

Fren-02 Born From Above

by Art Katz

Art Katz emphasizes the necessity of spiritual birthing and travail in prayer for the restoration of Israel and the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan.

Duration: 1:17:00

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, John 3:3, Romans 1:16, Romans 10:17, Romans 11:11, Romans 11:25, 1 Corinthians 1:18

Topics: "Born Again"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the need to overcome resistance and fear in order to experience a transformation. They believe that something significant has happened in heaven, and it will be evident to others as well. The speaker mentions the importance of favoring Zion and the fulfillment of the Gentiles, leading to the deliverance of Israel from their transgressions. They also highlight the upcoming astonishing event at the end of the age, which is seen as God's final act of grace towards the nations. The sermon encourages listeners to be prepared and willing to labor and exert themselves for God's purposes.

Transcript

Let's pray for the Word. Thank you, Lord, precious God. Come and bare your heart to us.

And close us in with yourself. Lord, take this occasion and use it. Bring something down from heaven that shall be consequential both in time and eternity.

By your Great Spirit, send your perfectly appointed Word. Open our hearts to receive it and to be changed unto your glory. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen. From the beginning of these days of travel, the theme of birthing has been expressed. That God is wanting to birth some things in the earth.

That requires a whole other mentality to understand. We are too much the products of a technological age. There are things that happen but they are humanly arranged.

But the idea of birthing is another mentality. And it's God's. And we need to rise in faith to share it.

Not only that we should appreciate the birthing process of God, but also that we should be participants in it. And this will exceed everything that we formerly understood by church. So I'm walking in these days and tonight with great carefulness, feeling something like the one who assists in the birth.

And I'd like my sister to read from Isaiah 66. You may read with her. Isaiah 66.

Verse 7 through 9. Verse 7 through 9. I'm sighing already and groaning for this birthing. I'm sighing? Sighing. I'm sighing already and groaning for this birthing.

I'm sighing? Sighing. I'm not speaking about the political entity which already exists, but a nation spiritually restored to God. It's remarkable how absent this is from the consciousness of the church.

We had the opportunity on the other night to see photographs of the Cathedral of Strasbourg. And there were the famous statues which are to be seen in many of the Gothic and Renaissance churches of Europe. The defeated synagogue.

Broken and finished. with a blindfold on one side of the portal, and on the other side the triumphant church. And that has characterized the thinking of the church through the centuries.

That the Israel, God's original people, are finished, they've had their opportunity. And all of God's promises for them are now subsumed in the church itself. It's called Christian triumphalism, and it's exactly the thing against which Paul warned us.

He said, brethren, I would not have you ignorant of the mystery, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. This is in the book of Romans in the 11th chapter, verse 25. And then he says, and so all Israel shall be saved as it is written.

For the Deliverer will come out of Zion and will turn away ungodliness from Jacob. It's interesting that in the Septuagint portion of the Bible, do you know what that is? The Septuagint, it was the Greek edition of the Hebrew scriptures. Translated by 70 elders of Israel in Alexandria, Egypt, before the time of Christ, already to provide for Jews who were in dispersion the Bible in the Greek language.

It's interesting to see the variance between that edition and the scriptures that have been edited and formed after the advent of Christ. There is a conscious effort to avoid the Christological meaning of some of the prophetic scriptures. But in this first edition, they have no hesitation.

And so it says in the Septuagint, we read the Deliverer will come out of Zion. That's what you have in your French Bible? The Deliverer will come out of Zion? In the Septuagint it says the Deliverer will come for Zion's sake. And this is much more in keeping with the scriptures that we just read in Isaiah.

As soon as Zion travailed, a nation came forth. Before she travailed, she gave birth. As you have that in French.

So there's an interesting mystery here. This clearly refers to God bringing back an entire nation quickly, in a day. For Zion's sake, a nation shall be born.

Paul says, what shall it be but life from the dead? Because that restored nation shall be the key to all nations. And it's more than I can explain in a single night. Perhaps we'll have a further opportunity Thursday.

But this is deeply in my heart now as I'm traveling through all these countries. That the time has come to favor Zion. This mystery is about to break forth in fact.

The fullness of the Gentiles is coming in. And then the Deliverer will come for Zion's sake. And turn Israel from her transgressions and from her sins.

It's going to be the most astonishing event at the end of the age. It's God's final act of grace toward the nations. For he says, I will do this in the sight of all nations.

And which nation does not know the lamentable and melancholy history of Israel? Sad. Which nation in the world does not know Israel's sad history? They've all had the opportunity to see the failure of modern Israel. Which was born with such expectancy and hope in 1948.

After all of our thousands of years in exile. Now at last we would have our own Jewish state. And exhibit to the world what distinctively it means to be Jewish.

That highly esteemed ethical and moral quality that we Jews have loved through the centuries. Contrary to the character of Gentile nations. Who have given themselves to the use of power and violence and corruption.

This Jewish state would be a demonstration of another kind. But it has not proved to be. In fact, ironically, Israel has acted so much like the nations.

In fact, if she has any special ability. Even if she has special abilities. It is to make even worse than the other nations.

Everything that concerns the techniques of war and all the techniques of the modern world. For God to restore this nation. The teeth of God do not exist without repentance.

For the gifts and callings of God are irrevocable. Which call is he talking about? You will be a nation of priests. And a light to the world.

And God will accomplish that. Despite this nation that in our modern time has contradicted this call. And he will do it very soon.

He said that all Israel will be saved. A nation will be born in one day. And it is not a rhetorical sentence, a piece of poetry.

It is something that is said literally, how it will really happen. And God himself will give it meaning. Why should that surprise us? It is in fact the way in which our faith was conceived at the beginning.

It was born through a virgin. God chose a foolish and frail instrument. Who said, let it be unto me according to thy word.

And the Spirit came in. And something was conceived. That came forth as the Messiah, the Holy One of Israel.

Our faith was birthed. And if you really have an eye to see. Every great thing that has happened for us personally and as the church has always been through birthings.

Our own conversion. Came by the hearing of the word. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

Paul says of the same Jewish people. How shall they call on him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear except one preach? And how shall one preach except he be sent? For as the scripture says, faith comes by hearing. And hearing by the word of God.

That does not mean that they receive information about salvation. The gospel is not a technical formula on how to be saved. It is a power.

Of which Paul said, I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the power of God unto salvation. To everyone who believes.

The Jew first. And also the Gentile. This is a mystery.

Now many of you need to be reminded perhaps. I am more familiar with this mystery than you. Because I have stood outside Freiburg University or Tübingen or Aarhus in Denmark or Yale or Harvard in America.

And I have preached the foolishness of the gospel. Paul says it pleased God through the foolishness of preaching to save them that will believe. It is a mysterious phenomenon.

A very peculiar message. That does not commend itself to human understanding and to sophisticated acceptance. It has to do with blood and atonement.

Blood and atonement. Redemption. There is nothing to commend it to human intellect.

It is a piece of pure foolishness. And you will never know it until you are required to preach it. Before sophisticated hearers.

You may be embarrassed by the message. But Paul did not. Because it itself is the power of God.

To conceive something that was not before. To birth and to bring into being. An actual new life.

Birth from above. Born of God by the Spirit. You must be born again, Jesus said.

That which is from the earth is earthly. And that which is from heaven is heavenly. And it must come down from above.

There is a must. Not only the initial salvation. But every subsequent heavenly thing.

Including tonight. Oh brother, you exaggerate. We have heard your tapes.

We have read your books. You have a special ability. You have no special ability.

This is nothing for you. Just a handful of souls. What is it to put together a message? Use a few scriptures.

You have a flair. Charm. Ability.

Not so. I am much more jealous for this night than you are. For you this may be novelty.

For me, it is the issue of life or death. Of something of enormous consequence. That perhaps has never before been in French speaking Switzerland.

We had an intensive time of prayer in our apartment tonight before we came here. We were groaning and weeping before God. That something was going to break in to this French speaking Switzerland.

Not just to delight the heart of God who has waited so long until now. But to terrify the principalities and powers of the air. That have ruled over this area without let or hindrance since the beginning of time.

I am praying for a birth again. I am believing for a birth again. Through the word of God.

By the Spirit. It can never come in any other way. Please, if you let her translate fully.

You are not translating for me? Yes, but you can't hear. Your voice is too much loud. You are not translating for me? You touched me.

If I am not giving you enough time. You need to finish the statements. I try already to go quite quick.

Thank you. What needs to be birth before Israel itself is birth. Is a Zion of God.

Even here. And in every locality. Where earnest saints come together.

Who will constitute true church. Having authority with God. And who can pray in such a quality of faith as to affect this thing for which God is waiting.

But this is an ultimate kind of prayer. This is beyond respectable prayer. Polite prayer.

Religious obligation. We should do this. We love Israel.

And this will glorify God. But it's going to take much more than that. The word that God uses is travail.

The very moment that Zion travail. In that moment. A nation was born at once.

She gave birth to her children it says. And yet later on as we read. The child is Jerusalem itself.

And the one who birthed her rejoices for her. The one who gives birth? Yes. No it says before she mourned for her.

Verse 10. Rejoice with joy for her all you who mourn for her. Do you have? I should have kept it.

Rejoice with joy for her all you who mourn for her. No it's verse 10. Rejoice with joy for her all you who mourn for her.

In this way you will receive the consolations that she gives you. Like the nourishments that her mother gave you. That you may be with her forever.

This is not the word I was looking for. What had been the object of mourning. Mourning to mourn.

To be sad, sorrowful. Now becomes the cause for rejoicing. Not only for rejoicing but for a source of comfort.

This is full of strange contradictions. This that becomes newly birthed. Comforts the one who birthed it.

It comes forth fully formed. It's not an infant that's birthed. But a nation comes forth in a day.

A nation that is a nation of priests. And a light unto the world. For whom Zion has travailed.

Because she mourned. So I ask you tonight. Are you the Zion of God in Neuchatel? Are you mourning for the present condition of Jerusalem? The unhealthy condition of God's people this round.

Called to be a nation of priests. But have given the world Karl Marx. But have given the world Karl Marx.

Freud. It's perversion. It's violence.

Revolution. And every anti-Christ movement in our era. Has Jews behind it.

Of a proportion that is much larger than in the normal population. God says to the Jews. You blasphemed my name in all the nations where I sent you.

How much greater then will his name be glorified in Zion. And when he restores such a people. In a day.

It's clearly the work of God. Something that comes abruptly. And God says.

I do this before the face of all nations. And his mercy. Because he will have mercy upon whom he will have mercy.

Then will his judgment come. I'm trying to speak so simply. And give you the basic outline of God's redemptive intention for the earth.

His final strategy for the nations. Where the church itself has failed to be his witness. It was never God's intention that the church was going to save nations.

But that the church itself would be a people for his name from among all nations. For whom does God reserve the task of the nations themselves. To Israel.

As his first restored nation. There's nothing else more calculated to glorify God. Than this dealing with his Jewish people.

Therefore we need to rejoice. This is beyond the issue of sentiment. Or our personal delight in Israel.

Or the Jewish mystique. The real issue is the glory of God. Whose name has been blasphemed in all nations.

And yet at the end of the age. At which hour we stand. God is going to bring forth this remarkable event.

Have you the faith to believe for it? Are you familiar with the God who breathes? And yet he has limited himself. Waiting for one thing. And here's where we come in.

The moment that Zion prevails. I have a question for you tonight. Are you a casual collection of charismatic saints? Or the Zion of God.

The church within the church. There's something that God respects about this Zion. That is so dear in his sight.

He calls it the daughter of Zion. There are references in scripture. In a mysterious way to this Zion of God.

There are references in scripture. In a mysterious way to this Zion of God. Call a daughter.

The moment that she prevails. So this morning I looked up the word prevail. Because it is the key word.

And it is a way of understanding the character of the people for which God is waiting. Prayer is not the issue of method or technique. Or just the casual expression of different sentiment expressed to God.

The kind that God is waiting for is of a corporate kind. It has a certain quality and authority. That cannot be expressed by casually related saints.

It itself is an ultimate statement of true relationship. True faith. Ultimate commitment.

We have not had historically much opportunity to view this kind of phenomenon. How many of you have heard of Reese Howells, the intercessor? Reese Howells. How many of you have heard of Reese Howells, the intercessor? Reese Howells.

You know that he and his prayer band actually affected the issues of World War II. The great battle of Britain by which the Luftwaffe was destroyed in the air. And broken as the air arm of the German military force.

Was accomplished by 19 year old pilots. Who had virtually no experience at all. But while that battle was raging.

Called the battle of Britain. This intercessory group was on its face before God. Groaning.

Groanings that cannot be uttered. That affected the outcome of what was taking place physically. At another critical point where Great Britain was almost defeated.

Had Hitler invaded Great Britain then, they would have gone down. They prayed a deception upon him. Contrary to all military principle and strategy.

But instead of going against Britain in the West, he went against Russia in the East. Proved to be a fatal mistake. And turned the whole course of the war.

To this day the military historians cannot account for this blunder. It was affected in prayer. By a band of souls no greater in number than you in this room.

They affected history. In 1948 when the United Nations had to vote on the issue of Israel. They groaned again in travail.

And to the astonishment of all the political experts. The political state of Israel was born. And even Russia voted yes.

We need to have our eyes opened. That God is a God of history. And not just Sunday church.

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. And the fullness thereof. And the fullness thereof.

And the fullness of the earth. The nations. And those that dwell in them.

This is God's. And he has intention for it. And he shall bring it to pass.

Through a restored Israel. The moment that Zion travails. But do you know what travail is? It's the most painful aspect of childbirth.

It comes with labor. Exertion. Sorry about this.

You think that this timing is an accident? Not at all. This is a physical statement. Enacted right before you.

Of what God is going to do through you. In this exact same way. For the bringing forth of his event.

And are you willing? And are you able? Do you have the strength? Do you have the spiritual stamina? Can you groan? No, groan. That's the same word as before. That's right.

When I was a young boy, I worked for a plumber after school. When I was a young boy, I worked for a plumber after school. And I was totally incapable of that role.

But so be it. So it was. And one day we had to bring a bathtub up a flight of stairs.

I was a very artistic young man. You were? I was. Don't be so surprised.

I really should have been taking dancing lessons. I secretly wanted to be a ballet dancer. And here I was, pushing with three men a bathtub up the stairs.

Ah, a bathtub. Thank you. At a certain moment, one of the experienced men turned and looked at me eye to eye.

I had my arms around this thing and I was, you know, pushing. But he looked at me with a piercing look. He said, put your gut into it.

And instantly I understood. There's pushing and pushing. Interesting, it's the very same word by which the baby is brought forth out of a womb.

That's the travail. When the woman pushes. It's such an exertion.

Such a labor. But I asked my doctor friend this morning. I said, what if the mother is lazy? And refuses to extend this? He said, the baby will die.

When it's time to come forth. It must come forth in that time. The amount of oxygen is limited.

And the issues of blood and the other complications. The situation with blood. It must be brought forth in its time.

The mother must cooperate. Must make the supreme effort. Because do we realize the marvel of what birth is? Something is going to be brought into being.

That was not before. We take it so much for granted. It's an astonishment.

It's a miracle. It's a heavenly process. Only God himself could have elaborated this.

And it's exactly the same by which Israel is to be birthed. The moment that Zion commits. It's a painful labor.

Ultimate exertion. A suffering. My question is.

What is your capacity for pain? It's one thing to be charismatic. It's another thing to give ourselves to a necessary suffering. For the joy and for the comfort of what will come forth.

This is a mystery. And it's a voluntary mystery. God is putting something before you tonight.

That is much larger than your own intention for yourself. You would have been satisfied to be a nice fellowship. Even deeper than the conventional charismatic kind.

But I wonder why it is that having gone to bed this morning. After one o'clock in the morning. God wakes me up before six.

To dwell on the subject of birth. And to take the dictionary off the shelf. And examine the word travail.

Did he intend this for you tonight? I believe so. This travail in birth is a struggle. That requires a certain tolerance for suffering and pain.

It requires a determined effort. Under extreme difficulties. Against obstacles and obstructions.

An effort. An exertion. An ultimate effort.

It requires something intense. That only a woman who has given birth can know. It's a moment of truth.

And what a woman's character is. Will be revealed in that moment of suffering. Can you imagine a church like that? That has that capacity.

That willingness. For the joy of that which will come. To endure that suffering.

This will of necessity. Brings such a people to a place of transcendence. At the same time that this nation is birthed.

The Zion that travails. Is itself transformed. In the very same process.

Because we have been brought through an ultimate thing. And this travail is in prayer. Corporate prayer.

Of a people who have come to such a place of faith together. To understand the mystery of God. And will lend themselves to it.

And will allow God to shape that character in them. By which this intensity of labor and suffering will come forth. So I have to ask.

What is our intention tonight? How far are we willing to go? In the fulfillment of God's mystery. For the church. And Israel.

Paul says, have they stumbled that they should fall? Romans 11. Verse 25. I'm sorry, verse 11.

Certainly not. But through their fall. To provoke them to jealousy.

Salvation has come to the Gentiles. What's this? It's a mystery. To which God has called the church.

That the church is actually the key to Israel. Salvation has come to us through their momentary fall. But not to be enjoyed upon ourselves.

But in the end to be the key to their restoration. By moving them to jealousy. Some ultimate demonstration.

Of the very character of God himself. His holiness. His nature.

In such a way. That the Jews cannot resist that demonstration. He will move them to jealousy.

And to the consideration of the gospel. In a word. The church is the key to Israel.

And Israel is the key to the nations. And we are in this together. There is a purpose for our salvation.

Beyond ourselves. That requires us to break through into a transcendent dimension. Nothing less than being the Zion of God.

But to be prepared for that. This is the issue. To have a character that will not fail.

In the moment that God calls us for our labor. Our strenuous exertion. Our hard labor.

Our painful travail. Will we be capable? Willing? And every day. That issue is being decided now.

And every day. Issue. That question.

You know what my impression was today walking through Rishiton? Having been already in Scotland, Finland, Sweden and Germany. There is only one word for your civilization. You know what my impression was today walking through Rishiton? Having been already in Scotland, Finland, Sweden and Germany.

There is only one word for your civilization. Exquisite. Such a sense of elegance.

Such a sense of elegance. Such a sense of society. Could be capable of this suffering.

This anguish. This ultimate exertion. This travail.

Therefore, You're going to have to be moved, as it were, out of your nation, even while you're in it. In the world, but not out of it. We are the victim of little things.

Little things that nurture and cultivate our sense of luxury. The indulgence of our bodies. The cultivation of our tastes.

You French-speaking people are famous for it. So the question before you is this. A French-speaking charismatic fellowship.

Or the Zion of God. I'm not kidding. We wept tonight for this event.

We ourselves groaned for the birthing of the Word. That it could be conceived in you. The willingness and the desire to be a Zion of God.

That when the Lord will call for it. In that moment when it must take place. You'll not fail.

You'll not be offended by suffering. And by pain. Because you will have been prepared for it.

You'll have been brought to a place of ultimate sincerity. You'll have been brought to a place of ultimate sincerity. A faith that is not something simulated.

To a child. A fervent love for the brethren. Truth in all of our parts.

In the inward place. In the inward place. Corporate.

Beyond pride. Beyond ambition. Our little jealousies.

Our privacy. To be the Zion of God. Is to be the church within the church.

The true church. That is the very expression of God on earth. And when that Zion prevails.

Something is going to happen in a day. An event will take place. That will affect the redemption of the world.

The Spirit of God came to Mary a virgin. And put before her a proposition. You have found great favor in God's sight.

She was astonished at that greeting. She didn't think that she qualified. In her sight she had no conspicuous qualification.

But it pleased God to select her. But he could not compel her. He said, out of you will come forth.

Out of your travail. Something will be birthed. That will be the salvation of Israel.

And all the world. She had a choice to make. To say yes to this impregnation.

To allow something to grow large in her. That cannot be explained to others. It would not just be a matter of embarrassment.

Or even reproach. It could well be her death. How could it be explained? That a virgin in Israel should be swollen without being impregnated by a man.

It had never happened before. She knew what the scriptures said. Any woman who has lost her virginity in such a way.

Should be taken to the doorstep of her father's house. And there to be stoned to death. By her father and by her brothers.

And by the men of the community. And she said to the angel. Let it be open to me.

Something was conceived. By the word that came from an angel. A messenger.

That's what angel means. That still waited on her acceptance. And when she said yes.

Let it be open to me. The word and the spirit came in. And something was conceived.

That came forth in God's time. That has affected the redemption. In that same sense.

God is speaking something to me. That is not just a message. It is the hope of an event.

If you will say to him. In this place. In this exquisite culture.

Where bodily comfort. And elegance. And taste.

Has been cultivated and brought to such an ultimate pitch. To say in that place. Let it be open to me.

According to my word. Make of us here. A Zion of God.

That can suffer. And exert itself. And groan painfully.

To bring forth. And it must be together. Zion is not the casual collection.

Of casual individuals. It is something that is knit. Organic.

One. An entity. A corporate personality.

To achieve that. In the light of all of our individualism. Will itself be a suffering.

Are you willing? What is your intention? That is the question God put in my heart this morning for you. What is your intention? How sincere are you? How far are you willing to go? The moment that Zion prevailed. God brought forth.

A nation was born that day. A despised Jerusalem. A despised, hated Jerusalem.

The scorn of all nations. Contests the object for mourning. Sorrow.

Compass. A rejoicing. And a comfort.

To the very Zion that brings her forth. This is more than a sentimental interest in Israel. This is an intense jealousy for the glory.

Which itself needs to be birthed. Needs to come into our spirit. It needs to be birthed in us.

Or we will not have the motivation to work. So I want to pray tonight. For an event.

Here in this locality. This piece of Zion can be formed. Are you willing? Can you say to the Lord? This is beyond our intentions.

Nevertheless. Whatever it takes. To form this ultimate kind of character in us.

For the issue of birth is the issue of character. The body character. Formed in His people.

Who can suffer with Him. To bring forth. Salvation in the earth.

Let it be done to us. According to this Word. We can consider it as a message.

Yes, it's interesting. It's an interesting concept. Or we can receive it.

As the very seed of God. To be implanted right into our corporate womb. To bring us forth as the Zion of God.

That will in turn bring them forth. It must come forth out of Zion. For Zion's sake.

Whatever the Zion is. It's ultimate. Beyond culture.

Nationality. And every form of Christian development that we have thought impressive. Beyond any form of Christianity that we know.

I would like to pray. And I invite you to join me. Lord.

We love you. And we can hardly believe what we are hearing. Would you restrict yourself? Will you be held back? Waiting for us? Are you so willing to bind yourself? That you wait for this one thing.

And you cannot act until it comes. But the moment that it comes. That Zion prevails.

You release the glory of this event. In the sight of all nations. Lord we have not spoken tonight to be impressive.

Or to bring an interesting and different kind of word. The time is too short for that. Your purposes are too earnest.

And I simply trust your spirit and your will. And have opened my mouth. That you could even birth this word out of me.

To go into the spirit of this people. Who will say to you, let it be unto us. According to this word.

Whatever it takes. And we know it will take much. We are soft.

We are spoiled. We are indulgent. We are self-centered.

We have no capacity for pain. We resist suffering. And yet it is to these very things.

To which you call us. And we want to say tonight. We're willing.

Give us grace. Help us. Form us.

Shape us. Mature us. Bring us to such a place.

Together with other expressions of your Zion. That are being brought forth over the face of this earth. Thank you for our great privilege.

To rise above mere religion. And to be participants with you. In holy redemption history.

That we might eternally rejoice. For the glory that shall come to your name. When this nation shall be birthed in a day.

Thank you Lord. We say yes. Let it be unto us.

According to your word. You affirm that now in your own prayer. Let it be out of your own heart.

Your own commitment of will. All that you've heard and received till now. Can be considered a preparation.

That you could even understand such a call as this. And be able to say yes to God. So let it be a yes.

As you are able to express it. And make of this night an event. For God.

I have this further thought from the Lord. That when the time came for Mary's birthing to take place. It occurred not accidentally in a stable.

A stinking place. Shameful. Scandalous.

But she was able. I don't know how to say this. I hope you will not misinterpret this as a legalism on my part.

But if you are earnest before God tonight. I think the Lord would have you to examine your present lifestyle. And the kinds of things that you allow yourself.

Which are not in themselves sinful. And for which no one would ever criticize you. Really palmless indulgences.

Except that the sum total of them. Will prohibit you from entering the stable. So I would encourage you to simplify your life.

To remove the unnecessary things. Which the world has taught you to find necessary. That little thing that encourages that cultivation of exquisite sensibility.

With cosmetics or perfume. The enjoyment of a cigarette. A certain kind of comfort which you are well able to afford financially.

But is that the issue? It's not whether you can afford it financially. Can you afford it spiritually? Shouldn't we begin now to be in a process of preparation? By a lifestyle that is contrary and other than the world would force upon us. That when the ultimate requirement comes.

Even if it should be in a stable. We will not falter. You'll be surprised at the power of these things.

Which you have until now taken for granted. When you now want to break that. When you now want to give it over.

In that moment you realize that this has a power. And yet ostensibly it's a harmless thing. But didn't God say love not the world? Nor the things that are in the world.

For all that is in the world. Is the lust of the eyes. The lust of the flesh.

And the pride of life. And that if we love the world. The love of the Father is not in us.

We're called to be in the world. But not of it. So I ask you to put it before the Lord.

And to invite his gentle conviction. Of things which are legitimate in themselves. As the world goes.

But are not appropriate. For the Zion of God. You can even break that power tonight.

If the Lord is already indicating things that you need to forsake. Which are indulgent. Even while they are legitimate.

Do it. Faith is an act. When you hear the word of God.

Harden not your heart. Do it. You know what you need to do.

Break the power of that thing. Be loose from its influence. And let the gracious influences of God come into your heart instead.

That will form you into his Zion. A daughter of Zion. For whom he rejoices.

And whose prayer he hears. Hallelujah. Thank you for such love Lord.

That will not let us go. That will not be satisfied. With charismatic things.

With improved religion. That yearns for that transcendent people. For heavenly people.

The witness of another kingdom. Even while they are in the earth. Bless these children.

Give them the courage. To break habits. And dependencies.

And mental lusts. To simplify their life. And to walk in your way.

Hallelujah. Thank you Jesus. God bless you.

You see already how much we need each other. And that casual relationship will never suffice. We simply don't have the strength to break the power of secret things.

We need the prayer and the encouragement of our brothers and our sisters. And to live in such an atmosphere together of sincerity and truth. And love.

That we can identify the secret thing to the other. That we might pray for one another. That we might be healed.

Already the implications of what God is wanting. Compels us into the higher ground. You see what he is wanting.

And if we will say yes to him. It compels us to be true church. Hallelujah.

Thank you Lord. Take steps tonight. Of faith.

Take a risk of faith. Against your fear. Your sense of embarrassment.

What is that but another form of pride. That keeps the secret thing to yourself. Let it be known.

Ask the fellowship for prayer. Help me. To break the power of this thing.

I might be loosed from it. This is true church. The Zion of God, the church within the church.

Let's not indulge ourselves. By withholding ourselves. From before our own flesh.

Which is the body. We are in this together. Or we are not in it at all.

Hallelujah. Thank you Lord. Hallelujah.

Thank you Jesus. Precious God help us. Give grace.

By your gentle spirit. Help us through our fear and reluctance. Our self consciousness.

The masks behind which we have hidden. To take it aside. And to show our true face.

And our true need. To one another. That great grace might be upon us all.

Help us to be a real people. Thank you Lord. Hallelujah.

Thank you Jesus. The Lord would say unto his people. That as you say yes to God tonight.

That his rule. His government. Will be upon his own shoulder.

For this life. That will be born in you. Will be performed.

Performed by the zeal of the Lord. So as you receive this word. Relate to one another.

With that love. That he will give you in this time. Thank you Jesus.

Hallelujah. Lord I pray for these children for the night hours. That your gentle spirit will strive through us even in our sleep.

And if it please you even waken us from our sleep. Bring us on our knees by our beds. Or stretched out before you on our floor.

In a way that we've never done. A statement of complete surrender. To the God who woos us and draws us to himself.

And has always been waiting for this. This totality. And was never satisfied with less.

Lord meet with us through the night hours. Overcome the pockets of resistance. The places of fear.

May it all melt before you. May we waken tomorrow to a new day. Really new.

Everything has changed. And nothing has changed. In a sense it's the same.

And yet totally different. We're seeing differently. Thinking differently.

Feeling differently. Something has been transacted in heaven. And we know it.

And others will know it also. So we thank you Lord. Continue your precious breaking, melting work.

And bring us together in these days. These visiting servants. This precious band of souls.

So often as it shall please you Lord. To complete the work intended at this time. Thank you for how you began with us.

Remarkable. We hardly know how to contain it. We thank you Lord.

Put a seal upon it. You've heard the yes that has come out of the deepest soul of this people. Seal that.

And perform it. Thank you. We love you Lord.

For being such a God. Such a call. In Jesus name.

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