

From Death to Resurrection!

Overview

This is why we come to this place, isn't it? To just bask in His presence. I wish to weigh in this morning on a very sobering topic. I would entitle it, From Death to Resurrection. I wish to address a lingering, obvious question. What happens between my demise, the moment I cease to be breathing, and until the resurrection?

What am I doing? What do I look like? Am I conscious? Do I know what's going on? Do I have any idea what's happening here? The Apostle Paul said, we are confident, and we'll well pleased, rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. And there are people sitting in this room right now, anxious to be present with the Lord. My mother-in-law, Wilma, would wake up in the morning and she would say, she told me that she'd say, so, too busy to take me home last night, were you? She wanted to go. My dad wanted to go so bad. My mom begged, she wanted to go so bad. Oh, death, where is your sting? Oh, grave, you have no victory.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear nothing, nothing, because you see, I do not walk alone. In everyone's life, everyone, we go through three stages. The first stage, we all know about, we're living it right now, from birth to death, that's the first stage. And the atheist would say, it's over. Nobody believes that. Some want to. They don't want to be responsible or accountable for what they're doing here and well today. They want to be, they wanted to end with a dull thought, ain't gonna happen. We're right now living in the first stage, birth to death. Second stage, between death and the resurrection, and it's still not over. The third stage is from resurrection to eternity. I want to talk about that middle, intermediate space between the death and the resurrection. We'll call it, many theologians and scholars would call it, the intermediate state.

We're in transition. So the Roman Catholic Church has made it abundantly clear, you're in purgatory. And why are you there? Because you've got to get purged. The blood of Jesus Christ did not do the job. Yikes! There's nothing, there's nothing solid, there's nothing in the Word of God to even begin to prove such a thing. The blood was not sufficient. No, the blood of Jesus Christ is very sufficient, hallelujah. There is no purgatory. There is no halfway space. And in that belief, the church has become very rich because you can buy your way out of purgatory. Just tell your wife, I've left this amount of money on the set aside, and after I'm gone, buy me out, won't you?

And so she could go and talk to the priest and say, I want to get him out of purgatory. That's. . . And then the seventh day Adventist. Good people. I rented one of their buildings, their church, on a Sunday up in Kitchener. I was helping a church to go through a transition. And so I negotiated with a pastor. Very nice fellow. Good-sized church, beautiful building, but they believe in soul sleep. Soul sleep. Nothing in here about soul sleep.

Oh, they would say, but it says, those who sleep in the Lord. That's an indication of what your body's doing. That's a restful time for the body. But your consciousness is very much alive. And the Word of God says, absent from the body, present with the Lord. Think about the thief on the cross. Jesus said, this day you'll be with me in paradise. And somebody from the seventh day would say, but you won't be awake for that. Sorry, you'll be asleep through that time. What kind of a promise is that? This day you will be with me. You will be conscious of the fact you're with me. I want to hang your shingle right there.

This day you will be aware of eternal life. Today you're going to be with me. In a place called paradise. Or maybe you're going to get reincarnated. If bad luck happens for you in reincarnation, you'll end up as a worm on somebody's fishing pool in the muddy Grand River. You'll end up a worm. That could be the sad and sorry state. If you believe in reincarnation, congratulations. You're liable to be the rear end of a mule. There's nothing to prove that this is somebody's idea. They started a brand new religion. I believe in reincarnation. The Buddhists believe that when you leave this life, you enter a series of transitions.

That the soul has no significant value, no significant existence. When your soul spirit passes from this life, it ceases to be a soul spirit. And you go into a situation that's called joy. I don't know how much joy there is, but you'll go into a time of joy. Or if you weren't a good fellow, you'll just end up coming back as a human. That's kind of sad. I was in India preaching several weeks. I think I was, how many weeks was it? Four weeks. I was preaching in India, outdoor crusades, teaching in a Bible college. And was not allowed to have a single glass of water for all that entire time. There was an artesian well coming up right on the property where I was staying. And they said, don't drink it, don't drink it, you'll die.

Because the water from all of the area carrying all the refuse, the open ditches, the open, you know, and the rain comes and it all swells and it goes down into the well. And this water that's coming up out of the well. And the thing that troubled me the most is I went for a walk on one occasion into the town. I was living at a place where they keep children, little orphans. About 200 little orphans. The cutest little kids you've ever seen in your life just swell. What a wonderful place. Run by a pastor and his sons. And I went for a walk. And as I'm going through the main part of the town, there was a hospital over here. I forget how come I understood. Maybe there was some kind of a signature, a sign. I knew that was a hospital.

But as I'm walking along the street, I had to meander around bodies that were wrapped up in blankets and some of them not wrapped up, just laying there. And people were going by just like I was. I wasn't going to stop and try and do something. Well, I'm helpless. And maybe it's against the law to help them. And maybe they DNR, do not resuscitate. I don't know this. And so I got depressed looking at this.

And so when I got back to the place where I was staying, I talked to the old gentleman that ran the thing. And I said, I saw these people laying on the street and nobody's helping them. There's a hospital. Nobody's even. He said, you're not allowed.

I said, why? He said, because that person is laying there because they did not do karma good. And so they're paying for their wickedness. And if you help them, you're messing up with their purging. You're messing up with their punishment. You can't do that. The gods will be upset with you. He's a Christian. He was telling me the explanation. You might become a demigod. And I don't know what that is. This is the Buddhist religion. Or you might become a hungry ghost.

A hungry ghost is some kind of a spirit being that's anxious and is very dissatisfied with where it's ended up. Or you can end up in a place called hell. Or you've heard this word. It became a very popular word some years ago, I think during the flower children time. Nirvana. So nirvana is the ultimate. That'd be a good place to end up. But you might have to become a worm and a mule and an ant before you could get to nirvana. I don't know. I was at an in-between, a transition time when I resigned from being overseeing a denomination and churches overseas and whatever. And I stopped looking after a church in Vancouver. And I learned about a special ministry that was reaching out to Ugandan grandmothers. And so I realized the value of this thing.

I wanted to help them out. And so they were an Anglican mission outfit. And they're still doing this work. And so the best thing I could do was raise funds. So I approached a car dealership in Kitchener. And I talked to this fellow. And I said, how would you like to help me as I'm helping some grandmothers? And I showed him a picture of one old granny. Her kids had died of AIDS. She was trying to look after a couple of little grandchildren. And she was living in what you and I would call an outhouse. About the size of an old-fashioned phone booth. That was her house.

So she would sleep on the potty or she would sit on the potty depending on what she needed to do. And she lived inside this thing. And of all things, the roof on her little bedroom was leaking. I said, how would you like to help this out? And I showed him some other things. And I proved to him that whatever you give me well. Well, he showed up with a check for \$6,000. I said, this is wonderful. He said, that's okay. He said, I'm trying to build up my collection of karma. So he wasn't doing this for the grannies of Uganda. He was doing it for himself. Because he was worried about what kind of a worm or a frog he was going to become.

If he didn't get up enough in his savings account of karma. I don't understand all of this stuff. And I don't want to. I really don't want to. What's this got to do with us? I'm just telling you that we're living in a country that no longer has a specific religious commitment. You go down to Ottawa and you'll see. From sea to sea. The dominion. It's carved. It's carved in the bell tower in Ottawa. Our country was established on Christian principles. But our current government is against that now.

And they want all principles, all religions. In fact, they'd like to crush all religion. We don't need religion anymore. We've grown beyond that. It's important for all of us to know what all these religions are kind of throwing at us.

So that you'll know what your faith is all about. And I'm not going to go on anymore about that. I want to talk about what we believe. What we believe. When this life ceases. When our heart stops beating. What do we believe? Revelation 6, 11.

He opened the fifth seal. I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the Word of God and the testimony that they had maintained. I pause to tell you. These are Jews who gave their lives to Christ during the tribulation. In the last three and a half years of the tribulation. And they paid for their faith in Christ with their heads. They were murdered. They will be murdered. And they're calling out with a loud voice. What's life like in heaven? These were people that went through a very difficult time. They didn't get raptured with the church. The church is gone.

The first day of the tribulation. Church is absent. These people suddenly realize they've made a mistake. And they're reaching out to Christ. They get saved. And that's unacceptable to the rest of the world. The global world government is against all religion. They can't rule us if they can't cancel our religion. So here they are crying out with a loud voice because they have been sacrificed. And this was their question. They're calling out to God. How long sovereign Lord, holy and true until you judge the inhabitants of the earth. They were gone from this life.

They're in that intermediate life. And they're aware of what they suffered. Memory. And they're conscious of their own existence. The inhabitants of the earth. Who until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood. Then each of them was given a white robe. And they were told to wait a little longer. So the Lord hears their cry. And he's responding. Wait just a little bit longer until the full number of their fellow servants. Their brothers and sisters were killed just as they had been. The Lord is saying there are more going to be sacrificed before their faith.

And you'll have to wait until they also pass. Philippians 1. I'm torn between two desires the apostle says. I long to go. I long to go and be with Christ. Christ was so real to him. This is the beauty of Christianity. Nobody in Islam knows Allah. They don't know him. They don't even know his name. They'll argue and say I know his name. His name is Allah. Allah is not a name.

Allah is equal equal to the word G-O-D. Our God. The God of the scriptures has many names. Jehovah Rapha. Jehovah Tzinkenu. The Lord our righteousness. The Lord our peace. But the Islamic God doesn't have any names. He doesn't have a son. And he has lived eternally with no one to talk to. Their God is incapable of relationship. Our God cares about us. And when we get to heaven we will be allowed to ask a question.

Here's a question being asked. And the apostle Paul says I long. I long to go. I long to pass. He didn't live with a death wish. He longed for a life wish. He wanted to go. And he wasn't suffering like my dad. He wasn't suffering like my mom. He wasn't suffering like Susan Tursky. She suffered. She suffered. Immeasurable pain.

Incredible pain. Never murmuring. Never complaining. That lady was angelic. She's free of her pain now. The apostle Paul was not laboring with pain. He was laboring with a love desire to be with the one that he knew best. And the one that knew him best. He said Jesus, Jesus. I want to be with Jesus. He said that would be far better for me. But for you. For you my precious brothers.

Those who I have labored to teach about this Jesus. For you it's better that I stick around for a while. I want to go. But I'll catch the next bus. My ticket gets me on any bus that's going heavenward. I'll have to wait around for a while. What was it that brought him to this desire? He knew Christ so deeply. I was inspired by a testimony yesterday by Bert. I never know how to pronounce his last name. You can tell each other. It's a unique nickname. And I have a hard time pronouncing my own.

I tell people my name is spelt with two R's. And that's because I'm royalty. If you see one R that's truly a peasant. Bert stood on this platform yesterday and said these words. And not everybody in this room would say what a crowd was in this room yesterday. What a crowd. It was exciting. It came from everywhere. I met people I've never met before. But they heard about this and they wanted to be a part of it. They weren't here for Ron Quinn. They were here for what they've heard is happening here. I can't explain it any better than that.

And Bert stood here. And he said you know I was raised in a godly home. He said we went to church. He said I went to church and I learned about God. I think he mentioned Sunday school. But he said I learned about God. He said I learned about him but I didn't know him. So he said if anybody had asked me I would have said yeah yeah I believe in God. He said I believed in him but I'd never met him. He said until that moment when sitting in a church called Central, downtown St. Catharines Jack Council. What a preacher he was. And that day he threw out the net and Bert was caught in that net.

Come and make you fishers of men. He became a fish that day. And he talked about how fulfilling that was and what that did for his person. He said I suddenly knew him. That's the apostle Paul. He knew Jesus Christ. And he longed that there's something that there's something like you feel homeward bound. Heaven is magnetic. Heaven is absolutely magnetic. And there's something in your heart and your soul once you accept Jesus Christ. You're no longer a citizen of Canada. You want to go home where you belong. You are now on a journey.

You're now now you're a citizen of heaven. And your Canadian citizenship doesn't hold a candle to it. You'll want to go home. My dad's last words on this planet were I want to go home. My mother stood over him in Hamilton St. Joseph's Hospital. And she referred to him as daddy. She said daddy are you asking for my permission? You want to go home. And he simply said home. My mother kissed him and said okay daddy you go home. My dad took a deep breath and he was gone. You know what the word says?

Absent from the body, present with the Lord. Jesus said to the thief on the cross this day any moment you're going to be with me. And you're going to know you're with me. There's not going to be any doubt. You're not going into nirvana. You're not going to become a spiritual junkie in some wasteland called heaven. No! Heaven is a glorious place. Heaven is God's house. In my father's house are many mansions. And he said I'm going there to prepare one for you. And there's an anxiety. Take me to my new home.

Job. Unaware of the cross. Unaware of how God would look after his sinful nature. Not totally able to describe for anyone his theological concise description of what faith is. Some would say what's faith? He'd say I don't know what you're talking about but I love God. And I know that I will someday when this body has been turned into dust. He said it. When my body is wasted. With these eyes I shall look upon him. Let that gravity hit you. With these eyes. Susan Tursky.

Her body's no longer with us. Ashes to ashes. Her body's gone. It was reduced to ashes. And Job said ashes don't worry about me. With these eyes I will see him. Talking about the resurrection. He couldn't have described the resurrection. He didn't know how that was going to happen. He didn't know what power. He didn't know somebody would say I am the resurrection and the life. You know what? You only have to have a thimble full of the word and you can be on your way to heaven.

You don't have to memorize the whole book. I love it that my brother can quote chapters and whole books. But you know what? You don't have to do that. That's a beautiful spiritual hobby. That's a glorious thing. Committing the word to memory. But if you're a new Christian don't you let you worry about it. I can't hardly tell you what it says in 2nd chapter of 1st Peter. I memorized it years ago. It's all gone. I don't worry about it. It's in my heart.

And I know enough to get me to heaven. Hallelujah. Glory to God. I'm on my way. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. It could be that soon and very soon you'll get a message. It'll go out like email. Poor old Dave's laying in the hospital. He doesn't even know his own name anymore. And we're all ordering flowers. Don't you weep for me. I'm on a fast train ride to heaven. Revelation 7 says, Never again will they hunger.

Never again will they thirst. The sun will not be down on them nor any scorching heat. For the lamb is at the center of the throne. He will be their shepherd. He will lead them to springs of living water. And this, these words really grab me. And God will wipe away every tear. I know heaven is bliss. I know we sing glorious songs about, I shall know him as redeemed by his side I shall stand. An old song, I won't have to cross Jordan alone. That's good because Jordan is a very muddy creek. I know heaven is spoken of as being very blissful. Streets of gold.

But are there tears in heaven? Apparently there are. Why will there be tears in heaven? We could play with that one for hours. We could ask a hundred people and get 500 answers. When I get to heaven, will I know that my grandson didn't make it? That would make me cry. Is that why I will weep? What will make me weep in heaven? I don't know. But there's one who comes and says, don't cry David. I'm looking after everything. I will look after this.

The apostle said we know that this earthly tent, that's a key word. Why does he use the word tent? Why didn't he call it a house? Because a house is stable. It's made of brick. It doesn't move. It's permanent. When you move out, somebody else moves in. He uses the word tent to indicate we're on a journey. Where will we pitch our tent tonight? We're living in an earthly, movable, soon to be disposed of tent. It's going to be destroyed, the apostle Paul said. We know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed by cancer, loses the strength of the heart, and the heart gives out.

My mom died of, and so did my dad, heart failure. They filled up with water. He says, don't worry. We have a building. Ah, permanence. Heaven is not a tent. We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven. It's a permanent residence. Your apostle code in heaven will never change. It was never made by human hands, like a typical house here. But meanwhile, in the meantime, the apostle says, we groan, longing to be clothed. Now, this is neat. There's a home in heaven that's going to fit you like a garment.

And you say, this is confusing. You know, if the Lord could give you the wording, the kind of sentence structure that you could put it all together, okay, I got it, I got it, I got it. You would be God. Heaven is so majestic, so beyond your pathetic imagination, that the Lord gives us words to match our inability to comprehend. So don't let it worry you. This body is called a tent. God's home is called a permanent residence, a building from God. And he's going to clothe you with that. Now, we think of clothing as a particular garment. Will I wear my white dress? Will I wear my red dress? I just got new red shoes. I want to wear the red dress to go.

So we think about garments as being personal, my special, special garment. The Lord can't give you words in your pathetic vocabulary to help you to understand heaven. It's a place. It's a dwelling place of God is going to be your dwelling place. And when you are disembodied, you see your body's not allowed to go to heaven in the way it is because your body is corrupt. You're going to get a new body that's not perhaps unlike the old body. There's no room in heaven for flesh. There's no room for corruption. So you're disembodied when you leave. Absent from the body, I'm naked. My spirit soul, there's nothing. I'm out of the container. I did live in this bottle, this body.

And I'm out of the, I'm lost. I'm empty. And Paul says, don't worry, you're not going to be naked. You're going to be in his house. Oh, that's great. Heaven is a nudist colony. Come on. But it's not a nudist colony because you see, our brain can't get around this, but it's God's dwelling place. And if you're worried about being disembodied, don't worry. You're living in a gigantic red dress with beautiful brand new red shoes. It's God's house. We cannot comprehend these things. And if we try and box this all down, so I got it, I got it, I got it.

Your brain's going to get warped. You're going to start living on bran flakes. Don't go there. We groan because we want to live in the heavenly dwelling. Because when we're clothed, when we are clothed with his dwelling place, we will not be noticed as naked. For while I'm living in this tent, I groan and I'm burdened. I don't want to be unclothed. I want to be clothed instead with a heavenly dwelling so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the spirit as a deposit. Oh, I'm going to pinch my little tent right here for a moment. I'm so accustomed to this, I could lose you and just wander off. I don't like it when somebody knows exactly what they mean and I haven't got a clue. God has given us the Holy Spirit.

The moment you gave your life to Christ, Jerry, the spirit of the Lord entered into your person and he's still there. Okay. How much of the Holy Spirit did you get? Just a tiny little bit. How come not more? You couldn't contain. How much did you get? This is a reference to how in old times, biblical times, and this happened around the world.

You want to buy a piece of property and you bring some shekels or maybe you bring a herd of cattle. You're trading. You're trading cattle for property, whatever you're going to, however you're going to work this out. And you're buying a hundred acres, okay? And so, how do you prove once you part with your money, how do you prove that you own that acreage?

This won't make sense to us, but it's how it was done. You gather witnesses. Witnesses. And the person who's selling you the property, they'll scoop up a shovel. How big do you want the shovel to go? The seller will be as silly as you want him to be. How much of this acreage do you want to take home with you today? And what he offers you is a good handful of dirt from that property. Everybody sees it. And what you just received is called the earnest. It's called the promise. It's called the guarantee. So you walk home like this, maybe a little sackcloth and you're carrying this little bag of dirt.

What's in the bag? A hundred acres. Yeah. Oh, this is the guarantee of the hundred. When you receive the Holy Spirit, you received the guarantee. The earnest. The earnest. I've told you this before, but we got new people here all the time. Forgive me. I just, I repeat the story because it's the only story I have about the earnest though. I'm on the road up near London, Ontario, just north, and I see a big auction barn and I can't drive by an auction barn, especially if I see a lot of cars. I'm hopeless. I have to pull in.

There's a magnet. I have to see this. And I'll go in and I'll watch them auctioning off horses and cows and furniture and all kinds of stuff. And I sat up in kind of like a gallery, very crude benches, you know, like a gymnasium gallery. And here were two old farmers sitting in front of me, both of them wearing a funny old straw hat. And you never know when these guys are bidding because they've got all these funny little quirks. And the auctioneer knows exactly. He knows old Jed and Bill. And he knows that old Jed, when old Jed goes, that means, yeah, I'll take that one. I'm bidding. And the other guy just, I saw this. I saw Alan Mallory click the tip of his hat. That meant, yeah, I'm okay.

That's, I'm bidding. I'm bidding. And when I was with Alan Mallory once, I never saw him move, except I saw him keep on touching his hat. And I thought, what's wrong with him? And at the end he said, well, David, we just bought a horse. And we were in a car. How are we going to get the horse home? That's another dumb story. So as I'm sitting behind these two old gentlemen, the auctioneer took a little bit of breather. He's going to go and drink a glass of water. He's going to take a moment. And the one says to the other, he says, okay, I'm done. He said, I bought far more cattle today than I was planning to.

But he said, I'm going to go down to the office. I'm going to pay the earnest. And I'm going to go home. I heard it with my own. I'm going to pay the earnest. And I loved it. I thought, I understand what he's talking about, that old geezer. I'm going to give the earnest. Somebody's looking for the guarantee right now. That's your mother calling. The earnest is a promise of more. So when the apostle says, we have been sealed with the earnest of the spirit, the earnest of the spirit is a promise. There is more spiritual life coming. And when does it come? When do I get the rest of it, Lord? I'm 97 years of age. I can hardly swallow my porridge in the morning. When do I get the rest? And the promise is probably tomorrow morning.

You're going home tonight. Glory to God. When you get to heaven, you get the promise. And the book of Hebrews says that these all died. Abraham, Isaac, says, these all died, having not yet received the inheritance. When God makes a promise to Israel, he's going to keep it. I ran back off.

You're going to get burnt. God made a promise to Israel. This land is yours. You're the chosen people. Anybody messes with you, messes with me. And for you, the Lord has sent a message to Satan himself. Don't you tell me how the devil's chasing you. You've got a fortress around you. God made a promise. He keeps his promises. And he's given you the earnest of your spiritual inheritance. And that's proof. You're going to be resurrected from the dead.

That's proof you're going to heaven. That's where you get the rest of the story. You only have a brill cream amount. A little dab will do you. You young people don't know what I just said. It was the most known commercial years ago. There was this grease you put in dry hair like mine. You put it in and your hair would stick up. Like, what do you want to stand on in? Whatever you want to do. It'd be absolutely perfect. But they'd say, it just takes a little bit. A little dab will do you.

That's what you got, Erica. When you surrender to Jesus, you say, is this all I get? How much do you want? You've got more than you can use now. Be filled with the Spirit. Walk in the Spirit. Sing in the Spirit. Pray in the Spirit. What do you want to do? It's all activated by the power of the divine deposit. I call it the divine deposit. He, the Spirit, is living in every one of you. So cheer up, Bunky.

You're going to get resurrected at the end of the intermediate time in heaven. Where you're conscious. You're aware of the past. You're aware of the future. You're aware of where you are. And you worried for a moment that you were naked. But then you got put into this beautiful house and you're not worrying about it anymore. Isn't that silly? We are so wrapped up with all of these words, these descriptions. Paul's just simply saying, you don't need this house anymore. I'll tell you a cute story. My time's gone. You say, who sets your time?

I do. When I say my time's gone, I mean I gave myself a limit. But today I'm going to go over the limit. Is that okay? Want to hear one more story? Say yes, because you're going to hear it anyway. I tell this at most funerals, especially if there's children. Some of you know exactly where this is going. Just relax for a moment. You could tell this story better than I. You've heard it. The story, it's a true story. Presbyterian wife, Presbyterian pastor's wife, had her little son visiting with her.

Just a little guy. And when he would visit his grandma, she always had this little pattern. In the evening, he'd shed his dirty clothes, just throw them on the floor beside the house. Go through the bath process, whatever. And then when he was ready, he'd call out and she'd come. And she'd sit on the side of the bed. And they'd have a little visit. And then she would kneel down, I guess. And they'd have this little prayer. Keep me, Lord Jesus, till the morning, etc. And so they did all of that. And when they finished praying, he says, Granny, can I ask you a question? And she said, well, what would that be? My friend Tommy says he heard that when we die, they put us in a box. And they bury the box under the ground. Granny, please tell me that's not true. I'm afraid to be stuck in a box. I'm so afraid of a box. And how's a granny going to describe? What's she going to do with this? And she looked at the clothes on the side of the bed. Idea. She said, what's that on the floor? He looks over, he chuckles. He said, Granny, that's my dirty clothes. Well, what do you want me to do with those?

Well, you'll wash them. She said, you're sure about that? Yeah. She said, aren't you a little afraid of the water? Oh, Granny, you're not going to put me in the washing machine. You're going to put the dirty clothes in the washing machine. The little boy got all excited. He said, is this true of Tommy as well? She says, I know Tommy's family. I know that he's given his life to Jesus. He doesn't go in the box either. Just this wasted body. When it gets tired and old, it's wasted away.

That's what goes in the box. But you go to a brand new place that God has prepared for you in heaven. He said, me and Tommy, me and Tommy. He was so excited. He couldn't wait to go back to his own hometown and tell Tommy the great news. The great news. Heavenly Father, I thank you that the Word of God answers every question we could possibly answer. The Word of God is a book of promises, a book of joy, a book of reading pleasure. But more than that, it's not magic, but it's powerful, sharper than a double-edged sword. Thank you, Lord God, for the Word that satisfies, that meets our every need, that answers every question. Every verse, every word, every line, every chapter is filled with glorious, divine truth. Thank you for the truth. Again, this morning, the truth has set us free.

Heavenly Father, I pray for my precious brother Peter and Doreen. I thank you, Lord God, for the prayers that are consistently going up for them. He's been anointed many times. I thank you, Lord God, in his journey that he's taking right now and heading home, that you will strengthen him and be with him.

We are believing, God, for miracles in that couple's life.

We are believing for miracles.

Thank you for divine truth.

In Jesus' name, amen.