

I. Introduction: Conquering Fear

Hi. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Kenzie. Today I'm going to be talking about something that I've struggled with for a really long time, and I sometimes still do struggle with it today. I'm going to be talking about fear.

I'm afraid of pretty much everything. I'm afraid of the dark. I'm afraid of being alone. I'm afraid of speaking in front of people. And I'm also afraid of losing my friends and family. The list practically goes on and on. But I found a way to help me get over those fears.

If you guys have your Bibles, please turn over to 2 Timothy 1:7.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

The first thing that I see when I read this verse is that God did not give us the spirit of fear, and He doesn't want us to be afraid. Fear does not come from the Lord; it comes from us. But God also gave us three ways to help us conquer our fear: power, love, and a sound mind.

The first thing we're going to talk about is the power of God. When the Red Sea parted so the nation of Israel could get through, that was the power of God. When David killed Goliath, that was also the power of God. There are so many more examples of the power of God.

1 John 4:4

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

When you have the power of God living inside of you, you should not be afraid. As it says in the verse, God is greater than everything. You don't have to be afraid of a neighborhood bully when your dad is bigger and stronger than him. Luckily for you, God, your heavenly Father, is bigger than everything.

The second thing He gave us was love. The best example there is of God loving us is when He died on the cross to save us from our sins. John 3:16 says:

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Ephesians 2:4-5

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

When you are with your parents, you feel safe and secure because you know how much they love you. God is with you all the time. He loves you all the time. So you should feel safe all the time.

Some more great verses on God loving us are Romans 8:38-39. It says:

Romans 8:38-39

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The last point is a sound mind. A sound mind is a steady mind. If you have a steady mind, it means your head is screwed on correctly. The Bible also talks about us needing to use sound doctrine, and sound doctrine is correct doctrine. So, having a sound mind means your head is right, strong, and capable of making all the right decisions.

You get a sound mind by reading your Bible. The Bible is God's mind, so by reading and learning your Bible and applying the principles to your life, you get a sound mind. Think of all the elements in a periodic table. When you combine certain elements, you can make certain things. When you combine your three elements—power, love, and your sound mind—from God's periodic table, you just made a way to conquer your fears.

So next time you get afraid of something, like afraid to stand up for what's right, or afraid to talk to someone, it could be anything. But there are only three things that will help you get over your fears: power, love, and a sound mind. If you use these three things, you will never fear again.

II. The Unsearchable Word of God and Related Studies

If you have your Bibles this morning, I want to invite you to turn over to Proverbs chapter 19. Last week, we really focused on one of the great principles found anywhere in the Bible on human nature. That was the concept of the devices that man will invent to get him around the Word of God. We talked about verse 21.

Proverbs 19:21

There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.

That's a great verse. I've been a student of the Bible for over 40 years, and if I've learned anything, I've learned that there are no experts when it comes to the Word of God. There's no such thing as a Bible scholar. There's no such thing as someone who learns all the Bible and knows the Bible. If I've learned any great truth out of my time in the Word of God, it is that the more you learn the Bible, the greatest thing you learn is how much less you really know the Bible. The Bible is a book that is unsearchable. As students, we're just all on different levels of trying to put the Word of God together.

Along with the Bible, I became a student of other things that go hand in hand with the Bible. I think that this is the downfall with so many of God's people. Many of them will study the Bible,

but they'll never see the other studies that need to go along, that go hand in hand with the Bible, that really give you the insight into everything that the Bible impacts.

Yesterday, in our Singles Ministry, we started our three-year Bible Institute. My goal is to take these young men and young ladies and really develop them. They've already committed to work hand in hand with me by my side and do what we do here. My commitment to them is to really take them and develop them into everything that God wants them to be. I told them, if there was one word that really defines knowing the Bible, it would be the word "depth"—getting a depth in the Word of God.

The way you get a depth in the Word of God is to not just make the Bible your study. When you get into the Bible and you begin to study the Bible, it's going to open up all the other areas that really need to be studied that will give you not only the Bible, but the depth of the Bible. You'll see that it'll give you the resources of being able to talk about many things on many different levels that really helps accent the Word of God, God's truth.

I remember I became a student of history. I remember reading in Proverbs 22 and 23 that God has landmarks. I remember the landmark of the Old Testament was the nation of Israel, and the landmark of the New Testament is the New Testament local church. I've learned, looking back on it now, that there's no real understanding of history without the Bible, and really understanding how it all kind of goes together. Because the God of the Bible is the God of history. We always talk about God being the God of prophecy. Well, I'll tell you something: He's also the God of history. You can't separate the two.

I remember I became a student of languages. It struck me one day that when God wrote the Bible, He only put the Bible in three languages. All down through history, there have been three major languages that God decided to put the Bible into that were universal languages of the day. I remember asking myself, "Now, why did God do that?" I realized that once I identified those three languages, everything became crystal clear.

There are a lot of guys out there today who have trouble with the King James Bible being the Word of God when I talk about how it's the absolute standard for everything that God gave us in English. They have a tough time understanding that because they'll always give you the argument, "Well, what about all the other people that never spoke English, or do not speak English?" I would remind them that in the Old Testament, God only put the Word of God in Hebrew. I would ask you, "What about all the other nations back in the Old Testament that did not speak Hebrew?" I'll tell you something else: Hebrew was a very small language with a very small group compared to the world of the Hittites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites, who not only hated the people of God, but they hated the language by which they spoke. The study of languages was an important thing for me.

I remember I became a student of nations. I realized that all history and all the Bible revolve around nations. Then I found out that in the Bible, there are 10 fundamental primary nations that run all the way from Genesis to Revelation. All the Bible is built around that.

Through the process, I became a student of the Middle East. I quickly found out, as the Bible lays out over there in Ezekiel 36 and 35, that all history repeats itself. I saw the Middle East as the place where it all started in Genesis, and yet it's the place that it all winds up in the book of Revelation. As I began to go through the Bible and study the Bible, all these other studies of me being a student began to unfold themselves.

I became a student of outer space. It's an incredible thing. The Bible talks about the eight ordinances of heaven, eight specific things mentioned in the Bible that are in outer space out there that mean something in the Bible. When I saw that, I realized that I'm never going to learn the Bible as a student without getting all these other classes. It's the same way when you go to grade school, you go to high school, you go to college. You don't take just one class; you take multiple classes. Those multiple classes of you being a student will form the central thing that you want to come out of school with. Well, the Bible is the same way. If there's a central thing you want to come out of the Bible with, then you're going to have to get the other classes. You're going to have to be students of them.

The Bible talks about God's plan for the universe. The Bible talks about how there's a structure in the universe, there's a shape to the universe. But I have to tell you, in all my studies as a student, there was never a study that taught me more about life and about everything in the Bible than the study that I took on human nature. I'm going to tell you this morning that a study in the Bible of human nature—why we do the things we do, the whys and the reasons, the cause and the effect of who we are—was the greatest single study that God ever taught me through the Word of God.

Man's reaction to the Word of God and the things of God will be the single greatest study that you ever embark on. I never get to go into outer space yet. I never get to go back in history. I've never really been to the Middle East. There are places that I studied that I can study, but I'm not really familiar with them because I've never really been there, lived there. But human nature, we're around human nature all the time. Human nature unfolds itself in every aspect of our life. You and I are human, and we have a human nature about us. So it's not only just studying what people do when it comes to the reaction to the Word of God and the things of God; it comes down to what you and I do with it also.

III. Human Nature and Devices in Genesis 3

I began to see very early in His plan in Genesis chapter 3 where God wanted to redeem His fallen creation. He wanted to come to Adam and Eve, and He wanted to undo the terrible damage that they had done immediately. Immediately, Adam and Eve, as a picture of human nature for the next 6,000 years, what do they do? They fired up that old smoke machine. They fired up that old machine that puts out a cloud that they can hide in. They put out a smoke screen right away.

The first thing in the Bible, when God came down to fix what man had broken, you begin to see the devices. Adam and Eve, very early on, set the model for you and for me down through history and what you've got to deal with with people, yourselves, and circumstances in life. They invent all the devices that take the place of God and His counsel, yet want to keep everybody looking good, respectable, and legitimate.

I don't know if you've ever seen this or not, talking about devices in human nature, but in the first three chapters of Genesis, you have the beginning of it all: the devices. Genesis chapter 3 is the first place recorded where you see the devices come into play with Adam and Eve. When you look at Adam and Eve, you see the seven basic elements that we face in all of our children, that if they're not fixed and they're not worked through, will lead to problems.

Adam and Eve were like little children. They were in innocence. They were just like your kids. But you begin to see in their life, once they fell and they lost the image of God, you immediately begin to see the same little element that you find in your children when they're little, because human nature starts that early.

The Bible says that Adam and Eve were naked when God created them. The Bible tells us that you came into this world naked, and you're going to leave this world naked. I've never understood people who would grasp that verse thinking that you're going to have everything in life and you get everything in life like you're thinking you're going to take it with you. You're not going to take it with you. You came into this world with nothing; you're going to go out with nothing other than the Lord Jesus Christ if you get saved.

So they were born naked, and yet they were not ashamed to be naked, like your little kids. How many times have you been embarrassed because somebody's over, and you have a two-year-old or a three-year-old in the other room, and suddenly when your company's there, they come running through stark naked? They don't care. They were born naked, and the moment they began to realize they were naked, after what God told them to do, they tried to cover their own nakedness. They tried to get some fig leaves. Now they knew they were naked. Somebody needs to come to the understanding in time that you're naked physically and you're naked spiritually. Nakedness was always one of Israel's problems down through the Old Testament; they didn't have any shame of their nakedness either.

The next thing that you see that Adam and Eve did, just like little children do, that formed the basis of human nature in Genesis 3:8, when they did something that was wrong, they ran and hid. How many times have your kids growing up been playing, and you hear something crash in the living room, and you walk in there, and there's nobody found from here to Texas? They're gone.

Then the other aspect of human nature: when you finally do catch them and you finally have to face it, you know what they do? They do the same thing we do: they blame it on somebody else. When God came to Adam and He said, "Adam, what did you do? You don't look the same anymore. What happened? You're in a fallen state." Adam said, "Well, Lord, the wife that You gave me," like it was God's fault. When He came to Eve and He said, "Eve, what's wrong with you? You're not Snow White anymore. What happened? Did one of the seven dwarfs show up? What took place? Something changed about you." She said, "Well, the devil." You find early on in their life that they have all the traits that we have.

I'll tell you something else. You put your kids at a table and you put spinach salad right here with asparagus, broccoli, and you put a big bowl of cherries over here, or fruit and sliced bananas, they'll take the fruit every time. Little kids always have an affinity for picking the wrong things. If you don't fix that early, they'll be picking the wrong things all their life.

Everyone knows how little kids are always touching things they're not supposed to touch. How many times a day? "Don't touch that. Don't touch that. Next time you touch it, we'll cut off one finger. Second time, we'll cut off the other finger. Don't touch that." You notice how they're always trying to put things in their mouth that they shouldn't put in.

Those are the fundamental basic patterns of human nature found in Adam and Eve in Genesis 3 that are found in every child. Because your child, as cute as they may be, and you have some cute ones, as loving as they may be, as snuggly as they may be, they have an old sin nature. An old sin nature will play to human nature. If a child doesn't get those things fixed through the course of his life growing up and gets the counsel from his parents, then he will develop the same devices that Adam and Eve did to justify the continuance of these things in his adult life.

He won't see anything wrong, or she won't see anything wrong, with dressing half naked and having no shame to it at all. They will have no problem hiding their sin and not facing up to their responsibility when they get older. They'll have no problem when you try to hold them accountable that they'll always blame it on somebody else. "Well, it's this person's problem." "Well, it's so-and-so." "Well, you know, my little boy does these things because he's hanging out with so-and-so." "Well, my girl is the way she is because so-and-so ruined her." They'll always go through life, just like Adam and Eve, when God says, "Do this," they'll always be picking the wrong thing. As they get older, they'll always be going places that they should not go. In time, yes, they will be putting the things in their mouth that they should not be putting in.

IV. Five Truths About Human Nature and Devices

In fact, Genesis 3, the beginning of human nature as we know it, the beginning of the devices, we find five great truths about God, the devil, and human nature and the devices that man invents to get around God's counsel. I've seen this all to be true.

- 1.) The root of all questioning and doubting the Word of God will always be satanic.
- 2.) Sin starts on this planet with simply adding and subtracting from God's Word to do what somebody wanted to do, and then creating a device to justify it.
- 3.) Man's desire to exalt himself over the Word of God and God's counsel will always be satanic.
- 4.) Satan is the real force behind higher education and intellectualism and science.
- 5.) Man will take part of the Bible, discard the rest, and then develop a device that looks good to most folks but has nothing to do with anything around God.

V. The Desire of Kindness

Now, along with that, we want to move into where we're at today. We're going to pick it up today in Proverbs chapter 19, verse 22 and 23. I want to read it for you, and then we're going to make some comments on it.

Proverbs 19:22-23

The desire of a man is his kindness: and a poor man is better than a liar. The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.

Now, verse 22 says, "The desire of a man is his kindness: and a poor man is better than a liar." This is a great principle that I want to talk about for a few minutes based on what we talked about earlier, because it's like an introduction to the aspect of devices that man invents in his heart to get around the Word of God. This is a great principle that teaches us it's not what we do that counts, but rather the attitude of the motive behind what we do.

The desire, and this is lost today, it's not about what you and I do as a Christian. The real key is the motivation and your desire behind what you do. Two great examples of this, among many, are the judgment seat of Christ. When you and I stand before the judgment seat of Christ, it's not going to be about what we did or what we didn't do. You're going to have people there, guys there, that built huge churches. You're going to have guys there that built small churches. You're going to have Christians there that spent their whole life, from their viewpoint, doing and serving God. Yet, to our dismay and to our shock, they're going to wind up losing every reward they ever had. We look at that and we wonder why. Here's a man or a woman that gave their whole life and did all kinds of things for God. Listen, it's not about what you do or what you don't do; it's about the motive and the desire and the attitude of heart behind why you're doing it.

If I could give you young kids any advice at all, and you older kids too, I'd simply tell you this: make sure that whatever you do for God, you've got the right motive behind what you do. It's imperative that you do that.

I'll tell you something else: the Bible. We talk about studying the Bible. We talk about all the things, and I told this to the kids in Bible Institute yesterday when we started. Studying the Bible is a great thing. Studying the Bible is a wonderful thing. But I want you to know, you don't learn the Bible because you study it. A guy asked me years ago, "Bobby, what is the key to learning the Bible?" He said, "I guess you've got to study because the Bible says, 'Study thyself show thyself approved.'" I said, "Well, you've got to study it, but that's not really the key." He said, "Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. I should never study my Bible without praying over it first." He said, "I just need to have some time. I've heard you say that you pray about it and God opens up the Scriptures to you." He said, "I guess that's it." I said, "Well, that's important too, but that's not the key." The key to you learning the Bible is not you studying it, not you reading it, or not you praying over it. The key to you learning the Bible is, do you love it? Do you love it more than anything else on this earth? Because if you do, then the motive behind what you do, your desire, will always be right. It's just that simple. People have a tough time with that today: desire for the Word of God.

In our text, here's a man whose kindness to others is the motive and the motivation, and his true desire in his heart behind what he does is his attitude of heart. This is an incredible principle, and it will really separate Christianity and Christians very clearly and cleanly in a biblical way.

I want to speak to many of you this morning and say something to you. This is not a message I can preach sitting down. I'm going to block everything outside of my mind, and I'm going to focus on your faces, and I want to tell you something today based on this verse that is so meaningful to me and so precious to me. Many of you fit exactly what I'm talking about today, and you will see when I'm done what I'm talking about. I must confess something to you: I stand amazed many a time with some of you. I really do. I stand absolutely amazed at why some of you do what you do the way that you do it.

I know, and I would never pretend to believe, that I can read a person's heart. I know that that's impossible. Some people think they can, but of course they can't. But it's very clear from the Bible that what you say and what you do, or you don't do, will define your attitude of heart because the Bible says that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. That's pretty close.

Your desire of kindness in working with others. Proverbs 3:27 says this:

Proverbs 3:27

Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.

You know what that verse is saying? It's saying if you have the ability to make somebody's day better, you ought to do it. If you have the ability to give somebody what they need, then you ought to do it. You and I ought to be so in tune with the people around us that we see what they need, and we can discern the fact that they need encouragement or they need this. Or they'll come to you and they'll say, "Hey, I'm studying this, and can you help me with this?" And you understand it. You have within your hand the ability to do good to somebody.

What would be the determining factor whether you do it or whether you don't? Your attitude of heart of kindness toward them. Are you so busy in your own world and your own career that you just have blocked out the kindness that God has given to you that you might display to somebody else? Is your life so soured because of whatever in your life, the bad circumstances, the situations that you had to deal with? Does your walk around look like somebody baptized in dill pickle juice? Is your life turned so sour that you have lost all of the kindness that you could be giving to somebody else?

Your desire of kindness in working with others. Some of you, your pure true motive comes through by how you take all the abuse that comes your way of dealing with people. I want to say something to you, and I'm not saying this or preaching anything feeling sorry for you or for me or anybody. I'm just telling you the truth: if you ever decide to get into the ministry, if you ever decide to do the ministry, you're getting into one of the hardest jobs that you're ever going to get into in life. You're going to get into a scenario where it's going to be the hardest single thing that you ever have to do. The ministry will be, without a doubt, done the right way, the hardest job on this planet.

The reason being is because it requires a constant desire of kindness in all situations. It requires the right motive. You don't have a time when you're working with people to get the wrong attitude. They may get the wrong attitude; you don't have the liberty to do that. You're going to deal with some tremendous positive situations, and you're going to deal with a lot of negative situations. You and I do not have the liberty, nor do we have the right, to develop an attitude with somebody who's got one.

I think the ministry, to put it in one sentence, and this is why so many people can't do it, but the ministry on the lower bottom line is simply this: reaching out to people, giving the kindness that God has given you to other people, fully knowing that you're putting yourself out there and probably there's a very good chance you're going to get used, hosed, and abused by doing it. But that's okay.

One time, those of you who have watched Band of Brothers, Dick Winters was always a hero of mine long before the series ever came out. Tremendous combat leader, tremendous leader. I remember one time that they were thrown into Bastogne at the Battle of the Bulge to hold off the Germans who were trying to take Bastogne, which was the key because they had six roads coming into it, and if the Germans got it, it was going to be a lot of problems. So they pulled them out in the middle of the night, didn't have any warm clothes, coldest winter in Belgium that there's ever been, didn't have any ammunition. It was a terrible situation.

Not only that, the worst came when von Rundstedt finally wanted Bastogne so badly that he completely circled and cut off Bastogne. Nobody could get in, nobody could get out. You had normal combat troops in there from the 28th Division and some of those places that were just having a heart attack. They thought for sure they were going to be taken prisoner. At the Great X-ray Crossroads, they had a medical facility. The Germans captured that. They captured every doctor, every nurse, every wounded person, and they completely took the medical thing out of it, took them all prisoners of war.

They came over to Dick Winters, and they're surrounded. They don't have any food, they don't have any warm clothes. They're in foxholes when the temperatures are 10 below zero; they're freezing to death. If they do attack them, they have nothing to fight with, they'd have to throw rocks at them. Somebody came up to Dick Winters in the middle of that terrible time and said, "You do know that we're surrounded, don't you?" Worried to death. Winters looked back at him and said, "We're paratroopers. We're supposed to be surrounded."

You're Christians. You're supposed to be in the middle of the fight. You're Christians. You're supposed to be able to take it. You're Christians. God gave you His kindness through the Cross. You have that kindness, and He gave it to you to give to others. If you think that's going to be an easy task in the face of what the devil is going to try to do and what human nature is going to do when you try to give the things of God to them, you're supposed to go through the tough time for Him. You know why? Because He went through them for you.

Wouldn't it be a terrible thing if God's Son quit on the cross like most of us quit when it gets too tough? When He looked down and saw the devil waiting for Him at Golgotha's Hill and saw the Roman soldier with the big spikes and all the things, it would have been just so easy for Him to

say, "You know what? I went as far as I'm going to go with this." How many times have God's people, at the very face of Him going all the way for you, looked at the opposition down the road and said, "I can't do this"?

You're Christians. You're supposed to be surrounded. You're a Christian. You're supposed to be in the middle of it. You're a Christian. You're supposed to take your stand for others who cannot take their stand. Sometimes you have to fight for people who can't fight for themselves. Sometimes you have to stand for people who can't stand for themselves. You don't do that with a wrong motive. You don't do that with a wrong attitude of heart.

The ministry is putting yourself out there with people to get hosed if they decide not to do what's right. Most of the time you will. Most of the time they'll blame you. This is why so many pastors quit the ministry. I know that you're not in that world, but I am. I talk with them, see them, and hear about it all the time. Most pastors can't wait until they get... I was talking to a guy who has never done anything in his life anyhow. He now turned 65, and he's out of there. "I'm retiring," in his mind. "I did my share. I did this. I'm done now. Let somebody younger take it over. I'm out of this thing." You know what the real bottom line is? "I'm not going to put myself out there to get abused anymore." Not that he ever did.

But I want to tell you something. If you ever live to be 60, 65, and you've spent a good portion of your life in the Word of God, and God has grown you and built you and put you where you need to be and brought you through some things, when you hit 60, 65, maybe even 70, 75, you're probably the most valuable to God that you could ever be. So here's a guy, Christians, they come to a point where they just get everything together that needs to be ready to go. Now they bail out. You know why? "Not going to take the pressure anymore. Not going to take the abuse anymore." I question their very motive from day one.

In ministry, I watch some of you. I watch you get beat up. I watch you get lied about. I watch you get misquoted. I watch you get misrepresented. I've seen people try to assassinate your character. I've seen them try to hurt you. I've seen them try to go out of their way to hurt your kids. I've seen them set you up. I've seen them blame you for things that you didn't do. My favorite saying, and I say this all the time, and I'm used to it: you spend 40 years in hot water, you tend to get hard-boiled.

But when it comes to the ministry and people, know this truth. Know it. Get it down. If you can't grasp it, don't get in it. I'm telling you, in the ministry, serving God, no good deed will go unpunished. It's just that simple. I tell pastors all the time, I get calls from them, "Hey, I'm struggling, Bob, can you help me with this and tell me with that?" I tell them all the time, "If you can't take it, then go get a nine-to-five job someplace. If you can't handle the pressure of where you're at and dealing with those things because you can't give kindness out all the time, no matter what somebody gives back to you, then go get a job where you can leave it at work. Start at nine, go home at five, and leave it at the office." Bob Jones Sr. used to say, "The more I'm around people, the better I like dogs." If you can't take it, stay out of the ministry.

Somebody said one time, "It takes a special kind of person to be in the ministry." No, it doesn't. Any one of you could do what God called you to do because that's what He saved you for. It

doesn't take a special kind of person to do the ministry; it just takes a special kind of attitude about the ministry to do the ministry. It has to be your desire to give to them what God gave to you in spite of the opposition. There's not a day in your life in the ministry that you can ever look at it and say, "You know what? I'm going to give it back to them just like they gave it to me." Hire somebody else to do it. There can never be a time in your life. You know why? Because your desire has to be kindness. It has to be kindness.

The ministry is 24/7. It's not something that you go in at nine o'clock and clock out at five. The ministry is simply this: before you'll ever see, working with people, before you'll ever see the goodness of God come through their life, you're going to have to go through, in most cases, if not all cases, but certainly many cases, the darkness of old human nature, which is despicable. You're going to have to keep the right attitude about it. You're going to have to realize that human nature is always going to be against God. There are people out there that all of their lives they have struggled through things, and you may be the only light that they ever get. The fact that they have a bad attitude doesn't necessitate you getting one. You may be all they have.

You know what keeps you focused? The desire. The desire to be kind based on the kindness that God showed me. I've seen some of you go the extra mile, the extra mile, and the extra mile. I've seen some of you helping people. I've seen some of you do great acts of kindness to them and for them. I've watched it. I marvel at it. I really do. I watch you. I watch you have your own family. I watch you have your own jobs. I watch how you do all those things. I watch how, in spite of that, you just keep giving to them what they need. You find the time. You find the time.

I've seen some of you do incredible acts of kindness. I've seen you just take it and put up with it. I've seen some of you just do whatever they needed. You were there for them. Then at some point, they'll turn on you. They'll never look back. Never one time will they ever thank you. I've seen some of you be in a hospital while a little baby was dying. I've watched you give up your holidays. I've watched you give up your own family. I've watched you be there when they needed you. I've watched some of you, when it came to somebody dying or somebody sick or somebody struggling with something, I've watched you run to them, be there for them, take care of their kids, pick up this, do that. I've watched your unselfishness, your kindness. I've watched them turn around and put a sharp stick in both your eyes.

Yet, you know what? You know what amazes me? In spite of all that, you never lost your love and your kindness for the next person that God put in your life. You didn't ever run out of kindness. Your kindness meter never went to zero. You took the lump. You took the hit. Yet when God put somebody else in your life, you were just as fervent for them as you were the last 10 people. It amazes me. It amazes me. I mean, I get it, I get paid to do this job. You don't, not in this life. It just amazes me. In spite of it all, you're like the man in Proverbs 12:22, that your motive and your desire behind what you do is to be and to do what God wants you to do. Your desire is kindness for others. It never dissipates, no matter what somebody says about you or does to you. You just keep getting up and taking care of the next person. It's real with you. Your kindness knows no limits when it comes to people.

You have come to the place in your life where you understand why people do the things that they do, and you never take it personal. When it comes to people, I learned this years ago, maybe it'll help some of you. I think part of the problem is when we work with people, when we deal with people, sometimes we have expectations that are not real expectations. I tell people all the time, one of the things to try to safeguard you in getting yourself into a bad situation where you can get hurt: you never want somebody to do right more than they want to do it. That is a good, solid piece of advice. Because I've seen it so many times where somebody wants somebody to do what's right, and that person won't do what's right. So they'll start short-cutting the principles to help them do what's right, and they'll wind up making a mess out of the thing.

I want you to do right. I really do. I want you to learn the Bible. I want you to know everything that you can know about God and the Word of God. But you know what? I don't want it one inch more than you want it. I can't want that for you. I think many times the thing that messes God's people up is they get high expectations for somebody. They forget human nature. They forget that human nature is always going to be there. They forget the fact that your working with them is based on their response back to you. It can never be that way. Your working with people has to be based on your kindness, the desire of your heart to give them what God gave you. It can't be based on what you get back, because when you have that expectation, it's going to get dashed and it's going to get crushed.

When it comes to people getting God's advice and getting the principles of the Word of God, I never assume anything. I never allow myself to get into the position where I have expectations. I always look at it from a realistic standpoint. I based that on something I heard a guy say probably 40-some years ago. His name was Manly Beasley. He was an incredible guy. He had five terminal illnesses at the same time. Doctors were trying to figure out which one killed him. He could only speak for about 30 minutes, and he'd have to go back to his hotel room. He was weak all the time. He looked like he was already dead: thin, emaciated, very pale. He had to carry a handkerchief with him because sometimes blood would come up when he was speaking. But he was one of the godliest men I ever met in my life, and he was an incredible, incredible witness for the Lord. He wasn't a loud preacher. He wasn't a hard preacher. Very soft-spoken. You had to really work at listening to him. But he was the epitome of wisdom.

I was listening to him preach one time, and he was preaching on human nature. He was preaching on how we should never get discouraged when we work with people because people are not always going to do what you want them to do. He was talking about the very thing about not having high expectations, just letting God be God in the situation. Here's what he said. He asked a question: "What do you get when you squeeze a lemon?" He paused, just like I just did. He looked down and he said, "What do you get when you squeeze a lemon?" A guy in the front row said, "Well, you get lemon juice." He laughed and he said, "That's not always true." He said, "Back home in my town where I live, a couple of years ago, we had a guy that was going into the grocery stores, and he was taking poison in a syringe. He was going into the produce section, and he was injecting the poison into the lemons. The people were buying the lemons, taking them home to make lemonade, and then 20 or 30 of them died because they were poisoned." He said, "The reason why I asked him that, 'What do you get when you squeeze a lemon?' is because

everybody thinks that you get lemon juice. But," he said, "in reality, when you squeeze a lemon, you get what's really on the inside." Then he said this: "What do you get when you squeeze a Christian?"

You would think that when you squeeze a Christian, you'd get what was godly on the inside coming out. But he says, "When you squeeze it, when a Christian gets squeezed, you know what you see? You see what's really on the inside." I never forgot that. Nothing will show us what you and I are really made of more than when we're squeezed. Nothing will be more apparent and be more obvious to where you're at, where I'm at, and what we're going through in life, than when it all comes down around us and we get squeezed, we really see what's on the inside. That's why I never have any expectations about people. That's why I never come to the place where I think people are more highly than where they should be. Because you're going to get what's on the inside. We think Christians, because you're saved, will get out of hand with everything and do what God says, don't we? But you don't. You know why? Because when you squeeze them, you just get what's really there on the inside.

Again, this is the reason why so many people separate themselves, so many pastors separate themselves from people. It's a great answer why they'll isolate themselves from their own congregations. They'll have a staff member, or many times in many churches, they'll put on a paid professional counselor to deal with it. That way the pastor never has to get his hand dirty. He can walk out, and everybody loves him. He never has to get into a scenario where he really has to get down and dirty with problems and people who are struggling through things.

I watch many of you. You take it, you take it, you take it, and you just keep working with people. The fact that somebody didn't treat you right, or somebody did some great injustice to you, or something that didn't work out good, and you know what? You were not at fault, but you know as well as I do, you're going to get hammered with it at some point in time. It never stopped you. The next person I give you, the next person you meet, the next person you start working with, your kindness is just as clear and as pure as it always has been. You amaze me. You really do. I mean, come on. Who would put up with that?

There was a guy a couple of years ago over in Overland Park. He put an ad in the paper that for \$25 for an hour, you could come over and yell at him, scream at him, cuss him out, say whatever you wanted to say to him, and get it out of your system. I haven't seen his ad for quite a while now. He's probably down in Florida on the beach someplace, making a million dollars on that thing. You amaze me. Why would you put up with that? Why would you go from person to person? In the world that we live in today, you know this is true: you probably have to go through eight bad ones to find two good ones. This is the way it is. Why would you do that? Why would you put up with that abuse? Why would you continually put yourself in scenarios where you're going to do good for somebody, they're going to come back and retaliate, and yet, it never affects you? It never affects your attitude. It never does. You amaze me. Why would you put up with that if your motive wasn't pure and right, and your desire wasn't to give people the kindness that Christ saw and gave you? It wouldn't be worth it. Not worth it. All the hassle, all the drama.

It's simply a desire to do what God saved you for, the way He loved you and me through His kindness in spite of human nature and all our devices. Come on, we all have put our devices up there with God at some point in our life. We all have rejected people who tried to tell us in our early years about God and life. But you know what? You're here today. You're here today doing what you're doing because somebody had the right desire of kindness that no matter what I said or you said, it didn't deter them because they were doing it based on what God did for them, not to get something back from you.

In the ministry, you'll get clobbered many, many times in your life. For most people, it just isn't worth it. Most people are too thin-skinned. They can't handle it. Unless you're doing it with the right reason and the right motive and you're understanding your calling. There is the problem right there. We as God's people today do not understand our calling in Christ Jesus. We do not understand why He called us. We have no clue of it. We're here this morning because, "Well, we're supposed to be here." You're here this morning because the Bible asked me Thursday night where I was if I'm not here. You're here this morning because you just go to church on Sunday, you have the right Bible, you like to hear the sermons, you like to hear that, you're here for that. No, no, no. You're here to perfect the calling that God has called you in. If you're here for any other reason, you're here for the wrong reason. I'm not saying you shouldn't be here, and I'm glad you are here, because somewhere in the process you may get the call. Pick up the phone.

But God's people, they don't understand why God has called them. They don't understand their calling. They don't understand the price that will need to be paid to answer that call. For many of God's people, the cost is too much. I don't like controversy. Never have. If it came down in the military for hand-to-hand combat and I had to choose between going hand-to-hand with somebody, I'd just be a sniper and shoot from 300 yards away. No personal involvement. Long distance calling is the best thing to being there. I don't like controversy. But let me tell you something: when you get into ministry, you're going to have controversy. God looks to you to be the one that does what's right with it through kindness. God looks at you to be the one that has to take the stand and hold the line.

Now look at the last part of that verse: "A poor man is better than a liar." There's nothing worse in dealing with people than a person who will lie to you and later lie about you. There are two stages to lying, by the way. When I deal with somebody, I always start by saying, "You know what? I don't care what you did. I don't care where you're coming from. I don't care what you've been involved in. I will help you. I will do everything I can do for you. I only ask one thing: don't lie to me. I don't care how bad it is, how rotten it is. I don't care. If you lie to me, then you're going to send me down the wrong road, and I'm going to do for you the wrong thing. I don't have time to waste with that. Don't lie to me." I'll tell you, truthfulness is the basis for any relationship. If you don't have trust and truth in it, you don't have anything. Without that, you don't have one.

I base my true friendships with people on just two things. I know I have a lot of people in my life, and I love people. I'm a people person. That's the way God made me. That's the way I am. But my true friends, I simply base my true friendships on two simple concepts:

- 1.) Loyalty.
- 2.) Truthfulness.

The secret to a successful ministry, and most young guys never get this today, you get this from the old boys, you don't get it from the new modern age today. The secret of any successful ministry is always and has always been God giving you people who believe in what God has called you to do. That's where it starts. God will bring people into this church, any church where God gives me as the pastor the vision. He gives me the direction I want to go, and then He'll bring people in who will buy into what I want to do, understand where I'm at, get my heart in the thing, and say, "You know what? I'm going to help him do that because that's what I believe God wants me to do." That's the key mark of any successful ministry: having people who believe in what God is doing with you. Then the second aspect is the same people being willing to pay the price with you to get it done. There will always be a price to pay.

This is why most of God's people don't ever get into the ministry. They're not willing to pay the price. They'll let one person ruin their life, ruin their day. It'll taint everything for the rest of their life, for the next five years of their life. Some of you simply amaze me. I watch you take it and take it and take it. You get some of the rawest deals I ever saw in my life. Yet, the next person comes in there, that desire of kindness just permeates everything that you do. It's just like the last thing never affected you. That's pure motive. That's you doing the right thing for the right reason. I don't know what to tell you. You amaze me. You really do.

I like people around me who don't tell me what I want to hear, but will simply tell me the truth. I can handle anything as long as it's the truth. As your pastor and as your friend, I will never tell you what you want to hear either, either from the pulpit or in our personal life. It's just that simple. I may put it in such a way not to be mean-spirited or not to be hurtful, but you'll get it right across the plate.

I'm not sure it's probably okay for me to say this. There's only one real thing I've ever appreciated about my ministry. I ought to be able to say this in my ministry. You may appreciate other things about it. You may not appreciate anything about it. But I appreciate one thing about my ministry. I really do. I've always held this as a badge of honor, so to speak. The thing I appreciate about my ministry is it's just black and white. People either love me or they hate me. I've never, in my eyes for 40 years, had someone say, "Well, I kind of like you." You either like me or you don't like me. I like that.

Somebody, I didn't even know we had this, I found it accidentally the other day. You know, we have a Facebook page. Here I am up here talking about how I hate Facebook, and I get on there, and I don't even know what I was looking for. There was a Facebook page about our church. I don't know who did it. But I got intrigued in it, and I thought to myself, "Wow, this is..." Then I looked down at the bottom, and there were comments. I thought, "Oh, this ought to be good. All right, here we go." It's one of the funnest things I ever did because the comments weren't like this: "Well, he tells it like it is and puts it right to you. Man, he doesn't waste any words. He puts it right out there and gives it to you." Somebody else would say, "Who does he think he is?" All

the way down there, it was black and white. There wasn't anybody in all the comments that said, "Yeah, he's all right." I like that.

You know what the Bible says? "If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?" You may never show up around here for the battle itself, but you know there's one going on. In any issue in my ministry, nobody's ever wondered where I stood on something. Maybe not like it, but they know where I'm at, and I'm good with that. I got the idea in my mind, growing up working around churches and pastors, that it's just a little mealy-mouthed guy who you shake his hand like picking up a dead fish. He's afraid to raise his voice above six decibels, and he just tries to get along with everybody. He's just like a little guy that probably when he goes home, he stands in a corner and shivers a lot.

When you have the desire in your heart to be kind, and that is the motive behind whatever you do, you can preach some hard messages. I preach hard messages here, and many of you know and accept those messages. You know why? Because you know, even though they're hard and you may not like everything that hits you, you know I love you. You know I would never hurt you. You know that on the worst day of your life, I would be there. You know that. So you take it from me. That's why some of you amaze me. You just absolutely keep taking it and taking it, and yet you just keep putting it out.

VI. The Fear of the Lord and Abiding Satisfaction

Verse 23 says, "The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil." That's a great verse. "The fear of the Lord tendeth to life." You know, when you got saved, God had a plan for your life. God has it all laid out what He wants you to do. He wants to get you from point A to point B. He really does.

Now there's an exception to that, and there are reasons why some people that are Christian and love the Lord die early. Many times we scratch our heads and say, "Why did that teenager die? He was doing such good for God." Or, "Why did that preacher die? He was really on fire for God." I don't have time to get into this morning, but the answer to that is in Isaiah 57:1-2. It will answer so many questions why Christian people die before their time. So there's an exception to this principle. But the principle stands as it speaks here: "The fear of the Lord tendeth to life." You know why that is? Because staying with the Word of God will always produce a longer life because it will always produce a better life. God wants to give you the longest life possible within His plan to accomplish what He wants to accomplish. But the devil wants to put everything in their life to shorten that life. Remember the first man killed in the Bible was a young man that God wanted to use, and the devil stopped him.

Fear is a good thing. It really is. It's a healthy emotion that God gave us. Proverbs 3:7 says:

Proverbs 3:7

Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

The Bible says that Noah moved with fear to prepare an ark for the saving of his household. Old Bob Jones used to say, "Don't worry about being afraid. It's better to be hell-scared than hell-

scorched." The Word of God, by design, will put principles in our lives that God will take, and when you put them in and receive them, will give you the longest life with God as possible, within the exception of Isaiah 57. The world now will put everything in your life to shorten that.

I want to tell you something. There are some things, kids, there are some things out there in life that will hurt you. There are some things out there in life that if you do on a continual basis will shorten your life. Every time they have a prom season in the high schools, prom weekend, you know what they do? The highway patrol brings in an old beat-up car that's been in a bad wreck where four or five people have been killed in it, puts it in the front yard, everybody has to see where they're going. You know why they do that? Hoping that kid will get the idea you can get killed if you drive stupid on prom night. Put fear in them. They come in there and see that thing, and it puts a fear in them. It really does.

You have young people that get into drugs, and drugs become a... Many of you were in drugs at one time, and God delivered you from it. Praise the Lord for that. But you know that there are many that have not been delivered from it. I never did drugs. I never tried them one time in my life. You know why? I was always afraid to. I was afraid to. I saw what it did to the brain cells of everybody else out there. I didn't want to be that way. I was afraid to.

You have young people commit suicide all the time. What a terrible thing. I would be afraid to commit suicide. I heard too many messages by Mel Sabaka and Tommy Thomas talking about the Christian that got out of fellowship with God and got so despondent. He took the easy way out. So he got himself his .38 pistol, and he said, "I'm not going to get right with God. I'm just going to check out. I'm going to take the coward's way out, and I'm going to kill myself." So he took the pistol, put it to his head. Must have flinched at the last moment. The gun went off. It just went up that. He spent the next 33 years as a vegetable. I was afraid of things like that.

I was like the kid in the army we had, and the guy went up to the drill sergeant and he said, "Sergeant," he said, "I just, I can't get this down. I'm never going to qualify with my rifle. I just can't. I'm not. I'm just going to go and shoot myself in the head." The drill sergeant said, "Okay, but you better take two bullets," meaning he'd miss with the first one. I could never commit suicide. To me, it's a coward's way out, and I never tried. I never wanted to take the cowardly way out of anything. To me, it's just the thing where you just have to stick it out, and you have to get to it, and you have to get through it.

I've seen alcoholism. I never drank. Never did. I had an uncle. His name was Vernon. He was really my favorite uncle. He's my mom's youngest brother, and he was really, as a young kid, a hero of mine. Vernon was in the Korean War, and he had an emotional breakdown. He was in a foxhole someplace or a fixed position, and his friend got a bullet through the head and splattered brains all over him. He tried to help him, and he had, to the day he died, shrapnel all in his back. It would just work its way out. But he really suffered emotionally from all of that. He won a Silver Star, a Bronze Star. He was a hero of mine. But he was a terrible alcoholic. He could never get past it. He went to drink to get past all of the horror of that war in Korea.

I was just a little guy, but he was always my mom's. He always liked my mom. She always would show up, and we're at our house, and we had four or five bars right down the road there,

and he would be drunk as a skunk. I remember one time he showed up at the house, and he wanted some more booze. My mom said, "We don't have any booze here." He says, "Yes, you do." She said, "We don't have any." Vernon said, "I know you do. I want a glass of booze right now." So my mom just gave him a glass of cold water. He was so drunk, he drank the water down, thought it was booze. That's drunk. I saw things like that. I thought, "I don't want to be that way." I was afraid to do those things. I'm not saying I didn't do stupid things; I did. But I was afraid to do things like that.

There are things that will get you killed or wreck your body so badly through a stronghold that you'll never recover from it, and you'll die way before your time. My dad was a good man. He died when he was 55, 56 years old. He died of lung cancer. I never smoked. I watched my dad smoke four or five packs of cigarettes a day. I don't ever remember seeing my dad without a cigarette in his hand. He died way before his time. My dad weighed about 210 pounds when I went off to the army. When I finally came back on a medical leave, he was diagnosed with lung cancer. When he finally died, I think he weighed about 75, 80 pounds. I watched cancer emaciate him. I watched them go in and cut him from here all the way down around and all the way over here, took out one whole lung and took out a quarter of the other lung. He could hardly breathe. We couldn't find him one day, and I walked out to look for him, and we're down in the garage. We're down there having a cigarette. Killed him. I was afraid of things like that in my life.

The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 4:12 that a threefold cord is not easily broken. You take that thing that looks like it's harmless, and you wrap that thing around, and pretty soon you're five packs a day, or you're an alcoholic out of control, or your drugs are out of control. You'll never break it. You'll never break it. I remember when I started going down to the City Union Mission back in the mid-70s, 1976, 1977, the average transient down there, the man they worked with, was in his 60s, 70s, 75, maybe 80. Now you go down there, they're 18, 19, and 20. You know why? Human nature.

Then it says, "he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil." There are two great words: "abide" and "satisfied." To abide means to rest and dwell, to continue permanently in the same state, to be fixed, to be unmovable, to endure, to be able to bear all things. As a child of God, we abide in Christ, and He abides in us. That's our rest. When the Bible talks about our dwelling place, that's where we are fixed and unmovable, where we can endure all things because we abide in Him and He in us. We abide in Christ through the principles of the Word of God, the counsel that we take. We talked about it last week: God's principles on life will be the building blocks of our ability to abide with Him.

Then you have the word "satisfied." What an elusive word for God's people today. God's people today aren't satisfied with anything. The great missing element in Christianity today. Our satisfaction will only come through our abiding, and that will only come from getting, as we talked about last week, hearing God's counsel and receiving His instructions. Being satisfied that you're where you need to be with Christ. Being satisfied that you know who you are in Christ. Being satisfied that you know today how He looks at you and what He expects, and how you look at Him and what He expects. You see, satisfaction is not having everything you want in life; satisfaction is having everything that God wants to have with you in life. Satisfied with the

content, with the things that you have in life. Satisfied that your motive and desire is based on the love of God, and you give it to others through your kindness.

The last part of that verse: "and you're satisfied that no evil will come to visit you." Now that's kind of a weird verse because Job had evil come to visit him, and we'll all go through some tough times in life. But God's people again don't get the meaning behind the principle. I read a book one time that says, "Why the bad things happen to good people?" The truth of the matter is, nothing ever bad happens to God's people. All things work together for good to them that love God. We get discomfited because we don't understand what God does in our life and where we're at. We get discomfited because we're not willing to pay the price. We get discomfited because we don't understand the suffering of Christ on the cross. Therefore, when a little suffering comes our way, we can't make the parallel and realize that this is all I've got to put up with for Him after what He put up with for me.

When you get to the relationship with God in your life that you need to have, when you get to that point in your life that you're satisfied, when you get to the point in life that you're really truly abiding with Him, there'll be nothing that He won't put into your life that you can't just wrap your arms around and say, "You know what, Lord, we'll get through it together," simply because of the fact that what You went through for me will never compare with what I'm going through for You. "Maybe You're going to take what I'm going through right now and put somebody else in my proximity that I can tell and show the kindness of God. Maybe You're going to put me through this, and You were willing to pay the price for me to get what I have for You. Am I willing to pay just a small price to get somebody else the same truth that You gave me?" Right motive, right desire—that's what's behind that. That's how it works.

God's people today have the greatest book that was ever written. They have the Holy Spirit of God that leads and guides them. They have the local New Testament church to teach them and put them to the work of God that God saved them for. Yet they are the most unsatisfied people in all the history of the church, the latest in the church age. Their desire and motive is not found in giving their lives completely to Christ, but rather to serve themselves first and to give God what's left over. Satisfaction only can come from abiding, and abiding can only come from the right motive and the desire based on God's counsel to us that will always stand.

Every time I see the word "satisfied," I think of Charles Wesley. Charles Wesley was a great hymn writer. His favorite verse was Psalm 17:15.

Psalms 17:15

As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

When he died, on March 29th, 1788, he wrote over 6,000 hymns. The one we like to sing, "And Can It Be?", he wrote that one. When he died, the day before he passed away, they brought all of his friends and his preacher friends and his family came around the bed, and they basically said goodbye to him, like we've all done so many times to somebody that's going to pass away. He quoted that verse, and he said, "I'll be satisfied when I awake with the likeness of His face."

Everybody said, "Amen." The next day got worse. The day after that, he was really bad. Doctors were around him. You could almost not hear him say it, but he quoted the verse one more time. That night they thought he had died. Of course, they didn't have the modern things like they have today. They had to get down real close and listen to see if there was any breath or put a mirror in front of your nose to see if it's fogging up. The doctor said, "I laid my head real close down to hear him breathing, and almost as a whisper, I heard him say the word 'satisfied.'" And he went home to be with the Lord.

I wonder if you and I died today, what would be the last word that we would speak to everybody around us? "Oh God, why me?" "Oh God, what about this? What about that?" "Oh God, I just bought that new boat." Your kids will have a great time in it. "Satisfied." "Satisfied." Out of everything that we do with God and the Word of God here, out of everything that we try to do when you work with people, and you amaze me with your attitude and your unselfishness of always being like that man in Proverbs with kindness. At the end of the day, everything that we do for each other, you do for somebody else, is to bring them to the point where they abide in Christ and they're satisfied.

I think the worst thing for a child of God in all the world is to go through life not being satisfied. You have the greatest book, you have the Holy Spirit of God, God gave you a church, God gave you everything that you need, and yet why are we not satisfied? The answer is, we're abiding someplace else where we should be, and that's the key. Great verse. Thank you for all that you do here. Thank you for all you men and women who unselfishly give of your time to others and take it and take it and take it, but the desire of your heart is kindness.

Let's pray.

Father, we pray that You'll bless throughout the day and all the things that we have to deal with. We pray for the Hills again and all the things that we have to deal with there, and the passing away of Rochelle and the funeral, and all the other things that are going through people's lives, and Lord, that we need to pray about. Lord, help us through all of that to realize that there are no bad things that happen to people. It's all in God's timing, it's all in God's hands. We've learned a long time ago, if God can't get the ultimate glory out of your life, that He'll surely get it out of your death. We try, Lord, to ask You to help us through all the things that we've got to do in the next couple of days or the next week. I thank You, Father, for the men and women in this church who just amaze me that no matter what happens, they just keep working with people and displaying the kindness. They never let a bad experience taint them in trying to help and give the next person the best chance that they can. God, it's incredible. I love You for sending people like that. Lord, help everyone here to know today that the key to ministry is not the right person, but the key to ministry is the right attitude, and it's built on abiding with You and being satisfied with what we have. We'll thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, we surely ask it. Amen.