3994 Victoria Avenue Vineland, Ontario L0R 2C0

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The Soul!

Overview

It's cold season. I'm a testimony of the same. Don't come near me. It's good to see you people in the house of the Lord this morning. I want to speak to you. I'm going to leave Jonah alone for a while. I received a message from his headquarters saying that they didn't appreciate how much I was beating up on him.

And so I'm going to give him a rest. Maybe I'm giving you a rest as well. I want to talk about the soul. The soul. I think there's a lot of misunderstanding about the soul. The Word of God has a lot of information about the soul. I think for a new reader of the Bible or maybe a casual reader, there's these two words soul and spirit.

And I'm very convinced that some people think that soul and spirit are one and the same. Not true. So I'm not going to deal so much this morning with the spirit, the spirit of man. But I'm going to talk about the soul of man. And I want to first of all read a very obvious passage that brings out something about the soul. Psalm the 23rd. The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures and He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul. I'm intrigued. He restores my soul. In order to even begin to extrapolate, that's the first time I've ever used that word in a sermon. You've got to be impressed.

Don't ask me to spell it. But my favorite preacher from down in Los Angeles, Jack Hayford used to use that word all the time. He always left me scrambling. Extrapolate, extrapolate. Sounds like a disease. Extrapolate, draw out. Take it, take it apart and examine the parts. The soul is a triune person of, not a triune person, it's a triune piece of you. Let me begin by saying that spirit, your spirit is that part of you that relates to God. Jesus said, they that worship me shall worship me in spirit and in truth. So, the soul of man has three parts. Intellect, that's part of your soul. Emotion, that's part of your soul. And your will, that's part of your soul.

That's the part of your soul that, that's the part of you that relates to the unseen world. But the part of the world that's obvious to you, that which you see, that which you interpret, you watch the news with your intellect, you're listening. And as you watch the news, it might touch you because it's a wonderful story, or it might anger you or trouble you or disturb you because it's not good news. So, with your mind, you're interpreting what you hear. So, there's that part of you which relates to God. Spirit. But in your soul, there's your intellect, where you weigh at what information comes your way. There's your mind, then there's your emotion, and your will. And they're very much connected. Information that comes to your intellect, that settles in your knower, will affect you emotionally. Agreed? Agreed. And once that information has affected you emotionally, it will either encourage or cripple your will. They're very much entwined.

So, we are a triune being. Mind, emotion, and will. I want to take a moment now. I usually wouldn't give an illustration at the beginning of the message, but I think if I share this with you, it'll kind of maybe pull the drapes back for you a little bit. When I was a young boy on Hamilton Mountain, I ended up, because of my journey to school, became acquainted with and became best friends with Don. He was known as Don Manners. And Don and I became the best of friends. In the wintertime, every evening you could find Dave and Don with a bunch of other kids playing street hockey in the winter. In the summer, if you were looking for me, you may not find me in their neighborhood because I had been taken by Don's family on their tenting vacation because they wanted Dave to be with Don. They actually believed that I would make a good impression on Don because I came from a Christian family. And I was going to really raise their expectations. Don's going to do well because Dave is his best friend. What my mom didn't know was Don was teaching me how to play poker. Came a day when I was a bad guy and I got kicked out of the Ancaster High School for fighting.

I was a scrapper. So the principal invited me to leave and don't slam the door. So I came back to Hamilton and I became a boarder in the Manner home. So there Don and I were sharing a room. And much to his mother's disturbance, the high school office called Mrs. Manners and said, are David and Don at your house? She said, well, no, they're at the school. No, they're not here. And when I got home to the Manners home, my mother is sitting there, two women glaring at us. I was not having a good effect upon my friend Don. However, I took Don to church with me, a church called Bethel Hamilton. That's of no great consequence. But that was my mom and dad's church. It was where I was raised.

And I had Don with me in church. And when the pastor so eloquently presented the gospel as part of his homily that day, Don was moved. And I remember turning to him and said, Don, if you want to go forward, I'll go with you. Immediately Don was on his feet. The two of us went to the altar. By the time Don got to what we call the altar, the front of the church, he hit the floor. And Don became extremely emotional. He wept buckets. Unbeknownst to me, because I was sort of face down beside him, I didn't realize my mom was very touched. And she'd left her seat and she came and she sat in the front row. She's weeping. I'm weeping because Don's weeping. I'm filled with much joy. Don eventually got off of his knees and he got on his feet.

And he went right over to my mom and he as much as collapsed in my mom's arms. And my mom was saying, Don, we're so proud of you. This is wonderful. This is wonderful. We've prayed for you, Don. That was a very real moment. And I've already used one word and you've picked it up. It was an emotional moment. Now there's nothing wrong with emotion because that's who we are. Intellect, emotion, will. But I'm living in that house, remember? And so I'm seeing Don on a regular basis, like morning, noon, and night. And there was no change in Don's demeanor. And I watched him, you see, he and I parted when we got over to the high school because he was hanging out with a crowd I wanted nothing to do with.

And Don went back to his crowd. That kind of discouraged me. I thought Don got saved. I saw him emotional at the altar. I mean, what else is there? There's a lot more. I left that school and went on to Peterborough.

And the rest of the story is I became a pastor, etc. And I ended up back in Hamilton as the assistant pastor at that same very church in Hamilton. I had my office in the hallway. And on one occasion, the secretary buzzed my office and said, Pastor David, there's somebody here to see you. He says he's your friend. And in walks Don. He's the picture of life and vibrancy.

I said, Don, like how many years has it been? Like a decade? I'm sure, a decade. He said, well, I've been on a journey, Dave. But he said, I've come to bring you good news. He said, I finally crossed over. I said, and where did you land? He said, with you. I said, wow, that's great, Don. Yeah. He said, I was officially inducted. I said, inducted? What are you talking about? I'm a Freemason.

I said, why don't you tell me about this? I was not educated in what Freemasonry is. And if you are familiar with it and you don't know a lot about it, don't get upset with me this morning when I just, in a very knee-jerk fashion, just say to you, there's nothing good about Freemasonry. I don't have to explain it. I'll leave it there. And I learned a great deal from Don right while he was sitting on a chair across from me on my desk. And he started telling me all the things that he had done. I've learned the secret prayers. And I've learned the secret code. And wherever I go in the world, I will be accepted everywhere because we Masons, we stick together. But we're a godly group. We have our own Bible. We have our own scriptures. But Dave, it's just like you.

And I remember saying to him, Don, if that's going to float your boat, have at it. But I want you to know something right now. What you just said is totally inaccurate. You crossed over to another side, but you didn't come to my side. And by the way, my side is not the place you want to be. You want to be on Jesus' side. You never mentioned Jesus once. You talked about your buddies, the Masons. I said, you just told me a whole bucket full. We parted amiably. It was just, I was very upfront. This is my friend. If I can't warn him, who can? Another lifetime happens to me.

I move on from there. I go on to London, Ontario. I plant a brand new church. And, you know, it's wonderful. And then in the midst of that church flying high, it doesn't matter. It's another whole story. I responded positively to an invitation to go back to Hamilton again, but this time to pastor the other church called People's Church. And a couple that were at that church came up to me on a Sunday morning and they said, Pastor Dave, you used to live over near Hill Park, whatever. I said, yeah. And he said, you're the guy. I said, what guy? We know your school. We know your school time friend, Don Manners. I said, wow.

How is he? Well, you might want to go and see him. I went to see him in a very special hospital. It's now called the Jervinsky. But it wasn't a Jervinsky. That hospital's changed in a number of ways. But they had a psychiatric ward. And I visited my friend. Now I have an understanding. He heard something in that service that touched his soul. And what he heard in that service caused a great emotional overflow. But that's all that happened. Because when I visited my friend, Don Manners, a nurse went and got him for me. Because I said, I'm looking for my friend, Don.

And this guy came in, slovenly, disheveled, sat down. I said, Don, how are you? He wasn't happy to see me. What are you doing, Don? I'm here. So what I have come to understand is that Don's soul was in trouble on that Sunday in that church. And what he experienced at that altar was indeed very soulish.

He heard. He collected it. He assumed. He responded. His emotions were yanked. And at that point, I think that he decided, okay, I'm a new guy. But he didn't know what the new guy looked like.

His will was not changed. And I saw that. Didn't know how to negotiate the wording. But it was clear to me, where years ago, we would have said, he got something. But it wasn't religion. His soul was not connected to God. We used to sing a song years ago, set my spirit free that I may worship thee. I've come to understand what the songwriter meant back in those times. My soul is troubled, Lord. My mind is disturbed by what I know. My emotions are at times crushed by what I know. And I don't have the willpower to serve you properly. Deliver me from my soul so my spirit can be set free. I feel distant from you.

And I warn you because I came through that tunnel of emotionalism when I was a teenager. I understood that prayer was a very emotional event. And until I got to Bible college, unless I got emotional in the prayer place, I thought God was upset with me about something. I would stay on my knees in my Volkswagen, a very uncomfortable position. I would stay there until I would somehow manipulate my feelings or whatever. And then if I got sort of emotional and got a little tearful, oh good, there's God, we're good. I was a very shallow Christian. And as long as your soul is out of sorts, your spirit is not going to be set free. And you're not going to be a real worshipper. And much of the singing in churches today, the chorus and so on, they appeal to your intellect, they appeal to your emotions, and they might appeal to your will. But so often those songs don't set your spirit free. You feel good, but feel good is not Christianity. Feel good belongs in the caboose on this train. You shall know the truth and the truth will set your spirit free.

How does the truth set your spirit free? The truth helps you to deal with your knowledge and your emotions and your will. Poor old Don. I never went back to see him again. It was like talking to a doorknob. There's no way I could get through. He clearly was all dosed up on some kind of medication to make him dozy. That tells me that even what I saw was not the real Don. To take him off those meds, I guess maybe I would have been afraid. I don't know. My precious friend. Genesis 2. And God breathed into this man's nostrils the breath of life. And that man became a living soul with an intellect, emotion, and will.

But that soul that was birthed that day was totally committed to God in every way that you can think of. He was in tune with God mentally. He was not in any way inferior in terms of knowledge. I didn't do well in school. I didn't have the stuff to work with. Others just aced the exams. Others would read a book and they almost knew it. I wasn't one of those people. So we have all these different grades of being able to comprehend. Adam came behind nothing. He had a clear intellect. He was emotionally attached to God. And his will was set to walk in God's purpose. Until the enemy appealed to his soul.

As the devil says, I wonder what God's really up to. He messed with Adam's mind. You should be like God. And the man and the woman's soul was stirred. Yes. Oh yes. God won't hate you. He loves you too much. God is such a loving God.

He would never punish you for this. He might give you a spanking like a little child. But you'll get over it and he'll get over it and you can have spaghetti for supper. Everything's gonna be okay.
And so the will that had been set purposely to follow heart off after God was suddenly broken. And when you heard the gospel the first time, you wrestled with what you heard. And at that time, probably you were emotionally defensive. And you were set in your will. I'm not giving in to this preach. I'm not giving in. I don't want to be religious. I don't want to be emotional. I don't want. I don't trust these people. This is wacko. It's your soul that got in the way and tied your spirit up in knots. Deuteronomy 11 and also in the gospel of Matthew, the great commandment. There are 10 commandments. We know that.

But there's another one in Deuteronomy chapter 11. You shall love the Lord your God. How does it go? With all your heart. It's talking about your soul. And in case you weren't sure, the soul is mentioned again. All your heart and all your soul. You shall love him. Jesus said, with all your mind. Set your mind on what is in this book and your spirit will be set free. You can't know God in your knower until you know him through this. And so many people, I believe, go to church for an emotional fling. But they're not changed. We had a beautiful lady attend our dreamers meeting this past Tuesday night.

You've heard about that thing, right? It's amazing the people are showing up. Here's this lady. I don't know where she came from. Beamsville. I'm going to tell you what. She was a high stepper. And she unfolded things for us. I sat there. I was whoa. It was incredible. And she said, I used to be an inspirational speaker. She travels everywhere and speaks. I'm no longer an inspirational speaker.

I'm now a transformational speaker. She said, I've come to the conclusion. My responsibility as a godly woman is not to inspire the group. Because you see inspiration, that gives you ideas. Inspiration gets you emotionally charged. You can go and you can sell anybody a brand new Cadillac. You can do anything that you want to do. Robert Shuler convinced you of that. You can do it. Within you is this giant of a Samson. You can do it. That was very soulish. And he appealed in a very soulish fashion. That church is no more.

Love the Lord by God with all my heart. All my mind. All my soul. Psalm 62. He says, my soul waited for God. My soul waited. Was God taking a long time to get there? No. You see, the Psalmist was dealing with confused ideas. Which messed with his emotions and crippled his will. He wasn't waiting for God to move. He was waiting for God by his spirit to rearrange the furniture in here. So he could be set free. You'll know the truth and that truth will set you free.

He said, I have to learn to wait. I have to learn to wait. So be still my soul. And then there's this. There's this two chapter. Psalm 103 and Psalm 104. I love this. It speaks volumes to me. The Psalmist recognizes this compartment of his nature called the soul. And whether he would, if he had an opportunity to unfold these thoughts and these truths to you in the same way I have today, matters not. Here's what I know that I know that I know. He knew that if his soul was out of sorts, he was in big time trouble. And here were his words. I'm going to put it in my own wording today.

What's wrong with you soul? What's wrong with you? Why are you cast down? Now, who's he talking to? He's talking to himself.
He's saying, why am I cast down? Why am I depressed? Why do I feel the way I do? The heavens declare his glory. How much more do I need? What is wrong with you soul? He says, soul, I'm going to give you a command right now. You will start blessing the Lord. Bless the Lord.

What's that word bless? Kneel before him and adore him. But the soul says, I got a lot of stuff going on up here. And when I get, when I get everything all arranged up here, I'll consider doing it. No, no, no, no, no. You will bless the Lord now. My breakfast was burnt and we ran out of coffee. And on the way to, on the way to my job this morning, somebody honked the horn and gave me a Chinese signal with a couple of fingers. They were really ticked off with me. And I'm just, I don't feel like blessing the Lord. I remember sitting in a board meeting so many years ago in a large church. And one of the board members, precious man that I'd known since I was a youngster said, Pastor Dave, it's obvious to me. He said, you're not really happy with how this church worships the Lord. I said, what?

He said, well, you're always kind of pushing, pushing. He said, you don't understand human nature. We just spent the last six days dealing with the world. You expect us to walk into this church carrying all these burdens, all these concerns. And you just want us to immediately just like, oh, we're going to praise the Lord. This is not a playpen. This is not a playpen. Blessing the Lord is in the words of the psalmist, that sacrifice of praise. El led us in a song this morning. We don't talk back and forth. Where are you, El? He led us in a song this morning about, and he stopped and he gave you a little sermonette. We should bring a sacrifice of praise. Do you understand that?

Do you catch that? It's a sacrifice. In the Old Testament, the sacrifice bled. The sacrifice was burned until it was turned into ashes. The drink offering, the drink offering in the tabernacle. It could have been the hottest day of the year. You think you're going to faint from lack of thirst, but you will because it's the drink offering, you will dismiss your sincere desire for a glass of water and you will pour water out in a ceremonial fashion. It's called a drink offering. It's poured out onto the sandy desert, never to be seen again. The water that you would have enjoyed, you surrendered it to God. It's a sacrifice of praise. So you don't always feel like when you come in here of yippie-hi-ho-ho-ho-ho. I came in here sniveling. Somebody said, how are you doing?

I said, I'm in the worst condition. I said, I've got the sniffles. And I said, I've been awake half the night. And I said, and I feel like complaining. And that's the worst thing that's going on with me. But I had to come in here and offer the sacrifice of praise with hardly any voice. I can't, most of the time I can't sing anymore. Just haven't got it here. But I do like to give this sacrifice to him, to lay everything aside. When you bring a sacrifice of praise, praising him in spite of the difficulty, praising him in spite of the disappointment, praising him in spite of the price of gasoline, praise him in spite of it all. Just say, dear God, you're wonderful. And don't just put it on. Let it come from the depth of your soul. Because when you give this sacrifice of praise, it will transform you.

And what is praise all about? There's a difference between praise and worship. And the majority of singer types in congregations all across this nation, they use praise and worship back and forth. It's always the same thing. No, no, no, no, it's not the same thing at all. Praise is giving God the glory for what he has done. Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord. Let the earth hear his voice. Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. It's about thanking God for his goodness. Great is thy faithfulness. Oh God, my Father, morning and evening, springtime and harvest.

That's praise. That's thanking God for delivering you the bread and the water and sustaining your heart. But worship is diamond. If you're without water and you're without bread and you're without hope and you're without a happy day, you're without, you're without, you're without. When you worship him, you are praising him for who he is. It's good to get rid of the word, the personal word, I, when you sing a song to him. Take all the songs that we sing in Christendom these days. Take the songs that refer to me, I, and you. Take them out. You have very few songs. So many songs are about you and me. I'm going to do this. I'm going to do that. Oh, you just love me.

What about the song that just says, I worship you. It doesn't matter if you ever bless me again. You are enough for me. You can't worship like that till you have dealt with the trash in your soul. Oh, everyone that thirsteth Isaiah 55. It's a call. Hey, oh, stop what you're doing. Are you thirsty? Come. Oh, everyone that thirsteth. There are waters for your soul. Let the soul delight itself in God's fatness. Incline your ear and come to me. Come near and your soul will live.

God breathed into man the breath of life and man became a living soul. Everything that man is, God made. And he made the man alive by breathing into him. And the word became flesh and dwelt among us. The word was life and the word was light. Your soul can't function without Jesus, the one who put you together. Psalm 23. I've needed this verse so many times in my pastoral life. I found out in the midst of celebrity, huge church, three services a week packed to the doors. Wow, Dave, you must have been flying high. I was depressed. And April would say she'd find me sitting in the living room on the sofa weeping. What's wrong, David? I don't know.

I'm so down. What are you down about? I don't know. People got saved today. I know. Aren't you glad about that? Yeah. Somebody should have said, hey, pansy. Hey, snowflake. But they would have been more careful than that. Because depression is a killer. And don't blame the devil for all of it. I was not serving the devil. I was serving God.

I was working how many hours a day? I lost count. I was gone in the mornings from my house at five. And I often didn't get home till 11 o'clock at night. That was your problem, Dave. Don't try and analyze what I did and how. I was a young guy and I had lots of vinegar and I was thrilled to do it. But then the black cloud would come. God restored my soul. I'm a living proof, a living example of. And David, how did God restore your soul? I'll tell you how he restored mine. Maybe he'll buy you a red Twizzler licorice and help you get yours back. I don't know.

I can't taste that stuff anymore. That's enough to depress me. How did I get over this cloud? I'd be literally sitting in my office. I had no staff. I was pastoring almost a thousand people. I had zero staff. I didn't have a secretary. I didn't have anybody. It was an evangelistic center, period. I'd be sitting alone in my little cozy office that I built for myself. And as true as I can make it, I'd be sitting here reading my Bible or whatever. And all of a sudden, a black cloud came in the room. No, I didn't see anything.

But I felt something. I immediately closed my book, got out, and jumped in my car. I couldn't stay in that. I had to get out. Get out, get out, get out, get out. And I drive through the streets of London, Ontario, and this is what I'd be singing. Songs unto the Lord. Not thank you for what you did, but thank you for being who you are. What he did in the past is not food for today. Yesterday's bread gets stale. You can't tell it 35 different ways and make it come to life. You need to have a walk with God. It's today, it's now. And so driving through the streets of London, there was this preacher.

Nobody knew me good. Tears running down my cheeks. I love you, Lord. And I lift my voice to worship you. Oh, my soul, rejoice. Please take joy, my King, in what you hear. Let me be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear. He restored my soul. In Gethsemane, Mark 14, the gospel writer takes notice. He says, as we arrived at the garden where Jesus was want to pray. I'm, I'm interpreting it for you. The writer is saying, I noticed he was very extraordinarily heavy heart. Jesus experienced the loneliness. It's not a result of sin.

Don't go there. Circumstances and things. Jesus wanted to rescue Israel. They turned him down. Now he's got to die. It wasn't death that worried him. It was a whole nation that said, we don't believe in the God of Abraham anymore. Crucify him. We're done. That's what troubled his soul. And he actually said these words to the disciples. He said, I'm going away to pray. Because my soul is exceedingly sorrowful. If you go through difficult times, you have a friend.

Man of sorrows. What a name. Ruin sinners to reclaim. Hallelujah. What a savior. Pastoring a church out in Alberta. I didn't pastor it for long because I said, I don't belong here. I really fought with the board. No, no, no. I said, I got, I got to get back to Africa. No, no, no. We need, we need you. We need you. I said, I'll give you two years.

And that was the deal that I made with the board. I said, I could use some time off. My wife feels like she's a widow. Where's David today? She'd say, I don't know. So I said, okay. And April said, take the church, take the church. So we did. And it was no time before I met a man who will only be known this morning as David. So it was David and David. Can I have some time with you? I said, sure. So we met at this restaurant, seven o'clock in the morning. He was an incredible designer.

I've never met anybody more artistic than this guy. He could design houses, design anything. He built a house solely out of concrete. It was absolutely fabulous. Concrete, everything. Made his own furniture, made his counter, made it concrete. 45 degrees below outside. And he says, are you comfortable in here? Yeah. Well, good. Cause he said, I have had no heat now for seven days. The boiler went out. The guy was a genius. And he loved the Lord.

And he has a wonderful wife. And he has two sons. The son rises and sets in them. These boys are committed to God to this day. And they're ultra successful. And they have their daddy's genes for being creative. They're both engineer minds. But that man sat in that restaurant that morning and he said, there isn't a day goes by pastor. I don't threaten suicide. I said, dear God, don't tell Carney about that. He'll send a nurse to help bring that up. I said, David, David, David. I met every Tuesday morning for two years with my friend, David. And I watched him and I shared with him biblical. He knew the Bible, but I shared with him appropriate. Verses. And I said, David, don't you cash in your chips. You can't do that to your wife. You can't do that to your boys. And you can't do that to me. Don't you do this. And the day came. He said, I love these breakfasts, but you got a growing church on your hand and you don't need to hold my hand anymore. He said, I want to set you free from this commitment. I happily took that. He's my friend to this day. I phone him every now and again. Special, special guy.

God restored his soul. And how did God do that? Well, he's not a singer. You wouldn't want to hear him sing. God restored him by my being with him. I'm not a hero. You give yourself in kindness and be generous with your, with your love and with your comfort and you will help others. You know what the word says? Blessed be the God of all comfort. Who comforts us. So that, listen, listen, listen. Blessed be the God of all comfort. So that we can comfort others with the comfort wherewith we were comforted. There's ministry, James.

Blessed be the God of all comfort. Who comforts you with a commission attached to it. Go thou and do likewise. With the comfort you receive, you now have the option of sharing that comfort with others. Well, Pastor Dave, those people can get that comfort on their own. No, no, no, no. David was on the verge of suicide. I had to be the guy that brought the comfort to him. And I did it just by our friendship. And I never powdered him with scriptures. I didn't beat him up. I, I just say, oh, I was reading the verse this morning. Maybe it'll help you. That, that, that's as far as I went.

I was just a caring friend. And then there was a guy that was, oh, this guy called me and said, I've got to talk to you. And so I dropped everything and I went to him. And he said, I found out that my wife had an affair with my best friend. I said, why are you talking to me? I just want to tell you what I'm going to do. I'm going to kill him. I never reacted. He scared the living daylights out of me. I said, are you serious? Yeah. When are you going to do that? I haven't made up my mind yet. I'm going to call him John.

Okay. Just help me through the story. And then I'm going to close in a moment. This, this will end happy. Trust me. I said, listen, John, am I your friend? Pastor Dave, you know, you're my friend. I love the way you preach. I love this. Okay. Okay. Am I your friend? Yeah. How, how deep is our friendship?

I'm not closer to anybody than I am to you. I said, that's good. So I can trust what you say right now. Oh yeah. So you're telling me the truth. You're going to do this. Yeah. I said, then I want a commitment out of you. What's that? I said, this is not a good thing you're going to do, but I want to be there. Really? I said, you're my friend and I want to be there. He called me and said, Thursday, 11 o'clock. I said, okay, I'll meet you at your house.

He said, okay. This is in the city of Toronto. Do you know Toronto a little bit? I drove across the road called Keel. And my speedometer read over 100 miles an hour. Why were you doing that? I wanted to see red lights and sirens. And it worked. All of a sudden there's cruisers chasing me along Keel. And I whipped into a big yard, a big parking lot.
I jumped out of the car. I've been watching TV. I spread my heels and I throw my arms up onto the hood. And you know, their language was pretty rough. They were pretty ticked off. What do you think you're doing? I turned, I said, can I put my hands down? I don't have a weapon. All right. What are you doing? I said, I went to a man's doctor this morning and told his psychiatric doctor, John is going to kill a man today. Will you help me? Get out of my office. I've got, I've got clients. I said, I'm telling you, your man is going to kill somebody. Get out. I said, I can't get a doctor's attention. And if I called the police station, I don't know where you guys would have come from.

I've got your attention. Please follow me. Arrest the guy. Do something. We can't. When you see blood, call us. So I raced to his house and I told his wife. He's coming, you know. She's crying. I said, relax. Here's what we're going to do. I said, he always parks in the driveway. Yeah. I said, well, I'm not blocking the driveway.

He'll pull in. Yes. I said, then I'm going to say to him, bring in the weapons. I want to see them. He cooperated like a five-year-old brought in a fishing knife and a small hatchet. I said, that'll do. And he's almost giggling. I said, there's something I got to get in the car. I got to get it out of my car. He said, okay. I went out, jumped in my car, backed my car up and I wedged his car. He could not get out. And then I came into the house and I said, John, you're not going to do this because I won't let you anything you do. I have to be present and I can't be present for this.

What's your solution? I said, you and I meet every Tuesday morning for breakfast. And if you still feel the same way six months from now, you can sharpen your knife if you like. But you said, I'm your friend. You said, I'm the one you trust the most. So you're going to spend time with me. Okay. April and I went to his birthday party about six months ago. I walked into this huge gang of people in this big hall. And when he saw me, his eyes filled with tears, he came over and he put his arms around me. He said, thank you, pastor. Thank you. You know how many years ago that was? 45 years ago, God comforted me.

And with my presence and my gentle words, I comforted him. Bless the Lord of my soul and all this within me. Get ready, get ready, get ready for God to use you. Please look for somebody who's victimized by life and just offered to be their friend. I don't know what I would say, pastor. Don't say anything. I just want to be your friend. Let's go have a cup of coffee. If I go, we have to talk. You don't have to talk. You give them a few minutes and they'll do the talking. Because that soul that you have zeroed in on needs an appointment. There is an appointment with God and you're going to help them to keep it. Okay.

Did this make sense today? April's not here. She's my best critic. You know what's wonderful about that lady? She couldn't be here today. When I say, was that okay? She says, always wonderful. I say, are you sure? Oh yeah, you're the best. I say, that's what I love about you. You tell little lies with such a beautiful, delicate smile on your face. No, no, you really do. You really do. That was wonderful.

I've heard it 10 times, but I still thought you did it best today. We comfort each other. She sees when I'm a cantankerous old geezer and she, she comforts me with the comfort wherewith she was comforted. He that findeth a wife, findeth a good thing. That's what it says. King James. Heavenly Father, wherever I may have missed appointments with people, wherever I failed to respond to the nudge, Father, forgive me. I want to be tuned in to the nudging of the Holy Spirit. I'm not a, I'm not a psychiatrist. I'm not a palm reader. I can't, I can't read people's minds. You have to prompt me by your Holy Spirit. And Lord, I pray for my friends who sit here today and for a growing number of people that across the country who are also listening in. I pray that every one of us will be tuned in to the Lord.

First of all, that our soul would be knit together in you. Mentally, emotionally, our will bent toward you. Our spirit can be set free and we can be instruments in God's hand. You said to Moses, basically, any old stick will do. Let's use your favorite stick. Use me if I'm nothing more than a dried stick. I long to help somebody. I long for that. I, I find it wonderful. Bless these wonderful friends.

Amen.