

MORE 2 LIFE MINISTRIES, INC.
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IN THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS WE'VE BEEN LOOKING AT THE WHOLE ISSUE OF REVIVAL, OF BREAKTHROUGH. REVIVAL IN GOD'S WORD, BREAKTHROUGH IN GOD'S WORD, WHEN YOU BOIL IT DOWN IS ALL ABOUT GOD'S PEOPLE EXPERIENCING THE LIFE THAT GOD GIVES THEM AND INTENDS FOR THEM TO LIVE. GOD INTENDED FOR US TO LIVE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, A LIFE THAT WAS SET APART FROM THIS WORLD COMPLETELY DIFFERENT; A LIFE THAT WOULD BE SO UNIQUE AND DISTINCTIVE THAT THOSE WHO WOULD SEE IT WOULD BE DRAWN TO SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM THEMSELVES. IT WENT ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE ISRAELITE PEOPLE. THEY WERE TO BE SUCH A NATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE THAT ALL THE NATIONS AROUND THEM WOULD SAY GOD DWELLS THERE. YOU SEE THAT VERY PICTURE OF GOD RESIDING IN THE HOLY OF HOLIES ABOVE THE CHERUBIM. THAT THE IDEA OF PEOPLES LIVES WOULD BE DRAWN TO THE LIGHT OF GOD AMONG THE PEOPLE IN A PARTICULAR PLACE. THE PROBLEM WITH THOSE ISRAELITE PEOPLE IS THAT THEY WOULD WALK WITH HIM FOR A WHILE AND THEY WOULD FALL INTO SIN. AND THEY WOULD REALIZE IT AND JUDGMENT WOULD COME. THEY WOULD REALIZE THEY NEED TO COME BACK TO GOD AND THERE WOULD BE REVIVAL AND THEY WOULD WALK FOR W WHILE AND THERE WOULD BE RELAPSE. THEY LIVED ON THIS AWFUL

TREADMILL. ANY OF YOU EVER BEEN ON THAT TREADMILL? YOU GET ALL EXCITED; YOU GO TO CHURCH FOR A WHILE. YOU GET ON IT AND THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW, YOU'RE DRIFTING RIGHT BACK TO THE STUFF YOU WERE BEFORE. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT THERE, BUT SUDDENLY YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING AND YOU SAY THIS IS NOT THE WAY IT WAS SIX MONTHS AGO, SIX WEEKS AGO, AND NOW I'M RIGHT BACK IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THIS STUFF AGAIN. AM I HITTING THE CORD WITH SOME OF YOU? BECAUSE I'VE BEEN THERE. I FEEL LIKE A YO YO SOMETIME. OH I'M GOOD, NO I'M NOT. OH I'M GOOD, NO I'M NOT. IT'S ALL ABOUT GOD'S FIRE COMING AND REKINDLING THAT FLAME THAT GROWS COLD THROUGH THE PLEASURES AND PRESSURES OF LIFE. ANY OF YOU HAVE ANY PRESSURES? OR DO I NEED TO WAIT UNTIL SECOND SERVICE TO TALK TO THOSE PEOPLE. GOD'S FIRE IS A PURGING FIRE, A PURIFYING FIRE. GOD'S FIRE IS ALL ABOUT GETTING US BACK TO THE BASICS, GETTING US BACK TO FIRST THINGS, TO CHRIST ALONE. AND CHRIST ONLY. HE'S ALWAYS PURGING IT DOWN TO THAT, ALWAYS PRUNING IT DOWN. AND A FEW WEEKS FROM NOW JOHN IS GOING TO, AS HE LOOKS AT JOHN 15 AS WE LOOK TODAY, THERE IS THE IDEA OF PRUNING AND PURGING AND KEEPING US SO THAT WE'RE STAYING HEALTHY AND FRUITFUL.

IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS I'VE BEEN LOOKING AT THE WHOLE IDEA OF THE ELEMENTS OF BREAKTHROUGH. THE FIRST THING WE

SAW AND YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND UP FRONT THAT GOD LOVES YOU. AND WHEN GOD BRINGS DISCIPLINE IN YOUR LIFE, WHEN HE BRINGS PRUNING IN YOUR LIFE, IT'S NOT GOD UP THERE SAYING OH, WHAT HAS CARLOS DONE THIS WEEK? LET'S ZAP HIM. THAT'S NOT THE WAY IT WORKS. DOES HE NEED TO ZAP YOU? I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE. I'M KIDDING. DOES HE NEED TO ZAP YOU? DOES HE NEED TO ZAP ME? OH GOD, DON'T ZAP ME. THAT'S NOT HOW IT'S WORKING. GOD IS ON MISSION TO BRING US INTO A LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIMSELF. GOD IS ON MISSION TO BRING US TO A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP BASED ON THE GRACE AND TRUTH OF JESUS CHRIST AND WHEN WE COME INTO THAT RELATIONSHIP THROUGH HIM, YOU KNOW HE DID IT ALL, WE JUST LOOKED AT COMMUNION. HE DIED ON THAT CROSS; HE SHED HIS BLOOD; IT WAS ALL ABOUT WHAT HE HAS DONE. I DON'T COME ON ANY MERIT OF MY OWN. I SIMPLY COME ON A BRIDGE OF GRACE; I COME OVER BY FAITH AND I'M IN HIS PRESENCE AND HE'S CREATED A WHOLE NEW LIFE WITHIN ME. BUT WHEN I COME INTO THAT NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM, GOD THEN SAYS NOW I WANT YOU TO COME ON MISSION WITH ME. NOW THAT YOU'RE WITH ME, I WANT YOU TO JOIN ME IN WHAT I'M DOING. BECAUSE RELATIONSHIP BEARS RESPONSIBILITY. NOW PLEASE HEAR ME. KEEP THIS FIRST AND FOREMOST IN YOUR MIND. WHEN YOU COME INTO RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST – WHEN YOU COME INTO A FAMILY RELATIONSHIP, FAMILY RELATIONSHIP

ALWAYS BEARS RESPONSIBILITY. AND AS THOSE KIDS GET OLDER IN YOUR FAMILY AND THEY DON'T PICK UP THEIR RESPONSIBILITY, ARE YOU SITTING THERE SAYING WAHAA, YOU GOT THAT 25 YEAR OLD, THAT 30 YEAR OLD THAT WON'T LEAVE HOME. DON'T YOU WANT TO SAY TAKE SOME RESPONSIBILITY! IT'S NOT HEALTHY WHEN THEY DON'T. AND YET SO MANY OF US WANT TO SIT AND SAY LORD I'M IN RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU ISN'T THAT WONDERFUL AND GOD SAYS PICK UP SOME RESPONSIBILITY. AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE SEE IN EPHESIANS CHAPTER 2. YOU'RE SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH, NOT OF YOURSELVES, NOT OF WORKS LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST. THEN HE SAYS, YOU ARE CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS TO SIT AT A TABLE AT MORE 2 LIFE AND DRINK COFFEE AND COME AND VISIT AND IT'S A WONDERFUL THING. IS THAT WHAT IT SAYS? NO. YOU WERE CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS TO DO GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED IN ADVANCE FOR YOU TO DO. SO GOD HAD A PURPOSE FOR YOU ALL ALONG, AND IT WASN'T JUST TO SIT AND SOAK. IT WAS TO JOIN IN WHAT HE WAS DOING AND EXPERIENCE LIFE THAT GOD HAD DESIGNED FOR YOU UP FRONT. YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP THAT UP FRONT IN YOUR MINDS THE WHOLE TIME THAT I'M TALKING TODAY IS THAT GOD HAS A WONDERFUL PLAN FOR YOU AND HE'S WANTING YOU TO BEAR RESPONSIBILITY, AND THEN TAKE HOLD OF THAT LIFE HE DESIGNED.

NOW HERE'S THE PROBLEM. THERE IS A TENDENCY -- AND I KNOW I'M SPEAKING TO SOME OF US IN THIS ROOM -- THERE IS A TENDENCY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TO DEVIATE, TO DEPART FROM GOD EVER SO SLOWLY. IT'S NEVER A BLOWOUT, IT'S A SLOW LEAK. BUT THERE IS THIS TENDENCY TO DEVIATE TOWARDS SUBSTITUTES. THEY SEEM WONDERFUL. YOU KNOW, THAT'S WHY SATAN IS SO CLEVER. HE NEVER SAYS HEY LETS GO GET BOMBED OUT OF YOUR MIND TONIGHT SO THAT 10 YEARS FROM NOW. YOU'LL BE A RAGING ALCOHOLIC. THAT'S NOT WHAT HE SAYS. LET'S GO OVER TO THE CLUB TONIGHT AND YOU'RE GOING TO SEE THAT GOOD-LOOKING WOMAN. SO THAT A YEAR FROM NOW YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE YOUR MARRIAGE, LOSE YOUR KIDS AND LOSE EVERYTHING. HE NEVER SAYS THAT. HE SAYS, LET'S HAVE ONE NIGHT OF FUN; LET'S HAVE ONE MORE DRINK; LET'S HAVE ONE MORE AND THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW, YOU'VE GONE DOWN THE ROAD SO FAR AND YOU DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT THERE.

I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT WHAT GALATIANS CHAPTER 6 SAYS. SHOULD COME UP HERE ON THE BOARD IN A MINUTE. GALATIANS CHAPTER 6. DID I GIVE YOU THAT ONE? IF NOT LET'S GET IN YOUR SCRIPTURES. WHERE'S MY BOOK. DID I EVEN BRING IT. DID I BRING MY BIBLE? OH IT LOOKS JUST LIKE THE PODIUM. THIS IS GOING TO BE A WONDERFUL DAY, CAN YOU TELL.

DO NOT BE DECEIVED. GOD--NOW LISTEN TO THIS, CANNOT BE MOCKED. HE CANNOT BE MANIPULATED. A MAN REAPS -- THAT'S MANKIND IN GENERAL -- MANKIND REAPS WHAT HE/SHE SOWS. THE ONE WHO SOWS TO PLEASE THAT SINFUL NATURE, THE FLESH, WILL REAP DESTRUCTION. THE ONE WHO SOWS TO PLEASE THE SPIRIT, FROM THE SPIRIT WILL REAP ETERNAL LIFE. LET US NOT BECOME WEARY IN DOING GOOD FOR AT THE PROPER TIME WE WILL REAP A HARVEST IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP. NOW HERE IS THE PRINCIPLE THAT YOU'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND UP FRONT. GOD PUT A PLAN, A PRINCIPLE THAT GOES ALL THE WAY BACK TO CREATION AND IT SAYS WE REAP WHAT WE SOW. IF YOU SOW TO THE FLESH, YOU'RE GOING TO REAP DESTRUCTION. THAT IS NOT AN OPTION. DON'T BLAME GOD, WHEN EVERYTHING FALLS AROUND YOU AND SAY LORD, WHY DID YOU -- NO NO NO -- YOU HAVE REAPED WHAT YOU HAVE SOWN. IF YOU SOW TO THE SPIRIT, THEN YOU REAP LIFE. SO HE SAYS REMAIN DILIGENT SO THAT WHEN THE HARVEST COMES, IT'S THE HARVEST THAT YOU WANTED, THE HARVEST OF LIFE THAT COMES AND NOT THE ONE OF DESTRUCTION, BECAUSE YOU WILL REAP SOMETHING. IT'S NOT AN OPTION.

IN THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS I'VE BEEN LOOKING AT LUKE CHAPTER 8, AND THE DIFFERENT SOILS FROM WHICH THE HARVEST MAY COME. WOULD YOU TURN TO LUKE 8, LUKE CHAPTER 8. LOOK AT VERSE 13. LOOK AT FIRST OF ALL THOSE ON THE ROCK ARE THE ONES

WHO RECEIVE -- THOSE ON THE ROCK ARE THE ONES WHO RECEIVED THE WORD WITH JOY, WHEN THEY HEAR IT BUT THEY HAVE NO ROOT. THEY BELIEVE FOR A WHILE, BUT IN THE TIME OF TESTING, THEY FALL AWAY. WE LOOKED AT THE FIRST SOIL WAS THE ROCKY SOIL. THE ROCKY SOIL WAS THE ONE IN WHICH THERE WAS NO ROOT. THEY HAVE HAD A RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE. THEY WOULD COME TO CHURCH FOR A WHILE. SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED, BUT THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN BORN AGAIN. THERE IS NO ROOT. THERE IS NO CONNECTION TO CHRIST. THERE IS ONLY A RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE; AN EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE; SOME KIND OF SOMETHING, BUT THEY HAVE NEVER TRULY BEEN BORN AGAIN. AND THEY WILL FALL AWAY. I DON'T KNOW HOW LARGE THAT NUMBER IS BUT PROBABLY LARGER THAN WE THINK. PEOPLE SITTING IN THE PEWS WHO HAVE GONE THROUGH THE MOTIONS ARE NOW RUNNING AS HARD AS THEY CAN GO, BUT THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN BORN AGAIN. DO NOT SAY BECAUSE YOU PRAYED THE PRAYER OR YOU GOT BAPTIZED, YOU'RE SAVED. DON'T DO THAT. THE EVIDENCE OF BEING BORN AGAIN IS A TRANSFORMED LIFE. THE BIBLE GIVES NO EXCEPTION TO THAT.

THE NEXT ONE WAS THE THORNY SOIL IN VERSE 14. THE SEED THAT FELL AMONG THORNS STANDS FOR THOSE WHO HEAR, BUT AS THEY GO ON THEIR WAY THEY ARE CHOKED BY LIFE'S WORRIES, ITS RICHES AND PLEASURES AND THEY DO NOT MATURE. ANY OF YOU GOT ANY WORRIES, RICHES, OR PLEASURES? THESE ARE THE ONES

THAT HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN, BUT THE PROBLEM IS THEY HAVE FALLEN IN AMONG A BUNCH OF THORNS OR WEEDS AND THE THORNS ARE NOW CHOKING IT OUT. YES, THEY'VE BEEN BORN AGAIN BUT AS MARK CHAPTER 4 SAYS THE CARES OF THIS WORLD; THE DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES AND THE DESIRE FOR OTHER THINGS CHOKE IT OUT. AND WHEN YOU LOOK AT THIS BELIEVERS' LIFE, THEIR LIFE IS MARKED MORE BY THORNS THAN BY FRUIT. OH, THERE'S FRUIT THERE, BUT IT'S BLIGHTED, ITS STUNTED, AND WHAT IS REALLY SHOWING UP IS THEIR DEPRESSION, THEIR ANXIETY; THEIR BITTERNESS; THEIR HURTS; EVERYTHING JUST COMING TOGETHER. AND ALL RUNNING AFTER THE WORLD, BECAUSE THEY'RE LETTING THEIR THORNS INFEST THEM. I WOULD SAY THIS NUMBER IS BIGGER THAN ANY OF US CAN IMAGINE. I WOULD SAY ON A NORMAL AVERAGE SUNDAY MORNING CROWD, THAT THE THORNY ONES OVERTAKE THE HEALTHY ONES. ARE YOU A LITTLE THORNY TODAY? WERE YOU A LITTLE THORNY THIS MORNING? HAVE YOU EVER HAD THAT EXPERIENCE, WHERE YOU ARGUE ALL THE WAY TO CHURCH AND THEN AS SOON AS YOU OPEN THE CAR DOOR, YOU SUDDENLY SAY HI. I USED TO DO THAT WHEN MY DAD WAS A PASTOR AND I WAS A KID. WE HAD A 25 MINUTE RIDE TO CHURCH, BECAUSE IT WAS OUT IN THE COUNTRY. WE WOULD FIGHT THE WHOLE WAY THERE AND AS SOON AS THE CAR DOOR WOULD OPEN, PASTOR CARL WOULD STEP OUT. HELLO, THE HALO WOULD ADJUST AND WE USED TO THINK HEY

COME ON. LET 'EM HEAR YOU SCREAM A LITTLE BIT. AND NOW I AM PASTOR JAMES AND I DO THE SAME THING. OH, THE THORNS ARE THERE AND THEY PRICK. REMEMBER WHAT GOD TOLD HOSEA'S WIFE, GOMER. I WILL PUT A HEDGE OF THORNS IN YOUR PATH AND EVERYWHERE YOU TURN TO RUN FOR A SUBSTITUTE, YOU'RE ONLY GOING TO FIND THORNS. EVER BEEN THERE? OH IT LOOKS GOOD, UP FRONT BUT IT'S THORNY WHEN YOU GET THERE.

I WANT TO LOOK TODAY AT HEALTHY SOIL. LUKE CHAPTER 8, VERSE 15. THE SEED ON GOOD SOIL, THIS IS HEALTHY SOIL, STANDS FOR THOSE WITH A NOBLE AND GOOD HEART, WHO HEAR THE WORD, RETAIN IT AND BY PERSEVERING PRODUCE A GOOD CROP; PERSEVERING PRODUCE A CROP. THIS IS HEALTHY SOIL THAT HAS A HARVEST. IN THE BOOK OF MARK WERE GOING TO FIND THAT SEVERAL HAVE 30 FOLD, 60 FOLD, A HUNDRED FOLD OF WHAT THEY PLANTED. THAT'S GOOD RETURNS. WHEN YOU PLANT A CROP AND YOU GET 30 FOLD, 30 TIMES MORE, 60 TIMES MORE, A HUNDRED TIMES MORE, SOMETHING'S GOING ON. GOD IS DOING A SUPERNATURAL WORK. BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW TO NOTICE THE KEY TO KEEPING THE SOIL HEALTHY IS PERSEVERING; PATIENT ENDURANCE. IT IS SO ESSENTIAL. IF YOU WOULD, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TURN TO JOHN CHAPTER 15. NOW I'M GOING TO LOOK AT IT TODAY; JOHN IS GOING TO LOOK AT IT IN A FEW WEEKS. I DON'T THINK WE CAN WEAR IT OUT. SO LET'S LOOK AT IT. WE'RE GOING TO START IN VERSE 4. NOW

I WANT YOU TO ZERO IN BECAUSE THIS IS GOING TO BE THE MEAT OF WHAT I WANT TO SAY TODAY. DO NOT LOSE ME; DO NOT START THINKING ABOUT OTHER THINGS. AS AN OLD PASTOR FRIEND OF MINE USED TO SAY, ANTENNAS TO THE TOP. REMAIN IN ME. CARY READ THIS LAST NIGHT FROM THE NEW KING JAMES. I ACTUALLY LIKE THAT BETTER. HE SAYS ABIDE. ABIDE. REMAIN IN ME AND I WILL REMAIN IN YOU. NO BRANCH CAN BEAR FRUIT BY ITSELF. IT MUST REMAIN IN THE VINE. NEITHER CAN YOU BEAR FRUIT, UNLESS YOU REMAIN IN ME. WOULD YOU UNDERLINE THAT VERSE, VERSE 4 IS SO ESSENTIAL. YOU CANNOT BEAR FRUIT OF YOURSELF; YOU MUST REMAIN; THERE MUST BE A VITAL CONNECTION OF FAITH. I AM THE VINE. YOU ARE THE BRANCHES. THE LIFE IS IN THE VINE, NOT IN THE BRANCH. AS LONG AS THE BRANCH STAYS CONNECTED, IT HAS LIFE. THE MOMENT IT DISCONNECTS, THERE IS NO LIFE IN ITSELF. THAT'S WHAT HE'S TRYING TO SAY. IF A MAN REMAINS IN ME AND I IN HIM, HE WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT. THIS IS WHAT YOU HAVE TO GET UP FRONT. YOU AS A CHRISTIAN DO NOT PRODUCE FRUIT; YOU ONLY BEAR FRUIT THAT IS PRODUCED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING. IF ANYONE DOES NOT REMAIN IN ME, HE IS LIKE A BRANCH THAT IS THROWN AWAY AND WITHERS; THERE IS NO LIFE IN IT. SUCH BRANCHES ARE THEN PICKED UP AND THROWN INTO THE FIRE AND BURNED. IF YOU REMAIN IN ME AND MY WORDS REMAIN IN YOU -- LISTEN TO WHAT IS POSSIBLE -- ASK WHATEVER

YOU WISH, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU. IT IS POSSIBLE, BY FAITH TO WALK IN HIM IN SUCH THAT LIFE BECOMES LIMITLESS. LIFE BECOMES WHAT GOD WANTS IT TO BE. LIFE CAN BECOME A LIFE THAT IS TOUCHING THE WORLD JUST LIKE JESUS SAID IT COULD. THIS IS TO MY FATHER'S GLORY THAT YOU BEAR MUCH FRUIT, 30, 60, 100 TIMES SHOWING YOURSELVES TO BE MY DISCIPLES. NOW HERE IT IS. THE BASIS OF BEARING FRUIT IS ABIDING IN CHRIST; IS REMAINING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT. THAT'S THE WHOLE BASIS. LOOK AT WHAT VERSE 5 SAYS. IF YOU ABIDE, IF YOU REMAIN, YOU'RE GOING TO BEAR FRUIT. IF YOU DEVIATE, NO MATTER HOW GOOD IT LOOKS, NO MATTER HOW GOOD IT LOOKS LIKE UP FRONT, NO MATTER HOW IT SAYS IT'S GOING TO PAY OFF, IF YOU DEVIATE, IF YOU DEPART, YOU CAN DO NOTHING. WE ALL UNDERSTAND THE WHOLE IDEA OF FLYING IN AN AIRPLANE. I AM NOT ACTUALLY FLYING. DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHEN I AM FLYING A PLANE, I AM NOT UP THERE FLYING. I AM UP THERE SITTING. THE MOMENT I THINK I AM FLYING AND DECIDE TO STEP OUT OF THE AIRPLANE, I HAVE TROUBLE! THERE IS A THING CALLED GRAVITY! MY BODY HAS NOT OVERCOME IT. I DO NOT HAVE THE BERNULI??? EFFECT. I DO NOT HAVE THIS ABILITY TO FLY. I AM COMING DOWN FAST. BECAUSE I WAS NEVER FLYING ANYWAY. I WAS IN A PLANE THAT WAS FLYING. NOW UNDERSTAND THIS AS A BELIEVER. YOU HAVE NO LIFE OTHER THAN THE LIFE THAT COMES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST AND THE MOMENT YOU DECIDE TO DEVIATE

FROM HIM, YOU WILL THEN EXPERIENCE THAT SAME DEATH THAT YOU KNEW BEFORE, THE MOMENT YOU DO IT. IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN. THE THORNS WILL SET IN. NOW I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT VERSES 9 THROUGH 16. IT'S GOING TO TELL US EXACTLY WHAT ABIDING MEANS. I LOVE THE SCRIPTURE BECAUSE IT ALWAYS ENDS UP TELLING YOU WHAT IT MEANS. AS THE FATHER HAS LOVED ME SO I LOVE YOU. NOW NOTICE, THIS IS A LOVE RELATIONSHIP. IF YOU OBEY MY COMMANDS, YOU WILL REMAIN IN MY LOVE. JUST AS I HAVE OBEYED MY FATHER'S COMMANDS AND REMAINED IN HIM. HIS LIFE. I HAVE TOLD YOU THIS SO THAT MY JOY MAY BE IN YOU AND THEN YOUR JOY MAY BE COMPLETE. NOT YOUR JOY, MY JOY IN YOU AND THEN YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THE COMPLETE JOY. MY COMMAND IS THIS: LOVE EACH OTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. REMEMBER, IT HAS TO BE HIS LOVE. GREATER LOVE IS NO ONE THAN THIS, THAT HE LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS. NOW LISTEN. YOU ARE BY FRIENDS, IF YOU DO, WHAT I COMMAND YOU. I KNOW LONGER CALL YOU SERVANTS, BECAUSE A SERVANT DOES NOT KNOW HIS MASTER'S BUSINESS. INSTEAD, I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS. NOW THIS IS WHAT IS POSSIBLE. EVERYTHING THAT I HAVE LEARNED FROM MY FATHER I HAVE MADE KNOWN TO YOU. IT IS POSSIBLE TO BE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND WALK WITH HIM DAILY AND UNDERSTAND HOW GOD WANTS YOU TO WALK; HOW HE WANTS YOU TO LIVE; AND THE POWER OF CHRIST, FLOWING THROUGH YOU

THROUGH A FRIENDSHIP RELATIONSHIP. YOU DID NOT CHOOSE ME, I CHOSE YOU AND APPOINTED YOU TO GO AND BEAR FRUIT, FRUIT THAT WILL LAST. THEN THE FATHER WILL GIVE YOU WHATEVER YOU ASK IN MY NAME. IS THAT A GREAT PROMISE? BUT UNDERSTAND THIS. IT IS AN OBEYING-FAITH RELATIONSHIP. A RESPONSIBLE RELATIONSHIP. SO ABIDING IS NOT ABOUT A PASSIVE POSSESSION. IT IS ABOUT A PERSISTENT PURSUIT. PAUL SAID IT IS TAKING HOLD OF THAT FOR WHICH HE HAS TAKEN HOLD OF ME. JESUS SAID, IT IS DENYING YOURSELF; TAKING UP YOUR CROSS DAILY, EVERY MOMENT AND FOLLOWING ME. REVELATIONS 2 AND 3 TALKS ABOUT IT BEING AN OVERCOMING. IT IS LOSING EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD TO FIND--AS PAUL SAID--THAT I MAY GAIN AND FIND CHRIST. IT IS FORSAKING THE CARES OF THIS WORLD; THE DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES; AND A DESIRE FOR OTHER THINGS. IT IS LETTING GO OF REAL LIFE TO TAKE HOLD OF TRUE LIFE. THIS IS WHAT THIS IS ABOUT. IT IS TRULY DYING TO THIS OLD WORLD AND OLD LIFE AND RESURRECTING TO A NEW. I WAS SITTING AND TALKING WITH CAESAR LAST NIGHT AND WE WERE TALKING WITH SOME FOLKS OVER HERE, AND CAESAR BEGAN TO TALK ABOUT HOW GOD TRANSFORMED HIM OUT OF DARKNESS INTO LIGHT. I SAT THERE LAST NIGHT AND COULDN'T SPEAK. I THOUGHT, WHAT A TESTIMONY TO WHAT I'M GOING TO TALK ABOUT TOMORROW. 3 1/2 YEARS AGO, WHAT WAS IT CAESAR--DARKNESS. HE TALKED ABOUT RUNNING

AFTER EVERY SUBSTITUTE. HE WOULD HAVE SAID HE WAS IN CONTROL. AND THEN CHRIST CAME IN, AND HIS LIFE WAS TRANSFORMED. BUT YOU SEE THE DANGER FOR CAESAR NOW IS TO THINK OKAY GOD I'VE GOT IT FROM HERE AND HE CAN TAKE CONTROL AGAIN AND THE MOMENT HE DOES, GRAVITY WILL TAKE OVER. HAVE YOU EVER HAD GRAVITY HIT YOU REAL HARD ANYTIME IN THIS LIFE? I'VE HAD GRAVITY HIT ME REAL HARD. NOW WAIT A MINUTE. HERE'S THE PROBLEM. SO MANY OF US WANT TO LIVE IN BOTH WORLDS. WE WANT TO LOOK GOOD ON SUNDAY. WE WANT TO SIT AND SAY JAMES, THAT'S RIGHT. THEN ON MONDAY MORNING, WE WANT TO GO BACK TO A WHOLE DIFFERENT WORLD THAT WE LEFT. AND THINK SOMEHOW, WE CAN HAVE 1 FOOT ON SHORE AND 1 IN THE BOAT. THE PROBLEM WITH THIS BOAT THAT JESUS IS IN, IT'S GOING TO GET FURTHER AND FURTHER FROM THE SHORE THAT YOU LEFT, AND IT'S GOING TO SPLIT YOU INTO IF YOU DON'T GET IN THE BOAT. AHHH JAMES, COME ON, THAT'S THAT OLD STUFF, SEPARATING, COME OUT AND BE SEPARATE. YOU SEE THAT'S THE PROBLEM. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE LEFT.

TO THE CHURCH OF THE EPHESIANS, JESUS SAID, YOU HAVE LEFT YOUR FIRST LOVE; YOU HAVE FORSAKEN IT. HERE'S THE PROBLEM THAT I SEE. NOW LISTEN TO ME. LISTEN, DON'T LOSE ME, VERY IMPORTANT, LISTEN. SO MANY OF US REPLACED FIRST LOVE WITH FREE LOVE. WHEN I MARRIED ROBIN IN 1980. SHE WAS AND HAS

BEEN -- OTHER THAN JESUS CHRIST -- MY FIRST AND ONLY LOVE. BUT IT'S BEEN WORK. CAN I GET A WITNESS? NOT ABOUT ROBIN, BUT ABOUT YOURS. (laughter) I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT GOT IN THE TAPE. 1980, WE WERE IN LOVE. I SAID I DO, SHE SAID, I DO, WE WENT ON THE HONEYMOON, WE WERE IN LOVE. AND THEN I REMEMBER OUR FIRST REAL BIG FIGHT. I TOLD HER SHE WAS NO LONGER A BUCHANAN; SHE WAS A GARNER. SHE INFORMED ME SHE WAS A BUCHANAN, SHE WAS AND ALWAYS WOULD BE A BUCHANAN AND THAT SHE HAD ONLY TAKEN MY NAME BECAUSE THAT WAS THE TRADITIONAL THING TO DO. I THOUGHT I'VE GOT A TIGER BY THE TAIL AND OVER THE LAST 27 YEARS IT HAS BEEN ABOUT FIDELITY; IT HAS BEEN ABOUT COMMITMENT; IT HAS BEEN ABOUT FORSAKING ALL OTHERS AND CLEAVING ONLY UNTO HER. THERE IS NO OPTION OF REMAINING; THERE IS NO OPTION OF MAKING IT RIGHT, BECAUSE WE LIVE UNDER A DESIGN WHERE JESUS CHRIST IS LORD. I DON'T HAVE THE OPTION TO WALK AWAY. I DON'T HAVE THE OPTION TO TALK TO HER LIKE I WOULD SOME BUM OFF THE STREET. I HAVE TO DEAL WITH HER AS MY LOVE AND FIRST LOVE. BUT THEN WE TRIED TO TRANSFORM THAT INTO FREE LOVE, WHICH IS GOD LOVES ME SO I CAN DO WHATEVER THE HECK I WANT. NO STRINGS ATTACHED. IN FREE LOVE I CAN HAVE ROBIN OVER HERE AND GO SWINGING TO SOMEBODY ELSE. THAT'S FREE LOVE? THAT'S WHAT THE 60'S TOLD US. IT DOESN'T WORK IN GOD'S ECONOMY BECAUSE WE ARE TOLD HE

IS A JEALOUS GOD AND HE WILL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE HIM. I HAVE FOUND THAT MY WIFE IS A JEALOUS WIFE. WHEN I FIRST GOT MARRIED -- I HAVE TO TELL YOU -- MY WALLET WAS FULL OF PICTURES OF OTHER GIRLS. NOT THAT I WAS SUCH A SWINGER, IT'S JUST THAT I HAD OTHER GIRLS BECAUSE THAT WAS BETTER THAN HAVING EMPTY PAGES. AND I REMEMBER THE MOMENT -- 2 OR THREE NIGHTS AFTER WE GOT SAVED -- NOT SAVED -- GOT MARRIED -- ROBIN SAID GIVE ME YOUR WALLET. DO YOU KNOW SHE TOOK EVERY ONE OF THOSE PICTURES OUT? WHAT'S THAT ABOUT? SHE IS A JEALOUS LOVER. AND HE IS TO. JAMES SAID IN JAMES CHAPTER 4. DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT WHEN YOU ARE A FRIEND OF THE WORLD YOU ARE THE ENEMY OF GOD? YOU ADULTERERS AND ADULTERESSES. I DIDN'T WRITE THAT, HE SAYS. HE SAYS THAT WHEN YOU STEP OUT OF A FIRST LOVE INTO A FREE LOVE, YOU BECOME AN ADULTERER WITH GOD. AND THAT'S WHERE SO MANY OF US ARE. WE WANT TO PLAY THIS LITTLE GAME, AND SOMEHOW THINK THE BLESSING IS GOING TO COME AND IT IS NOT. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT JESUS IS WARNING IN JOHN 15; DO NOT PRESUME UPON THIS RELATIONSHIP. DO NOT THINK THIS IS ABOUT TAKING A SEAT AND SITTING; THIS IS ABOUT TAKING HOLD OF ME AND WALKING WHERE I GO; GOING WHERE I GO; KNOWING THAT 20 YEARS FROM NOW, 30 YEARS FROM NOW, IT WILL BE A GROWING RELATIONSHIP NOT A STAGNANT ONE. THROUGH MANY DANGERS, TOILS AND FEARS, WE HAVE ALREADY COME. IT'S

HIS GRACE, AMAZING GRACE THAT KEEPS US. WE HAVE TO WALK IN FAITH. AND HERE'S WHAT I WANT TO COME TO, LET ME BRING IT TO A CLOSE. HERE'S THE ISSUE. IF YOU ARE NOT WALKING IN THIS KIND OF PERSEVERING, PERSISTENT RELATIONSHIP, YOU ARE BECOMING -- NO QUESTIONS ASKED -- A PRODIGAL. IF YOU ARE NOT ACTIVELY PURSUING HIM, YOU ARE STEP BY STEP, INCH BY INCH, BECOMING A PRODIGAL WHETHER YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADMIT IT OR NOT. LISTEN TO WHAT I'M GOING TO SAY. YOU NEVER REMAIN AT A FIXED POINT. YOU ARE EITHER WALKING WITH HIM OR ARE WALKING AWAY FROM HIM. THERE IS NO MIDDLE GROUND. WHEN YOU RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST AS LORD AND SAVIOR, YOU DO NOT ENTER INTO A STATE CALLED SALVATION; YOU ENTER INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH A PERSON THAT IS LIFE. JESUS SAID IN JOHN 17:3 THIS IS ETERNAL LIFE THAT THEY MAY KNOW ME. SO MANY OF US WANT TO COME TO CHURCH AND HAVE THIS WONDERFUL FEELING. BUT WE REALLY DON'T WANT TO PURSUE A RELATIONSHIP AND THAT'S ALL IT IS. HE GETS TO CALL THE SHOTS. WE ARE THE BRIDE OF CHRIST. I COME INTO THIS RELATIONSHIP; I'M ENTERING INTO A MARRIAGE THAT EVERY DAY WITH HIM HAS TO BE A WALKING AFTER HIM OR I'M JUST GOING TO SLOWLY FALL AWAY UNTIL THE RELATIONSHIP IS SHOT. YOU KNOW THERE'S A LOT OF MARRIAGES THAT DON'T END IN DIVORCE, THEY JUST LIVE IN A COLD INDIFFERENCE. AND THAT'S WHERE SOME OF US ARE WITH THE LORD, A COLD INDIFFERENCE..

I WANT TO LOOK AT THE STORY OF TWO MEN QUICKLY; I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO TURN THERE BECAUSE MOST OF US KNOW THE STORY. THIS IS FOUND IN LUKE CHAPTER 15, STARTING IN VERSE 11. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TURN THERE. IT'S A STORY ABOUT TWO SONS OF THE SAME FATHER, WHO DECIDED TO SEEK SUBSTITUTES OVER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LOVING FATHER. THE FIRST ONE WAS THE YOUNGER SON. THE YOUNGER SON RAN AWAY FROM THE FATHER. WE'RE GOING TO CALL HIM SATURDAY NIGHT FLESH. HE DIDN'T REALLY MIND RELATIONSHIP, BUT HE DEFINITELY DIDN'T WANT ANY RESPONSIBILITY. THE YOUNGER SON COMES TO A LOVING FATHER AND SAYS, LISTEN, ALL THAT YOU'VE GOT, ALL THAT'S COMING TO ME, I WANT AND I'M GOING TO RUN WITH IT. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE FATHER DOES? HE SAYS HERE, IT'S YOURS. SO WHAT HE DECIDES HE IS GOING TO DO IS TAKE ALL THE FATHER'S RESOURCES AND SPEND THEM ON HIS OWN PURSUITS, HIS OWN PLEASURES AND A SPIRITUAL PRESUMPTION TAKES HOLD OF HIS LIFE. AND THAT SPIRITUAL PRESUMPTION IS THIS. I AM FREE TO SEEK MY OWN WAY. I AM IN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER; THE FATHER LOVES ME; I AM HIS SON. SO HE TAKES OFF AND HE TAKES THE FATHER'S RELATIONSHIP AND HE SPURNS IT ON ALL HIS RESOURCES. NOW IT'S VERY EASY TO SEE THIS ONE, ISN'T IT? HE'S DOING ALL THE WRONG THINGS. AND YOU THINK HA I KNOW A FELLOW JUST LIKE HIM. AND YOU KNOW IT COMES IN MANY SHAPES AND FORMS. THERE IS THAT

ONE OF OPEN REBELLION. WE CAN THINK ABOUT THAT ONE THAT WAS WALKING WITH THE LORD; TRULY HAS BEEN SAVED; BUT THE THORNS TOOK OVER AND NOW THEY'RE PURSING EVERYTHING OTHER THAN THE LORD. BUT THERE IS ANOTHER ONE THAT IS NOT SO EASY TO SEE. AND THE BEST COUNTERFEITS ARE THE ONES WHO LOOK MOST LIKE THE REAL THING. AND WE'RE GOING TO CALL IT GREASY GRACE. GREASY GRACE GOES LIKE THIS: I'M A NEW BELIEVER; A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST; I HAVE ESCAPED LEGALISM; I HAVE ESCAPED THE LAW; I HAVE ESCAPED RULES; IT'S NOW TRULY A RELATIONSHIP, IT'S NOT ABOUT RULES; IT'S NOT ABOUT DOING ALL THE STUFF; IT'S TRULY COMING INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST AND WHAT WILL EVENTUALLY HAPPEN IS WE BEGIN TO TAKE IT AND SQUANDER IT. I USED TO BE VERY CAUGHT UP IN LEGALISM. WHEN I WAS IN MY EARLY 30S, LATE 20S -- OH, LET'S GO BACK BEYOND THAT. IN COLLEGE, I WAS A PRUDE. AT THE AGE OF 36 YEARS OLD, I UNDERSTOOD AND GOD BEGAN A WORK OF GRACE IN MY LIFE AND I UNDERSTOOD MY RELATIONSHIP IN HIM; THAT I HAD COME TO A WHOLE NEW RELATIONSHIP; THAT I AM HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS, AND IT'S NOT BASED ON ANYTHING I DO. AND WHAT HAPPENED IS I SWUNG WAY OVER HERE TO LICENSE. I TELL PEOPLE I DON'T NEED TO READ MY BIBLE ANYMORE, BECAUSE I AM LOVED BY GOD. I DON'T EVEN NEED TO PRAY. AND I SWUNG OVER HERE FOR A WHILE. I DIDN'T STAY LONG, BUT I SWUNG. AND I SEE PEOPLE THAT' SWING

AND THEY STAY. AND I SAW PEOPLE AS I STARTED DOING COUNSELING AT THAT TIME, I STARTED IMMEDIATELY TELLING PEOPLE ABOUT THE GRACE OF GOD AND HOW THEY WERE HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS IN HIM. YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED? I FOUND THAT NO ONE WAS GETTING SET FREE FROM IT, WITH IT. BECAUSE THEY WERE BEGINNING TO TAKE GOD FOR GRANTED. AND I SEE THIS. DON'T LIMIT ME PREACHER! DON'T JUDGE ME PREACHER! DON'T TELL ME WHAT I HAVE TO DO. WAIT WAIT WAIT A MINUTE. IF YOU ARE IN RELATIONSHIP IN TANDEM WITH JESUS CHRIST, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING AND THE MOST GREATEST THING THAT WILL CHANGE IN YOUR LIFE IS THAT HOLINESS WILL BEGIN TO COME OUT OF IT, BECAUSE HIS FIRST AND MOST ESSENTIAL ATTRIBUTE IS HOLINESS. AND SOMEONE THAT SAYS I'M WALKING WITH CHRIST, BUT I DON'T GIVE A FLIP ABOUT COMING OUT OF THIS WORLD AND BEING SEPARATE IS FOOLING THEMSELVES. AND HERE'S WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN. THAT SPIRITUAL PRESUMPTION -- BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN FEASTING ON FREEDOM IS GOING TO TURN INTO A FAMINE. REMEMBER THE STORY OF THE PRODIGAL? AND THEN A FAMINE CAME. EVER BEEN IN A FAMINE? THE WEARINESS BEGINS TO ATTACH ITSELF TO THE CORE OF YOUR LIFE. IT'S JUST AN ACHING WEARINESS THAT ANYTHING YOU DO DOESN'T WORK. NOTHING SATISFIES. IT ALL DRIES UP. AND THEN YOU BEGIN TO ATTACH YOURSELF TO CITIZENS OF THE FAR COUNTRY. THAT'S WHAT HE DID.

REMEMBER? THE MOST DANGEROUS PLACE TO BE IS NOT IN THE FEAST, IT'S IN THE FAMINE. BECAUSE IN THE FAMINE OF YOUR SOUL I BEGIN TO REACH OUT FOR ANYTHING THAT'S GOING TO MAKE ME FEEL GOOD. AND THE NEXT THING I KNOW I START ATTACHING MYSELF TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALL THE WRONG MOTIVES; ALL THE WRONG THINGS BUT I'M ATTACHING THEMSELVES TO ME AND YOU'RE GOING TO WIND UP AND SAY NOW LISTEN, DON'T TELL ME WHO MY FRIENDS CAN BE; DON'T LIMIT ME BECAUSE I AM FREE FROM THE LAW. YES, BUT YOU ARE BOUND THE FLESH AND THAT WILL BRING DESTRUCTION. LICENSE. IT'S WHAT WE'RE DOING TO OURSELVES. THIS IS NOT A LICENSE TO SERVE YOURSELF. IT IS A FREEDOM TO WALK IN CHRIST AND EXPERIENCE LIFE WALKING ON MISSION WITH HIM.

NOW THE NEXT ONE, THE OLDER SON, IT'S A LITTLE HARDER TO SEE. WE'LL CALL HIM SUNDAY MORNING FLESH. HE WAS DOING ALL THE RIGHT THINGS, AND HE THOUGHT HE DESERVED THE BLESSING OF THE FATHER BECAUSE HE WAS DOING ALL THE GOOD THINGS. AND WE SEE HIM WITH SPIRITUAL PRIDE. LOOK AT MY BROTHER OVER THERE. I'M NOT LIKE HIM. OH, IF YOU KNEW WHAT HE WAS LIKE. YES, BUT I'M THE GOOD SON; THE PERFECT SON. SO LET'S KEEP NOTICE ON EVERYTHING YOU'RE DOING BADLY SO YOU WON'T LOOK AT MY STUFF. I FAST TWICE A WEEK; I TITHE; I ONLY LISTEN TO CHRISTIAN RADIO; I ONLY HAVE SKY ANGEL MY HOUSE; WE DON'T

HAVE ANY OF THAT HBO IN MY HOME. WHEN I TALK, I PRAY IN KING JAMES ENGLISH. AND FROM THAT, FRIGIDITY OF THE SOUL COMES AND YOU BECOME COLD AS ICE. HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THOSE PEOPLE THAT SAY, WATCH ME. SOMEBODY COMES IN THE CHURCH THAT IS STRUGGLING WITH ALL THIS STUFF. AND THEY HAVE A TENDENCY TO SAY IT'S LIKE ME. AND ALL THEIR BITTERNESS AND ALL THEIR FEAR AND ALL THERE ANGER IS HIDDEN BEHIND THEIR RIGHTNESS AND BOTH OF THESE SONS, BOTH OF THESE BROTHERS HAD SIMPLY TRADED A RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR FATHER FOR THEIR OWN BRAND OF SELF CENTEREDNESS. THAT'S ALL IT COMES DOWN TO. SELF CENTEREDNESS. WHAT'S IN THIS FOR ME? BUT YOU KNOW THERE'S HOPE, MORE HOPE FOR THE YOUNGER SON THAN THERE IS FOR THE OLDER ONE? BECAUSE THE YOUNGER SON -- IN THE STORY -- IF YOU REMEMBER -- SAW HIS PLIGHT; SAW THE MESS THAT HE WAS IN; CAME TO HIMSELF. HIS CHOICES LED HIM TO BROKENNESS. AND HE PUT HIS BLAME NOT UPON ANYBODY ELSE, BUT HIS OWN CHOICES. HE PUT THE BLAME ON HIMSELF. HE CAME BACK TO THE FATHER AND SAID I DESERVE NOTHING. I AM SIMPLY COMING ON YOUR GRACE AND HE RECEIVED ALL THE FATHER HAD. NOT BECAUSE HE WAS SEEKING FOR IT; BUT BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT THE FATHER DELIGHTS TO DO. BUT THE OLDER BROTHER WAS IN GREATER DANGER. OH, HE LOOKED BETTER. BUT HIS CHOICES LED HIM TO BITTERNESS, AND HE PUT ALL THE BLAME ON THE FATHER. I

CAN'T TELL YOU THE NUMBER OF TIMES I HAVE SET WITH PEOPLE IN COUNSELING AND THEY SAID WELL, I DID ALL THE RIGHT STUFF AND GOD DIDN'T DO NOTHING FOR ME. I WENT TO THE CHURCH, AND I PRAYED AND I DID IT, AND IT STILL FELL APART. WHOA WHOA WHOA BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE. YOU'RE NOT WALKING WITH CHRIST, SO HE'LL DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR YOU. ARE YOU LOVING GOD FOR WHO HE IS OR WHAT HE DOES? BECAUSE, IF YOU'RE TRYING TO LOVE HIM FOR WHAT HE DOES, YOU'RE GOING TO BE CONSTANTLY FRUSTRATED. IT COMES DOWN TO THIS. HE IS INVITING YOU INTO A LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. HE SAYS KNOW ME, KNOW THE FULLNESS, GROW IN ME DAILY. BUT YOU'VE GOT TO PUT THE WORLD ASIDE TO DO THIS. YOU GOT A PUT ALL YOUR STUFF ASIDE. YOU'VE GOT ON LOSE YOUR LIFE TO FIND IT AND THEN COME AND JOIN ME AND FIND THE VERY PURPOSE I HAVE FOR YOUR LIFE. BUT TO DO THIS YOU CANNOT ALLOW YOURSELF TO COAST INTO PRODIGALNESS. SO MANY OF US ARE COASTING. I DIDN'T THINK WE HAD TO DO ANYTHING. OH, LET ME TELL YOU -- TAKING HOLD OF -- IT'S LIKE -- WHEN YOU TAKE HOLD OF LORD JESUS, IT'S LIKE TAKING A TIGER BY THE TAIL. YOU'RE TAKING HOLD OF A WHALE AND HANGING ON TO WHERE HE'S GOING. IT'S HARD WORK, SOMETIMES. HANG ON, WALK WITH HIM, PUSH INTO HIS PRESENCE AND REMAIN THERE.

WITH HEADS BOWED IN EYES CLOSED, I HOPE YOU GOT A HOLD OF WHAT I WAS TRYING TO SAY TODAY AND IT'S THIS (INVITATION)