

# I Want to Know Him and the Power of His Resurrection

by Leonard Ravenhill

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*Leonard Ravenhill's sermon calls for a deeper understanding of Jesus and His resurrection, urging believers to embrace genuine faith and revival.*

**Duration:** 1:02:13

**Scripture:** Matthew 4:19, Matthew 6:33, Matthew 16:24, Luke 24:27, Luke 24:32, Acts 2:38, 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Topics:** "Power"

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## Description

In this sermon, the speaker addresses a crowd of 4,000 people and emphasizes the importance of being filled with God. He compares the impact of being full of God to the insignificance of the Super Bowl compared to a toilet bowl. The speaker shares a personal story about his son, who played in the Super Bowl, but realized that the accolades and fame meant nothing compared to the love of God. The sermon also highlights the need for believers to be committed and dedicated to their faith, rather than being distracted by worldly pursuits like watching sports or seeking personal gain.

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## Transcript

Today's the Gospel. If you've been to Bible school, you may know this, you may not know this. But in our, as we often hear preachers say, there are four Gospels.

Well, there aren't four Gospels. There's only one Gospel told by four different people. Now you've learned a lot.

You can go home. Luke, chapter 24. Let's read from verse 1. Now, upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came to a sepulcher, bringing spices with them, and they prepared, and so it was with them.

Now let's jump down and go a bit further into, you know, let's go to verse 4 anyhow. It came to pass that they were much perplexed thereabout. Two men stood by them in shining garments, and as they were afraid, they bowed down their faces to the earth, and they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, he is risen.

Remember how he spake unto you when you were yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and raised the third day. And they remembered

his words, and returned from the sepulcher, and told all these things unto the legends. Verse 13.

And behold, two of them went to the same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem, about three to four furlongs. And they talked together of all the things which had happened. And it came to pass that while they committed together in reason, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.

But their eyes were holden, for they should not know him. And there's a whole many cases on that 15th verse. It came to pass that while they committed together, Jesus himself, number one, let me say that again, Jesus himself, that's good, drew near, that's better, and went with them, that's best of all.

Now, Joe Gregory can do better than that. I think this is one of the most fascinating resurrection stories, of course, there are many. Many years ago, before you were born, there was a very famous, I think it was a British scientist by the name of Alexander, I think his other name, I'm not sure, Alexander, stick around, it doesn't matter.

Anyhow, the other part of it is that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the best protected fact in history. Everything is based, of course, on this. It came to pass that they committed together in reason, Jesus himself drew near and went with them, and their eyes were holden, and they did not know him.

Isn't it amazing? Jesus comes up behind these disciples. It's very, very dramatic, at least in my judgment. He has done the greatest thing that's ever been done in history.

What has he done? He's got the power of sin, he's got the power of death, he's risen from the dead. He doesn't meet this man, or these two men as he met Saul on the Damascus road, remember, according to tradition, Saul thought he was going 120 miles on a journey, and he must have been riding a horse, and the Lord picked him off the horse. He confronted Jesus, and when Saul's poverty met deity, he was immediately embarrassed and humiliated.

But here you have Jesus coming up behind these disciples. I think it's very, very amazing. Because, you see, it says a little later in this chapter, when Jesus found the eleven together, it says, in verse 49 of the same chapter, he showed them his hands and his feet.

Isn't that so safe? Why did he go down the village and raise the dead? Why did he go over the water as quickly as that, and appear in the royal palace of Caesar, and declare he'd risen from the dead? There's a hundred ways in which he could have manifested his resurrection, life, and power. But he creeps up behind these two disciples, and just listens to their conversation again. That doesn't strike you the way it strikes me, I guess.

He could have gone down the road and declared, I'm risen from the dead. He could have startled the great high priest and the other priests. He could have appeared to the members of the Sanhedrin on Wednesday afternoon, if he doesn't bother with them.

He comes to two men disillusioned, disappointed, discredited, despised, and everything else. You see, you've got to have the background of the whole thing. If you go back just a little bit and you're thinking, remember this whole nation being overrun by a great military power, by the power of Rome, and devastated them, and sacked them, and made them slaves.

Immediately after they get upset economically, immediately they lose their freedom. Right after that comes a man in the desert, a strange man by the name of John the Baptist. And after they had a social

earthquake, an economic earthquake, they have a religious earthquake.

Here's a man. You know, I wonder often, why God Almighty didn't treat that man very well? After all, God put a pillar of fire in the wilderness. Why didn't he put a pillar of fire in the wilderness of John the Baptist? Because all the multitude did better than that.

They put a man on fire. A man sent from God. One of the most terrible characters in history.

He had no financial backing, he had nowhere to sit. He's in the wilderness, as wild. It says he was in the wilderness until a bearish going forth.

You see, you've got a lot of prophets around today. I get all kinds of invitations to go to prophet conferences. I don't go because most prophets are a dead loss anyhow.

So I don't go to these prophet conferences. You see, God has to make men. The first time I ever read that, I read it in a college, a little college in England.

There were 30 of us boys. They wouldn't have girls, it was too distracting. But, just 30 men.

And a preacher was telling his library. Preachers don't give books to their disciples. I tell mine to leave if I can.

That's a good prophet. But anyhow, I got a book. It had a red binding.

And in beautiful gold letters it was stamped. It was by Iain Bound's Power Through Prayer. I made up my mind I'd go through that book.

I didn't. The book went through me. It changed my life.

It's one of the most amazing books I think ever written. Power Through Prayer. But Bound said this.

It takes God 20 years to make a man. I thought that's baloney. That's a bit of garbage for America.

But now I'm 80, almost 84. I want to tell you. If God makes you in 20 years, he's done very well.

He's still making me. You know, I get boys who are into Bible school. They've got a degree, whatever it means.

I don't know. Ph.D. Well, I've got Ph.D. I'm a postholder. What do degrees mean? Degrees don't set men on fire.

You can have 32 degrees and still be frozen. Degrees haven't put any fire in our pulpits. Only God can give fire.

Our God is consuming fire. And if a word doesn't burn in me, it will never burn in you. Most preachers today don't preach.

They only like lecturing. But again, it takes God 20 years to make a man. You see, these men want to learn a few things and study a bit and come up and put the world right.

You can't do that. God deals with men very severely. He's not gentle, Jesus, meek and mild.

He's very severe. He's going to talk to a man called Elijah. So what does he do? They put him in for three years.

He's in trouble, silence and darkness. Can you imagine him walking into a cave with rats at his feet and bats flying over his hair? He'd cut himself off from support. He'd cut himself off from fellowship.

If you were afraid of loneliness, you were afraid of darkness, you'd shout into Bible school. And Bible school won't do much for you. They can help you, but you'll have to chew and masticate what's given to you.

Otherwise you'll become as dumb as the rest of us. And one of the great secrets in the Christian life is meditation. He loves this.

Yeah, be filled with the Spirit, but also be still and know that I am God. How did Jesus walk up and down and watch people buried to death and watch their tittles for 30 years and do nothing? John the Baptist got away with wild beef for 30 years and does nothing. But I tell you, when he came out, the New World knew.

He said he was a success geographically. They came from Judea and Samaria and they had the most power. And he distinctly said, and I love this, John did no miracles.

John didn't raise a dead man, he raised a dead nation. We have more evangelists in America today than ever, but we've less revival. There isn't one revivalist in America.

And St. Billy Graham, no, a bunch of them. It's one night business, you know. If a favorite preacher's coming, he gets on TV for a month to tell you he's coming.

He has big advertising, big floods, big offerings, and there's nothing left. And he's gone. The men of North America stayed in towns five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten weeks until the people were genuinely drawn again to the Spirit of God and they got established.

Well, here we are. These men are communion together and they reasoned among themselves. Jesus truly went within an eye to hold them, did not see, not know him.

Let me say again, remember this. We don't know who these men were. Cleopas and his friend, or who they were.

I think they were, I think they were disciples, but they weren't apostles. I think that morning when they went out of Jerusalem, the gates were, they were pressing their noses through the gates almost. Everybody around them mocked them and scummed them.

Have you ever thought of the fate of those early disciples? Here's a man and he's selling his fish. He's making good business. Jesus said, follow me, and he dropped everything and did it.

Here's a man writing a tax form out. His shadow falls over the ledger. And the man, he looked up.

The man said, follow me, and he did. Would you? You know a thousand times more about Jesus than Matthew did. Yet we don't follow him.

We follow him where it's convenient. But not if he says, tell all and follow me. I marvel at the fate of Matthew.

I marvel at the fate of these other men. They didn't have a hand Bible. Dear God, we've twenty-six, somebody gave me a volume recently, twenty-six versions of the scripture.

Most people don't read one page a day, never mind twenty-six versions. There are a thousand nations in the world that don't have one page of the Bible. And we have twenty-six complete versions.

And to whom much is given, much will be demanded. I can't get carried impact of this. Had on me as I thought of these men.

Here they are, disillusioned, disappointed, disgruntled, dissatisfied, despised. Why don't you get out to the city? And they go as quickly as they can. Their feet has already got weight on their legs.

They can't move. They're going seven miles, which would take two hours. I walked the length and breadth of England.

I figured I could walk four miles the first hour and three and a half the second. And I took students with me. We slept on the floor.

We didn't go to hotels. We didn't go to homes. We didn't have a penny a week.

We didn't have a penny a month. So we stayed in cities for twelve weeks. As a result of that, now sixty years after us, churches are still standing.

We went down the poverty line. And I'm glad we did. It was worthwhile.

It's the way of Jesus. But it's not our way. What do you do in America? You get out of the Bible school.

Tell people what you want. Get a newsletter. Boy, the prayerless faith of newsletters can get you an awful long way.

Do you notice that? What about having no newsletter? They have nothing. We didn't offer them bread and salt and the minimum wage. We said, follow me.

We didn't even tell them. We didn't say, what do you mean, follow me? Where do we go? Do we sleep in the field at night like you do? Yes. Do we eat any handout we get? Yes.

And you've got countries, maybe in your country some people do that. I know the countries where they do that. Anyhow, verse 19 says, as they considered, verse 19 says, When he said unto them, What thing? They said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which is a prophet, mighty in deed and in word.

They've seen everything Jesus did. He raised the dead. He cast out demons.

He showed you sovereign power over everything. Everything that came in through the first Adam was destroyed by the last Adam. He wasn't a second Adam.

Cardinal Newman wrote about Hamel. Praise to the holiest in the highest. It is a magnificent hymn.

And in it he says, O loving wisdom of our God, when all was sin and shame, a second Adam to the fight. There wasn't a second Adam. If there was, there could be a third and a fourth.

There was a first Adam and a last Adam. The first Adam brought death and destruction. But since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection from the dead.

These men are going down to visit. Down the road again. They've been captured.

They're over-packed. They don't have the right kind of food. They have no freedom.

He's going down the road with a bundle. And a big guy comes and says, Put that bundle down and carry mine. And Jesus says, If somebody comes and tells you to go a mile, go within two.

He says, Can I go a second mile? The man says, Are you crazy? Usually when I say drop your burden and carry mine, the man curses me. What kind of man are you? He says, I follow the meek and lowly Jesus. I'm trying to do as he do and say, You see, if you go to Israel and you walk where Jesus walked, you won't have any trouble.

Millions of people going out. I'll tell you when they get into trouble. When you don't say walk where Jesus walked, you say walk as Jesus walked, you'll be in trouble.

They say you're a Pharisee. They say you're a holy Jew. But that's the only thing that God demands of us.

This is the wonderful classic. Who wrote the classic? The Imitation of Christ. Was it Thomas A. Kempis? What? Good.

I hope you're both right. If you're both wrong, I'll give you reason enough. Thomas A. Kempis wrote what? The Imitation of Christ.

That's not Christianity. It's not the Imitation of Christ. It's the Impartation of Christ.

Christ in you. Christianity is the only religion in the world where a man's God comes and lives inside of him. Only by that are we able to do what he commanded us to do.

Okay, let's look at this again. The whole nation is in bondage. The religious system, everybody's talking about that crazy guy John the Baptist.

Boy, he's a talking preacher. I've just got some books by a very modern Jewish rabbi. He depicts the, I won't quote it because I can't quote it correctly, but he gives you a picture of the prophet like nothing I've ever read in my life.

They're angry men. They're difficult to live with. They're a thorn in the flesh.

Sometimes they're despised because people think they're unholy. We see a prophet goes out on a limb. I've never in my life, I've been going to meetings for 80 years at least.

I remember going to his church when I was two. I've never heard anybody yet preach on the first prophet. Who was he? I don't know.

Enoch, thank you. What do you think of a man going down Main Street saying, the Lord is coming with 10,000 of his saints. They've never had a Bible.

They've never seen a priest. Never seen a sacrifice. And here's a man saying, the Lord will come with 10,000 of his saints.

Isn't that ridiculous? Do you see a man? The prophet sees through timing, through tendency. He's not earthbound. He's not mesmerized by materialism.

He's not fascinated with a visual. And John the Baptist is the same. He said he didn't know this one that was coming, but when he comes you say, behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

I think that's the most amazing sentence any human lives ever. Because the next time he just says, behold the Lamb of God. But here he is saying, this is it.

And every rabbi trembles. He's saying, the end of your sacrifice has come. Your temple's redundant.

Your truthcraft has no power. We're living in that state now. Our priesthood has no power anyhow.

Churches are mostly redundant. And I'm not looking for jewels around me. I've heard that for 60 years.

When are you going to start? Don't tell me what's going to happen in 2010 and 2020 if these men do. My God, it's 1990. That's 20 years ahead.

Millions of people are going to die in that time. I want to see a revival now. I'm sick of these talents at the end of this thing.

I'm sick of men prophesying, people predicting. I've got a sister-in-law who's psychic. She told us three days before Martha's mother died.

She'll die on that day and she'll die at that moment in two days. And many, many times she's predicting the future with total accuracy. She's not even saying.

There's a very strange borderline between what's revelation of God and what's psychic power. Anyhow, notice what they're saying. He said unto them, verse 19, again, what thing? They said unto him, saying, So in Jesus' name shall it be put to the prophet, my sin, Jesus, and in words.

Isn't that amazing? I had a chapter, I forgot my, I can't forget chapters anyhow. But you see, if you read all the stories of the resurrection, it says they did not believe on him. Nobody believed on him.

That's the only problem we have in the world today. We don't believe him. We know everything about him.

We don't believe him. He may as well rather die. But what you see in the average church today, where is resurrection life? Where is resurrection power? Where is authority? Can we say that at the end of mass? I'll give you a power over all the power.

Oh, some of you stop it. Professors, they've sat on their britches for ten years. They've never faced a prostitute face to face.

They've never faced a wicked man that's absolutely sold out to heroin and drinks and vice. They've never met, being on the level that you and I can meet at, the level that Salvation Army may be on. But you must do this and I can do something more important.

But verse 21 says, We trusted so that exact in the past ten, there would be he which should have redeemed Israel. And verse 25, He turned to them all fools and flawed hearts. It depends how you read that, doesn't it? I remember once an English teacher in England telling us about Charles I, and he said it this way, Charles I walked and talked ten minutes after his head was chopped off.

That doesn't make sense, does it? I know that's what politicians do, but usually everyone's going to do it. Charles I walked and talked ten minutes after his head was chopped off. That's in history.

So what if you read it this way? Charles I walked and talked ten minutes after his head was chopped off. Makes all the difference in the world, doesn't it? Isn't it exactly the same reading this picture? He turned to them all fools and flawed hearts to believe all the prophets have spoken, ought not all these things, ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory. And this is Christ that's saying it, remember.

Don't you think there's a tremor in his voice? Don't you think he's in awesomeness? Doesn't he never look around? This is old stuff, we've heard this, we've seen it, we've lived with him, we've slept with him. So tell us, what does it mean? And beginning at Moses, and all the prophets, did you notice that? He went right back to Enoch. He took the veil off what Enoch had said, and for two hours he walked down that road.

The most amazing Bible school in the world was Rene's Bible School, because there was only one teacher, there was only one subject, there were only two students. What did he do? Did he lift the veil off the two children? He could have staggered them, he could have made them fall down and worship him. He could have said, let me tell you, the battle of Armageddon is coming, but before that, there's going to be an outpouring of the Spirit.

You men are going to be so filled with the Holy Ghost that everything I've done you will do. They could be staggered, they would have fallen down and worshipped him, but he didn't say that. Why? Because they have done what you and I have done.

We've forgotten the majesty and glory of Jesus Christ. Modern evangelism doesn't offer them Christ. It offers them peace, it offers them pardon, it offers them prosperity.

He's not offering them a Lord or Master. He doesn't say you should become a slave. He just brings you lousy things and says you're sorry and go.

And most of them go back to hell. I think the biggest criminals in the country are evangelists. I don't watch TV much, but some weeks ago, as the people got news to me, it said that at 7 o'clock there's a documentary of all the things that's on the birth, that you've never seen, the birth of a giraffe.

Now, if you've never seen the birth of a giraffe, you'd make it a half the world. So watch this. It's a real one, OK? So in comes Mrs. Giraffe, her head is 15 feet from the ground, her husband's head is 19 feet.

You look down on her, that's not right. But anyhow, he gives it. Now he says, now watch.

And the camera takes the reins, or whatever, of the giraffe and he says, watch this. She spreads her legs at the front, now she spreads her legs at the back. Now watch.

Do you see that black thing coming out at that? A little baby coming out of the womb. The womb is 6 feet from the ground. That little baby's going to drop to the ground helplessly into a sack of straw and rewatch that little thing.

It came, spread its legs, and suddenly it dropped to the ground. And it struggled. It put its legs forward and wobbled this way.

It tried again and wobbled that way. It tried with the back legs. They wouldn't work either.

And then the man said this. And this, I tell you what, this is like me. He said, this mother stays at this bird for four hours.

Do we do that? We people are going to get sick every minute. Just say you saw this. Put these sacks in your closet and go back to hell.

That's what we say. You've seen the great revivals we had in the past. There's a book that everyone of us can read, particularly if you think you'll be a preacher some day.

And if you're going to be a preacher, well, if God hasn't told you, don't let 6,000 horses put into the pulpit. And if he has, don't let Christ put you out of it. It's the greatest job in the world.

It's a painful job. It's a suffering job. It's a weeping job.

It's a lonely job. Puppets don't meet in crowds. They meet in the darkness.

God talks to individuals, not multitudes of people. When you're scripting, things like that, remember when you're told a few are chosen, or the little boy said, when you're told a few are chosen. Well, that's not right.

That's really this, isn't it? Here. Beginning at Moses, and all the puppets, expanded from all, look, notice that, all Christ and that bird. And all the prophets, expanded from all the scriptures, concerning whom? Himself.

We need a new, long study of Christology. We need to study his pre-incarnation, in the day to this day. And now his first coming, still in glory and majesty.

It seems gently Jesus, even now, doesn't exist anymore. When he came to earth the first time, men pushed him around. And when he comes next time, you push other people around.

So, John West, Charles West, he wrote the hymn, Gentle Jesus, Neat and Mild. He wrote 7,000 hymns. And that's the most popular.

But he also wrote this, Lord, he comes with clouds descending, once the favorite sin has slain. Thousands, thousands, saints descending, brothers crying for their strength. Hallelujah, Jesus comes, and comes to reign.

Lord, the tokens of his passion, knowing glory still he bears. He strove with his hands and his feet. I'm not an artificial Christ.

Touch me. No, not yet. When the woman wanted to touch him, not yet.

But here it is. I'd like to have been there. The exponent of all prestigious concerning himself.

And they drew near, they went to a village. And he made his way, he would have gone further. Do you notice that? They cut him off.

Do you remember you were telling a time of prayer on a telephone line? Mary Jane says, how are you doing? And you say, oh, okay, busy. No, I'm not busy. Just talking to God.

But he, you can keep him on this side. He'll be back in five minutes, anyhow. He would have gone further with you.

He was an answer for prayers you prayed years ago. And just as you were going to do it, you cut him off. All of this packed outside.

You looked out through the window and you forgot at the point you left Jesus Christ. He would have gone further. Surely, I'm nearly 84 years today, being alive since then, many times in my life, when God would have gone further, but I got in the way and I warned you, don't do it.

I think my wife sometimes says, I'm not answering the phone today or this morning. I don't care who calls. I don't care who comes to my door and people come from all the nations of the earth.

I'm sorry I can't see you. If you were talking with Mr., in the wife's house, with Mr. Bush, do you think if somebody at your wife's house tried to call you and go for one to get to know your wife? But we don't treat God like that. We don't treat fellowship.

We don't treat communion. We don't treat meditation as we should. It's so easy to think of you about, oh, I'll read a bit.

Oh, yes, I forgot, I'm going to watch a basketball championship on today. Listen, how many of you watch goalies? How many of you watch my new television now? As long as you'll be at the judgment desk. How many of you watch the Super Bowl? Let me see.

Good. I spoke to 4,500 people, and I told them, I said, I said, if you're really full of God, the Super Bowl will be no more attractive than the toilet bowl. Now, take care, if you need another one after this.

Oh, some of them thought I was good, some of them thought it was a little ugly and disgusting. Listen, why is it attractive? It's fascinating, right? It brings me straight to God. One morning, we were playing at a windless play.

Somebody might jump at the side of me. I looked, and I looked up and up and up. He was about 6'4", any way you measure this.

Tense the back, poke the bottom, that way, this way. Marvelous-looking guy. I said, hmm.

Tell me, you said, I'd like to hear you speak. They said, good, thank you. I said, who is it? Oh, he said, I'm going to.

I played for the New York Guns in the Super Bowl. I said, I'm ready, my brother. He gave me a hug.

I said, no, no, please, all right. I love you. I said, well, tell me.

Don't throw that. Tell me. I mean, the guy's pushing the radio.

He said, he loves you. What did you do to his enemies? But that fellow said with tears and brokenness, like few men I'd heard. And he said, Brother Angel, I played in the Super Bowl.

I've heard the roar of the crowd. I've had all the accolades, but there's nothing in it. It's empty.

It's vanished. We'll get home. Yet a nobody, a heart is empty.

The emotions gone. Everything else is gone. He said, you'll know about it.

We disciplined ourselves. Just this week, we heard of a girl that was in, I think it was a final or something. They had for skating or something, you see, that's all noted.

This girl worked until quarter after midnight, the quarter after midnight. Another girl said, I drive a hundred and fifty miles a day, not a week, a day, to skate. And I skate for ten to eight hours.

What kind of creatures would we be if we concentrated like that on God? How much further would we be? What revelations would we have had? What commitments would we have had? Do you see these fancy guys that sit in seminaries and poison your mind? They've never faced reality. They've been stuck on those chairs for ten years. God has them.

They don't believe in themselves. If you're underneath, you go to seminary, they'll change it for you. You think that you're underneath, then, oh, this isn't for today, and that isn't for today, and something else isn't for today.

See what they're doing? They're covering up their bankruptcy. What did Jesus say? Going to all the world and teach the gospel so you must take time to leperate the dead. That's a commission.

We don't do that. That's what he said here. And I tried to read through this here.

He made it so he would have done further, but they constrained him. Why? Because he had bellyache. They wanted to eat.

So he goes in and eats with them. So as soon as he came to pass, he sat at least, he took bread and blessed it and baked it and gave it to them, and number one, their eyes were opened. Isn't that amazing? You know, most of us read the Bible with our eyes closed.

You say, you can't do that. I guess you do. Why does Paul say, write it in history, if you've got the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, we read it with these eyes, but we don't read it with our inner eyes.

Because it says here, look again, in verse 31, their eyes were opened. And then in verse 32, they said unto one another, this is our heart brother, this is his torah, by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures, so first their eyes were opened, and then he opened the scriptures, and then he makes the same group a bit further, and it says in verse 44, then he opens in their understanding. You get that progression? He opened their eyes, he opened their eyes, he opened the scriptures, then he opened their understanding.

That's the thing why we need to meditate and be still and know that he's God. Our inner eyes are beginning to get opened. The world begins to get opened more and more, then we begin to understand it.

But the eyes that are here, their eyes were opened, verse 31, he opened the scriptures, verse 32, verse 45, then he opened their understanding, and he took an oath to preach. And he repented, repentance, and remission of sins. Well, let's take this, we say, oh well, I'm going to remission, we say, why? Because Jesus said go, no he didn't.

But he did, no he didn't. But he says go, no, he says go, but hurry. Jesus never preached to those anointed with the Holy Ghost, he was a son of God.

They received the Holy Ghost before Pentecost because he breathed on them, and said receive ye the Holy Ghost, but then he gave them endowments of power. Read the first chapter of Ezekiel, I hadn't

noticed it till a few days ago. What does the Lord say? That a stack of bones may speak, and a stack of bones become skeletons, and a stack of bones become skeletons, become corpses, and he says what? I breathed on them, and then I put my spirit in them, when he breathed on them in the Peru, and then he filled them with the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost.

You see, we've forgotten that. There's nothing more exciting in the world than a meeting where God is present, and I don't laugh, I'm chagrined, and I'm embarrassed, and I hear young people say, I say, would you like to go to church? They say, church? Go on, there's a lot of excitement, there's a proper way of partying in the church. Surely if God isn't there, if it's a ritual, but what if God is there? See, one thing I'm afraid of almost is that somehow I might slip away into eternity before God went to heaven.

I went into a meeting a few years ago with my wife. The preacher came off the tripod and sat at the side of me, and he just said, you're a Simeon. I said, what? He said, you're a Simeon.

God told me you're a Simeon. I went to another place, a man came to me, he said, you're a Simeon. Six times in the last year, thousands of miles separate, different people have come and said they had a word of knowledge, you're a Simeon.

What was Simeon do? Simeon had prayed. You see, John the Baptist had a great prayer force in the world behind him. He had a woman 106 years of age who couldn't use a computer.

Hannah in the Old Testament prayed because she's barren. Anna in the New Testament prayed because the church is barren. And so you have that precious woman 106 years praying, you have Simeon praying, you have the mother of John the Baptist, the father of John the Baptist, and you have Joseph and Mary praying, all backing this marvelous man, the one we had for power.

And may we please God to set him off from the miraculous. How many of you have read this book, Chasing the Dragon? You know it? This will put you on the run. If you don't want a broken heart, if you don't want to find out I've bumped up the churches, don't read it.

I'll tell you it's published by Lee, you can get some of these at home. It's published by Servant Books, Ann Arbor, Michigan. I've got a picture of this lady, a secretary, I had lunch with a secretary two weeks last Saturday.

This little lady was in England and going to church, very gracious, took communion, did everything that was right, replied to the Ten Commandments, knew churches by the yard. And one day she said to her pastor, I'm tired of standing up and sitting down and standing up and sitting down and giving a little bit more money to this than something else. What can I do? She comes from an upper middle class family.

She's 20 years of age, on the edge of maybe marrying one of the most distinguished men in England. I'll do as my pastor says. So she went on the boat.

He said, when that boat stops, finally get off. So she went on the boat. When did it go? To Hong Kong? She's 20 years of age, she's 44 now, she's been there 24 years.

Look what it says on the cover. The true story of how one woman's faith resulted in the conversion of hundreds of drug addicts, prostitutes and hardened criminals in Hong Kong, an infamous war city. That's the greatest headquarters of devilry on earth.

She goes down the street. Here's a woman, 60 years of age, can hardly stand up. Her body's so punctured, there's no room for needles.

So they stick them in the behind and in the back and push on the street to prostitutes. She's 60 years of age. She's been prostituting since she's 13.

I'm sure there's a denomination of preachers there now. Is it not they're doing? Some of the men who've been there for 10 years are leaving, why? Because Hong Kong is getting all the murderers coming in from China, that's why. And they're not two-steppers, they're running when the wolves are coming.

But don't you laugh at them, you've done the same thing. There are girls prostituting on the streets of Dallas around about, and you go to sleep and don't care. I almost said a damn about them, they could be damned for all we care.

Read this story. What do you do when a man comes up, he's full of the devil and kneels in front of you and says, Would you do it? Would you call a committee meeting? There's a precious little lady anointed of God and she delivers that man of demons. She's had such success there.

Literally hundreds, not ones and twos. Boy, if that happened in America we'd write a life story of everyone. This is electrifying and humiliating.

And this is what Jesus intended. She isn't the Archbishop of Canterbury. She doesn't claim to be the Pope that's inherited all.

And the poor old guy hasn't spent hardly to walk, never mind. It's shadow healing. So she goes out at night and meets these horrible people.

There's a price on her head. These men say that she robbed us. That little princely girl we had was making a thousand dollars a night for us.

And she got paid in those meetings. Jackie has got 13 buildings given by the government. She meets the most incorrigible person in the whole city and says, come and live in my house.

You go, what? Do you know how many people I've murdered? Do you know how many women I've raped? Do you know my whole business is devilry and witchcraft? And you take me in the house? Yes, why? Who lives in the house with you? Jesus, she says. You've no power over me. You can bring all the evil in the life.

You can bring your dirty spirit. You can bring all those confounded things that have made you a beast. We're spending our time to get nice people saved.

We've been trying for 25 years and it's still lost. You see, the devil's got a couple of tricks. One thing he says, you're so good you don't need to be saved.

The other is, you're so bad you can't be saved. And she goes and says, listen, I don't care. The Lord Jesus says that whosoever will may come.

I don't think we get older than that. I've been to a few days ago. Jesus in the temple with 6,000 people.

They didn't sit down. They stood. And he stands there in front of rabbis talking Sadducees and frowning Pharisees.

And he stands there and says, if any man come unto me. They poured out water six days. They went down to a pool of Siloam.

They put a golden vessel on their shoulder full of water and they poured it out to remind them of when the Lord split the rock. And on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus was on that spot. He has no silac dress.

He doesn't have garments with bells and pomegranates on him. He has just a very common dress. And he stands there and he cries and says, if any man.

What do you mean if any man? Do you mean those Jews, those Greeks? Do you mean those talking Sadducees? Do you mean those frowning Pharisees? Do you mean the high priest? If any man. That's what he says. Doesn't Paul take up the same thing? Isn't it one of two things in five when he says, if any man being Christ, he's a new creation.

If a man is born again of the Spirit of God, he loses appetite. You can't fall asleep for two or three hours and pray two or three minutes and try to persuade me you're a Christian, you're a liar or a hypocrite. My darling wife was on one side of a mountain in England, supervising one of the largest hospitals in England.

I had a little English car. You could put it in the front of one of your, what do you call it now, the chariot of evangelists, right, Lincoln's, that's right. Boy, I tell you, I went over that mountain where it was deep in snow.

I didn't care who was there. I had to see Martin. Just for a few hours that she was off and then drive back over the mountain to get a good one.

I had to stay there. I'll find a place of shelter for them a day and a night. But love knows no difficulty.

It's so easy to sing, isn't it, in a nice room like this where the whole realm of nature and mind forget it. You won't get any time when you spend on TV. You know, TV is the lifeblood for most houses.

I was in a place recently, a very charming, wealthy lady came and she said to me, she said, oh, I'm so glad to see you. Well, darling, how are you? Fine. How are the children? Oh, fine.

Well, she said, you know what we've done? We've put TV out to our house. Oh, my. She said, my teenage daughter and son, if I put the TV out, they'll put me out.

She's a wonderful Christian. She has a big job in her church. But she's afraid to TV.

It's the lifeblood for most people. If you pull it, there's no joy. And again, the more joy you have in the Lord, the less entertainment you need.

Entertainment is the devil's substitute for joy. And Jesus says, my joy, no man's taking it from you. Nobody can steal your joy, you give it away.

I noticed somebody there quoted that text again. Oh, he said, I think I've lost my first love. I said, where'd you get that? Oh, it's in Revelation.

Show me. Well, anybody knows that. No, I don't know it.

It's in any version. Isn't it in the King James Version? Isn't it in that wretched, what do you call it, NASB? N-A-S-B? What's that called in your version? Substitute Bible. I'll tell you what it's a substitute because it says in Hebrew in the King James Version, and I used to say, as I told you, I used to say, the Bible I preached somewhat, I used to say it was the, what version? Oh, the Living Bible of King James.

Well, I've moved from the Living Bible now. I preached to the NIV, the Never-In-Truth Version. Because it says in Hebrews 1 what he had by himself purged our sins.

It doesn't say that in the NASB. You see, people always should join hands like one of your popular evangelists in Dallas. Join hands with the Catholics and sing.

Why? They're enemies of the cross. They're not enemies of Christ. They're enemies of the cross.

Because it says that Mary is called redemptive, and Mary is called ministry, which is devilish. The devil hates the blood. The devil hates the cross.

We need to rediscover the majesty of Jesus Christ. He's not going to have it eventually. Right now, he has power over death and the devil.

And I say, I read his book and I read, I've read it and read it more than any book and I have a couple essays. Sign 2 He's victorious. A very great leader.

But he did not be, I think, be very good to carry with him what I've heard from you and I think he's putting no power over all the power of the enemy. He doesn't think anybody is victorious. He's been a pretty victorious leader.

But I'm telling you, we're devastated by church. We're devastated by adultery. There's no broken homes to be brought.

No broken minds to address. No broken brothers to commune with each other and aid. And everybody now kisses for the church is now broken.

You know, the most alarming thing in America today to me is we're not the land that was in the midst of a nation. We haven't been the land that was in the midst of that was in the We haven't land that was a nation. We haven't in the midst of We haven't land that was in the midst of a nation.

We haven't that was in the midst of We haven't land that was midst of We haven't land that was in the midst of a nation. We haven't land midst of a nation. We haven't land that was in the midst of a nation.

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We haven't We haven't land that was in the midst of a nation. We haven't land that was midst of We haven't that was in the midst of a nation. in the midst of a nation.

We haven't It's one of the sites on Lake Fordwood, where all these big toilets in the town, public toilets, and it's the bodies of one of the other corpses of decayed old women and 60-year-old girls that have been destroyed. And she can't step here because there's human excreta in there, and in the dark she can't

tread there because there's congealed blood or somebody's been bleeding to death. She can't get away here because of some other bodies.

And she goes night after night. She doesn't rise home and say, 400 best mystery and sound suggestions. That precious woman hides away in prayer in this secret place for the most time.

I could send you a few tens of them all to you, and I'll give you one to continue them. She went to England not long ago, and all she did was tell the whole story. She didn't put any strings on it.

She told about these rotting bodies. about churches, he then turned to churches and said, Sister, please don't put sacrifice to all these people, but sacrifice to us, to Jesus. You want to be like Jesus? You mean you want to get seminary? You mean you want a Judas in your life? You want a Thomas in your life? You want to go through the darkness of get seminary, the loneliness of the cross, the ridicule, and the judgment seat? No, we want to be like him.

I said, it's a rough job, it's going to walk with God. It's a rough thing. We do what he wants us to do, and I'm determined to do this more than ever now.

I'm not too concerned about the tomorrows. I want Christ to unveil himself. I want to know him.

Ask people like you that came into the world to save us from hell. That's what he said. Read John 17 and I understand that they may know thee, the only true God.

But as Paul said, at the end of his journey, he raised his head from the military, and he still claimed that I may know him in the proud of his generation. How much do we know God? How much do we trust him? How much do we talk to him? How much does he talk to us? I tell you, when I read this, still I used to have what you call a medical ministry at one time. And I'd refer to it, he's the sickest thing on God's earth right now.

And I'd say to him, because of this behavior of Jimmy Traget and T.C.L., there's been an avalanche of abuse on the evangelists. They're all thieves. They're all after your money, and many of them are.

But listen, that doesn't come with that much what they say. What comes with it is what Jesus says about the church. What does the Church of Him I just say? With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

And then he says of the church of today, because when he died, he was free, free, full, free than he ever could. All men and women were in a male-to-female age. So what does Jesus say to the church today? He says he's poor, and worse than poor, he's wretched, and worse than wretched.

He's naked, worse than naked, he's blind. Think of it this way. Come into my church, and I'll be a minute with me.

There are 3,000 people to see one of our priests' marriage. He has a mabel suit with big gold buttons. He has his hand on his shoulder with a gold handle.

All the celebrities in the world are there, presidents, scientists, leading opportunities in the world are there. 3,000 seats, everyone wants to go. There are some seats down behind.

And here's a woman, she has a kind of faded wedding dress on, and a high-robbed tiara, whatever you call it. It looks a bit faded too. Here's a man up in the organ.

And he says, when do I know when the bride comes? Because at the door, outside, there are six trumpeters. And as soon as you hear them make a noise, you just say, here comes the bride, here comes the bride. So the trumpets sound, these guys start saying, here comes the bride.

And the bride gets ready to confront some of these women in a dress, an old faded dress, she's bald, and a juncture. Rushes out. Pulls her clothes on one side, she's thin, she's unseen.

In every sense of the word, she's unseen. It's that time of her life when she should be like that, or she has to be like that. But she goes to a royal wedding like that, she snows.

And she says, I'm the bride, I'm the bride. Would that happen? What would the prince say? Oh, well, let's try this, everyone. Now, here's a gorgeous young lady coming through.

His wonderful bride. But this girthless, seizing woman says, she's a bride. It's girth today, it's filthy.

Scissor it's pride, scissor it's arrogance. Scissor it's self-satisfaction. The world can be damned, what do we care? I'm praying our God will raise up women like this, and men even.

It's amazing. People have gone through the ends of the earth to see this woman. I met somebody who said, I wrote with her one night, I'll never forget it, it was a nightmare to me.

I can't sleep, I don't know how she lives like that. She goes back night after night. She takes dozens of little babies.

Diseased, blind, crippled. How did those women who for 60 years have been plundered by men and they've decayed and skinned their bodies? There's no hope for them. And yet this pricked, beggar woman walks up to a person, and the person here has been plundered and says, clean me up, clean me out.

I'm full of demons, I'm full of lust. And by the power of God, she does it. I take every student from Emmaus, and I'm going to drive her to school, she loves to go to church, as we've got around here.

I take them all out there, let them see this woman. Ask your professor how he faces that. Get a copy and go to your professor with it.

And say, listen, you say these militants are not for today. What does Jesus say? Jesus Christ, the same one who lives? No, the same yet is again forever. What does God say? He says, I am the Lord, I say not.

Well, speak, live, and have to face the tribunal of Jesus Christ one day. And so am I, so I'm pretty careful what I speak to you. I speak to these poor dumb guys, struggling with disease week after week.

They never had a broken heart. They never felt the sin of the world. I don't know how they live in their hypocrisy.

Listen, this book is either true or it's not, and if it's not true, throw it away. Boy, this precious little English lady left shame and fortune. She could have been married now.

She's 44 years of age, still single. She might have been married to some celebrity out of this lovely old English town. Beautiful children around her.

But she did what the hymn says, I lay in death's light, glory dead. And from the ground there blossomed red light that shall end with me. You see, it's pretty exciting, I'm disturbed.

I'd rather bed her after midnight than this past night to pray to me. She could do everything now. I'd go to bed at nine and get up at midnight.

I wouldn't have thought You see, the thing is, it's more precious if you spend something. More costly than money. What do you do? You spend your money, you spend your time.

Okay, let's put it this way, I'll say it. You live 24 hours a day, whoever you are. You work 8 hours, you sleep 8 hours, what do you do with the other 8? On that basis, a third of every day, you work a third of every day, you sleep a third of every day, it's free.

On that basis, you live 60 years, you sleep 20, you work 20, you work with the other 20. Work out how many days there are in those 20 years, how many hours. There's one thing for sure, dear friend, it doesn't matter if it's Dr. Chisholm, Billy Graham, or who, we're all going to be gentlemen, see.

There's no evasion in, no excuses. You boys are studying a book in a Hebrew, well that's okay, I don't despise politics. When it's on fire, it's wonderful.

When you thought it was on fire, look what Wesley did. But listen, no man has ever lived without Wesley, Timmy, Calvin, Whitfield, anybody, nobody ever had a bigger Bible than I have. They used it better, they explored it better.

They didn't have a special door to God. It's all by the way of the Holy Ghost, the Holy Spirit of God. So you've got to renounce everything, the world, the flesh, and the dead, you can't love God to be a Christian.

The Bible says, if any man loves me, the love of the Father is not in him. Yeah, the love of the world, yeah. The love of the world, either we love the world or we love him, we can't love the same.

One is full of poison, sin, and death, and destruction. So I don't wonder if human beings love so amazingly so divine, demand my soul, my life, my all. Would you dare say this morning you're abandoned to God? Would you dare to say that every interest for the world has passed? Yeah, I'm distant.

You don't want to make any money, you don't want name or fame, you say, Lord, here I am, I'm broken bread, running out of price continually. And what will change is Lord, make me broken bread and poured out wine. Jesus is not looking for partners, he's looking for slaves.

I want to be a blood slave. Father, we thank you this morning that you are the same as you were in heaven. Lord, you're a good nation.

Lord, I think that millions of David's daughters I think there are tens of thousands and millions who have come to the altar and never been born again. Lord, we need to put to run into a Holy Ghost in this nation. Indeed, we're wishing God of our fathers willing still that, Lord, our young people have gone to church and come out of it with a smile they've never heard in God this morning and never seen a manifestation of divine power.

Lord, restore to us the years we've turned to Rome and let Father Lord, help us to be together as we've mended on the inert road. Redeem this path to us. Take the veil off.

Not just the future, but the past. Show us, Lord, that you are. You can't break the power of chance that's been and set this prison to freeze.

You can take the most corrupt, perverted human personality and purify it to make it clean and make it pure and then I'm going to read a scripture to you for a minute. Go to the room for a minute. I want to talk to you for a minute.

And you're going to receive me for a minute. What's the nicest of the God? And you're going to receive me for a minute. I'll tell you something.

I'll tell you something. Verse 18 of chapter 1 says, for you may know what Jesus Christ is actually saying, what He's basically saying. Now listen, what is this, seeking power of His greatness toward us when He rose from Christ and He raised Him from the dead? Do you realize that? Jesus said, No man takes His life on me.

I lay it down." So he was the teacher of the resurrection. Think of that. Think of what happened.

He just put His finger on Jesus and said, You crucified the Lord of Glory, that Himath God raised up. So it was Christ raised Himself up, Himath God raised up. Romans 8 in the middle says, The Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead.

It's a co-operative action, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. God can rule the world off His tongue. He could only do it by here, by redeeming us.

The greatness of His power to afford us relief, according to the working of His mighty power which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him on high at His own right hand. God above principalities and powers. How much do you and I know about God? Surely He died a horrible death.

Surely He was forsaken by men, He was forsaken by God, but finally He's risen from the dead, and where is He now? He's at the right hand of the Father, making perfect it out in perfect plain. And what else? He's indwelling people, where people get self off the throne, and let Him come in all His power and glory, and scatter all our ideas of what success is and pleasure, and indwell us by His divine Spirit. Well, I hope some of you, somehow you get some of these books, and maybe invite them here, invite them somewhere, and it's called Saving the Dragon, that's what people in Hong Kong, they're taking the drug, you swallow it, and you destroy the dragon.

Well, there it is. Now what are we going to do? Let's just have to see.

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