

MORE 2 LIFE MINISTRIES, INC.  
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HOW MANY OF YOU WERE HERE LAST NIGHT? WOULD YOU PUT UP YOUR HAND? NOW I'M GOING TO SAY SOMETHING THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT AS THE KIDS ARE LEAVING. IF YOU WERE NOT HERE LAST NIGHT, I'M GOING TO ASK YOU TO GO ON THE WEBSITE OR GO BACK TO THE GUYS THAT ARE HERE AND YOU NEED TO GET A COPY OF THAT MESSAGE THAT WAS PREACHED. GOD DID A GREAT THING HERE LAST NIGHT. THE PRESENCE OF GOD WAS HERE, YOU COULD CUT IT WITH A KNIFE. AND I BELIEVE CARY PREACHED -- AND THIS IS NOT TO TAKE ANYTHING AWAY FROM HIM -- I BELIEVE HE PREACHED THE MOST ANOINTED MESSAGE HE'S EVER PREACHED. AND I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO HIM NOW FOR THREE YEARS AND SO I'VE HEARD HIS GOOD STUFF BUT THIS WAS MORE THAN CARY'S STUFF; GOD GAVE A WORD THROUGH HIM ABOUT CONFESSION. IT'S SO ESSENTIAL FOR THE CHURCH TODAY.

I BELIEVE GOD IS DOING A WORK OF BREAKTHROUGH IN THIS CHURCH; A WORK OF REVIVAL. WE'VE RE-TERMED IT BREAKTHROUGH, NOT BECAUSE REVIVAL IS NOT A GOOD TERM, its KIND OF BEEN USED SO MUCH. IT'S KIND OF LIKE THE WORD GAY WAS HIJACKED, YOU KNOW. THE WORD REVIVAL GOT HIJACKED ALONG THE WAY. IT'S THE IDEA OF TAKING HOLD OF THE LIFE CHRIST GIVES, THE LIFE CHRIST INTENDS FOR HIS PEOPLE TO LIVE.

A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO -- IT MAY HAVE BEEN LAST WEEK -- FOR THAT TO HAPPEN THERE MUST BE A RUTHLESSNESS IN OUR LIVES. YOU CANNOT TAKE HOLD OF WHAT GOD WANTS TO DO IN YOUR LIFE AND KEEP HOLD OF WHAT WAS IN YOUR LIFE BEFORE IT. MAJOR ADJUSTMENTS HAVE TO TAKE

PLACE. ARE YOU WITH ME MIKE? YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, MAJOR ADJUSTMENTS. WE HAVE A TENDENCY TO WANT TO HAVE 1 FOOT ON THE SHORE AND 1 FOOT IN THE BOAT. YOU HAVE TO COME OUT OF THIS WORLD AND BE SEPARATE. THIS IS NOT LEGALISM; THIS IS JUST THE WAY IT IS. NO MATTER HOW GOOD IT SEEMS; NO MATTER HOW SMALL IT SEEMS; NO MATTER HOW NECESSARY TO YOUR LIFE YOU THINK IT IS. IF IT IS STANDING IN THE WAY OF YOU AND GOD, IT HAS TO BE REMOVED. TO GET BACK TO FIRST THINGS -- LET ME TELL YOU WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOING TO DO. HE'S GOING TO STRIP THINGS OUT OF YOUR LIFE.

HAVE ANY OF YOU EVER BEEN GROUNDED? DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOUR MOM OR DAD WOULD SAY YOU'RE GROUNDED PAL. AND THEY WOULD GROUND YOU NOT BECAUSE THEY CAME IN ONE DAY AND SAID YOU KNOW WHAT, I DON'T LIKE THE WAY YOU LOOK, YOU'RE GROUNDED. USUALLY WHAT IT WAS IS YOU SPENT -- I'M GOING TO PUT IT IN THE MANACULAR TODAY BECAUSE WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT NINTENDO WAS. COME IN AND THE KIDS SPENT 4500 HOURS ON A GAME AND IS NOT PASSING MATH. THERE'S NO SENSE OF BALANCE. SO YOU COME IN AND SAY YOU KNOW WHAT, THE GAME COMES OUT OF YOUR ROOM PAL. I HAVE NEVER AT THAT MOMENT HAD MY SONS SAY THANK YOU DAD; I REALLY WAS WASTING MY LIFE. AT THAT MOMENT, HALO OR ALGEBRA. LET'S GO TO HALO. GOD SAYS NO, YOU'RE GROUNDED PAL. HE STRIPS WHAT IS STANDING IN THE WAY SO THAT GOD MAY DO A WORK THAT YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WAS POSSIBLE. IT IS LEARNING, AS A.W. TOZER SAID YEARS AGO, TO PUSH INTO GOD'S PRESENCE. AND IT'S NOT THAT GOD IS MAKING IT DIFFICULT, HE IS NOT. WHAT IS HAPPENING IS YOU'RE TRYING TO COME INTO GOD'S PRESENCE -- THERE IS ALL THIS STUFF THAT'S IN YOUR LIFE,

ALL THE STUFF THAT'S CALLING YOU, ALL THE STUFF THAT GOD SAYS PUSH THROUGH, PUSH THROUGH, PUSH THROUGH. PUSH INTO MY PRESENCE AND LIVE YOUR WHOLE LIFE THERE. IN ORDER TO EXPERIENCE THE KIND OF LIFE THAT CHRIST WANTS FOR YOUR LIFE, JESUS SAID YOU MUST EXPERIENCE THE LOSS OF ALL THINGS. PAUL SAID I HAVE LOST ALL THINGS THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST. WE DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT IN OUR MINDSET, IN AMERICAN CULTURE. SOME OF YOU ARE CONTRACTORS; SOME OF YOU ARE VERY GOOD WITH YOUR HANDS, YOU'VE BUILT HOMES AND YOU UNDERSTAND UGLY WORK HAS TO GO ON BEFORE THE PRETTY WORK HAPPENS. WHEN SOMEBODY IS DIGGING FOOTERS AND DOING ALL OF THAT STUFF YOU KNOW IT'S REALLY PRETTY BORING. BUT YOU KNOW, YOU HAVE TO DO THAT BEFORE THE WALLS GO UP; YOU HAVE TO DO THAT BEFORE YOU PICK THE PAINT; YOU HAVE TO DO THAT BEFORE YOU DO ALL OF THAT STUFF. RIGHT NOW GOD IS DOING THAT FOUNDATIONAL WORK; HE'S DOING THOSE FIRST THINGS AND THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE REAL PRETTY. AND SOME OF THE MESSAGE IS GOING TO BE HARD. THAT'S BECAUSE GOD IS HAVING TO HAVE TO DIG DEEP IN SOME OF OUR LIVES WHEN SOME OF US JUST WANT TO STAY ON THE SURFACE WHERE IT'S COMFORTABLE. THE FIRE OF GOD WANTS TO FALL. I BELIEVE WE EXPERIENCED SOME OF THAT LAST NIGHT. YOU KNOW WHAT? WAS IT BECAUSE THE ALTARS WERE FULL? NOT REALLY, THEY WEREN'T FULL LAST NIGHT. TWO OR THREE. IT'S BECAUSE GOD WAS DOING A WORK THAT YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE HOME AND DEAL WITH FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND MULL OVER AND THINK ABOUT AND THEN THERE IS GOING TO COME A DAY WHEN THE WALL CAME DOWN IN BERLIN WHEN IT FINALLY JUST CRUMBLED. IT DIDN'T COME DOWN ON THE DAY WHEN REAGAN SAID TEAR DOWN THIS WALL

BUT IT CAME DOWN ONE DAY. AND GOD WANTS TO TEAR DOWN WALLS. AND THE FIRE OF GOD WANTS TO COME THROUGH.

I LIVE AT THE GOLF COURSE AT OKEECHOBEE COUNTRY CLUB AND LET ME TELL YOU THAT SOUNDS MUCH MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN IT IS, OKAY? AND THE 18TH GREEN RUNS -- THE 18TH HOLE RUNS BACK THERE. A FEW YEARS AGO THE WOODS AROUND THE 17TH GREEN CAUGHT ON FIRE. NOW WHEN YOU LOOK OUT AND SEE FLAMES NOT THAT FAR FROM YOUR HOUSE, THERE IS A MOMENT WHEN YOU THINK HUH, NOW I KNOW WHAT THE PEOPLE IN CALIFORNIA THINK, THAT'S VERY CLOSE. AND SO WHEN I GOT OVER THERE I FULLY EXPECTED TO SEE THEM STANDING THERE WITH WATER HOSES PUTTING OUT -- YOU KNOW THAT WASN'T IT AT ALL; THEY WERE ACTUALLY PUTTING FIRE AROUND THE PERIMETER. AND I THOUGHT HUH, AND THEN THE GUY SAID SOMETHING, THIS IS A GOOD THING. WHAT THIS WILL DO IS BURN OUT ALL THAT UNDERGROWTH; THIS WILL BURN OUT ALL OF THAT DEADNESS; ALL OF THOSE WEEDS AND WHAT WILL COME UP FROM HERE IS A FRESH GROWTH THAT FOR THESE WOODS THEY WILL BE BETTER THAN THEY WERE BEFORE. FIRE IS A PURGING THING THAT PAVES THE PATH FOR A NEW THING. THAT'S HOW GOD WORKS. BUT IT'S HARD UP FRONT; IT'S HARD UP FRONT.

IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, I WANT TO DEAL WITH THE PHASES OF BREAKTHROUGH, THE PHASES OF REVIVAL. SOMETIMES THEY HAPPEN QUICKLY; SOMETIMES THEY HAPPEN OVER A LENGTH OF TIME. AND AS YOU ANALYZE, YOU CAN SEE THAT GOD TAKES YOU THROUGH CERTAIN PHASES. I WANT TO BEGIN TO DEAL WITH THAT.

PHASE NUMBER ONE. HERE IS WHAT WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND. GOD IS ON A MISSION. HIS HEART, HIS DESIRE, IS TO REDEEM A LOST WORLD INTO

RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH HIMSELF. NOT JUST MISS HELL. WELL I GOT SAVED AND I'M NOT GOING TO HELL. YOU ARE MISSING IT. HE'S NOT JUST WANTING YOU TO MISS HELL; HE'S TRYING TO REDEEM YOU TO COME INTO A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP, A RIGHT LOVING LIVING RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. AND THOSE WHO COME INTO THAT RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM, THEN HIS PASSION IS THAT THEY WOULD JOIN HIM ON THIS MISSION AND THEY WOULD BEGIN TO WORK IN THE HEARTS OF LOST PEOPLE, PEOPLE IN NEED AND THEY WOULD WORK RIGHT ALONG BESIDE THE FATHER. HE DOESN'T JUST WANT TO DO THIS WORK AND THEN YOU COME AND SIT AND DRINK COFFEE AND THEN YOU SIT AND SAY THAT A BOY GOD, YOU GO AT IT. HE WANTS YOU TO EXPERIENCE THE REAL LIFE WHEN YOU JOIN ME IN IT. THAT'S HOW IT STARTS.

WHY DID JESUS COME? JOHN 3:16, YOU KNOW IT, YOU CAN REPEAT IT WITH ME. FOR GOD SO LOVED -- HOW MUCH? THAT HE GAVE HIMSELF. NOT HE GAVE A FLUNKY; HE DIDN'T SEND SOME ANGEL; WHAT'S CLARENCE DOING? HE DIDN'T GET HIS WINGS YET, LET'S SEND HIM DOWN THERE. HE CAME HIMSELF, HE BECAME MAN. HE DID THIS, SO YOU COULD HAVE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE. YOU HAD NO HOPE BEFORE. YOU COULD NOT COME INTO HIS PRESENCE. THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO HOPE. HE CAME SO THERE WOULD BE HOPE; HOPE OF LIFE WITH HIM, ETERNAL LIFE. FOR WHO? FOR WHO EVER WILL BELIEVE WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE, WHOEVER. WE KNOW JOHN 3:16, BUT IT'S JOHN 3:17 SAYS SOMETHING JUST AS GREAT. HE DID NOT COME INTO THE WORLD TO CONDEMN THE WORLD. LUKE 19, AS WE SAW LAST NIGHT, HE CAME TO SEEK AND SAVE THAT WHICH WAS LOST. MARK 10 TELLS US HE DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED; HE DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED; HE CAME TO SERVE. AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM. WE HAD BEEN

TAKEN HOSTAGE BY SIN. WE HAD BEEN TAKEN -- THERE WAS NO WAY OUT. HE COMES AND SAID I'LL BE THE SUBSTITUTE; TAKE ME HOSTAGE. PUT ME IN THE PLACE; PUT ME TO DEATH, SO THEY MAY LIVE. WHY SUCH A RADICAL MISSION? WHY, WHY WOULD HE DO THAT? BECAUSE WE WERE IN SUCH A DESPERATE STATE FOLKS. ON ONE HAND, YOU HAVE THE HOLINESS OF GOD; ABSOLUTELY HOLY GOD OF SUCH ABSOLUTE HOLINESS THAT NOTHING OF SIN, ANYTHING CAN STAND BEFORE HIM. IT CANNOT COME BEFORE HIS PRESENCE. NO MAN CAN LOOK UPON HIM -- THE OLD TESTAMENT TELLS US REPEATEDLY -- CAN LOOK UPON HIM AND LIVE. AWESOME IN HIS HOLINESS. THE FEAR OF GOD WE TALKED ABOUT LAST WEEK BEING THE BEGINNING. WE ARE STANDING BEFORE AN AWESOMELY HOLY GOD THAT WE CAN NEVER COME IN THE PRESENCE OF. WE ARE ALL SINNERS. ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD. THAT MEANS YOU, NOT JUST YOUR WIFE, NOT JUST YOUR CHILDREN, YOU. AND THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH. AND THEN ON THE OTHER HAND YOU HAVE JESUS, YOU HAVE THE LOVE OF GOD. AND HE BRIDGES THAT GAP. THIS IS A WONDERFUL THING. THAT JESUS BECOMES MAN. GOD BECOMES MAN. OF SUCH UTTER PURITY; UTTER SINLESSNESS. AND NOW HE'S REACHING OUT TO YOU. HE COMES ON THAT CROSS AND HE TAKES THAT SIN; THAT THING THAT WAS STANDING IN THE WAY, HE ACTUALLY PUTS IT ON HIMSELF WHEN HE'S ON THAT CROSS, HE BEARS THAT, HE DIES AND THEN HE RAISES FROM THE DEAD, NOT TO JUST TAKE AWAY YOUR SIN BUT TO ACTUALLY DESTROY THE WHOLE BONDS OF DEATH. NOW THAT YOU'RE NOT EVEN TO FEAR SIN, YOU DON'T NEED TO FEAR THE DAY YOU LEAVE THIS WORLD. HE BREAKS THE BONDS OF DEATH; HE BREAKS THE BONDS OF THE ENEMY; HE BREAKS THE BONDS OF DARKNESS. JESUS CHRIST BRIDGES THAT

GAP BETWEEN THE HOLINESS OF GOD AND THE LOVE OF GOD. THEY ARE UNITED, THEY ARE SATISFIED. THE FEAR OF GOD MAKES US CRY OUT FOR DELIVERANCE WHICH IS FOUND IN THE LOVE OF GOD WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST. YOU KNOW THAT. MOST OF YOU SITTING HERE TRACKING ALONG WITH ME COULD HAVE TOLD ME, MAYBE NOT IN THE SAME WORDS, BUT YOU COULD HAVE TOLD ME JESUS CHRIST DIED ON A CROSS, YOU KNOW IT, I KNEW IT AT THE AGE OF EIGHT OR NINE, YOU COULD HAVE STOPPED ME ANYWHERE AND SAID JAMES, ARE YOU SAVED? AND I WOULD SAY JESUS CAME TO THIS WORLD, HE DIED ON A CROSS; HE TOOK THE SIN UPON THE CROSS; YOU HAVE TO PRAY TO RECEIVE HIM, I KNEW IT. BUT I DIDN'T KNOW IT. AND FAMILIARITY BREEDS CONTEMPT. WE'VE HEARD IT, WE'VE HEARD IT, AND WE'VE HEARD IT. YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, I GREW UP IN A PREACHER'S HOME. I HAD NO OPTION OF WHETHER I WAS GOING TO CHURCH. I DIDN'T SAY DAD I DON'T FEEL GOOD TODAY. SOUNDS LIKE A PERSONAL PROBLEM, YOU'RE GOING TO CHURCH. THERE WERE NO VCR'S AND DVD'S THEN. I NEVER GOT TO WATCH THE WIZARD OF OZ. YOU KNOW WHY? IT CAME ON ON SUNDAY NIGHT. UNLESS I PULLED UP LAME WITH LARYNGITIS 3 INCHES FROM DEATH, I DIDN'T GET TO WATCH DOROTHY WALK THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD. I DIDN'T REALLY GET TO SEE IT IN ITS ENTIRETY UNTIL I WAS IN MY 20'S. DAD, I DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING TO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE. DID I ASK YOU IF YOU FELT LIKE IT? I DON'T WANT TO GO TO REVIVAL SERVICE; I DON'T WANT TO SIT THERE WITH ALL THE BLUE HAired LADIES; I DON'T WANT TO GO TO REVIVAL SERVICE; I DON'T WANT TO SIT THERE AND GO THROUGH THIS. GET IN THE CAR! MY DAD WAS A BENEVOLENT DICTATOR. HE WAS NOT ELECTED. I CAME OUT OF THE WOMB WITH MY DAD SAYING, I AM THE BOSS! THAT'S THE INTRODUCTION. I WANT

TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING SO IMPORTANT TODAY THAT I'M GOING TO ASK AS AN OLD PREACHER FRIEND OF MINE USED TO SAY, PUT YOUR ANTENNAS TO THE TOP. I'M GOING TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING SO RELEVANT IN YOUR LIFE THAT FOR THE NEXT FEW MOMENTS, JUST LIKE THE OLD OUTER LIMITS, I WANT GOD TO HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OF YOUR TELEVISION SETS. ANTENNAS TO THE TOP.

LORD JESUS DEAL DEEPLY WITH US TODAY. LET US COME IN TO THE VERY QUESTION THAT MUST BE ASKED BEFORE WE LEAVE THIS WORLD. I KNOW THAT THERE ARE BUSY PEOPLE HERE TODAY LORD; I KNOW THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE THAT HAVE OTHER PLACES TO GO AND THINGS TO DO BUT FOR THIS MOMENT, WOULD YOU STOP THEM AND MAKE THEM LOOK IN THE LIGHT OF ETERNITY AND REALIZE THAT WHAT MUST HAPPEN RIGHT NOW MUST BE ASKED, IT CANNOT GO BEYOND THIS POINT, WE MUST ASK THIS QUESTION AND DEAL WITH IT TODAY. SPEAK DEEPLY IN OUR LIVES. WE PRAY THIS IN YOUR NAME.

THE GRACE OF GOD MAKES IT AVAILABLE FOR YOU AND ME TO COME TO HIM BY FAITH. IT IS BY GRACE THAT YOU'RE SAVED BY FAITH AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES. IT IS A GIFT OF GOD; NOT OF WORKS LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST. HE HAS DONE ALL THE WORK. BY FAITH, THE BIBLE TELLS ME THAT I ENTER INTO A RELATIONSHIP WHERE I AM ACTUALLY ENTERED INTO THE FAMILY. FIRST PETER TELLS ME THAT I NOW HAVE COME INTO A NEW BIRTH. IT'S EXACTLY WHAT JESUS TOLD NICODEMUS; THAT I HAVE COME INTO A NEW BIRTH; I AM MADE A NEW CREATION. I AM -- IT SAYS THERE IN FIRST PETER A NEW BIRTH INTO A LIVING HOPE. WHAT ABOUT THIS LIVING HOPE? IT TELLS ME I HAVE AN INHERITANCE THAT CANNOT PERISH; THAT CANNOT SPOIL; THAT

CANNOT FADE; KEPT IN HEAVEN BY FAITH, GUARDED BY THE POWER OF GOD. I HAVE ENTERED INTO A WHOLE NEW RELATIONSHIP. WHAT I WAS HAS BEEN CHANGED. I AM A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST. I HAVE BEEN MADE RIGHTEOUS AND HOLY. NOT ACCORDING TO MY RIGHTEOUS BUT HIS. I UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES OF IDENTITY AND SOME TIME THE LORD'S GOING TO LET ME PREACH ON THAT AND DEAL WITH THAT BUT THE DANGER IS THAT BY TEACHING THAT MANTRA AND GOING THROUGH IT, SOME OF US MAY HAVE CREATED A FALSE IMPRESSION AND AN ARROGANCE. BECAUSE THAT ONLY BRINGS ME TO THE POINT WHERE I CAN COME INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD. HERE'S THE QUESTION I WANT TO ASK YOU. CARY ASKED IT LAST WEEK. HAVE YOU BEEN BORN AGAIN? LET ME ASK YOU AGAIN. HAVE YOU BEEN BORN AGAIN?

I'D LIKE YOU TO TURN TO LUKE CHAPTER 8. JESUS DEALS WITH THIS IDEA THROUGH A PARABLE, A PARABLE OF THE SOWER. AND I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU TO LISTEN VERY INTENTLY TODAY AND ASK YOURSELF AND ANSWER THE QUESTION WHICH SOIL ARE YOU. THE SEED NEVER CHANGES. WHICH SOIL ARE YOU? LET'S START IN VERSE FOUR.

WHILE A LARGE CROWD WAS GATHERING AND PEOPLE WERE COMING TO JESUS FROM TOWN AFTER TOWN HE TOLD THIS PARABLE. A FARMER WENT OUT TO SOW HIS SEED. AS HE WAS SCATTERING THE SEED, SOME FELL A LONG THE PATH. IT WAS TRAMPLED ON AND THE BIRDS OF THE AIR ATE IT UP, THEY DEVoured IT. SOME FELL ON ROCK AND WHEN IT CAME UP THE PLANTS WITHERED BECAUSE THEY HAD NO MOISTURE. OTHER SEED FELL AMONG THORNS WHICH GREW UP WITH IT AND CHOKED THE PLANTS. STILL OTHER SEED FELL ON GOOD SOIL. IT CAME UP YIELDED A CROP A HUNDRED TIMES MORE THAN WHAT WAS SOWN. THEN HE SAID THIS TO THEM. WHEN HE SAID

THIS HE CALLED OUT. HE WHO HAS EARS TO HEAR LET HIM HEAR. VERSE 11. THIS IS THE MEANING OF THE PARABLE. THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD. THOSE ALONG THE PATH ARE THE ONES WHO HEAR. AND THEN THE DEVIL COMES AND TAKES AWAY THE WORD FROM THEIR HEARTS SO THAT THEY MAY NOT BELIEVE AND BE SAVED. THOSE ON THE ROCK ARE THE ONES WHO RECEIVE THE WORD WITH JOY, CIRCLE THAT, WITH JOY, BUT THEY HAVE NO ROOT. THEY BELIEVE FOR A WHILE BUT IN THE TIME OF TESTING THEY FALL AWAY. THE SEED THAT FELL AMONG THE THORNS STANDS FOR THOSE WHO HEAR BUT AS THEY GO ON THEIR WAY THEY ARE CHOKED BY LIFE'S WORRIES AND PLEASURES AND THEY DO NOT MATURE. BUT THE SEED SOWED ON GOOD SOIL STANDS FOR THOSE WITH A NOBLE AND GOOD HEART, WHO HEARS THE WORD, RETAINS IT AND BY PERSEVERING, PERSEVERING, PRODUCE A CROP. THE FIRST SOIL WAS THE TRAMPLED SOIL. IT SAYS IN THE STORY THAT AS THE SOWER WENT OUT AND THEY DID IT DIFFERENTLY IN THOSE DAYS THEY WOULD WALK ALONG THE FIELD AND THEY WOULD THROW IT, THEY WOULD THROW IT, THEY WOULD THROW IT OUT. AND AS THEY WOULD THROW IT, THE WIND WOULD BE BLOWING AND IT WOULD BE SCATTERED IN ALL DIRECTIONS. THERE WAS SOME THAT WOULD FALL UPON THE PATH ON WHICH THE SOWER WAS WALKING.

IT WOULD BE TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT; IT WOULD BE DRIVEN INTO THE GROUND. THE BIRDS OF THE AIR WOULD COME AND DEVOUR AND WOULD TAKE IT BEFORE IT HAD ANY CHANCE TO DO ANYTHING. IT'S VERY CLEAR WHO THAT IS. IT'S THE PERSON WHO HEARS THE WORD IN WHATEVER FORM, MAYBE FROM A COWORKER, MAYBE FROM A PREACHING SITUATION LIKE THIS, WHATEVER IT IS, WHO HEARS THE WORD BUT THE MOMENT IT'S HEARD IT IS

STOLEN AWAY. BECAUSE THE HEART IS A PATH, IT IS A FREEWAY, A HIGHWAY, THROUGH WHICH THE VERY COURSE OF THIS WORLD RUNS. THERE IS A DRIVENNESS IN THIS THINKING THAT NO MATTER WHAT GOES IN IT, IT'S ALL ABOUT ME, IT'S ALL ABOUT MY STUFF, IT'S ALL ABOUT WORK, IT'S ALL ABOUT THIS AND I AM SO DRIVEN BY THIS WORLD I CANNOT SEE THE SPIRITUAL. I CARE NOTHING FOR THE SPIRITUAL. I JUST WANT WHAT I WANT. THE PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR DEMONSTRATED BY THE BIRDS OF THE AIR, COMES AND IMMEDIATELY AND SNATCHES IT AWAY AND IT NEVER MAKES AN IMPACT. IT IS NOT THAT THE PERSON HAS NOT HEARD; THEY SIMPLY HAVE NO INTEREST; THEY HAVE NO DESIRE. IT'S JUST A WALL AND THEY WANT NOTHING ABOUT IT.

THEN THERE'S THE ROCKY SOIL AND I WANT TO CAMP OUT HERE FOR A MINUTE. THE ROCKY SOIL IS THE IDEA THAT AS THE SOWER IS GOING AND THROWING THE SEED, AND HE'S TOSSING IT, IT FALLS ON WHAT LOOKS LIKE GOOD GROUND. IT MAY LOOK LIKE THAT BELLE GLADE STUFF, JUST RICH AND BLACK AND YOU MAY THINK MAN WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SOMETHING. BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. IT SAYS THERE WAS NO DEPTH OF SOIL IN MATTHEW 13 AND MARK 4 OF THE SAME PARABLE. IT TELLS US THAT IT WAS SHALLOW AND WHAT WAS UNDER THE SHALLOW GROUND WAS A LAYER OF LIMESTONE THAT WAS JUST AS HARD ROCK AS THE PATH WAS. JUST AS HARD. BUT YOU CAN'T SEE IT ON THE SURFACE. WHEN HE THROWS IT OUT, HE THROWS OUT THE SEED AND A FEW WEEKS LATER, WHAT LOOKS LIKE SEEMING TO BE SOMETHING COMING UP, THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME GROWTH COMING UP, IT SEEMS PROMISING. AND IT SAYS IN MATTHEW 13 AND MARK 4 THAT WHEN THE SUN COMES UP IT DRIES OUT THAT MOISTURE AND IT WITHERS AWAY BECAUSE

IT HAS NO ROOT, IT HAS NOTHING TO CLING TO, IT WAS ALL SURFACE. IT HAD NO SUBSTANCE. THIS IS THE ONE WHO HEARS THE WORD AND THEY HEAR IT. MAYBE IT HITS THEM IN A CERTAIN TIME IN THEIR LIFE AND THEY ARE DESPERATE. MAYBE THERE ARE A CHILD WHO HEARS IT AND THEY SAY YEAH OKAY, THEY SEEM TO RECEIVE IT WITH JOY. THEY COME UP, THEY PRAY A PRAYER, WE CALL PEOPLE ON THE PHONE, JOE GOT SAVED, JOHNNY GOT SAVED, SUE GOT SAVED. WERE SO EXCITED. WERE SHOUTING HALLELUJAH, THE LOST LAMB HAS COME HOME. WERE SO EXCITED, IT'S GREAT, IT'S A WONDERFUL! IT'S WONDERFUL! AND THEY COME FOR TWO OR THREE WEEKS AND THEY'RE SITTING THERE AND THEY SEEM TO BE TRACKING AND SLOWLY ABOUT THREE MONTHS LATER, THE FBI CAN'T FIND THEM. WHEN YOU SEE THEM IN TOWN, THEY SEE YOU AND THEY DUCK; THEY SEE PASTOR CARY COMING AND THEY TRY TO HIDE; THEY DON'T WANT ANYBODY TO SEE THEM. THEY KNOW THEY HAVE GONE BACK TO THE OLD STUFF. THEY REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT. THEIR HEART IS JUST AS HARD AS IT WAS BEFORE. IN FACT NOW IT'S HARDER. THEY WENT THROUGH THE CHURCH THING AND NOTHING CHANGED. I PRAYED THE PRAYER AND GOD DID NOTHING; I CAME TO CHURCH AND IT WAS STILL THE SAME; I DIDN'T HAVE ANY HEALING FROM MY PAIN; MY MARRIAGE DIDN'T GET BETTER; I DIDN'T GET THIS; I'VE PUT IN MY QUARTER AND NOTHING CAME OUT. I'M DONE WITH THAT CHURCH THING. DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN BOB DYLAN GOT SAVED BACK IN THE 70'S? I'VE GOT TO SERVE SOMEBODY. OH, HE PUT OUT A WHOLE CHRISTIAN ALBUM. BOB DYLAN GOT SAVED. EVERYBODY'S EXCITED. WHERE IS THAT NOW? WHERE IS THAT NOW? AND SO MANY, NOW LISTEN, THIS IS IT, HERE ME NOW. THERE ARE MANY MANY MANY WHO HAVE HAD A RELIGIOUS

EXPERIENCE, AN EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE, BUT THEY HAVE NEVER RECEIVED CHRIST. WHY? BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO ROOT. IT LOOKS GOOD FOR A WHILE BUT THEN THE SUN CAME UP. TESTING COMES; TRIBULATION COMES; MAYBE THE PROBLEM THAT BROUGHT THEM TO CHURCH IS OVER. THEY HAVE GONE THROUGH THE SEPARATION AND THE DIVORCE AND NOW THEY FOUND SOMEBODY ELSE AND THEY FEEL GOOD. THEIR FINANCIAL TROUBLE HAS ENDED. MAYBE THINGS HAVEN'T GOT WORSE; THEY'VE GOTTEN BETTER. SOMETHING HAS CAUSED THEM TO GO HUH AND THEY'VE WALKED AWAY. THEY HAD A RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE. ACTUALLY THE WORD FALL AWAY, THE OLD KING JAMES IN MATTHEW 13 AND MARK 4 USED THE WORD OFFENDED. IT ACTUALLY MEANS TO DESERT, AS IN DESERTING THE ARMY. IT LITERALLY MEANS GOING TOWARD APOSTASY. THEY JUST RUN AWAY. WHY? BECAUSE THEY HAD A RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE. CAN YOU HAVE A RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE WITHOUT JESUS? THEY DO IN ISLAM ALL THE TIME. ASK THE BUDDHISTS. THEY HAD A VISION, SOMETHING HAPPENED. RELIGIONS HAVE IT ALL THE TIME. THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE IN CHURCHES. YOU HAVE SEEN THEM. THEY COME AND THEY CRY AT THE ALTAR. THEY GET UP AND YOU CAN SEE IT IN THEIR FACES WHEN THEY GET UP FROM THE ALTAR, THEY ARE ABSOLUTELY EMBARRASSED. DON'T TALK TO ME NOW, I REALLY FEEL STUPID. AND NOW THEY SAY HOW CAN I BACK OUT OF THIS, I DID SOMETHING STUPID. BECAUSE THEY HAD A RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE. THEY WERE NOT SAVED. WELL JAMES, I'VE BEEN SAVED -- WILL NOW WAIT A MINUTE -- BY BEING SAVED YOU MEAN YOU RAISED A HAND, YOU WALKED THE AISLE; YOU PRAYED A REPEATED PRAYER, REPEAT AFTER ME. YOU SIGNED A CARD; YOU GOT BAPTIZED; YOU JOINED A CHURCH. IF THAT'S

WHAT YOU MEAN BY BEING SAVED, THEN THAT IS NOT EVIDENCE OF SALVATION. THE EVIDENCE OF SALVATION IS A TRANSFORMED LIFE. THE EVIDENCE OF SALVATION IS THE FIRE OF GOD COMING INTO A LIFE AND BURNING WITHIN YOU AND NO MATTER HOW FAR YOU THINK YOU CAN STRAY, THERE IS SOMETHING AT THE CORE OF YOUR LIFE THAT IS NEVER EVER EVER GOING TO BE LIKE IT WAS BEFORE. THAT'S WHY HE SAYS, AFTER THAT PARABLE, THAT WHICH IS -- YOU DON'T LIGHT A CANDLE AND PUT IT UNDER A BED. THAT IS ABSOLUTELY USELESS. WHAT EVER IS IN THE SECRET PLACES WILL BE BROUGHT TO LIGHT. HE WHO HAS EARS TO HEAR LET HIM HEAR. YOU WERE ONCE DARKNESS PAUL SAYS IN EPHESIANS. PETERS SAYS IN FIRST PETER, YOU WERE ONCE DARKNESS, YOU ARE NOW LIGHT. PAUL SAYS LIVE AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT. THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE; THIS IS WHAT YOU ARE NOW. THIS IS A NEW BIRTH INTO A LIVING HOPE, NOT A REGISTRATION INTO A DEAD RELIGION. YOU WILL NEVER EVER BE THE SAME. HOW TO I KNOW? EIGHT YEARS OLD, I WALKED AN AISLE. MY BUDDY GRADY WENT. IT WAS COMMENCEMENT AT VBS. HOW MANY OF YOU USED TO GO TO VBS? YOU GO -- I WENT THROUGH VBS. VBS USED TO BE FOR TWO WEEKS. THE BUS WOULD COME AND PICK US UP. IT WAS VBS TIME THEY DID FLANNEL GRAPH, I WAS ONE OF THE KIDS, I WOULD SIT AND LISTEN TO THEM AND SAY THAT'S JESUS ON THE CROSS. I KNEW THE STORY, MY GOODNESS I'VE BEEN CARRIED TO CHURCH ALL MY LIFE. COMMENCEMENT CAME AT EIGHT YEARS OLD. MY BUDDY GRADY WALKS THE AISLE. GRADY WAS LIKE CHUCK NORRIS TO ME BABY, HE WAS IT. HE WAS THE PIED PIPER. GRADY WAS TWO OR 3 INCHES, HE WAS MY BUDDY HE WAS MY HERO. IF GRADY'S GOING, I'M GOING. SO GRADY GOES DOWN TO THE ALTAR AND THERE SITS OLD PREACHER ANDERSON. YOU

KNOW I DIDN'T REMEMBER HIS NAME UNTIL THE LAST SERVICE. I TOLD JOHN I COULDN'T REMEMBER WHO IT WAS. OLD PREACHER ANDERSON WAS ABOUT 180. OKAY? HE WAS PROBABLY ONLY IN HIS 70'S BUT TO ME AT EIGHT YEARS OLD THIS GUY, YOU KNOW, HE WAS AT CREATION. HE WAS THE INTERIM PREACHER. GRADY WALKS UP IN FRONT OF ME AND GOES TO PREACHER ANDERSON AND GOES, AND PREACHER ANDERSON IN A REAL SOUTHERN DRAWL SAYS WHY HAVE YOU COME SON? PREACHER VOICE, WHY HAVE YOU COME, SON? AND I HEARD GRADY WHISPER IN HIS HEAR. (WHISPER SOUND) AND HE LOOKS AT ME AND SAYS WHY HAVE YOU COME SON AND I WENT (SOUND). I KNEW I SHOULDN'T SAY BECAUSE OF MY BUDDY GRADY. I'VE BEEN IN CHURCH LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT. AND HE SAYS GREAT, REPEAT THIS PRAYER AFTER ME. WHAT'S THAT ABOUT? I AM REPEATING THIS PRAYER AFTER HIM. HE COULD HAVE ASKED ME TO REPEAT THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG AT THAT MOMENT. HE PRONOUNCES ME SAVED. MOM AND DOWN COME DOWN, THEY PLACE THEIR HANDS ON ME; THERE ARE SO EXCITED ABOUT ME. I GO THROUGH NEW MEMBERS CLASS; I GET BAPTIZED AND FIVE WEEKS LATER AND I HAVE BEEN STAMPED FDA APPROVED. I AM PART OF THE BODY. I NOW CAN TAKE COMMUNION. WHEN THE GRAPE JUICE COMES I DON'T HAVE TO SAY SORRY I DON'T WANT ANY PART OF THE GRAPE JUICE. AS TIME WENT ON IT'S JUST A STORY. I'D HEAR IT AND I KNEW IT. TIME WENT ON MORE VBS'S CAME AND I TURNED IN MY TEENS TO 12 AND 13 AND AS SOON AS VBS WAS OVER FOR THE OLDER ONES, WE ALL JUMP IN A CAR AND GET OUT OF THERE AS FAST AS WE COULD AND WE'D ALL TRY AND SAY AS MANY PROFANE THINGS AT ONE TIME AS WE COULD. IT WAS LIKE WE HAD TO TAKE THE SHACKLES OFF ALL THAT GOODNESS AND WE HAD TO JUST GET EVIL

FOR A MINUTE. WE ALL HAD TO SAY OUR STUFF JUST FOR A MINUTE. WE ALL HAD TO GET A BOTTLE OF STUFF AND PASS IT AROUND. YOU KNOW HOW IT IS. SOME OF YOU ARE LIKE HUH! THANK YOU BETHANY. YOU BETTER NOT. (LAUGHTER)

AT 15 YEARS OLD I WAS SITTING IN A REVIVAL SERVICE; I DIDN'T WANT TO GO. MAX REESE WAS THE EVANGELIST. YOU HAD TO KNOW MAX. MAX WORE PINK JACKETS, WHITE SHOES. HE HAD THE EVANGELIST HAIR. HE TOLD THE -- THE -- THE -- CORNIEST JOKES. I MEAN JOKES THAT THEY TOLD BACK ON THE ARK. AND THEY STILL LAUGH. HE TOLD THIS LAST YEAR. STOP! AND THEN CAME THE NIGHT WHEN HE PREACHED ON THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST. AND HE MADE A STATEMENT THAT NIGHT, HE SAID, IF YOU ARE BORN AGAIN, YOU'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRIST COMING BACK AND IT SCARED THE DAYLIGHTS OUT OF ME. BECAUSE I KNEW I WASN'T READY. OH, I HAD BEEN TO THE ALTARS SO MANY TIMES I FELT LIKE A YO YO. I HAD GONE TO YOUTH CAMPS; I HAD THROWN MY STICK IN THE FIRE. NOTHING CHANGED. THAT NIGHT AT 15, I WENT TO THAT ALTAR AND I MEAN THE FEAR OF GOD AND I KNELT DOWN AND I SAID GOD, NO MORE GAMES, NO MORE GAMES. YOU ARE LORD. SOMETHING IN MY LIFE CHANGED. NOW I WENT TO THAT ALTAR A 15 YEAR OLD BOOGERHEAD. AND WHEN I STOOD UP FROM THAT ALTAR, I WAS A CHILD OF THE LIVING GOD AND I DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED. I STOOD UP FROM THERE. ALL MY LIFE I HAD BEEN READING THE BIBLE. IT WAS LIKE HIEROGLYPHICS. MY FATHER GAVE US THIS THING HE WAS GOING TO GIVE US \$10 EVERY TIME WE READ THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT. JOHN MADE ABOUT 60 BUCKS THAT SUMMER AND I NEVER GOT PAST THE BOOK OF MATTHEW MY GOODNESS. IT'S LIKE THE ILIAD AND THE ODYSSEY, CAN THIS

GET ANY MORE BORING? THE THEES, AND THIS IS THE OLD KING JAMES, NOT THIS NEW STUFF. THIS WAS THE THESE, THOUS THE WITHEREST, THE GOEST. YOU KNOW WHAT I 'M SAYING AND I'M SAYING WHO TALKS LIKE THIS? COULDN'T WAIT TO GET OUT OF CHURCH. AND WHEN MY DAD WOULD PREACH, HE SOUNDED LIKE CHARLIE BROWN'S TEACHER WHA, WHA, WHA WHA. ANY OF YA'LL GETTING THIS? I STOOD UP FROM THAT ALTAR THAT NIGHT AND I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HAD HAPPENED. I JUST KNEW THAT WHEN I LEFT THERE THE WORLD WAS DIFFERENT. I REMEMBER GOING INTO MY ROOM THAT NIGHT AND LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW DOWN TWAIN ROAD AND I SAID I'M GOING TO HEAVEN WHEN I DIE. AND I DIDN'T KNOW HOW I KNEW IT. THE NEXT DAY I PICKED UP A BIBLE, KING JAMES ENGLISH AND I UNDERSTOOD EVERY WORD OF IT. THE ROSETTA STONE HAD MOVED IN AND HIEROGLYPHICS MADE SENSE. AND I HAVE NEVER EVER BEEN THE SAME. I'VE WONDERED AND I'VE FALLEN BUT I'VE NEVER EVER BEEN THE SAME FROM THAT MOMENT. I'VE TRIED TO RUN AWAY FROM GOD AND HE WON'T LET ME GO. YOU'RE NOT SAVED BY AN EXPERIENCED. YOU'RE SAVED BY BEING BORN AGAIN. YET SO MANY HAVE COME TO CHRIST AND NOTHING HAS CHANGED. AND YOU'RE BORED WITH IT. YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOD WHO CREATED THIS UNIVERSE HAS MOVED IN, THAT EVERYTHING CHANGES NOW? THERE'S GOING TO BE A DESIRE TO WORSHIP; THERE'S GOING TO BE A DESIRE TO OBEY. I HAD ALL THE THESE BIBLE VERSES FOR YOU. I WAS GOING TO SHOW YOU HOW MUCH I KNEW. I HAD GONE TO THE CONCORDANCE FOR HOURS AND LAST NIGHT AS CARY IS PREACHING, HE TOOK ME TO FIRST JOHN AND I JUST WANT TO READ WHAT ONE BOOK OF THE BIBLE SAYS, FIRST JOHN WHICH IS ALL ABOUT HOW YOU CAN KNOW. FIRST JOHN CHAPTER 2 VERSE

THREE. WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE COME TO KNOW HIM IF WE OBEY HIS COMMANDS. THE MAN WHO SAYS I KNOW HIM BUT DOES NOT DO WHAT HE COMMANDS IS A LIAR. I DIDN'T WRITE THIS. WHO'S HE LYING TO? MOSTLY TO HIMSELF AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN HIM. BUT IF ANYONE OBEYS HIS WORD, GOD'S LOVE IS TRULY MADE COMPLETE IN HIM. THIS IS HOW WE KNOW WE ARE IN HIM WHOEVER CLAIMS TO LIVE IN HIM MUST WALK AS JESUS WALKED. CHAPTER 3 VERSE 7. DEAR CHILDREN, DO NOT LET ANYONE LEAD YOU ASTRAY. HE WHO DOES WHAT IS RIGHT IS RIGHTEOUS JUST AS HE IS RIGHTEOUS. HE WHO DOES WHAT IS SINFUL IS OF THE DEVIL. BECAUSE THE DEVIL HAS BEEN SINNING FROM THE BEGINNING. THE REASON THE SON APPEARED WAS NOT SO YOU COULD ESCAPE HELL. IT WAS TO DESTROY THE DEVIL'S WORK, THE WORKS OF DARKNESS. IT WAS NOT SO YOU WOULD HAVE FIRE INSURANCE. IT WAS SO HE WOULD MAKE YOU A NEW CREATION. SECOND PETER CHAPTER 1 SAYS YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE DIVINE NATURE. SECOND CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 5, YOU ARE A NEW CREATION. IF YOU LOVE HIM YOU WILL OBEY HIM. NO ONE WHO IS BORN OF GOD WILL CONTINUE TO SIN, WILL NOT CONTINUE, WILL NOT GO BACK TO IT, NOT KEEP GOING BACK TO THAT OLD LIFE BECAUSE GOD'S SEED, THE NEW LIFE HAS COME IN AND IT REMAINS WITH HIM. IT WILL NOT GO AWAY, IT WILL REMAIN. HE CANNOT GO ON SINNING BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN BORN OF GOD. THIS IS HOW WE KNOW WHO THE CHILDREN OF GOD ARE AND WHO THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL ARE. ANYONE WHO DOES NOT DO WHAT IS RIGHT IS NOT A CHILD OF GOD NOR IS ANYONE WHO DOES NOT LOVE HIS BROTHER. WHEW!! BUT MAMA SAID I'M SAVED. OH JAMES I'VE MADE A DECISION. WHAT DID YOU MAKE A DECISION TO DO? DID YOU MAKE A DECISION BECAUSE YOU HAD PHYSICAL AND

EMOTIONAL PAIN AND YOU DID NOT WANT TO HAVE IT ANYMORE? DID YOU MAKE A DECISION TO HAVE A BETTER LIFE OR A BETTER MARRIAGE? DID YOU NOT WANT TO BE DEPRESSED ANYMORE? DID YOU WANT TO GET RID OF YOUR ANXIETY? WE'VE GOTTEN A GOSPEL TODAY THAT SAYS COME TO CHRIST -- I ACTUALLY READ SOMETHING THIS WEEK WHERE SOMEONE WAS SAYING SOME ONE COULD COME TO CHRIST AND PRAY; THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE TO KNOW THEY ARE A SINNER AS LONG AS THEY PUT THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST. YOU WILL NOT FIND THAT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. DID YOU COME BECAUSE MAMA WAS EXPECTING IT? BECAUSE DADDY WAS STANDING THERE AND YOU WERE TRYING TO GET HIM OFF YOUR BACK? AND NOW AT 17, 18, 20, YOU CAN'T WAIT TO GET OUT OF THAT HOUSE BECAUSE YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY SICK OF IT. DID YOU GO BECAUSE YOUR WIFE WAS EXPECTING IT? DID YOU GO BECAUSE YOUR HUSBAND WOULD NOT GET OFF YOUR BACK? DID YOU GO TO MISS HELL? YOU'RE NOT SAVED BY AN EXPERIENCE. SAVING FAITH IS PUTTING THE WHOLE OF MY BEING IN TO THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST.

I WANT TO READ SOMETHING TO YOU BY A MAN NAMED A.W. TOZER, PROBABLY ONE OF THE GREATEST PREACHERS OF THE 20TH CENTURY. IT IS ALTOGETHER DOUBTFUL WHETHER ANY MAN CAN BE SAVED WHO COMES TO CHRIST FOR HIS HELP BUT WITH NO INTENTION TO OBEY HIM. CHRIST SAVIOR HOOD IS FOREVER UNITED TO HIS LORDSHIP. LOOK AT THE SCRIPTURES. IF YOU SHALL CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH THE LORD JESUS AND SHALL BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU SHALL BE SAVED. FOR THE SAME LORD OVER ALL IS RICH UNTO ALL THAT CALL UPON HIM FOR WHOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED. PETER, ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST, WE PREACH TO YOU THAT THIS IS

JESUS BOTH LORD AND CHRIST. AND WHEN THE PHILIPPAN JAILER ASKS THE WAY TO BE SAVED, PAUL REPLIED BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND YOU SHALL BE SAVED. HE DID NOT TELL HIM TO BELIEVE ON THE SAVIOR WITH THE THOUGHT THAT HE COULD COME LATER AND TAKE UP THE MATTER OF LORDSHIP AND SETTLE THAT AT HIS OWN CONVENIENCE. TO PAUL THERE WAS NO DIVISION. CHRIST MUST BE LORD OR HE WILL NOT BE SAVIOR. PLAIN HORSE SENSE OUGHT TO TELL US THAT ANYONE WHO MAKES NO CHANGE, ANYTHING THAT MAKES NO CHANGE IN THE MAN AND WHO PROFESSES IT, IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO GOD EITHER. AND IT IS AN EASILY OBSERVABLE FACT THAT FOR COUNTLESS NUMBERS OF BELIEVERS OR PERSONS, THE CHANGE FROM NO FAITH TO FAITH HAS MADE NO ACTUAL DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES. ANY PROFESSED FAITH IN CHRIST AS PERSONAL SAVIOR THAT DOES NOT BRING THE LIFE UNDER ABSOLUTE OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST AS LORD IS INADEQUATE AND MUST PORTRAY ITS VICTIM AT THE LAST. THE MAN WHO BELIEVES WILL OBEY. FAILURE TO OBEY IS CONVINCING PROOF THAT THERE IS NOT TRUE FAITH PRESENT. WHERE REAL REPENTANCE IS, THERE IS OBEDIENCE. FOR REPENTANCE IS NOT ONLY SORROW FOR PAST FAILURES AND SINS, IT IS A DETERMINATION TO BEGIN NOW TO DO THE WILL OF GOD AS HE REVEALS IT TO US.

I USED TO HEAR WHEN I WAS A KID, YOU WILL COME TO CHRIST AS SAVIOR AND THERE WILL COME A DAY WHEN YOU MAKE HIM LORD. YOU GET THE PACKAGE FOLKS, THE WHOLE DEAL. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE LIGHTS HAVE TO GO ON ALONG THE WAY IN UNDERSTANDING IT BUT YOU CANNOT COME BY SAYING LORD I'M GOING TO COME TO YOU BUT LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING, I JUST WANT YOU TO TAKE CARE OF THIS; I DO NOT INTEND TO OBEY YOU; I DO

NOT INTEND TO DO ANYTHING YOU TELL ME TO DO; I'M SIMPLY COMING TO YOU BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO DO THIS FOR ME AND IF YOU DON'T DO THIS FOR ME, I'M WALKING AWAY. WHAT IS THAT? AND YET IN A DESIRE TO GET PEOPLE TO MAKE DECISIONS, WE HAVE PREACHED A CHEAP GRACE. THIS GRACE COST JESUS HIS LIFE.

HERE'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY AND THE ISSUE. THERE IS A DANGER OF SOME PEOPLE BANKING VERY TOO MUCH ON A CHILDHOOD PROFESSION OR A CRISIS DECISION. NOW SOMEBODY IS GOING TO GET MAD AT ME AND COME UP AND SAY NOW I CAN TELL YOU THAT WHEN LITTLE JOHNNY PRAYED AT THE AGE OF THREE HE MEANT IT AND NOW HE IS A MISSIONARY IN MONGOLIA. BUT I CAN SHOW YOU 15 WHO PRAYED A PRAYER AT THE AGE OF SIX OR SEVEN WHO COULD NOT WAIT TILL THE TIME THEY WERE TEENAGERS TO GET OUT. THAT SAT AND HEARD IT AND HEARD IT AND THEIR HEARTS GOT HARDER AND HARDER AND THEY WANTED ABSOLUTELY NOTHING AND BY THE TIME THEY GOT 18, BY THE TIME THEY GOT 20, THEY TRIED TO RUN AS FAST AS THEY COULD AND MOM AND DAD KEEP TRYING TO SAY DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU RECEIVED CHRIST, DON'T DO THAT! THIS GOT SO MUCH OF MY LIFE. THIS QUESTION WHEN CARY BROUGHT IT UP THE OTHER WEEK IT GRIPPED ME. I STARTED GOING TO MY SONS AND MY CHILDREN AND SAID HAVE YOU BEEN BORN AGAIN. I KNOW THEY PRAYED A PRAYER. I WAS THERE WHEN THEY DID IT. BUT WHAT BEGAN TO MAKE SENSE TO ME IS MY SONS MAY HAVE PRAYED A PRAYER BUT HAVE THEY BEEN BORN AGAIN. THIS IS THE PROBLEM IN THE CHURCH TODAY. I'VE SPENT 20 YEARS IN CHURCHES WHERE SOMEONE WOULD COME DOWN TO THE ALTAR, TAKE THE PREACHER'S HAND, THE PREACHER WOULD GO THROUGH A PRAYER; THE PREACHER WOULD SAY JOE HAS COME

DOWN FOR SALVATION. HEY THIS IS WONDERFUL. CAN WE RECEIVE HIM INTO THE CHURCH TODAY? WAIT FOR THE SUN TO COME UP! WAIT FOR THE SUN TO COME UP! THIS MAY NOT BE REAL. NOW JAMES WAIT A MINUTE. I MADE A DECISION. I KNOW THAT WHEN THAT CRISIS DECISION IN MY LIFE, WHEN I LOST ALL MY MONEY, WHEN MY WIFE LEFT ME, WHEN MY HUSBAND LEFT ME, WHEN THIS HAPPENS, WHEN I GOT CANCER, I KNOW THAT WHEN I CAME AND I PRAYED, I KNOW HE BECAME LORD OF MY LIFE. GREAT. BUT I CAN SHOW YOU PERSON AFTER PERSON AFTER 20 YEARS THAT HAVE SAT IN MY OFFICE AND AS I HAVE TRIED TO TALK TO THEM ABOUT WHAT THEY NEED TO DO, THE LIGHTS ARE NOT ON. THEY HAVE NO INTENTION TO OBEY GOD. THEY HAVE NO INTENTION. THEY SIMPLY WANT ME TO PRAY AN ABRA CADABRA PRAYER OVER THEM; THEY WANT ME TO GIVE THEM A FEW PSYCHOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES AND LET THEM GO OUT GIVING THEM THE ASSURANCE THEY ARE SAVED. AND THEY ARE NOT.

I REMEMBER A FEW YEARS AGO I SAT WITH A MAN WHO WAS IN AN AFFAIR AND HE TRIED TO ASSURE ME WEEK AFTER WEEK THAT HE WAS SAVED AND I CAN TELL YOU THE SPIRITUAL LIGHTS WERE NOT ON . AND WE HAVE DONE THAT TO PERSON AFTER PERSON AFTER PERSON.

THE NEXT SOIL – LISTEN TO ME—I'M JUST GOING TO TOUCH ON IT CAUSE I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE – WAS THE THORNY. THEY WOULD HEAR THE WORD AND THEY RECEIVED IT AND IT WAS REAL BUT THE FRUIT NEVER COMES TO MATURITY; THAT'S DIFFERENT THAN THE NO ROOTERS. THE NO ROOTERS HAS NO SOIL; THERE'S NOTHING AND THERE ARE SOME THAT FRUIT. IT'S STUNTED, IT'S BLIGHTED, THERE'S NOTHING THERE. BECAUSE WHY? IT SAYS THE THORNS CHOKES IT; THE CARES OF THIS WORLD,

THE RICHES; THE PLEASURES HAVE DIVIDED THE HEART; HAVE SPLIT THE HEART. YOU'VE GOT ONE FOOT ON SHORE AND ONE IN THE BOAT AND THE IN BETWEEN PART IS MISERABLE. YOU THINK YOU CAN PLAY HERE AND WORSHIP HERE AND GOD'S SAYING CHOSE ONE OR THE OTHER. THERE IS NO JOY IN THE MIDDLE. THE NO ROOTERS – I MEAN EXCUSE ME THE THORNY BELIEVERS MAY BE THE ONES WHO SIT HERE EVERY WEEK, RAISE HANDS AT WORSHIP; SAY AMEN; THIS IS A WONDERFUL THING; READ THEIR BIBLES; HAVE A DEVOTIONAL TIME BUT THE WORRIES OF THIS WORLD; THE ANXIETIES AND THE FEARS; THE BITTERNESS; THE OPPRESSION OF THIS WORLD IS CRIPPLING THEM. WEEK AFTER WEEK THEY GO TO CHURCH BUT MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY IT'S ALL ABOUT WORSHIPPING THE ALMIGHTY DOLLAR AND HOPING GOD IS GOING TO GIVE THEM ENOUGH TO LIVE ON. THEY'RE LIVING FOR THE NEXT TRIP; THE NEXT PILL; THE NEXT VACATION; THE NEXT TOY; THE NEXT PLAY THING TO HELP THEM ESCAPE THE ANXIETY OF THEIR LIVES; OH THEY'RE CHRISTIANS BUT THEIR LITTLE FRUIT IS ABOUT THIS BIG.

JOHN USED TO HAVE A TREE IN HIS YARD; IT WAS AN APPLE TREE AND THE APPLES WERE ABOUT THAT BIG. SOMEBODY SAID OH YOU COULD GET GOOD APPLES OUT OF THAT IF YOU WOULD PRUNE THAT THING BACK. I DON'T WANT TO PRUNE IT BACK; I WANT TO HAVE IT ALL; THE MASS; I WANT TO HAVE IT ALL; I WANT TO HAVE THE FRUIT – I WANT 1 FOOT HERE AND 1 FOOT HERE. THAT'S DIFFERENT THAN THE NO ROOTERS. THIS IS THE PERSON WHO WILL COME AND HEAR A MESSAGE LIKE THIS AND SAY I WANT IT BUT I GOT ALL THIS STUFF IN MY LIFE. YES THEY'RE STRUGGLING; THEY'RE STRESSED; THEY'RE ANXIOUS; THEY'VE GOT ALL THIS STUFF IN THEIR LIFE BUT THE FIRE'S LIT; OH IT MAY BE FLICKERING LOW, THERE'S A LIGHT ON. THE NO ROOTERS, THERE'S

NO FIRE. SO WHICH ARE YOU? I'M GOING TO MAKE A STATEMENT. IT MAY MAKE SOME ANGRY BUT LISTEN TO ME. I GET WEARY OF BEING CALLED I DIDN'T DO ENOUGH; I DIDN'T FOLLOW ENOUGH; I DIDN'T SEEK ENOUGH; I DIDN'T CALL ENOUGH; LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING. IF THERE'S A REAL FIRE I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO RUN AFTER YOU; YOU SHOULD BE RUNNING AFTER THIS. IF I'VE GOT TO CHASE YOU DOWN EVERY WEEK, IF I'VE GOT TO HOLD YOUR HAND EVERY 5 MINUTES, YOU MAY NOT HAVE A ROOT. THE ROOT YOU HAVE MAY HAVE IS A ROOT OF BITTERNESS. I'M MAD AT THE PREACHER SO I QUIT GOING TO SEE HIM. I'M NOT YOUR PROBLEM. THAT CHURCH OVER THERE DID THIS. THEY'RE NOT YOUR PROBLEM. WHEN YOU STAND BEFORE GOD, I CANNOT BLAME SAM BECAUSE HE MADE ME MAD. WELL CARY DIDN'T VISIT ME IN THE HOSPITAL. TRY THAT ON JUDGMENT DAY. WELL CHARLES STANLEY'S MY PREACHER. IS HE GOING TO BE THERE WHEN YOU GET SICK? IS HE GOING TO BE THERE WHEN YOUR MARRIAGE BREAKS DOWN? I WORSHIP BETTER ON A MOUNTAIN. BOLOGNA! CAN WE JUST GET REAL? WE WANT GOD TO MOVE; WE WANT GOD TO MOVE. WE ARE TOLD BY THE TV PREACHERS, IF GOD WILL MOVE, WE'LL GET MORE WEALTH; WE'LL GET MORE HEALTH. IT'S ALL ABOUT GETTING MORE STUFF AND THE MORE WE GET, THE POWER WILL COME. THAT'S A LIE. THE POWER COMES THROUGH SUFFERING; IT COMES THROUGH THE LOSS OF ALL THINGS. IN ORDER TO EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF GOD, HE MUST BREAK YOU DOWN TO JESUS IS ALL YOU HAVE. I TRIED THE OTHER WAY; IT DOESN'T WORK. I THOUGHT YEARS AGO IT WOULD COME THROUGH KNOWING THE WORD; IT DIDN'T HAPPEN. I THOUGHT I WOULD PREACH, CEASAR AND THEY WOULD ALL COME BUT IT DIDN'T HAPPEN. MY CHURCH GOT SMALLER. I THOUGHT IT WOULD COME THROUGH PRAISE AND

WORSHIP. WE GOT RID OF THOSE OLD HYMNS, YOU UNDERSTAND BECAUSE GOD COULDN'T USE THAT ANYMORE. WE PUT EVERYTHING ON A SCREEN. WE SANG THE 7 11'S. YOU KNOW THE 7 SONGS AND YOU SING THEM ALL 11 TIMES. MY CHURCH GOT SMALLER. I THOUGHT WE'D GET THE PURPOSE DRIVEN CHURCH AND THAT WOULD DO IT. LISTEN YOU CAN HAVE ALL THE PURPOSE IN THE WORLD BUT IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE PRESENCE OF GOD, YOU AIN'T GOT JACK.

HERE'S WHAT HE'S DOING. HE'S DRAWING YOU INTO RELATIONSHIP AND HE'S SAYING I WANT YOU TO JOIN ME. NOW FOR SOME OF YOU, THERE ARE 4 RESPONSES RIGHT NOW GOING ON. GOD'S ASKING YOU TO COME ON, I'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU. THERE'S SOMEONE SAYING IS HE EVER GOING TO SHUT UP? SOMEONE IS SITTING HERE THINKING, WHA, WHA WHA. GET IN THE REAL WORLD JAMES. GET IN THE REAL WORLD. WHAT WORLD IS THAT? THERE'S SOMEONE SITTING HERE AND SAYING JAMES I HEAR YOU AND I AGREE WITH YOU. I REMEMBER I PRAYED A PRAYER AT 12; I PRAYED A PRAYER AT 10; ID DID ALL THAT BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTEREST IN; THAT DOESN'T DO A THING FOR ME. OH I COME WITH MY WIFE AND YOU KNOW YOU'RE RIGHT BUT WHEN MONDAY COMES I DON'T GIVE A FLIP. I COME WITH MY HUSBAND BUT IT AIN'T DOING A THING FOR ME. I DON'T CARE. YOU MAY HAVE NO ROOT. YOU MAY BE LOST. THERE'S SOMEONE SITTING HERE SAYING JAMES HEAR WHAT YOU'RE SAYING; I WANT THAT; THAT FIRE IS THERE BUT I GOT ALL THIS CRAP IN THE WAY; I'VE GOT ALL THIS STUFF IN THE WAY. GOD'S GOT TO REMOVE THAT. THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING TO GO NEXT WEEK BUT LET ME TELL YOU. THAT IS NOT A NO-ROOTER. IF THERE'S NO ROOT, YOU DON'T CARE. THERE'S SOMEONE

SITTING HERE SAYING WHATEVER'S GOT TO HAPPEN, I'M READY. THEN YOU'LL BE THE ONE WHO RECEIVES IT.

THERE'S A SHOW CALLED THE FEAR FACTOR; EVER WATCHED IT? WAS IT \$50,000? ALL RIGHT THE MOMENT YOU PUT A TARANTULA ON MY FACE, I'M DONE. I'M SORRY; KEEP YOUR MONEY. I'VE GOT A DAY JOB. YOU PUT ME IN A TANK WITH A BUNCH OF SNAKES, YOU LET THEM HAVE IT. YOU HANG ME UPSIDE DOWN AT 50 STORIES, I'M DONE. I DON'T WANT IT THAT BAD! ARE YOU PEOPLE CRAZY? I SAT THERE AND SAID I CAN'T WATCH THIS BECAUSE THESE ARE VERY IGNORANT PEOPLE. SURVIVOR. YEAH I'M GOING TO GO EAT GRUB ON A DESERT ISLAND SO I CAN – GET A REAL JOB! GOD'S GOT A THING CALLED THE FAITH FACTOR. HOW BAD DO YOU WANT IT? I WANT TO BE FREE. THEN WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO DO? I WANT BREAKTHROUGH BUT I WANT TO KEEP MY STUFF. CAN'T HAPPEN. YOU CAN'T HAVE BOTH. JAMES I'VE GOT FRUIT. YEAH BUT THEY'RE ABOUT THAT BIG AND GOD WANTS TO OPEN UP SOMETHING FOR YOU LIKE YOU'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED. I KNOW THE NATIVES ARE RESTLESS. I'M GETTING READY TO DRAW THIS TO A CLOSE. LISTEN TO ME. HOW BAD DO YOU WANT IT? WITH HEADS BOWED AND EYES CLOSED.

(PRAYER)