

Proverbs 14:26-29

February 11, 2024

As always, I came up to take up the offering. I forgot my prayer list back here, so I want to give you what I had on that one. Obviously, I want to pray for Restart today. Continue to pray for Jane Copeland; she is here today and she is doing really well, but she had shoulder surgery. We continue to pray for her to have a speedy recovery. Steve and Diana are here with their brand new baby today, and it is good to see them. Go back and congratulate them. We pray that having a new baby is always a challenge in life, and we are excited for them. It is good to have them.

If you have your Bibles this morning, I want you to turn to the book of Proverbs chapter 14 again. Today we are going to take another section of verses. I decided that when we got into these chapters, there is so much information in them that I kind of, every week, just block them out and take four or five verses, three or four verses, whatever kind of sets with a new thought or a new idea, and kind of take it out and lay it out one section at a time. But at the same time, we want to always go back and put the whole thing together. So we will have a little recap so you can get it in your Bible the way that you need to and completely understand it.

You remember that last week we learned four great truths out of the passage that we looked at. We looked at our ability to either devise evil or to devise good. We talked about how most people would just think that the word "devise," or "plot," or "plan" is always used in a bad connotation. But we learned last week out of Proverbs that is not true. In fact, last night it was very obvious and evident that a lot of plotting and planning was going on in volleyball, and that does mean to win the game. There was a host of visitors there last night, and you guys were so gracious and really inviting them and then taking them over to Jason's Deli. It is things like that that really build what a church needs to build.

When you look at the nation of Israel, we have talked about this many, many times. You can always tell when a church has divisions in it or has some problems. There will always be the core central people, and then there will always be the mixed multitude. You will be able to see where the core of the church is always here and the mixed multitude is always over here. You can always see when Christians, if you are paying attention, when Christians start to get out of fellowship with God or they get some issue that they have got in their world, they will start pulling away from everything.

Somebody said one time, and I am far from being a sheep herder, but they talked about the fact that when you herd sheep or when you raise sheep, you will find that sheep always like to stick together. They always like to be in a bunch. I thought that is probably true because every time I ever saw them, they are all hanging out together. But he said you can always tell when you have got a sick sheep, and I asked him why. He says, "Because sick sheep always separate themselves from the rest of the sheep." I thought that was so interesting, and of course, that is exactly what you begin to see when you come through the book of Proverbs and see so many things.

So we learned about the ability to devise evil, to hurt somebody, or to devise good, to really help somebody. Everything that we do here is to that end, to try to help somebody get what they need to get. We saw the second thing, the working to learn the Word of God, which the Bible lays out

as the true riches. I told the people in People Ministry yesterday when we were talking about some things, the Bible recognizes two works for a Christian.

The Bible says in 2 Timothy 2:15 that when you want to learn the Word of God, it takes a workman who needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth. The first work in our life is to do a work to learn the Word of God. It is not going to come easy. Many people have this grandiose idea that they want to learn the Bible right up to the point that they see what it takes to really learn the Bible, and they do not go any farther. The second work is found in Ephesians 4:12, which is the work of the ministry, taking what you learn and applying it for what God has called you to do.

The third thing we looked at was getting a crown of knowledge now in this life through the Word of God that in time will lead to an everlasting crown of righteousness at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Then I think probably one of the greatest truths that we unearthed last week was the aspect of delivering souls. Proverbs chapter 14 and that verse there really talked about that "He that is wise delivereth souls." We talked about the only true miracle in the church age today is the miracle of the new birth. When you win someone to Christ, you are actually delivering them into the family of God and into the Kingdom of God.

With that, last week, we want to now begin to look at the next section of verses, and this will be verses 26, 27, 28, and 29.

Proverbs 14:26-29

26 The fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

28 In the multitude of people is the king's honour: but in the want of people is the destruction of the prince.

29 He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.

Rob, would you ask God's blessing on the time and the Word of God this morning for us for coming down here all the way from Lincoln? It is good to have the Lincoln crew here. Lead us to the throne of grace this morning. Amen.

I. The Fear of the Lord: Strong Confidence

Now let us look at verse 26, at least the first part of this verse. The Bible says, "The fear of the LORD is strong confidence." We have been the last couple of weeks talking much about this crown of knowledge, the wisdom that comes out of it when you learn the Bible and you really labor to get the Word of God down. Now today we are going to add to that. The Bible talks about the fear of the Lord. We want to come away this morning understanding the fear of the Lord, the importance of it, and then also defining it.

You find that phrase throughout the book of Proverbs.

- Proverbs 1:7: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge."
- Proverbs 9:10: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom."
- Proverbs 3:7: "The fear of the LORD is to depart from evil."
- Proverbs 8:13: "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil."

Now that is a good combination. A lot of these you will see how they form the very things that we teach here and we talk about here. The first one says, "The fear of the LORD is to depart from evil." That needs to be the goal of everybody who, when you get saved, leaves the world behind, leaves the things behind that so easily mess us all up. But how do you do that? You know and I know that there have been people that we have worked with, people you meet in your life. All my ministry I have found people and tried to help people and dealt with people who could just never get past what was going on in their life. Maybe it is drugs, maybe it is alcohol, whatever it is.

I have told you many, many times, and this is where these two principles go together: you will never depart from evil. You will never get what is wrong out of your life until you first see it from God's standpoint and hate it as much as He does. Those two principles are absolutely incredible in forming up that concept.

- Proverbs 10:27: "The fear of the LORD prolongeth days."
- Proverbs 14:26: "The fear of the LORD is strong confidence."
- Proverbs 14:27: "The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life."
- Proverbs 15:33: "The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom."
- Proverbs 19:23: "The fear of the LORD tendeth to life."

Now, "tendeth to life" in two aspects. For an unsaved person who hears the Word of God, responds to the Word of God, it tends to eternal life in a spiritual sense, salvation. Once a person becomes saved and they start to take the instruction of the Lord, understand the great complexity of the fear of the Lord and all of these aspects, then it fits into their Christian life for the victorious Christian life in their walk with God.

Now, the fear of the Lord, and people get so messed up when it comes to some of the terms in the Bible, the fear of the Lord is not the fact that I am afraid of God or what He is going to do to me. There are actually God's people who go through their whole life just thinking God is waiting around the corner to give them some incurable disease or to kill their kids or to do some dastardly thing in their life. They live there, and they are saved people, but they live their whole lives fearing God in the wrong sense. They do not see the relationship of their heavenly Father to them as God's child and how that God is a good Father to His children. God is not out to get anybody that is His children. He is not out to hurt anybody.

But understanding the concept of that He is not waiting around this corner or down here when you drive home that He is waiting to do some dastardly thing to you, to your family. Rather, the fear of the Lord is to understand who He is as an absolute eternal power, the awesomeness of God and His ability to do all things. To fear in the sense that He has given that power to you. When I talk about the fear of the Lord in my own life, it is not that I am afraid that God is going to do something terrible to me because I know God is only going to do to me what I deserve. People always ask me, "How are you doing today?" I always answer, "A lot better than I deserve."

The fear of the Lord for me is not to fear God that He is going to come down and whack me because I know that even if He does come down and whack me, He is doing it for my good, not for my hurt. So I do not have to be afraid of that. My fear of the Lord in the sense is the fact that what God has given me, that awesome, tremendous responsibility to do what is right with the Word of God and all of the things that He has given me, the fear of not being faithful to Him who is always faithful to me, and the fear in the face of the Judgment Seat of Christ, of someday I am going to stand before God who came down and died on the cross, gave me salvation, opened up the greatest book the world has ever seen, which is the mind of God, showed me everything in that that He had, that He thinks, that He knows, that He wants. He took everything out there that is filthy and godless, everything, and He showed you the examples of why you want to take this over this. The great fear that I have is that I will take that responsibility and not be faithful with it. That is the fear.

Last week we saw you can devise evil or you can devise good to help people. As I said, last night was a great example of that. You realizing that we used volleyball and later on softball to get people close to the gospel. I just watched last night, and I was so proud of some of you guys that were doing the devotions. I would watch you and I would get as close as I could, and I would hear you and I would watch how serious you were with it, how good you were, how you presented what you had. It was not like you were there fumbling around trying to find it. You had a strong confidence. It was so clear last night. Yet you same people who did those devotions, and you know what? We could pick another whole round of people, which you probably will next week, who will be just as confident in what they were doing as you were. Even some of you ladies when you teach devotions, there is a confidence there.

Yet I look and remember today so many of you came into this church, you were not confident in anything. You did not have the ability to do anything. Many of you were messed up on goofy things in the Bible that you did not need to be messed up on. Many of you had got all kinds of weird ideas and everything, and you were in other places and other churches, and some of you had just came out of the world. I watched you. I watched you come to the place where you began to follow a process of understanding their awesome responsibility. Some of you saw it, I think, the moment you got saved. Maybe you did not understand it, but you certainly saw it. Now I watched last night and again on next week and throughout today. I will watch you guys out there doing what you do, opening up that Bible. I will watch some of your young kids that are out there passing out tracts and talking and witnessing to people. When they are too young, they are going to be in the church. When they are too young, honestly, it blows my mind when they are

too young to actually do it, but you take them out with you while you are talking to somebody down there at that bus stop, two or three of them are over here praying for you. Strong confidence.

Strong confidence. We saw that you can devise evil. You can sit around and nitpick a church, nitpick anything you want, nitpick other Christians. Or you can devise good in helping people. Boy, last night was an incredible thing for me. I mean, when I stood out there and then going over to Jason's Deli was just another aspect. I mean, I know I like to eat. I understand that. But to watch you take them in and to sit with them and people coming over and talking, that is exactly what the ministry is.

Now in our verse today, the Bible says that this fear of the Lord is a strong confidence. I want to tell you something. That is the missing element in Christianity today. God's people with absolutely no confidence. We have got a lot of God's people who know a lot of things about the Bible, but they do not know the Bible. The only thing that is going to give you confidence, a strong confidence, it is not all the things about the Bible. It is knowing the Bible. It is being able to understand book by book, chapter by chapter, being confident to give God everything in your life and to do the work that He has called you to do, devising good for people. Again, all these principles will run together like last week and this week, your whole life dedicated to the work that Christ began. He said, "I began a good work in you the day you got saved." He wants to perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. You know what? The problem is not God wanting to perform it. The problem is not God having the ability to perform it. The problem is God's people are allowing Him to perform it.

Last week we talked about being a first responder. When you make yourself available to God and you decide in your heart that you are going to be and do and you are going to pursue a confidence in the Word of God. You build it on the things that you learn and the things that you were taught. That is Proverbs chapter one through eight so clearly lays out the instructions of a father. God instructing you and instructing me. When you do that, it will bring two fundamental things into your life. These two areas are, I am going to say it again, are the missing elements in most of God's people's life.

II. Experience and Strong Confidence

The first thing that it will do is it will give you experience. I cannot tell you how vital getting good experience in your life is to be able to understand how important it is. Experience to me is simply everything I do, everything I put into play, everything I encourage you to do is for you to gain experience in any given scenario. I cannot stand people in the ministry anyhow who fly by the seat of their pants, who do not have any plan, who do not understand what they are trying to accomplish. Experience is one of the great things that comes from making yourself available and beginning to let God use you to touch other people's lives. In time, when you get the experience, what comes from experience is a strong confidence, what we are talking about today.

Now, a current great example of this, and I will just make reference to this one more time because so many of you have called me and talked to me about it. So many of you said the other

Thursday night when a little gal came in who was the Church of Christ, and you came to me or called me, and we talked, probably 20 or 30 of you, and you talked and expressed of how much you learned that night of how we handled that scenario and that situation. Some of you, bless your hearts, you completely bought into her. You know why you did? You felt sorry for her. You actually felt like she really had come to learn. But I understand that. But you know why? You held that right up until she sank her fangs in you. I understand why you looked at it that way. Because you look at things that way when there is a lack of experience. When you look and understand how the whole thing lays out, experience, experience teaches you what you are really dealing with. It is why it is so vital.

Experience not only teaches you in any scenario when you are talking to her or anybody. Experience teaches you not just what to look for, but experiences will teach you what to listen for. Genesis chapter 3, when the devil showed up, somebody asked a question Thursday night in Bible study, it was a great question, how the devil presented himself to Eve. I told you then, if the devil and Jesus Christ walked in that back door right now and one came down this side and one came down that side and he stood right beside me, you would not be able to tell them apart. You think that the devil has horns, carries a pitchfork, has a red Union suit with a tail with a cleft foot, and you would be easy to recognize him. Jesus would have a white robe, halo around his head, and you would be so easy to tell him apart. Yet the Bible says in the context that when the devil came to Eve, he transformed himself into an angel of light. The only way for Eve to be able to tell which was which was not by how it looked, but by what they said. God had clearly told him, her and her husband, from His own mouth what those trees in the garden were for. She knew that. She did not get it from a translation. She got it straight from the mouth of God. When the devil showed up and presented himself as the angel of light, she was caught up in looking at him and not listening to what he was saying.

Where experience teaches you what you are dealing with, a strong confidence teaches you how to deal with it. Of course, the key is never lose the control of the situation. That comes from confidence. I told you a couple of weeks ago, years ago, 20, 30 some years ago, once I got firmly set in the Bible, I read every book I could get my hands on. I read everything about anything because I wanted to learn. I wanted to know. I get it for one reason because whenever I talk to somebody, no matter who they are, I want to know where they are going and I want to be waiting for them when they get there. I want to know more about what they believe than they do. That is experience. From that experience comes confidence.

I must confess to you, when I first got saved, right with God, I am not sure what it was, but I am saved today, I think, I hope. I was so, so excited. I was so excited about what God has done in my life. I was in a group of young people, much like many of you are. I had just come out of the darkness and into the light, and I was so, so excited. I knew nothing about my Bible. I knew nothing about anything about the Bible. But I had such a desire and such a passion and a burden. I was so excited. I am like so many of you when you first get saved or you really get right with God, and you are so impatient, you want to get it all as quickly as you can. You are so impatient for it. It never comes that way.

We always, every year at the Stark County Fair, thousands of people would come through the Midway, and they had these long buildings where they pass out all the stores, rent a bin, and they pass out for windows or doors or roofing or this, whatever. You walk down through and they give you free stuff, pencils, yardsticks, all that stuff. We, that church there, Mel would always get a booth, and we would staff it with people that would try to win people to Christ. It was a stupid little thing that we would ask people if they wanted to take a questionnaire about religion. It was one of those devised plans to try to get somebody saved. It was pretty stupid and pretty goofy as I look back on it, but it is where we were. It had eight or nine questions. "Do you believe in God? Do you believe in organized religion? Do you believe in the devil? Do you believe this?" Then the last question was, "If you die right now, do you know you would go to heaven?" It was a trick thing. If they say no, then you ask them, "Would you like to know?" And then we win them to Christ.

Well, I had never won a person to Christ in my life. I wanted to go be part of that. I worked so hard. I got the Romans Road down. I got the Matthew Turnpike. I got everything laid out. I had it down, man. I went into that thing there, and the first couple of people come down, did not want to do it, but oh, I was so excited. So this little guy came down, and I asked if he would like to take the survey. He said, "Sure." So I took him in, and I come down the line. I asked him if he knew for sure he would go to heaven. He said, "No, I did not." I said, "Would you like to know?" He said, "I sure would." I won that guy to Christ. I was so pumped. I remember walking, I had to park way over three blocks over because of no parking there. I remember, this is how stupid I was back then, I remember walking over to my car, and I think I won three or four people to Christ that night. At least I hope I did. I hope I did not win them. I hope the Lord got them.

But I am walking to my car, and this is my reasoning. This is a young Bible Alexander, does not know anything about the Bible. So stupid. He does not even suspect anything about the Bible. This is the guy back then that you are listening to now, and I am walking down, I am even embarrassed to tell you this. I am walking down there in my exuberance. I say to myself, "I do not have to learn the Bible. I am just going to be a soul winner." I am thinking to myself, "Man, I just discovered something. I do not have to spend all that time learning all that stuff in the Bible. I am just going to, boy, tonight was it. God showed me. All I am going to do is fine-tune the Romans Road. I am going to be a soul winner." I was proud of myself. I was happy. I saw it now in great light. Bible Alexander, the soul winner, a bus, just go around winning people to Christ.

You know, we all get goofy ideas like that when we are young Christians, and our balloon gets so big, but you know, I learned God has got a hat pin that will bust any balloon we have come up with the very next night. I could not wait to get out of work. I went home and got ready, got my Bible, got all my stuff ready to go, man, I am going to, I am going to notch my pistol with four or five more tonight. So I go out there, and I am down on the runway, and they are coming down through there, and I am talking to people, and I see this young guy coming up here, and I said, "Sir, would you like to take a religious survey?" I mean, I am cocky about it. I am in. I am the greatest soul winner the world has ever seen. I am well on my way. I do not need to learn the Bible. He says, "Yeah, I really would." "Oh, got me another one." So I go over there, you know, we go ahead and had these little booths made up with curtains, you know, as you pull, we sit

down, and I started going down through there, and I got to the punchline question. I said, "If you die today, do you know where you spend eternity?" He said, "Yeah," he said, "I do. But he said, I have some questions about the Bible. Maybe you could help me." "Oh, absolutely." Took me to Acts 2:38, took me to John 3:3 where it said you have to be born of water. Took me to Romans 6, took me over there where a little gal went the other night where you have to be baptized in the, you know, in the end of the Christ's death for the next 35, 40 minutes, he beat me. He kicked me up six ways from Sunday. I did not have an answer for him. He just gutted me. He just nailed me. He did not shake my faith. But he made me mad at myself.

Where the night before I walked back to my car on cloud nine, thinking that I had it all figured out that we are never going to have to learn the Bible. I was just going to be the great soul winner because I could just win people to Christ. That night when I walked back, I said to myself, "God, that will never happen to me again." I was so stupid and so foolish that Lord, I will tell you what, I, and from that point on, I understood and recognized the fact that I had to not only get experience, but I had to get a strong confidence. I will tell you what, I have spent the rest of my life doing two things. When I got firmly set in my faith, I got every book I could read on every subject that was out there, and I devoured it. The second thing I did, I have been looking for that guy for 40 years. The key is to never lose control of a situation. That is confidence. Knowing what they believe better than they know it. That is confidence. Being able to take the experience to know where they are going before they get there and be waiting for them when they arrive.

III. First Responders and Teamwork

You know, in our physical world, talking about first responders, they are intensely trained. Most of them are evaluated at least once a year, maybe twice a year. Their equipment is kept in pristine condition, and it is checked regularly. In any given disaster, they will be the ones who are running into a burning building while everybody else is running out. I think back of the tragedy of the World Trade Center in 9/11, and so many firemen and police officers, hundreds were killed. You know why they were killed? Simply because they were trained to go into that situation while ordinary people were trying to get out. Incredibly brave men and women.

I have always thought about that and thought, you know, in a spiritual sense, everything we do here, everything I try to get across to you, everything that we try to put together, every plan behind it is to get you to that point in your life where you have a strong confidence and get the experience to be a first responder. Our People Ministry, we started it three some years ago, and it simply pulls all the other information that we get and puts it in. We started in Genesis and working our way through, and anybody could have got in it that wanted in. But it was to show everybody who wanted to learn, to get the experience, to get the material to build a strong confidence because people will have disasters in their lives today. Disastrous things will happen spiritually speaking and physically speaking. Their house, their family, their lives, their relationships, their marriage will be on fire and headed for a disaster.

I do not want you to be like most of God's people. While most God's people are standing around while a house is going up in flames, wringing their hands and saying, "Why does not somebody do something?" I want trained first responders that are experienced, strong, confident first

responders that are running into the disaster, not running away from it. I see you guys doing this all the time. I will tell you, there is no greater blessing for me as a pastor than to watch you young men and you young ladies get better in the ministry and the Word of God than I do. Many pastors are threatened to death by that. I think it ought to be the goal of every pastor to train every man and every woman that wants it to know the Bible better, to use the Bible better, to do better than he does. Now, maybe you all will not get there, but brother, you ought to work to get there.

We get this idea that the pastor is somebody that is unapproachable, and nobody can ever get to the point where, hey, look, the same Bible that I am giving you that I believe is the same one that you can have if you want it. I see you guys, I see a level of men of you being able to make core decisions while you are working with people, while you are doing this and while you are handling this scenario. I have watched some of you now turn out what, 20, 30 of the best people that this church could ever have. Why? Because you gained experience and the confidence to be able to invest into somebody and have it pay off. Some of you are extremely good at it.

Some God's people sit there this morning and they will say, "Well, I want to be that. I want to do that." Well, you know what? You are the only one who decides whether you really make it or not. I read one time a story about Peter Appleman. Peter Appleman was in the Civil War. There was a big old lanky guy in a Southern Confederate army, about six foot seven. A big monster of a guy, and they are holed up, and the Yankees are down over there about a hundred yards away. They are in their parapets. They are in their trenches. Old Peter Appleman, he heard his commanding officer talk about that they needed some prisoners. After dark, he actually crawled out of the hole, crawled down through there, came over the thing, and there was a Union sentry walking back and forth. His hand was as big as a ham, and he clobbered that guy in the face and threw him over his shoulder, climbed up with those sandbags, and started back to his own lines. The Yankees saw him, and they started shooting at him. It woke up his guys, and they started shooting at him, and he is coming up through there, dragging a Yankee, kicking and screaming, and he is getting him up there, and he finally crowned over there, and everybody was around him, and his commanding officer was there, and he threw that old Yankee down there, and he says, "There is that there, Yankee. There is a whole bunch of them over there. You all could have had one if you wanted one."

There are all kinds of people out there. There are all kinds of disasters. This world, this country is filled with millions of people with broken lives and broken marriages, and everything is busted in their life. There is a whole bunch of them out there, and you all could have one if you wanted one. When you get experience and you get strong confidence, then there is a third thing that comes into effect, and that is the aspect of teamwork. Working as a team. They know that there is no one man or one person who is the key to it all, but everybody is part of a team to get a certain job done, and it is the job of a first responder. They all see and have a single goal, and they all work together toward that goal, no matter if it is a job they do or in a spiritual sense if it is a ministry that we do.

I preached one time at a church, and I did a conference on leadership, and I had probably three or four, 500 people every night, and they wanted to learn the basic fundamentals of leadership. So I

was going through some things, and I used the example of a first responder to show them and illustrate the concept of teamwork. To illustrate my point, I said to them, "Let us pretend that we are all firemen, and this church is our firehouse, and we are all going to have a job. You," pointing to one of those guys, "you are going to drive the truck. You, you are going to be in charge of the hoses. You, you are going to take care of all the ladders. You are going to watch him. You are going to watch all of them." I gave everybody a job, and then I said, "Okay, here we go. We are a firehouse. We are a fireman. Let us make sure we all understand." I went to the first guy, "What is your job?" "Drive the truck." "What is your job?" "I am in charge of the ladder." "What is your job?" "I am in charge of the hoses." "What is your job?" Everybody repeated back to me exactly what I told them. I looked at them and I said, "You are all wrong. Your job is not to drive the truck. Your job is not to take care of the ladders. Your job is to do the hoses. Your job is to put out fires. I do not care what your individual job is. I do not care what you are good at. We are a team, and our fundamental job is to reach the world for Christ no matter what you are good at."

First responders, teamwork, the concept of understanding the goal. The first responder in ministry will be three things:

- 1.) He will have experience.
- 2.) He will have strong confidence.
- 3.) Then he will have teamwork.

He will have the experience of working and dealing with people. He will get added material updated like we did the seven pillars here just a while back. He will have a strong confidence. You will know the principles involved. He will not get sidetracked on goofy stuff that does not matter. He works as a team. They work with others to accomplish the goal. Everything I do is to get those three things in your life. Some of you will get it. Some of you will not. But it is not means that I am not going to try to the best of my ability.

Some people wonder why I put two or three people discipling somebody. "Well, it only takes two." Well, in reality, it only takes one. But you do not teach team concept with just one. You teach it with more than one. We come up to Lincoln. We love coming up to Lincoln. In fact, I think the whole church is coming up next time. But honestly, I could just send one or two people up. I could send a couple up. I could send two hot guys up that could really do it. I do not mean hot, good looking, hot in the Bible, but it does not hurt if they are hot. Especially some of you single gals up there. You are not marrying nobody. Why? Because the excitement of 10, 12, 8, 9 people going up there, even when some of them do not do anything, gets infectious. It gives people the desire to want to be like that guy or that girl doing that devotion. You come back just like I did so many years ago and you say, "God, I am going to learn how to do that." Teamwork. Teamwork comes from strong confidence, strong confidence comes from experience, and it builds first responders.

IV. A Place of Refuge

Look at the last part of Proverbs 14:26: "And his children shall have a place of refuge." Now a couple of things here, and historically, you want to get these notes in your Bible here. Jerusalem

was the place of refuge for the nation of Israel historically, the children of God. Because the nation of Israel, the leaders, lost all that God had done for them, that safe refuge under Solomon and David for 40 years each, 80 years total. Now Israel was turned to the most deadly, dangerous place on the face of the earth from 606 B.C. right up to today. There is no refuge for God's people in the land that God intended to be their refuge.

Now, inspirationally, it will be the people you deliver into the family of God. The job of this church, any church really, and I know there is many facets to it, I understand that, but fundamentally the job of this church is to be a spiritual haven for those who seek refuge from the world. It is to be a spiritual refuge for those who want to seek refuge from sin in their life. Sometimes they have to seek refuge from other churches because they get hurt. We talked about last week how the day that you got saved, Proverbs 11:25, that you were delivered as a newborn baby into the family of God. You were delivered, and if there is anybody who needs protection and refuge in a safe place, it is a baby, whether it is physical or whether it is spiritual.

By the way, that verse last week, Proverbs 11:25, "He that is a faithful witness delivereth souls." One of the greatest eye-opening verses that really explain why the only way to heaven is through a new birth. Do you know what your NIV says, Proverbs 11:25? You know, the NIV, nutty idiots version. Where your King James Bible says "the true witness delivereth souls," the NIV says "a truthful witness saves lives." Is there anybody here thinking that you can get to heaven if somebody saves your life? The word "deliver" is gone. The word "soul" is gone. Now according to the great most modern translation that everybody on the planet earth in a religious world thinks is the greatest thing that has ever come along, it now completely takes out the deliverance of a new birth. It completely takes out the word "souls," and now you get to heaven by somebody saving your life.

Now, do you have any idea why it says that? Of course you do not. You do not read or you do not read the right stuff. Just take your NIV sometime and look in the front of there in the preface. While you are at it, compare the preface of that to the preface of your King James Bible. You say, "My King James Bible does not have one." Then you got the wrong one because the only real King James will have it in. You do not have to pay for that. I will just throw that in. But you go in and look at the board of men who worked on that board to put out the NIV, the religions involved, the churches involved, and you know what you have? You have the Anglican Church. You have the Christian Reformed Church. You have the Lutheran Church. You have the Methodist Church. You have the Presbyterian Church. Are you ready for this? Yes. You have the Church of Christ. Every one of those churches does not believe in a new spiritual birth in John 3:3. Every one of them believes in baptismal regeneration. So when those scholars came to that verse, they had to get the word "deliver" out and get the word "souls" out.

Our church, this church, should be the safest place on earth for a baby Christian. You get fed here. We will start you out with milk, discipleship one, basic little questions in Bible study. Come over to my house one-on-one. I say it every week. There are no dumb questions, no stupid questions. Somebody says, "Well, that person is asking questions." Somebody says, "Well, that question has been asked 50 times." Then it probably needed to be. Somebody said to me one time, "Well, you know why you have answered the same question on Bible 30 now, six or seven

times." I said, "Yeah, and you still have not got it." You get loved here. Nobody is going to hurt you here. Nobody is going to get jealous of you. Nobody is going to sandbag you. Nobody is going to put obstacles in front of you to keep from going where God wants you to go. You will get loved here. You will get cared for in this church. You will get watched over. You will get protected. You will get nurtured here, but you will get correction here.

We take in hurting people. Sometimes God's people come into church, and they are hurting. Sometimes they have come out of a life of sin that has left them destitute, and they are hurting. Sometimes they have come from other churches where they have gotten beat up and they have gotten used and they have got abused, and they are hurting. Honestly, sometimes they come in with self-inflicted wounds, but they are hurting. Well, I always think of a church, what a church should be. I always think of 1 Samuel 22 over there, the cave of Adullam. David is running from Saul. David has got his problems, and he is running from Saul, and he hides in a cave, the cave of Adullam. The Bible says that people hear where David is at, and they all start to go where David is at. He winds up with 400 of them. He said, "Everyone that comes to him is distressed." Some of them are in debt. Some of them are discontented, and they are all hurting. You know, that is what a church ought to be. It ought to be a place where people can come who are hurting in things, who are disillusioned with things, who are in distress, who are discontented.

There was a time when the two safest places on earth, and they are both connected with birth, was one, a mother's womb, and two, was a God-honoring, Bible-believing church. Now today, nothing could be farther from the truth. Wombs are violated by the abortion of millions of babies every year. The churches have become spiritual abortion clinics that destroy baby Christians from ever maturing. The proof of that is just go look in the mirror. I have seen some of God's people, but in churches 10, 15, 20 years, they still do not understand how to lay the Bible out. They still do not understand anything about the books of the Bible. Yet, we will pick the abortion clinic to pick it. But the dead churches that kill babies just as surely spiritually as the other ones do physically, we think they are good. What is wrong with us? In both cases, they do the same thing. They kill babies, one spiritual, one physical.

V. A Fountain of Life

Now look at Proverbs 14:27: "The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death." That is what a church ought to be. That is what our lives ought to be. The Christian life has a fountain of life. You know, back in 1513, a Spanish guy by the name of Ponce de Leon, a good Roman Catholic, tramped all through the Florida swamps looking for the fabled fountain of youth. He had been told by his church there was a fountain that if you drank from, you would live forever. Wrong church, wrong Bible, wrong dispensation. Roman Catholic Church never could get their doctrine straight. He tramped all through Florida, looking for the fabled fountain of youth. That water that you drink from, that you live forever, stay young forever.

Hey, there is a fountain filled with blood that is drawn from Emmanuel's veins, and sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stain. You want to live forever? John chapter four, the water of everlasting life that springs up in you and then should spring up in others from you.

You are down there today and Restart on the street. How many times somebody has come up to you and asked for a bottle of water? Proverbs 25:25 says, "As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country." The cold waters, the Word of God, the thirsty soul, is the dry and dusty old world that can never quench your thirst. The good news is the gospel of Jesus Christ. The far country, Matthew 21:33, that water came from heaven. When you get it, it takes you from the snares of death out of the darkness of this world into the light. Amen.

VI. The King's Honor and the Prince's Destruction

Look at Proverbs 14:28: "In the multitude of people is the king's honour: but in the want of people is the destruction of the prince." Now from a historical standpoint, and you want to get your notes here on this, this will be Solomon who was an honor to his people. 40 years in his kingdom of no wars and peace. Then Rehoboam, his son, the prince, who came along and brought the people into want and wound up destroying the nation. All because he would not learn the lessons and take the instructions of his father.

Now let us look at this for a moment in a practical application. There are great lessons here that explain a lot of things. You know, as a Christian in life, the older you get, the more you should understand the things of life the way they really are. One of the things I look for in young men and young ladies, you will find people who are trapped in the goofiness that they came in with for all of their lives. For whatever reason, they will just never move off a dead center and never get the experience or the wisdom or never get the confidence to really understand the Bible the way it is. They are trapped in all of the garbage and the goofiness that means absolutely nothing to the work of Jesus Christ. I think that it is pretty clear in life, the older you get, the more you should understand the things around you.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 13:11, "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things." Part of this process of your spiritual growth, getting into that book, it shall put away the goofy things of children, and you will grasp the concepts of a man of God. The more you see and understand the cause and effect of things, why things happen the way they do. This is called wisdom and understanding in the Bible. It makes it supposedly 60, 70, 80 years old, a wise man. Proverbs 16:31 says, "The hoary head is a crown of glory." Hoary is an old English word for white, gray head. Somebody been around for a while, the Bible says, should have learned some things from life.

Now you can see this principle at work in the Bible Believing Movement up through the 1950s, 60s, and the 70s. Understanding the history of the Bible Believing Church in the early, mid, and 20th century is an incredible thing to grasp. Back in the day, before most of you were even really born, other than some of your older folks, this country was stocked with great Baptist churches that preached the Word of God. Places like the Akron Baptist Temple under Dallas Billington ran 10,000 on Sunday. The Canton Baptist Temple that I am from, Dr. Harold Henniger, Canton, Ohio. Mansfield Baptist Temple, Tommy Leatherwood preached there many times. The Massillon Baptist Temple under Bruce Cummings, preached there many times. Temple Baptist Church in Detroit under Beecham Vic, probably ran six, 7,000 people. Landmark Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio under John Rawlings. The Kansas City Baptist Temple back in the day under

Wendell Zimmerman. Hundreds of Baptist churches in Springfield, High Street, Cherry Street, in Detroit, Tom Malone's Baptist Church, in Cleveland, Ohio, Ray Thompson, they were across this country.

Hundreds of these churches had come out of the Southern Baptist Convention. These churches were carved out of the rock by and built on the preaching of a King James Bible. They were built by men who believed the book, some of the greatest pastors the world has ever seen. I want to tell you something, I am speaking from experience. I heard them preach some of the greatest preaching you ever heard in your life. The comparison between what you get now and what you got back then is unbelievable. They were statesmen when it came to laying out the Word of God. But my friend today, those churches are not but an empty shell. They are a mess. They are a complete breakdown of what they once were. Why is that? Because of the principle right here in Proverbs 14:28.

You see, the men who founded those churches were good men, and they brought honor to the Word of God. They labored through some of the toughest times in the 20th century, many of them through the Depression, through World War II, through all the ups and downs of the economy to build a work that would honor and glorify the Lord. I think of men like Dallas Billington, who came up from Kentucky, who did not know anything, never been to Bible college, had a burden, went to Akron, Ohio, and started in a garage and built a church honoring God for 10,000 people. He wrote a book, probably one of the greatest books that was ever written in the world. You probably could not find it anywhere today. If you got it on eBay or found it on the book place wherever you go, you would probably pay 50 cents for it. It is worth a hundred million dollars. It is the life of a man who believed God for what he promised and built a work. The name of the book is simply God is Real by Dallas Billington. Greatest book as a young Christian I ever read.

Dr. Harold Henniger, Wendell Zimmerman, all came out of J. Frank Norris' crowd. But when they passed off the scene, they all left their works to their sons. Just like Rehoboam ran Israel into the ground, these boys, each one of them ran their churches into the ground. Why? Because they never worked and sweated and worried and prayed and labored to build that work. Oh, Harold Henniger had five heart attacks during the time that he passed through that church. He was one of the most compassionate, one of the most godly, one of the most caring people. He was everywhere where people were. He fretted over that church. He worried about that church. He had five heart attacks. But when he passed off and gave up the church, he gave it to his boy. All these guys just handed it to him. Those boys never understood the price that it took to build a church. Those boys never understood the tears and the sweat. They never understood the labor involved in building a church. In fact, there are ten key fundamentals of being a pastor. If you do not understand them and apply them, you are going to fail. They never had it. They never learned alongside their dad to learn anything. They went off to Bible college and then they came back to take over the church with an unbiblical, ungodly format to build a church after their dads had labored and sweated and built it on the Word of God. They tried to come back and build it on programs. The proverb says, spiritually speaking, they brought the people to want and destroyed the work.

Akron Baptist Temple, lucky to run 1500. Canton Baptist Temple 900. Had one church one time that was boasting, "We are still the great church that we used to be. We are running 3000 people." When you examine it and saw the lies, by the way, the father lies behind it, they were running about 600 adults, and all the rest of them were kids. They brought in on a bus ministry, and those buses were going 100 miles round trip to bring kids into church so they could boast that they were a great church. Temple Baptist up in Detroit, gone. Kansas City Baptist Temple, gone. You see it all over the place. You know what? You see it in our own country. I mean, this verse is absolutely one of the most informative verses to understand why things are the way they are.

Our country's leadership changed the moment a president came into office that did not go through World War II or Korea or Vietnam. The last one was George Bush, Sr., who was a fighter pilot in World War II. Eisenhower, Truman, Kennedy, both the Bushes, Reagan, compare them to Nixon, Clinton, Johnson, and Obama. They have no clue how to defend the nation because they never spent one day in a uniform defending this country. They got the presidency handed it to them and never understood the price that has to be paid to keep a people free. You look at John McCain, one of the great heroes who flew A4s in Vietnam, shot down over Vietnam, spent three or four years in a Viet Cong prison camp. The Hanoi Hilton, tortured, beat up. He cannot even walk straight today. He was tied up for hours with his hand behind his back, lifted up off the ground. His shoulders are not even straight. He cannot even walk, but he understands how to defend this country. Then you got John Kerry. This is an example. John Kerry, Secretary of State, who also was in Vietnam, who turned against the war, came back, took his medals off and threw them over the White House fence and denouncing the very war. Now, I do not always agree with war. There are people that did not like the Vietnam War, but let me just tell you something. It is not your choice or my choice to decide whether a war is moral or immoral. Romans 13 says you obey the government, and God holds the government accountable whether it was right or not. We have gotten a long way from that.

Our country is now run by men who have no idea how to defend a nation. Just like Solomon brought honor to it, now the sons bring dishonor to it. For the first time in our country, talk about not learning a lesson of history, for the first time in our country, and I do not care who wins. I showed you yesterday in People's Ministry why it does not matter if you got the greatest soul-winning Bible-believing Christian to be president next week. It is not going to stop a thing. I showed you yesterday why it would not. Amen? Now, here we are, election coming up, and this country is on the verge of putting a socialist in the White House. Let me define socialism for you: communism. We just spent, what, 50 years fighting the Cold War against communism? Now this country, what, 20 years, 30 years after, is seriously considering putting a socialist communism in the White House? Golly, God needs to plow this thing under and put a bunch of buffalo on it. Where once this country was honored and feared as the greatest nation in the world, now we are laughed at, and nobody fears us, and nobody trusts us. The people come to want. Boy, that book of God never misses it. Not one time in 6,000 years.

VII. Slow to Wrath, Great Understanding

Now, look at Proverbs 14:29: "He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly." Now, this verse is an absolute gold mine. The hasty spirit here will be our emotions, not having control of them. Proverbs 25:28, one of our great verses that we always allude to in dealing with people, "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, and without walls." The person who has slow to wrath has rule over his emotions. He has knowledge, he has wisdom, he has perception, he has discernment, he has understanding. Understanding to not just see the problem, but understanding is to know why the problem exists in the first place and how to fix it. Understanding will always give you control over any situation. Here lies the great concept that we talk about, react versus respond.

Yet the wrath here sometimes may be warranted. There are times when your wrath against somebody or something may be warranted, but you still move slowly until you get all the facts. Haste makes waste, my mama used to say. This great understanding will simply come through letting the principles, Bible principles, filter through your response. Again, in time you get faced with all the situations that you have to deal with, whether you are dealing with somebody whenever, because you have experience and a strong confidence, you are able to have the understanding how to deal with yourself first and then with others. You simply stop and take pause and ask yourself, "What is the principle in the Word of God behind this? What is the principle behind this issue that I should be looking at before and following before I open my mouth?" In time, once you do that, it becomes an automatic response. That is how you control your anger, your emotion, or whatever.

The last part of the verse says, "but he that is of a hasty spirit exalteth folly." Now nothing could be more truer in life. How absolutely ridiculously stupid is that how we look when we have no rule of our own spirit. A dad gets angry, out of control, upset, usually about stupid stuff. So he puts his fist through the wall in a fit of anger. He kicks the door off the hinges, kicks a hole in the door. He throws a lamp, breaks a window. He screams. He yells. He curses a blue streak, all in front of his wife, his kids. Oh, you are definitely deacon material. All because you are out of fellowship, which will always lead to being out of control of your spirit, your emotions. A 40-year-old throwing a temper tantrum of a two and three-year-old. My, my, what a leader of men you are.

Proverbs 16:32 says, "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." There are some rules for your spirit. Do you know that? It says right there, "and he that ruleth his spirit." How do you rule it? Because in the Bible there are some rules for your emotions. Proverbs 19:11 says, "The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression." You know what that one says? You pick your battles. There are times that you want to get in it, you do not get in it. Times you want to shoot your mouth off, you keep your mouth shut. You know why? Because discretion tells you how to pick your battles. Unchecked anger and wrath. That is really not the problem, though really the problem is a much deeper problem, always is. You know that.

There is a great verse on controlling your anger, your spirit, and your emotions. It is found in 1 Corinthians 14:32. It simply says this: "And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets." You can control your emotions. You can control your emotions. You just have to use

the principles and apply them in every given situation. If I have learned any one thing in 40 years of working and dealing with people, boy, there is nothing ever truer than I ever told you I am about to tell you. God's people want to learn things about the Bible, but very few of them really want to learn the Bible. They will say they do, but they really do not.

Do you know why that is? I have seen it all my life in the ministry over 40 years. I mean, I have seen people who will read every book that is out there. They will read every article in every magazine that has to do with anything. Oh, they are dialed into that Internet. I get probably 30 or 40 emails a month with some of the goofiest stuff that Christians are into. I enjoy them all. I do not have video games, so I just play these. Somebody sent me last two weeks ago that the massacre at Sandy Hook where all those kids were killed really did not happen. It was a government conspiracy. Somebody sent me an email one time about the World Trade Center when it got attacked that it was not done. One theory was that George Bush did it. The other theory was that aliens did it. A guy said, you are laughing, a guy sent me an Internet, said, "Look at this, Bob, look at this." I opened it up, and it showed a burning, twin towers there. If you zoomed in real close, it showed little aliens scaling around the something. Somebody had put them in there. Man never walked on the moon. It was all a stage set down in the desert someplace. I get them all. These people will read books. They will read articles. They will get on the Internet. They are all into the end times. They know who the Antichrist is. Everything is a government conspiracy, a world conspiracy. I mean, they have got the, they, it is incredible. I have seen them all my life. They will immerse themselves into these things. But they will never, they will never, they will never structure themselves or discipline themselves to get into the Word of God.

The difference is things about the Bible and things you have figured out yet why they do not get so easy figured out yet why because all that other junk and stuff about the Bible, but it is not the Bible. It may be directly or indirectly connected, and you can get into that stuff and pretend you are really spiritual and you are really on a quest for knowledge and a quest for God. But I want to tell you that stuff, that stuff, here is the problem. That stuff will never change you. That stuff will never transform you. That stuff will inform you. Most of the time it misinforms you. There is only one thing that will change you. There is only one thing that will transform you. Deep down inside God's people really do not want to change. They want to immerse themselves into things about the Bible. But when it comes to laying out the Word of God, getting into those books, getting into those chapters, getting into those verses, when you do that, that book gets inside of you. You can read all about the aliens on the twin towers and how Obama is the Antichrist and all this and all that, and all that stuff is exciting. It will not change your life. That book changed your life.

I know human nature. You are kidding me. I am human. I know how I am. I know you give me a long road or a short road. Bob Alexander is going to take the short road. But when you get disciplined in your life, you know the short road leads to a short end. You go the long road. When you get into the Word of God and learn it above all else, the Bible is the only book that when you start to read it, it starts to read you. It will read you when you start to study it. It will start to study you. You cannot get into those books. You cannot begin to come through there and

look at those examples and look at those principles and look at what happened to this guy and get it out and put it in your Bible. Get it into your heart. Get it into your soul without the Holy Spirit of God saying, "You need to change some things in your life too." It is just so easier because we do not want to really change. Oh, we talk about wanting to change. It just never happens. It just never happens.

It will bring not only your own spirit into accountability, but in time it will bring your family, your marriage, your kids, your job, and every aspect of your life will now fall under a set of guidelines called the principles of the Word of God. Until you get there, you will just keep playing the game. We saw it last week in Isaiah 29:13 with the Nation of Israel. God said to them, "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men." They give God lip service. Tell Him what they think He wants to hear. Say what needs to be said, but inside. Never take the steps.

The book of Proverbs is not only one of the greatest books in the Bible for us to read, but it probably because of its input and its value is the single greatest book that will read you and me. In Proverbs, you are firmly inside God's mind. The rest of the Bible, every aspect, every situation, every encounter, every emotion, everything you face will go back to one of these Proverbs and one of these principles. In life, in every relationship, in every situation, in the good times, in the bad times, every issue found in the heart of man will be found in this book, the book of Proverbs. When you open its pages and you read it, it begins to read you. When you began to see this man here, "my son," the Holy Spirit of God says, "That is you." When it talks about a foolish man, it says, "That is you." When it says the wise man, it will say, "That is you." You are faced with either changing who you are as a husband, changing who you are as a Christian, changing who you are. Or just going back to the stuff that appears that you are spiritual. But will never change you.

When you open the pages of this old book, it reveals to you and me that book discerns our thoughts and intents of our heart. Do you not hate that? We all like to keep our secrets. We all do. Most of the times, the secrets that we keep are from ourselves. We say to ourselves, "Do not tell anybody, but I am really spiritual." When you get into that book, it discerns the thoughts and the intents of your heart. He will not just say, "We are going to spend some time in the Word of God today." He will say, "Why are you in the book today?" When you start to get antsy, He will say, I am saying this because He does this to me. You will get into that book and you will get in a hurry and you want to do something else. The Holy Spirit of God will say, "What is your hurry?" "Oh, okay, go ahead. I got three other things that we are going to tell you, but no, no, no, I am going to go." He discerns the thoughts and intents of every one of our hearts. He looks right down inside. He knows whether you are real or I am real or we are not. If you would spend less time worrying about other people, how real they are, and start worrying about how real you really are. You would be a lot better off than you are. Do you really understand that? Really?

Boy, when He starts to look down at your heart and my heart, you know what the Holy Spirit of God does. I hate this too. I hate all this. He cries out for change. He cries out for change. This is why you get irritable. That is why you get angry. Because inside you, the Holy Spirit of God is

saying, "We have got to change this. We have got to change this. We have got to change this." You do not want to change. So it is easier to get into all that other junk and never, never, never work those books, work those chapters, work those verses, get into the mind of God. Oh, God help you. When you get into the mind of God, God gets into your mind, and the Holy Spirit of God cries out for change.

Get into that book. It will show you why you failed in life. You know, we do not like to look at our failures, but we have all failed. It would be a terrible thing if the Bible just shows you your failures in life. But God's Word will always show you how to get out of the failures and make something out of your life. But you realize you will never make anything out of your life. Do you realize the failures in your life? You realize that people do not want to skip over the failures and just go to the good things. It never happens. That Bible says, God says, Spirit says, "Come now, let us reason together." Every character in the Bible, everybody from Moses to Abraham, some of the greatest examples you ever saw of a man and God going at it together. How about Job? "God, why do not you just let me go and let me drown in my own spit?" That is Job. People look at that and say, "Oh, I just could not believe that." You know what your problem is? You do not really have a relationship with God that is real because when you do, that is the way you talk.

You ever see Moses and him talk? Moses in the tent cussing up a storm. Oh, cuss words. He is cussing up a storm. God comes in and says, "What is your problem?" He says, "Them blankety blank people you gave me," he says, "I do not know why you just do not kill them all. They are just a worthless piece of crap you ever saw in your life, God. Just wipe them out. They do not listen to me. I have had it. I am tired. You gave them to me. You told me to do this. You said great mighty things, but you do. I have not seen nothing with them. Just kill them." God is there saying, "Moses, let me hear you say, 'Praise the Lord.' Say, 'Praise the Lord.' Come on, Moses. Come on. What is the deal? You having a bad day today?" He said, "Yeah, I am, Lord. Them blankety blank people." He says, "Hey, look, hey, they are flesh. They are grass. You get upset with them. What do you think I do? But Moses, you have got to understand some things. They are just flesh. They are just grass. They are just people. They are just flesh. They are going to struggle." Moses says, "Yeah, you are right, Lord. I am sure glad we have these talks." The Lord says, "Well, we have them whenever you want to. I am always here for you." "Okay, Lord, I appreciate it."

So a couple of days go by, Moses comes into tent. God is in the tent. "Well, people, I am going to wipe them out and kill them. I am just going to break their legs off and pull them out of joints and pull their hair out one at a time. I am going to rip their nostrils out of nose, tear up over their eyelids. I am just going to kill them and kill them, kill them." Moses says, "Come on, Lord. Let me help you here. You know, they are just people." When God says, "Yeah, you are right, Moses." God says, "You know what, Moses?" "God, what, God?" "Probably if you did kill them, what is all the other nations going to say out there? They are going to make fun of you. They are going to laugh at you. You do not need that." God says, "You know what, Moses? You are right. I do not know what I would do without you, Moses. Thanks a lot. You are really helping me out of that thing." That is the relationship you have. If you think, listen to me, if you think that God is

just always there for you and you never need to be there for Him, you do not have much of a relationship with God.

You know why I take such a stand on the King James Bible to anybody? I do not care who they are. I do not care how much education they have. I do not care if they know 5,000 times more than me. If I cannot win the argument, I will let the air out of the tire. I will get someplace I will get it going. But you know why? Because I am not going to stand by after all God has done. I am not going to stand by with a zipped lip while somebody desecrates that book that God gave this planet that is His son incarnate in the book. I am not going to stand by and keep my mouth shut when somebody wants to take it apart. You know why? Because He has always been there for me. It does not ever bother you that He is always there for you, but you are just never there for Him.

Yeah, it will show you why you failed in life, but it will show you how to turn around and succeed in life. That book will instruct you. It will rebuke you. It will admonish you, and it will comfort you. It will break you, but then it will build you up and make you. It will give you knowledge, wisdom, understanding. It will give you discernment and discretion. It will build in you teamwork, experience, and a strong confidence. So you can do the work that God has called you to do for the rest of your life. The day you got saved, God began a good work in you, and He wants to perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. The problem is not Him and the work. The problem is you wanting to work. The Bible says, "The fear of the LORD is strong confidence." We have got an abundance of strong confidence here, but it will never be enough. We always want more. We always look at every young man and every young woman that comes in, realizing that there are things that they have got to change to get that strong confidence. There are some things that have got to go out of their life, and some things they have got to adjust. They have got to get some direction the right way. They have got to get into that book and begin to work it through.

I love the fact that I talked about the outlines about the books on the Bible and the website just Thursday night, and I have been just bombarded with people who are going through it who want to get, because you want to get that point in your life, and you will. But I am telling you right now, do not you think for a moment that anything on that website, do not you think for a moment that any outline you are going to get is not going to bring you nothing but heartache and trouble once you get into it. If you are not willing to change, that is the key.

Every head bowed, every eye closed. Father, we thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus. We do love you. Thank you, Father, for the time we have had today in your Word. Thank you, Father, for this church, for the men and the women who stand by the stuff and the young ones who want to learn and grow and the ones that are pouring over that book. Every week, Lord, I just meet with them that are just digging in it and going to town, and Lord, they are learning. They are doing a great job. Through that, they will get the experience. They will get the confidence. They will change themselves, transform themselves to exactly what you want them to be. Not what I want them to be, but what you want them to be. Then they will work as a team. We will all be firemen. We will all have our particular jobs that we do within the particular ministries that we

are in. But the overall job will be to put out fires in people's lives. Thank you, Father, for all you do for us. In Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

I will call you up in about five, 10 minutes. We will get ready to go. Do not forget the Super Bowl party tonight. Be here. We will have a good time.