

The Victorious Life

by George Verwer

The sermon emphasizes the importance of embracing the cross and delighting in the Lord for spiritual victory, and highlights the need for self-acceptance and true faith in overcoming fear and achieving spiritual victory.

Duration: 40:49

Scripture: Numbers 14:8, 1 Corinthians 4:11-20

Topics: "Faith And Works", "Christian Living"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of balance in the Christian faith. He encourages the audience to study and memorize Hebrews chapter 11, which contains verses that align with his message. The speaker also discusses the need for a holistic understanding of the Bible, stating that no message given at the conference can be accepted in isolation. He highlights the difference between present-day Christianity, which he sees as primarily performance-based, and the experience-based faith described in the epistles. The speaker quotes J.B. Phillips and C.S. Lewis to emphasize the need for action and transformation in the Christian life.

Transcript

Lord Jesus, how exciting it is to be in your army. And Lord, if there's anyone who's here sleepy, help them, perhaps have the courage to just walk out and go to bed. Otherwise, Lord, give us attentiveness.

We believe we are here in a crash course. This is not some kind of a little Bible conference, a little Christian holiday camp, a little vacation spot. We are here training for war against an enemy who has bombs and bullets and laser beams and hand grenades and minefields, the likes of which we've never fathomed, some of us.

Help us to wake up before we blow up, that we may be your men, that we may be your women, that we may have spiritual balance, but that in the process we would not lose our cutting edge, that we would be among those who are willing to have it tough and rough for Jesus, who often had no place to lay his head. He was nailed to a cross because of his love for us. We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen. I want us to look this evening for a little inspiration and a little perspiration and a little excitement and a little Bible knowledge to the life of the Apostle Paul. I think it's important to get a vision and an understanding of the Apostle Paul.

I was recently with John Pollock, the author of many biographies, Billy Graham's and who knows, Theo Moody's and a few others, and he was challenging me and asking me, we were having lunch on the ship, supper, and he asked me if I would push his book on the life of the Apostle Paul. Of all his biographies, that one sells the least. Isn't that interesting? We'd rather read a biography of some recent person than dig into the biography of a man who gave us a high percentage of all the New Testament under the control of the Holy Ghost.

Somebody said in these days we have all kinds of instruction about Paul. In our seminaries we spend long hours studying the epistles of Paul and we go to our Bible conferences in the summer and we go through Romans and realize it's one of the epistles with the greatest amount of truth. We have many books on the Apostle Paul, a new one coming off the press every month.

One of his writings probably every month as well. We're only lacking one thing. Where are the Pauls? Is he a mythological figure? Is he a man that we don't expect to encounter again in the 20th century church? Is he some artifact, some remnant, some leftover from the flannel wrap board? Or can the Holy Ghost of God raise up in the 20th century men whose lives and lifestyle is patterned after this man? We know that we're not going to be exactly the same as him.

We're all original. When God made you, he threw away the mold. Don't try to bring it back and push somebody else in it.

I don't know where to start when I talk about Paul. I like to generally start at 1 Corinthians 4, so let's go to 1 Corinthians 4. Somehow in God's sovereign purposes, he chose to give us quite a bit of information about Paul, even about his life. In some areas, we seem to know as much about Paul as we do about Jesus.

1 Corinthians 4, verse 9, For I think that God has set forth us the apostles last, as it were. Isn't that amazing? As it were, appointed to death, for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ.

We are weak, but ye are strong. I don't know whether he's being humorous or sarcastic or what. Ye are honorable, but we are despised.

Even under this present hour, we both hunger and thirst, and are naked and buffeted, have no certain dwelling place. And labor, working with our own hands, being reviled, we bless. Being persecuted, we endure it.

Being defamed, we entreat. We are made as a filth of the world, and of the offscouring of all things unto this day. Now, I write not these things to shame you.

But as my beloved sons, I warn you, for though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, ye have not many fathers. For in Christ Jesus, I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore, I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

Very important verse. For this cause, have I sent unto you Timothy, who is my beloved son and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways, which are in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church. Now, some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you.

But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know not the speech of them who are puffed up, but the power. For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power. C.S. Lewis, and I will be giving this quote

again, because it goes like an arrow to my own lethargic heart, said we have the tendency to think, but not to act.

We have the tendency to feel, but not to act. And if we go on thinking and feeling without acting, someday we will be unable to act. And he put his hand, he put his finger, in many ways, on the nerve center of the problem in the present day evangelical scene.

J.B. Phillips, in his incredible introduction to the letter to the churches, said this. Listen, please, please keep your brain turned on for a few more hours, or at least an hour. As I tried to say, I think it was in my prayer, I believe we are here in a crash course.

We are here in the stage one of a spiritual boot camp. Do you think for a minute we think that O.M.'s training is less important than the training of the United States Marine Corps? Do you think for a minute that we think the warfare we are going into is something less than Iwo Jima, Korea or Vietnam? Maybe you should read a few war books. Especially this generation, because one of our greatest problems is we are idealists and unrealistic about life, and most of us have never been in a war.

I often have the privilege of speaking to people in Germany, who have been in the war, or people in Britain, who have been in the war. And I tell you, those people are different. We are so spoiled.

We have so much in America, and yet we seem to measure on complaining. I was reading in a book just last night, two nights ago, one of the most devastating books that has ever been published in the English language in America. I won't even mention the title.

I haven't decided whether it's cool enough to even mention in a public meeting. I haven't finished reading it. But this man brought out how people are complaining of being poverty stricken at \$13,000 a year.

Poverty stricken at \$13,000 a year. I want to tell you something, because it doesn't sink in any other way. I have a wife, and I have three children, and it costs more to live in Britain than it does in America, and we live on \$3,000 a year, and we feel ashamed.

But we've learned that we have to be balanced. We're not ascetics. We eat very well.

Each of our children has their own room, rather small, but we felt they should, they're growing up. Of course, we have a low rent. That is an answer to prayer.

Low rent. Who will ever live in a rented house in America? A rented house? I would prefer to live in a tent, but I love my wife, and I think she deserves a house. And if I thought it would bring revival to America, I would live in a rubbish bin for 10 years.

If you think I'm joking, you don't know anything about me. You say you're extreme. You're right.

Extreme, but balanced, I hope. Why and how did I become this way? This book. This book.

And when I read that J.B. Phillips more or less agrees with this, I almost come right out of my shoes. They're rented as well. The great difference between present-day Christianity, please listen, and that of which we read in these letters, the epistles, is that to us, it is primarily a performance.

To them, it was an experience. We are apt to reduce the Christian religion to a code, or at best, the rule of heart and life. To these men, it is quite plainly the invasion of their lives by a new quality of life altogether.

They do not hesitate to describe this as Christ living in them. Mere moral reformation will hardly explain the transformation and the exuberant vitality of these men's lives. Even if we could prove a motive for such reformation, and certainly the world around offered little encouragement to the early Christians, we are practically driven to accept their own explanation, which is that their little human lives had, through Christ, been linked up with the very life of God.

Praise God for the message our pastor gave to us tonight. I'm in his church for weeks, so I'll call him my pastor. I need a pastor, I can tell you.

I probably need six pastors. But his message was right on target. And I want to give you a verse that came to my mind, so linked with what our brother shared with us, that has helped me so many times, and that will explain to you how Paul gained spiritual victories, and how we will gain spiritual victories.

And you'll find this verse way back in the book of Numbers, in chapter 14, in verse 8. I don't know if the psalmist studied the book of Numbers. I tend to think he may have. If I was a scholar, I'd know that.

I'm not a scholar. Numbers, chapter 14, verse 8. Do you remember the Promised Land story? They all came back. They're moaning, complaining, it's too hard, the giants are too big.

That's just what the devil wants you to believe about O.M. this summer. You're seeing the Muslims, the giants in the land. You're seeing the Europeans.

You're a bit afraid. You feel so young, inadequate. And now this horrific, loud-mouthed extremist is bombarding you with all he's got.

And you're just looking at the giants. And you may be like the spies who came out of the Promised Land, and they said, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. It's impossible.

But there were two men. One was Caleb. We have his testimony in the previous chapter, in verse 30, chapter 13.

And the second was Joshua. And here's his testimony. If the Lord is a light in us, then he will bring us into this land and give it us a land which floweth with milk and honey.

Isn't that something? Here's the other side of the coin. Our brothers, minister to our hearts tonight that we are to delight in the Lord. But here's something you must not forget as you're in God's work and as you're delighting in the Lord.

He delights in us. God delighting in me? A hundred and twenty-eight pounds of manly mouth? You wouldn't laugh if you knew how hard it was for me to accept myself. I tell you, one look in the mirror is enough to freeze me the rest of my life.

Much less having to look at myself on a color video as I had to do last week. And I just want to emphasize it again, and I will say it 50 times if it has to be said. We will never fight in God's army until we have a high degree of self-acceptance, even willing to accept the fact that we make mistakes, that we say to Him sometimes things we shouldn't say.

And as you accept yourself, you will be preparing for battle in a way as great as memorizing Scripture. And if we're going to really blast out against the enemy, if we're going to tear down the strongholds of the evil one, as outlined in 2 Corinthians 10, verses 4, 5, and 6, then we must get down to the basic issues,

the ABCs of living for Jesus. And one of them is self-acceptance.

We've got to believe God is in us, that God is working through us, that the Holy Spirit is in us, and that we are moving on His schedule. And it's a wonderful thing to realize that God delights in us. Do you know God delights in you? You may be weak.

You may have failed the Lord. You may have never led anyone to Christ. You may not have much of a prayer life.

You may have many fears. One of these nights I'm going to talk to you about my major problems, my seven major problems. If I get beyond that, it's way too depressing.

But one of them is fear, terrific fear. Fear can make you or break you. Almost every great man I've ever read about, he's known the reality of fear.

And true faith will not come in the absence of fear. It will come as we learn to battle through, as we learn to rest in the Lord, as we learn to cast our burden upon the Lord, and as our brothers already said, delight in the Lord. Delighting in the Lord, which brings the love of God flowing freely.

Through our hearts, cast out fear. Love, cast out fear. Epistle of John.

But just as important as this is the fact that God delights in us. You must understand that you don't sort of impress God by becoming more disciplined, or by giving out more tracts, or by joining OM, that's for sure. He already loves you with an everlasting love.

Even when you've fallen flat on your face. You ever fall flat on your face? One of my biggest enemies, you know what it is? Isn't this ridiculous? I feel utterly embarrassed to tell this. You won't tell this to too many people.

We count you all as my friends. Not too many visitors have come, so I can be even more free. One of my biggest enemies is not very big.

It's all it is, is a magazine. On a newsstand. With a girl on the cover.

That's all it takes to knock big, loud mouths, Mr. Discipleship, sold out for Jesus Christ, flat on his face. One magazine with one woman. But I'll tell you something.

Never once have I been on my face more than a couple of minutes. Maybe up to ten some years ago. Up to five even within the past perhaps years.

And not very often. Once is enough to make you feel pretty rotten. You ever get that rotten feeling when you've been knocked out by a hunk of pornography? Or does it take something bigger to get you down? Victorious life does not only include knowing how to live victoriously over sin.

It includes knowing what to do when you sin. And that is sin with a mind. And Matthew clearly condemns lust of the mind.

Obviously there wasn't too much pornography in the New Testament times. Maybe there was. With the incoming of printing and everything else.

It really grew. I know in India, in ancient Hinduism, right on the walls of the caves, there is some of the most vicious pornography. It's one of the biggest American tourist attractions in India today.

The pornographic caves of India. But oh my, the joy of knowing when I've fallen on the face, when I feel rotten, I've failed the Lord, I don't want to go on any further. I know how Jesus condemns lust of the mind and I've sinned with my mind.

I want to quit the ministry. I want to go bury myself. To know that at that very moment, even before I repent, God loves me.

That is what has kept me going. The love of God, the mercy of God, the grace of God, that's what kept me going. Over, over, over again.

And that's what makes the battle very, very fierce. We are in a spiritual warfare. It's not very encouraging to see some of the fiery, vicious darts the enemy throws at people as outlined in Ephesians chapter 6. But it's real.

So God delights in us. The Apostle Paul knew this reality and his letters come out from a heart flowing with this reality, especially as outlined in Galatians chapter 2, verse 20, where he said, I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ lives within me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.

We all have that one memorized. We should. But in many ways, that is the secret of spiritual victory and spiritual vitality.

Embracing the cross, the crucified life. And because Paul knew this, he was willing to suffer. And we have passages like 1 Corinthians 4 that we have just read.

Just look at some of the things he went through. He was hungry. He was thirsty.

He was naked. He was buffeted, verse 11, back in chapter 4. He had no certain dwelling place. Why do we have such preoccupation about where we should live? And girls, on this point, you are worse than men.

And I've read all the psychological studies. I've read more women books than probably most of the girls in here. Probably going to write a woman's book someday under a pseudonym.

Lizzie Lupe or somebody. We try to explain too much with modern psychology. And it puts completely to one side the radical teachings of Jesus Christ and the Apostle Paul.

For your information, there have been thousands of women, great women of God, who never had a permanent dwelling place, who never had a home, despite all the feminine instinct to settle down and have a home and hang up curtains and put up a stove and all the rest of this stuff. Now, it's true. In God's purpose, in God's plan, many women will have a little home.

That's good. At this present hour, after my wife has been a vagabond for 15 years, she has a little place to call her home. We've had to settle down a little more.

Our children are in high school. We must be very conscious of them. They are a priority in our life.

Absolutely. And so she now has a little home. The girls in O.M., they call it the nest.

A little nest. The wives like the little nest. Now, we husbands are tremendous hypocrites because we like a little nest as well.

Our wife. And we like her to take care of us. We men can be as phony as a Russian quarter, I can tell you.

But I believe with all my heart if the world is going to be evangelized, we need a few Amy Carmichaels, we need a few Sophie Mullers who planted more than 100 churches in Latin America. We need some women who perhaps love these things as much as anybody else, but because they love Jesus more, they'll lay all on the cross and they'll follow Him to the jungles and to the ends of the earth even if they never come back. Now, all this is extreme and fanatic if the Bible is not true, if men are not lost.

We know that in the process of this kind of work, some people are going to find it difficult. Now, will you make a comparison with me? What is a greater problem? A Christian finding certain things difficult or a man spending eternity in hell? Is there any comparison? Personally, I question the present belief in hell in our American evangelical circle. I will not measure a man's belief in hell by his words.

I refuse. I will measure his belief in hell by his compassion, by his action, by his zeal, by what he does with the moments of his days, his hours, his prayer time, by what he does concerning the neighbors who live around him who are going to a Christless eternity. That's how I measure a man's belief in hell.

Jesus said, if you love Me, keep My commandments. The Apostle Paul who once said for the space of three years, he ceased not to warn men night and day with tears. Obviously, he was gripped with the reality of what this was all about.

And so we see the Apostle Paul had no certain dwelling place. He remained almost a vagabond upon the earth. I don't believe we need a great number of people in the Church of Jesus Christ to do this.

And you must listen carefully to everything I say because I speak in a very interesting way. I take you way over here, then I bring you back over here. And I'm the last one to think that everyone is to suddenly launch out roaming around the world.

A high number of God's people, I believe, should be in honest work, in honest work, earning their living. They'll have a little place to live. But there must be some, there must be some, certainly many more than there are right now, who are willing to go the extra mile, who are willing to be God's guerrilla force, to be ready for China, to be ready for Rajasthan, to be ready for the heathen jungles where they've not even had the Bible yet translated.

And those who remain behind, standing by the stuff, sending out the money, sending out more laborers, fasting, praying, interceding, making their little home, their little nest, a house of prayer, a house of fellowship, a center for spiritual and revolutionary activities, they will share in the reward. We are not any better, those who go forth. I'm not worthy to tie the shoelace of some of my prayer partners.

God called me to some of the secular jobs that some people are working in. I probably have a nervous breakdown thinking about it. God gives us grace for what He calls us into.

Some people feel sorry for my wife. So many people feel sorry for my wife. Of course, they blame it all on me.

You can't believe the letters we get. We have had more invitations to have a vacation, probably, than any man walking. I always try to explain to the people that since I was born again, it has been one perpetual vacation.

When you're free from hell, it's a holiday, I can tell you, compared to what it is when the chains of the devil are around your soul and you're captivated by every rotten, filthy habit of life, as I was. Not every, but many. And so, I'm convinced that out of this group who are here today, not all, but some will be led in to become a spiritual guerrilla force.

Men and women for Rajasthan, men and women for Iran, men and women for the back jungles of Africa, for the deserts of Arabia. How else will the world be evangelized? Do you really think it's going to take place through a satellite? God uses men. E.M. Bounds, in his great book on prayer, said the church looks for better machinery and God looks for better men, anointed men, spirit-filled men, men and women of prayer.

Have you read the life of David Brainerd? Did you figure out where he lived? And think of Amy Carmichael, that young Irish lass, filled with the Holy Ghost of God, who turned her back on the comforts of Ireland, went to India and never returned. There's hardly been a woman in history who has reached so many millions with the truth of God. Think of the daughter of William Booth, the Marichal, a young girl who at fourteen stood in the streets of London with tears flowing down her face.

And before she died and went to heaven, a hundred thousand souls had come to Christ through the Marichal, the daughter of William Booth. Even though she loved Jesus so much, her own father kicked her out of the Salvation Army. Quite a cost, you'd say.

Where did her children live? Yes, she had children. I know one of her daughters, a very close friend of mine. Oh, they must have suffered all they did.

Some suffering is good for children. They respond better than parents. When her children were born, you know where she put them? She didn't have any five hundred dollar little bed to put them in, I'll tell you.

All she had was a dresser drawer. She chased the cockroaches out of the dresser drawer and put the babies in, and they all grew up. We need to go back to the Book of Acts.

We need to go back in the pages of church history to the lives of men like Francis Asbury and Wesley, to the lives of people like William Carey and Henry Martin. Someone told me recently that probably the strongest message given at Urbana this year was not given by a man, it was given by a woman, Elizabeth Elliot, who is known as suffering for Christ. Most of us perhaps will never know the loss of her husband.

God's ways are not easy ways, but they're glorious ways. We are made perfect through suffering, even as the Savior. It says in Philippians 1.21, penned by the same Apostle Paul, that we have been given the privilege not only to believe on Jesus Christ, but to suffer for His sake.

In verse 12 it says, labor, working with our own hands. Oh, physical work, that's a joy. Some of you may think you're coming on O.M. It's going to be all evangelism, tract distribution, and all the glorious things like personal work and whatever else.

Some of you are going to have to do hard physical work. Hard physical work. It's good for you.

Be vile, be blessed. That will always happen in God's work. Being persecuted, we endure it.

Being defamed, I've forgotten the definition of that. And I believe it means a form of slander. We entreat.

We are made as the filth of the world and the offscouring of all things into this present day. This is the Word of God. And all of it would be lovely.

All of it would be so nice if it wasn't for verse 16. Verse 16 is what puts the end to me. After Paul describes this lifestyle, this suffer, this manner of thinking, this attitude, he says, And wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

We are to some degree or other to follow in the steps of this man. If Paul could say this to the carnal Corinthian church, what can he say to a live Bible-based evangelical church as we are in tonight? Would his word be any less than 1 Corinthians chapter 4? Do you know why so many present day evangelicals are not finding reality in their faith? They're not finding that joy that we see written in the lives of these apostles. They're not finding the reality in witness.

They're not finding the joy and the power of the reality in prayer. It's because they've got one foot in the church and the other foot in the world. It's as simple as that.

They want the best out of both worlds. They want to go to heaven. They want to know Christ.

They want to be a respected person in the community. They want to be respected in the church. But they also want their chunk of this world and God has never ordained it to be that way.

And I have received 5,000 letters as a result of my feeble book Come Live, Die from such people. Many of them, not all. And again and again they say the same thing.

My life is not real. Prayer is not real. I believe I'm probably a spiritual schizophrenic.

You see, God has so ordained spiritual life that there's only reality when we throw ourselves into it. In World War II for those who stood in New York City and watched the soldiers march by, was it real? They waved their little American flags and the soldiers marched by and oh boy, they're going off to war. It wasn't very real to those people.

They read about the war. They read the newspaper. They waved the flags.

They saw more men go forth. It wasn't real. They were spectators.

There is no reality in being a spectator. But to those great men, and I tell you, I love this country. And I love especially the wives who remain behind and never saw their husbands again.

I can't even imagine what that would be like. I can tell you my wife can't imagine it. My wife and I often think of what others go through.

You know, we're groaning over some of our little problems and we feel we've got a little bit of a difficulty and we're going into splashing into the self-pity puddle. Have you ever been in the self-pity puddle? Boy, you know, what a hard life. And then you read about some woman who loved a man with all of her heart and after a week of marriage or two weeks, she waved goodbye to him as he got on a ship and he never came back.

What do we have compared to that in the Church of Jesus Christ today except on an extremely small scale? What kind of sacrifice, is there any greater sacrifice than that, that a woman can make who loves her husband? I don't think there is. To those men who went out to the beaches of France, to those men who went out to the beaches of Iwo Jima, that one little island cost I don't know how many. It was real.

Are you aware that there are still many men from World War II in our mental institutions? They're slowly dying off. There they've laid. Forgotten, most of them.

Unvisited even by Christians who are told to be concerned about such people. Do you know there's probably 30 things that I could do for Jesus on any one day? This life is so exciting. There's always so much to do.

Visit the sick. Work with drunks. Go door to door.

Give out tracts. Go to a prayer meeting. Write a letter of compassion.

Help some children. Visit older people. Do youth work.

There's so much to do and yet we find Christians sitting endless hours, spectators, in front of their televisions forgetting that World War II was ever fought. That men like MacArthur ever lived. And now people, they get a joy out of writing dirty little stories about somebody that maybe went to bed once with General Eisenhower.

We were delving in all the filth. We got some kind of a twisted mentality. I don't know whether it grows out of Watergate or out of a cockroach den.

And we were digging up dirt on anybody. We waste time reading it when we could be out making history ourselves and keeping people from the chains of hell. I think we need to be a little more careful about what we read.

I think we need to be a little more disciplined about what we read and what we watch. Not because all of it is so wrong but because we've got so much to do and the Bible says redeem the time because the days are evil. And when some of us get home to our houses at the end of this conference, the first thing we ought to do is put a match to some of the rubbish of reading literature that sits on our shelves.

Not that we shouldn't read secular material. I believe in reading secular material. But it needs to be disciplined.

Yes, to those men who went to Iwo Jima, to those men who were in the Philippines when the Japs took over the Philippines. Have you ever read this story? Marched like insects for a hundred miles. Men who had nothing to drink but one another's urine.

It all sounds crude and extreme and hideous but that's war and our generation is spoiled because we haven't known it. And we're riding as a nation, as a people. Will it take bombs and bullets, laser beams and hydrogen explosions in Minneapolis to wake the church up? I don't know.

I hope not. Yes, we in OM believe this book and therefore we believe that we are soldiers of Jesus Christ in a warfare. We have decided to follow in the steps of the Apostle Paul, not that we particularly like it, not that we're masochistic or ascetic because if you know anything about me, you know what a softy I am at heart.

And if it wasn't for the love of Christ and the mercy of God and some good co-workers and the holy hammer from above, I wouldn't go anywhere but backwards. God found me sipping Coke and sucking ice cream on the beaches of New Jersey and I'd go right back there if it wasn't for the mercy of God and the word of God. Do not think that we leaders in OM are some odd brand.

We have a peculiar inclination and we like travel. I'm even afraid to go in airplanes, much less like travel. If I travel anywhere, it's to a McDonald's for a big milkshake.

I can take two or three tonight. No, you're foolish. You're wrong if you think certain types of people are called to this work so at the end of the summer you will go home and say, OM's not my bag.

It's not my thing. We say in London, OM's not my cup of tea. OM's nobody's cup of tea because nobody wants to be a soldier in a warfare.

No one wants to get his brains blown out. And there are casualties in God's warfare and the next time you point at a missionary and think he's a failure or a casualty, remember, it may have been because he was out winning victories for Jesus. It's going to cost.

It's going to cost. And if you think this message is too extreme, you think it's off base, then I'd recommend you study the book of Acts with honesty. I'd recommend you study passages like 2 Corinthians chapter 6. I'd recommend you study and memorize Hebrews chapter 11.

In fact, you'll probably find a thousand verses in this book that are in line with what I'm saying tonight. Yes, we believe in balance. Do you want some of the balance for this message? My book, The Revolution of Love and Balance is on the book table.

No message we give at this conference can be accepted within itself. It is all part of a total picture. Last night, we talked about survival.

Tonight, we talked about why. We talked about survival last night. Put them together, the whole counsel of God.

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, I know this is a little rough for some people. They want to go soldiering about as much as they want acid tea.

They're about as militant as a flea on the retreat. They get a passion to suffer about as much as they have a passion for a moon trip in a Mercedes or a Volkswagen. But Lord, you can change it.

We give you our wishbones and ask you to give us back a backbone that's controlled by the Holy Ghost, that we may be your men, that we may be your women, willing to suffer, willing to lay down our lives. And if we can't go, we'll send substitutes. And if we can't go, we'll urge others to go.

We'll start prayer meetings in our homes. We'll distribute leaflets. We'll cry in the streets.

We'll cry in the night. And we'll all be a part of the great struggle to reach a lost and dying world with this medicine, this gospel of your Son, the Lord Jesus. Keep us in balance, but oh God, you can't balance something that isn't even going anywhere.

Deliver us of our excuses, our alibis. Help us to delight in you and to realize you delight in us. And Lord, when we sin, whether it's with the lust of the mind, you know how ashamed I am of that difficulty in my life,

or whether it's impatience, another one of my problems, or whether it's fear, another one of my problems, or whether it's a lack of compassion or love, perhaps the greatest sin of all of us.

Lord, we know you're patient. We know you're giving us a second chance, a third chance, many chances. And even when we're down, you love us still.

And so we don't have any excuses. We want to go where you want us to go and do what you want us to do. We want to see the Muslim world reached.

We want to see Africa reached. We want to see Asia reached, India reached. We believe you're going to raise up a guerrilla force.

We believe you're going to raise up an army of church planters. We believe you're going to raise up women who will be willing to die to self, to be your woman wherever it might be, even married to some of the crazy men that you raise up in the process. Your men, not really crazy, just out of step with this world, which has gone mad with pride and lust and the love of things.

Oh, God bless us in this weekend. Move upon us in Holy Ghost power. Meet us in our personal prayer times tonight and in the morning that we may know that we are with you.

And we'll give you the praise and we give you the glory. So weak we are, so inadequate, so trembling, we cast ourselves upon you and say, Oh, Lord, we surrender all. We surrender all.

We surrender all through Jesus who gave us all. Amen.

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