

The Equipping to Go in This Thy Might

by Gbile Akanni

Gbile Akanni teaches that true spiritual equipping comes from the manifest presence of God and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, enabling believers to overcome challenges and fulfill God's purpose.

Duration: 1:36:15

Scripture: Judges 7:7-9, John 14:12, Acts 1:8, Psalm 18:34, Judges 16:17, 2 Kings 6:16, Luke 24:49

Topics: "Holy Spirit Empowerment", "Faith and Obedience"

Description

In this powerful teaching, Gbile Akanni explores the critical role of God's presence and the Holy Spirit's empowerment in equipping believers for victorious service. Drawing from the story of Gideon, he emphasizes that spiritual might comes not from natural strength but from divine anointing. Akanni challenges listeners to cultivate daily fellowship with God and to rely fully on the Spirit's power to fulfill their divine assignments. This sermon inspires believers to seek God's presence as the foundation for effective ministry and life transformation.

Transcript

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Telephone numbers 0703 03636 59, 0703 76811 98. Email address lsmedia at livingseed.org or visit our website at www.livingseed.org. Let us sit back and listen as the servant of God brings forth the Word of Life. Our Father and our God, we thank you.

We bless and honor you for the way you have guided us since the beginning of Syco. We thank you for several words that you have sent to us and the instruction you gave to us at various points. And even yesterday night as you were rounding up with us and talking about we being constantly a living sacrifice.

Our Father and our God, this morning I want to ask that you will again guide our hearts. You have started speaking about the need not to go in the mind of the natural, not to go in the energy of the flesh, not to go in our intellectual prowess, for all of those things they are not a match to the devil. They are not a match to the Midianites.

They also have heads, they have intelligence, they have natural might, they have chariots, they have weapons, they have all kinds of things. If what you put in our lives is not superior, then we cannot face them. And so Father, this morning we are praying that as we have started praying since morning for the endowment of the Holy Spirit and for you to put your hand upon us and for you to check if there is anything in our heart that will not let you walk with us, to take it away and lead us in the way of everlasting.

We ask now, O God, as we turn to the Word of God again, please be explicit to us. Open our understanding and cause your Word to mix with faith in our hearts. We ask, Lord, that there be a point of releasing in the course of this day.

That today, O God, you will send us forth, you will commission us, you will shoot us out by your mighty hand. You will propel us unto action to the praise and glory of your name. In Jesus Christ's name we have prayed.

Amen. Right. I want you to please go back to our text.

And we are going to now take Georges chapter 7. I was so happy that our brother brought us back to Georges chapter 6 during the devotional challenge and noted that something came upon the life of Gideon that makes a difference. Even the fact that the Spirit of God came upon him and he could blow a trumpet. And that trumpet, it didn't need to do anything else.

It just drew people. Some of us, we really want God to use us, that we will speak and men will be drawn to God. There's something that must come upon your life, the Holy Spirit.

But I want to see how the Holy Ghost is going to put this thing together upon our lives. That's why the story of the equipping that God gave them will be very important for me to deal with this morning. When we have done all of that, the same cry we began to cry, that the Holy Spirit will descend.

That the fire will fall. When you put your offering on the altar, if there's no fire on it, it will smell. It will get rotten.

And so we began to pray, let the fire fall upon me. Let the fire fall upon me. But one thing that is very clear is that God's fire, the Holy Ghost, will not fall on the flesh.

The Bible says, upon the flesh of man, the anointing must not be poured. So that's why I'm going to again go gradually this morning to see the equipping. To see how God wants to move with you.

And to see the release of the Spirit of God that will release this might that we are going to be talking about. So we're going to study Georges from chapter 7. Georges 7. You remember that we ended our discussion yesterday at the point at which God was telling Gideon in verse 7. Then the Lord said to Gideon, by the 300 men who loved, I will save you. And deliver the Midianites into your hand.

And let all the other people go. Every man unto his place. Because I have no time.

It was so painful to me that I would have wanted to spend the time on looking at the rejects. Looking at people that came out as if they are going to become something in the hand of God. And God saw a very, very terrible fault in their hearts.

God saw something in them that he could not work with. God saw something in their lives that is not compatible with his purpose. And he said, let everyone go back to their place.

Let them take their food and be going. And you know, it touched me that when they were going back, he said the people took victuals in their hand and their trumpets. And he sent all the rest of Israel, every man, onto his tent and retained those 300 men.

And the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley. So I was seeing something very critical. 31,700 were released to go back.

Because as far as God is concerned, they will become a nuisance. They will become the weakness of the army. Anything of the flesh.

Anything that has not been crucified. Anything, no matter how lucrative, no matter how impressive, no matter how imposing it appears. When it has not passed divine approval, it can only bring confusion.

It can only bring weakness. It can only bring defeat to the purpose of God. But we have prayed.

This morning we are still praying. That God will not see anything that will make him to say, go back. And that whatever it is that could have made God to say, go back.

We would rather hang at his feet and say, Lord, take it away. And lead me the way everlasting. And I want you to look at verse 9. I want to study from that verse 9. And we will go on gradually until we come to the end.

The end of that chapter. The Lord will help us this morning. And it came to pass the same night that the Lord said unto him, unto Gideon, arise.

Get thee down unto the host. For I have delivered it into your hand. Now, one thing that I want to begin to note before I get into the details of the equipping.

You will see that when we were concluding on Thursday, I noted with you that what will be the might that God is calling forth in Gideon. What will be the valor that will make God call him a mighty man of valor. When he had fought no battle before.

When he had just been ordinary. When he was just a threshing wheat in his father's head floor. He has never been known to be a soldier.

But something came upon his life that God said, I will be with you. So I found that the first equipping that will make your life effective is the presence of God. The presence of God in a man's life.

The presence of the Holy Spirit upon your life. The Spirit of God coming upon you and overshadowing you. Is the first basic overall equipment for the service that can be acceptable to God.

That's the first thing I would like you to note. The fact that Gideon had become a man with whom God can speak. With whom God can travel.

A man that can hear God at every stage. A man that God can say, let's go like this, do this, do that. That presence of God in his life.

And I would like to say that all the men that God had ever used. That is the basic equipment of their lives. The presence of God.

Now take note. Moses as great as we thought he was. Moses said, if you do not go with me, wherewithal shall we be different from everyone else? I don't even want you to say, Angel will go with me.

If you are not going with me, I'm not going anywhere. They knew that the presence of God in their lives. The presence of God on their lives is the key.

Is the equipment that makes them effective. It is not the gun in their hand. It is not the rod in their hand.

It is not anything else but the presence of God. The manifest presence of God that has rested upon their lives continuously. That is very, very critical.

And so I saw God deliberately equipping brother Gideon with himself. So when we begin to talk about greater is he that is in you. Elisha was telling the servant that was with him.

When the hosts of Syria came to surround his house. Do you remember what he said? He said, don't be afraid. He who is with us is greater than he who is with them.

That man was speaking the Old Testament. But in the New Testament, we now saw the Bible saying, greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. So we saw that there is no other equipment that they had, basic, apart from that they had the presence of God in their lives, going with them, standing with them, moving in them.

Even if they would just blow a trumpet. If the spirit of God has come upon your life, that little trumpet, the way it will sound, the mobilizing power that it goes with, that will compel men everywhere to stand up, the Bible said, and the spirit of God came on Gideon. And what did the Bible said? He said, as he blew the trumpet, all Abieza came out after him.

That is, the whole city followed him. When John the Baptist, when he stood up and the Bible said, the word of the Lord came to him, as he began to speak, we are told that all Judea, all Jerusalem, they went out to the wilderness where he is. It is that invisible anointing on their lives that makes a difference.

Jesus actually told them, never you depart from Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high. It is that anointing that makes a difference. It is that anointing that God must release, that will become the might with which you will be able to go.

If the Holy Ghost has not come, may I tell you, nothing has come. No matter your planning, no matter your strategies, no matter everything you have tried to do, it will not work. Because there is not yet the life that can cause it to happen.

But while I am going to return back to that basic overall equipping of God's presence, the word of God had given us a very important outline that I want to spend a bit of time dealing with this morning so that you will understand the outworking of the kind of anointing that God must release upon your life. There's an outworking. There's a process that the Holy Spirit will allow us to touch even as we look at this story at this moment by the grace of God.

Now, the first thing I saw is that the presence of God, the power of God that was rested upon Gideon, was first and foremost that fellowship, that relationship, that communion, ability to hear God speak clearly, go this way, go that way, go that way. So when our brother was speaking about the spirit of wisdom, the spirit of power, the spirit of the fear of God, these are critical issues for us to win the battles that God is going to

lead us into. Don't forget that we have spoken about the dimension with God is going to work.

We have spoken that God is going to push on some of you at various gates. God is going to put some of you in the area of politics to go and establish the kingdom of God for him. God is going to put some of you in research, in academic research, so as to turn over all the wrong ideas and philosophies that men have propagated that have brought our world into confusion.

God is going to push on several of you at various critical points where human lives have been affected and changed to the glory of God. We know that God is going to draw souls to the kingdom of God in an unprecedented manner beyond what we have known before. And we know that it's not just going to be from the pulpit like this.

The pulpit will be walking. God will be drawing people as men and women will be standing on the pulpit, including yourselves. But now, God is going to set up pulpits that are not like this.

Pulpits in professions. Pulpits in classrooms. You remember how Professor Mokolu was speaking to us the other time during the Pathfinders.

And said, right in the lecture hall where he's teaching medical things, people have come under conviction. And they are giving all the calls. And people have repented.

And that is not being religious. He's just dealing with practicality and you cannot deny it. He's as scientific as anyone else.

Those who say, oh, no, don't bring that here, it's because they think we are just being a nuisance. When they have done all they know how to do, all the medical theories and everything, and that child was not going to be resuscitated. I say now, the only thing that remains now, we have finished all that we know how to do.

But there's one thing else that we are going to do now. With all the people that are working with him, those of them, all of them, he said they knelt down and they prayed. And the miracle.

You can't deny that. You can't say, why did they do that? That was something you cannot deny. The people said that this crippled man had been made whole.

We cannot deny it. That a notable miracle had been done by their hands. We cannot deny it.

Even though they look on land, even though we will call them barbarians, but we can't deny that by the hand of this Peter, things have happened. It was then they called them aside and they asked him, tell us, by what authority are you doing this? And then they began to speak. And then they said, they looked when they heard Peter speak, they said he had been with Jesus.

The presence of Jesus in their lives makes the whole difference. So if we are going to be understanding the equipping, we need to first know that anything that robs you of the presence of God in your life is already something to deal with. Otherwise, you can't carry his presence with something that God cannot tolerate.

That's why all the issues of prayer that we've been praying is very critical. Do you remember that Psalm saying, hear the nation of the Philistines to ransom? Do you know that he alone, by the anointing that was rested on his life, disciplined the Philistines at various times to the point that they were wondering, what is

the secret of this man's life? They wonder, how can we dismantle this man? And the day he was going to lose it all, on the lap of that lady, Delilah. When he began to say, look, I have been a Nazarite unto God.

The secret of my life is that the presence of God had been with me since I was born. Nobody has ever touched the lock of my head because I am a Nazarite. I am a man consecrated to God.

I bear in my life the presence of God. That's the difference. And the young woman said, so what can we do to rob you of this presence of God? And I was afraid.

When Psalm said, when he opened his mouth and began to say, if you cut this, if you shave me, I will be as an ordinary man like any other person. I will no longer be a peculiar person. Ha! And when the guest saw that he has told her the very, very core issue that constituted the power of God in his life, he quickly went and looked for experienced barbers who came with their very sharp razors.

And he has told them, please, don't miss it. Because if this man wakes up and you have not shaved him, we are finished. So they said, okay, okay, please sedate him very well.

Sedate him very well. Put his head on your lap. We are coming quickly.

We will do it in less than two minutes. So they sharpened their razors and they came. And before you know it, they peeled off, peeled off the thing that that boy has carried for years.

The thing that his mother nurtured for years. Oh! This careless woman finished it. And by the time he woke up, feeling sins are on you, he said, yes, I will shake my body.

I will do this. I will do that. You see, he did not know.

The Bible say, he knew not that the Lord, the spirit of the Lord had left him. That is it. So let me first note that for you to be a vessel that God will use for the kind of assignment that God is talking about, you must be a man that bears in your life on a daily basis, the presence of God.

It is the presence of God that, you know, the Bible say, and you shall receive power when the only spirit shall come upon you. It's the only spirit. It's not first power.

It's the spirit that must come and dwell and remain and settle upon you. Then power is released. Some people think they will get power just by looking for power.

No! It's the presence of God in your life. It's the presence of God by the Holy Ghost that is dwelling in you that releases whatever else is needed, whether wisdom, whether power, whether anything else that will cause the will of God to be established. So when God said, let these other people go back, and now the Lord began to speak to him because now only 300 people are left.

And these 300, all of you follow me now quickly. And it came to pass that same night, verse 9, that the Lord said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the hosts, for I have delivered them into your hands. This is very important.

I have delivered them into your hands. So every victory is not because you conquered. It's that I, the Lord, have done what? I have delivered them.

I don't know how to put them. I have packaged them. I have bound them.

I have tied them. As you see them plenty as they were, there is a divine hand that has tied and bound them together and handed them over to you and said, now I have handed them over to you. Do whatever you like with them.

That's how God has always done his work. And if you are going to be a vessel, it's not about your strength. It's not about your personal ability.

It's not your charisma that we are talking about here. It's a God who is willing to dwell in you, to walk in you, to operate in you in order to erode his own victory and hand it over to your hand. That's how God's work has ever been done anywhere.

And even now, it won't be different if God will find a man and a woman in you to be used. So please go with me now so as to help Gideon to understand how much God has gone ahead. The Lord said, but if you fear to go down, go down with Pura, your servant, down to the hosts.

And thou shalt hear what they say. And afterwards shall your hands be strengthened to go down into the hosts. Then went he down with Pura, his servant, unto the outside of the armed men that were in the hosts.

And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay long in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude. And their camels were without number as the sand by the seaside for multitude. And when Gideon was come, behold, there was a man that told a dream unto his fellow.

And he said, behold, I dreamt a dream and lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian and came unto a tent and smote it that it fell and overturned it and that the tent lay along. You see, the question is, does God, God was mobilizing his servant God was showing his servant, I have already gone ahead of you. I have already walked.

I only wanted to go to this point. I wanted to go and collect the things. I have walked.

But in case you are not, you are not sure, let me give you an experience. So he took him and said, go down and hear what they are saying in the camp of the enemy. And when he got there, someone had a dream and was telling the dream to his fellow.

And what was this dream? He said, I dreamt of barley, of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian. He said, I was wondering this kind of a dream. How can a cake of barley bread, how big can it be? Do you think that cake of barley bread will be as tall and as big as this pulpit on which I'm standing? No, that's to show you that when God wants to walk, it doesn't depend on anything.

God can use nothing to shame the mighty. God can use what is not, what you don't regard to be anything to destroy that we people thought was very strong, very formidable, and very important. And then his fellow servant, fellow answered and said, this is nothing else save the sword of Gideon, the son of Josh, a man of Israel fall into his hand as God delivered Midian and all the hosts.

Again, I'm wondering, how can you, what is the cake of barley bread? What is the connection between that and the son of Josh? What do you mean by that? You see, even the interpretation of the dream itself look very unreasonable, unconnected. But this is happening not in the camp of Israel. This is happening in the camp of the enemy.

But it is not now that I'm going to be speaking to you about that. It's when we are going. When we are going to doing the final charge, then I'll be showing you divine strategy of going forward.

But this morning, all I'm concerned about is that equipping. And I said the first equipping and the first overall equipping that I want all of you to cry unto God for this morning, the presence of God. The presence of God.

The release of the supernatural presence of God that will not come to you occasionally. That will set you and rest upon your life everywhere you go. That will make you to be able to stand and people will look at you, they say, ordinary on the outside.

We don't know what is moving in him that is making us to fall down. It's because there's the invisible but invincible presence of God in your life. Now, once that was done, the Bible said, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped and returned unto the host of Israel and said, Arise, for the Lord has delivered into your hand the host of Midian.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Now, what come along with me, to now see between verse 16 and the rest of the passage, that's where I would like to spend the rest of this time before we turn to God in the place of prayer.

Now, what does that do? And I want all of you to please be deliberate in coming with me as we go gradually. There are a few points there, there are technical, there are some spiritual technicalities that I wish the Holy Spirit will help me to put across to you this morning. A lot of people want to serve God, but they have not understood God's technicality of the man he uses.

Now, when he came back from verse 16 and he divided the 300 men into three companies and he put a trumpet in every man's hand with empty pitchers and lamp within the pitchers and he said unto them, Look on me and do likewise. And behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that as I do, so shall you do. When I blow with the trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpet also on every side of all the camp and say the sword of the Lord and of Gideon.

Can we stop at that verse 18 first? Because there is already so much that I want all of you to mark. And if you are taking notes, I want you now to take your notes more deliberately because this will be very important. Once we finish that verse 18, the rest of verse 19 to the end is just to go and see the outworking, the outworking of what God did in their lives.

Now, what is critical here? I'm going to set it in the order. And I will begin from that verse 16. The Bible says, And he divided the 300 men into three companies.

Please keep that. I will come back on that later on. Because it's very important.

It's a technical issue that we have to discuss. We have to deal with, particularly as we are looking at the battle in this end time, as we are looking at advancing the kingdom of God at this particular time in which God has turned his eyes to you as the young people. We will need to discuss that very carefully.

But keep it because I will come on it when it is necessary. And he put a trumpet in every man's hand with empty pitchers and lamps within the pitchers. All of you, please take note.

What are the things that he put in every man's hand? Even though he divided them into companies, but you will notice that every man, every one of the 300 men that God has approved, there was none of them that was not equipped. Are you hearing me? There was no one that was not given something with which he will execute the purpose of God. That's the first thing.

Every one of you that God will approve for this assignment, he is going to equip you. God will not send you to battle empty handed. God will not release you from this circle this year without putting definite things in your life and in your hand for the days ahead.

But now let's look at the nature of what God was putting in. And this is very critical. Number one, he said, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand with empty pitchers and lamps within the pitchers.

Now, look at two things, I mean three things there. The pitchers, if we were to get that from a newer translation, you will notice that the pitchers that we are talking about, they are like clay, clay pots. They are like ordinary clay pots, but they are breakable pots.

It's an empty or emptied pitcher. Very, very critical. Every man that God wants to use, every man that God, every woman that God is going to use, it is according to divine plan.

Right from the time that God made Adam, how did he make him? He made him out of dust. The container that will carry the power of God must always be an earthen jar of clay. 2 Corinthians chapter 4 says, let's read 2 Corinthians 4, all of you, very quickly, if you can get there.

Verse 7, maybe I should, yes? I'll be reading that passage because it represents what we want to deal with now. 2 Corinthians chapter 4, verse 7. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us. Can you please get it for us in NIV, if you have NIV? But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

To show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. What's the meaning of that? That what God wants to do, the reason why he disqualified the 31,700 was because they are too formed in themselves. And they are thinking of what they themselves can do.

And God saw that they will share his glory. He said, I don't need men that can share my glory. I don't need men who think they are strong in themselves.

I need earthen vessels. I need ordinary jars of clay that are breakable. And my dear brothers and sisters, I must say to you, I feel that I have liberty to share with you this morning that one of the critical weakness of the ministries and of the work of God in our time is that men have become more and more strong in themselves.

They actually are training themselves to be very strong. When God is only looking for weak vessels, every time I pray, I say, Lord, Lord, when will you make me an expert? When will you do this? He say, when I will stop using you. The day you become strong in yourself, that's the day I will stop using you because I don't use strong things.

I use breakable materials. I use the one that is broken. It is the broken man that I use to break men.

Those of you that are strong in yourself and you are looking for how to strengthen yourself, that's why all the messages I hear these days makes me a bit annoyed. I hear preachers saying, strengthen yourself. Believe in yourself.

Tell yourself, I can do it. When Jesus said, whosoever will be a follower of mine, let him do what? Let him forget himself. Self is a hindrance to the power of God.

Self is an affront. It's an affront against God. The Bible said the flesh is an enemy of God.

It's contrary to God. They don't agree together. The spirit and the flesh cannot work together.

You can't be expecting the presence of the only spirit in your life when you are still full of the flesh. So the first thing that has to be taken out of your life is that self-life, that self-wisdom, that self-strength, that self-will, that self-initiative, that self-arrangement. It has to be emptied.

God needs empty pitchers. God is looking for empty jars of clay so that he can find a space to fill for you to be properly equipped, equipped with what God wants to do. You must be evacuated.

You must become emptied. The thing that you thought you know is not good enough. The strength of your life, the strength of the natural, we failed.

It cannot be. God doesn't use it. God was telling brother, what is his name now? Brother Paul.

God was telling Paul when he was crying to God, Lord, take this away. He said, no. God said, no.

All you need is my grace because my power is what? Is made perfect in your weakness. 2 Corinthians 12, if you can get there for us. And he said unto me, my grace is sufficient for you for my strength is made perfect in weakness.

Most gladly, therefore, will I rather glory in my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore, I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake, for when I am weak, then I am what? Am I strong? Do you have message version there that you can help us bring out? You are there. At first, I didn't think of it as a gift.

And I begged God to remove it. Three times I did that. Yes.

And then he told me, my grace is enough. It is all you need. My strength comes into his own in your weakness.

Once I had that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the handicap, and I began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ's strength moving in on my weakness.

Now I take limitations in stride. With good cheer, these limitations that cut me down to size, abuse, accidents, opposition, bad breaks, I just let Christ take over. And so the weaker I get, the stronger I become.

My dear brother, if God is going to equip you, he must equip you with weakness. God does not use strong people. God does not use strong things.

So whenever you have read the word of God, and I wish I have all my time to be reading the word of God to you, you hear in the scriptures, in Ephesians chapter 6, it says, Finally brethren, be what? Be strong.

But if you read your Bible very well, you never say, you never stop being strong. It says, Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.

So when God says, Go in this your might, it is because God was looking at a Gideon that has become emptied of himself, that has come to the end of his struggles, that has come to know that I am the least in my father's compound, my father is the least in our tribe, our tribe is the least in Israel, and there's nothing with me, how can I? He said, Wherewithal, wherewithal, you know the meaning of that? With what? With what will I deliver Israel? He said, With what? And God said, Yes, I will be with you. The might that you will go with is me, who is finding a space to live in a weak man like yourself. How many of you are going to pray this morning and say, God, for me to become the person you are looking for, please Lord, weaken me, dismantle and dislocate me, make me a jar of clay, a pitcher that can break.

You will soon see that when we return to that Georges chapter 7, when God wants to move, you know what he did? He told them to break their pitchers. And as they broke the pitchers, the glory of God broke forth, the power of God manifested, and Midianites could not stand it. God is looking for such.

I was thinking that what God wanted in my life was me to be very strong, very energetic. I thought that God wanted me to really, really, you know, become an expert. But I'm speaking to you with all humility, that if there's anything that has ever happened that has been a blessing to anybody or anyone of you who has listened to me over the years, I must confess to you that it came out of complete, I didn't say complete, but continuous weakness, continuous emptiness.

Up to this morning, I would not know what God wanted to do or want to say. I would just like don't do, carry him and wait to see what he can do. I thought I would be delivered from that kind of weakness, but I soon realized that that is actually the only reason that God will use any man.

God uses broken things to break men. So when God began to speak to me several years ago, he said, you are a worm, but I will make you a threshing instrument, haven't it? And I could not reconcile. How does a worm that has no bone at all, a worm that when you put your, when you want to kill it, you just rub your leg on it and everything is finished.

How can that kind of worm become a threshing instrument, haven't it? And we'll be threshing mantis. I said, God, this is contradiction. If to say you are talking to a man who is like a lion, who has a voice of a lion, God said, no, no, no, no.

I don't use things like that. I use worms. I use ordinary things.

I use weak things. And if I want to use a man and he's strong, I will first of all evacuate his strength and break him and scatter him and he will become nothing so that I can put him together the way I want him to be. And I will make him to remain breakable.

When I see some people bragging as if they have arrived at something, I don't know, I don't know. My heart just jump. I say, hey, hey, this man is big old.

Because I know for all these years, I have always come to this same point where God said, I only release grace when you are empty. Empty preachers. So I want to first say to you, just like Brother Paul, he called that kind of things that happened to him, he said it is the gift.

How could you say the things that make you weak, the things that cut you down to size, how can you call that a gift of God? I thought that when people are talking about gifts, I'm talking about power gifts, talking about something, but I soon realized that what God must do to me, to a vessel, in order for me to become a container of his supernatural power, is to make me a breakable picture. Now, young man, I'm talking to you now because I really pray that it will not be when you are old, it will not be after many, many years, like Jacob had wasted 60-something years of his life before he came to Peña. What is Peña? He came to Jabok.

At Jabok, God wrestled with him until he removed the Jacob that is in Jacob. Jabok, it looks like Jacob, but no, Jabok is a place of empty. When he came to that place, all God came to do was to withdraw from him everything that is Jacob in Jacob.

When that has happened, the final point is that God broke his tie. And then the angel said, now leave me, I'm going, I'm going now. The day now breaks.

It was then the man said, what? You will not go unless you bless me. When he was struggling, when he was fighting, when he was like a cat whose back cannot touch the ground, he was not blessed. But when he became a cripple, leaning on a staff, that's when the Bible said, the sun rose upon him.

May the sun rise upon you. May God make you a spotlight for his glory. But God only does that to empty pitchers, those that are emptied of self, those who are emptied of their personal intelligence, those who are emptied of their own human strength.

And perhaps this is the reason why this message may be offensive to some of you. Some of you that have gone through motivational speaking, you have gone to psychologists who have told you that, yes, you are the most important person and that don't let anybody take you for granted. And I see you beating your chest all the time.

And they are telling you that, tell yourself, I can do it, I can make it, I can make it, I can make it, I can make it. Such kind of blasphemous words is a blasphemous word. Who is the son of man that can make it? Who is he that was born of a woman that has something with which he can make something and it will be for God? Even when God made Adam in the beginning before he fell into sin, God made him from the dust.

God didn't make him from gold. That container was not made of gold. It's not sunshine gold.

It's ordinary dust. But inside that dust, God was going to put something. I want all of you to follow now.

Whereas in the days of Adam before he fell, when God had made him of the dust of the ground, he was lying down there lifeless. And the Bible say, God breathed into him the breath of life. As if to say, God poured into him the life that is light.

So there is a light life that was inside that empty container. And the Bible say, he became a living soul. Then as he was walking up and down, things were happening.

Eternal things were taking place. Demons were running around. Darkness were being pushed.

They were wondering, what is making us to be dislodged whenever this man is approaching? What does he carry? On the outside he looks ordinary. But inside there is a supernatural power of God. That is God's arrangement.

Whenever you have seen men that God used greatly, their appearance is uninviting. Whenever you have read of people that God used, that shook their generation, it is only when you are reading about them that you will be thinking that, oh, this man is big. You think he's tall.

You think he's huge. You think he has a very big appearance. No.

Most of them, when they pass in the congregation, you even take them for granted. You not even know they are the ones. Because it is not in their appearance.

God wants them to remain simple. Where are young people in this meeting who are going to say, oh God, outwardly I want to be simple. Outwardly I want to be unassuming.

Outwardly I want to remain unimposing. So that your power may rest upon me. So that your inner man may become the emphasis that God is working with.

So the first thing I saw, they were emptied. The emptying of a man's life is a precursor for his being filled of God. Years ago I was crying, Lord, pour.

Pour your power on me. Pour your power on me. And the Lord just asked me a question.

Very serious question. To where? To where should I pour? Where should I pour it? And I don't waste. When there's no empty vessel, the oil has to stop.

Where are you asking me to pour? You're already full. You are full. I don't feel those who are full.

Those who are full of themselves. Those who are full of their strategies. Those who are full of their own wisdom.

Those who are full of their own energy. Ah! I can't feel them because they're already full. You know my prayer changed.

And since then I've not been praying like that again. My prayer is, Lord, empty me. Empty me.

Empty me, oh God. Make me empty. Evacuate me.

Take away from me everything that has filled this space. Take away my wisdom. Take away my intelligence.

Take away even what I used to know. Even when it is Bible knowledge that I've known for years. If God is going to use me afresh to touch anybody, anywhere, at any time, that has to be carried away.

That should be evacuated. I have to come again empty. Not knowing what to do.

Bound in the spirit. Not knowing what to do, what to say, where to go. Do you want that kind of life? Young man, do you want that kind of life? And do you want to start living like that early? Do you want to discover that secret of continuous grace, continuous anointing, continuous outflow of the grace and power of God? The key then is that they have to be empty pictures.

So, look at that scripture again. We are still in 2 Corinthians 4, before I return to where we are going. Now, 2 Corinthians chapter 4, all of you, please come with me.

Verse 5, verse 6, before we return to verse 7. For we preach not ourselves, but Jesus Christ, the Lord, and ourselves, your servants, for Jesus' sake. Right? Verse 6, for God, who commanded, I'm reading King James, for God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined. Has shined.

You see, I prefer King James at this point. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined. Excuse me, who is shining? Who is shining? You know, normally, you would have thought I said, shine, shine for God, shine for God, shine for God.

No, that's not how it is done. God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has done what? Shined. But where? In our hearts.

To give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. It is because he has found a space inside of us that he can now shine in our hearts to give the light of the glory, the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. So verse 7 now says, but we have this treasure.

So what is that treasure? That life light that Jesus is shining but inside of this earthen vessel. That is the key. So all of you that want to become God's vessel and you are going to go in this your mind, let me quickly show you.

The technicality of it is that all that God is looking for, all of you, are you hearing me? All that God is looking for is not your strength, is not your intelligence, is not anything, is an empty container where he, God, can stay and do his work. Philippians chapter 2 says, For God is the one who is at work in us both to will and to do of his good pleasure. So which means even as we are bringing you into this recruitment, the first thing that God is looking for is men and women among us who is going to say, Lord, here am I. Empty me of myself.

Empty me of my wisdom. Empty me of what I thought. Take away my ambition.

Make me an empty vessel. Empty for God. So that God can have a space to come in.

Even when we are talking about you will receive power, you receive power, the matter is that you only receive power when the Holy Ghost has found a space to come and stay. I want you to see that before I go from there. He said, and empty pitchers.

And then within the pitchers, all of you look at that now, I'm back in my Georges chapter 7, I'm still in verse 16, a trumpet in every man's hand with empty pitchers and lamps within the pitchers. Lamps within the pitchers. It looks so technical.

But that's how God has done his work. This story of Gideon, to me is just an illustration of a biblical principle that has continued from Genesis till now. When you go to Isaiah, Isaiah will say, you have wrought all our work in us.

When you go to Psalm, Psalm 108, Psalm 108 said, you will do, we will do valiantly because it is God who has pushed down our enemies in and for us. It's the principle. Now can you imagine what these brothers are giving? They were giving a broken, a breakable pitcher and a lamp inside the pitcher and a trumpet in their mouth.

I ask you, which of those three things can kill a rat? Check it for me. Which one of it will you call a weapon for fighting? Can you carry a breakable pot and when you see your enemy coming, you just carry that pot

and throw at him. What will happen? Your pot will break and the man will charge against you.

Do you carry a trumpet that when you are about to enter into the enemy territory, you not start blowing trumpet and say, we are coming, we are coming, we are coming, so that you know where we are. Is that what you do? So all that I saw God put in their hands already showed me that it's a different technicality of anointing. It's a different way in which God does his work, which young people like you must learn.

Don't grow old without understanding this. Don't waste many years running up and down doing many things that will not amount to anything because you are on the strength of your muscle. I thank God that God was very gracious to me that he began to show me what matters.

I have seen it work at many points, in different places, in different situations, as much as I see what God wants to do in anything. I've seen that happen. But today is not that kind of day to be telling you testimonies.

By the grace of God, you will have access onto some of such things as time goes ahead. But this moment, what did God say they should do? He put that lamp in the pitcher. We are back in chapter 7. Please come with me quickly.

Now the Bible said, then the next thing he did, the trumpet in their mouth, in their hand, the pitcher and the lamp. And that's all they needed to go and face the hosts of Midianites that are numberless. How was that going to work? Now that takes me to the next point that is critical in your equipment.

Even though each one of them has trumpets, each one of them has the life light inside a breakable container, when God has helped each one of you and you have been evacuated of self and you have become emptied, for God's own life light to be resident inside of you, then he will put a trumpet in your mouth, in your hand with which to blow. There's going to be a message. But one more thing that is very important that sometime you omit or you think it is not part of God's equipping.

And that's what I want to show you there now. Discipleship. Many times we think that discipleship is oppressive.

Discipleship is somebody holding you down so that you cannot float. And I know you are doing that because of that old nature, Mr. Flesh, that loves independence, that cannot move with anybody else. You see what happened here.

And he said to them, all of you now see, he divided them into three companies. I said I'm not dealing with that this morning. I'll deal with it when we come back.

He now says to them, look on me. Are you there in verse 17, please? Look on me and do likewise. And behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that as I do, so shall you do.

What is that? What is that? That is practical discipleship. That is the replica of what you hear Brother Paul saying. He said, be ye imitators of me as I imitate Christ.

Follow me as I follow Christ. Where is the place of discipleship? It is part of God's organization of his army. It is part of the way God wants to organize his people for the manifestation of his glorious power in this age.

It is not a man-made arrangement. It is not even for the benefit of those of us that are speaking about it. It's not.

It is because your strength will not be released. Your might will not be released in a focused manner if you are not under hands that God is saying, follow me. Do as I do.

Watch what I'm doing and you do likewise. We have been praying that God will give us men, women that are followable. People that when you follow in their steps, you will arrive at the plan of God for your life.

God's plan is that he will show you, the Bible says, it is for this reason that Jesus Christ both suffered. He died and revived again that we may follow in his step. And because Jesus, when he was going, he told his disciples he said, the things that you have heard of me, the things I have taught you, go also teaching them to observe everything that I have told you.

That is the great commission itself. When Paul had encountered the word of God, did you think he could move out just like that? No. God also had to put him under leadership.

Even though God had given him the revelation of himself, God had spoken to him and he said, Lord, what will you and me do? I expected at that moment, God would have been telling him, I'm going to do this and he said, no. It shall be told you what you will do. Go into that place, into Damascus.

It shall be told you. I was wondering, why can't God speak directly to him? Why must God say it will be told you and it will be an ananias that God was going to use? God wanted to teach Paul that even though you saw me appearing to you so mightily, you saw the flash of light, you saw everything, yet my order of raising men or putting them in my army, it's a procedure. It shall be told you.

So when we saw him going to submit to ananias, ananias had to speak to him, they had to baptize him, they had to lay hands on him to be filled with the Holy Ghost, and then he had to be with them. The Bible said he was going in and out with them, learning the scriptures. And when the aspect of ananias finished and they needed to send him back to Jerusalem because the matter was becoming too serious.

When he got to Jerusalem, nobody was going to listen to him until God again brought a Barnabas. And Barnabas came and interviewed him and checked him and brought him to the brethren and said, please I've listened to this young man's story, I think it's genuine, let's hear him. This is biblical way of doing things.

And when Paul himself had grown and he began now to preach before God would send him into his ministry, he said God said separate me, Barnabas and Saul. There must be a Barnabas that will lead Saul into his ministry. There must be a Barnabas that will say this is how we do it.

Even though this young man is going to be great, discipleship does not reduce how far God wants him to go. You may even be bigger than all of us here by God's grace. That would be our joy.

But you see the procedure for you to enter into that release of the might that God is stressing in your life includes discipleship. Many young men have refused to submit into correct hands that will have helped them and so they have crash landed. They are energetic.

I can see that there is a lot that God would have done in their lives, but they cannot sit down. Nobody can tell them. So they set up their ministry anyhow they find, but after five years it collapses.

Nobody can stay with them for three years or four years before that one also will break away and start his own. All of those things that you are seeing now, you may think is fashionable. Heaven is weeping over such things because it has only littered the ground with defeats and has given Satan greater space to brag itself against our God.

It will not happen again. God is going to raise new crop of young men who are capable. You see all the brothers that were giving you testimonies in the Pathfinders, you see that discipleship did not reduce them.

We sat with them and said, Luke, you are supposed to be a professor and we set times. Sometimes I say, Luke, when I see you next, you must tell me this is the number of publications that you have made now. That's our discussion in discipleship.

It's not about getting mediocres that have been amputated, that cannot go anywhere. No, we know God is taking you to places. God is leading you to places.

God is going to place you where it's critical for his glory, but you need to be evacuated. You need to become an empty pitcher and we need to trust God that there's a lamp, there's a light within that earthen vessel that can shine when you get to where you are going. And then there's a trumpet that you are going to blow.

But all of this, look at how the Bible put it. He provided leadership. He provided discipleship.

He said, look on me. Look on me. We are looking for men and women that can say, look at us.

We are looking for brothers, sisters who have worked with God, whose life you can follow, whose testimony are stable, whose experience are biblical and they are congruent with the life of Christ. The fact that you have met so many people who disappointed you, the fact that you have met so many people that only use the word of God as a cloak of oppression. I've seen some of you, you are going to men and they say, well, if you want to tap into this anointing that I'm carrying, so is it.

Isaac could not release the blessing until he ate something. All sorts of people that want to eat. Before they can allow you to tap into what God has put in their lives in custody.

They are not correct. Jesus said, freely have you received and freely we must give. It won't cost you anything.

If God is directing you to us or directing you to our brothers to come and see how you can break forth into the purpose of God in your life, it will cost you nothing. It will only cost you obedience. And so the Bible noted.

It said, look at it now. It said, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that as I do, so shall you do. And when I blow with the trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow you the trumpets also on every side of all the camp and say, now, let me now stop at that point.

What is the trumpet to blow? What will be the trumpet for deliverance? What will be the trumpet that will turn the kingdom of darkness backward? What trumpet are we to blow? First, I want you to know that all of them were given a trumpet each. All of them by the grace of God. But now, look at what must come out of their trumpets.

And this is an offense to a man who is not yet evacuated of Mr. Flesh. What is it? The sword of the Lord and the sword of Gideon. That's what all of them were to blow.

The sword of the Lord and the sword of Gideon. The sword of the Lord and the sword of Gideon. Did they not have names? Shouldn't they blow their own names? I know nobody will struggle with the sword of the Lord because it would be pure arrogance to be struggling with the sword of the Lord.

But it would take a different brokenness to now say, and the sword of Gideon. But that is what God ordained for that particular battle. And so you read in scriptures, the passage we read, 2 Corinthians chapter 4, which I've been asking you to come in and out with.

All of you, please come back there. And I want you to see from verse 3, verse 4, verse 5. But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost, in whom the God of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not. Let the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, to shine unto them.

For we preach not ourselves. Did you hear that? We preach not ourselves. We don't blow trumpets for ourselves.

We preach not our names. We preach not our achievements. All of that cannot take a hoof from the leg of Satan.

Sometimes I go to a meeting and I hear a man of God. He speaks so much about himself. He speaks so much about his achievements.

He speaks so much about his wrist watch. He speaks so much about how much the clothes he's wearing cost him. And I say, why do you waste the pulpit for such a thing? Sometimes I see people, they come on the pulpit, instead of speaking the word of the Lord, and proclaiming Christ and Him crucified, they are busy talking about peripheral issues, about things, about around, they greet their friends here, they greet their friends here, and waste the hour.

When the trumpet should be sounded, we preach not ourselves. When you go from here, it will not be about your name. I'm looking for brothers and sisters who are not, first and foremost, interested in making a name.

We are looking for people who will be serving God, they will be doing exploits, and yet they are not looking for a big name. They just want the kingdom of God to be established. They just want Jesus Christ to be known.

They want to preach Christ and Him crucified. We preach not ourselves. The sword of the Lord and of Gideon.

That's all they want to say. Imagine if the 300 of them were blowing trumpets of their own names. They said, the sword of the Lord, the sword of Gideon, and the other one said, the sword of the Lord, the sword of Samson, the sword of the Lord, the sword of Sister Cynthia, the sword of the Lord, the sword of Gugu, with the enemy bow, because God had not introduced Gugu to them.

God has not spoken about anyone else. God said, when you hear them coming, there's nothing but the sword of Gideon. That was what the people heard.

That's what the Holy Spirit whispered to them in their dreams. If you go now proclaiming another message, you are off course. You cannot bring deliverance.

So as I stop on that, how does God want to equip me and equip you for this assignment? I say, go in this your might. Let's quickly agree with what God began to say this morning. That might is the might of God.

It's the almighty God of Jacob that has now chosen to sit inside of you, to be the light of your life, to be the strength of your life, and that on the outside people see ordinary brother, they see ordinary sister coming, but they don't know. So when our brother was giving the fable of that dog, the big dog and the small puppy, and when the small puppy jumped and tore apart the big dog, that thing, and the owner of the big dog said, what, what happened? What kind of dog is this? And then the man said, this is not a dog. It looked like a puppy.

It's not. There's something inside of it that is different. You only carry the face of a puppy.

How I pray that God will find empty vessels in whom Jesus can dwell, in which the power of the most high God can operate, and that is the kind of men and women that God is looking for. Now, just to conclude, because I'm not going to be able to come back on this before we conclude this meeting. He broke them into three companies.

They were people who can keep their ranks. They were not going individually left and right scattered. They could agree together.

If two or three of you should agree as touching anything, you will ask. He divided them into companies, three companies. 100 here, 100 there, 100 there.

You face this direction, you face that direction. We are all going to face the same enemy, but you come from this end, you come from that end, you come from that end. They were not competing with each other.

It pains me now that I see that sometimes you are traveling on the street and you see in a upstairs building or maybe four stories, there are four different churches, brothers making noise against one another. Why must you go and put your own church opposite another brother's church? Whom are you reaching? Whom are you shouting at? All this kind of spiritual competition, some of you are hearing me, you are from your campuses. Can you imagine how many fellowship is your campus? How many souls are you reaching? All because you want to also blow your own trumpet.

All because you also say, let's start our own. What are you starting? Can you imagine that in a department, instead of all of you to gather yourself and say, look, we are the believers here, regardless of what denomination, tell your denominational fathers at home and say, when I'm on campus, release me to the body of Christ on the campus. Don't come and bring another confusion to young students who needed to hear Christ.

Only one trumpet must be blown. Say the trumpet of the Lord and the trumpet of Gideon. That's all.

But I see nowadays, 10 people in one classroom there, five people in one classroom there, you cannot like that take over the campus. You can't. You group them, and these companies were just for deliberate movement.

So that they are not scattered left and right. So that there can be synergy. There can be concentrated voice coming out.

It's not that they are crippled. They are not crippled, but they are emptied. It's not that they don't have a trumpet.

Each one of them had a trumpet, but they have been trained that this trumpet in my hand, no matter how loud I can blow it, it must only release one message, the sword of the Lord and the sword of Gideon. We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord. So as they went, and the 300 blew the trumpets, and the Lord set every man's sword against his fellow.

All of you. All of you look at verse 22. And the 300 blew the trumpets, and the Lord set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host.

And the host fled to Bethsheba, in Zerarath, and to the border of Emahola, and on to Tabath. And the men of Israel gathered themselves together out of Naphtali, and that's how the battle was done. My brother, my sister, I want to ask you.

Now, I want to tell you now something quickly. The sword of Gideon, the sword of the Lord that this brother was shouting, is it physical sword? I'm asking you. Did they have one sword? No.

They had a trumpet, and a trumpet is not equal to a sword. But you see what happens is that when they blow the trumpet, the sword of the Lord, the sword of the Lord, the invisible sword of the Lord is falling on you people. All the swords that they carry, all the swords of the Midianites, the Bible says God, I love the passage.

I love the Bible passage. Let me read it. And the 300 blew the trumpets, and the Lord set every man's sword against his fellow.

It's the Lord that was walking. The Lord, the invisible but invincible God, went into the midst of the Midianites and began to set their sword against one another. And I saw Midianites face Amalekites.

Amalekites faced the other and said, before you kill me, I'll kill you. If you have not joined the sword of Gideon, before your sword will fall on me, I will fall on you. And before you know it, they have slaughtered themselves, finished.

When they are finished killing themselves, God only told his people, he said, go now, carry this sword. Carry this sword. God will fill you.

If you are no longer going to be standing on your own ambition, heaven is going to fill you. Would you like to bow your head now? Stand up wherever you are. Let's pray together.

I'll pray for you. Wherever you are, stand on your feet. I want you to speak to God directly.

Even if you are watching the word of God alone because you could not meet because of lockdown, I want you to know that this hour, God is pointing a finger at something that you have not given attention to, the empty. Jacob came to Jabbok for the Jacob in Jacob to be removed. All the things that have been a hindrance is because you are full of yourself.

You are full of your ambition. You are full of your own ideas. Can you say, Lord, here am I, empty me, empty me now.

And Lord, do something. Flow into my life. And what makes you weak is your strength.

You become strong when God is able now to flow into your life. What does not allow your song to affect people is because of your personal strength. Can you say, Lord, this money, empty my life, empty me.

I want to be that vessel in your hand. I want you to flow through me to affect my generation. Lord, here am I. The people that God used and shook their generation, they are not different from you.

They are not older than you. The only thing is that they were emptied. They became emptied.

Please ask God to do it this morning. I know God will answer this prayer. I know the Holy Spirit is going to walk a deep walk in your heart.

I know that I'm going to hear testimonies of how God prevailed over several of you because you are saying now, Lord, Take your space of prayer. Take your space of prayer this morning. Some of you have been preaching for years.

You don't know why when you are preaching people only argue with you. It's because you are full of yourself. Tell God now, break me.

This picture must be broken for the life light to come out. This picture must be smashed so that the life inside me break forth. Lord, do it in my life now.

Do it in my life now. Everything that is inside of me that is not congruent with you, Lord, take it out. Take it out.

We have talked about sin. We have talked about arrogance. We have talked about all of that.

But there is another thing that must take out now. Everything that is self, everything that is you, that is occupying you, the you in you, must be taken out. Ask God to do it this morning.

Lord, please walk in my heart. Do what I could not have done. Let's say Code 21.

Make me emptied for God. Emptied for His glory. Emptied for His power.

Emptied for His infilling. Emptied. Emptied for Jesus.

Emptied for His power to manifest. Yes. Yes, I've seen several centers in Cameroon.

Can I ask you to stop arguing with God? Take God this morning. The problem is not the people you are blaming. It's that God has not found space to do what He wants to do in your life.

Your voice will have been wonderful, but it is still your voice. It's not Him speaking in you. Surrender it right away.

Yield it to God and say, Lord, this morning, have your way with me. Thank you, Father. Lord, while you are standing in prayer, I want to pray for you and then ask you to go and just fall before God.

Cry like dabbies. Let your hand be upon me. Change my story.

And count me among those men and women that you can walk with. Weaken me. Where I've been arguing and been insisting on myself, Lord, take my tie out of joints so that your glory may break forth.

Spirit of God, we have come to a critical point. Unless you give understanding to my brothers, and yet I desire that you give them understanding now that they are young. I know there are older people that after they have tried and tried and they are tired, they are now coming to that place and say, God, you know I can't do anything.

But, Lord, when they were young, when they were agile, when you could have moved in them, they didn't give you space. This morning, Lord, I pray that all these men and women standing in prayer and asking you to do a deep walk in their hearts, taking away everything that is natural of the flesh so that it will be your life light, Christ in you, the hope of glory. Lord, I ask that that will become our experience.

I ask, Lord, that this afternoon deep things will begin to take place. I ask, Lord, that your mighty hand will come upon their lives particularly as you did to some of us several years back. Appear to them again.

Recruit them and fill them with yourself. Let this meeting mark a turning point. Lord, let the Holy Ghost find correct heads to infill, to fill, to settle in and do his work.

Thank you for this moment. Thank you that you will do it. Thank you that we are going to hear great news of what you have started to do from one nation to another.

Thank you. Thank you for those who are even alone in their rooms or in their houses who have been drawn to this meeting and they're saying, oh, God, even though there's no one I could join hands with here, do something with my life. They will come out of this meeting, oh God, another man.

Thank you for you will do it. In Jesus Christ's name, we have prayed. Amen.

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