

A Vessel Prepared for Revival

by Keith Malcomson

This sermon is about the preparation of Gideon as a vessel of revival in the midst of obscurity, sacrifices, apostasy, and divine confirmation. Gideon is called to rise up against idolatry in his father's house and gather people to stand against the enemy. Through divine signs and sacrifices, Gideon seeks assurance of God's will and prepares for the coming revival.

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Description

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Transcript

Here this morning, I want you to turn to the Old Testament in your Bible, to the book of Judges. If you want to find Judges, find Deuteronomy, the fifth book of Moses. Then you'll have Joshua, then you have Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, and you'll be able to find it.

But we're going to Judges, chapter 6, here this morning. And I'm starting a new series, maybe over the next two or three weeks, I don't know how far we go. But I do know where we're to start here.

And I've got a new mini-series called, A Vessel of Revival. And when I talk about a vessel of revival, when I talk about a vessel, I'm talking about an instrument. A gathering or a group of genuine born-again believers, who are going to be forged together to be an instrument for God to pour out His Holy Spirit.

And that's what we're going to deal with, a vessel of revival. And I'm going to explain this thoroughly. We're going to begin this morning, and I'm only laying the foundation of where God begins in seeking for a vessel of revival.

You find that what I'm going to give you is found all throughout the Bible, Old Testament, New Testament, all throughout church history in every generation. But here this morning, as we turn to Judges, chapter 6, my first message here, a vessel prepared for revival. Reading from Judges, and I'm going to deal with the entire chapter 6 here this morning.

I'm going to expound it, preach it, teach it, and exhort you from Judges 6. But I'm only going to read a few verses, reading from verse 11. And please follow with me here this morning. Judges, chapter 6, verse 11.

And there came an angel of the Lord, and sat under an oak which was in Uphra, that pertained unto Jehosh the Abizite, and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. An angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor. And Gideon said unto him, O my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? And where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of? Saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? But now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

And the Lord looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have not I sent thee? And he said unto him, O my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? Behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house. And the Lord said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.

And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then show me a sign that thou talkest with me. Let's pray together. Father, we thank you for the word of God, the truth of God's word, that Christ is exalted in all of these things.

And Father, we pray, exalt your Son, your precious Son, who died for us on the cross this morning. We love you with all of our heart. And Father, here this morning, we pray for the blowing of that wind upon every life, that you revive, that you quicken, that you stir.

Nor God, you say in John chapter 3, that the wind bloweth where it listeth. Nor God, to convert men, to save them, to change their hearts. Who can explain the conversion of a precious soul? Nor God, who can understand, O God, the mystery of the miracle of regeneration? And nor God, we pray for those that don't know you, that the wind of God would blow mightily upon them to save them, O God.

Nor God, to super them, to change them, to deliver them from sin. Nor God, we as a church, I pray for the blowing of that wind. Revive us again, stir us again.

Nor God, all those online, we pray for that blowing of the wind of God. We pray for revival and a refreshing of their soul, and an infilling of the Holy Spirit. Nor God, we pray, O God, because of Calvary, because of the blood, O God, the way is open for you to have mighty dealings with each one of us.

And nor God, we do pray, O God, those that are visiting for the first time, will you meet with them in this room? Will you make this an Ebenezer? Nor God, will you make it an altar, O God? Will you make it a place where you speak of this, saith the Lord to their hearts? In Jesus' name, we love you, we exalt you, and we magnify you. In Jesus' mighty name, amen. My message, a vessel prepared for revival.

And over the next few weeks, we're going to look and deal with Gideon. You know, it was on Monday that God both began to speak to Candace and I separately. And sometimes it takes a few days to begin to realize that God is speaking to you and laying something in.

You find that these truths are rolling with you. Then you realize this is God speaking, revealing, opening his truth. And so we come to Judges chapter 6, dealing with a vessel prepared for revival.

The book of Judges covers a period over 400 years long. Previous to the time of Gideon here, Deborah, one of the judges, the fourth judge of Israel, God kept raising up over a 400 year period. God's people

would turn away from him, grow cold in heart, begin to worship other idols and other gods.

They would become compromised, sinful, wicked, and even evil. They would depart from the living God. And what we have all through the book of Judges is the repeated reviving of God's people.

When God would raise up a vessel, he raised up an instrument, he raised up an individual. And through that individual who he called a judge, he would again call his people back, restore his people, and begin to judge them concerning righteousness. Now we know when we come here that previous to this there had been 40 years of peace.

I mean peace from the enemy. I mean victory over the enemy. Deborah, that woman of God, that woman of prayer, that woman of godly counsel, had reigned and judged Israel.

She sat and gave them the word of the Lord. She was a woman of God who walked with God. And there was peace in Israel 40 long years.

Their enemies did not arise. But then suddenly come a time where God's people had turned away again. And God allows for a period of 7 years for their enemies called the Midianites to come in and to rule over them.

And the Midianites were a terrible enemy who began to rule over Israel. Look with me here in this chapter for a moment what it says in chapter 6 verse 1. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. And the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Midian 7 years.

And so we see because of their coldness, their apostasy, their moving away from God, God gives them over in the hands of their enemies. Do you know what I believe has happened in our generation? You and I have come into a generation where the church because of its spiritual condition, God has given us over in the hands of our enemies. There is no doubt about that.

Look at the condition of the real church in our nations. Whether it's America or whether it's Ireland. Don't tell me there's revival in the church.

There isn't revival. You know what I see? I see a people, an institution given over into the hands of their enemies. And I want to tell you we live in very dark and very evil days.

When evil gets inside the church, God will allow enemies to arise. He'll allow the enemy to prosper. He'll allow the church to be defeated.

When evil gets inside the church, you see judgments got to begin at the church. You better not condemn the world for sins that you tolerate here in this church. You better not do that because there will be a dealing of God.

And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. And because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves dens, which are in the mountains and the caves and strongholds. Look at God's people.

In an hour where the enemy begins to triumph, they begin to hide in caves. They find holes and strongholds and they're hiding. You know here it talks in verse 4. It says that the enemy left them no sustenance.

In other words, no food, nothing to eat, nothing to give them strength. In verse 6 it says they were greatly impoverished, which means terribly weakened, left without any strength to act. The name Midian means strife or contention or trouble.

And so you have a massive army of Midianites that arise. It goes further here in verse 3. And so it was that when Israel had sown, they're trying to bring forth a harvest that they can eat. That the Midianites came up and the Amalekites and the children of the east, even they came up against them.

And they encamped against them and destroyed the increase of the earth till thou come unto Cusa and left no sustenance for them. You know what it says here in the following verses? That these Midianites came up as a great host like locusts covering the ground. They were so many.

This enemy came up without number. They came riding upon camels and they covered the entire earth. What a terrible enemy when you're without strength.

And what Israel would do is they're just trying to grow their harvest. They're just trying to feed themselves. They're just trying to survive.

And you have this massive unbelievable army riding in upon camels. These Midianites, remember it was the Midianites who carried Joseph from Canaan down into Egypt and sold him. The Ishmaelites, they sold him for money.

Well it's the same Midianites here. And they ride into Canaan, into God's land on the back of camels. Now I know something about camels.

I've twice or maybe three times tried to ride a camel. You want to be very careful with a camel, I want to tell you. But listen, the camels come in without number.

See a camel is a remarkable animal. You can travel three or four days, a camel can, with a very heavy load. They can travel about 300 miles without food or without water.

So each of these Midianites, each had a camel. And they could travel for all that distance. They don't need to feed the animal.

They don't need to water the animal. It's just kept in that hump. And you had an entire army sweep into the nation to steal the food of that people.

When we come to this hour, when this enemy, it would pull back and go home. And it would wait for the Israelites to grow their harvest. And they bring their harvest in.

And then they'd sweep in and take it all. And go home laughing. And Israel is left, they can't even feed themselves.

Then it would happen again. Let Israel grow their harvest. Let Israel think they're going to eat and feast again.

Let Israel stockpile everything. And the Midianites would sweep in with all of their camels. And they would take it.

And Israel is left without anything. This is the hour that God calls Gideon. There's about a hundred verses written about Gideon in the book of Judges.

More than any other single judge. He is the fifth judge in this book. And we know the number five represents the number of grace.

That's what it represents. And we see that where Gideon lived was Manasseh, the tribe of Manasseh. And that was the center of the attack of the Midianites.

I want you to see here, Gideon is a type of a people being prepared for revival. And that's what we're dealing with here. I'm showing you the entire situation.

But we want to look at one man, one person. Who represents a vessel, a church, or a people being prepared for revival. When we begin to look at Gideon, we're looking at a man prepared.

Fitted for the task. Made apt for what God is about to do. You know, God must do a work in Gideon, in his heart, in his life.

Before Gideon rises up to do a work for God. And I assure it's the same for you as a church. Before you do a great work for God.

God's going to have to do a great work within your heart and your life. I've got four points here I want to deal with. Number one, prepared in obscurity.

You see, God is speaking to you. Speaking to you online and speaking to you here. And I believe if we're going to see, how is Gideon prepared for revival? How does this preparation come about? This is the first great point you're going to have to see here.

He was prepared in obscurity. In other words, away from the sight of man. Away from the hand of man.

He is utterly unnoticed. Look with me at verse 11. What you see here is Gideon.

When he's first mentioned, when you first see him. He is being prepared for a great task in obscurity. Do you know every revival of church history has begun in obscurity? I can hardly find one revival that began with a group of a thousand believers.

Almost impossible to find. Do you know when I begin to read the history of revival for the past 2,000 years. Do you know what I begin to find? I find 17 young people in a meeting in Wales.

And on that night, a young preacher who had never preached a sermon before. Stands up in fear and trembling. And he begins to preach.

His name was Evan Roberts. Within 6 months, 100,000 people are born again. And the nation is being lifted heavenward.

And a remarkable revival. 10% of that entire country turned to Jesus in that year. That is revival.

Or if you look at the Lewis revival that happened at the end of the 1940s. You've got 2 old ladies who can't even make it to church. One of them is blind.

And the other is crippled up with arthritis. But do you know what they're doing? At least 2 nights every week. They pray all through the night.

Every single week. 2 nights a week. They pray all through the night.

Saying, revive your church. Pour out your spirit. And you know what? They knew the will of God.

The preacher, Duncan Campbell. He didn't know revival was going to come. The elders in the church didn't know.

But 2 old ladies in that building. They said, God has spoken to us. We know who the preacher is.

He's over in Belfast at the minute. They wrote to him. He didn't come.

He said, I'm too busy with ministry. They wrote again. Said, Mr. Campbell, if you walk closer to God and heard from God, you'd know God's going to use you in this revival.

You need to come to Lewis. Well, eventually, listen, he come there and a revival broke out. Saints, every revival in church history has been prepared and birthed in obscurity.

That is where God begins. Look where Gideon is here. The place where we find him, where we first see him.

It's called Upfra, which was in Manasseh. Now, this place is about 16 miles of Jericho, from Jericho, in western Manasseh. Look exactly in this town, in this community, where God finds Gideon.

He's here right next to an oak tree. And it says, an angel of the Lord came and sat under an oak, which was in Upfra, that pertained to Joash. It was owned by Gideon's father.

This community, this town, this land belonged to Gideon's father. It's remarkable. And here there was an oak tree.

Do you know what? The oak tree represents something very important here, when you begin to look at the life of Gideon. In verse 11, we see that the angel of the Lord sat under the oak tree. A little bit further in verse 9, it talks about Gideon bringing his sacrifice unto the Lord under the oak.

So notice immediately, this oak tree is very important, what it represents. This is where God first finds Gideon and meets with Gideon. You know, when you look at oak trees in the Old Testament, and do a study of it, you're going to see something very wonderful.

You'll go back to Genesis 35, and what you find is Jacob, on his way to Bethel, has a family revival. And he takes all the idols and the earrings, and he buries them under an oak tree on the way to Bethel. When you're going to get back to the real church of God, you're going to have to go back to the oak tree.

You see, there was a revival in that family. You know what else happened in Genesis 35? We're told that Jacob's old nursing maid, the nursing maid that raised him up from a little baby, looked after him as a child, died here, and they buried her under the same oak tree. So the oak tree begins to represent something.

The oak tree represents the cross of Jesus Christ. It represents the death of something. Again, we read of Absalom, the rebellious, apostate son of King David.

His hair, remember his hair? He was proud, he was arrogant. And he got hung in an oak tree, and he died there. You see, the oak tree represents the death of the old man, the death of the flesh, the death of self.

And this oak tree represents the cross. This is where God began to make Gideon, the place of preparation, of obscurity, of isolation, of being alone with God. You know, you and I, we need an experience of fresh meeting with God at the cross, at the place of consecration.

When Gideon is seen here, it's a place of fresh consecration, a place of meeting with God. It means the death of the old man and of the old life. When that old nursing maid died there, do you know what it represented to Jacob? Your old life, your natural man has to die at that oak tree.

Not that old lady that raised you up, spoiled you, looked after you, treated you so well. She has just died, and everything of Jacob is going to have to die at that oak tree. It is representative.

When the angel of the Lord sits under the oak tree, he's speaking to Gideon, I'm bringing you to the cross again. I'm bringing you to consecration. This is where the place of preparation is.

You want a revival? You need to get back to the cross again. You say, oh, I repented of my sins. I got born again.

You know what? You're going to have to meet Christ at Calvary again, at fresh consecration. The flesh is going to have to die. You're going to have to yield everything at the place of the oak.

You know, we are singing there this morning, the old rugged cross. Kenneth Copeland in America, he mocked those who used to sing about the old rugged cross. I grew up in a home where my father, first thing on a Sunday morning, he'd be getting ready for church.

I'd hear him singing, the old rugged cross. You will go nowhere with God unless you meet with God at Calvary. If the cross isn't precious to you, if death is not embraced by you, you'll not go anywhere with God, I assure you.

Look what happens to Gideon here. It says that Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, by this oak tree. The angel of the Lord is sitting under the oak tree.

What's Gideon doing? He is threshing wheat by the winepress. Now, you may not be very intelligent or educated, but I want to tell you, you don't thresh wheat in a winepress. In a winepress, what do you do? You tread out grapes to make wine.

That's what you get in the winepress. And yet we have here is Gideon threshing wheat or flour out upon a winepress. This is strange.

There's something not normal here. This is not normal procedure. Normally, what you do when you thresh out the wheat, you normally do it in a high elevated area, a high spot on top of a mountain.

In fact, where you beat out the wheat, it would be a round wooden board, just open-ended, open that everyone can see, and you begin to beat out the wheat. You know what you're trying to do? You're trying to produce something that can make bread for you, and that's what he's doing here. It was a circular flat wooden area that made a lot of noise, and it was to separate the wheat from the chaff.

You're trying to knock out the chaff. You want to get rid of the chaff in order to produce bread, and this bread always represents the Word of God. You know what Gideon's doing? He's hiding from the Midianites.

He is hiding. He is making bread, and he's doing it secretly in hiding, away from the eyes of the enemy. If he does it on the top of the hill, he'll be seen.

If he does it on a wooden board, he will be heard, and so you have him actually in a winepress producing the wheat, knocking out, trying to divide it, and to bring forth something that can feed him. Now, where do you find a winepress? It's usually at the bottom of a hill on a very low plain, and in fact, if you see old pictures, they dig it down into the ground. If you're in the winepress, you're hidden from sight.

You're below ground level, so you're not even ground level in the valley. You go much deeper, so you have Gideon down inside the winepress, but there's no wine. There's no use for the winepress.

You know the winepress and grapes are always a symbol of the joy of the Holy Ghost, of the blessing of God, of a glad heart, but do you know what you do not have in this story when we first see Gideon? There's no joy amongst God's people. There's no blessing amongst God's people. They're not trying to produce wine.

They're trying to produce bread and just feed themselves on the most basic and elementary things. You see, normally a cow would feed out that wheat, but not here. It's not happening.

You've got one man with his threshing instrument. He doesn't have a cow. He's not doing it with servants.

It's one man just trying to make enough to eat and to get by. At this point, this is where the angel of the Lord comes to Gideon. You see, we're talking about being prepared in obscurity.

Here you have Gideon with many questions in his mind. Where are the miracles? Where is God? What has happened? He's not a compromiser. He is the real believer of that hour.

God's people have compromised. God's people have followed idols. But here's a man of God, a young man of God, who loves God with all of his heart.

And he says, I want to feed myself. I haven't given in to the enemy. I haven't compromised.

I am making my stand. I'm doing everything I can. And the Lord speaks to him, verse 12.

An angel of the Lord appeared unto him and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thy mighty man of valor. And Gideon said unto him, O my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? And where are all the miracles which our fathers have told us, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? But now the Lord hath forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. The angel of the Lord speaks to Gideon and he's sunk down into the ground, just beaten out this week, trying to make provisions.

What does the Lord say unto him? The Lord is with thee, thy mighty man of valor. What a remarkable thing to hear when the angel of the Lord comes and says, The Lord is with you. He can't believe it.

You know why the enemy is triumphant? There are no miracles. He reads about them in the Bible, but there's no miracles. He is not seeing them.

There are many prayers unanswered. There's no revival in the land. There's no stirring.

No great harvest of souls coming in. No power of God in the church. And so he has many questions.

The angel of the Lord speaks to him, The Lord is with you. If he's with me, why is all of this happening? Surely if God is with us, we wouldn't be sitting like this here this morning. Surely the power of God would be here.

Hundreds would be getting converted. Is it possible that God is with a man, and yet he's not seeing great things happen? Yes, if he's a vessel being prepared to obscurity. When you find any revival, any church, any ministry, any preacher that's going to be used in revival, it's always in obscurity.

That's where God finds him. That's where God meets him and begins to prepare him. He doesn't prepare you amidst the crowds.

He doesn't prepare you in the busyness of ministry. He doesn't prepare you in revival. He prepares you in obscurity, in darkness, in oppression, in confusion.

He prepares you when you've got a hundred questions that cannot be answered. He's there preparing you when your heart is broken, when your heart is crying out to God for revival, and it seems the heavens are brass. That's where God prepares a revival.

That's where God makes ready an instrument. Do you know God's preparing a vessel now, right now in our world? Look at the world. It's never been as dark as it is.

We are heading towards disaster in this hour. I told you on Friday night about the same thing. The leader of the World Bank is saying we're going into a deep crisis of trying to buy what we need for the next three years.

We've got the British Army arming up, calling on civilians to get ready for war. We've got NATO moving their military force up to 350,000. Look around you.

The financial crisis, it's only beginning. The shortages of fuel, of food, of everything else, it's only beginning. But can I tell you, God is preparing a vessel, an instrument, in one of the darkest hours in world history.

Never have we seen such a dark hour that encompasses the entire globe. But I want to tell you, God is preparing a vessel, and I'll tell you where it is. It's not in the megapulpits in some nation.

It's not the large crowds. God right now is preparing a Gideon, and he's going to be found next to the oak tree. That's where God's going to speak to him and meet with him, and he's going to say, I am with thee, thou mighty man of valor.

Here's someone hiding underground depth, scared of the enemy, scared of his own family, scared of his own people, and yet God says, you're a mighty man of valor. You've got great courage. You've got great power.

You're a soldier. He's never had a sword in his hand during his entire life. He has beaten out the weak with a threshing instrument, and yet God is saying, look at the questions he asks.

If the Lord is with us, why is all this happening? Has that question ever come to you? What is going on? Why is there no revival? Why are souls not getting saved? Where are the miracles of healing? Where is the power of God in this hour? You could resign yourself and say it's all over. We're in the last days. There are no revivals.

You can simply say it's the sovereignty of God. That's not what Judges teaches you. Every time God's people fall away, there's great darkness comes in.

The enemy comes in like a flood. Don't tell me this is the church Jesus is coming back for. He's coming back for a bride that has prepared herself and made herself ready.

You know, as he begins to pour out all the questions to the angel of the Lord, oh yes, he was a historian. Did you know that? Gideon had read the book of the Lord. He said, yes, I know what the Lord done in past days.

Yes, I've read about how Moses brought them out of Egypt. Yes, I know this has happened to us, but where is it now? The Lord doesn't answer any of his questions. Verse 14, and the Lord looked upon him and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel.

Look at Gideon standing, I believe, below ground level with the angel of the Lord looking down upon them. Thou mighty man of valor, go in this thy strength. Hold on, all he's got is questions, all he's got is contradictions, all he's got is confusion, but he does love the Lord with all of his heart.

How can the Lord say, go in this thy might? Do you know what his might was? God's might or power, where is it made perfect? In weakness. Do you realize here that the strength of Gideon was his weakness, his helplessness, his inability, his insufficiency? That was the might of Gideon. You know the Lord said, I can use this vessel.

You know why? It is so weak, so unable. It can never take the glory. It can never accomplish this.

If God is going to do anything, it's going to have to be by my power, my ability, all my reserves. He had found the right man in the right place at the right time to do the right thing. You know what Gideon's might was? It was an overwhelming consciousness of his own weakness.

He was a broken vessel, an empty vessel, and he was standing ready to be used of God. In this chapter 6 you see about Gideon, his humility shines forth. His carefulness and his cautiousness marks the entire chapter.

He is a spiritual man. He is an obedient man, and he's a man of prayer. I believe this is a vessel being prepared in obscurity.

Saints of God, I don't care if you're not shaking the city or the world. What I'm asking you, are you such a vessel? Are you at the cross? Are you obedient? Do you love God? Are you careful? Are you humble? Are you crying out, where are your miracles, Lord? Is there a deep cry in your heart, broken for the nation and broken for the church? That's number one, prepared in obscurity. Number two, prepared by divine signs and sacrifices.

Look at verse 17. And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then show me a sign that thou talkest with me. If I have found grace.

If this thing's going to happen, it's going to have to be by your grace. You know what the Bible teaches about grace? God's grace is his unmerited favor in salvation. But it's more than that.

It is his power, his ability. It is the influence of heaven on a life to accomplish the will of God. Gideon is standing there in this winepress, beating out the flour to make bread with.

And you know what he says? If I have found grace, if this is really you, if I know the grace is with you, because it's not with me, you call me a mighty man. I need your grace if you're going to accomplish this. Are you very aware that the grace of God can bring revival? Are you looking at yourself and saying, I'm not holy enough, I'm not able enough, I'm not accomplishing enough.

If I can't even win one person to Christ, how can we see revival in Limerick City? Here Gideon is in the right place. If I have found grace in thy sight, then show me a sign that thou talkest with me. Gideon is looking for a sign.

He wants to believe this. He wants to be persuaded that you're actually saying this. I've lived in a church generation where Christians have all said, the Spirit told me, God told me.

99% of that is pure flesh. It's their own imagination. But I do believe God speaks.

I know that God speaks to a heart, but he doesn't speak all the time, every day, in every way. That would destroy you if God done that. I don't know anybody that really happens with.

Not in the Bible. It didn't happen to Paul. Didn't happen to Samuel.

Didn't happen to David. Didn't happen to Peter. Do you know what? The second thing, Gideon was prepared by divine signs and sacrifices.

He is looking for a sign. Now we know that the Jews, the Bible says about them, the Jews seek for a sign. It's a bad thing.

Lord, show me a miracle, then I'll believe in you. You're in trouble. God won't do that for you.

If you don't believe his word, he'll give you no sign. You're going to get in big trouble. But this isn't about salvation.

This isn't about obedience. He's already obeying God. He's already praying.

Hey, he doesn't understand anything happening in this generation. He doesn't have an answer at all, yet he's being faithful. He's being obedient.

He is consistent. You know, some of you, you're waiting, God, come and do this, then I'll obey. You'll wait a long time.

Lord, give me a sign, and then I'll go and pray. You're really in trouble. You're playing a dangerous game.

You see, Gideon was prepared in a place by divine signs and sacrifice. Having said to the angel of the Lord, show me a sign that you're really saying this to me. What does Gideon do? Verse 18.

This is very important. Remember I said at this point he was prepared in a place of signs and sacrifice. Never separate sacrifice from the signs.

He's looking for a sign, confirmation. He just wants to know this is really God speaking. And so what does he do? Verse 18.

Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee and bring forth my present and set it before thee. Do you know what Gideon's going to do? He's going to make a sacrifice. Has he got a sign yet? No.

Has the angel of the Lord done a miracle yet? No. Or something supernatural? Absolutely not. Do you know what Gideon's doing? Gideon is looking to be confirmed in this, but he says, hold on, I want you to stay right here at the place of the cross, under the oak tree.

Do not move from here. And I want to bring an offering, a sacrifice. You see, lots of people in the church pray for signs, but they're not making any sacrifice.

They say, you do the sign, then I'll bring a sacrifice. Do you hear me? They say, once I know, once I know the calling, you've called me to preach. Well, after you do some supernatural sign and open up all the doors, then I'll give everything to you and I'll sacrifice.

Oh no. Do you know what Gideon does? Before there's any signs or confirmation, he runs to make a wholehearted sacrifice. And notice here very carefully what happens.

And he said, I will tarry until thou come again. And Gideon went in and made ready a kid. This is in a time where they can hardly feed themselves.

There is very little to go around. Gideon goes and gets a kid. Personally, I believe this could be the only kid that he had.

The only one. He goes and gets it, he kills it, and he provides it as a meal. Then, unleavened cakes of an ether of flour.

Look carefully what he's doing. An ether of flour. And he makes little cakes.

I looked this up. Do you know how much that's for? That's for about 45 men for a day. He's only speaking to the angel of the Lord.

The flesh he put in a basket and put the broth in a pot and brought it out unto him under the oak and presented it to him. Do you know what Gideon's doing here? He's making a massive sacrifice. Do you know how long he would have to work in the wine press to produce enough flour to bring forth enough food for 45 men for an entire day? Do you know how long he would have to work? For a long time.

And he brings all of this. Do you know what he's doing? He's saying, Lord, I want a sign. I need confirmation.

I want something supernatural. I want to know what you're saying about revival in the nation. You're telling me I'm a mighty man of God and the entire nation's going to be changed and the enemy's going to be defeated and that you're going to send a revival.

I need to know. I need a sign to know that you, God in heaven, are saying this. Do you know how he gets that sign? He gives everything.

He makes a sacrifice and he brings it to the angel of the Lord under the oak tree. Saints of God, this is what you need. You don't play games of God and say, prove yourself.

Do a sign and then I'll believe. Then I'll obey you. You would never obey God.

Show me a man or woman saying, Lord, I really feel you're talking about revival. I sacrifice everything. And see if I've got this wrong and you're not speaking to me, I'm in serious trouble.

I mean, I'm in serious trouble. When God called us to start this church seven years ago, doors were open everywhere from Ukraine to Australia. Emails, calls were coming, come train leaders, come train pastors, come preach, come do a conference.

And what did we do? We wrote and cancelled everything. Before we started the first Sunday of this church, I cancelled everything and for the foreseeable future, I turned down preaching engagements. I turned down opportunities.

And I knew that I was going into a living room with about five or seven people crammed in a kitchen, beginning to preach, with the devil telling me, you'll be sitting here with ten people and nothing's going to happen and all those doors are going to close and you'll never be able to travel and preach again. What a battle. But thanks to God, when you know God is speaking to you, there's got to be a church here in Limerick.

And you know what it meant? It meant an absolute sacrifice to go, God, if you really want a church, if you're really calling us here, I can't say give a sign and do wonders, then we'll do it. There was an ultimate sacrifice of giving everything to God. And the angel of God said unto him, take the flesh and the unleavened cakes and lay them upon this rock.

There was a rock by the oak tree. That's where you'd have put it. It's not for me to eat.

I'm not going to eat it. Put it upon the rock. The rock always represents Christ.

And pour out the broth. And he did so. He's obedient.

Then the angel of the Lord put forth the end of his staff that was in his hand and he touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes and there rose a fire out of the rock and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the Lord departed out of his sight. Fire, burning up the sacrifice means acceptance.

God accepted the sacrifice. It was a sign. When you give everything, you will get the signs, I assure you.

When you step out in faith, I told you when we stepped out with School of Christ some 20 years ago, I didn't have enough money to put fuel in the car. I didn't have enough money to get the first ticket to get a ferry from Northern Ireland to Scotland. But do you know what? On a Monday morning, I'm packed in my car, said goodbye to my mom, goodbye to the church and all the Christians and I'm driving to the ferry port.

I don't even have money for it. Do you know what? I believe what I'm preaching here. You are prepared in obscurity.

You're prepared in a situation that almost seems to mock at you and to laugh at you. When Gideon is being prepared in a place of signs and sacrifice, you better understand what that means. We as a church want signs.

Lord, I want you to do something supernatural. You haven't given anything. If you don't lay everything on the rock, if you don't sacrifice, we'll give a little token.

Some of you don't give enough money to have any signs come looking for you. You know, you don't suffer, you don't sacrifice, you don't take any risks. You play it so safe, you'll never be in financial need.

You know what? You're in dangerous ground. You'll be the one to suffer while those whose sacrifice will be provided for. I want to assure you, I know exactly what I'm talking about.

When Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the Lord, remember he just disappeared. The signs come when you sacrifice and give to God. Gideon said, Alas, O Lord God, for because I have seen an angel of the Lord face to face, and the Lord said unto him, Peace be unto thee.

Fear not, thou shalt not die. In those days, you'll find again in Judges 13, they believed if you seen an angel of the Lord, you'd die. They were convinced of it.

Remember Samson's parents, they saw the angel of the Lord, and they were convinced we're going to die. They got scared. You know now people say they've gone to heaven and played with Jesus.

No fear of God. They're reprobates. They're game players.

When you really meet with God, it's holy ground. It's a fearful thing. Those who really meet with God, they tremble in His very presence.

It is an awesome experience to be in the presence of God. But do you know what Gideon realized here? This is an angel of the Lord. In fact, more than that.

You know what? Most Bible scholars believe this was the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a pre-incarnate, physical appearance and manifestation of Jesus. And you have about 40 of these in our Old Testament where Christ reveals Himself.

Remember Moses, when Moses is sitting in his tent and three men come and approach him. Two of those men are angels. One of them is the Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ.

And he's the one who goes with them on the way pleading for Sodom and Gomorrah. Three angels go to bring judgment. One of them stays there to hear the prayers of Abraham.

But here what you have is the angel of the Lord meeting with Gideon. And he says, Fear not, you will not die. Then look what Gideon does.

Then he built an altar there unto the Lord and called it Jehovah Shalom unto this day. It is yet an uppra. Do you know what he done here? He built an altar on this place where God confirmed.

I'm talking about signs and sacrifice. Do you realize Gideon was a man of the altar? A man of sacrifice. You pray big prayers.

But do you give big sacrifices? Is your altar bigger than the signs and miracles that you are looking for? Some people never build altars. They never give sacrifices. They never give their last meal away.

And they don't have any miracles. I can tell you of miracles because I know what it is to be driving up towards Glasgow and I'm watching the fuel tank go down and not being foolish. I'm not tempting God.

I'm telling you I'm just trying to do the will of God. I say, oh God will you help me? From that day to now 20 years ago I've never once ran out of fuel. There's always been money for fuel.

But on that day I got tormented in my room or in my mind. You know some of you never experience the power of God. The voice of God.

The presence of God. Because you never stand at the Red Sea. You go, Lord you open up the Red Sea and then I'll get out of Egypt and I'll go marching towards the sea.

Lord just send the manna and then we'll step out and walk out into that wilderness. Lord I'm not going to look like a fool marching round the walls of Jericho. Oh I'm not going to be seen to be a fool.

I'll just wait here and you make the walls fall and then I'll tell everyone the walls are going to fall. That's how many Christians prepare. Third of all, prepared in apostasy.

He was not only prepared in obscurity. Prepared in the place of sacrifice and signs. He was prepared in apostasy.

The word apostasy means to fall away from the true faith. When God's real people fall away from the Bible move away from God and truth that is apostasy. It says in verse 25 and it came to pass the same night the Lord said unto him, unto Gideon that same night when all of this happened God's not going to delay.

This is the time of preparation. Take thy father's young bullock even the second bullock of seven years old and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath and cut down the groove that is by it. This is a vessel God has chosen to change the entire nation.

Look where he's been living. Look at the home that he is living in. His father has idols, idolatry all around.

Gideon has grown up in this. It surrounds him. He can't even win a victory in his father's house.

He hasn't even led his father away from idolatry to the real God. Where is the power of God? Gideon himself must have said how could I be a vessel of revival? How could God use me in a great way whenever there is idols standing in my own father's house? Look what God says to him. This is the time and the hour.

You built an altar at the place of signs. I've confirmed to you this is me. I've shown you that this is God dealing with you.

Now I want you to do something. It's time to throw down the altar of Baal. Gideon was prepared in the midst of apostasy.

How are you going to be prepared? You will never see revival unless you're prepared in the midst of apostasy. Every person used in revival has had to make a stand. God is asking him here to throw down the altar of Baal in his father's house.

A lot of Christians, they say I'm only four things. I love people. I care about people.

I'm positive. I like everyone. Then you're only a half-baked Christian.

Can I tell you that? Do you know what? I know what sort of Christian you are. If I ask you, what are you against? What are you against? What do you stand against? What do you rise up against? What do you not believe in? It's not enough to ask you what do you believe in? There's lots in the ecumenical movement that say, I love Christ. I'm born again.

I believe in salvation. I believe in the Bible. I believe in the cross.

And then you ask some of these ecumenical Catholics, yes, but you pray to Mary. Yeah. And you do the rosary.

Yeah. And you do the confessional. Yeah.

You're not born again. That's utterly impossible. It's not enough to ask what do you believe? I've got to know what you're against.

And you know what? There's a lot of born-again Catholics who worship Mary. They give her reverence. They pray to her.

They'll say they don't worship her, but they do. If you pray to someone and bow before them and give to them and that person can see your heart, you're worshipping. That's what it is.

See here, Gideon rises up in the house of his father. And you know what he does? He begins to cut down the groove. He's moved from a threshing instrument to an axe.

And there's a progression. We'll deal with this next week further. There's going to be a sword.

He begins to move. It's time for the axe. Gideon was prepared.

You're not ready for revival if you can't rise up against apostasy. I mean corruption all around you in the church. If you're not against things in the church, and there's an awful lot to be against in this hour, we'll never see revival in the 21st century.

We'll never have another revival unless preachers and Christians rise up and they attack with the hatchet. No. A hatchet isn't an axe, is it? It's nothing.

All through the years I'd say to Candace, Would you buy me an axe? We don't have an axe. And she went out this day and she'd come back with a hatchet. This is an axe.

You cut trees down with an axe. She'd come back with a hatchet. And I went, Well, I can cut up kindling with that but not cut down trees.

It's the wrong instrument. She had always thought that an axe was a hatchet. A hatchet meant this.

That's a hatchet. You need to be careful what you talk about. Lots of people say, Oh, repentance is just a change of mind.

No, it's not. It's a brokenness of your sin. It's a contrition.

It's a turning around of your entire life. Here you have Gideon prepared an apostasy. He is taking an axe to idols, idolatry, false teaching in his own father's house.

Now look, he does have fear. He's a man that's lacking confidence here. And it says, And build an altar unto the Lord God upon the top of the rock where this other altar was.

It says in Ephesians 5 and 11, Have no fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove them. 2 Corinthians 6 verse 17, Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you. There has to be a separation from false systems and false teachings and false teachers.

Do you know if your pastor is a false teacher, you need to run. You need to separate yourself. Gideon's name, and this is what Gideon means.

It means to fell or to shoo down. It means to cut down. That's what his name was.

It's his character. Tell me what you want to cut down. And you can't build unless you cut down.

If you're not willing to cut down the trees of Baal, you can't build an altar to the Lord. You could say, I'm going to build an altar to the Lord and leave that intact. You're going to have problems.

Then Gideon took ten men of his servants with him. What a small house church. Ten men and Gideon, and you're going to change the nation.

Ha ha. Ha ha. If that's possible, we'll see elephants fly.

Ha ha. I believe that. Gideon got himself ten servants to go with him to accomplish this.

To do what God had told him. And listen to why he'd done it at night. And he'd done it at night.

Didn't do it during the day. And there's a reason. He feared his father's household and the men of the city, and he could not do it by day, and so he did it by night.

So he takes his ten friends by night, cuts it all down. Do you remember a few years ago, we had a Gideon in the midst, or in the making. I think he's a Gideon in the preparation.

Mary was coming into the church. Her house is filled with statues, and idols, and idolatry, and she has a person who happened to wander into the meetings, and hear the word of God. You know, Mary was sitting in these meetings, and she said, Keith, after a meeting, she'd thought this out.

Great wisdom. Now Keith, how about if I move them an inch every day? I didn't say much, I just let her talk. She's not saved.

She's not born again. If she was born again, she'd threw them all out. But she's got all of this idolatry.

So she says, Keith, I've got it. Mary got it. I know what to do.

I'm telling you the preacher. I'm going to keep moving them, an inch a day. Who knows how long it would have taken.

And we're moving them towards the door, but it's very, very hard. Keith, I'm working on it. I'm listening to your preaching.

I understand. I shouldn't be doing it. They shouldn't be here.

But I have to... Her statues, I can't bear to break them. Well, she had an unsaved son who rose up in the spirit of Gideon. It must have been our prayers.

Who took them in a bag and threw them over a wall. Didn't take an inch a day after all. But do you know what, in the church of our day, where are the Gideons? Here he is.

He is scared. He is fearful. He is doubting himself.

He's got so many questions. But do you know what, he does rise up and do what he can do. He can't do it during the day, so he does it at night.

He can't do it alone, so he takes ten trusted friends with him. And what do they do? They cut it all down. Next morning, everything goes crazy.

All the people in the town, the family, the area, they go crazy. You know what, they go look and say, Gideon, who done this? Who destroyed the altar to Baal? The idolatry. Who cut down all the trees? You know what they find is a new altar and it's burning with the wood that was raised up to Baal.

It's all burnt down. Burnt to God. You know, very quickly he said, this Gideon.

We know who it is. They haven't been to talk to him. They haven't knocked on his door.

They haven't inquired of him. They know it's Gideon. How do they know it's Gideon? Because he's not an idolater.

Because he doesn't believe like them. Because he has been standing, saying, I don't believe that. I don't drink your beer.

I don't worship like that. He is a separatist. This is where God prepared Gideon.

So they go to his father and say, where's Gideon? Bring him out. We're going to stone him to death. This is religion gone wrong.

Baal worship in the house of God. You say, that's extreme. That was a false pagan God.

No, it's happened all through the church. You know what happened in Israel? They synchronized everything. They made tiny little steps towards Baal.

They said, oh well, Baal is another name for Jehovah. Allah is just another name for God. It's all the same.

No, it's not. It absolutely isn't. And so you see them here.

They're coming, and they're going to kill someone for not following apostasy. You say, that's crazy. No, it's all through the church.

You know, until two years ago, I took my life in my hands for decades because I couldn't go with the flashing lights and the compromise and the drunken pastors and the foolishness and the false prophecies

and the pushing down. You see, they said, this is Jesus. This is the Holy Spirit.

No, it's not. I had to take an axe to it constantly. And you know what? They hated me.

In churches, and they go, stone him. Not physically. Stone him.

Kill him. Stop that influence. We've been having a good time until Gideon rises up and begins to cut things down.

God prepares an apostasy. Do you know what happens right at this point? Providentially. Verse 33.

Then all the Midianites and the Amalkites and the children of the east gathered together and went over and pitched in the valley of Jezreel. Jezreel is Armageddon. It's the same spot.

Here's this mass army moves down into Jezreel. It's massive. Do you know it's bigger than ever before? And they've got all their camels and they're coming for your bread.

For your word of God. For your sustenance. They are coming to raid and take everything again.

Your harvest is going to get stolen again. Do you know what it's like to be in the church? And you serve and you pray and you labor and just at the time of harvest you lose everything. And you love God and you're a good Christian.

I know what it's like. But this is the hour of God preparing a vessel and apostasy. It's terrible we've got enemies out there but it's terrible we have to deal with the church first.

Apostasy in the church. They don't even believe this book anymore. They don't preach Christ.

They don't preach the Bible. It's so basic. It's so elementary.

What has gone wrong? That's why the enemy has come in like a flood. That's why immorality is sweeping the nation. That's why abortion is in.

It began at the church. You're young teenagers dressing like harlots in the church and you're worried about abortion in the government. Oh no it begins in the church.

We need holiness and purity in the church again. When the church loses the power of God. You know I read many years ago I can't find the quote of New York.

It was way back 150 years during the 1859 revival and an Indian guru filled with demons who used to levitate and had demonic power and he said now is the time to go for America and he got on a boat and he travelled to America and as he came into New York sailing in do you know what happened? All the demons left him. He refused to get off the boat and he turned around and went back to India. He said it's not time yet.

Do you know what's flooded into America now? There's no revival and you've got everything flooding in. Fourth and lastly prepared by a divine fleet. Prepared in obscurity.

Prepared with sacrifices and signs. Prepared in apostasy. But fourth and lastly prepared by a divine fleet.

This is a man being prepared. But nothing's happening yet. Do you know it says in verse 34 but the spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon.

The spirit of the Lord came upon him. The power of the Holy Ghost came upon him. What did he do? He blew a trumpet and God's people in the area that wanted to stone him began to gather to him.

Do you know when the spirit of God moves there's going to be people that hate your guts in this church. I mean right now this morning people who would stone you who hate you who oppose you let the spirit of God fall and they're going to be the first on the front line to stand with us. Be very careful of judging people who attack us.

Tomorrow they may be our co-worker. Tomorrow they may be our brother and sister. And this is what happened to Gideon.

The power of God came. The spirit of God came upon him. And he sent out messengers into all of Manasseh and all the other tribes.

But prepared by a divine fleet. People are starting to gather. People are listening the word of the Lord.

People are beginning to rise up. People are beginning to turn away from apostasy. They no longer want to kill us because we're not a lover of hell songs.

Now they're saying you were right all along. Now we see it. Yes it's taken decades.

The whole thing's crumbling. It's riddled with apostasy. And it's only one small thing.

This is where you find Gideon. Something's beginning to happen. And this is the last thing.

Gideon said or he prayed unto God. If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand as thou hast said. This isn't testing God.

This isn't unbelief. This is wanting to be sure that God is with them. I've got to be sure that this is the Lord.

So he tells God. Isn't God very gracious at times? Lord I just need some encouragement. I want to be guided by you.

I want to find your will. I want to be a servant. I want to be a vessel.

But I'm scared. Of course none of you are like that. Are you? None of you is scared of standing on the high street or evangelizing the lost or going preaching to your family member.

Are you scared to stand in front of a family member and say you've got to get right with God? Gideon fully understood where you're at. Are you at a place where you go there's no power. How can we do this? Gideon would understand.

Do you know what Gideon asked the Lord? Behold I will put a fleece of wool in the floor. And if the dew be on the fleece only and if it be dry upon all the earth beside then I know that I will save Israel. And he did it twice over.

God answered his prayer. He said Lord and this is called putting out a fleece. Don't test God.

Don't prove God. Don't play games with God. Do you know a girl many years ago when I was a single guy and she told a friend of mine she prayed on this Wednesday night if Keith comes in with a blue shirt on I know I'm meant to marry him.

I walked in with a white shirt. Thank God. You're playing games.

I had a very good friend, a spiritual friend. He went to visit someone else's house and he sat down and he looked sideways went to the bathroom looked sideways and there's some sort of shampoo with the girl's name on that he was praying about is this the girl for me? He said that's my confirmation. He didn't marry her.

We do this in all sorts of areas. God if you're calling me to preach if you want me to go evangelize in the streets Lord if I'm called by the grace of God to stand in a pulpit and preach then do this and do that. Be very careful.

This is someone who has sold themselves out. They're on the edge. People are gathering.

Everything is stirring. I said I need to know. I'm going to endanger everyone's lives.

Do you know what? See what I'm preaching in this pulpit. I better know I'm hearing from God. I better know the will of God for this generation.

I'm preaching to people through that camera scattered all over the place. I better make sure I know the mind of God. I better know for your sake that I'm not preaching an error or a hope so.

This better be a thus saith the Lord. And you know this poor preacher you know what he says? Oh God are you sure? Will you just confirm me? And so he puts out the fleece. Where do you get a fleece? Very important question.

Where did he get a fleece? If you've got a fleece an animal died. And so we see the fleece was obtained by sacrifice. An animal had to die.

It's always coming back to this. And he said, Lord let's do this. Okay.

Because there was always a heavy dew in Israel. If the fleece is dry and the ground is wet I know it's true. Then the second time if the fleece is wet and the ground dry or the other way round then I know it's true.

He'd done it twice both ways. Do you know it was impossible for one to be wet and the other dry? Impossible. Both are guaranteed to be wet.

But he tried it both ways. And the Lord answered him. And he rose up early in the morrow and thrust the fleece together and wringed the dew out of the fleece into a bowl.

And Gideon said to God, Let not thine anger be hot against me and I will speak this once. Let me prove I pray thee but this once with the fleece. I'm not playing games with you God.

I've sacrificed everything. I've blown it in my father's house. I mean I've tore the whole thing down.

If there isn't coming a revival I'm in serious trouble here. And I've sacrificed everything. I don't have a meal for tomorrow.

I've given everything. And you know what? I just need assurance. When you put out a divine fleece you're going, God I really want to know it's you.

In 1993, and I'm closing with this, 1993, I'd flown into Scotland. I was living in Switzerland and I flew into Scotland on a three month ticket. And I went to a church and a ministry to work with them for three months.

And on a Saturday evening I'm babysitting and I wasn't a good babysitter. You do not want me to babysit your children okay, on a Saturday night. And I was babysitting there up in bed and I was down in the living room and I had my Bible open and I'm walking back and forth praying, Oh God watch your will.

Lord I need your guidance. God I don't want to make my own decisions. Lord help me, lead me.

And he spoke to me very clearly. He gave me the text of scripture. And said in several weeks time your pastor is going to preach this.

This is what he's going to preach on from this chapter. This is what he's going to say. And this is what it's going to mean to you.

Totally out of the blue. Wasn't expecting it. I'm going back to Switzerland.

I've got a fiance in Switzerland. My ministry is in Switzerland. And here's God speaking to me.

Six weeks later we're away in a special camp just the team together. And that morning I wake up and he says it's this morning he's going to preach on it. He's been preaching for an entire weekend.

And God says this morning he's going to preach on that text. So I read it. I read it that morning.

I'm praying into this. I go into the meeting. We all gather.

He says turn in your Bible. I'm already turned to the text. And he gives that chapter.

That's impossible. And he begins to preach and to teach on that. And it was God's confirmation I was to stay there.

I stayed there seven years. Do you know God speaks and he reveals himself? You don't play games with God but there is a place that can bring you the assurance of God's will. Where you know that directed my next seven years.

I know I'm going to stay here. This is the will of God. I am called to this work in Scotland.

Do you know as well when I was first there in Scotland in 1993 someone gave me an old audio cassette by a man called B.H. Clendenin called The Prodigal Church. And I listened it and listened it and I prayed during those seven years Lord to be in one of those meetings. Just one of those meetings.

The power of God was there. The presence of God. This was the word of God.

I said Lord just one of those meetings. Seven years later I get a phone call. Someone said do you want to go to America? Arranged to go to New York.

Go to Times Square. Go evangelize in the streets and then we'll go to Texas to a preacher's convention. Says I'm coming.

Never met the preacher B.H. Clendenin. Never met him. Never in a meeting where he preached.

And I walked in that night, that Tuesday night in Texas, in Beaumont, Texas. And I walked in, sat down. Preacher stood up.

I've had one of his tapes since 1993. This is 2001. And he stands up and he says I have not preached this message for many years.

But he says God told me to preach it tonight. The Prodigal Church. And I'm to preach it here tonight after many years.

I knew that was a thus saith the Lord. Saints of God, we're talking about revival. Serving God.

And being prepared as a vessel that God can use. Are you as a church, are we as a church, including those online who join us, are we in this hour, this unique hour, this two years is a very unique time in world history. And the days ahead are going to be utterly unique.

You haven't seen anything yet. We better hope that we're being prepared as a vessel of revival. And that God's hand is here.

And we've got to know it. Please stand with me here. Lord God.

Father we thank you for your grace and your mercy here this morning. We bow the knee. And Father over these coming weeks we pray for your grace and mercy upon us in Jesus name.

Will you help us O God. Lord God we want to be a vessel. We see our world changing.

And we're only beginning to see the chaos, the confusion. Lord God the lack, the famine, the turmoil that's going to sweep our world. And Lord God yet it's all of you.

Lord God yet your hand is upon us to waken up your church one last time. Lord God I pray like Gideon, prepare us, make us ready. Lord God of people prepared in obscurity, prepared in a place of sacrifice with real signs and tokens that you accepted.

And that you're in the midst. And O God we pray that you'd come and draw nigh. That we might rise up in this hour of apostasy and begin to leave a real testimony that we're against what is false.

That you might send a new revival. And Lord God the wind of revival might blow again. And Father we pray O God.

Lord God if this thing be of you will you assure our heart. Will you bring in such a deep assurance that we know the will of God. And that we're a vessel being prepared for this hour and this time.

Lord God help us not to look at our size. Lord God that we're the least. Lord God that our families are the least.

That we're poor. That there's no miracles. That there's no power.

Lord God but look to you and to believe your word. The mighty man of valor. I will deliver by your hand.
And as one man you will smite the enemy. In Jesus mighty name. Amen.

Video: https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/L_T7iSfNIM8.mp4

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