are you doing?" He said, "Well, I ran here." I said, "Ran from where?" He said, "Well, I live in Lee's Summit." I said, "That is nine miles." He would run nine miles to Bible study, sit for a Bible study, and run nine miles back. This guy is incredible. He retired from the Lee's Summit Police Department and went full-time back to the SEALs. He was in, he did all kinds of special ops. If there is anything going on out there, you can guarantee Bill is either not in the middle of it or he is close to it.

Bob knows this is true. Every December 7th, this is crazy, he does that at Lee's Summit. This is true. Bob knows this is true. Bob has been there. Every December 7th, he lives in Lee's Summit. All the military guys and all the police guys show up for breakfast at his place at seven o'clock in the morning. They all go out, raise the flag, blow the colors, stand at attention, and shoot a cannon off in Lee's Summit. Right by, right, Bob? He does it. This guy is incredible. One of the greatest patriots and the greatest hero, but at the same time, one of the greatest Christians. There has never been a guy in my life that I have seen that I thought to myself, "That is exactly where God's people ought to be. That is exactly the cutting edge that they ought to have." The normal police officers, the normal people, the normal guys, they just look at him and shake their head. But when push comes to shove, it was Bill Irwin that they knew to call to get the job done. He could train men unlike anybody I have ever seen. Yet he had a way about him that he was not loud, he was not mean, he just was matter-of-fact because he commanded your respect. He commanded your respect. It is men like this that form the tip of the javelin in our modern-day

warfare. Today, he works with an embassy in another country, which I will not tell you what it is, but he works as an embassy chief there. That usually spells into three letters, CIA, at some point, but he is an incredible guy.

But that does not mean that the rest of the military are not as important. The Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, you have to work as a team. Not everybody can be in special forces. Not everybody can be a Navy SEAL. The bottom line is, you are out there in an operation someplace, and you are out there in the boonies, and everybody is thinking, "Oh, SEAL Team Six, SEAL Team Six. Boy, they sure got Bin Laden, and they got this other guy, and all these things that they did, and what a great thing they are." But what you really see is not, we focus on Team SEAL Six. What you do not see is the people back in the supply who made sure they had all they needed. You do not see the people over there in the Pentagon with their latte, who never saw combat at all, operating the drones and the satellite images that are giving them the intel that they keep everybody off their back and do not walk into something that they should not walk into. It is a team effort. It is a team effort. Everybody is important. Everybody is important. You can be the elite of the elite, but if you do not have some supply sergeant in the back giving you what you need, you are out of business. You are worthless. An army is a team. Christianity is just like that. It is supposed to be an army. An army, that is a body. It is like the pyramid, fitly joined together.

Anybody can try out for one of these groups. I think there are very minimum requirements for it. Anybody that makes it is not any better than anybody that does not. The difference of somebody that makes it versus somebody that does not is how bad they want it. Let me tell you something. It takes endurance. It takes stamina. It takes courage. It takes self-discipline. It takes patience. It takes the ability to follow orders without even thinking about it. It takes self-sacrifice. It takes accountability and responsibility. It takes structure. It takes obedience. It takes an absolute raise your edge concept of the chain of command and how it works. Brother, when you are down there and you have got a 1200-pound telephone pole, and 10 guys are holding it laying on your back, and you are all sitting up doing sit-ups with it, and you are doing 100 at a time with a 1200-pound telephone pole, let me tell you something. It will test your endurance and your stamina beyond you could ever imagine. It will test, "Do you really want to be here? Do I really want to do this?" 60% dropout rate in most of them. You know why? Very simply, not everybody is cut out for it. Some try four or five times before they finally make it. Others just go back to their former units. But failure is not a bad thing. Failure is not a bad thing. We make it look like it is a bad thing because we have the goal, and we did not get it, so we think we failed, so we think we are bad. That is not true. An army is a team, and Christianity is a team.

## VIII. Call to Action and Final Encouragement

I am telling you this story to tell you that not everybody is going to make it. Not everybody has to make it. But what will make you make it will be the determination that you and only you, not the person sitting next to you, not behind you, not your husband, not your wife, that you, you alone, have the determination that you want to get to this level because you want ministry. For those guys, they used to call it their "field fix." They used to get them bloody. They would send them out on a third-world country someplace just so they could kill somebody to get used to

doing it. We do not do that. For us, it is the taste of ministry, of getting into people's lives on a level. It is unparalleled, and then taking the principles because they are in your own life first, and then giving them to somebody else and spending the rest of your life giving back what God has given to you to aspire to be the best at what you do. But in God's army, just as Uncle Sam's army, there have to be the people who will always be on the cutting edge. This church will only go upward as the base grows outward. That base will have to continually add to itself, building itself up with men and women who simply choose that that is what they want to do and then have decided that they will reconstruct in their world whatever they have got to do to get what they want done. That is the key.

Just like in the army, there are people that are satisfied doing what they do. The world would not be safe without them. It is everybody together. It is not "this is the elite and these are the bad people." It is everybody is a team. But in this church, for us to move on and stay on the cutting edge, we have to continually train and get ourselves disciplined in these concepts, and now from where we are at, from where God has taken us, it is time to do that. But it is your choice. It is something that you have to decide what you want to do. I am not going to put anybody out. Your lifestyle or your inability to be able to handle the principles to this degree will take care of that problem for me. I open it to everybody. I tell you the challenge. My job is simply as pastor, many, many hats I wear, but one of the main hats that I just do is I just set the standard. I set the bar. I find out where you are at, where I am at. If I get up here every day and every Sunday just told you how wonderful you are and syrupy and sweet everything is and talk about the lilies and the flowers, you would never grow anywhere. You have to always have a challenge in front of you. Ready? You make it or not is immaterial. My job is to set the bar and raise that bar based on what the Book says, based on where this church is at, based on with the people.

All I can say this to you is this: You caused me to do this. You did. I would have just been happy with a soap-happy, slap-happy church that would not have done anything or cared about anything. You chose not to be that way. You chose to want more, get in it more. Okay, then here we are. Here we are. The bar has been set. You decide what you want to do with it. My job is to make sure you succeed. My job is to give you the cheat sheets. My job is to not make it so hard that you do not fail. My job is to make it easy that you can pass. My job is simply to put the burden on your shoulders of doing the work or not doing it, because every quality you have got to have to get this material down is the same quality as you have got to have to work with people in ministry.

Next week, I will bring you through the first 30. I suggest this. Here is what I suggest. I am giving you suggestions, and I think you ought to follow them, but some of you know more about it than I do, but I am telling you. I would not try to get all this stuff down on Sunday. You are not going to make it that way. Make this a study. Sign up back there, get today's tape, listen to it again, understand everything. There better be a line at that tape table back there, and then every week you get that tape of the principles that I give you, and you start a systematic structure of building your own manual. I will help you. If you need any help, I spend an hour a week with anybody that needs help. I will work with you in small groups, whatever you want to do. I will make sure you stay on task and you are getting it done. I guarantee you, nobody will fail this test

because I did not try to help you. You will fail it because you simply did not pack the gear to do the job. That is okay. That is okay.

It does not matter if you just got saved yesterday. It does not matter if you have been saved for 20 years. What matters is not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog. How bad do you want it? When I got saved, I wanted it so bad I could taste it. I dreamed about it. I dreamed about preaching in places long before I could ever preach. I dreamed about winning people to Christ. I do not even know if I get credit for those that are jumping to the judgment seat of Christ, but I sure dreamed about them. I dreamed about everything. I wanted it so desperately and so bad that it was everything in my life. That is what it is going to take. All right, well, there we are at. We will go to work on it from here, and we will see what happens with it. Let us pray. Father.