

## I. Introduction and Appreciation

Our speaker today is someone who is very dear to my heart. I asked him to be here this week for a reason. He loves this church, and this church loves him. He played such a role in my life. I was thinking about it the other day, Herb, when I first got right with the Lord, I got in with Mel and everything, but Mel was the rough side of things. "Tough apples," that was his favorite saying. But you were the grace side for me.

Herb loved people. God hooked me up with him, and he took me making hospital calls together. Remember we did that? We had visitation back then. I know most of you do not know what visitation is. They did that back in the Stone Age when the cavemen were going from cave to cave. He knew what I needed. We would go visit people that were not in church, and we would go visit them. He would talk to them, and then he would say something like, "Bob just got right with the Lord." Then he turned to me and said, "Bob, why don't you give him your testimony?" He gave me my first opportunities to tell people what God had done in my life. He built a confidence in me.

I am somebody, and I have told you this many, many times, I have a lot of faults and I have a lot of issues, but ingratitude is not one of them. My life saying is always, "Take care of those who take care of you." He made an impact in my life, and that is why I want him here this week, because I know he will do with your kids what he did with me. He is a senior statesman when it comes to loving people and showing people how to do that. I am so happy to have him here, and he means the world to me.

His wife, Judy, was going to come. She is a sweetheart, but she is having surgery coming up, and the doctor did not want her to fly. But we will have him back out here again. I just want to thank Herb for coming, and I want us to love him and appreciate him. The investment that he made in my life is why I am here today and why I can love you the way I do. He is going to carry that on in his segment of camp this week to try to instill that into your kids. Herb, come on up here. I love you, buddy. Thank you for everything you have done for me. Thank you for being in my church. What a blessing, amen.

We are blessed to have him and his wife as friends. Barb goes through a whole lot of wonderful things, and their kids and their grandkids. I thank God for their love for Jesus Christ. How many granddads could stand up here with a granddaughter and be glad to have that happen? That is just real, and that is the blessing. That is what you want to have, and there is none of us perfect.

I noticed my brother brought me a baptistery here, so I will drink out of it. But what a blessing God has given His church. I did not know that you had gotten a new building until Bob and I were driving around. He got lost the other night, and we were just driving, and he said, "Yeah, we got the new building." I said, "Really?" And then his wife took me through the whole place, and I thought, "Boy, the hand of God and the artistry." What a privilege. God was preserving this place for you, and what a blessing that so many of you reach out to find other individuals there.

I love the singing of this dad and his kids here. I am a little jealous of them. I was in Bible college, and they said, "Everybody can sing." I thought, "Well, God bless. That is my chance." So I went in, and they said, "Well, do the Do-Re-Mi." And so I went, "Do-Re-Mi, Fa-So-La, Ti-Do," whatever. And the two musicians at Bible college looked at me and just simply said, "Save your money." So it did not cost me anything, but my wife said, "Well, at least you know what your real ministry is. It is not singing."

But what a blessing to have kids sing like that. What a blessing to cheer them on, and the young people that you have, and the kids going to camp. I had been working for the Federal Reserve and had a great job. I did not know you could not work with somebody without being through all the college. I was 17 years old, and they hired me. I had a chance to put my hands around a million dollars. I could not take it with me though, but at the Federal Reserve in Houston.

But I had gotten saved by a gentleman, Mr. Elliott, just a lay person in our church. His kids, two boys, I always used Stacey Adams shoes like that and things like that when I was a kid. Polish those things, spit shine. Guys do not know what I am talking about. And they come over to visit me, they are meeting the hub. "Won't you come to church?" I said, "Get off my shoes, kid." And they would stand on my shoes trying to talk to me. But anyway, he kept after me, and I went, and I got saved.

I am so thankful that a lay person in that church, it was not the pastor, but a lay person in that church loved me enough to keep bugging me to come to the house of God. How many of you had someone invite you to church? Anybody? Is not that neat? Yes, it is everybody. And that is the way it ought to be, sharing the love of Christ with somebody.

## II. The Power of God's Voice

Tonight, this morning, I am going to talk to you about how to build a great closet. We thought about throwing out some of these bags of things here, but we thought that would not be too good just to leave that. How many of you have closets at home? How many of you wish you could clean it out sometime? Yeah, it happens sometimes. Go look at that in a couple of minutes. But our Lord Jesus wants us to learn something, and it always comes from the Word of God. What I say, you can always check it out with the Book. And Pastor Bob would say the same thing, "Learn from the Book."

I want you to watch this little short video about the power of words. Okay, can we kick it on? I see him back there coming up. So listen to this. I will be right back here. We are way out in the Aleutian Islands, getting ready to leave and go back to Anchorage and then home. And I had a ticket in my pocket to get on an airplane, but a pastor came up and he said, "Listen, I can save you money." I said, "How is that?" He said, "I flew a small airplane up here, and I fly a small airplane, and I can take you in my little airplane, and you can save your ticket."

This did not sound good. I said, "Gee, thank you very, very much, but I have got this ticket. We will just make our way on home," me and this other lawyer with me. He said, "No, no, no, you have got to do it. You have got to do it." And against every better judgment I had, I said, "Okay." Well, we went out to the airport, took us by his little plane, and I looked at it, and I thought,

"Well, one good thing, it is shiny." Then he walked around it. We got in. He is on the left front. I am on the right front. The other lawyer is sitting right behind me, and he started it up, and it started up just fine.

Well, we taxied out. I said, "Should we pray?" He said, "Yeah, that is a good idea. We normally do not." I said, "Well, this time we are going to." And I am telling you, I prayed five, eight minutes. I prayed a long time. We went and got on the runway. He starts down the runway. The plane lifted off ever so gently, and we start climbing, and it is wonderful. Not a problem in the world. We started climbing, and we flew probably three, four minutes, and something happened that will never leave my mind.

The pilot turned to me and he said, "We are going in the clouds, and I cannot fly in clouds. They make me pass out." I said, "Clouds make you do what?" Now it has been cloudy all day, and we go right up into the clouds, and you cannot see anything. And he looks at me, and his eyes roll back in his head, and he starts mumbling, and he passes out, passed out cold. I grabbed him, and I shook him, and I said, "Come on, you have got to wake up so I can kill you."

Now we are in the clouds flying along with no pilot. And my friend in the back seat said, "We are dead, are not we?" I said, "There is a very good chance of that. Yes." He said, "What are we going to do?" I said, "I do not know," but there was a radio right there, and I handed him the microphone, and I said, "Start asking for help." So he is in the back seat reaching up, and he said, "Hello, hello." We did not know any proper radio etiquette. All we were saying was, "Hello." And somebody answered back, "Hello, hello. Do not you guys know proper radio etiquette?" And I said, "Give me," I said, "We do not know nothing. Tell him we are in an airplane with a passed out pilot, and we do not know how to fly this plane."

The guy said, "I am afraid I am flying out of Anchorage on the way to Tokyo." And he said, "You are telling me you have nobody who can fly that plane with you?" I said, "Tell him that is correct." Now you have got to understand, I am sweating bullets. He said, "The first thing I am going to do is start circling so I do not lose you, because I will fly out of range of your radio, and you will not have me anymore." And he said, "I am going to get Anchorage emergency for you. And Anchorage emergency will be the people that can maybe help you try to save your life."

After about five minutes, Anchorage came on, said, "We understand you have a passed out pilot, and those of you do not know how to fly that plane." We said, "That is right." They said, "Well, the first thing we have got to do is find you." Now, never forget what this man at Anchorage said. He said, "My job is to get you home safe." He said, "That is my job." But he said, "Here is the deal. If you want me to get you home safe, you have got to promise me you will obey my voice." He said, "You cannot see me, but I can see you." And he said, "If you are not going to obey my voice, you are going to die."

When you cannot see anything, you have no idea how disoriented you become. Finally, he said, "Okay, I found you now. Hear me clear." He said, "You are four minutes from a mountain." He said, "You are going to crash in that mountain and die. Follow my voice." I never said, "I have to follow your voice. Is that reasonable?" You see, I understood without his voice, I had nothing. And do you understand without God's voice, you have nothing, nothing.

Finally, he got us turned, and he said, "I am freezing all the traffic in the area." He said, "It is going to take me an hour and a half to get you to Anchorage, and there is a lot of weather between you and Anchorage. You are in for a rough ride." And he said, "I want you to hear me. I do not want you to look at what is going on outside. I do not want you to pay attention to the storm. Just my voice." He said, "If you start watching the storm, you will die, but I will take you through it."

Now, because they cleared all the traffic, several pilots, those nighttime freighters, those 747s, started talking to us. They said, "We are praying for you, men. You are going to make it. But listen to the voice. That is the key." They said, "Trust the voice." You realize your head is full of voices, and everybody in this world wants to talk to you, and everybody wants to be the controlling voice. And God says, "I want you to be a living sacrifice. I want you to put yourself on the altar and let My voice be your voice."

Finally, we went through the worst of the weather, but there was still more. And then the voice came back, and he said, "Now I am going to line you up." He said, "I am going to bring you in right down the runway, and at the foot of the runway are some lights, and they are in the form of a cross." He said, "Do not you forget this. The cross is the way home." Finally, he is bringing us down. We still cannot see anything. And all he kept saying is, "Stay with me." My sheep, the Bible says, hear My voice, and they follow Me.

Finally, just a couple of hundred feet off the ground, we saw the cross. I landed the plane. In fact, I landed it seven times. Finally, it all came to a stop. And the minute we stopped, the pilot woke up. The voice said, "Thanks for listening. I watch them crash and burn all the time because they will not follow My voice. They do not understand. I am the one who can see them even when they cannot see Me, but they get the voices in their head, and they kill themselves. They self-destruct. Thanks for listening to the voice."

Then they put us in a motel room. At about four in the morning, a knock at my door. I opened the door, and a man was standing there. He said, "Hello, David." I said, "You are the voice. You are the one who got me home." He said, "Do you understand one day you are going to stand before Him and say, 'You were the voice. You are the voice that brought me home.'" If you are not on that altar as a living sacrifice, your head is full of voices. And then we wonder why kids crash and burn. We wonder why marriages are shattered. And the Lord is saying, "I am the one who has the voice." All I can remember is that voice saying, "Stay with Me. Stay with Me. Do not listen to what is going on in your head, and do not watch the storm. Stay with Me, and I will take you through."

Tonight you have a God who has promised to take you through a living sacrifice, holy. God has entrusted you that in our day and time is not happening all the time. A new place, new building. Now, if you can find some parking places, it will be amazing what God wants to do through this ministry. This is not the end for you. This is just things.

### III. Building a Great Closet

And so we did most of it there. And he said, "Now I am going to come over." He may be over there at my house now, I do not know. "And I am going to throw away a whole lot of things that you think were good clothes." Well, they really are not. They have been around for 15 years or something, but I cannot get rid of them. And so I want to hold on to them because I liked them. But when I go back, I am sure most of them are going to be gone. My daughter says, "Dad, those are unflattering things that you have in your closet. Nobody wears those anymore." And so I had to, I am having to learn that there are some things I need to get rid of.

In our mind, it is something we need to think about.

*Psalms 1:1-3*

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

*But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

*And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

The ungodly are not so, but they are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. In life, you can be listening to the voice, or if you are not careful, you listen to everything else that goes around, and it is chaff. And we have a spiritual closet that if we are not careful, we can take things in there that will mess us up for the long run. And we need to build a new closet. This church, you are in a whole different, new, wonderful, thank God dynamic, and you will be going through some things you want to repair and change. That is great, but do not lose sight that you are here as God's kids. He wants to do something with you.

There is a fellow in the Bible who God wanted to do something with. He is in the book of Judges chapter 6.

*Judges 6:1*

*And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years.*

You may be here today, and you may be a believer, and these people believed in the Lord God Jehovah. How much was another ballgame? And they began to cry out to God. After seven years, things going bad all the time. I see Christians sometimes who have gone through a trial, and that trial got the best of them. And instead of getting a blessing, saying, "All right, God, how are You going to work through my life through this thing here, but I want to praise You regardless."

The Bible says:

*Ephesians 4:29*

*Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

No corrupt communication. It is awfully easy to tuck in my mind things that are "don'ts." Things that, "Well, I do not know about this now." Things that say, "I do not know if I can get that done." As Christians, all around us, there are voices trying to talk to us, and God wants us to listen to His voice.

Judges 6, they were delivered into the hand of Midian. And you come on down, and they cried to the Lord.

*Judges 6:7-8*

*And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD because of the Midianites, That the LORD sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage;*

God is trying to help them remember what I have done in your life. And if you come to faith in Christ Jesus, it is a miracle. Do not lose sight of that fact. People getting saved, it is a miracle. I came from a family that had a lot of messed up things in it. About a month ago, I buried my brother, who was a Marine. I knew the Lord, but he got away from serving the Lord. I would go to him, and he would ask me, "What do I need to do with the kids that I have?" And I would share it with him, and he would say, "Listen, I do not want you to be preaching that, man." I said, "I am not preaching, I am just telling you what the Word of God said." He chose to go a way that I would not recommend though, and it is showing up still.

I had another brother, unfortunately, he owned a bar. Someone came in and killed him. And my family was sort of like that. My mom and dad were good, they would go to church, but so many of my brothers chose not to do that. And when I came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, I really did not have much of a friend, because all the ones I knew, those are not the ones I wanted to witness to them, but I needed someone to help me grow. I am so thankful that a pastor's son, who was younger than myself, kept bugging me about being in the house of God, bugging me about coming to this thing, bugging me. And I did not realize that he was discipling me. And I thank God that he loved me enough that he irritated me to come to these good places. And if someone irritated you enough to bring you here, you ought to say, "Thank God that you did that."

But that is really what we need to be about, because I need to learn a different language. Or did I? I need to learn a different walkway. I need to learn a different pathway of what I watch and what I see. And so here God is doing what He always does. He lets us know what is going on and what I have done for you there. He talked to them there.

*Judges 6:10*

*And I said unto you, I am the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice.*

And there came an angel of the Lord, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. It is tough to thresh wheat by or in a winepress. That is not up on the hill where the

wind will blow the chaff away. He was doing it in a hiding place. Now, I am glad he was trying to do it, but it showed how oppressed they were. He could not do what he needed to be doing. He was trying to thresh wheat up and just go up and fall right back down because the wind was not able to blow away. It was not there to blow away the chaff there.

## IV. Gideon's Example: From Fear to Faith

And so the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said unto him:

*Judges 6:12*

*The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.*

I love that. I wrote in my Bible, "God is what we can be in His strength." God tells us what we can be in His strength. I do not know what goes on in your life. I do not know what you have been listening to. I do not know who you know and who talks to you, but I know this: God has a plan that can bless your life. Now, you will go through trials because anytime you serve the Lord, you have got an enemy, Lucifer, but He wants to work in your life.

*Joshua 1:8*

*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

Had he not listened to the voice, he would have gotten nowhere. And if I do not listen to the voice, I will not get anywhere either. And neither will you. Just coming to church on Sunday, thank God for it. And what a wonderful blessing and encouragement that it is. But are we listening to the voice as we fly through life every day? Do you take time with Him? This book shall not depart out of our mouth. Are you listening to the Word?

And so he said, "The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor." Gideon was though not listening to that, he had what I call a soul talk. I read this thought here: Soul talk is when you speak to the inner you, your soul. These words can influence you, and they can ruin you if you are not safe. You can be out here saying it is, and boy, Danny does a great job with the music here, and a pianist over here, I loved watching her just play the piano. She blesses my heart with her excitement there for the Lord. And when you see people at the door, thank them for what they think of for keeping these things going on here. I could not have gotten anything up here if I wanted to. You have got a guy back there who gets it all going. Make sure you say thanks to people. When you go pick up your kids, tell the teachers, "Thank you."

Bob says:

*Ephesians 4:29*

*Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

And God calls us to be edifiers to people wherever you are. What an opportunity it is when you go see those little ones that were here. How old was she, about two years old or three, something like that? Good night. What an opportunity. Thank the dad and the mom for trying to bless those kids and then be used of the Lord. What can you do for Jesus? Oh, I am a Gideonite because here he is. "You are a man of valor."

*Judges 6:12*

*And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.*

And Gideon said unto them:

*Judges 6:13*

*Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.*

He had been talking to himself. And I think sometimes when I would be singing songs like "It Is Well With My Soul," but inside, I am thinking about some other things instead of being well with my soul. Think about this needs to be done. That needs to be done. Why is this? Why is that? Boy, that soul talk is something that can eat you if you are not careful there. People saying it is well, they do the chorus three or four different times, and they go sit down, and they do not feel like it is well. It is a great song. "It is well. It is well with my soul." Then you sit down, and inside it is churning. You do not know what is going on. Something is going on that is not good. And around you are the problems you have to live with where your society is and so on. And your soul is trying to talk to you, but not the way that God wants to talk to you.

We do not recognize it. It is a thought closet. Some people would say, "It is a, you have got these thoughts up here full of hidden thoughts, full of secret insecurities." We are all getting those things there, and it can eat you alive. Once in a while, we take it out, and we listen to it too much. We can be a grace giver, or we can be a grief giver.

*James 3:9*

*Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.*

Is not it amazing? The same mouth blesses one way and then listens to that closet word and cannot be used. God looks at you and looks at me and says:

*Ephesians 4:29*

*Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

I have people look at me sometimes and say, "What do you always say? 'My pleasure, my privilege.'" And I just look back at him and say, "Because it is my privilege. I could be going to

hell, and I am being able to help somebody. What a privilege that is." And all of us, do not look, do not look at things you cannot do, but God, how can I bless somebody else? You see something, and do you see the negative, or do you say, "Hey, Lord, what can I learn from this?" God wants us to do this. That word corrupt, "let no corrupt communication," something that is rotten, tears down, makes it unfit.

I have always appreciated this about Bob. He knows the Word, and others in this church know the Word of God, and their goal is for you to grow into that. You young adults, one of the greatest things you can become is a man or woman who knows the Word of God and how you can put it into your life on a daily basis. Because Satan wants more than anything else for the young adults of this church to crash. Wants you to get tired of something. "Well, I have been praying about this, and nothing has happened." That is not the issue. The issue is, are you going to be faithful to God? If God wants something to happen, He will give me the Word of God, and I can follow that. Boy, the flesh is awfully earthy, bad to your soul.

*Proverbs 18:21*

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.*

Your kids are going to camp this week. The workers' ministries are to help them to see that following Jesus is the most important thing they can ever do. And maybe they already know that, but they are there then to reinforce them in that. And then not only that, but to help them in a new stage in their life to grow in the things of the Lord Jesus Christ that He would have them do. And I hope that you will be praying every day, "Lord, bless those people who will be working with these kids and make it a special time in their heart there." Wow.

*Proverbs 26:22*

*The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.*

Whose words do we listen to? Here Gideon, his angel just said, "The Lord is with thee."

*Judges 6:12*

*And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.*

He said:

*Judges 6:13*

*Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.*

See what he is doing? He is blaming God for everything. Boy, it is awfully easy. You are saved. You love the Lord. An issue comes up in your life. Instead of saying, "Lord Jesus, I commit myself to You. Give me wisdom to walk through this situation." You say, "God, why did this happen?" Have you ever had that happen? "Why did You let that take place?" That can happen

easily. It can happen in a marriage. It can happen in whatever. And your kids, Mom and Dad, watch you for signals, and they do not even know they are doing that. Are they listening to God? Is He teaching this? Or are Mom and Dad walking just in their emotions? "God, You forsook us," he said, verse 13, "delivered us." What a negativity in his closet.

*Judges 6:14*

*And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?*

I love that. God wants to do something in your life and in my life. The Bible tells us about a wholesome tongue.

*Proverbs 15:4*

*A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.*

What you say can bless people or blast people. All of us have that capacity.

*Proverbs 16:24*

*Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.*

*Proverbs 27:9*

*Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.*

Have you blessed somebody this last week? Last month? And it is a wonderful thing to be able to do that. I ate in the airport, and airport food is not the best in the world. And these sweet ladies who were working began to counter where he was. It was a good sandwich I got. I finished up, and I walked back to where they were. I said, "I just want you to know something. That is one of the best sandwiches I have had in a long time." And their whole countenance changed. I was being serious. It is an amazing thing. Your tongue has the capacity to bless people unbelievably.

And I have had people say, "Well, no one ever blessed me." Well, I can say, "Why?" And there are people like that. But one of the greatest things you can do, how can I reach out to somebody? How can I say something to someone else? What can I say to other individuals there? And again, it is so easy to be negative that no one has ever done this for me. Well, that is not what you are talking about. Your responsibility, my responsibility as the children of God, how can I be used to reach into other people's lives? And they do not do it by negativity. I need to do it by loving them enough to say, "Hey, let me tell you somebody, let me tell you about my best friend." You are telling about Jesus. It is amazing what that can happen.

I got off a plane, told the pilot, "Hey, man, that was a great flight." And it was, we landed. And he said, "Hey, thanks a lot." How many people do you know where you work? Maybe they swim it over you, whatever. Are you able to give them a blessing? You see, this is amazing too. And I do a ministry called Marketplace Chaplains. They pay us to go into businesses, and the businesses pay for us to come into there and walk through all the hundreds of people, what do

they have in their business, and just minister to them if they can. What a privilege. I do not want to walk in there and say, "Man, you have got a sorry job here," and then go see someone else. That is not what I am supposed to do. But to talk to young men, young black men who are getting into the work business, white guys, all of them, and "Hey, I am impressed with what you are doing," and meaning that about it. And then their whole countenance changes.

Do you know what God calls all of you to be? Be lights for other people. And here is Gideon sitting there saying, "Light my eye. Midian is about to kill us." And God looks at him and the angel, boy, you talk about sharing good news. "Gideon, listen, we have got some going great here. And I want you to go in your might that you may save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have not I sent thee?"

*Judges 6:15*

*And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.*

How is that for an attitude? "I am a quitter, God. I cannot do anything." And "I cannot do anything against those guys." Angel, listen, "My family is poor. I am the least of my father's house." And by age-wise, "I do not fit in." I do not know what kind of a family you came from, but I know this: God wants you to do something in your life here today. My brothers were known for some things. And I know people looked at me for a long time because of where I was. And I, by the mercy of God, had people who sought to minister to me and helped me to say, "Hey, walk this way. I will be there to help you there." And it took something in their life to put into my life.

Those of you going to camp, work with these kids, realize this. They do not know what direction they need to go, many of them, but you can share the love of Christ, not beating on them and not throwing tons of scripture at them, but loving them and sharing a key verse that means an awful lot to your life. It is an amazing thing that God wants to do. And so here is this dude here. What in the world? He said, "I am the smallest, I am the poorest." And the Lord said it to him. And here is the key that changes everything.

*Judges 6:16*

*And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.*

What a blessing that is. How many of you are saved? You know, in your heart, the Holy Spirit of God lives. I remember when I got saved, we would tell dirty stories and everything else at the Federal Reserve. I walked into the bank the next day. When the guy started telling a story, I felt grieved in my heart. I thought, "Where did that come from?" That was not part of my background. Someone else said something, they started laughing about it. And I thought, "This is not good." And I talked to my pastor, "What is going on?" I did not know anything about the Holy Spirit of God. I learned it real quick. He said, "This is not what you need, son." And it is amazing. God put me on a different learning track.

## V. The Importance of God's Word

And all of us need to be on the learning track. It is called BIBLE track. Every day in the Word of God.

*Joshua 1:8*

*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

Every day ought to be a time. What a privilege to open the Word of God. And listen, you have great teachers in this church. They can help you get into a Bible study that can help you in the things of God. But being faithful in it. Years ago, by the mercy of God, a man challenged me to be in the Word of God every day. And I have tried to do that. But God's grace has done that for about 40 something years. Why? Well, because I need it.

I talked to somebody recently. I said, he said, "He is a Christian." He said, "Well, are you in the book every day?" He said, "I try to be." He said, "Do you eat food every day?" He said, "Oh, yeah." "Do you try or do you eat?" Oh, and scowled at me. "Cannot believe that." I said, "What you are telling me is you like physical food more than spiritual food." He walked away. I did not mean to be mean, and I was not trying to be a physicist. But what is a priority? What is a priority? This book of the law should not depart out of the mouth. Now to get it in your mouth, you have got to get it in your head. Get it into your heart first.

"Thou shalt meditate therein." Do you know what meditation is? How many, anybody, farmers here, know about, what is it? Ruminant. Who knows what ruminant is? Not ruined nation. Ruminant. Ruminant is that a cow will get a cud and chew on it and swallow it. Got the juice out of it. Then after a little bit comes back up and chewing it again. Because it picked up some, got some more juice and chewed on it. Cows like it. Do not worry about it. Okay. She is going to go, "Oh no." But take that book. And that is what meditation is for us. And if you are not into anything, I promise you this, you hurt yourself.

If I am not careful, I reach an opportunity, and I do not even know it. But just like the man was telling that lawyer on that plane, "Do this, do this, because you are going to crash if you do not." And I need to be in the Word on a daily basis so the God of heaven can talk to me. Why would God want to give me an opportunity and a blessing if I do not learn what He wants me to do? And that is, God has that for all of us, all of us to be used in a great way in His life here.

So here is this dude, Goodnight. He is, and we have heard the story of Gideon before. The Lord said, "I will be with you." And then he said, "Well, Lord, will You give me a sign on the thing then?" So God did it, and he got a sign and all these different things there.

*Judges 6:22*

*And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face.*

The Lord said unto him:

*Judges 6:23*

*Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.*

And Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it, I love it:

*Judges 6:24*

*Jehovah-shalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.*

Now Gideon was scared before this, but when the angel of the Lord began talking to him, he began listening to a different track of truth. And when he came out speaking now, he said, "Jehovah Shalom," that means Jehovah Peace. And there is only one book that is really going to give you peace. It is this book. And God wants to build that into our life, and it takes keeping every day letting Him speak to your heart.

Do you get up in the, how many of you, how many of you, many of you had an alarm clock go off this morning? How many had an alarm clock go off? How many had an opportunity clock go off? Well, that is not fair to say that. Is it an alarm? What is an alarm? It is an opportunity. Amen. All four of you, I appreciate that. When you wake up in the morning, "Thank You, Lord." My wife sleeps a little heavier than I do sometimes. She said, "Why are you so happy when you wake up?" I said, "I am sorry, I will try not to be." Why not? My Father has given me another day. Why not? God gives you an opportunity to gather in the house of God, meet some folks from over in England and funny talk from England. I am from Houston, Texas. We talk different than everybody. So you are okay. Okay, you guys, you are okay. But no, thank God, brothers and sisters, we are getting to meet them in the house of God. This is the best crowd you are going to be in all this week, and rejoice for it. Thanks somebody for it. "Nobody ever thanked me." I can see why.

Boy, let God clean out the closet. Those concepts that said, "Well, I cannot do anything." That concept that says, "Well, I really cannot understand the Bible." This church would give you Bible teaching, plus Bible teaching individually with individuals. I have taken guys like that and done that. I remember when the first, Bob did not tell you all about me and him going out there. Now, he talked about going with me to the two hospitals and things. He did not tell you about going out shooting things that we used to shoot, but we will leave those there. But fun to be around. And then to watch that young man do the gospel and the stars, realize that God had something special in his life. And may I say this, it was not me, it was the Holy Spirit of God. Because I remember he came to me at a church during a revival and asked me if I would help him on some things. And God has blessed him with some brilliance, really. You were gifted here. I hope you let them know he and Barb and their family and others who all do what they do. Express appreciation. "Nobody expressed it to me." Learn to do it anyway. Step out in the faith.

Hey, listen. He said, "How am I going to save Israel?" The angel said, "I will be with you." And so he called the place Jehovah Shalom. Is not that neat?

*Proverbs 25:11*

*A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.*

*Proverbs 12:25*

*Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.*

Everybody in this building faces trials. Every one of you will have some things going in your life you wish you could change. Every one of you may be going through the deepest valley you have ever gone through, but I promise you this, if you will get into the Word of God, maybe the Gospel of the Psalms or whatever, wherever you start, you start reading, God Almighty will reach down and give you a hope that you need to have. Just as that man that was in that plane, the clouds were there, and the airport got in touch with him. God will get in touch with you if you let Him.

*Joshua 1:8*

*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

Success comes from putting Jesus first in your life, putting His Word in your life. It is a gift from God. It is interesting, wise shoppers, they fill their closets with good things there. And then in pantries they put good foods there. God wants us to do the same thing.

*Proverbs 12:18*

*There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.*

*Proverbs 12:25*

*Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.*

What am I saying? I am simply saying this morning, God wants to talk to you. He wants you to listen to Him and listening to Bob and the other people. Wonderful, and you need that, and God has given you very gifted leadership people and others in this church. When you sing the songs of Zion, that is God's Word speaking to you also. But let God speak to you on a daily basis. If you do not do it, I promise you, you will not grow. You have got to give God an opportunity. If Sunday morning is all you get, it is like eating only one time a week. This church knows how to eat, eat rather. Eat, eat, yeah. But are you eating? And if you are not careful, you can come to church and sit like this. "No one is going to change my way." Well, it is fine. You are the loser. Are we listening to God?

Gideon said, "Okay, Lord, Jehovah Jireh." And we know the story of what they did. They made a tactical invasion against the Midianites, and God gave them victory there.

*Isaiah 50:4*

*The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.*

Wow. God looks at every one of you and says, "Listen, I want to use your life." You young people, God wants to use your life. America is going through a crisis. We better wake up and realize that we better be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Let Him teach us because there are going to be some things going on that they will look at a fundamental church and they will call it a hate church. It is going to happen. I have no doubt about that. I live in the Washington, D.C. area. Weird stuff is going on. But God's people will always be able to be prepared to minister in difficult times. Be ready for it there.

*James 3:8*

*But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*

Wow. God, what do I do then if I cannot tame the tongue? Lord Jesus, give me a new tongue. Give me a new heart. Give me a new focus. I promise you that you will be amazed what God would learn to memorize His Word. When Joshua was going into the land, God told him:

*Joshua 1:8-9*

*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

*Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*

And he was going into a foreign land that had giants in it. Most of them in it did not love God, did not care a thing for God. But God gave him Bible verses that said, "Listen to Me, and I will take you through it." You will leave out of this church building in a few minutes, and you will be in foreign territory in one sense. You are going to take the promises of God with you, or you are going to let the emotions of the heart in the room. God says, "Let My Word dictate your life and what you are going to do." It is an amazing thing. What will happen?

I love to go in a place where everybody looks sour and say, "Hey, is not this a great day God has given us?" Why not? Why not? Man, it is awesome what God is doing, and they are looking like, "What?" Hey, I was going to hell one day, and now I am going to heaven. That ought to be an exciting thing. "Well, why do not they think if I say that?" I do not really care. What I care is He wants me to say it. Now I want to be nice about it. Why not be about that?

I had a chance to preach from the new, what do they call it? Place where I preached that yesterday. You were there with us. She has lost her memory over here. No, we were at the field house or the football stadium there, and where they do the after the ballgame they have the news guys come in there, and so there was a pulpit there. So I stand up behind that pulpit, and I would not try to be cocky or anything else there. All these people coming in there, and so I just started quoting scripture. I thought, "Why not?" My one chance, stand worthy, coach of this team which I really do like, Kansas City Chiefs, where he stands there and shared the Word of God. People walking in like, "Why not?" And I do not do foolish about it. Why not? Why not? I hear enough garbage coming from people who do not believe a thing about the Word of God. Why cannot you

and why cannot I share some good things about things? Amen? And listen, it does not matter if they do not like it. That is not the issue. If God likes it, it is pretty well worthwhile. But be gracious, be kind about it. A lot of people, you want to be gracious. Always want to be gracious with people. Do not be foolish. Let God work for you.

I remember I was at Washington, D.C. one time, and we had a meeting, and I want to be careful how I say this. One of the great officials who gave spiritual training to people in the Congress and so on, who, he was new at this. They brought him in and introduced him to the crowd. Now based on this individual's doctrine, I would not think that he had the foggiest idea about salvation. But guys were clapping. Baptist preachers were clapping. I am sitting back there thinking, "Now wait a minute. If what I know about this guy's doctrine, he does not have it." And so anyway, they were there. And a big crowd that we were in this room there, and people were asking questions and so on and saying, "Anybody else have a question?"

Why not? I was at the back of the place. I mean, it is really a full place of pastors from all over the country. "Hey, sir, I have one question." "Yeah, what is it, my son?" "My son." And I said, "I would love it for you to tell this congregation of pastors who are here to tell us when was it when you repented of your sin, you trusted the finished work of Jesus Christ as your Savior. You asked Him to save your soul from hell to heaven, and you know for sure if you were to die, you would go to heaven." It was quieter than a tomb. He just stood there and said, "Uh, uh, uh." I want to be careful, but he was the leader for people in Washington, D.C. to learn something from. I grieved my heart. Now I had some guys come to me afterwards and say, "Man, I am glad you did that." I thought, "Why did not you do it?" And I do not say that cockily. Dear God, if a guy is lost, why do not we try to tell him there is a way to get out of here?

I walked in the bathroom one time. There is one of them in there. He was washing his hands. I said, "Excuse me, sir." "Yes, my son." I said, "Somebody mentioned this thing about being born again. Can you tell me what that is about?" He is drying his hands so fast. I said, "Do you know what, born again, are you born again, sir?" He literally ran out of the bathroom. And I do not say that in the wrong side, but I am just saying the truth of it is, why cannot we share the love of Christ to people?

*Ephesians 4:29*

*Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

In this congregation, we ought to all be willing to share gracious thoughts, right thoughts to other people. My heart is, every time I want to cry, I hate that. But I do not know any other pastors who will look at a couple who comes in from England and say, "Hey, we are going to fly you in here again." And then a church says, "Go for it, preacher." Thank God for that attitude. And somebody said, "I am scared of that." Because that is what we are here for, to bless each other. "Well, nobody ever gave me a ticket to England." I will send you one there and stay there. Is not that amazing though? "Nobody ever helped me." I see why. Maybe it is the attitude.

Well, thank God, and I am not lifting you, but thank God our privilege is, how can I minister to someone else? Come here, first thing I do, one of the guys comes up, "May I need some water?" "Thank you, man, I really appreciate that." How to get this thing, and that guys are taking care of things all around the place and girls and so getting all these things ready. Let them know that you appreciate it. A word spoken in due season, how good it is. Clean the closet. Get rid of, get rid of the negativism that you have in those things. And there are things of writing, learning to learn about, but learn to speak the right thing.

That angel spoke to this young man who was trying to thresh out wheat in a place where he could not do it because he was scared because the Midianites were to come in and kill him. And then after listening to him, he said, "Hey, man, this is Jehovah Shalom."

*Judges 6:24*

*Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovah-shalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.*

God, You are on the throne. I am going to follow You. There are people all around you, some of them may be saved. Would to God, all of us, when we get up in the morning, say, "Lord, lead me to somebody I can talk to about Jesus." Either who are saved or need to be saved. Why not? And you know what? You say, "Do not be afraid," but you do not know how to answer all the answers. I have gone many times, "Hey, I do not have an answer for that, but I will find out one for you if you want it." That is no problem. I am not embarrassed because I do not know everything. And God looks at you and says, "Will you make your heart available to others by taking time in this Book and do like this young man did who went from fear to faith?" Get in. He listened to the Word of God, and God changed it, and he called it Jehovah Shalom. Wow. Jehovah Peace.

"Well, we do not have peace. We are going to have it. But we have got the enemy." It does not matter. God says He will give me peace. I believe it for it. And whatever you face in your life, there is a verse in the Word of God or section of Scripture that can help you to grow and learn God's plan for that area. Sometimes all of us will go through situations that we wish we could change in a moment's time, but we cannot. And when we go through those things, what are we going to do? We are going to say, "God, You have left me." No, no.

*Hebrews 13:5-6*

*Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

I want to challenge you on that. You go out this week. You will face things that do not believe the things of God like you and I do. That is all right. "Lord, help me to do right." That is why God has you there. Why God has me there. Why cannot I be used of God wherever I go? Why cannot you be used of God wherever you go? "Well, I do not know." They have great Bible studies here that will get you the Word of God in your heart where you need to have it. But you can begin to

talk to people about Jesus Christ. You can begin to share your faith to other individuals in just a gracious way. "Hey, man, you seem happy. Why?" "Listen, man. Well, I am on a new roadway."

## VI. Sharing the Gospel: Do vs. Done

I talked to somebody. I said, "Hey, bud, let me ask you a question." And this looks like a man I could talk to here. Doug, that is neat. Come up here, sir. Come here. I do not have any money, but you can stand up here anyway. Come here. Okay. Watch it. Turn around. It is a happy face here. Okay. Say, "I do not even know him." And I have got a question for you. "How many religions are there?" "In general or actually?" "How many religions are there?" "I do not know." Okay, thank you. All right. Judaism. There is Catholicism. There are all those things there.

I do this when I am playing golf with guys. I say, "How many religions are there?" Because all of those guys are lawyers and people like that there. And there are a lot of them there. And so, okay. "You know, there are only two." And I walk on off. I go to my golf ball. And I say, "Do you know what they are?" "Okay. How was your golf game?" "I do not play." Okay. All right. "I do fly airplanes, though. I can land it." "Oh, yeah, you have got to land it." All right. Do not sit down. You are here. All right. All right. Snigging up on me here. All right. And so, "Well, as long as you know what they are?" "Well, say no." "Okay. No." "Well," and I do this all over the place. "Well, it is only two." And it is "doing" and "done." And then we go with the golf ball again. I am walking on down the road there. And he is back there thinking, "Who is 'done'?" And I say, "Do you know who 'doing' and 'done' is?" "Do I know what 'doing' and 'done' is?" "Yeah. I know." Say no. "Okay. No." Okay. Yeah.

But, and seriously, I have talked to every kind of a religious brand. I said, "It is doing and done." And I said, "Doing is trying to earn its way to heaven. Done says it is already paid for." It is like a light goes off. Questions create conviction. This thing is not sneaky, but it is a great way to talk to people. I am not talking to religion. I am not talking to anything else. I said, and then I go hit the golf ball again. And he is back there thinking, this and this and that. "I have got a question for you. Where are you?" Did I say no again? Yes. I will have to catch you on. But it is the reality though. Most of the guys that I have talked to in that situation, I say, "Where are you?" "I do not know." Because when you know, when Jesus died on the cross, He called out "Tetelestai." It is a common word in those days for "paid in full." And on the cross, He was saying, "I paid your price. I paid your price." And it is like a light goes off. "Wow, I never thought about this." So think about that.

I gave him a card. I said, "Man, you can trust Him right now or later. But I want you to know that there is somebody who loves him more than anyone else." And it was Jesus. And this little card goes, "This is 'do' or 'done.'" And it has:

*John 3:16-18*

*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.*

*For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

*He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

That is yours. You can get back to your point. But what a privilege. Some way, somehow, you work for a fishing pro shop. Oh, I would love to go fishing with you. But then use it. How can I use it? Take something like that with people. "Hey, may I ask you a question?" "Yeah." "How many religions are there?" "My multitudes have them." "That is only two." And then they want to know, "What are you talking about?" "It is 'do' and 'done.'" Right? Now, those of you who are saved, you understand. And when I meet the believer, they always look at me, "Only there are only two, saved and lost." And that is a blessing. But most people I have talked to, they do not know. And so I have the chance to share it with them. And then, boy, a word spoken in due season, how good it is.

## VII. Call to Action: Clean the Closet, Speak the Word

All of you, only about 3% of people talk to someone else about the gospel. Do you know that? Three Christians. Three percent. But 85% of those who come into another church is from another church. How about reaching out into your neighborhood? How about sharing someone else with God? Do it great, lovingly. Do not beat people. That does not happen to anything else. Look for ways you can minister to them. Maybe cook something for them in a tragedy. Do this, do that, do the other. Whatever. Young adults, invite them. Listen, you have got a great group of young adults in this church here. And encourage them to come to some of these things like this. Say, "I will pay your way." I tell guys when I talk to them, "If you come to church, I will buy you a lunch, man." Why not? Buy a lunch and see a guy go to heaven? That is a good deal. I really mean that. I think, man, if they come, I am broke. I can tell you that. It is going to be... But I do that. Why not? Why not? Why not do what I can with this mouth for the glory of God? Because I am going to die one of these days. And I want to tell people about Jesus before I die. Create every opportunity that you can. Not being foolish. And you can do the same thing where you go. And maybe it is a quiet way, but look for a way. Take a tract thing like that. But how can I say something to others? Because God gave me this mouth to talk about Jesus. He, ladies, He gave me that... Talk about Jesus.

You know what happened one day? "Ah, well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of the Lord." You have been... Who have been faithful to this church. God says, "I am looking down with some special..." This is unbelievable. This is kind of a crowd here. Really, I really mean that. Sincerely. Thank God for it. But what can we do to reach those who are lost on the outside? And I am just asking you today as we close.

You know, this guy, he... It was amazing. He went from casting wheat up by a wine press to winning a battle. And God says, "I will win a battle with you also. If you turn your heart to Me, you may be saved." But you go to the Lord in prayer today and say, "Lord Jesus, I want You to use my mouth for Your glory. I want to learn scripture and memorize some of them that I can

share with people. I want not to be arrogant, but I want to have something in my heart that is real." Be amazed what takes place. And I am thankful that God gave me that.

And speaking a word in due season, the Bible says there as in:

*Isaiah 50:4*

*The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.*

Be amazed what God will do for some of us. How it can calm them, how it can bless them, how it can convict them, how it can win them to Jesus Christ perhaps. All of you as believers are called to use your voice some way to reach into the hearts of other people. "See, I do not know what to do."

➤ Go to God in prayer. "Lord Jesus, I am going to be in the Bible every day." We are in a great place to start. Book of Psalms 119, that talks about the Word, but choose a place. Pastor here, the workers can help you in that.

➤ And you pray as God shows you things, you pray, "Lord help me to do this. Help me to follow that." You will be amazed what God will do and ask God to give you an alertness.

So in the morning when your eyes are already, but how many have had the alarm clock go off? Let us do that again. How many had an opportunity clock go off today? There are seven of you. I appreciate that. There is a tough crowd here. God will not solve them. It is an opportunity clock. How can I be used? You go through a place, you pay for something for lunch. They say, "Hey, great being here. Thanks for serving me here. Here is a thought. It has meant a lot to my life. Give me a try." Why not? Why not? Why not? Minister to somebody, pray for somebody. Go out to eat, talk to someone. "Hey, is there something we can pray with you about?" About 95% of the people I ever do that with say yes, and they share a burden to their heart. And then say, "Hey, here is something you can read and take with you there." Why not? Why not? "Someone says, 'I am not that bad.'" It is not bravery. It is serving your King. Serving your King. Serving your King. Be available in that respect. Be amazed what God will do and make sure those people that you know who have been blessing you, make sure you take time to say to them, "Thanks a lot for what you are doing."

When these dear ladies most of the time, we watch the kids in the nursery, man, they have been through, they have been through a gun battle in there. I go by ours and I say, "You know what? You are coaching next generation's kids," and to watch your face turn just like that. Yeah, be alert for the Lord.

Father, we come to You. I do not know where all these folks are. You do. Lord, I know this. All of us need to clean up the closet of negativity and ask You to show us how we can be used. Gideon was used and defeated the Midianites. Jehovah Shalom came through. God our peace.

And Lord, You want to give peace and direction to every one of us to tell others about the Son of God. I pray You will use these people to do that. I thank You, Lord, for Your love. I thank You, Lord, for the blessed teacher that You led this town to start this ministry and the co-laborers, his dear wife and his kids and so many others, Danny and all the other folks who labor here and all the folks who greet at the door and all the other things that go on, Lord. But I pray that this church will be used to show this town area the greatness of God and people will trust with Shalom, the God of peace.

And Lord, I pray even right now there might be somebody here who has never trusted Your Son as their Savior. May they realize that Jesus and Jesus only can save them. They need to ask Him to be their Savior. Where they sit, they can pray a sinner's prayer and mean it. "God be merciful to me a sinner and save me because Jesus paid for my sin." I feel sorry for that religious leader who was in the Congress. And Lord, he had no answer to being saved. And he is there to try to talk to people about God. And Lord, I pray that this congregation will be used, Lord, to expand and reach multitudes more. We ask You, Lord, that You be glorified and help us as we leave here to determine, clean out the closet, negativity remove it, build the scripture basis in our mind not to beat people with but to grow, to encourage them, to challenge them, to challenge their own hearts for Your glory. Bless Your people, Lord. And bless this upcoming time at camp. Oh, Lord, these young people, Satan will hate it, but God will love every bit of it. So Lord, bless them. Keep them safe, keep them from harm, make it a very special time that they will remember the rest of their life. In the name of Christ our Savior, I pray. Amen.