

Preparing to Stand in the Coming Storm

by Carter Conlon

To stand in the coming storm, we must see God as a loving Father who wants to give us good things and tap into His generosity by asking, seeking, and knocking.

Duration: 45:51

Scripture: Psalm 41:1, Matthew 7:7, Matthew 7:11, Ephesians 6:13

Topics: "Faith And Trust", "Spiritual Maturity"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of preparing to stand in the coming storm by focusing on red letter words directly from Jesus in Matthew chapter 7. It highlights the need to ask, seek, and knock, trusting in God's provision and generosity. The speaker shares personal stories to illustrate God's desire to give good gifts to His children and the importance of moving beyond childish perspectives to embrace the miraculous life God offers.

Transcript

Now I want to speak to you this morning, a message entitled, Preparing to Stand in the Coming Storm. Preparing, I'm going to show you in writing. As a matter of fact, I'm going to show you in red letter writing, which means these are the words directly from the mouth of Jesus Christ as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew chapter 7. Preparing to Stand in the Coming Storm.

Father, thank you Lord for the abundance of your presence, Lord, in this sanctuary today. Thank you, God, that you come and in the strength of your might and in your incredible mercy, you overshadow our frailty. You cover, Lord, the feebleness of our hearts.

Lord, you give strength where we are weak. And Lord, I thank you, God, that you will enable us to hear this. You will quicken the word, Holy Spirit, quicken this word to our hearts and our minds, quicken my physical body, oh God.

I thank you for this today. Let your kingdom come, let your will be done. We ask it in Jesus' name.

Preparing to Stand in the Coming Storm, Matthew chapter 7, going to start at verse 7. Keep the Gospel of Matthew open, that's the only text we're going to be using all morning. Matthew chapter 7, beginning at verse 7. Ask, and it shall be given you. Seek, and you shall find.

Knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asks, receives. And he that seeketh, findeth.

And to him that knocketh, it shall be opened. For what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Therefore, all things whatsoever you would, that men should do to you, do you even so to them. For this is the law and the prophets.

I'd stop there for a moment. We're going to be going through some more of this text, but we'll stop at verse 12. You know, I hadn't really fully understood how much and how lavishly God wants to give to us until I became a grandfather.

You know, when we have a concept of God as the Father, I've often thought of that myself over the years as a father. We have a tendency to say, son, those shoes are good enough. You can wear them for another semester at school, or those pants are sufficient, or that, etc., etc.

We reason our giving, and it seems that when you become a grandfather, your reasoning goes right out the window as far as giving goes. Last summer I was with my little grandson Landon, and we were eating together at McDonald's restaurant in Canada, and chicken fingers and fries, and we're having a great talk. Grandpa to a two and a half year old at that time.

And then he said to me, he pointed out the window to a small strip mall across the street, and he said, I want to go there. And I said, okay, let's go there. And I thought, I thought he would want to sit on the moor tractors and such like things that are there as you go into this little mall.

And he took me by the hand when we went in the door, he led me into this store, and then he said, where is it? And he went to this huge basket of stuffed animals and wandered around it, and then finally said, there it is. And he found this polka dotted fire dog, stuffed fire dog, pulled it out, took it to the counter, and just put it on the counter. And so I, without questioning, I just went and I paid for it, and took his fire dog under his arm, grabbed me by the hand, and out the door, and we went very methodically down the hall to another store.

Walked in to the store, went to the farthest aisle on the left, down, halfway down the aisle, and it was trucks, all kinds of trucks, toy trucks. And he pushed through, a lot of the things went way into the back, and he said, there it is. And he pulled it out, and he said, this is a really cool truck.

We walked together to the cash, he put it on the cash, and he said to the sales lady, this is a really cool truck. Never any, never any doubt that his papa was going to pay for this. So we put these things in bags, we headed home, and when we got through the door, he took his stuff out, put it on the counter top, and his mother immediately says, Landon, I told you last week that you couldn't have those things.

Last week, with the help of my children, we set up a train set that I bought for him. Now it's a really nice train set. It's got a light on it, it's got, the smoke comes out of the front of it, it's got a horn, everything.

It's a really nice train set. So this summer, he knows he's going to get this. So I set it up, and then our laptop computer has a little camera on it, so we showed him how it runs, and after he'd seen it, because he's in Canada, we were here in the area, and I said, well what do you think? And he looked right into the camera at me, and he said, did you buy me a race car set? And then he said to me now, he says, Papa, when you come to visit, he said, you need to get two seats on the airplane.

One for you, and one for all my presents on the airplane. And he said, and don't forget to bring Rocky, that's my daughter Kate's dog, he said, you can put him under the seat. He is a 66 pound old English bulldog, I don't think he'd fit under the seat of an airplane.

But it's a good thing, and I thank God that that's how he sees his grandfather. And it's good when you and I understand how much God wants to give to us. Jesus Himself said, if you being evil, now that's in comparison to the goodness of God, if you being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him? How much more? And you've got to see God this way.

You and I have to see Him this way. There's a longing in the heart of God to bless His children. There's a longing in His heart to give us the things that we need.

And you've got to see that this morning, or you're not going to fully comprehend what we're going to be talking about. And I'm so glad that my grandson, and I'm speaking specifically of my oldest grandson, even though there are others, and there will be others, but there's so much more that I want to give him than the stuffed animal, and a plastic truck, and all these other things that I've had the privilege of giving to him. I want to give him over the years things that will help form his character and give him strength and understanding about the full purpose and the reason for his life here on this earth.

I want to give him true and lasting gifts which will help him to face all the adversities of life, and as the Apostle Paul said, be able one day after it's all done to stand. I don't want as a grandfather to be always giving my grandson stuffed animals, especially when he turns to a young man. There are some gifts that are just inappropriate.

It's to go beyond this. Paul said in Ephesians 6, 13, Wherefore take to you the whole armor of God, that you might be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. I want to give all of my grandchildren those things which God has planted within my heart that have helped me to understand who God is, and more so helped me to understand who He is in me, why I live on this earth.

What is the purpose of life as a follower of Jesus Christ, and where is the highest purpose of this calling found? What are the true resources and riches of Almighty God? And where must I be found so that I can do as He has done as a young grandson? I can go to the counter. I can go with complete confidence that the things that I'm asking for, my Father is going to give me. Because Jesus did say, if you ask, it will be given you.

If you seek, you will find. If you knock, it will be open to you. But first, if I'm going to be able to give my grandsons these things, and my granddaughters when they're born, if I'm going to be able to impart anything to them, they must grow out of a childish perspective of life.

There's a season. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13, 11, when I was a child, I spoke as a child. I understood as a child.

I thought as a child. But when I became a man, I put away childish things. I put them away.

There's a season, folks, where we start asking for things that are much deeper. They're much more profound than perhaps things that we've asked for thus far in the kingdom of God. Verse 7, right through to verse 11, talks about this generosity of God.

How He wants to give to His children. How He says, I will not withhold from you. You come to me, and you ask, and I will give it to you.

But verse 12 brings everything into clarity. In other words, this verse shows the root of mature thinking that will unlock this incredible generosity of God that's spoken about in the previous five verses. He says therefore, that means you can't take that verse and separate it from verses 7 to 11.

It's a summation. He's just made these incredible statements. Seek, ask, knock.

I'll give to you the things you want. Therefore, He said, all things whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them, for this is the law and the prophets. Everything that you would want somebody to do for you, if you were in this world without God, or perhaps with God, and in a place of distress, if you were in prison, if you were wounded, if you were suffering, if you were depressed, if you had no clothing, if you had no food, if you were without shelter, if you and I were wandering, lonely, aimless, empty, sick, orphaned, or friendless, what would you want someone else to do for you? That's the question.

If you were found there, what would you want someone else to do for you? You say, well, I would want them to come to me. I'd want them to help me. I'd want them to give me courage.

I'd want them to speak something into my life. I'd want them to come with authority and lift me out of depression. I'd want them to have the resources to give me clothing and food and shelter.

I'd want them to be able to tell me how to find my way through this endless labyrinth of confusion in the world that I'm living in. I'd want them to be a friend if I was lonely. I'd want them to show me the direction if I didn't know where to go.

I'd want them to come with something that had weight if I was empty in my heart, sick in my spirit. If I was orphaned, I'd want them to be a family to me. If I was friendless, I'd want a friend, as the scripture says, that sticks closer than a brother.

And Jesus says, now, whatever you would want men to do for you, do these things for them. Now this brings us back to verses 7 to 11, because we say, where would I find the resources and the strength to do all of these things? Then he says, ask, seek, knock. You come to me.

And he said, you ask me. If you don't have, if you're afraid to go to prisons, ask me, and I'll give you courage and love that casts out all fear. If you don't know how to minister to somebody who's been wounded, he said, seek the healing that I have and am.

I will give it to you in abundant measure, and it will begin to pour through you, and you won't have to pass by on the other side of the struggling and suffering people that we see every day. If you need wisdom to know how to unlock areas of depression in people's minds, he says, just knock to me. And he said, I'll open it to you.

I'll give you these gifts. I'll teach you how to be a friend. I'll put something in your heart that's not there.

The giftings of God are miraculous, folks. But the giftings of God, there's a point of maturity. There's a point where you and I are not called to be children anymore in our understanding.

You and I are the church of Jesus Christ. We are called to do the work of God in the earth. Everything that Christ did, you and I are called to do on a scale.

He was one man in one body. He's now the Son of God, and in the power of the Holy Spirit has a body all over the earth, doing as it is more than he was able to do in just that one body in one historical moment in time. And you and I are to be that oil.

We're to be that key. We're to be the hands of God's provision as it is for those that are struggling and suffering in our generation. Praise God.

He says in verse 13, enter in at the straight gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction. And there'll be many that go in there. In other words, Christ is saying to those he's teaching, go in this direction.

The world offers many seemingly more appealing and alternative pathways. But in verse 14 he said, but straight is the gate, narrow is the way which leads to life, and there are few that find it. He said there are a lot of pathways out there.

There are a lot of opinions, even in Christendom today, over what it means to ask God for things. And there's a narrowness in this. There's a straight way.

We are called to fall in humanity. It's not even debatable when you read the Scriptures. There's no other opinion that is necessary because there is no other opinion.

We are to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. We're to walk in the ways of Christ. We're to walk with the heart of God in Christ.

We're to walk with the power of God, the authority of God, the purpose of God. We're to walk into the mountain of fallen humanity all around us. Praise God.

Now there are other opinions about what it means to be a Christian. And we are living in a time in history when there are as many opinions in Christianity as there are radio stations on the airwaves today. He said, but go into this way because it's a wide gate.

It's broad. It leads to destruction. And many go there because straight is the gate.

Narrow is the way which leads to life. And there are few that find it. Now the word life here is zoe in the Greek New Testament.

And it means all of the highest and best which Christ is and which he gives to his people. All of the best. When you and I are heading out and we're saying, God, I want your heart for this world.

I don't want to walk by people with an indifference in me any longer. Now I'm not suggesting we become mournful. I'm not suggesting we become so burdened we can't enjoy life.

What I'm suggesting is that we walk through this life and we are just aware that God loves people. We are so aware that every person that we will encounter on the streets is born into this world in the image of God. Is a fallen creation as it is that Christ so loved that he came and died on the cross that he could have each one of us back to him again.

We're to just simply live and walk in this awareness. And once in a while we'll be led to a situation where there's something that seems to be deeper. It requires more than we have in any of our own ability.

And that's where God says, now you come to me when you encounter this. When you're being sent somewhere that you can't go and you're being led into a place of ministry that you don't have the natural ability to do these things. He said, you come to me.

And he said, you, you, you get what you need and we'll go to the counter together. I paid for it already. It's already paid.

And God, the father says, I don't care who told you you can't have it. I don't care if your father and your mother told you, you can't have it. I don't care if all, all your teachers all through school said, you'll never be bright enough to do this.

I don't care how many people have said, you can't have this. I paid the price. And if you and I go there together, if you have a sincerity in your heart, there's it's in me.

God says to give it to you that you can go home and you can say, my, my Papa bought me this. And you can have this vision of God that every time he comes, he doesn't need one. He needs two seats on an airplane to get to you with everything that's in his heart to give to you folks.

That's the way it is today, but it's for the purpose of God. Now in verse 15, Jesus goes on. He has not left his text.

He's not left his thought that we started with in verse seven, beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. False spiritual voices will arise to take you away from that which God would have given you. And they do so by keeping you in a continuous state of childish self-focus.

That's what the false prophetic voice will do. Will keep you as a church in a state of infancy, always going as a child, as it is for some new toy, for some new thing, never entering into the fullness of the purpose of God through your life. The purpose of God is not to just accumulate the most toys before you die, to get the highest, get to the highest rung on the ladder or to be the best looking or to have the nicest clothes or the biggest house.

That is not the purpose of God. That is childishness. Folks, we are to live way beyond that.

No, the treasure of God is fallen humanity. The treasure of God is every person ever born into this world. The treasure of God is young and old, rich and poor, every race, culture, language, everywhere in the world.

The treasure of God is so important to him that he left you and I here on the earth that we might become co-laborers with him, going into this harvest and compelling them to come home to God our Father. He didn't leave us here to do this in our own resources. He gave us his word and put the power of his own person in the form of the Holy Spirit within us.

And in Christ, everything now became possible. There are now no barriers. There are no limitations.

There are no prison doors. There's nothing anyone has ever said that can keep you where you are. God says, no, I'm going to take you somewhere you've not even dreamed you can go there.

I'm going to give you giftings of things you've never had. I'm going to give you wisdom you've never possessed. I'm going to give you abilities you couldn't dream of having.

But folks, you and I don't get these things if we're not involved in the work of God. It's not just to accumulate certificates and trophies in your house, folks. It's to go to fallen humanity with not just some kind of a distant theory about God, but an ever-present living relationship with him, going to humanity and saying, listen, you've got to know my Father.

You've got to know him as I know him. You've got to understand that he satisfies the desire of every living heart. He opens every prison door.

He heals every bruise in your life. He gives you a purpose and a reason for living. He puts bounce in your step, puts a direct path before you, and brings you to a place where you're not afraid about tomorrow.

Verse 16, Jesus said about the false prophets, you'll know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorns or figs from thistles? In other words, he's saying the compassionate fruit of Christ for others is not found there. That's how you identify the false prophetic folks.

The compassion of Christ is not in it. It's all about, the whole focus is about you. It's not about other people.

And ultimately it's about them. Ezekiel 34, for the Lord says through the prophet Ezekiel, concerning the pastors of that generation, the disease you have not strengthened, neither have you healed that which was sick, neither have you bound up that which was broken, neither have you brought again that which was driven away, and neither have you sought that which was lost. Verse 21, Jesus says, not everyone that says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name, and in thy name cast out devils, and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess to them, I never knew you, depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Now here's the point. False teachers claim that knowing the mind of God, having an appearance of fighting for the right side, and having the ability to cause others to marvel at their seemingly personal accomplishments is sufficient.

But Christ calls it iniquity. It's an amazing thing. It's self-focus.

I appeal to you as a church, and I appeal to the church in America, in the western world. I appeal to you to examine these words in Matthew 7 and prove me wrong. Jesus Christ calls self-focus iniquity.

Every message, no matter where it comes from, where the whole purpose of the cross is just about me. It's just about how I can better myself. It's just about how I can build six more steps to a more wonderful destiny.

And I cover it all up by prophesying. Cover it all up by seemingly having authority and power over evil. And cover it all up by doing wonderful works that cause unthinking men, unspiritual men to stand back and marvel.

But Jesus looks and says no, it's iniquity. And the definition in the Greek is it's lawless, it's presumptuous, it's wicked, it's full of self-assertion. It's in opposition to or it's in absolute contempt for the will of God.

Taking the people and focusing them inward when Christ says no, the treasure of heaven is available to those who focus outward. And as we seek first the kingdom of God, as we seek that God's kingdom advance and men and women find Christ as Lord and Savior, He said I will add to you all the things that you need. I know what you need before you even ask them.

Praise God. I'll give it to you. I'll add it to you.

That's why Jesus said therefore don't live your day worried about where shall we live, what shall we eat. All these things. He said after all these things the Gentiles, those outside of the kingdom spend their whole day thinking about these things.

Then He said no, seek first the kingdom of God. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you. Now, the title of my message was preparing to stand in the coming storm.

And make no mistake about it, we're going into a season, we're in it now, we're going deeper into it, when everything that can be shaken is going to be shaken. In some measure I'm greatly thankful for that in the context of the Christian church because everything unlike Christ is not going to stand in the days ahead. Matthew 7, 24, again He says therefore, continuous thought.

He's never stopped speaking the same thought folks. When you examine it you're going to see it very, very clearly. Therefore, whosoever hears these things of mine and does them, I will liken him to a wise man which built his house upon a rock and the rain descended and the floods came and the winds blew and beat upon that house and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock.

Now folks, it's founded upon the very heart of Christ. That's why it doesn't fall. If your whole focus is about yourself, when everything around you starts to shake, of course your house is going to fall.

But if your focus is on others, nothing changes. Nothing. You say God, now, if ever, God, I needed power, I need it now.

If ever I've needed wisdom, God, I need it now. If ever I've needed compassion, I need it now. If ever I've needed a voice, God, I need it now.

If ever there was a time for the church to come to the throne of God, it's now. Oh God, not for my sake but for their sakes. I'm going to heaven but there are people in this storm that don't know you.

They don't have you. There are widows crying out. There are orphans in our streets.

God Almighty, there are people in our prison systems. There are people lying sick, wounded, bruised by all of the wrong theories and experiences of this generation. God, you've got to help me.

You've got to give me everything I need. And the Lord says, you come to me every time. You come to that counter every time you need it.

When you're doing my work, I will empower you with a glory that comes from heaven as you reach out and don't hide yourself from your own flesh. The Lord says, I'll literally come behind you and scoop you up in my glory. The weightiness of who I am will become yours.

Everything I am will become yours. Praise be to God. Praise be to God.

Praise be to God. Verse 26, is everyone that hears these sayings of mine and does them not shall be likened to a foolish man which built his house upon the sand and the rain descended and the floods came and the winds blew and beat on that house and it fell and great was the fall of it. Preparing to stand in the coming storm.

Listen to what David says in Psalm 41. Blessed is he that considers the poor. Here are the promises.

The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him and keep him alive. He shall be blessed upon the earth.

He'll not be delivered to the will of his enemies. The Lord will strengthen him on the bed of languishing. And that means when he's in a place that would take away the strength of ordinary men.

God said this man, this woman will find strength that does not come to ordinary people. It comes to those who are given to the work of God who are found where he is at the right hand of the poor. Oh praise God.

Verse 28, it came to pass when Jesus had ended these sayings the people were astonished at his doctrine for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. Now they were used to words but they were just empty religious words. People with somewhat of an idea about God.

But they were never moved. And looking at the vessels most of the vessels speaking it had no power to live what they were speaking. But when he had ended speaking they were stunned.

They were astonished. He taught them as one having authority. And really what that means he spoke these words as someone who had the power to do and enable others to do all that had been spoken.

Authority. They looked at him and said this man can do what he just said. This man will be true to his word.

This man is unlocking to us as it is the heart of God. And there's weight in it. There's such a sense of awe that's come into our hearts.

That if we are moving in this direction of God we can go to God and when we ask it will be given to us. And when we seek we will find and when we knock it shall be open to us. The sureness in his voice.

Did you know today that if you're doing the work of God you should be expecting the miraculous. You responded like you almost, almost, almost now persuaded me. You almost believe it.

I believe it with all my heart because I, listen, listen folks, it's not about me. But I have to give testimony to God. I've been taking all my life now as a Christian places I could never go.

I've been given things to do I could never hope to do. I don't have the training to go to a lot of the places that God sends me to. So I just go where I know.

I feel like my grandson. Where is it? God says it's right here. And so we search it out.

You know he had to search for that, that first spotted stuffed dog. And God says now take this. Okay let's go to the counter.

It's yours. Take, you've got a new mind. I'll give you a new heart.

I'll give you a new spirit. I'm going to take you through impossible places. And you see your testimony will not be about you.

It will be about me the Lord says. You're not the one who paid for this. I paid for this.

You don't get it in your own strength. I give it to you. And folks this is the wonderful thing about God.

When everyone else says you can't, God says you can. When every argument ever put your way says it will not be yours. The Lord says just ask me.

Just ask me and we'll go to that counter together and it will be yours. It delights the heart of God. Oh folks if you and I could lay hold of this today.

If we could see the exceeding greatness of the power of God that's available to us. Paul saw it and he was trying to explain it to the church of Ephesus. And I'm sure many did see it as well but many didn't see it because their focus was not right yet.

Paul was given for other men. Given first to the glory of God but then given to the purpose of God. Given to gladdening the heart of God.

Given to the work of God. Given to going into fallen humanity all around whether he was accepted or whether he crawled out from under a pile of rocks. It made no difference.

He was given and because he was given heaven was open. And because heaven was open he saw the exceeding riches of God. And he said to the church of Ephesus oh that you could see what I see.

That your eyes could be open that you could see the exceeding power of God that's available to all who call out to him. But we can't call out to him as children anymore. That season is gone.

It's time to put away childish things folks. A storm is coming. A terrible storm is coming to the whole world.

It's time to put away childish things. It's time to say now God make me a God put compassion in my heart. God give me love that's far beyond anything I've ever known.

Oh almighty God cause there to be an explosion of faith in my heart when I read your word. Let me understand that it's all mine when I'm doing the work of God in the earth. Praise be to God.

Praise be to God. Praise be to God. I know one thing for sure.

I know it for sure that no matter what comes down the highway in the days ahead my house is going to stand and every house built on this rock is going to stand. Praise God. I've lost it all before and I might lose it all again.

But folks it doesn't matter. Nothing of this world is going with us. Nothing is going with us.

The Lord says I want to give you things that are so much deeper than anything you've ever known. But it's time to put away childish things. Time to put away childish tapes.

Time to put away childish internet preaching. Time to put it away folks. Time to pick up this Bible and say God almighty send me into the harvest field.

Send me into the harvest field Lord. I've determined in my heart that I'm not appearing before the throne of God with an empty basket one day or just a series of things I've prayed for for myself on this earth. Oh God help us as a church.

Now help us Lord. Help us God almighty. Praise God.

I felt the Holy Spirit telling me last night as I was preparing putting the final points to this that he was wanting you to ask for the power to do something he's calling you to do. Something that you don't yet find within yourself the power to do it. Whether it's to love somebody in your family in your workplace to forgive somebody.

Whether it's to reach out. Whether it's to maybe something I've not thought of but you know what it is. Whether you yourself are behind a prison door and you just don't know how you're ever going to get out.

Whether perhaps you're dealing with this tormenting thoughts of the enemy and you don't know how you're ever going to get out of it. Remember David said in Psalm 18 God I called out to you. You came to me and by your power I have leaped over a wall.

By your anointing I have run through a troop. I don't care if 10,000 set themselves against me. David said I will not be afraid.

He knew the power of God. He knew the power of God and I do believe with all my heart in this generation it's time to know the power of God again. It's time folks.

It's time. It's time for the Davids again. It's time for the Ruth's.

It's time for the Esther's. It's time for the Deborah's. It's time for the Paul's.

It's time for the church to be the church. It's time for the miraculous to happen again in the name of Jesus Christ. It's time for the empowerment of the Holy Ghost.

It's time for praise that is so deeper and so much farther than anything that could ever come out of the human spirit. It's time folks. It's time.

It's time. And if you have it in your heart to get into the work of God all you have to do is ask. It's that simple.

You don't need 12 degrees. You don't have to understand every translation of the Bible. All you have to do is ask.

Ask God. Ask God. Knock on his door.

Seek him in your heart. Praise God. But beware because that asking might send you to a place you've not gone before.

You can't ask and stay in the same childish place you're in today. You have to be ready to go when he calls and do what he asks you to do. But folks it's a miraculous life.

It was never intended to be anything else but a miraculous life. Hallelujah. My house will stand.

This house will stand in the coming storm. Having done all we will stand. I know it in my heart.

Praise be to God. Everything around will shake but only that which can be shaken will fall. That which is founded on the rock of who Christ is and why he came will stand in the coming days.

You will stand if you are found there and I will stand. Together we'll stand. Together we'll glorify God.

Together we'll call out to fallen humanity until the trumpet of the Lord sounds and the dead in Christ rise and we who are alive and remain will be gathered together with them. Until that day we will stand. Praise be to God.

Praise be to God. Praise be to God. Ask.

Ask. That's all you have to do. Ask.

But remember head in the right direction and ask for the right reason. James said if you ask to consume it on your own lusts you'll receive nothing from the Lord. There's a season where we're to give up childishness and become sons and daughters of God.

Father thank you Lord. Thank you God Almighty. I praise you with all my heart.

Lord this is a profound truth. It's profound in its simplicity Lord. I pray give us the grace to hear this.

Give us the heart to walk in it Lord. Help us God not to choose a broader path or listen to voices that take us away from the purpose of the church and this earth. Help us God Almighty.

Give us strength as a congregation. Strengthen your church worldwide oh God. Deliver your people Lord from those that have been feeding themselves oh God in your house.

Oh Jesus set up shepherds over your church Lord that will guide the people into truth. Father we thank you for this. We praise you.

We bless you. I'm asking today now Lord I believe with all my heart there's not a prison door that can stay closed when somebody wants out. There's not a spiritually blinded eye that stays blind when someone wants to see.

There's not a wound to the past that continues to hurt when somebody calls out for your healing. Lord there's nothing you would call us to do you can't equip us to do when we're willing to obey you. Lord lead us into the miraculous.

Take us away God from having to ever figure things out in our own strength. Lead us into the miraculous. Lead us into a life of faith.

Father we thank you for it God. I'm asking today Lord for miraculous change to happen in people's lives. Miracles so that there'll be no other need to prove what they're hearing.

That there'll be miracles. People will walk out of here changed. Walk out with giftings of the Holy Spirit that they didn't come in with.

Walk out God with visions of the future and an awareness of the power to achieve it. Lord do this God. I'm calling out to you Father in Christ's name that you do something exceedingly above and beyond all that we even ask or think this day.

And I thank you for it with all my heart in Jesus' mighty name. Hallelujah hallelujah. We're going to worship for a few minutes and as we do in the Education Annex Balcony Main Sanctuary this altar is wide open.

You've heard the word today. You want to respond to it whatever it is that you need. Would you just come and don't let unbelief stop you.

Don't let a fear that God will reject you stop you. He will not reject you. You come and as we worship let the Lord touch your life in the way that you're going to ask him and seek him for.

Let's all stand together please. Balcony you can go to either exit and make your way down. Main Sanctuary just slip out of where you are.

Let's praise God together. Oh spirit come make us humble. Return our eyes.

Cast out our idols. Give us peace. Give us your heart.

Let us not lift our souls to another. Give us peace. Give us your heart.

Let us not lift our souls to another. Praise God. Bless the Lord.

Oh my soul and all. Oh you're tired okay. All that is within me.

You know a baby dedication this morning is very appropriate at this altar call. You look at these little ones here today and you and I I think are of the same heart. We want to protect them.

Feed them. We want to give them clothing and shelter. Keep them from their enemies.

And we want them to become everything that God intended them to be. We want them to have a good education and everything else that life and society provides for them. We want them to have it.

And the Lord says if you know how to do these things. How much more? How much more? How many here today at the altar have a hard time seeing yourselves in the arms of God? I know you do. I know many do.

But you are in the arms of God. And He looks at you individually and I and says I want to give you things that you've never even. You've not seen them yet.

You don't understand them. God says but I do. I have things in store for your life that you've not even dreamed about yet.

I've got a plan and a path for you. I have thoughts in my heart of good and not for evil to bring you to a desired end. I'm going to take you to places and make you into something.

And you're going to speak about. God says you're going to speak about me when you go there because you're going to know that it's the goodness of your father that has gotten you to this place. Father we thank you Lord for these little ones and we thank you for those that are at the altar today God.

Lord we just we dedicate these babies to you and Lord we thank you that you have given us spiritual authority to stand against the powers of darkness. We can declare to hell itself that you'll not touch one of these. They belong to Jesus Christ and you've given them to your church.

Father we thank you for this. Thank you also today Lord that we also stand in your arms. We are your sons and daughters your children.

God you have a plan for each of our lives and you have the power of God Lord to give us everything that we need to be the people you've called us to be. And so we dedicate ourselves to you as well Lord. God almighty may these children see such a work of the Holy Spirit in this church that they are stunned they're provoked at an early age to surrender all to Christ.

Oh God may we not just have to teach them about it may they see it in us Lord. May they see your working Lord and absolutely desire it. Father for this we're deeply grateful.

We thank you God. We believe that when we ask you'll give. When we seek we'll find.

When we knock you'll open it. We believe it because you said it Lord. We thank you for it with all our hearts today in Jesus mighty name.

Hallelujah.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/19/SID19035.mp3>

Video: <https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/E3aK-1ff31Y.mp4>

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