

Summary

In this sermon, Brayan Vanderslice shares his personal journey from a self-centered teenager to a young man who answered God's call to serve as a missionary intern in Mexico. Through his experiences of hardship, growth, and dependence on God, he challenges believers to examine whether their faith is truly their own and whether they are actively living out the calling God has placed on their lives. He emphasizes that there is no neutral ground in the Christian walk. You are either moving closer to God or drifting further away.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today grateful for the opportunity to gather together in Your name. Lord, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to what You want to speak to each of us individually in this time together. Remove any distractions, any pride, and any walls that might keep us from hearing Your voice clearly. Help us to be honest with one another and with You as we dig into Your Word and reflect on the calling You have placed on each of our lives. May this time not be about going through the motions, but about a genuine encounter with You. In Jesus name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one hobby or activity that you could easily spend hours doing without even realizing how much time has passed?

Key Verses

1. Romans 11:29 English Standard Version (ESV)
2. Revelation 3:8 English Standard Version (ESV)
3. Acts 28:3-5 English Standard Version (ESV)

Questions

1. Brayan described his faith becoming truly personal during his time in Mexico. Can you think of a moment in your own life when your faith shifted from something inherited or routine to something genuinely your own?
2. The sermon uses the image of Paul shaking the snake off into his own fire. What does it mean to you to have a personal, burning faith rather than relying on the spiritual fire of those around you?
3. Brayan pointed out that we often say we believe in God but do not live like we believe. Where do you see the biggest gap between what you say you believe and how you actually live day to day?
4. The sermon challenges us to think about how we spend our time, noting that hours spent on devices can add up to years of our lives. How do you currently balance time with God, family, and

technology, and where do you feel convicted to make a change?

5. Brayan says that in life there is no standstill. You are either getting closer to God or getting farther away. Do you agree with that statement? How have you seen this play out in your own spiritual journey?
6. The sermon warns that God-given opportunities and open doors do not stay open forever. Have you ever felt like you missed or nearly missed a door God opened for you? What held you back, and what did you learn from that experience?
7. Brayan challenges the idea that being a Christian simply means having a ticket to heaven. How would you describe the difference between someone who is genuinely living for God versus someone who is just going through the motions of faith?
8. The sermon reminds us that the same Holy Spirit who empowers great evangelists and missionaries lives inside every believer. How does that truth change the way you think about your own calling and what God might be asking you to do?

Life Application

This week, set aside at least 30 minutes each day to intentionally spend time with God through prayer, reading His Word, or simply sitting in quiet reflection. At the end of each day, ask yourself three honest questions: Did I move closer to God today? Did I invest time in what truly matters? Is there something God has been calling me to do that I have been putting off? If He has been nudging you toward a specific step of faith, whether it is reaching out to someone, pursuing a calling, or breaking a habit that is keeping you stuck, take that step this week. Do not wait for the perfect moment. Start now.

Key Takeaways

1. Your faith must be personal. You cannot rely on the spiritual fire of your parents, friends, or church community. Your relationship with God is between you and Him alone.
2. There is no neutral ground in the Christian life. Every day you are either drawing closer to God or drifting further away, and the habits and priorities you choose determine which direction you are moving.
3. God has placed a specific calling on your life, and that calling is a privilege, not a burden. If you keep hesitating, making excuses, or letting fear hold you back, you risk missing the open doors He has prepared for you.
4. The time you invest matters eternally. Hours spent consuming the world rather than seeking God leave you spiritually empty and unprepared to fulfill your purpose.
5. True Christianity is not about securing a place in heaven and then living however you want. It is about surrendering control to God, growing in relationship with Him daily, and actively stepping into the work He has called you to do.

Ending Prayer

Lord, we thank You for this time together and for the honest, challenging reminder that You have a purpose and a calling for each person in this room. We confess that too often we settle for going through the motions, filling our time with things that do not matter, and putting off the steps of faith You are asking us to take. Forgive us for the moments we have chosen comfort over calling. Right now, we ask You to reignite the fire in each of our hearts. Help us to make our faith personal, to spend our time wisely, and to step boldly through the doors You have opened for us. Give us the courage to stop making excuses and to trust that You who called us will also sustain us. May we leave this place different than when we came in, ready to live fully for You. In Jesus name, Amen.