

WELCOME – Michael Mauldin

Welcome everybody! Yes, give them a round of applause. That's awesome. My name is Pastor Michael. I want to give you guys a quick word of encouragement to kind of exhort us into the place of worship. I was reading this morning in 2nd Chronicles 20, it's a famous scripture in the context of worship, but Jehoshaphat was the king of Israel at this time, and they're in the midst of war, and they're facing their enemies, and they don't know what to do, right?

They begin to seek God, they begin to fast and pray, and they're like, okay, what do we do? And all of a sudden, the prophet gives a word and they have this strategy of a way to defeat their enemy. Okay? And their strategy was to send the worshipers out into battle first. Right?

Imagine the scene. Imagine.. you've seen the movie "Braveheart." You're on one side of the field. You've got all your warriors. On the other side of the fields, the other warriors. Then all of a sudden coach is like, all right, guys, I got the plan. I got the strategy. You guys are going first. Could you imagine the faith that it would take for these guys to go wait a minute. Don't you mean the guys with the swords? And he's like, no, no, no, you guys with the instruments in the Song of Praise and the sword in your mouth. You guys are going to go first.

God's ways are not our ways, right? But check it out. Check out what happens. So he says, "believe in the Lord your God and you will be established. Believe in his prophets and you will succeed. And when he had taken counsel with the people and appointed those who were to sing to the Lord in praise and holy attire, they went before the army and said, give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever. When they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir had come out against Judah."

The Lord began to defeat their enemies with a sound of praise and thanksgiving then went forth. When you think about this, it's not like this aggressive war song that they're singing, which you would want. Like you're going into battle like, give me something aggressive. But the song they're singing is give thanks to the Lord, for His love endures forever. It's pretty incredible.

I want you to think about whatever you're facing, whatever enemy you're facing in your life right now. We all have enemies. We all have trials. We're all facing something. But as we sing a song of thanksgiving and praise, it's a sacrifice to God. The Apostle Paul would say it like this: let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips, it honors His name. And as we sacrifice in that way, in faith, He begins to move on our behalf.

With me today is the band and you guys come on up, let's just begin to give Him thanks right now. God, we just thank you that you are a holy God. Thank you that you go before us and you fight our battles for us. Thank you that the victory is yours, that we can just get lost in you and put our cares and worries to the side, and God, you begin to move on our behalf. And so we thank you for your goodness, God, in Jesus name, amen.

DECLARATION/SCRIPTURE – 2nd Corinthians – Bobby Schuller

Today we're going to proclaim the scripture from 2nd Corinthians. We're going to stand real quick and say this together. Good news is you don't need to go to the gym today, with all the standing. Right?

Okay. Let's say this together: If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin, and I will heal their land.

Wow, what a promise. Amen!

MESSAGE/PRAYER – Bobby Schuller "Two Kinds of Faith"

Today I'm going to talk on faith, which is, as you know, something I love to talk about. We spend a lot of time on some harder subjects: the fear of the Lord and repentance and this types of thing. Today, I'm talking about one of my favorite messages: faith. Who knows this is a faith church. (AUDIENCE – yes) Is that right? And you have a faith pastor. I believe God's Word. I believe all of it from the beginning to the end. And I praise the Lord that He's blessed us with this Word to direct our lives. Amen?

If you have your Bibles open to Exodus chapter 15. And I think that it's important that we get deep into the Word about God's promises, not just for healing, but for deliverance, and all the things that are made available so that the community of God comes in full of faith. We don't need to build it up when we get here. Does that make sense? Yes or no? (AUDIENCE – yes) So we want to be full of faith.

We live in an unbelief world, an unbelieving world, a world that is constantly pouring into you doubt or even worse, belief in the wrong thing, I should say, believe in the wrong thing. No. We believe in the Lord.

And in this unbelieving world, it is hard to have a lot of faith. A community of faith, as Americans, we have to remember, is also a huge part of having breakthrough in a church. Is that true or false? (AUDIENCE – true) It's true.

Remember when Jesus went to His home in Nazareth, the scripture said that He could not perform any miracles there. Doesn't say He would not. The scripture, the Bible, the Word of God says He could not. Could not. Because of what? Their lack of faith. Their lack of faith had an impact on what the Lord Jesus Christ could do. When you went to Capernaum, miracles are happening all the time, right? An outpouring of His power. But in Nazareth, no.

I think this is an important lesson for us to learn that the faith in the room makes a difference when it comes to our prayers and believing God. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen)

In fact, think about Jairus' daughter. When Jesus goes to heal Jairus' daughter, she's 12-years-old, she's dead. She's been dead for days. Her skin is ashen, her mouth is open; she probably has a sheet over her face. She's dead. Dead. So dead that they're already singing a dirge for her. There are already professional mourners there. And when Jesus arrives, He says she's not dead, she's what? (AUDIENCE – sleeping) Sleeping. So immediately He calls things that be not as though they were.

And then their response to Him saying that, is they all start laughing at Him. Now, if I'm Jesus, I would want to heal her and raise her from the dead in front of them so they can eat crow, but that's not what He does. What does He do? He kicks them out. He kicks them out of the room. Everybody, because this is a big one, right, raising someone from the dead. Everybody who's not full of faith, you need to get out. And the only people in the room are the two disciples that were with Him, the father, and Jesus, and He raises the girl from the dead. But this is important to see that even for Christ, He wanted to get the unbelieving spirit out of the room. Get out and faith-filled people in the room. Amen?

This is important because a lot of the questions we ask about healing, I don't think they're just about my personal faith. They're very much about the faith of the community that I'm in. Am I in a believing church? (AUDIENCE – yes) Yes, and you are. That's right. You are in a believing church. But this is important to increase the faith, not just for me, but the faith of our whole community so we can see breakthrough. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen)

And boy, have we seen breakthrough. I mean, we have seen death healed, all sorts of crazy stuff, and we praise the Lord for that. And that's because God is continuing to increase the faith in our community, and the further we go along, the more of an outpouring we see. I don't plan to turn back anytime soon, do you? (AUDIENCE – no) I want to be a faith person.

Faith is so important. Without faith, you can't be saved because you're saved by grace through (AUDIENCE – faith) faith. Without faith, you can't live for God. The Bible says the just shall live by (AUDIENCE – faith). Without faith, you can't walk the Christian walk because we walk by (AUDIENCE – faith) faith and not by sight. What pleases God? (AUDIENCE – faith) Faith pleases God, amen? I could go on and on.

And of course, we know that the greatest command in the scripture is to love one another, to love your neighbor, to love God, but Jesus biggest criticism of His disciples is not, oh you of little love. He doesn't go around saying, oh, you of little hope, oh you of little joy, oh you of little service. Those are all wonderful things, but it's not what He says. What does He say, oh you of little (AUDIENCE – faith) faith. It must be important to Him that we walk by faith. Amen? We walk by faith. Okay?

Is faith a noun or a verb in English? Now, there were a couple of first service people here that know the answer to this, but if you think about it, think about it. Don't go deeper than this says, just grammar question. Is faith a noun or a verb? (AUDIENCE – noun) It's a noun. You have faith. Is that right? (AUDIENCE – yes) Belief is a verb - to believe. But faith is a noun. It's something you have or you don't have.

The Bible says faith is a substance. It's a noun. It's something you get something of. Is that right? And in fact, your faith can grow or shrink. Second Thessalonians says, "Your faith grows exceedingly." Can your faith grow? (AUDIENCE – yes) It can grow. And the measure of your faith is going to be directly related to the results you're getting in your prayer life, in your preaching, in everything that you're doing. Who wants more faith today?

Here's some good news: faith is a choice. Faith is a choice. There is only one way to get faith. There's really only one way. Who knows faith comes by (AUDIENCE – hearing) hearing and hearing by (AUDIENCE – the Word of God) the Word of God. This is the only way to get faith is here. That's it.

I love prayer, but faith does not come from praying. God will not give you faith if you pray and ask Him to increase your faith. You won't get it. Faith does not come through worship. Worship stirs up our faith, but it won't give you faith. And by the way, even seeing miracles won't really give you faith. They encourage our faith, and they can stir things up in the room, but I have seen many amazing miracles, but these miracles that I've seen, enough time goes by you think, well, I haven't followed up with the guy. Did it really happen? And there's just something about that experience that it doesn't sustain you like the Word of God does. The faith is for the miracles. The miracles aren't for the faith. And the miracles are there to support the Word, to show that this proclamation we're giving is really from God and is really for today.

Jesus, when Lazarus and the rich man die at the same time, and the rich man goes to Hades, and you know the parable, and Lazarus is in Abraham's bosom, and they're looking at each other across the chasm, the man in Hades says, Abraham ask Lazarus.. so he's already still ordering the poor guy around. 'Tell Lazarus to go and get some water and dip my tongue.' Right? 'Because I'm dying.' He says no, he can't cross the chasm. And then in a final plea, the man in Hades says, 'well, at least send him to my family to warn them about this place.' And do you remember what Abraham says? They have Moses and the prophets. If they won't listen to Moses and the prophets, they won't even believe if they see a man raised from the dead.

Y'all need to hear this. This is not a metaphor. It's literal. If you see a man raised from the dead, you will believe for a little while, but if you go long enough without the Word of God, you will begin to doubt and you will lose your faith. There's one way to get faith. There's one way to get faith. Jesus tells them. It's from the.. in this case, the Torah and the Ketuveem. The Torah and the Ketuveem. The scriptures. Amen?

I'm a living testimony of this. The Word of God works on you like nothing else. Like nothing else. I've never seen more transformation, more victory in the people of God than when they just commit to read and meditate on their Bible.

And when they decide to not pick and choose, but read the whole book and to go cover to cover, to not skip the parts that we don't like, but to lean in and to meditate and let it transform you. That's how you get faith. There's one way. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen)

Part two. It is not enough to just read and increase your faith. It's not enough. Faith is not a feeling. Faith is a choice, it's not a feeling, but it's not enough to just read. You have to release your faith. If you just have a lot of belief and a lot of belief, it'll become poison if you don't release it, actually, and releasing it looks like acting out your faith, speaking out your faith, or standing on your faith. So that's why when Hannah prays for the sick, she doesn't just go, okay, I prayed for them. She goes okay, do something you couldn't do before. Bend down. Move your arm. Do this. Or when you've received your miracle to continue to stand on the miracle and not lose it. And when you have the Word of God, to say it aloud. Amen?

It's like gas. I already used this before, but it's good to remember if you put gas in a car and don't run the car for six months, the gas will become toxic. You have to use the fuel. You have to use the gas. Use the oil. Amen? So fill up your tank. But that's not enough. You have to release it. You have to release it into the world. It's a gift, but it's a gift driven by love and the love says, I don't care if this is embarrassing, I'm going to pray for this person. I'm going to administer the spirit that God has given to me.

Did you open your Bibles to Exodus 15 already? I bet you did. I didn't, so give me a second. I did the same thing in first service. Exodus 15. We're going to read the story about the bitter pool of Marah. Just as a warning, I'm going to go longer today. I can already tell. Look, I'll get you out of here by 12:30, but you're going to leave with a treasure for those who have ears to hear. Amen?

Exodus chapter 15. Now, this story begins when the Israelites have come out of Egypt. God has performed this amazing miracle. He parts the Red sea. They cross the Red Sea and the Egyptian army, which is the greatest army in the world, is crossing and they get buried in water. And how many of you know that must be a great feeling to see this huge army barreling down on you, and then just get eaten by the ocean. That would be a great feeling.

And they're thrilled, they celebrate, they do all this stuff, and then they go into the desert and they get to this bitter pool of Marah. Now, when it says they've been walking through the desert for three days, keep in mind they have canteens and skins and stuff that are full of water, but they're running low on water and they need to refill.

Exodus 15, verse 22, "Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea, and they went into the desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter." Marah means bitter. "This is why the place is called Marah. So the people grumbled." If you have a pen, underline 'grumbled.' "People grumbled against Moses, saying, what are we to drink?" Do Christians today grumble? (AUDIENCE – yes) They grumble. They have a huge victory, massive victory, and then three days later, one little setback, a bitter pool, and what's the result? Grumbling. Grumbling. Does grumbling please God? (AUDIENCE – no) What pleases God? (AUDIENCE – faith) Faith. "So Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood, and he threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink." Just a real quick note there. There's no symbolism in Judaism for like a piece of wood. Like there's nothing there that the Jews go, oh, it's a wood thing. No, it doesn't say the name of a tree, so there's nothing about it that makes it special. But the Church Fathers origin, and Augustine and many others have said, obviously, this is a symbol for the cross. And in fact, wouldn't it be great if the shape of the wood was a cross? Now, it doesn't say this, but there's a part of me that says, well, what if that is an homage to the coming cross, and it's like he takes this bit of wood and he throws it into the bitter pool, and all of the bitterness gets soaked up into the wood and it becomes fresh water.

That would be an appropriate image for what the cross does for us. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) Not just for healing, but for forgiveness, for setting things right. Sucking all the evil, bitterness, darkness out of your life. Isn't the cross such a precious gift? (AUDIENCE – yes) We thank you, Jesus.

Where was I? Oh, yes. “So then the Lord issued a ruling and an instruction for them and put them to the test.” God will test your faith sometimes. It was a test. “He said if you listen,” somebody say, listen. (AUDIENCE – listen) In Hebrew, the sort of shema means to obey or to listen, to hear. “If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases.” Now there's no disease here so it's just a bitter pool. Isn't that interesting? “I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians for I am the Lord, who heals you.” I am the Lord, who heals you. In Hebrew, this is the name of God. It's the first time it's used in the Bible. Yahweh. Rapha. Jehovah Rapha. Who knows what that means? I am the Lord who heals you. Is He the great I Am or the great I was? (AUDIENCE – I Am) Has He changed? (AUDIENCE – no) It doesn't say I am the Lord who heals you sometimes. I am the Lord who heals a lucky few. I am the Lord who sometimes heals just according to some.. no! I am the Lord who heals you. (AUDIENCE – yes) Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen)

And in fact, this word Rapha in Hebrew, it's the word in Israel and in Hebrew that you use for doctor today. If you go to Israel and you're looking for Doctor Finkelstein's office, it's going to say Rapha Finkelstein. I am the Lord, your doctor. Does this doctor need any.. He has all the prescriptions, doesn't He? Doctor God has every medicine you need. He has every solution made available for whatever sickness it is you're facing. Praise the Lord. He hasn't changed.

“And when they came to Elim, where there were 12 springs,” what does 12 represent? Come on, y'all, we're students. Twelve what? (AUDIENCE – twelve) Twelve tribes of Israel. And I was surprised a lot of people don't know, “and 70 palm trees.” Does anybody who is not in the first service know what 70 represents? Anybody? It's a big number in the Bible. It's good. It's good to learn, isn't it? To come to church and learn something new. You can go home and say, I learned something new. I learned what 70 means. Seventy represents the Gentiles or the nations. It's the goyim. In Genesis chapter 10, it lists 70 nations and every time 70 is used, you want to be thinking.. when you see 12, you want to think of 12 tribes of Israel; when you see 70, you want to think of the nations.

For example, when Moses delegates power, he delegates it to 70 people, and that's God, who instructed him to do that, it's an homage that the Torah is going to bring life to all the nations of the people. It's a part of God's Abraham promise that becomes the Sanhedrin of 70 people. Remember how Jesus had 12 and 70? Okay, you get it. You get it. All right. Seventy it is. Oh, where was I?

When we get to the pool of Marah, we get to the bitter pool in life, very often it's a test. And here are your two choices: grumbling or faith. Grumbling or faith? I think grumbling, you could say complaining.

I think very often when we get to the bitter pool, Satan is going to be the first one to show up and he's going to show us the pool, but faith is going to say, look, there's a piece of wood. Throw it in the water. And faith is not just believing in the wood, it's throwing it into the water, even though you look weird. Do you know God will ask you to do things that make you look weird to your friends and colleagues at work? He will. I'm doing it now. Is that right?

And you have a choice in life whether you want to walk by faith or walk by sight, whether you want to please God or please your colleagues, whether you're going to believe that what He said about that wooden thing thrown into the water is going to make a difference. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen)

Again, you have two choices when you hit the pool of Marah to complain or to have faith.

Let's just declare together: I am a faith person (AUDIENCE – I am a faith person). I believe the Word of God (AUDIENCE – I believe the Word of God). The Word of God stands true for me (AUDIENCE – the Word of God stands true for me). He is the same (AUDIENCE – He is the same) yesterday (AUDIENCE – yesterday), today (AUDIENCE – today), and forever (AUDIENCE – and forever). Amen. (AUDIENCE – amen) Amen.

Thank you, by the way, to all of you who are watching on YouTube. I want to encourage you to subscribe. Thank you, because we're almost to a million subscribers on YouTube, so we're getting close. So we praise the Lord for that. Our little church. So, thank you.

So faith only comes from the Word, but believing the Word is actually not enough, still. You have to do something. Believing the Word is not enough. Turn with me to James chapter two. James chapter two. You've probably read this. There are two kinds of faith. Did you know that? There are two kinds of faith. James chapter two, verse 17 says, "In the same way faith by itself if not accompanied by action is dead. But someone will say, you have faith, I have deeds. Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good, even the demons believe that." You believe in the Trinity? Good. Even the demons believe that. You believe God will heal the sick? Good. Even the demons believe that. What's the difference? Right? "They believe that and they shudder." I lost my place, shoot.

"You foolish person." This is him talking to the church. "You foolish person. Do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, and he was called God's friend."

Abraham, yes, he believed God, but he believed God to the degree that he was willing to take his only son, whom the promise was supposed to come through, and sacrifice him on an altar. That's faith. And he believed that God would raise him from the dead if he had done that.

So there are two types of faith. There's two types of faith. There's living faith and there's dead faith. There's living faith and there's dead faith. What's the difference? Dead faith says, I believe, I believe, I believe. Living faith says I believe and I'm going to do something. Living faith says I believe and I'm going to say something. Living faith says I believe, and I'm going to stand on something. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen)

I'll tell you a parable. Imagine that there was a man who had an apartment in Oklahoma, and one of those apartment buildings a drug addict moved in as a squatter and wouldn't leave, and the only way to get him out is through an attorney. So the man hires an attorney. Let's say he lives here in California. He hires an attorney in Oklahoma, and the attorney's job is to go out and evict the man.

And a week later, he calls the attorney and says, 'how's it going?' And the attorney says to him, 'oh, I haven't filed the paperwork yet.' And the man says, 'get him out of there. File the paperwork.' Another week goes by, he calls him in and the attorney says, 'oh, I'm sorry, I haven't filed the paperwork yet with the court.'

What will the owner do? I tell you, he will say to him, 'I will take away your power and give it to another attorney.' Is that right? Who here knows what a power of attorney is in the natural? You have the power of attorney of Jesus Christ. He's given you the power of attorney. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) He's given you a power of attorney. And it is up to us to file something in the court of heaven. And if you don't, I do believe Christ will say then I'm just taking that authority away from you. You're not using it. You're not using it. Amen?

So it's time to evict some things. Evict your sickness. Evict the demons in your life. If you struggle with anxiety, depression, there's a very good chance that's an unclean spirit. There's probably a psychological piece, but there's a demonic piece, too, and it needs to be evicted. Evict your addictions. Evict your lack. Evict your sin. Amen? Get out!

Let's just do that now. Who's ready? You all seem like it's a little warm in here.

Okay, we're going to do this. You're ready? We're going to evict it. You ready? Declare with me: In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ (AUDIENCE – in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ), I evict sickness from my life (AUDIENCE – I evict sickness from my life). I evict demonic oppression from my life (AUDIENCE – I evict demonic oppression from my life). Addiction (AUDIENCE – addiction), get out (AUDIENCE – get out)! Sickness (AUDIENCE – sickness), get out (AUDIENCE – get out)! Lack (AUDIENCE – lack), get out (AUDIENCE – get out)! Sin (AUDIENCE – sin), get out (AUDIENCE – get out)! In Jesus name (AUDIENCE – in Jesus name), amen (AUDIENCE – amen). Amen. In Spanish you would be like (SPEAKS SPANISH). It feels better. Okay. So faith is for today. Amen? Faith is for today and for this age, not just in the age to come.

In John 11, Martha says to Jesus when He arrives at Lazarus tomb, Lord, if you'd gotten here early enough, my brother wouldn't have died. And Jesus says to her, your brother will rise again. Does He mean someday, or does He mean today? (AUDIENCE – today) He means today. And Martha's answer is, I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

Now, that sounds like a faithful statement, but it's not real faith. He's saying, I'm going to raise your brother right now. And she's like, I know he'll be raised someday in heaven. Doesn't that sound like so many Christians? God's going to heal you of your sickness - today. God's going to deliver you today. He's going to free you today. This age. This age. You don't have to wait.

And I feel like so many Christians sound like Martha. I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. Amen? The one who believes in me will live even though they die. And whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Hallelujah.

And so it is important that we understand that the power of the spirit to deliver, to heal, and to set free is for today. Now. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) I want to die believing God. I want that to be the last thing I'm doing, believing God. What happens if you die believing God? I mean, we know that there are mysteries and things don't always go the way, but what happens if you die believing God? There's no better way to go. Amen? And maybe you're believing for something and he says, oh, there's this and that and this. But He has called us to be people of faith. Praise the Lord.

And in fact, when Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, He doesn't pray at all, He just thanks God. He says, God, I thank you, or He says, Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I know that you always hear me. Let's just say that together: Father, I thank you that you heard me. I know that you always hear me. That's a faithful prayer. Amen?

All right. Final thoughts. We need to eat the Word of God. We eat it, amen? We eat the Word of God. Jesus says to Peter three times, feed my sheep. Peter, do you love me? Feed my sheep. What does He mean? What does it mean to feed a sheep? Is it pizza and hamburgers? What is it? Come on. (AUDIENCE – the Word) It's teach the Word of God. Teach my sheep what I taught you. Who knows that feeds us. Teach them the Word. The Word of God is bread. The Word of God is bread. And we eat bread every day, except for Michael Mauldin. If you're on a low carb diet, spiritually. No, Michael is a man of the Word. But we eat the Word every day. Somebody says, I had bread a year ago. I had bread last week. I had food last week. No, we eat the Word every day. Amen?

And in this world, we constantly have institutions and schools and media that are pouring unbelief into our lives. Just pouring, pouring, pouring into us. And we need to pour into us the Word of God.

When we read the Word of God and meditate on it, it pours faith into us. Brother Keith Moore said this, it's like taking like a glass of iced coffee, and it's black all the way through, and you put it in the sink without pouring it out, and you begin to pour water into it, and you'll just see it'll start doing this and it'll get lighter, lighter, lighter, lighter, lighter as the coffee comes out. And eventually it'll be nice and clear. That's what reading the Word is. It's just pouring belief and faith into your life. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen)

And when you read the Bible, don't read Bible verses. Read the Bible. Don't read just a little section, read the whole book. Read all of Ephesians. And when you read the Bible, go from front to back. Genesis to Revelation. It's all God's Word. I remember the first time I read the Bible, I thought Leviticus was going to be terrible. It wasn't. First Chronicles was. It's like ten chapters of names.

But just remember, it's God's Word. You're going to find bread in there and it's going to nurture you. It's going to fill you with belief and faith. It's the only way we can build our faith. Nice and slow. You read it nice and slow. You remember, when the Bible talks about itself, it doesn't say to study, it says to meditate. And there's nothing wrong with studying, but remember, there's a meditative quality of going nice and slow with a pen and making notes and really making sure that it pops out to you.

Let the scripture read you. Let it convict you of your sin. Let it show you your blind spots. You're not going to show yourself your blind spots, and you're certainly not going to hear it from your spouse, trust me. You haven't heard it, you need the Word. You're not going to hear it from your friends. The Word will reveal your blind spots, amen? (AUDIENCE – amen)

And believe it as it is, as it truly is - the perfect Word of God for us today that never changes, that sets the captives free, that stands as a legal document for both heaven and earth that I can know and trust Him as a rule of faith and life. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen)

If you want faith, I'm sorry, you have to do the work. You have to do the work of reading and soaking up the scripture. You cannot be a spiritually lazy person and walk in victory. You just can't. You just can't. You have to dive into the Word and let it read you, and let it mark you, and let it grind away at you. That's the only way you'll grow in faith. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen)

The Bible doesn't say that He's a rewarder of all Christians. It says He's a rewarder of those who diligently, diligently seek Him. Amen? Okay, I feel like there's one other thing I want to say. Lord, help me. Well, I lost it. That's okay. I lost it.

Who's ready to grow in their faith? (AUDIENCE – yes) Okay, stand with me. All right. So again, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, and we want to release the Word, amen? So lift your hands with me like this. This is a sign of our surrender and of Christ being king over our lives. Father, we give you everything we have. We trust in you. We ask you, Lord, to fill us with your faith and power and life. Lord, there truly is none like you in all the earth. We love you, God, and we are praying as a community, not as a person, but as a church that you would make us a faith people. We pray that we would see more people come to know you. We pray that Shepherd's Grove would be like a gigantic radio tower just emanating your power and spirit all over Irvine and around the world. We pray that people that are going by who don't even know about this church would have chains broken in their life, and they don't even know why, would be delivered and they don't even know why. They just drive by and be healed and not even know why. That happens, Lord. And we want this to be that kind of a community. We lay all of our life down. Not some of it, Lord, not some of it. And repeat after me: I am a faith person (AUDIENCE – I am a faith person). I stand on the Word of God (AUDIENCE – I stand on the Word of God) given to me by Jesus Christ (AUDIENCE – given to me by Jesus Christ), confirmed in me by the Holy Spirit (AUDIENCE – confirmed in me by the Holy Spirit). Thank you, Lord (AUDIENCE – thank you, Lord). It's in Jesus name we pray (AUDIENCE – it's in Jesus name we pray), amen (AUDIENCE – amen). Praise the Lord.