

Sermon Transcript: Seize The Kingdom

September 14, 2019

Lord Heavenly Father in Jesus' wonderful name, we come to you Lord Father this day to receive whatever you have for us today. To hear and to learn and to receive. We come joyfully Father expecting a word from you, needing a word from you Father. We pray Lord that whatever you would say to us today that we would be receptive very willingly, warning and needing and appreciating your word so that your word would not return to you void or vain but rather with profit. We pray Lord Heavenly Father that your will and your spirit prevail in this service today and forevermore. That we would receive your word implanted today. That it would take root and flourish and blossom and bear fruit from you. You're the Creator, the Alpha, the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. It will start with you and it will end. We are yours. We are your people. We are your family. We are your congregation. Speak to us Lord. Lead and direct us and we will follow and listen. And obey in Jesus' holy name. Amen. Praise Jesus.

Matthew chapter 11 verse 12. We're reading from the translation called the Alpha and Omega Bible, a restoration of the original scriptures. Matthew 11 verse 12 says from the days of John, the one who baptizes until now, the kingdom of heaven is forcefully entered and relentless people seize it. That's a little difficult to understand because it's not really a principle that is taught very much anywhere.

Verse 11 says, "Amen," meaning truly, "I say to you among those born of women who has not arisen anyone greater than the John, the one who baptizes, yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than me. From the days of John, the one who baptizes until now, the kingdom of heaven is forcefully entered and relentless people seize it."

That's a little difficult to understand because it's not really a principle that is taught very much anywhere. That's a little difficult to understand because it's not really a principle that is taught very much anywhere.

Or, yeah, the kingdom from heaven is forcefully entered and relentless people seize it. If we read it slow enough and really think about it, it's easier to understand even though it's not taught in the scriptures. Amen. The relentless people are the people who are not given up and are forcefully entering God's kingdom by force. But why would we do that when traditional religion teaches us that all we have to do is believe? And that's all they teach. We don't have to work for it. We don't have to do anything according to most traditional religion.

Jesus. He's saying the kingdom of heaven is forcefully entered into by people that don't give up and are relentless. There is another gospel parallel. It says in the footnote here, so let's turn to that parallel gospel of Luke 16. Read it there as well. Luke 16 verse 16.

Luke 16 verse 16. The law and the prophets were taught even to John. Since that time, the kingdom of Theos is even more evangelized and many press into it.

Pressing into the kingdom. Whereas Matthew wrote it, forcing into the kingdom. Amen. We should seize onto or into God's kingdom. That means fighting any and every obstacle. Get into it. Press into it.

To knock out anything that would get into our way. To not let anyone or anything interfere with our entering in. To enter in, to press in forcefully. Relentless. Not giving up. Being totally

determined to make it in regardless of what it takes. No matter what it takes.

Amen. Whenever I think of that word, press into it. I always think of that woman that had the issue of blood for twelve years. That pressed herself through the mob of men. Going against the grain. That women were not supposed to touch the man first. And were not supposed to be bold and were not supposed to be aggressive.

But pressing her way through very aggressively, very boldly, without fear. Knowing what she had to do. Knowing what she had to do to receive it. She didn't stay home and pray.

And she didn't stay somewhere on the outside of the crowd or on the back edge of the crowd. Just viewing. Just looking. Just listening. And just believing. No she didn't. Just only believing. That woman did much more than believe. She went and got what she needed. Amen. She went and got what she needed. She worked for it. Amen. And she got her reward and it was a good reward. Very much worth the effort. The men could have pushed her away and probably most likely she did meet some resistance as she did go through that crowd. But she didn't let anyone or anything, not even custom, interfere with what she needed. Amen.

If a person or a custom or even a devil tells you that you can't do something and you ought to do it just because the devil told you that you can't do it. If the devil told you that you cannot do something for God. Or something right. Or something good. Or something needful. The very fact that the devil told you not to do it or is trying to hinder you from doing it should make you even more willing and determined to do it because you know if the devil doesn't want you to do it then it's something you should be doing. It's something that God would want you to do. Amen.

And you should do it even more just to piss off the devil. And to fulfill God's will because you know it's God's will the devil is trying to hinder you. Amen.

The title of this sermon today is Seize It. Seize It. Amen. That woman did seize it and Jesus said that after John we are seizing the kingdom. Amen.

The reason it was after John is you really couldn't really not really get into the spiritual kingdom until after John because it was just all old covenant the blood of animals in vain. No real salvation in the Old Testament up until John.

John's death and life was a transitional point in history that it transitioned from the Old Testament prophets and Old Testament law over to the new covenant law of the time of Jesus during John's last term.

Being only six months apart their births and of the New Testament apostles transitioning over into that time. Amen.

An entrance way in history, a time frame of a new era, an entrance way into the time of that Christ would die for us and save our souls and allow us the entrance into the kingdom.

But just only believing upon what Christ did contrary to popular traditional doctrine just believing upon the work of Christ what he accomplished on the cross is not sufficient.

It's not sufficient no matter what you may have heard.

I can say that with absolute certainty because I've read the entire Bible and I believe what it says over and above what pastor so and so says. Amen.

The Bible is filled and overflowing with examples of people working for and receiving the rewards or being promised in the future of the awards. Amen.

Now the Old Testament prophets did not receive the promise yet. The Bible is very clear about that. They have not received the promise. So even those would have to come back in order to continue their race, their run for the Lord before they receive the promise and the

reward.

Amen. Let's go over to Genesis now. Genesis 32. We've got our new updated Alpha and Omega Bibles. It's been edited and improved and new and improved edition.

So you'll find that your brand new copies are a little stiff because they're not used yet. Don't be afraid to push down on the pages. Press down so that the book will stay open while you're reading and taking notes and underlining.

The binding is really, really excellent on these Bibles. So don't be afraid to push down on the inside center of the Bible so that your pages will stay in place. It won't hurt the binding.

It's really good binding. And I love how that the pages are so thick in the Alpha and Omega Bible. Most Bibles, whatever Bible I've ever seen, the pages are so extremely thin.

And I think that is something that people should really point out to other people about the Alpha and Omega Bible is how thick, how wonderfully thick the pages are, making it easier to turn the pages and make notes and underline and write in it and everything and how wide the margins are.

These different characteristics of this Bible are things to point out. Of course the translation is the most important.

That when we're telling our family and friends and people about the Alpha and Omega Bible, don't leave out these other things that are also very important that really stand out in the reviews. When people are writing reviews of books, of publications, they always consider how wide is the margin, how thick the pages are, how easy it is to turn, how well the binding is.

These things are important to people and we need to address these as well as the accuracy of the translation. Now again, I do not consider this or claim, I do not claim that this is 100% accurate.

There is no such thing as a 100% accurate translation of the Bible in English. It simply does not exist and will not exist until after Jesus comes back. That's just reality and we have to face reality and not live in a fantasy land.

But it is, it is more accurate than King James, New American Standard, NIV, any of those and every time we release another update on the PDF every month, every time we release a new update in paperback every six months, it's getting even more and more and more accurate all the time.

This really should not even be debatable because all you got to do is look it up for yourself what the Greek and Hebrew words are and see it for yourself. You don't have to take my word for it. Amen.

Study it for yourselves and prove it for yourselves whether it's more accurate or not based upon the facts rather than tradition. Amen.

And that's what makes the Alpha Omega Bible stand out as well is the translation is mostly based upon the opposite of tradition rather than on tradition.

King James Version, NIV, New American Standard, all the translations are based upon what they have received traditionally about how certain words should be translated.

Whereas Alpha and Omega Bible looks at the words that were written in the oldest scrolls that we have, the codexes, the books, the manuscripts that we have and translates it honestly without the interference of tradition.

I have to say all this because we do have very often new people listening. They might listen only one time and never listen again but nevertheless I know that people come and they listen to the sermon either through the week or a month later or six months later and they have to hear these things.

They have to hear these things. Amen.

So anyway we're here in Genesis 32. We're going to start in verse 22. Genesis 32 verse 22. We'll go down through the end of the chapter.

It says in verse 22, and he rose, talking about Jacob, he rose up that night and took his two wives and his two servant maids and his eleven children and crossed over the ford of Jaboch, and he took them and passed over the torrent or stream and brought over all of his possessions.

Jacob was left alone and a man wrestled with him into the morning. Or what seemed like a man.

He wrestled with him. Oh, wrestled. Tossed around back and forth on the ground. Two men fighting. Jacob, the man of God. What? A man of God fighting?

Reminds me of that movie The Apostle. I love that scene. If y'all never seen the movie The Apostle with, what's that guy's name that stars in it? The main guy? I can't think of it right now. But that's an awesome movie. And it's not from the Bible, but it's an awesome movie. And there's a scene in it where that Pentecostal preacher takes this man that comes into church through his races, he takes him out and beats him, wrestles him on the ground and it's hilarious.

This man of God is wrestling, fighting somebody and not just for five minutes, but all night long until the morning. Verse 35.

And he saw that he prevailed not against him and he fastened onto the broad part of his thigh and the broad part of Jacob's thigh was dislocated in his wrestling with him.

And he, Theos, who he was wrestling, God, he was wrestling, said to him, let me go for the day has dawned. I'm tired. I'm wore out. Stop fighting me.

But this was not a bad fight. It was not a bad sense of fighting God, but rather Jacob was trying to get what he wanted by all means necessary. Not letting go, not giving up, pressing into it forcefully, forcefully grabbing onto God physically and spiritually all night long.

Until God is finally like, let me go. But he, Jacob, said, I will not let you go unless or until or except that you bless me.

And he, Theos, said to him, what is your name? Now he knew what Jacob's name is, just like he knew Adam and Eve, where they were hiding and why they were hiding.

But he wanted a response. God wanted a response and said, what is your name? And Jacob answered, Jacob.

And he, Theos, said to him, your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Jesrael, which is traditionally translated as Israel. Perfect example of tradition versus accuracy of language translation.

But your name shall be Jesrael, shall be your name. For you have prevailed with Theos and shall be mighty with men. Amen.

So, in other words, other words, that was a fight, a good fight, a good sense. You're not going to let go of me. You're going to be determined, you're going to be relentless all night long.

Therefore, man, I change your name because your name, your name describes you, who you are, your character.

And I'm naming you after myself because his name is Je, as in Jesus, Je with us, God with us.

And he's striving with Je. He's wrestling with Je. So, I name you Jesrael, to be your name, for you have prevailed, you have followed, wrestled and prevailed. Amen, with the Lord.

In verse 29, Jacob asked and said, tell me your name. And he, Theos, said, why do you ask my name?

The reason God said that was because he had just revealed his name in a hint, in a secretive way, in a parable way.

Even though the name wasn't really revealed fully until Moses, many years later, decades later.

But here, God is, in part, revealing his name in a more secluded manner, in a more of a secretive manner to where you have to think about it more deeply and really take time to more think about it. It's not an absolute ABC thing. Amen.

And that's why God is like, why do you ask my name? Basically, again, again, wanting a reaction and wanting thought, a thought process.

So, the reason he asked Adam and Eve, who told you that you're naked, is he wanted Adam and Eve to have a thought process, wanted them to think about it.

And God here wants Jacob to think about this issue of names. It's like, I gave you this name, what does it mean? Think about it, Jacob.

And so, he blessed him there. God did bless him right then and there.

In verse 30, Jacob called the name of that place the face of the Theos.

For he said, I have seen the Theos face to face. So, it was God that he was wrestling and my life was preserved.

Because everybody had always thought that if you saw God, you would die. But here he saw God and touched God, threw him to the ground, punched him in the face, pulled his leg, pulled his hair, but he lived.

Who would think to do such that God is such a friend and a great daddy?

What dad doesn't wrestle with his sons? And what brothers do not wrestle?

What friends, buddies among men that won't grab each other's heads and play, wrestle?

It's nature of masculinity is what the guys do from even the womb. In Jacob's case, how he wrestled his brother in the womb. Amen. And it says here, in verse 31, the sun rose upon him and when he passed the face of the Theos and he limped upon his thigh.

Oh, the place, the face of the Theos, meaning the place, that's the place's name. That's a translation.

And he limped upon his thigh. That might not be possible, but put a note for that anyway and you'll see what happens.

And Jacob limped upon his thigh. He came out injured. That's interesting.

Now, that is interesting if you really think about that. It was not a negative, bad fight. He wasn't resisting God.

And he got what he wanted and more. And he was blessed by God. God rewarded him, but he was physically injured.

That's very interesting.

I think about bodybuilding is a perfect example. Working out a man, working out trying to build up strength and muscle.

That you have to injure your body when you're working out if you want to build muscle.

Especially if you want to build a lot of muscle. You actually literally have to strain your muscles and actually rip, tear some of your muscle fibers.

So that it will rebuild larger, tougher and better.

Sometimes injuries are not always a negative thing. This was not really a negative thing.

We have to face life in reality, not a fantasy land. We've got to take the whole package, both

the good and the bad.

We've got to face the consequences of all of our actions, both good and bad, and accept it as a package deal.

This was tough love. Amen. This was tough love. And even though he got what he wanted, what he needed and even more.

There was physical side effect that was not really negative, but kept him in remembrance actually.

It was actually a good thing to keep him in remembrance of that night. Amen.

We've got lessons that I cannot even understand at this moment because it's so amazing and mind-boggling.

Verse 32, Therefore the children of Jesrael will by no means eat of the sinew which was dislocated in meat when they eat meat, which is on the broad part of the thigh unto this day, because of the manifestation of God, the Theos, touched the broad part of the thigh of Jacob, even the sinew which was dislocated.

So it's very interesting.

Now God wrestled, Jacob wrestled God until he got what he was seeking.

And Jacob seized to the kingdom and the king, not only in this verse, but also when he wrestled his brother Esau in their mother's womb.

And also when he purchased, bought the birthright from Esau.

That was a type of war as well.

Jacob was always a hard worker and always did whatever it took to get what was rightfully his.

Many people say that he deceived and lied and cheated his way through life.

I've seen that many times. I've heard that preached, seen it in books, websites, and articles.

Many people preach that Jacob deceived, lied, and cheated his way through life.

Just like they always put Samson down, they do the same thing about Jacob.

Why is everybody always putting down the men of God?

They put down Jacob constantly in every one of these Sunday churches, even in the Saturday churches.

They always, anytime they talk about Jacob, they say Jacob was a deceiver and a liar and a cheater.

And they always say Samson was a womanizer and a drunk and all this other stuff.

Why do they always want to put down the men of God?

They even put down Noah for his drinking, claiming it was a sin.

They put down the men of God all the time. It's ridiculous. Amen.

But the truth is, Jacob did exactly what he was supposed to do in God's will for him in every situation.

To obtain, to get, to seize, wasn't what was appointed to him by God. Amen.

But even though God appointed those things, his birthright, property, his women, everything he had and promised and received, it was God's will to give him all that.

It was all God appointed, but Jacob still had, even though God appointed it, Jacob still had to reach out and take it by force.

That's really something to think about. God appointed him his birthright, but it wasn't handed to him on a silver platter.

Yet Babylon says that our birthright, being born again and entering the kingdom, is handed to us on a silver platter. All you've got to do is believe it and believe in what God did on the cross

and that's all it is. Handed to you on a silver platter.

Everything in Jacob's life, his birthright, him living for God, everything that happened and everything in Jacob's life was appointed by God and was rightfully his, yet he had to work hard and seize and fight for it his whole life.

Mind-boggling how much difference the truth is prepared to the tradition teachings. Amen.

There's a song, when I think about Jacob and his so-called deceptions, cheating and lying, there's a song that was sung by Rod Stewart, I remember when I was in high school in the 1980s.

Rod Stewart used to sing a song called Run Across Shorty.

And in the song, two men run a race and whoever wins the race gets to marry the girl.

Her name is Miss Lucy.

And Miss Lucy instructs the man that she wants to win, whose name is Shorty, she instructs him to cheat, to run across the middle and get ahead of the other man so she won't have to marry the man that she doesn't want to marry, but rather she wants to marry Shorty.

She instructs him to cheat, to win the race dishonestly.

Now the other man, the city boy Dan, would surely feel cheated, but Miss Lucy's true love is what really counted and a happy ending, according to what was truly right, is that Miss Lucy wanted to marry Shorty.

And that's what really counted in this song.

And I know that this is very untraditional and different from all other churches, I don't care.

That's why we should do it.

That's why we should do it, because it's different from any other pastor what any other pastor would do, any other church would do, any other ministry would do.

I really feel led to share this song with you.

We're going to play this Rod Stewart song, Run Across Shorty, and then we'll continue the sermon.

Now a country boy called Shorty
And a city boy named Dan
Had to prove who could run the fastest
To win Miss Lucy's hand

Now Dan had all the money
And he also had the looks
But Shorty musta had that something, boys
That can't be found in books

Well, "Cut across, Shorty, Shorty, cut across"
That's what Miss Lucy said
"Cut across, Shorty, Shorty, cut across"
It's you that I wanna wed'
Now Dan had been in training
About a week before the race
He made up his mind old Shorty
Would end in second place
And Dan with his long legs a-flying

Left Shorty far behind
And Shorty heard him holler out
"Miss Lucy, you'll soon be mine"

Oh well, "Cut across, Shorty, Shorty, cut across"
That's what Miss Lucy said
"Cut across, Shorty, Shorty, cut across
It's you I wanna wed"

But Shorty wasn't worried
There was a smile upon his face
He knew that he was a-going to win
'Cause Lucy had fixed the race
And just like that old story
About the turtle and the hare
When Danny crossed over the finish line
He found Shorty waiting there

Oh well, "Cut across, Shorty, shorty, cut across"
That's what Miss Lucy said
"Cut across, Shorty, shorty, cut across
It's you I wanna wed"

It's you I wanna wed
It's you I wanna wed
It's you that I wanna wed

I do love that song and I like a lot of Rod Stewart's stuff.
He has a lot of good songs and good music.
And I really felt led to share that song.
And again, the point of that song is, yet we're cheating according to some other people's eyes. This is other people's thinking.
But what was most important is true love and who really loved each other.
That they would be married. Amen.
And similar to what happened with Jacob in his life, that he had to seize by force whatever it took to take what was his. Amen.
Now let's go over to the book of 2 Timothy.

2 Timothy 4. We're going to read verses 1-8. 2 Timothy 4 verse 1.
Paul says to Timothy, I solemnly charge you in the presence of Theos and of Christ Jesus who is to judge the living and the dead by his appearance and his kingdom.
Preach the word.
Paul basically is saying in different words, I appoint you and administer to you by the administration that you've got to do this.
This is your calling. This is your appointment.
You've got to do it. I charge you to do this.
Preach the word.

Be ready in season and out of season at all times be ready.
Reprove, rebuke, exhort with great patience and instruction.
For the time would come when they would not endure sound function.
But wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires.
The easy way. The sugar-coated preaching. Their own desires.
And would turn away their ears from the truth and would turn aside to myths, fables, lies.
But you, Timothy, be sensible.
Have common sense. Be sensible.
Don't follow fairy tales.
But rather be sensitive.
Have common sense in all things.
Endure the hardship.
You're going to receive persecution.
You're going to be mocked because you're preaching the truth.
Endure this hardship that comes with this.
Take the bad and the good.
The scars and the battle wounds.
Take all of it as one package.
Expect it.
And do the work of an evangelist.
Don't just believe that you are an evangelist.
And don't just pray for people.
But do the work of an evangelist. Fulfill your ministry.
Fulfill your ministry. Amen.

For I am already being poured out, Paul said, that I am already being poured out as a drink offering.
Read this with me with your own eyes.
For I am already being poured out as a drink offering.
And the time of my departure has come.
In other words, Paul felt like he was going to die soon.
That his time was coming to a close.
And he was trying to prepare Timothy for greater responsibility. Amen.
And set an example for Timothy.
And I am going to follow the good fight.
Just like Jacob fought.
Paul said he had fought.
I have fought a good fight.
I have finished the course.
I have kept the faith.
Despite having to fight, I have kept the faith.
In the future, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness.
He didn't say, as soon as I die.
But if he had thought that it was going to happen as soon as he died, that he would receive the crown.
His reward, he would have said.

As soon as I die, as soon as I go to sleep.
Which wouldn't make no sense. As soon as you go to sleep, you get a reward.
Because that would be a fairy tale. That would be a dream.
If you said, as soon as I go to sleep, I am going to receive my crown.
Then you are just dreaming. It's a fairy tale.
Right?
So Paul, the very fact that he did not say, when I go to sleep or when I die, I will receive my reward.
But rather, in the future.
In the future underlying this.
In the future, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness.
Which the Lord, the righteous judge, will reward me on that day.
The whole way he is wording this, shows you that he did not believe at all that he would receive his reward on the very day that he goes to sleep.
And not only to me, but also to those who have loved his appearing.
Wait a minute, his appearing?
That's talking about the second coming of the Lord, his appearing.
That's not talking about when he dies. Amen?
And that he would receive his reward the same day as everybody else.
Ain't that what he is saying?
Underline the part. And not only to me.
That means he won't receive his reward all by himself if Paul died at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.
That he would not receive his reward at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.
But rather he would have to wait until everybody else has all gathered together.
All of us at that marriage supper.
All of us at the first resurrection.
All of us receiving our rewards at the same time.
Not only to me, but also to all of those who love his appearing, his coming.
And then that's when Paul knew he would get his reward.
There's so many verses proving the traditions of man wrong. They're fairy tales. Amen.

But Paul knew that if he worked hard and if Timothy worked hard and endured the trials and the tribulations.
But kept pressing through and fighting the fight and pressing through and just keep on enduring.
And to the end that they would receive a reward sooner or later that they would get their reward.
Not to grow weary. Not to grow weary.
But to endure and to the end Jesus said in Matthew 24.
That those that endure and to the end shall be saved.
It is not correct to just believe that because we were baptized and we did accept the truth.
That we're automatically fully saved.
But rather we've got to understand even though we were saved it is still a building process and we're still working on a building as that Psalm says.
We're working on a building and this building is not done and not finished and not complete.
Until the Lord's appearing or at the end of the hundred years whichever resurrection we enter

in.

And until then, until we return to spirit this building is not done.

And our journey is not done and we will struggle and we will fight whether we want to or not.

But if we're going to fight we should win it and be on the right side to win. Amen.

And to win run the race shorty to cut across shorty whatever it took.

Jacob the way he lived his life was whatever it took.

Samson the way he lived his life was whatever it took to do God's will.

Even though to this very day even the religious people even the Pharisees of today still put down Noah and Samson and Jacob and Jesus.

But all of them did what they were supposed to do.

Despite the persecution and the mocking and the false accusations.

Just for me playing that song, so many people religious people Pharisees would be like he's playing rock and roll.

That is the softest rock and roll. That's as soft as they come man.

How is anything all of his music is good and soft.

And it brings it brings a point.

So it's edification. Amen.

Fighting the good fight finishing the race keeping the faith.

I want to share a testimony with you many years ago a man had asked me in a church that I was going to at the time.

Man asked me to fast about something for him. I can't remember whether it was a job he wanted or whatever it was.

But I fasted for him. He asked me to fast for him and I did.

Eventually I saw him again at church and he told me that he did not get what we had prayed for and what I had fasted for.

He didn't get it.

But that he knew that he wasn't going to get it.

That's what he said. I knew I wasn't going to get it. I knew that God wasn't going to give it to me.

Whatever words it was that he used.

And immediately as soon as he said that that he knew that he wasn't going to get it.

Immediately I knew that I had fasted in vain.

That I starved myself for nothing.

Why? When I had starved myself in vain.

If I had fasted for weeks for that man.

If I had fasted for weeks for that man he still would not have received what we was fasting for.

Because he never believed he was going to get it. Amen.

His lack of faith and his negative thinking hindered and blocked and prohibited what he wanted to receive. Amen.

I wasted my time praying and fasting for him.

And I never fasted for him again. Amen.

Don't ask someone to pray or fast for you if you yourself don't believe in God's goodness to give it to you what you ask for.

The Bible says ask and believe and you will receive it. Amen.

Another testimony is a woman, again at a church, a woman felt called to sing in church.

But the pastor of that church would always take somebody else to sing but not her. She felt that she was being treated wrong because the pastor would always choose other people to sing and not allow her to sing.

So, some of the other people felt the same way that the pastor was playing favorites and treating her wrong.

But what they did not understand but I did, I understood what the pastor was doing.

Even though that woman was actually close to me, a family member, I didn't take everybody else's side.

I didn't take that woman's side even though she was a family member.

Even though she felt treated wrong and it seemed wrong.

But I didn't take her side, I took the pastor's side, I took God's side. Amen.

Because I understood that being a pastor myself, even at that time and with Holy Ghost discernment, I understood what the pastor was doing.

That the pastor wanted her to seize the opportunity, to take it for herself rather than to be asked to sing.

She needed to seize the opportunity herself rather than waiting to be asked to sing.

When God calls someone to sing or to speak in church, they must take the initiative to do so.

They must take the initiative to do so.

I remember times when God told me today at church to say such and such.

I had to seize many different times, I had to seize the moment.

Even if the pastor had never said, anybody here got anything to say today?

Even if the pastor didn't say that that particular week.

If God told me today, you've got to say this, I've waited for the right moment but when I saw the right moment, I would speak up and seize the moment, seize the opportunity and speak forth what God wanted me to speak.

And many other people did the same thing.

You can do that in a Pentecostal church.

You can't do that in a Catholic church or a Jehovah Witness church.

I don't know about Seventh Day Adventist, but Jehovah Witness and Catholic and most Baptist churches, they won't allow you that freedom.

But one good thing, one good thing about the Pentecostal church is they will allow their people, even a stranger in the church, to speak forth and obey the voice of the Lord and speak the words of the Lord.

They will let you do that but you've got to grab the opportunity.

You have to seize the opportunity.

Take it by force at the right moment.

Not out of order but at the right moment, speaking it forth yourself without having to be asked to do it. Amen.

You have to take the initiative and the definition of initiative is the power or ability, and not just the ability but exercising the power to begin or to follow through energetically with a plan or task.

I was on the top of page number two for the people that have the notes here in the local congregation.

I printed out the notes and events for today.

And the definition of taking an initiative is the power to begin or follow through energetically.

You have to seize it. Energetically.

I didn't make up this definition.

This is what I looked up and this was the definition.

Energetically with a plan or a task, with enterprise and determination, a beginning or introductory step, a welcoming move. You have to take the move. Amen.

A person has to grab their calling and run with it. Amen.

Then a third testimony because we defeat the devil by the blood of the lamb and by the word of our testimony.

So another testimony is that I never waited for someone to tell me that I was called to be a pastor.

I always felt the calling.

All of my life, even when I was a little child, I felt the calling to be a minister and a pastor.

And I never waited for someone to tell me that I was called to be a pastor or that I was ordained.

And I never sought ordaining through the hands of men.

I never sought any kind of paper or whatever they call it, letter of commendation, Paul called it and so forth.

Letters from a college.

Never sought such things. Don't need such things.

Even turned down an offer of a minister saying, if you ain't got ministry papers, I give you ministry papers.

Letters of credentials of saying that you're an ordained minister.

I don't want it. Don't need it.

God has ordained me. God is calling me.

I don't need no letter or paper, stamped paper of man.

Turned it down. Amen.

I felt the calling from God saw the need of the people that they needed at pastors to speak forth the truth.

I felt compelled to obey God and to fulfill my duty, my calling as Paul told Timothy to fulfill his ministry.

I felt the calling and I knew that I needed to fulfill my calling and to help the people who was in need.

Because there was no other, I couldn't find any other pastor or church that I could join or anybody could join.

Just like I saw that there was no Bible that was accurate enough.

How could I ignore that calling?

I had to publish the Alpha and Omega Bible not because that somebody provoked me into it or asked me to do it, but because I saw the need that there was no Bible accurate enough.

Amen.

So we have to take the initiative ourselves.

Seize it by force, not wait for somebody to push you into it. Amen.

Let's go over to the book of Ecclesiastes in the Psalm and Wisdom book volume number 3. Ecclesiastes chapter 9.

I love this chapter.

Ecclesiastes 9, this is on page 108 and my brand new updated Alpha and Omega Bible.
I hope that you've already received your copy.

Page 108 and volume number 3, Ecclesiastes 9.

And by the way, AJ, I got an email saying that yours have been shipped and supposed to arrive, maybe hopefully should arrive September 24th through the 26th.

Something like that.

If it arrives on the estimated time that they're getting.

Peter got his Bibles and Kiki got hers.

I'm going to be sending out Jonathan's Bibles hopefully on Monday.

Please be praying that the prison will let him have those Bibles for the first time.

Please pray about that, everyone, that the prison will allow Jonathan to receive these Bibles and keep these Bibles.

Ecclesiastes 9 verses 5 through 10.

Verse 5 through 10.

Verse 5 says, for the living, we all know that they should die.

We do know that we're going to die, all of us, unless we're alive, still alive when Jesus comes back.

But the dead know nothing.

And there is no longer any reward for them.

Talking about they had rewards, they received rewards while they were alive, but while they're dead, they're not receiving rewards anymore.

Blessings or any such thing.

And they don't have a reward in heaven or hell or in the grave.

Until we receive the fullness of the kingdom and we receive our rewards in paradise and in the millennium, amen.

This verse proves that, amen.

And even their memory is lost, meaning that they cannot think and they don't have a memory themselves.

Plus, we, people, people that knew them, their friends or co-workers, a lot of people don't even remember them as well.

Verse 6, also their love and their hatred and their envy, all those emotions and their memory that existed while they were alive no longer exist.

Again, it proves people are not in heaven or hell because if they lived in hell alive, they would have hatred.

If they were living in heaven, they would have love. Amen.

But no such thing exists in the grave where they go.

These things have perished.

Yes, there is no portion for them anymore until the end of their term, meaning the end of their death and all that is done under the sun.

Now go, verse 7 says, go and eat your bread since you're alive and you know eventually one who says you're going to die.

Go and eat your bread with myrrh and drink your wine with a joyful heart.

In other words, enjoy life while you are alive, while you still have feelings and emotions, while you can still taste, smell, touch, see. Amen.

For now, Theos has favorably accepted your works.

In other words, enjoy your reward. He's accepting your works, enjoy the fruits of it.

Enjoy the fruits of the grape. Enjoy the wine of the grape.
Enjoy the work of your hands, the farm, the tomatoes, the cucumbers, what you're doing in life, your wife, your children, your friends, your brothers, your family.
Enjoy life.

Verse 8, let your garments, your clothes spiritually be always white and let not oil be wanting on your head.

In other words, always be anointed. Always be anointed. Amen.

And always, and of course oil is a symbol for the Holy Ghost and back then a symbol for the Holy Spirit.

And so always be spiritually thinking and spiritually led. Amen.

Now we could be thinking about, hey we're going to die, we're going to die.

We could be thinking about that.

But that wouldn't be having oil on my head. Amen.

Oil is energy fuel. Amen.

Oil keeps the light running. Amen.

Oil provides energy, heat, and light, and life. Amen.

It's the blood of the earth, oil is.

It's life given, it's life in the blood, Jesus said.

Don't be lacking the oil.

In fact, Matthew 25, go buy more oil. Amen.

Don't let the oil be lacking.

Whew, God is good.

Verse 9, and experience life. Amen.

Experience life with the wife whom you love all the days of your life, of your vanity, which are given you under the sun.

For that is your portion in your life and in your labor, wherein you labor under the sun.

In other words, you ain't got portion or reward in the grave where you go.

Your portion, your fruit, the fruit of your labor, your reward is while you're alive is what Solomon is saying here. Amen.

In which you labor or work. Amen.

Verse 10, whatever your hands shall find to do, do it with all of your might.

With all of your might.

Your energy, your strength, your effort.

For there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave where you go.

Amen.

So you have to do it now.

Now is the time to work and to enjoy life. Amen.

Seize it, because time is to work.

Seize life.

Seize the kingdom of the future.

Let your garments always be white.

Let not your head be lacking ointment.

So put your mind, your forehead on God's kingdom, but also, also enjoy life.

A lot of people think that once they get saved, that they're going to have to be bored.

That's why a lot of people don't surrender to Christ.
I mean a lot of people, that is a majority of people that do not get saved are not saved.
They do not get saved because they think living the life of a Christian is boring.
The reason they think that is because a lot of traditional churches say you can't drink.
And you can't enjoy life.
And you can't have a girlfriend.
And you can't have sex with your girlfriend.
And you can't look at a girl.
You can't even look at a girl.
Man, if it was really like that, I wouldn't want to get saved either. Amen.
If I had to be a Pharisee to get saved, I wouldn't get saved either.
But if people knew, if people learned that living for God is not being a Pharisee, there are do's
and don'ts, absolutely.
But you don't have to be a Pharisee.
If people knew and understood that, if they heard that, understood it, believed it, then there
would be more people getting saved.
The churches are hindering people from getting saved. Amen.
And even those that think that they're saved are not saved.
It's a fairy tale.
It's a feel good feeling. Amen.
But if we want salvation, we must seek it out while we can and seize it.
Seek it out, grab hold of it and take it. Amen.

Don't do something thinking that you won't get results.
That man I told you about that asked me to fast for a minute.
Don't ask for it.
Don't pray about it.
Don't fast about it if you don't believe that you're going to get it.
And don't, if you're working out, if you're working, exercising to build strength, don't work out
thinking that you're not going to get stronger.
Or if you're on a diet, don't do that diet thinking it's not going to help.
Because when you enter into a goal, a so-called goal, thinking that it ain't going to work, it
won't work because you're not going to put all your energy into it.
If you already know it ain't going to work, then it ain't going to work because you're not going
to try as hard. Amen.
Negative thinking will cause us to produce less results because we're not putting all that we
have into the effort.
Whatever you do, which is read in this verse, do it with all of your might, all of your strength,
all of your effort.
And don't be childish with God.
What I mean by that is this.
Don't expect Daddy to do everything for you.
Get up and do it for yourself.
Don't be a lazy Christian, but rather an active, powerful Christian that is seizing what is his.

If you're a bodybuilder, seize those muscles.
Work out for it. Burn it and rip it, baby.

Dude, I mean, I mean, dude, man, rip it.

Rip those muscles. Burn those muscles. No pain, no gain. Amen.

And you have to work out consistently, hard and harder and heavier weights and heavier weights and heavier weights and so forth and be determined.

And the same with weight loss or winning a marathon or winning the Olympics or winning boxing or wrestling match or defeating the foe, your enemy, or seizing the kingdom.

You have to be consistent and powerful and seize it by force.

Jesus said in Luke 16, 16 and in Matthew that we read the very first verse that we read, to seize the kingdom, be relentless, force your way in, Matthew 11, 12. Amen.

Solomon agreed with this.

To whatever you find to do while you're alive, do it with all of your might. Amen.

And enjoy life.

Take what is yours so that you can enjoy life.

Take your life and your goals and the kingdom. Amen.

Most things are not going to be handed to us on a silver plate.

You've got to grab it.

Whether it's weight loss, muscle building, a job, or the kingdom, you have to step one foot in front of the other in order to obtain it.

It's not just going to come to us.

If you want a job, you've got to look for it. Amen.

And then keep it and work hard to keep it. Amen.

Even God's gifts and talents that he gives us or appoints to us must be exercised in order to increase it and use it effectively so that we can keep it.

He might call us to be a preacher or a senior or something or something or something, but unless we use it, we'll forget it, and it will fade away, and it will disappear.

Even the things that God gives us, our talents and our gifts, must be exercised, and we must increase it, and he expects and requires us to increase what he gives us and to use it effectively.

And if we don't, then we will be fruitless.

We'll be like a fruitless tree and like the man in Matthew 25 that had only one talent and didn't use it, and Jesus was angry with that man inside that analogy.

Even the gift of prophecy has to be perfected.

A prophet is not always perfect, especially when he first starts out.

It has to be exercised and perfected.

The gift of preaching has to be perfected.

No preacher is perfect when he starts out.

Even Paul said that when he first went to a particular congregation that he was shaking in his boots.

He was trembling. He was fearful.

No man or woman starts out perfectly.

Even the gift of preaching, even the gift of prophecy has to be perfected.

I wish people would understand that.

Even the gift of singing has to be perfected.

The gift of playing musical instruments has to be perfected.

The gift of languages has to be perfected.

Most people don't understand that either when you think about the gift from God.
The gift of languages has to be perfected.
Like body building and weight loss and good health, we have to use and exercise our spiritual gifts to make them strong in us.
We shouldn't need to be pushed by somebody else to obtain it.
We should want it bad enough ourselves to obtain it for ourselves.
We should want to be the best that we can be.

The army, is that the army? The navy? One of the military branches? Or maybe it's all of the military branches.
They have a logo or a saying, what do you call that?
Saying, be the best you can be. Be the best you can be.
We should be the best we can be for our savior, the captain of the guard.
Our military captain, Jesus Christ, our savior.
We just want to be the best for him. Don't we want to be the best for him and make him proud of us?
And for the kingdom.
A lot of people don't even think about that at all.
We need to think about this.
Being our best, not only for God and for ourselves, but for the kingdom.
For the kingdom.
Because the kingdom needs us. Our nation, our kingdom needs us.
We need to think about the kingdom.
The work of the kingdom and also we need to be the best that we can be for our families.
In this wicked, dark generation we need to be the best we can be for our families. Amen.
Men, daddies, husbands need to be the best they can be.
You're not going to be perfect and especially not, you're not going to be the prince in the fairy tale book.
But you can still be your real self.
The way God made you for real. Be what God wants you to be. Amen.

But if we get provoked to do good works by someone, our brother, our sister, our pastor.
Then that is still a good thing.
That someone loves us enough to tell us that we could do better and need to do better.
Thank God for that honest, bold friend, person, pastor, congregation member, whoever it is that says that dress is ugly.
Or that tells us that you've got some kind of problem you need to work on that's honest with us, loves us enough, curious enough about us to use a tough love language to say, hey, you need to work on this. Amen.
That's what we need more of, not less of.
This world is overflowing with the sugar coated, watered down, filtered gospel and preaching and religion. Amen.
And sugar coated friends.
That's not what we need.
We need a friend that will be bold and be honest with us.
And that will really and truly help us. We need friends to provoke us. Amen. To do good works as the Bible says.

Let's go to the book of Ephesians now. Ephesians 6.

Ephesians chapter 6. Verses 10 through 20.

Ephesians 6 verse 10.

Paul says to the church of Ephesus, he says, finally be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his knights.

Put on the full armor of Theos so that you will be able to stand. Amen.

We want to be able to stand in this spiritual warfare that we are in, in this world.

We can't do it by our own strength. Amen.

None of us are strong enough to do it within our own power.

But we still have to do something. Amen.

We still have to put on that armor of the Lord that He gives us. The talent that He gives us.

The equipment that He gives us. The tools He gives us.

We have to reach out, grab those clothes, and put them on appropriately in the right manner.

You can't just throw on armor. You have to put on armor right. Amen.

In the military they teach you how to shine your boots, how to make your bed, how to do everything, how to clean the gun and everything.

And you have to wear it the right way and how to use it.

And you have to exercise how to use a gun, how to use a knife, how to throw, how to fight.

All these things have to be learned and perfected.

At first, when we first come to Christ and we're first born again, we're babes in Christ. All of us.

And we have to learn these things and grow in these things.

And we have to learn how to put on the big boy's pants. Amen.

And put on the armor of the Lord so that eventually as we get closer to the Lord and as twain of His appearance comes closer and closer and as the magnitude of darkness and wickedness and spiritual warfare increases, that we still won't be babes.

We started out as babes, but by the end of our journey we better not still be babes because we will get crushed. Amen.

By the end of our journey, even by the middle of our journey, we better be strong and mature. Amen.

Put on the full armor of Theos so that you will be able to stand, read with me here, against the methods of the devil.

He has methods. He has a plan. He has techniques.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual wickedness in the universe or in the heavenly realm. Amen.

We wrestle spirits, even as Jacob wrestled God.

But not only do we wrestle God to get what we want and seize the kingdom by force like Jesus said, not only do we grab onto the hem or the hem of His garment and seize the kingdom by force and take what is ours, even our birthright, and fight the good fight, but we also fight evil spirits. Amen.

We wrestle spirits, not flesh and blood so much.

Many times you might think that you're fighting only a physical ailment or a physical trial, when really it's a spiritual issue, many, many times.

It's really a spiritual issue that has caused that physical ailment or that physical trial. Finances, the car, different things. The physical problem can be put upon you, your body, your car, your finances, whatever we're talking about.

The physical problem is real, but it's being drawn upon you by either God Himself or by the devil or by your own actions or your own thinking.

Science proves that negative thinking and stress causes physical sickness.

The sickness is real. It's not just your mind.

But science proves that the Bible is true, that the negative thinking and stress causes the physical sickness.

And that positive, vice versa, positive thinking, put in your mind upon positive things, the things that are praiseworthy, causes physical healing.

Praise the Lord.

A physical problem can be real in the physical realm yet be caused by or healed by spiritual or emotional reasons.

Even if not caused by the spiritual realm, even if it's not even connected with spiritual warfare, the correct emotional and spiritual actions can cause healing.

Science proves this. Even prayer improves your health. Science proves. Amen.

So even in this case or that case of where it's a physical thing, not spiritually connected, we're still wrestling spirits no matter what.

Because we still got to grab on to God and see the kingdom by force and use our emotions and our spiritual powers that God gives us, our spiritual gifts, our spiritual empowerment, to win the battle physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually in every aspect of life, whatever it may be.

Our hope is still in the Lord. And we have to put our minds upon positive things, the things that are praiseworthy. Amen.

Nobody's saying we have to ignore physical things and finances and so forth and so forth.

You have to deal with those things. That's life.

But how we deal with those things makes all the difference in the world. Amen.

Do we trust God? Do we believe that God will give us the answer when we ask? Do we have faith?

And after we pray for it, will we get up and take it for ourselves and not wait for Daddy to hand it to us on a silver platter? Amen.

We can say, Father, give me a job, give me a house, give me a girlfriend, whatever, but unless you go get it, it ain't going to be yours. Amen.

When we pray for it, what He does is He puts the answer, the solution in our past.

Here it is. Go get it. Grab it. Amen. He puts it in our past that we still have to go get it. Amen.

I've seen many times where God healed people. I've seen that many times.

But people did not take the initiative to grab onto it, to believe it and to claim it and to hold onto it.

If a pastor lays his hands on you and says, be healed, as the apostles did. Amen.

You should immediately grab onto it and accept it, embrace it and believe it without doubt.

And say, I'm healed. And grab onto it and don't let go of it. Do not drop it.

And the devil, I guarantee you, the devil or one of his agents or even your own mind will start knocking, start knocking and knocking really hard against your heart and mind saying, no, you're not really healed.

There will be doubts to come against you, temptations, trials, spiritual warfare to try to steal

your birthright, to try to steal your healing, your deliverance.

But you have to immediately seize it and hold fast, hold tight, very tight onto it and not let it go. Amen.

And fight the devil back and say, oh yeah, I am healed. Shut your mouth, devil. Amen.

I am healed. I am safe. I am delivered, whatever it is. Amen.

Like I said, I've seen a lot of people healed. But most of them, they never raise their hand and say praise the Lord when it happens.

Hey, if God just healed you, why would you not shout? Why would you not leap and jump as the man did in the Bible when he was healed?

And he leaped all the way and shouting and praising the Lord as he entered into the temple and everybody around him saw what you found out what happened because of his excitement.

But people today say, oh, I'm healed. Okay, thank you. Goodbye.

And then they're sick again the next day. Why?

Because they didn't believe. If they really believed, they would have shouted. Amen.

If they really believed that they were healed, they would have been shouting and praising the Lord and weeping. Amen.

Because that's what it means to believe. Amen.

That's why we don't see the miracles. It's because people are not energetic for the Lord.

They're not hot on fire for the Lord.

And they're not faithful and believable. Amen.

And notice here, we're supposed to put on an armor. What does that mean? It means we are an army. It's not Halloween. Amen.

We're not dressing up for a costume party. If we're putting on an armor, a breastplate is not to look good, or a costume party, we're putting on an armor because we're in a fight and we're in the military.

We are in the army of the Lord. And He wants us to fight. Amen.

And why would He want us to fight if all we got to do is believe it away or pray it away? You don't have to put on an armor to pray. Amen.

You don't have to put on any spiritual clothing to pray. But He wants us to fight. Both defensively and offensively, He wants us to fight.

What good is an army that fights only defensively, only when they are attacked? An army is only good if they would go and fight the enemy at the right time, at the right place, according to right and true and good military strategy.

And according to the elders and leaders of that military that knows what they're doing, that's being in it long enough that they know what they're doing. Amen.

And an army works hard and trains hard. Amen. A military unit, they work hard and train hard.

They will suffer physical injury in their training, in the effort to get what they want and need. Amen.

This army of the Lord that we're in needs to get much stronger before the great tribulation because we ain't seen nothing yet. Amen. We ain't seen nothing yet.

If we cannot simply walk with the horses, how are we going to run with the horses? We've got to get much stronger before the great tribulation battle comes. Amen.

Let's go one more passage then we're close. Let's go to 1 Corinthians 9. 1 Corinthians 9 verse 24.

1 Corinthians 9 verse 24. And we'll go down through the end of that chapter.

1 Corinthians 9 verse 24. Do you not know that those who run in a race all run but only one receives the prize? Both Shorty and Dan in that song I played, Run Across Shorty.

They were both running but only one can win. Amen. Only one receives the prize. Run in such a way that you may win. Whatever it takes. Do it in a way that you will win.

Everyone who competes in the games, he's using the analogy of the Olympics. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things.

They then do it to receive a perishable wreath. But we, an imperishable, an imperishable wreath, an imperishable crown. We don't run this race to receive physical money, physical reward so much.

But rather primarily the spiritual rewards. Spiritual blessings, greater understanding, more truth, the deeper things of God. Amen.

And our rewards of the kingdom in the millennium, in the hundred years after that, and in paradise after that. Those things of the future is our reward.

Verse 26, Therefore I run in such a way as not without aim. I box, I fight, I wrestle, I hit, I punch, I box in such a way as not being the air, thin air, nothing.

I'm not just boxing, moving my hands in thin air as if I'm not hitting anything, but rather I'm doing it strategically with thought, with practice, with exercise, the right way, the right time.

Hitting, not being air, but on target, not missing the target, which is the definition of sin.

Definition of sin is missing the target of what you are reaching for, as well as the definition of transgression, God's law. Those are the two definitions.

So you are not aiming, boxing, fighting, wrestling in a way that won't win. You have to hit the enemy in order to win a fight.

You might say, but God said bless my enemies and curse them not and turn the other cheek. But then there's the other verses that say I box not to hit, thin air. How are you going to box and win the boxing match if you don't hit and punch and knock down the enemy? Amen.

You've got to look at all the verses, not just the ones you want to look at. Not just the ones that the Babylonian preachers have always taught you and ignored the other ones. Amen.

Blessing the enemy is if I saw my enemy out there walking in a pouring down rainstorm, that I might pick him up, maybe pick him up and say let me give you a ride. But that doesn't mean I'm going to keep hanging out with him. I just give him a ride to get him out of the rain, that's all.

If he's hungry, I'll feed him. Amen. But I'm not going to hang out with my enemy and make friends with my enemy. In that way I bless him.

But if he comes to my house attacking me, or if he gets on the internet attacking the truth or attacking God, he can expect a knock on the door from me. Or a rock through his window at night. Or a good punch in the face, which is what he really deserves.

He should be afraid of me. Amen. Because I'm not your typical pastor. Praise the Lord.

Sometimes we have to fight. There's an old country song by Kenny Rogers. Is it The Gambler, or what's the name of that song, Brittany, where he says that when you're a man, you don't have to fight to be a man. You don't have to fight to be a man.

The Card of the Counting by Kenny Rogers. Good song. You don't have to fight to be a man.

It's what the daddy always taught his son. The son is singing the song and saying, you know, you taught me this dad and everything, but they came and attacked and raped my woman.

So he went in there, into the saloon, and saw one man against several, and he went in there

and punched those faces and knocked them all to the ground and won the fight. And then he comes back to the song and he says, Dad, I know I don't have to fight to be a man, but sometimes I do. Sometimes a man has to fight. Amen.

That's life. That's reality. That's not living in a fantasy land. Most religion is in a fantasy land, but there's no life.

And Ecclesiastes tells us, that while we are alive, that we are to enjoy the time with our wife and to do whatever we find with our hands, to do in this life, to do it with all of our minds.

Amen. We better not let the enemy take our church. We better not let the enemy take our community, our neighborhoods, our home, our wife, our children.

But that's why society is the way it is today in the schools, the government, our neighborhoods, our children, boys, girls, men, women, children, everybody.

The way the world is today is because Christians, so-called Christians, did not fight. They allowed the abortion clinics to come into their neighborhood.

They allowed the mosque to be built in their neighborhood. But if every so-called Christian that said, hey, I'm saved, would have stood in the middle of the road and laid down in the middle of the road or whatever it took, or chained themselves to the fence if they had done it, every one of them, day after day, get out of jail, go right back out there.

Get out of jail, go right back out there. Get out of jail again, get right back out there, and block the construction of the mosque and the abortion clinic, then our neighborhoods and our children and our schools would not be, and our government would not be in the condition that it is in today.

People laid down and took it from the devil. Amen. They didn't lay down in the streets to block the construction of those evil temples of the devil, but rather they laid down at home praying and didn't get up and fight. Amen. Wimps that did not defend the women and the children.

The schools and the government and the neighborhood. They have no right to the name of Christian. Amen.

I understand that now that all that is done, there's not much we can do, but there are at times, if we fight strategically at the right time at the right moment, we might can knock out one more enemy, if we will get up and fight. And that enemy for you might be a local store, a local church, a local pastor.

It might be something in your head, in your mind, in your body, in your finances. Different things for different people.

But, we as the army of the Lord need to start fighting aggressively to get what is ours, what we need, what we want from the Lord, what God appointed to us, what belongs to us. Amen.

That doesn't mean we can save America. We have to be in reality, not fantasy land.

It is too far gone to completely save all of America, but we can win the fight in our own house if men would step up and be men.

And if women would fulfill their proper role. Amen.

If everybody would fulfill their role of what God has appointed for you, your calling, your duty, and fulfill your ministry, and fulfill your duty, then you will win the fight. You will lose some, absolutely you will lose some.

And you will walk away with injuries and battle scars, praise the Lord. Every man needs a battle scar.

Every warrior of God needs a battle scar, because it makes you tougher in the long run.

And we need to be tougher, not weaker. We need to be tougher as a church, as a

congregation.

We don't need watered down preaching, watered down, sugar coated preaching.

But that's why people don't listen, and don't come, and don't get baptized, and that's okay.

Because that's what the world wants, is sugar coated preaching, and I am not going to give that to you, or to anyone, because that's not what we need.

They can find it somewhere else, if that's what they want.

But that's not what we need, and that's not what God is going to give you in this ministry.

He is not going to give you sugar coated, watered down, compromised preaching. Amen.

So if you want to be all that you can be, and be in God's army, then get in here and get in here all the way with the Lord.

Seek God about whether you should be baptized again or not.

Seek God about what you need to do, and how to do it, and then do it.

And stop just praying about it. Of course you've got to pray about it, but then you've got to get up and do it, and take what God has given you, and claim it, and walk with it, and run with it, and fight daily.

And it is a fight. I fight. I tell you, I fight. I have to fight. And you do too.

And the very fact that God has brought you into this ministry, brings you into a greater fight.

Because the angels are watching, and are very interested in what's going on.

The Bible says this. Both good and bad angels are watching.

And you have to fight harder in this ministry than you would in a different ministry, I promise you.

Because I would not accept anything less than full perfection and completion in God's soldiers.

I would not accept anything less, and neither will the Captain of Hosts, Jesus Christ, accept anything less than full completion of this course.

You will come out of here dead or alive.

And I may have to drag you screaming, and I may even have to take a broom and see if I can push you away.

You will be tried. You will be tested. But those that endure unto the end shall be saved.

And those people who are relentless and will seize the kingdom by force will not be pushed away, but will die daily, repent daily, and grow daily. Amen.

And those that are relentless and will seize the kingdom by force will say, Pastor Tim, the godly correction you have given me in bold truth is right and true and correct, and I am guilty of this.

I confess it, and I repent, and then get up and do better, and make it more than just words that will actually do better. Amen.

We all need to be able to receive correction, and when I correct you, it's not going to always be like I would correct a little child, because you're not a child.

I don't talk to people like you're children. I talk to you like you are a grown adult that can handle a firm voice.

That can handle, if you are in this war, if you are in this fight, if you are in this ministry, if you are in this kingdom, then you should be a soldier, a warrior that can handle a firm, bold voice and hard, distilling training, because that is what all of us need, is some tough love, because this war that is coming is going to be fierce.

We're already in the midst of a fierce fight, the fight of our lives. I tell you, I have never felt

harder in my life in years of what I am fighting right now.

I tell you the God's honest truth. What I'm going through right now is the fiercest, hardest fight I've had in a long time.

The devil is raging. But I'm not going to get weaker. I'm going to get stronger.

And that because the devil is trying to destroy me, that I am going to fight harder and stronger.

It's not time for anybody to give up or to shrink back down.

But it's time for everyone to fight and fight harder than you ever have before, because the devil is not coming after only me, but after the entire truth.

And every one of us have to do our part, the best that we can do with all of our might, with all of our strength, with all of our effort, because it is a serious result if we don't.

I am calling for every one of you. I am charging every one of you to fulfill your callings, to seize the opportunities, to testify, to sing, to preach, to prophesy, to do whatever it is that God has called you to do.

Do it and do it now. Take your place upon the wall. It is time to fight. Amen.

Let us not fight as one boxing thin air.

Let's go back here to verse 24 again.

1 Corinthians 9 verse 24.

Never close the Bible until it is all done and complete.

Verse 24. Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize. Run in such a way that you may win.

Because just because you're in the race doesn't mean you're going to win.

And not everybody will get a prize even if you are running the race.

Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things.

They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we are in perishable. Therefore I run in such a way as not without aim.

I box in such a way as not beating the air, but I discipline my body and make it my slave.

I make my body my slave.

If I'm exercising, body building, I'm going to tell my body, hey you might be tired, you might not feel like it, you might not feel like walking, you may not feel like training, you may not feel like lifting those weights, but you're going to do it if I want results.

If I want bigger muscles, if I want greater strength, then I have to be dedicated to doing that.

If I want to lose weight, then I have to be dedicated to walking or whatever the exercises that I need to do. If I want to be in better health, then I have to eat better food and exercise and have the right mind frame if I want better health and trust in the Lord and so forth.

Many other examples. Whatever we're going for, whatever we are going for, we have to fight for it and seize it. These are not true only in the physical realm, but in the spiritual realm.

And I make my body my slave is mind over matter, mind over body, so that after I have preached to others that I myself will not be disqualified. Amen.

And that's true not only for me as the preacher, but for you as the testifier, as the person that would go out and give the testimonies and the witness and the sharing and witness to your families, your friends, your coworkers, other people that you have to bring not only your body but your mind, your spirit, your soul, your entire being inside out that you may have a made up mind that you're going to serve the Lord, obey the Lord, and fulfill your call and your duty of whatever God has appointed you to do and do it with all of your might.

Work while it is still a day because great tribulation is coming when you won't be able to do very much out there about helping people. When you are just trying to survive in the great tribulation, you're just trying to eat and live through another day.

Now is the time that we can be prosperous in so many things, so many, many, many things, many opportunities, great opportunities, limitless opportunities if we will do what we're supposed to do right now in this day and this time that we have.

Do everything possible to end. Amen.

So that we will not be disqualified, that we ourselves will bear fruit. Amen.

I am calling for everyone to print out the flyers more than you ever have in your life.

If you've been with this ministry three years, four years, five years, or one month, whatever it is, print out more of the flyers from the website, more than you ever have before, even if it is your last dollar to do so.

Trust me on this. Even if the woman did trust Elijah or Elisha, whoever it was, that said, feed me your very last piece of bread.

And yet God blessed it and they had food for a long time. Print out more flyers than you ever have before and distribute those. Don't just let them lay on your desk, distribute those.

Coming up close to Halloween, we just came out with a brand new mini gospel track against Halloween. This is the perfect time to start getting those out. To get all of those out before Halloween, don't wait until the last day. Do not be lazy about it. Don't cut it off.

And we can also start putting out Christmas flyers right now too, in addition to the Halloween ones. Because if you wait until the last moment, if you wait until December, that's too late.

Because by December, by the time December gets here, everybody is so overwhelmed with the demon of the Christmas spirits that it's hopeless. You cannot hardly reach somebody in December about Christmas because the demon spirits already overtaken their focus, their mind, and their attention about Christmas.

And they will not hear the word of God. So we have to reach the people about Halloween and Christmas right now.

And then Strong Delusion could be March 8th, March 9th. We have to wait and see. I don't know. Strong Delusion could be as early as March 8th, March 9th.

And we have to be ready. It would be more wise and more prudent to believe that it's very possible and be ready for that possibility rather than saying, oh, it ain't gonna happen. It ain't gonna happen again this year, again this year. It ain't gonna happen.

But that mind frame, it could come upon you by surprise, as Jesus said. Amen.

That if you're watching and alert and thinking that, hey, look at all the signs. All the signs point to a very real strong possibility that it could be this next term that we have this Strong Delusion of 2001 is to be ready for it.

That's only six months. Six months is nothing, nothing at all. It's a drop in the bucket of how much time we really could use to witness to people, talk to people, get these flyers out there about the Strong Delusion, Christmas, Easter, talk to people about the different doctrines, even though they will not believe.

I know they're not gonna believe. I know this. I'm in reality. I know that your family will not believe. So why do I do it? And I just said you shouldn't think negative. Well, but we have to be in reality. We have to be in reality.

And we're putting out these seeds, sowing the seeds of the Word of God, just looking for, sowing it out there so that if there be a gatherer, if there be a gleamer of truth, if there be a

person that is coming along on the edge of the field that just might pick up one and say, huh, huh, this is a sign from the Lord.

This is what I've been praying about. This is what I've been fast about. This is what I've been speaking. That one person, that one person, that's all that matters is that one more person, then all the work will be worth it.

One more person saved, one more person to join us in the fight, one more brother, one more sister would be wonderful, be awesome, be a great victory, one person, angels seen over one person who comes into the kingdom, the Bible says. Amen. Praise the Lord.

And that's reality. We have to face reality. But that one person, one of these days is going to be many, many more, many more, many more people are going to come into the truth in those last 30 days after the strong delusion.

And that next 30 days after that, after they start seeing the nuclear mushroom clouds over San Diego, over Washington, D.C., over Georgia, Florida, Texas, see those nuclear mushroom clouds from the Chinese Russian invasion of America.

Oh people will finally wake up. Oh yeah, they're going to have a wake up call. Oh yeah, we're going to have a wake up call. Then they won't be saying, oh Pastor Tim doesn't know what he's talking about, he's crazy, he's insane.

They won't be saying that no more. They're going to be wishing they would have listened to me. Amen.

They're going to be wishing that they would have heeded the word of God that God gave me. Amen.

Praise the Lord. Amen. One of these days, and it won't be long, it won't be long, let's put our minds on that great harvest that is coming.

The Bible promises us a great multitude of people who cannot even be numbered that will be sealed in the blood of Jesus, not only the 144,000, but the innumerable multitude. Amen.

The innumerable multitude. Oh praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. Amen. Praise God. I'm so excited.

Let's leave out on this positive note, put your mind on the victory. Put your mind on the positive things. We're going to have brothers and sisters.

We're going to have brothers and sisters during that tribulation. It may not be on day one, but sooner or later, we are going to have a great multitude of brothers and sisters.

That we have to be there with them and fight and teach them and be a witness to them.

And give them those new babes in Christ our testimony of how we've lived for Christ for years and we have still endured and they can do this during that great tribulation.

We are going to need our testimony of our trials and tribulations. We can't give that testimony if we don't pass the test. Amen.

We have to pass the test and we have to do everything we can, even if we have to cheat to pass the test, we have got to pass the test. Amen.

I am passing this test. Are you passing this test, brother? Huh? Are you going to pass the test?

Where is it? Where is it? What about you, Brittnei? Are you going to pass the test? Come on now. Yes.

And there ain't no hope about it. I am passing this test. Get out of my way. Get out of my way. I am passing this test. Amen.

Is that what you're going to say on that one, Brittnei? Get out of my way. I've got a run, a race to run.

You've got to start saying it. Like that woman, press your way through the crowd. That's the only way you're going to win it. The only way. Isn't that right?

Don't be bashful. Push people out of the way. Knock them to the ground if they're standing in your way.

Hey, this is a hard word, but so easy. So easy. If you want it bad enough, you'll do it. Like a drug addict, I'm addicted to the kingdom of God.

I want it. I want it bad enough. Amen. You want it bad enough? Are you addicted to the kingdom of God that you can't do without?

Are you addicted to the Holy Ghost that you can't do without it? And you need more of it? You need more juice? You want more? Then grab it. Amen.

In the name of Jesus, God bless you, brother. God bless you, sister. God bless us all.

What was that song? Working on a Building.

Oh, Working on a Building. Thank you. Working on a Building.

Oh, there is another one too.

What's the other one?

Oh, Work a Little Hard. Pray a Little Harder. Let me see if I can find that one too.

Look at the people listening. Praise the Lord.

Let's see. Work a Little Harder. Pray a Little Harder.

I hope I've got that on here.

I don't think I've got that in that list.

I'm talking about audio.

Oh, you've got audio on your computer.

If anybody wants a free gospel music CD, let me know. I'll send you the old-fashioned gospel music CD that we play before services all the time.

Just contact me through the ministry website at isawthelightministries.com.

I can't find the Pray Harder song, but I will play right now, Working on a Building.

"I'm working on a building for my Lord, for my Lord.

It's a Holy Ghost building. It's a Holy Ghost building.

It's a Holy Ghost building for my Lord, for my Lord.

If I was a gambler, I'd tell you what I would do.

I'd quit my gambling and I'd work on the building noo.

I'm working on a building. I'm working on a building.

I'm working on a building for my Lord, for my Lord.

It's a holy ghost building. It's a holy ghost building.

It's a holy ghost building for my Lord, for my Lord.

If I was a preacher, I'd tell you what I would do.

I'd keep on preaching and I'd work on the building too.

I'm working on the building. I'm working on the building.
I'm working on the building for my Lord, for my Lord.
It's a holy ghost building. It's a holy ghost building.
It's a holy ghost building for my Lord, for my Lord."

(next song: Pray a Little Harder)

While I'm on that glory road, that leads to my new home, many trials I have faced,
But the lives of the city now lie before me.
I am nearing the end of the race.
I think I'll walk a little farther, pray a little harder.
I can't stop until the battle's won.
I believe I'll climb another mountain, cross another river,
my race is almost won.

So often on this journey, my feet have grown weary, having seen an impossible dream.
But I know if I keep going, and to His hand keep holding, one day soon it's gonna be reality.

I think I'll walk a little farther, pray a little harder, I can't stop until the battle's won.
I believe I'll climb another mountain, cross another river, my race is almost won.

When the burden gets so heavy, I cannot carry,
and the load, it brings me to my knees.
When all my strength is gone, I'm standing all alone,
I can hear my Savior speak to me.

Why don't you walk a little farther, pray a little harder, you can't stop until the battle's won.
Why don't you climb another mountain, cross another river, your race is almost won.

I think I'll walk a little farther, pray a little harder, I can't stop until the battle's won.
I believe I'll climb another mountain, cross another river, my race is almost won.
My race is almost won.

I'm going to win this race. Yes.

Lord, praise Jesus, praise your holy name, Father, for what you have done.

In the name of Jesus, praise your holy name.

Praise God in the name of Jesus Christ.

Praise the name of Jesus, praise God. Praise Jesus.

I ask you, Lord Father, to strengthen our sister Brittnei, Lord, praise your holy name, Father,
please strengthen her spiritually, physically, emotionally, in the name of Jesus.

Bless her and anoint her and fill her up, Lord, with the Holy Ghost in Jesus' holy name.

Please, Lord, help her to fill your presence, strengthen her voice, strengthen her mind,
strengthen your breath of life in her, Lord.

Please touch her, Lord, flow through her belly, Lord, through her throat, Lord, and open up
her throat, Lord, Father, and touch her, Lord.

We ask in Jesus' holy name, we believe, Lord, in your power, we believe in your breath, we
believe in your strength, Lord.

We believe in the breath of life that created us and gave us breath, gave us life, gave us strength that bore us out of our mother's womb.

Praise the name of Jesus.

Praise you, Heavenly Father, who worshiped you and praised you, Lord.

Thank you, Lord, for what you have done, forgiven us the breath of life, forgiven us life and not death, and for your plans for us, to prosper us, and to help us, and not to hurt us, but to prosper us.

Praise you, holy man, that you're faithful and good to us, and you have seen us through so many storms, through so many trials, through so much sickness, through so much persecution, through so much trial and battle.

You have always been faithful. You have never let us down.

You are faithful is your name, the name, amen. You said, I am the amen. That means I am faithful.

You said it yourself with your own words, and you are true and you are faithful.

Even the book is signed that you are faithful, that you are the amen.

That you signed your Bible and said that you are faithful and that it will be fulfilled as it was spoken through your prophets.

Praise your holy name that we're going to see with our eyes our salvation and our Lord and our Savior coming to the skies.

We will touch you and heal you and go praise the Lord. Praise your holy presence, Lord.

Praise your holy presence, Lord.

You are welcome in this place. You are welcome in our minds. You are welcome in our hearts.

We are yours. We are your people. We are your kingdom. We are your warriors, Lord.

Strengthen us in your might, Lord. Strengthen our hands. Strengthen our tongues. Strengthen our feet. Strengthen our hearts and our lungs.

That we may praise you louder and harder in the name of Jesus.

Let us not be hindered by our bodies. Let us not be hindered by people or shame or fear or the past.

But to move forward and put one step in front of the other and to work harder than we ever have before.

Help us, Lord, to reach out and to seize and to take what you have given us, what you have appointed us.

Help us, Lord, to reach out and to seize the cross and to carry the cross farther and harder and better than we ever have before.

Help us to walk down the highways carrying the cross. Help us to talk to our voter and stronger.

Help us to witness to people and not be afraid of what they say.

Help us to talk to our moms and dads and brothers and sisters and neighbors and not be afraid of what they're going to say or if we're going to lose them or not.

Because the flesh does not matter. It is the spirit that matters. It is the breath of life that you gave us.

You knew us before we was born. Praise you, Holy Name. We are your flesh. We are your spirit. We are your hands.

We are your feet. We are your breath. We are your presence in this earth. We are the body of

Christ called to heal, called to fight, called to win in the name of Jesus.

We are victorious. We are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus. We are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus.

You are more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus. Praise the Lord. Say, I accept. I accept in Jesus' name.

I accept in Jesus' name. Now say it louder. I accept.

I accept in Jesus' name.

I accept in Jesus' name. Say it louder.

I accept in Jesus' name. Amen. Say it again. One more time.

I accept in Jesus' name. Amen. Praise the Lord. Now walk forth here today as more than a conqueror. That means you win and you will fight and you will continue to fight.

Walk here today changed. Walk from this room today, not the same as you walked in, but changed and empowered from on high in the name of Jesus Christ.

Walk in the path that God has set before you in the name of Jesus. Walk in the path that Christ has set before you in the name of Jesus. Amen. In the name of Jesus take my hand.

Walk the path that Christ has set before you in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Move this chair, Robert. Move it all in the hallways.

Now walk this path here that Christ has set before you and do not depart from you.

Seek the old path in the name of Jesus.

And I say seek the old path and walk therein.

That's the ways of the Lord, not the ways of the devil, not in the ways of deceit, not in the ways of grief and despair and the way people treat it your own, but rather walk in the path of the Lord. The path of the Lord, you understand?

In the name of Jesus. In the name of Jesus. In the name of Jesus. Amen. Amen.

In the name of Jesus. In the name of Jesus. In the name of Jesus.

In the name of Jesus.

Praise the Lord. Okay. Praise the Lord.

Okay, take her hand right here and help her go back to her seat there. Praise the Lord.

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for what you have done here today.

Thank you, Father, for your moving and your instruction and your guidance and your direction.

We trust, Lord, that what has been accomplished today will not be erased by the enemy.

We claim victory in the name of Jesus.

We claim the blood of Jesus.

We plead the blood of Jesus over every member of this ministry, over every member of this congregation, over every person that has listened to this sermon.

We plead the blood of Jesus. We claim the Holy Ghost.

We claim the breath of life.

And we claim victory in the name of Jesus.

So be it. It is done. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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