

Faith: a Divine Deposit!

Overview

Faith tends to lead us, and elude us, at times. The church has been inundated by all kinds of thoughts and ideas about faith. Faith has been defined and re-defined and re-defined again. And so I just like to keep the record straight. To me, whatever we say about faith, it better line up with this book. It doesn't line up with the book. I'm not interested in it.

And I believe there's a lot of scripture in this book that counters some of the ideas that people have about faith. And I'm not going to belabor that point. And so I want to begin by saying this to you, that faith is a gift from God. We know that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. I actually preached about this topic somewhere around the year 2000 or 2001 to the General Assembly of the PAOC, they invited me to speak. And I gave my explanation of that verse. 'Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.'

So the question I asked, the general conference, that's all the pastors in Canada. Faith comes. Stop. Faith comes from where? Faith comes by hearing. But where's its coming from and where its coming to? So it is my, I'm convinced of this totally, that when I gave my heart to Jesus, the Holy Spirit came into my heart and my life at that very moment. And when He came into my heart and my life, He brought all the ingredients necessary for me to live a successful Christian walk and life in Him. Everything arrived then.

And then the follow through of that is that since the Holy Spirit is residing within me, and He brings all the ingredients for me to walk with Him, the gifts of this Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit, it's all been deposited through the person, the Holy Spirit, Jesus said, out of your innermost being will flow rivers of living water. So out of your innermost being, there's an answer to where things flow. So there's an inflow when I gave my heart to Jesus.

There's an outflow when I surrender and I allow the one who's within me to express Himself through me. Faith flows. Faith comes in when I give my heart to Jesus. And we don't fully understand these things. We can't grapple with them properly, but there's enough in the scriptures to help us through. So here's what I believe about out of your innermost being will flow rivers of living water.

I believe that faith flows out of my innermost being. So I would believe this, that because a person has been serving Jesus for 50 years and reading the word of God, they're not necessarily more spiritual or more equipped than a person who's been saved for six months. To be quite honest, if I had a great, great need in my person for intervention from God, like divine healing, I would get pretty excited about a person who's only been saved a few weeks as opposed to a person who's been saved for 50, 60 years. Why so pastor? Because a person who's been

knowing the word for 50, 60 years have read countless books. They've lived to countless sermons. They've watched television. They've listened to tapes. They've got all these ideas about faith. The person who just gave the heart to Jesus, they're ready to walk on the water. They're ready to watch Jesus turn them on, a wine and water. There's a freshness in their nose, a newness. And it's exciting to be around new believers. It's so exciting to be around them because they believe that nothing is impossible. They're just right there. And so there is faith ready to be released.

So if faith comes by hearing the word, if faith comes, if it arrives from the ethereal place, if it comes to me from the Lord, from heaven, from God's throne, as I read the word of God, if that's what we believe. Faith comes when you're reading this book and it's entering in. Faith is arriving. That means that a person who has only been reading this book for a little bit, has a little bit of faith. But those I've been saved for, my goodness, over 60 years coming up. No, I've been saved for 70 years by reading this book. So if faith comes, if it arrives and it accumulates because I'm reading the book, I should know more than somebody's knowing Jesus for six years or 10 years because I'm way ahead of you.

But that just doesn't congeal in my heart and in my mind. I believe that faith arrived into my heart, into my life by the person of the Holy Spirit. And I believe that as I read the text, as I read the word of God, and the word of God becomes alive to me right now, faith begins to flow out of my innermost being. I believe that a person can be sitting in a service and in the midst of the praise and the worship, a verse leaps into their heart. They're among us and they're in trial for physical healing. But in the midst of the presence of the Lord and the Word becomes so real. In that moment, faith can suddenly just arise forth from them and I have witnessed it in a service. I believe I've told you this before about a lady from another denomination that was not evangelical and their whole concept of serving the Lord and knowing the Lord was very, very boxed.

It was very controlled with no emotion, no expression. And I don't believe in emotionalism, but just very, very state. So she came in, she had an experience with the Lord. And in a matter of weeks, on a Sunday morning, she experienced divine healing while we were singing and while we were worshipping. And suddenly I saw a sling that she'd been wearing because she had damaged her shoulder significantly as she fell on the ice. She's swinging, there's this conservative lady, swinging her sling around in the air like this. And so I motioned to her, I said, you better come on up here.

People are singing and they're watching this flag flying around when she came forward. I said, what's happened to you? This is a brand new Christian. She said, he healed me right now. And she told us about the damage. She said, I'm due for surgery Tuesday morning. I don't need my surgery. So you see, faith out of a, really a baby Christian in terms of their experience, faith arrived like a tornado would come forth. Faith comes as a result of the impartation, the freedom that comes from the word. So as I read the text, as I read the word, faith begins to flow out of me.

Therefore, the more I read of the word of God, the more freedom, the more freedom begins to flow out of my life. So if you've only been saved for six months or a year, you have an abundance

of faith within you. And I believe that the word of God, and even what I share with you today, should be an ignition switch that causes that faith that was deposited in you at that birthing moment in your experience with him. That faith can flow out of you. So don't sit among us and wonder, how all these people have known the Lord for so long. And I'm just a brand new Christian.

My faith must be like, just, I just don't have any. No, no, no, no, no. It's within you, he's within you. So I wanna say about faith, then in order to release faith, I must engage, I must participate. I must also make a deposit. Faith, when it's released from my person, is a cooperative thing. It's like all ministries. When I stand before you and I endeavor to share with you the word of God, it shouldn't be all David, and it can't be 100% God. He's using my voice, he's using my expression. He's using my personality, he's using who I am.

It's a cooperation thing, and that's how it is with all ministries. So releasing faith out of my heart and my life, that's ministry, that's a ministry moment. Sometimes it's a ministry to bless me, sometimes it's a ministry to bless those who are around me. So the release of faith is a participation thing where the word of God has excited me and has motivated me to release faith. That's a moment where I participate. I want to go further now and talk about the participation factor. So I want to read something for you that I fished, that I fished just to begin this.

I want to talk about the Passover Feast back in the book of Exodus. So the Passover celebration, because Passover's been going on since the night of the Passover back in the Egyptian moment, Passover is celebrated by Jewish people worldwide every year. It is maybe, I shouldn't say, I know for sure. I think it's at least one of the top three feasts, and for some it might be the very, very top one. It's the one that you just wouldn't miss this one. You have to participate in this one.

And people from all over the world who are of Jewish thought and persuasion, make their way to Israel. And the Passover week in Israel is a huge, huge event. And it lasts for seven days, the Passover. So this year, the Passover is gonna happen on April 5th, this year, so it's coming. And it will go from sundown on April the 13th. Oh, it goes to sundown on April the 13th. The date of the Passover changes each year because the date is set on another calendar, other than the one we're accustomed to.

It's a Hebrew calendar. And they call that celebration the Haggadah. The Haggadah is a standardized ritual I'm reading. It's a ritual account of the Exodus story. So the family will come together, and they, for those few minutes, they relive, they participate as best they can, remembering the fulfillment of a promise that God made. And thou shalt tell the Haggadah. So the telling is called the Haggadah.

The telling of the Passover and the practice of it, that moment, that evening is called the Haggadah. You shall Haggadah your son in that day, saying, it is because of that which the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt. So Jewish people will celebrate Haggadah and they will say, not us, but they will say me. This is what the Lord did for me, and this is why I'm celebrating it. The Lord did it for the whole corporate body of Israel at the time, but in order to personalize it, in order for the individual who's celebrating Haggadah to engage and participate, they will speak

of themselves.

Because indeed, if the Lord hadn't delivered them back then, they wouldn't be as free as they are today. So let me, if you will, let me read to you out of Exodus chapter 11 about the Passover. What's this got to do with faith? Catch up, it's coming. The Lord said to Moses, yet will I bring one plague more? You'd already poured nine on the Egyptians, one more upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Afterwards, he will let you go from here. When he shall let you go, he shall surely thrust you out altogether.

Speak now in the ears of the people and let every man borrow of his neighbor and every woman of her neighbor, jewels, silver, jewels of gold, and the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover, the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people. And Moses said, this is what the Lord said, about midnight, I will go out into the midst of Egypt. And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die.

The firstborn of Pharaoh that sits on his throne, even the firstborn of the maid servants that is behind the mill and all the firstborn of the beasts and there shall be a great cry throughout the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more. But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue against man or beast. Now you may know how the Lord does put a difference between Egyptians and Israel. And all these your servants shall come down unto me and bow down themselves unto me saying, God, get thee out and all the people that follow you. And after that, I will go out.

And he went out from Pharaoh in a great anger. And the Lord said unto Moses, Pharaoh will not harken unto you that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt. And Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh and the Lord hardened his heart so that he would not let the children of Israel go. So about midnight, there was gonna be an angel that would pass through the land of Egypt and all the firstborn were gonna die. And what the Lord instructed Moses and therefore the people was that for every household, they were to seek out a lamb and it had to be absolutely perfect. The lamb had to be without spot, had to be without any degree whatsoever of suffering. You couldn't take a lamb that had a broken leg already and say, well, it's of no use to us, let's use that one.

No, no, it had to be absolutely perfect because this motion was significant in a very unique way. It was to portray for the people of Israel and for you and I and for all of history, Jesus, the lamb of God, would be selected by the Lord himself. But the people would be involved in selecting him because it was the people who cried out crucify him. And Jesus would be perfect, absolutely perfect. The Bible says there was no sin found in him. He was absolutely perfect. So a lamb was to be sought, a lamb for a household.

The lamb was to be taken and a couple of days before, it was to be prepared and the lamb was to be slaughtered, but it's so interesting. I just saw this as I was preparing for this, this week that when the lamb was being eaten, on the night of the Passover, its insides had been undisturbed. It was completely whole. It had just bled out, that's all. And they were to eat the lamb after it had

been totally roasted. Now before any of this would take place, the lamb had to be slain, the blood was caught in a basin and I'm not trying to suggest as I tell all this that you don't know this, but maybe some among us are not that familiar with the story. So I tell it that the lamb had to be slain, the blood had to be caught in a basin. The Lord was specific about how, what the paintbrush was to look like, it had to be from a hisap bush. Hissep. And so the hisap bush was to be uprooted and it would be used as a brush and the blood was applied to the door posts of every home and then over the lintel, over the top.

That blood on the door, the door is significant of authority. We know that. We know that the door in your house is significant. It speaks of authority. So the blood was applied as an indication of this blood is increasing the authority and the angel of death will not come near this house. When I see the blood, the Lord said, I will skip over, I will pass over you. It must have been difficult for the young people in those days to see dad go out and pick a lamb and it would be the best of the flock. In fact, it might have been the favorite of some little fellow or some little girl. Please daddy, don't pick that one. That's the best one and yup, that's why I'm choosing him.

And then it must have been a startling moment when daddy would capture the blood and then he would take hisap and he'd start painting the doorposts of the house with blood. The Egyptian children nearby who would have seen this must have thought, this is a silly thing that the Israeli daddies are doing. There was nothing silly about it. And the world today looks at us as being silly when we sing of the blood of Jesus. When we celebrate on a frequent basis as we did last Sunday in the tent, take this, this is my body which is broken for you. And the world thinks that it's silly that we eat this bread.

They think there were cannibals. And then here, take this wine, it speaks of my blood. And we don't believe that we eat the bread and as we drink the cup, we don't believe in transubstantiation. We don't believe that the bread becomes his flesh. We don't believe that as we drink it, it becomes his blood. There are those who would propagate that concept. There's nothing in the scripture that would indicate sufficient evidence to believe such a thing. And so the blood was applied to the doorposts of the house.

The blood must be applied to the doorposts of your house, of your person so that when sin would come near you and when there's even temptation, the blood applied to the doorposts of your person is significant. This house is being ruled by the Lamb of God who's not dead, he's been raised again. So the family was to apply the blood, then the family was to enter into the house. If there was a young married couple, maybe not far away and they couldn't get to their mom and dad for some reason, you as a family were to invite them in to say, well, our family's small and this is a healthy lamb. There's enough food for us. Come and enjoy it with us. So a family could adopt another smaller family and the idea was that the lamb had to be consumed, all of its flesh had to be consumed.

Whatever was not consumed that night had to be tossed into the fire. There must be nothing left of it in the morning. Now here's what rivets me, I love this. The Lord said, this is what you're to do. You're to sit down at your table and you are to feast upon the lamb. This is the Passover night. And you shall do it from generation to generation to generation remembering,

remembering saying to your sons and your daughters, we're alive today because of a lambless lamb and that slain lamb provided protection for our house.

Now the interesting thing is this, here comes the faith. They sat that night, they consumed the lamb, not realizing, not realizing that this little lamb was indicative of the lamb that would come and John, the Baptist would say, here is the lamb who doesn't take away the sin of a household. No, here is the lamb who takes away the sins of the whole world. This is what's so intriguing to me. As they sat that night and they ate that food, they were told even how they were to be dressed that night as they said at the table.

Whatever shoes you're gonna wear tomorrow morning when you're leaving because tomorrow morning, Israel, you're leaving, Pharaoh's gonna say, get out of here. They were told how to dress with their garments. Be sure that you're not gonna trip over your robes, tie them up above your knees so that you can move swiftly. So they sat around a table. Their luggage was packed. If they had a donkey or the camels parked right outside the door, they're reading the lamb and they're getting ready to go. Watch this, they were celebrating freedom.

They'd been trapped there for over 400 years. And Pharaoh had said, no, you're not leaving. And he was even killing their youngsters back in that day. This is why Moses was called upon. The Lord said to Moses, I've heard the cry of my people. They're sick of it, sick of it. So they were trapped in bondage. And so the Lord was saying, I'm gonna release you and I'll do it that night. But it's gonna be the Lord's doing. The only thing that you can do is to get ready, put the blood over the doorpost, that'll protect you for the night. When morning comes, you're on your way. And that night, there was no signal whatsoever except what Moses had told them. That night they sat and they celebrated freedom. That is faith. They celebrated freedom.

Faith is never based on what God did yesterday. I've told you many, many times, and this is our story and all of you have your own stories. What God has done for you in the past. The Lord salvaged my wife. She was dying. She was down to 80 pounds. She had cancer and there was absolutely no hope. And the fact that she's been salvaged and how the Lord delivered her within a half an hour in the hospital, it's recorded in St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton. And I've had multiple doctors talk to me. One old gentleman in Vancouver found me and said, I want you to remind your wife. She's a walking miracle.

That was a miracle moment. What does that do to your faith, David? It's kind of like a good crutch, but it's not gonna help me run the race. That little story energizes people, it excites people, it helps them to kind of grapple with the truth. It's good to tell stories because stories bring the truth in a unique personal way. And that's why the Word of God says, you are the epistles of the Lord. You are to be walking Bibles. Your story is the Word of God in the flesh. So as you tell your story, you energize somebody else.

But what does your story do for you? It encourages you a little bit, but beloved, faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Faith doesn't come by hearing stories from here to four. Faith is something that needs to be fresh every day. It's important that I get into this book every day because as I get into the book and I read the Word, the Spirit of the Lord makes it alive to me.

And faith rises like a tumult and I feel energized and I feel empowered by it. Because as I read the Word of God, there's a vast, vast reserve in my heart. And as I read the Word of God, out of my innermost being flows rivers of living water.

One of those rivers is this prayer language that God has blessed me with that we read of in the book of Acts. It was promised back in the book of Joel, but that prayer language releases something in my heart and my spirit. And when I'm praying under the anointing of the Holy Spirit and I'm allowing the Holy Spirit to pray through me, I know my prayer is getting through. When I pray with my understanding, I get trouble at times.

Am I praying according to God's will? Am I praying in a neutral fashion? I know what I want God to do. And so I pray, Lord, please do this. But what if the Lord is not in the mood to do so because he knows it's not best for me. But when I allow the Holy Spirit to pray through me, he prays according to the roadmap and the architectural design of my heart, my spiritual life. And so when I read the Word of God and I follow through by praying in the Spirit, the Word of God releases through me faith.

When you pray under the anointing of the Holy Spirit and you allow the language to flow, the Word of God is being released from your tongue as the Holy Spirit energizes your spirit and you are speaking in faith. Say amen, I'll go till five o'clock this afternoon. Faith comes, faith arrives. It doesn't come from up there down to here. He is within you, greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. And when you read the Word of God and it energizes you, the greater in you begins to be released and out of your innermost being will flow. Glorious rivers of water. So does divine healing, the gifts of the Spirit.

All the elements of the Christian life are released like rivers, it's beautiful. Jesus said, drink of me and out of you will flow, not a river. Rivers coming out of your innermost being. King James says out of your belly. My belly's been shrinking recently so I'm glad it comes out of my innermost being is not relying on my pulpit bumper. And so faith is really, again, I come back to this, that night when they were eating the lamb and they were eating the unleavened bread, they were celebrating their freedom.

Now on what basis were they celebrating their freedom? Somebody would say, well, as they were sitting there, they were actually confessing something right and as you confess it and if you confess it right, I don't wanna hear it. I don't wanna hear that. You can't make up your mind and you can't make up God's mind in terms of God's will for your life. God is not a bellhop in heaven. We'd like a delivery up to our room, please. We'd like to have supper in our room. And so the bellhop delivers it. That's now how God works.

Abraham, his name was Abraham. The Lord came to him and spoke to him, said, God said, I'm putting in my vernacular. Abraham, I've got a great idea for you. Isaac was God's idea. It was not Abraham's idea. I have another story for you. Hannah, 1 Samuel, chapter one. She was one of two wives to a gentleman named Alkana. Don't ask me about the two wives. I'm celebrating one wife today. But he had two. The one was not very spiritual, but she had given birth to one or more children. The other was Hannah.

Now the story, in the story we read that Alkana loved Hannah. It does not say he loved the other gal. It says he loved Hannah. He loved Hannah and he supported her. But she had not produced any offspring. And the woman who had offspring was chiding her. And she was making fun of her. And I'm just going to put it in today's language. You know, Hannah, if you only knew how to pray, right, sweetie, I think it's something about how you pray. You need to confess it this way. She was continuously nibbling at her and biting at her. So much that it says that Hannah lost her appetite even for food by times.

So on this one occasion she left where they were having some kind of a feast. And she ran into a chosen place of solitude to pray. And she was calling upon the Lord and saying, Oh God, I want a child. A priest found her and accused her of being drunk. Why? Well, because the priest was of another denomination and they, the most excited moment in their service is when the priest sings, My mother makes better cookies than your mother. And when the priest came in and found this woman crying out to God, he said, You've been drinking too much wine, honey. And she said, sir, I'm not drinking wine. I'm childless. I want a child.

The priest encouraged her. And in no time, by the way, that evening she prayed and she said, Lord, if you'll give me a child, I will commit him to you. I will surrender him to you. He will be your child. I just want to bear a child. And the Lord blessed her, it says. And she did bear a child because her husband loved her and he had a relationship with her and she conceived and she bore a child.

When it came the annual time to take the journey up for the celebration, maybe to pass over at one of the other feasts, she would say to Alkana, No, you go, you take the family. I'm staying here with little Sammy. He's not ready to go. And I can hear Alkana saying, but this is what we do. We go as a family to the house of the Lord. And I can hear her saying, Oh, Sammy's going to go to the house of the Lord. But when he goes, he's not coming back. I made a promise to God and I'm going to keep the promise.

The day came when little Sammy was weaned. And in those days, they weaned them a little longer after, a little longer. They take more time to wean them. By the time a kid's 15, he's told, you can get off there. So I don't know. I'm sorry. So the day came, I lost it. The day came when she took them to the house of the Lord and she gave them to the priest. And she said, I made a promise to God. God fulfilled his word to me. And here I am to honor the promise that I made. It says this, and I love it.

She made a promise to God. I'll give them to you and you use them any which way you want. I want you to use them, Lord. She went back home and this is what it said. It says that every year she made a fresh tunic for a young Sam. And she would come to visit him. And he knew every year when she came for this special, special occasion that his dear devoted mom would show up with a fresh tunic because the one he'd been wearing this year was getting a little tight because he was growing. What was that all about? It was like the Israelites sitting on the night of the Passover. The reality is not there yet.

It doesn't take faith. If you've got a million dollars in the bank to go through the drive through at

McDonald's and give them your credit card, that doesn't take faith. It takes faith when nothing has arrived. Nothing is there except a promise that you have from God. You have read by his stripes, I am healing and energizing your heart. You're not healed yet, but in your heart, in your spirit. You start to revel in it. You know that you know that you know because God made it real to your heart. Every year she made this little tunic. Her sewing basket became her point of reality. Every year she made a little tunic for him. Next year is a little bigger. Next year a little bigger. And as she could go, I could just about imagine her coming in and seeing him, him wrapping himself into her arms.

And there they are in this little United moment. It was such a glorious moment. And I can hear her saying, how is my little man of God doing? That tunic that she put upon him every year was a prophetic word. I believe in you. God's going to honor you. You're a child of promise. And Samuel turned out to be one of the greatest figures in Israel's history. It all began. It all began in that time of prayer saying, oh Lord, if you'll honor me, this is what I'll do. And then she carried through. You see, she engaged herself. She didn't sit back and say, okay, God's going to take care of it all.

I want to suggest to you that I see two dimensions of faith and maybe I'm missing it. There might be 40 dimensions. But the two that occurred to me, one is passive faith and one is aggressive faith. Passive and aggressive. The Lord set Peter free from a prison. There were other followers of Jesus like John the Baptist. His head got severed. Wow. I've heard a preacher say this of another stream. If John the Baptist had prayed right in that prison, he never would have lost his head. Excuse me? That's judgmental and that's foolishness. Oh, the Apostle Paul had that thorn in the flesh. His prayer life was a little missing. If he prayed right, he would, no, no, no. God spoke to him and said, Paul, you're going to live with the thorn for a while and it'll be my grace that will sustain you.

Sometimes the best medicine is for me to suffer a little bit longer. Following Jesus is a participatory thing. I'm troubled with, sorry, I'm troubled with a lot of people. Who, who their church is the television screen. It's not hard to sit there, sip your coffee and enjoy church. You're not participating. You're sitting in the football stand. You're watching the whole thing happen. It's good when we come to the House of the Lord. You know what you did for people today by showing up here? You cheered somebody up.

Someone said to me the other day, when I spoke into their heart and their life, that person said, today, Mr. Forest, you made my day. I made their day by showing up. There's a beautiful thing when we come together. Showing up in the house Lord is an act of faith. It's a participation thing where we come, show up to honor God, but to honor each other. When you show up in this house, it's not about me, but you're honoring each other.

And yes, I feel honored that you would come. But you're honoring each other. It's an outflow of faith just to show up. Participation, engaging and being part of it. I'll finish with a little story. So it was, you know that famous date when the Twin Towers got hit. I get mixed up with my numbers. So it was September the 11th, 2001. Is that correct? And I had just finished preaching to a bush people that are known as the Karamojong. I won't describe them for you.

You get embarrassed. They weren't crazy about clothes. And I ministered to those people and my life was in jeopardy and the word had come to me. Don't go back the way you came. There are sharpshooters and there's people with hand grenades waiting. And so we had to go with a different route to get back to Lira, Uganda, where we had embarked from. To get there and not go the regular route because we were told they're waiting for you. And by the way, we saw burned out cars on our way in.

So now it wasn't hard to think that they're after me on the way out. So in order to get to Lira, we had to cross the Nile and we did so on a raft. Sounds exciting, doesn't it? So I arrived in Lira that evening and I took a straight back chair out in the garden about a half an hour before the mosquitoes with malaria were going to arrive. I sat in a chair and I picked out my little trans world radio. And as I'm turning the little dial trying to find something, I picked up the BBC and it said, the United States is under attack from the air in New York City is on fire. The Pentagon is destroyed.

You see, they were passing on whatever news was coming to them from people on the other side of the world. And I sat there, I'm on my gas. Where's Canada in all of this? I hope we got WD-40 to apply to our destroyers so at least we can get those things mobilized. And like I wondered, well, how's my family? How are things going back? Because all I could hear was New York City. They said there was a plane that was anticipated to arrive at the lighthouse and they figured it was going to be blown off the map.

Like, this is the news that I was getting. And then I lost the station. I never found it again for days. That night I was in a missionary home and the lady's name was Priscilla. She was a doctor. I'm friends with their family forever. She said, David, I've got to go to my little clinic and I knew the clinic well. I knew it from when it was a little mud-thatched building, not much bigger than this piano. A tiny little shack that she started a clinic in looking after mamas and their little babies. But now there were several little buildings that had been constructed by people from other places in the world and it was such a blessing.

She said I'm going to go and check on the mothers tonight and their babies. Do you want to come along and see? I said, yes, I went with her. And I was devastated by what I saw. I got to this humble building that some people in Germany had built. And she called this the nursery. And as we walked in, there was no furniture. There's no room in this building for furniture. Here's the mamas laying on the floor cradling their babies. You bring your baby to this nursery, this little clinic, and you can't leave your baby. You're going to become the nurse that night. That little baby might cry, but mama will hold that little baby.

And so they didn't have to have a ton of staff. They hardly had any staff. And it was a wonderful thing in that they would feed the mother and they would teach the mother about how to look after their babies as they ministered to the babies. And they also shared with those mothers, no mother leaves that place without hearing the gospel of Jesus. And it's a wonderful, wonderful experience through this little clinic. But as I went in with her, I was stepping over the bodies of these mamas laying on the floor cradling their children. My heart went out on me as I saw a little baby. She said, this one's got malaria. And she whispered to me on the side, this one, may not

make it through the night. My ears were filled. My eyes were filled with tears.

I was so troubled by what I saw. I went home, I went back that night to my mosquito-netted room. And I lay there and I had a hard time sleeping. I don't know what's happening on the other side of the world with Canada, the United States. I have Jesus prevails and he doesn't come if he waits and the world goes on. I saw something tonight that I feel like I have to do something about it. And so in the morning when I got up and I had breakfast with this doctor and a husband, I see, said, what do you want to do today? My trip ended with the Karamazong.

I said to her husband, I said, take me back to where I was last night. He took me back to that place in the morning. And as we walked around this grassy field and I saw the little building that I'd been in last night, he said, you want to go in there again? I said, no, I said, I'll be devastated. I can't face it. I don't like to see suffering. And before me was this hedge. It was an uncapped, just bushy hedge. And as I stood and I looked over the hedge, I saw an empty field, a couple of little mud huts.

Squatters had moved in. I said to Sigmar, my host, who owns that plot of land? He said it belongs to the town of Lyra. I said, is it possible that it's for sale? He said, everything's for sale, especially if there's a muzungu here. I'm a muzungu. I'm an outsider. I'm a foreigner. I'm clearly very rich. I said, get me a price. We're going to buy that property. He said, what for? As I stood there, I said, I see a building. I see a building for little children. It was not a vision. I can't explain this. I'm just telling you in my head. Maybe it was in my head. I can't explain it. I just said, I see something right there. It's a building for moms and their babies where they don't have to sleep on the floor. Where there's adequate staff, there's adequate everthing. That's by that property.

He said, are you serious? I said, God will give us the funds. You see, there was something in that moment that riveted me. I knew the word and somehow something proceeded. It was a river of life coming from me. It wasn't coming from above. It was coming from within. I knew that I knew that I knew I was on track. Eight years later, eight years later, I flew over to Uganda, a treacherous road trip up into the area called Lyra. I got my night sleep and in the morning it was time. I got in this pickup, went along a dusty road.

I'll never forget it as long as I live, of course. It came up over a rise. This is the first that I'd really seen anything. I burst into tears. I started to laugh. I was crying all at the same time. I never imagined this. I helped find the money. The Lord helped me. I went to Germany. I raised funds there. I did what I could. I just kept on shoveling the money there and made sure we were doing so with the Canadian government's approval. There was a two-story building that if you're to lay it out flat would probably cover an acre and a half of property.

I walked into this building and I wept as I walked up and down through these rooms. No furnishings of any kind, of course. It can still smell the concrete. Then the nurses showed up about 11 o'clock in the morning. The nurses from those other little quaint little mud buildings. And as they came, they're dancing. They've got their beautiful little caps on and their smocks and they're playing tambourines and there's this makeshift, minstrels there, instruments made out of cowhide. And some other guy made himself like a base, a big base, you know, and he's

banging away. And there's one guy, someone had blessed him with a saxophone. So he was the one true instrument in terms of modernity. But the music was incredible and all of these nurses were dancing. None of them have got inside the building yet. And there was some hierarchy of people that came from the capital city of the country, celebrating what the Christians had done, the ribbon cutting and the people went into the building. They were running through the hallway, laughing and dancing and celebrating.

And just recently I got a message that that two-story clinic has now been declared by the government, a qualified masterful hospital. It only focuses on mamas with babies. I'm no hero. I did what I, you see, out of my innermost being, flowed a river of living water. I'm not a hero. I just did. I won't be celebrated when I get to heaven more for doing this because the Bible's statement is this. It is essential that a servant be found faithful. And when you do, that was the Lord tells you to do. You don't get a gold ribbon for it. Just thank you very much. Take your seat. I'm no hero. I did what I could.

I was celebrating that morning as I looked at that big grassy field. I was feasting on the lamb. Nothing had materialized. The property was in ours, everything but somehow or other. And let me finish with this. I love to finish. And it's well past time for me to do so. As they headed out the following morning, I don't know if they used Colgate or Pepsident. But I'm thinking as they headed out in that morning, the jingling and the racket of pots and pans donated by the Egyptians, jangling and carrying an on, the old mamas on their canes, the younger ladies, great with child, the little children laughing and glee.

They'd never left town in their whole life. That whole group there had never seen outside of the area that they'd been confined in, that they'd been in bondage. And I believe as they were leaving that place that morning, they could still taste the flavor of the lamb. They could still taste the flavor of the lamb. Life is a wonderful thing. You have it. You have faith. This will help you to use it. You've got a toolbox full of tools. Read the manual and you'll learn how to work with the tools. Heavenly Father, what a blessing just to read the Word of God, to see these glorious stories. These stories invite us.

These stories invigorate us. These are the stories, not our history, but God's history among us people. These stories light a fire in our belly and we determine I want to serve God with everything that I have. Thank you for the privilege of being a servant of the Lord. Thank you that the greatest reward that any of us will receive will be the words coming from the lips of Jesus as He says, well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of the Lord. I hope it happens soon in Jesus' name. Amen.

Before you go, pray over somebody with this prayer. God bless you. It's our culture here, we minister to one another even as we're walking out. You can say it as you're walking. God bless you. That's my word to you now. May the Lord stoop down wherever you are and bless you, hold you in His arms and show you His favor. Amen.