

# Come Up Higher, Part 2

by K.P. Yohannan

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*The sermon challenges listeners to live a life of sacrifice and obedience to God, denying themselves and taking up their cross daily, in order to truly follow Christ and his plan.*

**Duration:** 24:56

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 2:2, Matthew 6:33, Luke 14:26, Romans 12:2, Colossians 3:2, James 4:4, 1 John 2:15

**Topics:** "Waiting"

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## Description

In this sermon, the speaker urges listeners to take their commitment to the Lord seriously. They emphasize the importance of not only avoiding sin and wickedness but also actively engaging in prayer and fasting for the sake of their families, communities, and the world. The speaker highlights the need for more people to understand and follow God's ways in order to be a light in their generation. They challenge listeners to make the decision to be one of those individuals and to seek God's guidance in their lives. The sermon also mentions the book 'No Longer a Slumdog' as a resource that reinforces the message of living for what truly matters.

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## Transcript

It's time for some serious soul searching today on the road to reality. With so many voices and choices out there competing for our attention, it's all the more important to hear and receive what God has to say. We unveil His plan and purpose for your life to come up higher here today on the broadcast.

Brother K.P. Yohannan of Gospel for Asia joins us now and encourages us to say no to sin and self and yes to following Christ. You know I tell myself it's such a privilege and honor in many ways to talk with you because I really believe the Lord is not looking for majority rather He is looking for what I call a mighty minority. Often it is difficult for us to believe, especially in this culture, that if we don't have so many people with us and our congregation is so small, maybe 10, 15 or 20 people or 6 people, well, you know, maybe the Lord is not really with us.

His blessing is not with us. As a people known as pragmatic, you know, don't tell me it cannot be done. No, no, no, it can be done.

It must be done. We will succeed. This is the basic mindset of our nation, our people.

Therefore, how old is we want to see everything big and large and that seems to kind of make people believe that God is with us. But do you realize that when you read the Bible, provided you believe God's word is the basis of our faith and our decisions, you'd be surprised that God would wipe out the whole world just to preserve one family. You read that about Noah and his family.

We are conditioned to think that we must have everything big and large so we will compromise and make adjustment and do anything and everything in the world to attract the world and we erase sin from our pulpit. We don't want to talk about anything negative, so to say. Of course, you know, sin and ungodliness and lust and greed and covetousness and laziness, self-centeredness, of course, who want to talk about that kind of thing? That's all negative.

Talk about only good things and we'll do that and then we'll make our buildings and our infrastructure so attractive. Like one of the national magazines wrote about a church. The preacher was boasting saying that, you know what, we offer better facilities for our people in terms of the sports and sauna and steam and whatever else you are talking about.

Nothing wrong with having a nice facility and have all these nice things. No, that's not the issue here. The issue is why are we doing all these things? What is the reason for it? Is it for people to come and fall on their face and repent and turn away from sin and self-centeredness and find the highway of holiness? Is it for people to come and have their hearts broken for two billion people that are heading toward hell and forever? Is it for people to come into the presence of God and experience the hurt, the pain and intercede and stand in the gap? No, please don't write me off.

I'm not after anyone or criticizing, condemning and putting anybody on a guilt trip. As a matter of fact, I'm totally opposed for people to come under the old covenant that is, you know, doing all these things or don't do certain things so we'll find our peace with God. No, that is not in the scripture.

But here is a problem. We are conditioned to think that if everything going well for us and everything is wonderful, then that is a sign of God's blessings. But please believe me, read the Bible.

Maybe you should stop listening to a lot of preachers and stop reading a lot of books that kind of, you know, give you some kind encouragement for the bad feelings. Read God's word. I mean, look at this.

I was reading this week in the book of Jeremiah chapter 2. God says to his people, by the way, he says this, I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the desert, through a land not sown. Israel was holy to the Lord, the firstfruits of his harvest. Think about those words.

God saying, I remember, I remember the time when you came and surrendered your life to me. I remember the tenderness, the longing. You read the Bible, not for knowledge, you just wanted to know me.

You prayed not for all the material things. You sought me just for me, not for what you can get from me. I remember your love, your affection, your tenderness.

I remember the tears. But now it is history. Someone said this.

The church is experiencing a serious crisis. For years, we have preached a cheap gospel and peddled a soft savior. We have taught salvation without self-denial and crown without the cross.

We have catered to the unsaved and compromised with the world and now we are paying the price. Our instant salvation message has dishonored God and confused men. Our faulty seeds have produced a flaky harvest.

What a pitiful crop we are reaping. We as believers spend more hours watching television but minutes watching in prayer. Hungry for a sports page and have a little taste for the word.

Spend more money on pet food than on foreign missions. Love to feast but hate to fast. Welcome God's blessings but are weary of his burdens.

Is this what Jesus died for? Is this our new life in him? Stop for a moment and think. Anyone who spends more time playing video games than seeking God in prayer has no right to call Jesus Lord. Anyone who takes delight in today's perverted soap operas and movies is serving another God.

Anyone who cannot die to sports for a season is worshipping idols. If anyone loves the world, the love of the father is not in him because the friendship with this world is hatred toward God. 1 John chapter 2 verse 15.

James chapter 4 verse 4. In reality, the question is this, whose friends are we? It is time for some serious soul searching. What kind of born again experience how we had if it calls for almost no personal sacrifice, produces virtually no separation from the world and breeds practically no hatred of sin? How can we claim to be born from above? Where is the evidence of our new nature? We call ourselves citizens of heaven yet our hearts are caught up in earthly treasures. We sing we are the people of God but we are entertained by the worst of the devil's children.

We claim to be dead to the world yet we are more interested in temporal fashions than internal souls. Something is wrong with our salvation experience. Bad fruits means bad roots.

We say just confess Jesus as Lord and you are in. He says not everyone who says to me Lord Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven but only he who does the will of my father in heaven. Matthew chapter 7 verse 21.

Often you hear people say just pray this prayer it is done. But Jesus says if anyone would come after me he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. Luke 9 23.

We say just come to the altar it will only take a minute. Just say these words if you did you are now born again. But Jesus says make every effort to enter through the narrow door because many I tell you will try to enter and will not be able.

Luke 13 24. I ask the question who do you think is right? These false prophets that create their own you know massive world of following or Jesus the one who said I am the way I am the truth and he invites he invites you and me to follow him. That invitation goes out to you but the question is will you accept following Christ and his plan for your life is the best way to go.

And K.P. O'Hannon will have more encouragement along those lines in just a moment. You're listening to The Road to Reality and a message called Come Up Higher. As K.P. has challenged us to live for what really matters now we'd like to suggest his latest book that reinforces that.

It's called No Longer a Slumdog. You know there are children in crisis right now in Asia and what they need is hope. Be among the first to read this gripping narrative that tells of God's redemptive power.

It's our free gift to you no strings attached. Stop by [winasia.org](http://winasia.org) today to order your free book again called No Longer a Slumdog. That's [winasia.org](http://winasia.org) or in Canada go online to [gospelforasia.ca](http://gospelforasia.ca). Your eyes will be open to an amazing move of God.

As promised here's K.P. with the second half of this week's message. Jesus made it painfully clear to the crowd that sought to follow him. Read in the scripture statement like this.

If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters, yes even his own life he cannot be my disciple. You know what when I read the scripture I say to myself I mean I wish he stopped at that particular word hating father, mother, children, brothers and sisters. I wish he kind of stopped there.

No he said even his own life he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

You read this in Luke's gospel chapter 14 beginning with verse 26. Maybe, maybe you actually truly came to Jesus. You meant it well but my question is this.

Are we following him? Maybe we have believed the good news but are we daily carrying the cross? Are we committed to walk with him, abide with him, listening and obeying? And unfortunately I mean I'm sure you agree. Today Christianity at large it has boiled down to sins forgiven, have a wonderful home and finally with all the blessings and riches and comforts and ease finally we make it to heaven. So the best of everything here and the best for the world to come.

Jesus has become someone who is kind of magic stick you know who caters to us. We are the one in control of the situation but that's not Jesus of the new testament by the way. Corinthians had a problem.

Paul said you people you created your own Christ another Jesus and the Jesus of the new testament he is still Lord and he is the master and he gave his life on the cross. Blood was the price he paid to purchase you and me. It says in Corinthians chapter 5 second Corinthians since he died for me I am no more my own.

I have no right to run my own life. I must seek and learn listen what is it he wants and then follow in his footsteps. I know I know these are words sound so spiritual but how do you live this out? My recommendation to you is this and to my brothers and sisters that I minister too often I say this so many voices so many people talking full on noises and we are confused so much until we stop listening to so many voices so many books and so many stuff so busy and we stop and listen and pray seek God seeking him not for material things and this and that but seek him for God alone and you will find the meaning of the words when Jesus said father this is eternal life to know you and the one you send.

Of course you know when you hear about eternal life all the sudden people think about yeah someday when I die I'm going to be in heaven no it is much more than that right now we experience the quality of heaven God's life on earth in our mortal bodies the reality of the kingdom which is not food and drink and music and lavishness and materialism all the stuff people talk about but it is the joy the peace the life the supernatural life the value of the kingdom right now here on earth and this can be ours only when we live in this fellowship with the Lord which often more than you and I realize hated by the world and the world

will not understand it your family members will not understand it your best of friends may not understand it because the way of the cross never never understood by

those who do not want to follow the Lord with sacrifice someone said this none are more formidable instrument of temptation than well-meaning friends who care more for our comforts than character how true it is and this reason why Jesus said unless you love me more than all the people around you and more than what you want your own very life you know the scripture in book of Peter it says and Jesus suffered for us leaving this example that we may follow in his footsteps now again the moment we hear about that we think about the cross and the blood and the suffering the agony of Christ on the cross no if that be the case the example he left for us to follow then would be you and I need to go somewhere and get crucified no it's talking about something else that is throughout Christ's life

the man Christ God living here on earth as a man giving us the example throughout his life he chose to say not to himself so that he will follow the father's will so the scripture says in Hebrews and Jesus learned obedience through suffering what do you mean by that it is a daily choice saying not to sin not to self not to things that I want that pleases me it's a it's a silly illustration but maybe it'll make sense it's been 43 years since I've been serving my lord and even after all these years I find within me the desire for honor and appreciation from other people what do they think about me and I still find within me the temptation to take it easy and protect my life my honor my reputation I still find in me the temptation to make sure you know somehow there is resources for the

future and I have to choose daily saying no to myself and I must choose to trust him my tomorrow is in his hands not in my hands my flesh want to sleep more and take rest more I need to sleep and take my rest enough and need it for my body but I must choose against my own flesh and my wish to be there in that room to kneel to pray how I wish my life would be easier after all the years of journeying with the lord you know I still find myself wanting that and this and a little more comfort and ease but as Paul said I must choose to buffet my body and bring it under subjection that I from inside choose the road the narrow road embrace the cross for what to make me more spiritual no if that be the case then we are no better than people who lived under the law under the old covenant and Paul

that's what he talked about in philippians he said you know I gave up seeking my own righteousness I don't do any of this stuff so that I'll become more spiritual a better person no I do this so I may understand the lord and this earth and vessel be so completely his for him to live his life through me and Jesus lived with daily embrace in the cross difficulties and that is reason why he could fulfill the father's will desire in him and to him so I I know I know this is not a popular message in today's christianity just like in the time of Jeremiah all the prophets are saying everything is going to be great and wonderful things are going to be wonderful send in your money and I will pray for you be blessed all this stupid nonsense I'm telling you it is not true look around you listen it

is getting too late let us get serious about the lord let us say not to sin and wickedness but that is not good enough let us commit ourselves for prayer and fasting not only on our behalf our family our community for our nation for the body of Christ for a world out there some two billion people still wait to hear Jesus died on the cross over 162 million child laborers dying daily abused brutalized around the world let us not be so callous and hard-hearted and blind and deaf that the lord says I don't know what to do I am longing for my people to understand me so they can be the light and be mine in their generation but he is not able to find enough people my question will you be one of those people would you make the decision to say lord I want to be that individual teach me a way oh

lord I assure you he will may the lord bless you a challenging message to come up higher here today on the road to reality from kpohannan the weekly radio ministry from gospel for asia we're absolutely thrilled by what god is doing the lives of children their families and entire communities in asia right now and in kp's latest book no longer a slumdog you'll get a glimpse of this exciting move of god kp shares stories of transformed lives that will leave you amazed and thankful to god order your free copy at winasia.org now you heard it right that's free just go to winasia.org and we'll drop that in the mail to you or call us if you would rather at 866 win asia again that's 866 win asia even the call is free if you're in canada simply go online to gospelforasia.ca or call 888-946-2742

well that'll do it for this week but come back next time as we again open god's word for direction and encouragement that's right here next week on the road to reality with kp ohana

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