

Qualifications of the Followers of Jesus - Part 1

by Loran Helm

Loran Helm emphasizes the importance of humility, blamelessness, and reliance on the Holy Spirit for those who follow Jesus and lead in the church.

Duration: 45:27

Scripture: Psalm 23:1, Proverbs 3:5-6, Matthew 6:33, Romans 12:15, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Titus 1:4, James 5:14

Topics: "Jesus"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of recognizing our own weaknesses and limitations. He shares a personal story of someone who struggled with prayer and learned a valuable lesson from it. The preacher then addresses the congregation, warning them not to think too highly of themselves and their abilities. He encourages humility and reliance on God. The sermon concludes with a reference to the book of Titus and the importance of surrendering to God's will and seeking His guidance in decision-making.

Transcript

Tape number six of the Waiting on God, held in Indianapolis, Indiana, June 22 to 25, 1975. Beginning the morning session of Monday, June 23, 1975. Oh, we're here today by your mercies.

We're here because of your protection and your healing. We're here because the Holy Spirit witnessed that at this time you would allow us the privilege of waiting, of trusting. As these services are thine and not ours, we're trusting, crying, pleading, waiting.

Just simply waiting. For we know, Heavenly Father, that if we are lowly, humble, submissive, pliable, appreciative, thankful, inwardly loving thee and loving all people, then thee is able to crown the mercy seat with victory in each individual heart. For as we come, we simply trust, not making any plans or any requests or requirements.

Although our heart hungers for the Holy Ghost's awakening, our whole being cries for the Holy Ghost's visitation. We've been waiting just about 32 to 33 years for the Holy Spirit to be poured out on the people. We know of old, Evan Roberts, who waited 13 years.

Others have waited 10 years, 20 years, some 40 years, some 50 years. But we've only waited just about 33 years for the Holy Ghost's awakening. Just about as long as when you walked this earth before your ascension and went back to the Father.

Just a little less than that. The Father, it's been, many times I've thought it's been similar to what Jacob said when he worked 14 years for Rachel. It seemed as but a few days.

So unto thee be the glory and the praise and the honor. The Thanksgiving, Lord Jesus. Now, those of you that have never been with us before, we endeavor to wait before God.

And yet we're only in the beginning of learning to wait. After 37 years of endeavor, we're just probably in the beginning of it. Now, some people say, I can't understand that.

But you see, eternity is forever. So there's no end. There isn't any end ahead of it.

There is never an end to come. So you see, we're only in the beginning. As it may emerge that 30, 50 years, 100 years, we're just in the beginning.

So after 33 years of walking with God, Mary Webster, one of the soul winners of Jesus, with Dr. E. Stanley Jones, spoke to me and my wife in 1966 and gave me a word. I seldom ever had anyone to tell me what to do. Or I've had a few people tell me, but I mean really from God.

Instructed. God seldom instructs you to tell anybody what to do. He seldom tells me to tell people.

Seldom do I ever in all my life say, I believe you should do this or do that. I don't know whether I've ever told any of you, unless the Holy Spirit gives me a definite guidance, to ever say, I believe you should do this. I believe God wants you to do this.

I don't tell people to cut their hair. I don't tell people they ought to do this, they ought to dress this way. I simply believe them to God.

I love them. I don't tell people, now this is what you've got to do, or this is the Christian thing to do. Oh, no.

I just simply let the Lord dress them. Oh, once in a while I get to preaching, and I preach on certain things. But that's out of my hand.

It's in His when He brings it to my attention. But for me personally, to tell someone they ought to do this or that, that is not what any of us are called to do, unless the Holy Ghost gives us a definite word from God and the Holy Spirit. And so therefore, we want to be very cautious and careful.

And we want always to give the word of the Lord as He gives it to us. Once in a while He gives a revelation, and if He does, we want to share it very tactfully and kindly, in a sweet way, that it will not be offensive, but it will be edifying, helpful, strengthening, encouraging. But Mary Webster said to me that God had revealed to her something.

And when she said and declared that we were to meet the saints of God in the United States and wait somewhere in this country at least three days, or just wait before the Lord, I thought it was too great assignment for me. Because up until then, after all these thirty-some years of being in the kingdom, I was just used to going to church and we'd sing a hymn, we'd sing a song, or we'd have prayer, or we might have maybe a little scripture. But it was usually in a routine, it was in a pattern, and you've all been in it, all

your life, all of you, if you've gone to church very much.

I've gone to church now for fifty-some years and said, well, we'll begin the meeting by singing hymn number so-and-so. Sirs, tonight we're going to sing hymn number so-and-so. Today will be hymn so-and-so to begin the service.

It's usually a song. You go to any church, or most churches, I should say most churches, not all churches, but they start out by singing or praying. So have you ever been in a meeting in your life where as soon as they got up the preacher started preaching immediately and preached for an hour? Seldom have you gone to a meeting and no one knew what was going to happen the next minute.

And so that's the way it is when we come in here. Nobody knows what's going to happen the next moment, none of us, because we haven't any plans, there's no program. Oh, we could have had programs.

It's possible. God doesn't want me to do that. He wants me to trust Him.

I didn't know how to discern what He wanted first and second and so on until after I'd walked with Jesus thirty-three years after Sister Mary had given me this word that Jesus gave her that I thought that I wasn't able. I want you to note that whenever God asks you to do something, it's usually the right response is you do not feel capable of doing it. If you feel like you can do it at first, you will have a wonderful lesson to learn.

Years ago, a precious one told me, he said, you know, I was in a conference, a convention, and they called on him to pray. And he was a very humble person, only had four or five grades in school, maybe the fifth or sixth reader. In those days they called it fifth or sixth reader or they went to the sixth grade and they had the sixth grade reader.

Well, I don't think he went to the sixth grade reader, but he started to pray. And God came on him, the Holy Ghost fell upon him, and he prayed this for eternity. And it was so precious and so glorious that I guess he just had to stop.

He didn't get through. And this one came around during the day. Oh, I enjoyed that prayer.

Another one came. Oh, that prayer helped me. Another one came.

Oh, that prayer helped me. Oh, he just had such a time. And that night, I guess the leader thought, because he was so annoyed, he did ask him to pray again.

And he thought to himself, he says, this time I'll really show him how to pray. The thought just went to the mind, you know. It just went to the mind.

Every one of us are weak. And we have these little things. He said, well, he said, if they thought I could pray this morning, I'll try tonight.

Oh, he didn't know how to pray. Oh, he had a time. Oh, he said it taught him the most wonderful lesson.

He thought maybe he could try. Oh, my friend. If any of you in the church think that you can do anything, anything, you think you could sing or teach or preach or lead a meeting, if you think you can, oh, you'll have a marvelous surprise in just a little while.

And I believe that's almost without exception. So when we come into this service, we come in as nothing. I used to think in 1942, we were right there.

That's as little as we were. Cleared down to nothing. But it seems as though we've been getting steadily less.

And less. Well, wonderful Savior. Hallelujah.

You'll turn in your scriptures to the book of Titus. How many Bibles do we have this morning in the New Testaments? Hold them high. Hold them up.

Now I want you to look around. I want you to look to the right, to the left, to the center. I think there is close to 250 to 300 Bibles here this morning in the New Testaments.

You know, the Bible is a book that contains the mind of God, the state of man, the reward of the righteous, the doom of the wicked, it's a traveler's map, the Christian charter, the soldier's sword, his light, the guidance, food to sustain us, comforts and cheers, it's the paradise of glory, a river of pleasure. Therefore we are ready to be wise, believed to be saved, and practiced to be holy. The book.

This book right here. So it's good that you carry this with you when you go to church or when you go calling. The book of Titus.

Verse 4, chapter 1. To Titus, my own son, after the common faith. To Titus, my own son, after the common faith. This holy faith of God in Jesus Christ.

It's not something out of the ordinary. It's just simple, old-fashioned, Christ-centered, godly faith. The kingdom, the holiness of God.

He said here in this precious truth, praise the Lord. To Titus, my own son, after the common faith. Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, and for this cause left I thee in Crete that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting and ordain elders in every city as I have appointed thee.

Then he said, if any man be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children, not accused of riot or unruly, but a bishop, a leader of a church, in other words, must be blameless as a steward of God. It's said here that a leader in a church should be blameless. He should live uprightly.

He should want his behavior, his conversation, his deportment must be pure and right with caution and carefulness at all times. He said a leader in a church should be blameless. What kind of requirement is that? Is that a high requirement? It most certainly is.

Every leader and leader. Now, do you think there's two standards? One for a bishop, another for an elder? They all have the same standard. Every one of us.

There's not two standards for you and for me. There's just one. That's a purity.

He said blameless. That means all my conversation, all your conversation, must be without blame, without judgment. He said you tell them.

We must be blameless. There's not two standards. Some persons say, well, that's just for certain persons that are anointed.

But as I understand it, a bishop is to be a leader in a church, according to Scripture. This is the Bible. This is my word.

And he said to be blameless. And there's not two standards, one for a leader and one for a layman. He must be blameless.

I've got to be careful of my attitudes. You see, if I have the wrong attitude, I'm not found blameless. If I'm with the wrong attitude, I couldn't be accounted as blameless.

But you see, a man can't look into a man's heart and see his attitude. There isn't a person that can look into another person's life and see what their attitude is. Because an attitude is that presence down in the mind and the heart that is there always, and nobody outside has any control over it.

Somebody may put pressure, but that won't change your attitude. They may say, you must take a stand on it. That won't change this inner attitude.

It'll stay the same, unless the heart's changed by Christ. Our attitudes, the inner attitude, must be Christly, holy. And if my attitude is not Christ-centered, I will not be found blameless.

See, I will be found guilty of grieving God and hurting my fellow man. Though I do not say very much, I say enough or I act enough that I may bring some heartache to a brother or to a sister. A blameless bishop, a leader of the church, must be blameless.

Without any blame, without any of these wrong attitudes, we must continually plead and pray that the inner life will be without blame, without this critical part of us, this something within us, it's an all person that's born in this life. That's why we must die daily, die second by second, and yield ourselves or a wrong attitude, an earthly thing, will take over. An earthly spirit, an evil spirit, a false spirit will take over within us and create within us as a result an attitude that is not Christ-like.

Any man be a bishop, a leader of the church, he must be blameless. Now his motives, his motives must be completely from God. The motive of any person in the church must be completely from God, the motive.

You see, and sometimes we can have a motive to promote our church, to promote our people, our organization, our own little clique, our own little group, to promote it. See, we can have a motive that we want to really do something in this community. We want to be sure that that motive has been begun by God, rather than by something within us or you, you or me.

It must be. We must have the right motive, the holy motive. And the motive must be that it will glorify God in Jesus Christ, that it will be such that it will be the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

The motive must be that God can have all the originating of it within us, that we don't arrange this ourselves. It must be the Holy Spirit that does it. If we have the wrong motive, and some motives may be good and may be excellent, but if that motive is not really sanctified and instigated by the Father and the Son of the Holy Ghost, we will not be blameless.

Just a wrong motive, a motive that we want to do something. We must, because we cannot do it. There is anything we can do.

There's one thing you can do, always, and that's to trust in the Lord with all thine heart. It's possible that a man could trust in the Lord with all of his heart, but it's seldom been done, because we are prone to trust in ourself a little tiny bit, or a small part, or a greater part of us. Rather than trusting in the Lord, we'd rather trust in something that we know that we can do, and we like, and we desire.

If any man's going to be a leader or be a Christian, let that man be blameless as a steward of God, as one that God can guide, and he will take care of the business of God's kingdom, the things of God's kingdom. It will be exactly as the Holy Spirit directs to do, not what we feel ought to be done. That's why we should never make any plans unless the Holy Spirit is in them, because if we carry out plans without the Holy Spirit leading, they most usually, even though they work out, they are not edified and glorified God, and most of them do not bring us to peace and to inner contentment and fellowship in the Holy Ghost.

Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. Psalms 127, 1. Except the Lord build the house. Except the Lord bring the motive, create the motive, and the attitudes, it's all in vain.

It's just all gone. It won't last very long. It just falls apart.

So it must be that Jesus, the Holy Spirit, really leads this. If any man, if any person be a leader or a Christian or one that God is going to use in His kingdom, let that man, that woman, let that man be blameless. Praise the Lord.

Amen. Well, hallelujah. Amen.

Thank you, Jesus. For a bishop must be blameless as the steward of God. Could he be blameless as the husband of one wife, having faithful children, not accused of riot or unruly? We're supposed to have our children under subjection and teach them so we do not provoke them.

It's easy for us to get caught off and to provoke our children. It's easy for children to be disobedient and to have the wrong attitude toward parents. And we need to wait before God because God is able to bring a parent and a child together in such precious understanding if they're willing to inwardly submit themselves to God.

And so God is bringing to our attention here that His people are to be a pure people, not adulterers, not fornicators, where to have one wife, one husband. Now, this age, these TV programs and writings and editorials, some of them are just cutting down these principles. They say it's time now just to feel free and you don't need to be obligated to any person.

You don't need to take a person for life. Change around a little. Just be free to do as you please.

Now, this kind of a theory will soon bring a society of destruction in every country, in any place. Even ungodly nations that are not of God at all they are demon-possessed. They know this and they won't allow a lot of this at the heads of their government and in society there.

They know that this will tarry and destroy. And yet here in this country, it's supposed to be a bright country, an intellectual country. We don't know that as a society.

Only a few people realize that if we are untrue to our companion it will bring us to destruction and it will destroy society and the family. It will cut us at the very roots. It will destroy what we're really trying to create, a place of safety, rest, and peace and contentment among the people and in the home and family.

So we are to have a very pure relationship. He wants me to be pure and holy. See, I have my wife.

She's 42 years. We've been together 42 years. And he wants me to be careful with her.

He wants me to honor her and respect her and not call her the old woman. It is very disrespectful for any man to call his companion the old woman or to say, I'll tell you, we've been married a long time. That's not good.

Seems like a long time. That isn't good. That isn't good.

I'm with some couples and they just cut up and they just pick at each other. And some of them have never been married. And I know that's not going to work.

Oh, they think it will, but in about 10 years or less, it will fall apart. And I've been with people and they met well, but they've got things in their personality that worry me because I know it's not going to last. I know that that kind of a spirit and attitude and that frivolousness and that little joking thing, that little thing is going to bring heartache to the companion until they die out and they're crucified and get this thing out of their lives.

God wants my heart pure. He wants me cautious and gentle with my companion. And He doesn't want me going around to some other woman and holding onto her hand too long.

No, He doesn't want that. We've got to be awful careful as men about how we shake hands with the ladies. We've got to be cautious with them so we'll be blameless.

We've got to be Christian, but we've got to be on our guard continually. We have no business putting our arms around some other brother's companion. We must be cautious in our lives so we'll be blameless and holy unto God and undefiled before the Lord.

Sometimes an older man, well, he takes the younger, precious Christians as sisters and he's got to be awful careful. Vice versa. We've got to be cautious so that we'll be found blameless.

He wants us to have one companion. This is His will. Oh, there's so many things that are required to be a leader or to be a worker in the church.

And there isn't any differentiation. It's all the same for all of us. It doesn't make any difference if they're teaching a Sunday school class or have the primary class or the little ones and the kindergarten age or the toddlers.

The same requirements is for them as for us. It's all for the same. That we'll be pure and undefiled before God as men and women.

See, this is a holy wall. Somebody said, I don't like to be restricted. I don't like to be restricted.

Well, when our hearts are right, we just simply fall in line with the Scriptures here without any resentments. And we're thrilled to do it because we find it such a joy. Not because we have to, but because we love to.

We love to, we enjoy it. It brings us happiness and satisfaction and peace and glory. Hallelujah.

In the Lord, in Jesus. Oh, if any man's going to follow Jesus, he must be blameless. Blameless.

So I must be very tender, very gentle with my wife. See, if I cross with her any morning, any time, I grieve God. I'm not blameless.

Or vice versa, if a wife, if a wife, you see, is a little bit naggy or cross, you see, she's not blameless. She's carnal, just like the husband is carnal if he gets the slightest bit of hostility in him. In here.

It grieves God. It grieves children. It grieves neighbors, for any man or woman, to be hostile, the slightest bit.

It brings conflict and chaos and destruction. We cannot, we cannot have little fits and spells and be godly people. They don't go together.

It's like getting fresh water and salt water out of the same fountain. You can't turn a little sprig and say, now salt water, come out now. I'm ready.

I've got some infections. Or now I'll turn another one, fresh water. I'm thirsty.

I want to drink a little. We've got to be the same from morning to night. You have to be careful.

And when you're in church, you want to be respectful and reverent. And even though, you know, there's lots of times while you're in church you'll want to tell somebody next to you about that point. You're going to have to be careful because while you're doing that, the pastor thinks he may, that may be distracting him.

He'll say, what in the world have I said wrong? And when you're talking to anybody by you, it makes it awful hard to serve it in the pulpit. Because he'll see you and you're talking, ta-ta-ta-ta-ta-ta-ta. We've got to be reverent and respectful in the church services of God because it bothers everyone, every person in charge.

Every person. And some people go to church, we're not respectful, we're not reverent when we do that. We've got to be careful at home in the church how we talk, when we talk, and so forth.

And then when we talk, so that our heart's pure and the talk is clean, holds, lifting. So with my wife, I must be cleansed in my heart so that I don't aggravate her or reprimand her. Somebody says, well, how are we going to settle our differences? A good place to do it is together on our knees.

Or get quiet if you can't get on your knees and ask the Holy Ghost, the blood of Jesus, to cleanse out of us all these little angered spirits, hostility, and this carnal thing that's in every one of us and lets it burn out of us. To take out of us all this slumber and all of these things within us that cause us to say the things that we should not say. The grace of the Holy Spirit.

We must be blameless. We must have one wife, one husband, and be pure and treat them very Christly and beautifully in God. Christ-like.

Like Jesus walked, like Jesus taught, like Jesus gave the Word. And so this is required in the kingdom of God. He must be very pure in his relationship with his companion, or she with her husband.

A pure relationship. A holy, a wholesome. Not going out underhanded, in secret, in any way or any form.

Someone said, well, this is a straight way. It truly is. It truly is.

But if you pray regularly and you obey continually, it's not gruesome and it's not drudgery. It is a pleasant, most precious place to dwell. Oh, it's wonderful.

It's so precious. When we obey the Holy Ghost, obey the Word of God, it just beats the soul. And everywhere you go, you're like the salt of the earth.

Sweetening every little part that you go. You're just sweetening up every little corner. Just sharing with persons about the kingdom of God.

Oh, it's sweet. Yeah, it is. It's wonderful.

Oh, yes. Praise the Lord. I was somewhere a while back, so I just praised the Lord a little bit and say, what a meeting we had in that place.

If we'd have failed to praise the Lord there, just real kindly like, they would never have known and it wouldn't have come out. But oh, what came out of there was good. It was so precious.

So marvelous how God the Holy Ghost will have your heart with your companion, with your children, in your travels or in your community or in your church or in your place and responsibility. Just sweet things will just blossom and come right out of the garden of that opportunity if Jesus Christ is truly first in your heart and mine. He was first place in my heart and in your heart.

Not second, but first. Therefore, we cannot let the desires of earthly friends or loved ones steer us from God's will. And that's the job a lot of the time.

That's a big assignment a lot of the time. Because there's times when the Holy Spirit will lead and you know that's going to run cross screen with precious ones near you. And they're not going to understand it.

That's where it takes wisdom to keep plenty of the Holy Spirit oil in there so that they'll be willing to yield themselves and die out and no longer make any requirements only God's way. God's way. Not my way.

Not the way of the earth or flesh. But Christ's way. Well, praise the Lord.

This word is true. This word is true here that we have. That God has given us from his holy apostles and disciples.

So a leader in the church must be blameless and be a good steward of God. Not self-willed. Not self-willed.

Now he's preaching self-denial here as Jesus gave us in Matthew 16, 24. He must not be self-willed. That is the will.

The will must come from God and not from himself. Not self-willed. A leader in the church cannot be self-willed.

A Christian cannot be self-willed. We cannot let self guide us at all. If we do, we're in difficulty and we put other persons in difficulty.

Straits. Too many people have ulcers and too many people have stomach trouble because of certain people that are near them or situations that put them under strain and stress. And because of that, they get tense.

They just close up and their stomachs are not relaxed. Their organic system's not relaxed. It's all tense.

And we're not made to do this. And when we do that, we're going to have repercussion. Aftermath.

A person, any person puts anybody and carnality always puts strain and stress on anyone and persons around them. Carnality will put stress and strain on persons about them. We're not to be self-willed because self will have a tendency to exalt self and to fix conveniences for self and to arrange the things that self likes.

This is the inner tendency of man and woman is to be self-willed. Let self will it. Let self direct it.

And instigate it. This cannot be. Because this kind of result is always in conflict and disappointment and finally destruction to the person, to the home, to the community, to the church or to the place wherever we dwell.

So we must not be he says not self-willed. Self cannot control at all. That says that self is not to control at all.

Is that the way you interpret this? So the self part of me cannot control. It must be that the Holy Spirit works in my heart so the will of my heart is just in His hands. He guides.

He takes over. It's this self is crucified and the will of God comes within me. His choice.

His word. His truth. And we allow Him to make the choice.

I am pretty sure this is seldom done consistently. Continuously. And yet this is the requirement of a Christian.

This isn't making it too straight, is it? This isn't hurting anyone, offending any of us. It's simply telling us how to live a victorious life. This is a recipe for a victorious life.

An overcoming life. It's an old old story, but it's true. And when you get a hold of something old that's good, it's as new as the morning.

And it's always fresh every hour when you look into the beauty of it. Always fresh. Never tiring.

You can get something beautiful. If you wear it out, it wears away. It doesn't hold.

But this will never wear out. It will never decay. Deteriorate.

It's the same always. Praise the Lord. Never changes.

The unchangeable Christ. The unshakeable... .. He's able to cleanse us out of us in less than a second. If we're just willing to surrender and take the reins out of our hands and put it in His hand.

All together. Now that's beautiful. That's beautiful.

Now when I say that's beautiful, I wish I could tell you the operation that some way operates in my heart. If we were able to comprehend that simple thing, that simple truth, I am sure it would be worth far more than all your days here will involve. And encounter in our, all of our financial need.

And other need. So we're not to be self-willed. I must not steer as I would want it to be, but rather as God would lead it, you see.

I know in, just in your home, in our home, ideas we have, certain things we want, but we must wait upon the Lord. We must let the Lord work it out as we pray and let Him help us make the decision. In our relationship with our family, in our home, in our community, and with circumstances in the home.

Not self-will. I remember when we were building the home built by faith, we were, I asked Brother Bullis to come down and anoint me with oil about three mornings ago, been suffering this incision. Of course when I coughed, I was praying, casting out a demon out of a person about 300 miles from me in the name of Jesus.

Of course I just got home from the hospital and I was lying there in my bed, and I had a telephone like this, and when I was praying this prayer, my body was in a twist, and all of a sudden the powers of the air hit me and a cough came up, and right exactly where this hole is, this little drainage, is where that hit. While I was in the midst of that prayer, it wasn't a surgery, it was I was in a battle, spiritual battle, so the devil took a strike at me, and so I've been crying for the elders and calling for them to anoint me every once in a while. This teaches us a long suffering and patience and rejoicing.

Rejoice when you hurt. Because if you don't hurt, you don't have compassion on somebody else that hurts. So I called the pastor down, my precious pastor, to anoint me with oil and James, and we were rejoicing over how God was leading and blessing, and he said to me, he said, it's a wonder to me how this town can't see that when you didn't have anything, how he could build a home like this and not be convinced that God has led you these years.

Now we were just having a time there rejoicing about how God had blessed and provided and made way and took care and given us love for everybody in the world, everybody, that's everybody, the whole everybody, the whole everybody gave us love. Now I tell you, I have a debt to tears that he could put it in my heart like that, because before, oh, you know, we had resentments and anger in us that took the Holy Ghost to take it out of us. 30 or 40 years ago, between 30 and 40 years, oh, we're weak, we have nothing to boast about, but oh, I tell you, as we were talking about how God had cleansed our heart and how God had blessed us and how God had been so good to us, I recall, oh, we had such a precious fellowship.

You know, we had such a precious fellowship, you know, when God sent James to us and revealed to me that James is Nancy Marie's husband. Brother Bullis had said to himself, he says, well, John is so wonderful. You know, John is one of the most wonderful little pilgrims in the world.

And James is too. I didn't know James. I didn't know him at all.

I didn't know his background. I didn't know anything that happened to him or were, but just as Jesus told me, I took him just like John. Whoo! Took him just like John.

The Holy Ghost just took him like John. Hallelujah! He didn't twinkle an eye. Dick Gilbert, where are you? Are you here this morning? Where is Dick? Is Dick here this morning? There he is.

Praise the Lord. I remember you and I talked and what got you and helped you and blessed you was you said, Brother Harold, what really blesses me is that you just took James just like your own son, the answer that God told you. That's because of Jesus.

That's because of the Holy Ghost. That's because of the cleansing blood. You see.

That was real precious. I was so thankful because that encouraged me. I hadn't thought of it.

Quite like that, Brother Richard. Yeah. You want to praise the Lord? Yes, I'd like to praise the Lord this morning.

It thrilled my heart, Brother, when I knew it was the Lord directing because to take a stranger in to a precious daughter like Nancy, I tell you, it really stirred me. I knew James but only through the Spirit and the Lord because he and my son had been so close together and the Lord had used them so much. I was just thrilled.

I tell you when the Lord witnessed this, I don't know how to put it into words what the Lord had done for me and to me. It thrilled me that you and Sister Helm could take this precious one who you didn't know at all. Before he ever came up there, we called him.

He was with us just like John. Oh, that's right. So precious.

Amen. It was beautiful. I said it had to be the Lord for these precious ones to take this young man in and not know him from... I'd never seen him hardly at all.

Only time that I saw him was in a meeting and he gave a poem here and I loved it. Amen. So you were with him as much as I was.

Yes. If you'd never been with him before. That encouraged me.

See, Richard encouraged me. He said, that blesses me. I said, what is it? He told me and I said, oh, thank you Jesus.

Thank the Holy Ghost. Because when God spoke that to me on the 27th of June, two years ago instantly, the Holy Ghost was speaking through me. He was just like John.

I said to Jack, I said, see I love you Jack just like James and John. Oh, two or three times, yes. Through Jesus.

You see, if Jesus isn't there, you can't do it. There's a little difference. There's a little difference.

If Jesus doesn't make us holy, there's just a little bit of a difference. And there can't be. There can't be.

And all the time we had Brother Bullard said, you know, he says, John, oh, he's so precious. He'll get up in the morning and say, oh, it's so wonderful to see you this morning. Oh, you look good.

Oh, mother, you look so good this morning. That's three or four years ago. Oh, my, it's so good to be with you.

My, my, let me love you. Praise God, you look so good. And that's the way it was the next day and next week and next month and the next year and the next year and the next year until now.

And Brother Bullard said, you know, he said, John was so precious. He said, I thought when James comes, how could I ever love him like John? But he said, you know, I do. He's so precious.

Praise God, you just love him. I mean, just have a time. Yeah.

Boy, sure. He was so precious. He loved him just like John.

Loved James just like John. Oh, that the love of Jesus will get through our hearts. And so we were discussing it there, and the pastor was bringing to our observation, how could the village I live in for fifty-some years, most of the time, how is it that they would see God do such miracles, such wonders, when a person has nothing, hadn't anything, maybe a dollar in his pocket or maybe a penny.

He had no bank account, no chickens back there in the pen, no deep freeze, nothing. And God would build a home that would cost fifty-some thousand dollars, build it and equip it and put all the wonderful things in it and protect it by His grace. Could we make it from now on? He said, it looks to me like the city could surely see that God has been leading.

God's been leading. God's been helping. The man in the court, the clerk of our town, brother, he said to me that back in the late forties and early fifties, he said a similar thing to me.

Now he said, glory. Praise the Lord, he's one of my close brothers.

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