

MORE 2 LIFE MINISTRIES, INC.  
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*Greater Things, Part #5B*

FIRST THESSALONIANS IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS STARTING THE SECOND WEEK OF JANUARY WE BEGAN WHAT WE CALL A VISION CAMPAIGN. IT WAS NOT A CHANCE TO GET MORE OF YOUR MONEY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE LORD JESUS GETS IN YOUR HEART, YOUR MONEY WILL BE HIS ANYWAY SO WE'RE NOT ATTEMPTING TO MANIPULATE YOU TO GET MORE INVOLVED OR GIVE MORE TO US OR WHATEVER. WE ARE JUST SAYING, THIS IS THE VISION WHERE WE BELIEVE GOD IS TAKING THIS CHURCH. AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO CAN GET A HOLD OF THIS VISION AND GOD WILL TAKE HOLD OF YOUR LIVES AND THEN WHATEVER GOD SENDS YOU TO DO, DO IT WITH ALL OF YOUR MIGHT. AND WHATEVER IT COSTS YOU IN MONEY OR TIME, GOD WILL MAKE IT ALWAYS WORTH IT.

OUR VISION HAS BEEN -- DO WE HAVE THAT VISION STATEMENT? THE VISION STATEMENT WAS THIS. MORE TO LIFE EXISTS TO ESTABLISH A CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY. NOT JUST A CHURCH BECAUSE I'VE BEEN IN CHURCHES ALL MY LIFE AND MOST CHURCHES ARE JUST INSTITUTIONS. TO TRULY ESTABLISH AND LISTEN, YOU'RE PROBABLY GOING TO GO OUT OF HERE AND SAY YEAH, BUT I SEE SO MANY HOLES IN IT. YES, THERE ARE. WE HAVEN'T LEARNED COMPLETELY HOW TO DO THIS. WE ARE IN THE LEARNING PROCESS. AS GOD PUTS THIS VISION ON OUR HEARTS, MUCH OF THE TIME WE'RE SAYING GREAT. HOW DO WE DO THAT? THIS IS WHAT WE KNOW HE'S TELLING US TO DO. TO ESTABLISH A CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY OF CARING AND

BELONGING; A PLACE WHERE LIVES ARE BEING TRANSFORMED BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. NOT THE POWER OF OUR PROGRAMS; NOT THE POWER OF OUR PRAISE, BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. HOW DO WE KNOW IF LIVES ARE BEING TRANSFORMED BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT? TO REFLECT THE GLORY OF GOD. THAT LIFE WILL BEGIN TO LOOK LIKE JESUS. SO HOW DO WE DO THAT? GREAT QUESTION. WHAT I SENSE THAT GOD REALLY WANTS THE BODY OF CHRIST TO DO, ANY BODY OF CHRIST, BECAUSE WE ARE NOT UNIQUE. I MEAN EVERYBODY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST IS UNIQUE BUT WE ARE NOT SOMETHING SPECIAL THAN ANY OTHER. EVERY BODY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST IS SPECIAL; EVERY CHURCH IS SPECIAL; AND GOD WANTS TO DO UNIQUE MINISTRY THROUGH THAT CHURCH. BUT WHAT HE'S ASKING FOR IS THAT PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER WILL SAY LORD, HERE WE ARE AND USE OUR LIVES; USE EVERY LIFE HERE LIKE A RIVERBED THROUGH WHICH THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL SIMPLY FLOW THROUGH MY LIFE TO YOUR LIFE. WITH ALL OUR WARTS; WITH ALL OUR WRINKLES; WITH ALL OUR PROBLEMS; SIMPLY SAYING LORD, I JUST WANT TO BE AVAILABLE; I JUST WANT TO BE USABLE AND IF WE CAN GRAB THAT MINDSET ALL OF US TOGETHER, WHAT GOD WOULD DO HERE THROUGH ORDINARY PEOPLE. I SAID THIS MANY TIMES. GOD WANTS SIMPLE PEOPLE TO KEEP IT SIMPLE. WE MAKE IT WAY TOO COMPLICATED. THIS IS NOT COMPLICATED. IT IS SIMPLY GRABBING HOLD OF THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST AND SAYING WHERE DO YOU WANT ME TO GO AND WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO; WHO DO YOU WANT ME TO SERVE?

NOW CARY TALKED LAST WEEK ABOUT FOUR PHRASES I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU. AS I GIVE YOU THESE FOUR PHRASES UNDERSTAND THERE IS SO MUCH MORE INVOLVED THAT WE COULD TAKE THE TIME AND WE STOLE THESE

BECAUSE THERE IS NO REASON TO REINVENT THE WHEEL -- FROM RICK WARREN AT SADDLEBACK, BUT HERE'S THE IDEA. YOU BRING THEM IN; TO BUILD THEM UP; TO TRAIN THEM FOR; TO SEND THEM OUT. BRING THEM IN TO BUILD THEM UP TO TRAIN THEM FOR TO SEND THEM OUT. NOW JAMES HAS THE IDEA. SAY IT WITH ME. BRING THEM IN, BUILD THEM UP; TRAIN THEM FOR; SEND THEM OUT.

LAST WEEK WE BEGAN TO LOOK AT THIS NEW IDEA OF BRINGING THEM IN AND I HAVE TO TELL YOU, AS WE HAVE LOOKED AT THE SCRIPTURES, I HAD AN IDEA THAT AS WE BEGAN TO PRESENT THESE THINGS, WE WOULD GO IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION BUT IT'S AMAZING WHAT GOD DOES WHEN YOU TRULY LOOK AT THE WORD AND WHERE HE WILL TAKE YOU AND IF YOU WON'T TRY TO MAKE IT GO A PLACE, LET IT TAKE YOU WHERE IT SENDS YOU, IT'S AMAZING THE DEPTH OF WHERE YOU THOUGHT YOU WOULD GO AND HOW MUCH RICHER GOD WANTS IT TO BE. AND LAST WEEK CARY BEGAN TO LOOK AT THE IDEA OF THAT CHURCH OF THESSALONICA THAT PAUL ESTABLISHED, HOW IT BEGAN. IT'S THE WHOLE IDEA OF BRINGING THEM IN. HERE'S WHAT WE SAW. LET'S GO TO FIRST THESSALONIANS TO START, IN THE 4TH VERSE OF THE 1ST CHAPTER. FOR WE KNOW BROTHERS LOVED BY GOD THAT HE HAS CHOSEN YOU BECAUSE OUR GOSPEL CAME TO YOU NOT SIMPLY WITH WORDS BUT ALSO WITH POWER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WITH DEEP CONVICTION YOU KNOW HOW WE LIVED AMONG YOU FOR YOUR SAKE. YOU BECAME IMITATORS OF US AND THE LORD AND IN SPITE OF SEVERE SUFFERING NOW, NOTICE THAT. IT WAS NOT EASY FOR THEM TO DO THIS, TO COME IN AND BECOME PART OF THIS. THE WORD OF GOD COMES TO THEM IN POWER; IT COMES TO THEM IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND IN DEEP CONVICTION AND YET FOR THEM TO BE ABLE

TO DO WHAT THEY DID AND TO TAKE HOLD OF IT WITH JOY, A WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SUFFER FOR IT. IN SEVERE SUFFERING, YOU WELCOMED THE MESSAGE WITH JOY GIVEN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SO YOU BECAME A MODEL TO ALL BELIEVERS IN MACEDONIA AND ACHAIA ;THE LORD'S MESSAGE RANG OUT FROM YOU NOT ONLY IN MACEDONIA AND ACHAIA THAT THEIR FAITH IN GOD HAS BECOME KNOWN EVERYWHERE. THEREFORE, WE DO NOT NEED TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT. LISTEN TO THIS STATEMENT. FOR THEY THEMSELVES, EVERYONE AROUND, REPORT WHAT KIND OF RECEPTION YOU GAVE US. NOW LISTEN. THEY TELL HOW YOU TURNED TO GOD FROM IDOLS TO SERVE THE LIVING AND TRUE GOD. NOW IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT THIS IS ABOUT, IT'S THIS. BRINGING THEM IN IS WHAT, ASKING HIM TO CALM FROM IDOLS TO GOD; BUILDING THEM UP, TO SERVE A LIVING AND TRUE GOD AND TO WAIT FOR THE SON -- HIS SON FROM HEAVEN TO BE RAISED FROM THE DEAD, JESUS, WHO RESCUES US FROM THE COMING WRATH. THIS IS WHAT WE SEE. THE MESSAGE IS PRESENTED. THEY RECEIVED IT WITH JOY. HOW DO WE KNOW THEY RECEIVED IT WITH JOY? BECAUSE THERE WAS RADICAL LIFE CHANGED. THEY JUST DIDN'T COME TO CHURCH AND RAISE THEIR HANDS. THERE WAS SUCH A RADICAL CHANGE AND EVERYONE AROUND THEM SAID YOU USED TO SERVE DEAD IDOLS; YOU USED TO COME TO THE TEMPLES OF THE PAGAN RELIGION WHERE THERE WERE TEMPLE PROSTITUTES AND ALL KINDS OF IMMORALITY AND STAND AND WORSHIP DEAD GODS BUT NOW YOU HAVE TURNED FROM ALL OF THAT. NOW YOU HAVE A COMPLETE RADICAL LIFE CHANGE AND YOU ARE SERVING THE LIVING AND TRUE GOD AND YOUR LIFE HAS BEEN SO RADICALLY CHANGED AND EVERYONE AROUND YOU IS EITHER COMING INTO CONVICTION OR THEY ARE THROWN INTO CONTROVERSY.

THAT'S WHAT TALKED ABOUT LAST WEEK. NOW I WANT YOU TO NOTICE SOMETHING OF WHAT THEY BECAME AS TIME WENT ON; AS TIMOTHY GOES BACK TO THIS CHURCH SENT BY PAUL TO GIVE A REPORT, THIS IS WHAT HE CAME BACK WITH. NOTICE TWO THINGS HE SAYS OF WHAT THEY BECAME. OF WHAT THE LORD DOES -- YOU WRITE THIS DOWN -- WHAT THE LORD DOES WHEN HE BUILDS A LIFE. NOT WHAT THE CHURCH DOES. BECAUSE I REALLY THOUGHT WHAT WE DO WAS TALKING ABOUT BEING BAPTIZED IN THE CHURCH, WE TALK ABOUT THE WORD AND WE TALK ABOUT SMALL GROUPS BUT YOU SEE ESPECIALLY WHAT THE LORD DOES WHEN HE SAYS JUST GET OUT OF THE WAY AND I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I MEAN. THIS IS THE LIFE THAT GOD WILL BUILD AND THIS IS WHAT THEY WILL SEE. NUMBER ONE, NOTICE WHAT IT SAYS. YOU BECAME -- VERSE SIX -- IMITATORS OF US END OF THE LORD. THE FIRST THING THAT HAPPENED IS THEY BECAME IMITATORS OF THE LORD. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? WHEN YOU LOOKED AT THEIR LIFE, WHEN YOU SAW SOMEBODY AT THAT CHURCH, YOU COULD LOOK AT THAT LIFE, ANDY'S LIFE OR DENNIS' LIFE OR SHIRLEY'S LIFE AND YOU COULD SAY BY LOOKING AT ANDY MCCLURG'S LIFE I THINK I GET A PICTURE OF WHAT JESUS IS LIKE. WHAT WOULD THAT BE LIKE? I CAN LOOK AT ERIC'S LIFE; I CAN LOOK AT CAESAR AND CAROLYN AND SAY I'VE BEEN AROUND THEM AND I THINK I'M GETTING A PICTURE OF WHO JESUS IS. WOW! NO GREATER COMPLIMENT CAN BE GIVEN. NOW NOTICE AS YOU GO BACK AND I THINK IT'S VERSE SEVEN. VERSE SEVEN WILL SAY -- VERSE EIGHT -- EXCUSE ME WHERE IN VERSE SEVEN. SO BY BEING IMITATORS YOU BECAME A MODEL TO ALL OF US. BY LOOKING AT THIS LIFE, BY BEING IMITATORS, IT NOT ONLY IS I SEE CHRIST IN YOU; I'M SAYING THIS IS HOW I SHOULD LIVE; YOU HAVE BECOME MY MODEL; I SEE IT, NOT BECAUSE I

HAVE EVER SEEN JESUS PERSONALLY BUT BECAUSE I'VE SEEN HE IS. AND BY SEEING YOU, I SEE CHRIST; I UNDERSTAND HOW THIS WORKS; I CAN SEE THE MESSAGE RINGING OUT FROM YOU; I SEE THAT FAITH COMING OUT FROM YOU; I SEE THE LOVE OF GOD COMING OUT FROM YOU; AND I'M SAYING, I WANT TO BE THAT! YOU HAVE IMITATED IT; YOU HAVE MODELED IT; AND NOW I WANT TO BE A PART OF IT. THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS. SO HOW DO WE DO THAT? WHAT IS REQUIRED? VERY SIMPLE. AS JOHN ALWAYS SAYS: WRITE THIS DOWN; WRITE THIS DOWN. TOTAL LIFE SURRENDER; NOT HALFWAY. NOT I'LL COME TO CHURCH WHEN IT'S CONVENIENT; TOTAL LIFE SURRENDER. A LIFE THAT SAYS THIS: IT IS CONSTANTLY SAYING I AM FORGETTING THAT WHICH IS BEHIND. I AM PUTTING ALL OF THAT BEHIND ME. I AM COMING OUT OF DEAD RELIGION. I HAVE COME OUT OF MY PAST LIFE. I'M COMING OUT OF MY ADDICTIONS. I'M COMING OUT OF MY EMOTIONAL STUFF; I'M COMING OUT OF IT; I'M COMING OUT. NOW SOME OF YOU WILL BE COMING OUT THE REST OF YOUR LIVES, I UNDERSTAND. I UNDERSTAND THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN IN A SPECIFIC BLINK OF TIME. SOME THINGS DO. WHEN THE LORD SAVED ME, THERE WERE CERTAIN THINGS THAT CHANGED JUST LIKE THAT AND THERE'S CERTAIN THINGS THAT HAVE STILL BEEN WORKING ON NOW FOR 30 SOME YEARS. BUT THERE'S THIS CONSTANT THING OF I'M PUTTING THAT BEHIND ME. I'M PUTTING THAT BEHIND ME; I'M PUTTING THAT BEHIND ME. AND I LIKE THAT SONG AT THE PRAISE TEAM SAYING. AND NOW I AM GOING FORWARD; MOVING, MOVING FORWARD WITH HIM. I AM CONSTANTLY PUTTING THAT BEHIND. I AM MOVING FORWARD TO HIM. I REALIZE HE CAN BRING BEAUTY FROM ASHES. HE CAN TRANSFORM LIVES. AND IF HE TRANSFORMS MY LIFE, HE CAN USE MY LIFE TO TRANSFORM SOMEONE ELSE AND IT'S A CONSTANT STEP-BY-STEP MOVING FORWARD. AND A

CHURCH THAT CAN GRAB HOLD OF THAT MINDSET, A CHURCH THAT CAN GRAB HOLD OF THAT MINDSET THAT IT IS NOT ABOUT US JUST DOING THE SAME THING WE DO ALL THE TIME BUT CONSTANTLY GOING FORWARD; CONSTANTLY PUTTING WHAT IS BEHIND. THIS CHURCH NOW IS OVER FOUR YEARS OLD AND I LOOK BACK FOUR YEARS AGO AND I SEE THIS CHURCH IN ITS INFANCY AND YOU'VE GOT TO REMEMBER IT'S STILL YOUNG. I SEE US GROWING AND I SEE US SAYING -- WE'VE GOT TO GO BEYOND THAT. WE CAN'T BE 20 YEARS FROM NOW STILL TRYING TO HAVE THE SAME VISION WE HAVE NOW. THIS SHOULD EXPAND. NOT THAT THE GERM AND THE NUCLEUS WON'T BE THERE BUT IN 20 YEARS FROM NOW, WE'RE STILL SAYING THE SAME THING WE'VE, NOT GONE ON. WE SHOULD BE SEEING 20 YEARS, 30 YEARS FROM NOW THAT THIS YOUNG GENERATION OVER HERE WHO WE'VE TRAINED, NOW THEY'RE TAKING IT. WE SHOULD BE RAISING UP PASTORS IN HERE. WE SHOULD BE RAISING UP MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE SERVING. WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE TO LOOK OUTSIDE THIS BODY. GOD SHOULD BE RAISING UP THE PEOPLE WITH THE FRUITS AND THE GIFTEDNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. IF WE'RE HAVING TO SEARCH OUT THERE TO FIND IT, WE'VE MISSED IT. AS WE BECOME IMITATORS, THIS CHURCH BECOMES A CHURCH MODEL. NOT BECAUSE WE'RE TRYING TO SAY HEY LOOK AT US BUT IF YOU ARE THE REAL THING, PEOPLE WILL LOOK. THEY WILL LOOK AT WHAT GOD WANTS TO DO AND THEY WILL LOOK AT WHAT HE'S DOING TO YOU BUT THE CHURCH CANNOT POINT TO A TRANSFORMED LIFE. IF ALL THE CHURCH CAN SAY IS WELL IN THE LAST 10 YEARS, WE'VE BUILT THREE BUILDINGS, CORPORATE AMERICA CAN BUILD THREE BUILDINGS. IF ALL WE CAN SAY IN THE LAST YEAR IS WELL WE'VE GOT THE BEST PRAISE TEAM IN TOWN. THE ENTERTAINMENT WORLD CAN DO MORE. REMEMBER THAT

MAGICIANS, THEY COULD ALWAYS DO THAT BUT THEY CANNOT PRODUCE CHANGED LIVES. OH, LITTLE BIT ALONG THE WAY BUT THEY CANNOT PRODUCED BORN-AGAIN LIVES, TRANSFORMED LIVES. SIMPLE PEOPLE KEEP IT SIMPLE. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT GOD WANTS, SIMPLICITY. SIMPLICITY; CONSTANTLY MOVING FORWARD.

IF YOU WILL I WANT TO GO TO EPHESIANS CHAPTER 5. NOW I LIKE THE MAN WHO STOOD UP AND SAID I HAVE SO MUCH TO SAY I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN AND SOMEONE IN THE BACK SAID START SOMEWHERE NEAR THE END. I HAVE THIS MUCH SERMON AND THIS MUCH TIME SO WOULD YOU SIMPLY JUST SAY GOD SHOW HIM WHAT TO SAY. THE REAL THING OF PREACHING IS LEARNING WHAT NOT TO SAY; GETTING OUT OF GOD'S WAY. BUT LOOK AT WHAT HE SAYS IN EPHESIANS CHAPTER 5, VERSE 1. THROUGH GOD, PAUL SAYS, THIS IS IT NOW. THE LIFE GOD BUILDS, BE IMITATORS OF GOD. THEREFORE, DEARLY LOVED CHILDREN. BE IMITATORS OF GOD. NOW WHAT DOES AN IMITATOR OF GOD LOOK LIKE? LOOK AT THE CHARGE. AND LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE JUST AS -- HERE'S THE MODEL -- REMEMBER WE ARE IMITATING -- WERE NOT MAKING THIS UP AS WE GO -- WERE SIMPLY IMITATING -- AS IMITATORS OF GOD, HERE'S WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN. BEING A LIGHT THAT SAYS THIS IS JESUS AT WORK; I SEE HIM AT WORK; YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE; HOW? JUST AS CHRIST LOVED US AND GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR US. NOW CIRCLE THIS WORD IN YOUR BIBLE. HE GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR US, CIRCLE THE WORD; THE LIFE THAT GOD BUILDS, GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR US AS A FRAGRANT OFFERING AND THE SACRIFICE, CIRCLE THE WORD, TO GOD. HE GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR US AS AN OFFERING AND SACRIFICE TO GOD. WELL, SOMETHING THERE'S GREAT SIGNIFICANCE HERE. WHAT I'M TELLING YOU IS I WANTED TO

GO PAST THIS PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE. THE HOLY SPIRIT KEPT SAYING, YOU'RE MISSING IT! YOU'RE MISSING IT! GO BACK! KEEP IT SIMPLE! QUIT TRYING TO FIND SOMETHING. LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING THAT'S ALREADY HERE.

GO TO FIRST CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 13. NOW I WANT YOU TO LISTEN AND HEAR ME OUT TODAY. BECAUSE I'M GOING TO SAY SOME THINGS THAT SOME OF YOU ARE IMMEDIATELY GOING TO GO AH AH AH. SOMEONE'S GOING TO SAY OH AND I'M GOING TO SAY SHHHHHHH! I'M GOING TO TRY TO SHOW YOU EXACTLY WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS, NOT WHAT JAMES GARNER MADE UP AND WHEN YOU SEE IT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY WHY DID I NOT SEE IT

FIRST CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 13. IF I SPEAK WELL, FIRST HE STARTS IN CHAPTER 12 WHEN HE SAYS AND NOW I WILL SHOW YOU THE MOST EXCELLENT WAY AND THEN HE SAYS NOW IF I SPEAK IN THE TONGUES OF MEN AND OF ANGELS BUT HAVE NOT LOVE I AM ONLY A RESOUNDING GONG OR CLANGING CYMBAL. I'M JUST A BIG NOISE. IF I HAVE TO GIVE PROPHECY AND CAN FATHOM ALL MYSTERIES AND KNOWLEDGE AND IF I HAVE A FAITH THAT CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS -- REMEMBER WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT GREATER THINGS, CASTING MOUNTAINS IN THE SEA. I CAN HAVE ALL OF THAT BUT IF I HAVE NOT LOVE, I AM NOTHING. IF I GIVE ALL I POSSESS TO THE POOR AND SURRENDER MY BODY TO THE FLAMES BUT HAVE NOT LOVE, I GAIN NOTHING. WE'LL SAY WHAT A SACRIFICE BUT I HAVE NOT LOVE, I'VE GAINED NOTHING. LOVE IS PATIENT; LOVE IS KIND. THAT'S WHAT IT IS. HERE IS WHAT IT IS NOT. IT DOES NOT ENVY; IT DOES NOT BOAST; IT IS NOT PROUD; IT IS NOT RUDE; IT IS NOT SELF SEEKING; IT IS NOT EASILY ANGERED; IT KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS; LOVE DOES NOT DELIGHT IN EVIL BUT REJOICES WITH TRUTH. NOTICE THAT. IT NEVER SAYS WELL THIS IS WORKING FOR ME. IT NEVER

DELIGHTS IN EVIL BECAUSE EVIL CAN LEAD YOU DOWN THE ROAD YOU THINK IS LOVE BUT IT'S NOT. IT REJOICES IN THE TRUTH; IT IS CONSTANTLY MODELING AFTER TRUTH. IT ALWAYS PROTECTS; IT ALWAYS TRUSTS; IT ALWAYS HOPES; IT ALWAYS PERSEVERES. WOULD YOU CIRCLE THAT? LOVE NEVER FAILS. LET ME SAY THAT AGAIN. LOVE NEVER FAILS. NOT THIS IS NOT SOMETHING I SAID IN MY STUDY THIS WEEK AND WROTE FOR YOU. THIS WAS WRITTEN BY THE APOSTLE PAUL UNDER THE INSPIRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. HE HAS TOLD US EXACTLY WHAT LOVE IS. ALL OF LIFE IS TO BE LIVED IN THE CONTEXT OF RELATIONSHIP. FIRST IN THAT LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART; WITH ALL YOUR SOUL; WITH ALL YOUR MIND; WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH. SECONDLY YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. NOW LISTEN TO WHAT I'M GETTING READY TO SAY BECAUSE IT IS VERY IMPORTANT. BEWARE OF TRYING TO BASE YOUR LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD ON A MUSHY, GUSHY EMOTIONAL SENTIMENTALITY. ALMOST A SENSUALITY. I DIDN'T SAY SEXUALITY, I SAID SENSUALITY. I WANT TO FEEL IT; I WANT ALL OF MY SENSES TO FEEL IT. NOW THAT SHOULD COME ALONG WITH IT AND ARE NOT SAYING IT SHOULDN'T BUT BEWARE THAT THAT DOESN'T BECOME THE BASIS OF IT. I JUST WANT GOD TO HOLD ME IN HIS ARMS AND FEEL THIS WONDERFUL MUSHY GUSHY LOVE. SATAN SAYS OH, YOU WANT TO FEEL SOMETHING? YOU WANT TO BE HELD? HE CAN PROVIDE THAT. THE DANGER IS OF TRYING TO EXPERIENCE GOD BY STOKING AND STROKING YOUR EMOTIONAL LIFE. I TELL FOLKS IN THE FACT OF 26 YEARS OF MINISTRY OR MORE, WATCHING PEOPLE WHO COME TO OUR PRAISE AND WORSHIP AND THEY'RE ALL EXPERIENCING IT AND THEY'RE EXPERIENCING IT AND LATER IN THE WEEK THEY SAY YOU KNOW WHAT? I

HATE MY WIFE AND I'M LEAVING HER. WAIT A MINUTE. OH BUT I LOVE GOD. WAIT A MINUTE. YOU'RE IN A MAJOR FOOLING OF YOURSELF. THAT'S NOT WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS. THAT'S NOT WHAT IT SAYS. EPHESIANS CHAPTER 5. WHAT DOES IT SAY? HERE IS THE MODEL OF LOVE. HE GAVE HIMSELF FOR US AS AN OFFERING TO GOD. GO BACK TO THAT THESSALONICA CHURCH, WHAT DID IT SAY? THEY TURNED TO GOD FROM IDOLS TO HAVE GREAT PRAISE AND WORSHIP TIME; TO HAVE GREAT EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES; TO SIT ALL NIGHT AND TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE AND THEY WOULD JUST HAVE A WONDERFUL AND GREAT EMOTIONAL TIME. IS THAT WHAT IT SAYS? THEY WOULD TURN TO GOD FROM IDOLS TO SERVE -- OOH - THERE'S THE "S" WORD -- TO SERVE A LIVING AND TRUE GOD. NOW LET ME SAY SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT. LISTEN TO ME. ANTENNAS TO THE TOP. LISTEN TO ME. LOVE IS NOT A FEELING. NOWHERE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IS LOVE DESCRIBED AS A FEELING. LOVE IS PATIENT AND LOVE IS KIND. NOW I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING, IF YOU'RE WAITING FOR PATIENCE TO BE A FEELING, YOU'RE IN TROUBLE. CAN I GET A WITNESS? IF YOU'RE WAITING FOR KINDNESS TO BE A FEELING, YOU'RE IN TROUBLE.

NOW I'VE BEEN MARRIED NOW GOING ON ALMOST 29 YEARS, AND THERE ARE TIMES WHEN ROBIN HAD SAID SOMETHING TO ME -- AND I KNOW THIS IS HARD TO BELIEVE -- THAT WHEN SHE SAID IT I WANTED TO GO (NOISE) YOU WOMAN!!! AND SHE DESERVED IT! AND THE HOLY SPIRIT SAID SHHHH. SHHHH. LOVE IS NEVER RUDE. LOVE IS NEVER SELF-SEEKING. LOVE IS A COMMITMENT TO PATIENCE AND A COMMITMENT TO HONOR AND SERVE. AND THAT IS A COMMITMENT YOU MAKE AND NOT A FEELING YOU TRY TO CONJURE UP. NOW WHEN YOU DO THAT AND WHEN YOU ACT IN PATIENCE AND YOU CHOOSE TO

ACT IN KINDNESS, THE FEELINGS WILL CALM. BUT NOT BEFORE. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THIS CONCEPT. HE IS SAYING TO US YOU MUST MAKE A COVENANT TO HONOR AND DESERVE. NOW WE UNDERSTAND -- HOPEFULLY WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN A MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP BUT WE ALSO HAVE THAT SAME COMMITMENT RIGHT HERE WITH EACH OTHER. THE LIFE THAT GOD BUILDS, IT'S ABOUT ME INVOLVING MYSELF IN MINISTRY FOR YOU TO GOD. WOW! ARE YOU SURE? I THINK I AM.

JOHN CHAPTER 14. AGAIN, I WILL NEVER GET ALL THIS MESSAGE PREACHED TODAY BUT I HAVE TO SAY THIS. AT SOME POINT I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE TO QUIT. I WANT YOU TO HEAR EXACTLY WHAT IT SAYS. NOW JOHN 14:12 -- WE'VE HAD IT UP HERE NOW FOR HOW MANY WEEKS, FIVE? I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, WHAT'S THAT MEAN? THIS IS IT. ANYTHING ELSE OTHER THAN THIS IS A LIE. I TELL YOU THE TRUTH. ANYONE, ANYONE, ANYONE WHO HAS FAITH IN ME WILL DO WHAT I HAVE BEEN DOING. HE, GENERIC, HE OR SHE SHALL DO GREATER THINGS THAN THESE BECAUSE I GO TO MY FATHER. GREAT! GREAT! WE ARE ALL INTO THIS GREATER THINGS. GIVE ME THAT FAITH! GIVE ME THAT FAITH! JUST GIVE ME THAT FAITH! IF I HAVE TO WALK OVER SOMEBODY ELSE TO GET IT, JUST GIVE ME THAT FAITH! I WANT TO MOVE MOUNTAINS! I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYBODY ELSE. AS LONG AS I AM RIGHT WITH GOD, I DON'T CARE IF THE REST OF THE WORLD GOES TO HELL. JUST GIVE ME THAT FAITH! JUST GIVE ME THAT FAITH!

OKAY LET'S GO TO JOHN 15. IT'S LIKE THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYS KEEP READING. VERSE 5; I AM THE VINE. HOW IS THIS GOING TO WORK? I AM THE VINE. YOU ARE THE BRANCHES. ALL LIFE RESIDES IN ME. ALL FAITH RESIDES IN ME. YOU'RE JUST A BRANCH. ANY MAN WHO REMAINS IN ME AND I IN HIM WILL

CARE MUCH FOR. THAT'S IT. I'M GETTING IT NOW. ABIDING. APART FROM ME -- NOW LISTEN -- APART FROM ME, YOU CAN DO NOTHING. OKAY, OKAY. VERSE 9. AS THE FATHER HAS LOVED ME, SO I HAVE LOVED YOU. NOW REMAIN IN MY LOVE. WHAT ARE YOU ABIDING IN? OKAY, IN ORDER FOR THE GREATER THINGS TO HAPPEN, WHAT ARE YOU ABIDING IN? OKAY. I'M ABIDING IN HIS LOVE. OKAY, YOU'RE SHOWING ME STEP-BY-STEP. I'M ABIDING IN HIS LOVE. HERE'S HOW IT WORKS. IF YOU OBEY MY COMMANDS, OKAY, ABIDING IN HIS LOVE IS ABOUT OBEYING. IF YOU OBEY MY COMMANDS, YOU WILL REMAIN IN MY LOVE. HOW? JUST AS I OBEYED MY FATHER'S COMMANDS AND REMAINED IN HIS LOVE. HE DIDN'T WALK AROUND SAYING FATHER AND I HAD A GREAT PRAYER TIME THIS MORNING. YEAH, GREAT DEVOTIONAL TIME. I DON'T CARE ANYTHING ABOUT THE REST OF YOU. FATHER AND I HAD A GREAT DEVOTIONAL TIME THIS MORNING. HE SAYS NOW HOW DO YOU KNOW I REMAIN IN THE FATHER'S LOVE? YOU KNOW I REMAINED IN THE FATHER'S LOVE BECAUSE YOU WATCHED ME MINISTER TO ONE LIFE AFTER ANOTHER LIFE AFTER ANOTHER LIFE. I GOT ON MISSION WITH THE FATHER AND HIS MISSION AND HIS PASSION HE CAME MY PASSION AND I WAS SO IN LOVE WITH THE FATHER THAT I WAS EVEN SAYING JOIN ME HERE; JOIN ME HERE. AS A CHILD -- REMEMBER -- WERE IMITATING AS WERE CHILDREN -- AS A CHILD BESIDE THE FATHER -- HE SAID OKAY, SHOW ME WHAT'S NEXT. AND HE BEGAN TO EXPERIENCE THE JOY AND THE PLEASURE OF THE FATHER. LISTEN, HOW TO WRITE KNOW THIS? THIS IS WHAT HE SAYS. I HAVE TOLD YOU THIS. I HAVE GIVEN YOU THIS EXAMPLE SO THAT MY JOY MAY REMAIN IN YOU. OKAY. THAT'S GOOD. I WANT YOUR JOY TO REMAIN IN ME AND THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE COMPLETE. YOU WANT JOY, YOU WANT FAITH, YOU WANT WHAT HE HAS?

HERE'S WHAT HE SAYS THEN. MY COMMAND IS THIS. ANTENNAS TO THE TOP! HE'S GOING TO TELL US WHAT THE SECRET IS. WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT MOVING MOUNTAINS? TELL ME WHAT GREATER THINGS IS. LOVE EACH OTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. OH. I'VE GOT TO LOVE JAY? I'VE GOT TO LOVE FRANK? WHAT'S UP WITH THIS? I WAS WITH YOU ALL THROUGH THE FAITH THING AND DO GREATER THINGS, I WAS ALL WITH YOU LORD AND THEN YOU TELL ME I'VE GOT TO LOVE STEVE AND DONNA LORD, DO YOU KNOW WHAT STEVE AND DONNA ARE LIKE? I MEAN WE'RE TALKING SMALL DOSES LORD. AND I'VE GOT TO LOVE THEM? I'VE GOT TO LOVE LEE JOLICEUR? CAN I GET A WITNESS? SHHHH. DO YOU WANT TO EXPERIENCE GREATER THINGS? LOVE EACH OTHER. YOU SEE JESUS DID NOT LOVE THE FATHER BY INVOLVING HIMSELF IN SOME RELIGIOUS WORK. HE DID NOT LOVE THE FATHER BY MEMORIZING THE WHOLE TESTAMENT. HE DID NOT LOVE THE FATHER BECAUSE HE WAS ALWAYS ON TIME FOR CHURCH. THAT MAY COME OUT OF IT BUT THE WAY YOU KNOW YOU LOVE THE FATHER IS THE WAY YOU LOVE EACH OTHER. YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND STRENGTH AND THIS IS THE SECOND. HOW AM I GOING TO KNOW IT? YOU WILL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF AND LET ME TELL YOU HOW HARD IT WAS TO READ THIS TODAY BECAUSE I AM A PERSON THAT REALLY -- I'VE GOT TO BE HONEST WITH YOU -- I HAVE A HARD TIME WITH PEOPLE! CAN I GET A WITNESS? I'M READING THAT THIS WEEK AND I SAID MHHMMM MAYBE CARY OUGHT TO PREACH THIS CAUSE CARY LIKES PEOPLE. LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT CARY MCKEE. THIS IS TOTALLY UNSOLICITED; HE DIDN'T ASK ME TO SAY THIS. HE IS A MAN THAT LOVES PEOPLE AND HE PUTS ME TO SHAME. I REMEMBER ONE TIME AND HE'LL SHOOT

ME FOR TELLING THIS STORY. HE WAS TEACHING A SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AND THE CLASS WAS GROWING AND GROWING. AND I SAID WHY IS THIS CLASS GROWING? THEN I HEARD THIS STORY. THERE WAS A MAN WHO WANTED TO COME TO CARY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS BUT THE MAN WOKE UP EARLY IN THE MORNING AND TRIED TO CUT HIS OWN HAIR AND HE MESSED IT UP. HE CALLED CARY AND SAID CARY I CAN'T COME. I HAVE TOTALLY MESSED MY HAIR. CARY WENT TO THAT MAN'S HOUSE AND CUT HIS HAIR FOR HIM. I'M NOT SURE I WOULD HAVE DONE THAT. DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU SEE THE POWER OF GOD FLOWING THROUGH THIS MAN'S LIFE? BECAUSE HE LOVES YOU. OH CARY MCKEE CAN COME IN EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AND TELL ME HOW OH GOD. BUT IF HE DOESN'T LOVE ME, I DON'T CARE. YOU WANT A CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY OF CARING AND BELONGING? YOU HAVE TO CARE. PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO KNOW HOW MUCH YOU KNOW TILL THEY KNOW HOW MUCH YOU CARE. I'M COMING TO AN END BECAUSE I'M GOING TO HAVE MIKE GEHRING COME UP IN JUST A MINUTE. LISTEN TO WHAT ELSE IT SAYS. GREATER LOVE HAS NO MAN THAN THIS. THAT HE LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS. YOU WANT GREATER THINGS? IT COMES FROM GREATER LOVE.

I DID NOT INTEND TO GO HERE WITH THIS MESSAGE. THE HOLY SPIRIT SAID STOP, PUT ON THE BRAKES. BACKUP THE BUS. YOU WANT TO BE BUILT UP IN JESUS? KEEP IT SIMPLE. LOVE EACH OTHER. LISTEN WHAT ELSE HE IS SAYING. YOU ARE MY FRIENDS IF YOU DO WHAT I COMMAND. YOU WANT TO BE THE FRIEND OF GOD? YOU WANT TO COME INTO PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD? LOVE EACH OTHER. YOU WANT GOD TO DO A GREAT THING HERE? YOU WANT GOD TO DO A TRAIN THEM FOR, DECIDE TO LOVE EACH OTHER; LOVE EACH

OTHER. BUT LORD, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? I'M NOT ASKING YOU JUST TO GET INVOLVED WITH EACH OTHER BECAUSE I'M TRYING TO MANIPULATE YOU OR TRYING TO THROW LEGALISM ON YOUR BACK. I'M JUST TRYING TO TELL YOU WHAT THE WORD SAYS. ASKING YOU TO GIVE YOUR LIFE IN MINISTRY FOR OTHER PEOPLE AS A MINISTRY TO GOD SO YOU CAN EXPERIENCE THE GREATEST JOY IN THE GREATEST LIFE POSSIBLE. WHEN YOU GET YOUR MINDS OFF YOURSELVES AND START PUTTING IT ON WHAT GOD WILL DO. AND WHEN YOU START PUTTING YOUR HEART AND YOUR MIND ON GOD'S HEART, HE WILL SAY YOU WANT TO SERVE ME? SERVE SHIRLEY. YOU WANT TO SERVE ME? SERVE . YOU WANT TO SERVE ME? SERVE MIKE. OH. IT'S THAT SIMPLE. HE'S NOT ASKING YOU TO WRITE GREAT BOOKS. HE'S NOT ASKING YOU TO GO OVERSEAS AND GO TO THE HOT AND TOTS IN AFRICA. SERVE EACH OTHER! AND GREATER THINGS THAN THESE SHALL YOU SEE BECAUSE I GO TO MY FATHER.

I HAVE ASKED MIKE TO COME AND SHARE WHAT HE HAS EXPERIENCED IN HIS LIFE SINCE GOD HAS PUT HIM IN THE MINISTRY OF SERVING OTHER PEOPLE. WHEN MIKE CAME TO US -- THREE YEARS AGO MIKE? THEY HAD LOST TWO CHILDREN, TWO BABIES THAT DIED IN BIRTH OR RIGHT AFTER BIRTH. HE AND GINA WERE COMPLETELY BROKEN. WE'VE SEEN GOD TAKE THIS GENTLEMAN AND BRING SUCH BEAUTY FROM ASHES. WHAT I THOUGHT OF A MAN WHO IS GIVING HIMSELF BY SERVING OTHER PEOPLE, THE FIRST ONES THAT CAME TO MY MIND WAS MIKE GEHRING. SO MIKE, WOULD YOU COME AND SHARE WHAT GOD'S PUT ON YOUR HEART?

(TESTIMONY OF MIKE GEHRING)

WHEN MIKE AND GINA CAME TO US, THEY WERE SO BROKEN; SO HURTING. MIKE HAD BEEN SAVED MANY YEARS BEFORE BUT HE HAD BEEN WALKING AWAY FROM GOD. MIKE GAVE HIS LIFE BACK TO GOD AND GINA RECEIVED CHRIST. WE'VE SEEN THEM GROW BUT THE GREATEST THING ABOUT MIKE AND GINA IS, AS THEY GREW THEY SAID, WE CAN'T KEEP THIS TO OURSELVES. MIKE KEPT AFTER US ABOUT GRIEF SHARE. HE DIDN'T JUST COME ONCE OR TWICE; HE CAME AFTER US.

HERE'S WHERE I WANT TO END TODAY. YOU MAY BE THERE AND YOU'RE SAYING OKAY JAMES, I GET IT! OKAY! OKAY! YOU'RE HITTING ME IN THE HEAD WITH A 2 X 4, I GET IT! SO SHOW ME WHERE. LOOK AROUND YOU. WHERE? WHO'S BESIDE YOU? IF YOU SPEAK WITH THE TONGUE OF MEN AND ANGELS, IF YOU HAVE ALL KNOWLEDGE, YOU CAN PROPHECY ALL KNOWLEDGE AND ALL MYSTERIES. IF YOU HAVE FAITH THAT CAN CAST MOUNTAINS INTO THE SEA. IF YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GIVE YOUR BODY TO BE BURNED FOR THE POOR AND IT'S ALL JUST FOR YOU, IF IT'S ALL JUST FOR SOME RELIGIOUS PERFORMANCE, IT WILL MEAN NOTHING. BUT IF YOU WILL COME INTO A BODY OF BELIEVERS AND SAY WHERE ARE PEOPLE HURTING; PLUG ME IN; FIND WHERE THEY ARE; GET IN A SMALL GROUP; FIND THAT PERSON BESIDE YOU IN THAT SMALL GROUP THAT NEEDS JESUS; THAT NEEDS SOMEONE TO LOVE THEM AND SAY I WILL BE THERE! I WILL STAND IN THE GAP! AND YOU SHALL SEE GOD DO GREATER THINGS THAN YOU EVER THOUGHT WAS POSSIBLE! I SEE MIKE AND GINA GROWING SO MUCH IN THE LORD. EVERY MONDAY NIGHT, AS I LEAVE WORK, THERE IS MIKE IN CARY'S OFFICE SETTING UP FOR GRIEF SHARE. AND THEY HAVE FIVE OR SIX WHO COME. BUT EVERY WEEK NOW, HE IS ABLE TO SAY FROM MY PAIN, THERE IS NOW PEACE. THERE CAN BE PEACE THROUGH

YOUR PAIN. THERE CAN BE GOD WORKING IN THE CENTER OF YOUR LIFE BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR PASTOR GARY TO MEET WITH THEM. HE DOESN'T HAVE TO HAVE ME OR JOHN OR SOMEBODY ELSE OR SOME PROFESSIONAL SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE. HE SAID WITH THESE HANDS STUMBLING AS THEY ARE, I WANT TO BE IN THE MIDDLE OF WHAT GOD IS DOING AND I WILL MAKE MISTAKES; AND I WILL NOT KNOW WHAT TO SAY; BUT IN THE MIDST OF IT, GOD WILL TAKE YOU AND DO SOMETHING AND THROUGH YOU AND THROUGH SOMEONE'S LIFE AND WHEN IT'S ALL SAID AND DONE, YOU WILL SAY ONLY GOD COULD HAVE DONE THAT. THAT'S HOW HE BUILDS A CHURCH. THAT'S HOW HE BUILDS LIVES. YOU COME INTO PARTNERSHIP WITH HIM. YOU CAN'T JUST COME OUT OF THE WORLD. YOU'VE GOT TO COME INTO CHRIST AND YOU'VE GOT TO EMBRACE ALL THAT HE IS AND WHEN YOU EMBRACE HIM, HE SAYS EMBRACE SOMEONE ELSE. WHEN YOU EMBRACE HIM, HE SAYS EMBRACE THEM. LORD, I JUST WANTED TO BE YOU AND ME. THEN YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND. WHEN IT BECOMES YOU AND HIM AND YOU LOVE EACH OTHER AND YOU COME AND GRAB HOLD OF THEM, GOD DOES A WORK THAT YOU NEVER THOUGHT WAS POSSIBLE. BUT YOU HAVE TO LAY DOWN YOUR PRIDE. YOU HAVE TO LAY DOWN YOUR PAST. WELL WE HAVE SOMEBODY COME IN HERE AND SAY JAMES I'VE PASTORED FIVE CHURCHES. THAT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO ME. I'VE PASTORED FIVE CHURCHES. THAT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO ME. ARE YOU READY TO SERVE? IT WAS SATAN THAT SAID IF I CANNOT RULE, I WILL NOT SERVE. GOD SAYS YOU WILL NEVER RULE UNLESS YOU SERVE. DO YOU WANT TO BE WHERE GOD IS AT WORK? GRAB A HOLD OF THE PERSON BESIDE YOU AND SAY HOW CAN I PRAY FOR YOU? HOW CAN I ENTER IN?

WHEN I LEFT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, I WANTED TO LEAVE IT ALL. I SAID I NEVER WANT TO COUNSEL AGAIN LORD, I'M A TOTAL FAILURE. I DON'T WANT TO PREACH AGAIN, I'M A TOTAL FAILURE. 20 SOME YEARS OF MINISTRY AND WHAT DO I HAVE TO SHOW FOR IT? AND THERE IS A TIME WHEN SOMEONE DOESN'T CALL ME AND SAY CAN YOU MEET WITH ME THAT I'M NOT SCARED TO DEATH. AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL THEM. AND THEN GOD DOES SOMETHING. AND YOU KNOW WHAT HE DOES AT THE MOST WESTERN MARK WHEN I SIMPLY GET OUT OF HIS WAY. WHEN I GIVE UP MY CHARTS AND MY GRAPHS IN MY 20 SOME YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND SIMPLY SAY GOD, IF YOU DO NOT COME THROUGH, NOTHING WILL HAPPEN. AND THEN I SEE HIM DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS.

WITH HEADS BOWED AND EYES CLOSED, DO YOU WANT TO BE BUILT UP? I TELL YOU, THIS MESSAGE WENT SOMEWHERE I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD GO AND I HAVE SO MUCH MORE BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT. WHAT IS IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW IS, WILL YOU GIVE YOURSELF TO GOD BY GIVING YOURSELF FOR OTHERS? THAT'S HOW IT WORKS. HE GAVE HIMSELF FOR US BY OFFERING A SACRIFICE TO GOD. DO YOU WANT TO GIVE AN OFFERING AND SACRIFICE TO GOD ,THEN EMBRACE THIS BODY. EMBRACE YOUR NEIGHBOR. REACH OUT IN INVOLVEMENT. IT'S ALL ABOUT INVOLVEMENT. AND WHEN YOU INVOLVE YOURSELF IN THE LIFE OF GOD'S PEOPLE, HE WILL DO SOMETHING THROUGH GOD'S PEOPLE TO THIS COMMUNITY AND YOU WILL BE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT AND WHEN IT'S ALL SAID AND DONE, WHEN YOU STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD, HE WILL SAY WELL DONE MY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT! AND IT WASN'T BECAUSE YOU MEMORIZED 400 VERSES OF SCRIPTURE. IT WASN'T BECAUSE HE PREACHED A MESSAGE; IT WASN'T BECAUSE YOU WENT TO

SOMEWHERE AND GOT A SEMINARY DEGREE. IT'S BECAUSE YOU DECIDED, AS SIMPLE AS YOU ARE, YOU CAN BE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF TURNING THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN AND IT CAN HAPPEN RIGHT HERE IN OKEECHOBEE THROUGH THIS BODY OF BELIEVERS BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT HE WANTS TO DO THROUGH EVERY CHURCH. WOULD YOU JOIN ME AT THIS ALTAR?