

Special Prayer Service
Three-Word Prayers
Pastor JD Farag

KAPONO: Lord, we thank You for this time that we can gather together as a family, Lord, and not only to learn, Lord, but also to lift up those who are in need of prayer, Lord, this evening. So would You bless this time together? Lord, we thank You so much for what You're doing in our lives, Lord.

And Lord, would You just continue to be with the church? Be with our leaders here, Lord, be with the staff. Would You continue to give our pastors the strength that is needed to proclaim Your word, Lord, the whole word in its entirety. We thank You so much.

Again, we can never stop being thankful, Lord. We thank You. We thank You. We thank You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen and amen. Good evening. How y'all doing? You can be seated. So glad you're here. Thank you for coming. Those of you online, thank you for joining.

Tonight I'm going to start with a brief message, keyword "brief." Then after I am going to provide a prayer update concerning my wife, then we'll have our pastors come up. And then we're also going to have Kris Ito, who's the director of our Children's Ministry come up. (Chuckling) We just had a staff meeting today. So anyway...

Then time permitting, we're just going to give the Holy Spirit a lot of elbow room. But time permitting, we're going to, if can, open it up to all-church intercessory prayer for the many prayer requests that are on those prayer lists. And if you haven't gotten one yet, this would be a good time to come up and grab one. And these are emailed out, by the way, too.

So if you're not on the email list and would like to be — I have no clue how to go about that because I'm already on it. So that's all that matters. No. I think Gail can send it out. What, do they just email the office? Yeah. Like you need more work to do, right? Okay, good. So just email Gail and she'll take care of it. But we try to keep them updated.

In terms of recent prayer requests, these are from people all over the world, by the way, that have asked us to pray and many of whom are, I mean, just going through such difficult trials and so...

Actually, this is something I want to talk a little bit about tonight, something that the Lord has really opened my eyes to over the years concerning what I like to refer to as three-word

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prayers. We've talked about wordless prayers. We've talked about liquid prayers. But oftentimes, there are those prayers that are short in length, but certainly not strength, as we're about to see tonight.

But regardless of whether they are prayers without words or with tears or few words, what we do know is that God answers all our prayers if there are words or not, and if there are, He will even answer those three-word prayers that you could just barely get out because you're going through it.

And I do want to draw your attention to a very well-known passage of scripture in *Matthew's Gospel*, the *14th chapter*. So you can turn there. We'll be reading *verses 22-32*. There are so many life-changing truths in this account.

I'm going to just maybe point out two of the many, and the first of which is concerning the aforementioned three-word prayers, where I mean, that's just all you can pray. "God, please help." "Lord, help me." "Lord, save me."

But also secondly, and perhaps more importantly, concerning the trials of life. Let me explain how it is that God may deem it necessary to allow us to go into a trial so as to protect us from a greater and more perilous trial. Hang on to that. Not just going into a trial to protect us from a greater trial but sometimes going into that trial to prepare us for a greater miracle.

So *Matthew 14*. I want to begin in *verse 22*, and I want to draw your attention to this word "**immediately.**" We're going to see that a couple three times here.

But notice the urgency in "**immediately,**" the urgency with which Jesus, we're told, made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side while He sent the multitudes away. That's key. Who are the multitudes? Oh, these were the multitudes who witnessed the miracle of the feeding with a boy's lunch of fish and bread.

The thousands of people — and by the way, the record, there are two accounts, not just the same account of one miracle of the feeding of the multitudes, as we affection refer to it. But one of them was 4000, one was 5000.

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Understand, these are just the men. It doesn't include the children and the wives and the families. So some believe that there could have potentially been over 20,000 people there. And they're listening to the teaching from the Savior, but they're hungry. So this is when Jesus miraculously feed — and they even have food left over that Jesus has the disciples gather.

So now why is this key? Because there's an urgency with Jesus getting them in the boat and sending off the multitudes. They're like — they're saying, What's for breakfast? (Chuckling) I mean, they just witness this miracle of miracles.

I mean, who could have ever imagined? I mean, this would have been — I mean if I were there — which is why I wasn't. And you weren't either. I would have said, Hey, what's the hurry? We've got there undivided attention, having just witnessed this miracle, this feeding of the multitudes. Why don't we start a church here? We got an instant big church. The church called Calvary Chapel of the Feeding of the Multitudes. But Jesus is whisking them away and sending the multitudes away for a reason.

Then we're told, **“He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray.”** This is replete throughout the Gospels where Jesus would break away in order to pray. And how many times did He do so, leaving many, numerous needs unmet, people who were clamoring for His attention, wanting a healing, and yet He would walk away, go away, leave the multitude, send them away so He could go by Himself and pray?

And this is one of those times. Only this time He sends them into the boat onto the Sea of Galilee to get them out of there with urgency, away from the multitudes, sending the multitudes away. And He's like, hey, I'll meet you on the other side. I'm going to go pray. I'll see you on the other side. Get in here. Hurry up. Come on, let's go. That's the urgency of it.

“Now when evening came, He was alone there. [Speaking of Jesus] But [Meanwhile] the boat was now in the middle of the sea, [The Sea of Galilee] tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.”

Real quick, let me just mention here that they are in the middle of the Sea of Galilee, in the middle of a storm, yet they are in the middle of God's will for them to be there. This was

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God the Son, God incarnate, sending them knowingly into the middle of the Sea of Galilee, into the middle of this perilous life-and--death storm. Yet they are right smack in the middle of God's will for them.

What's my point? My point is this: We do err greatly when we misinterpret the circumstances in our lives when the wind is contrary, when there's adversity, when those storms of life hit. Our common response and reaction is I must be out of God's will, otherwise there wouldn't be this storm. No, you can be right in the middle of the storm of your life, the trial of your life, and yet be right smack in the middle of God's will for your life.

Again, I think we do err greatly when we think that because of the adversity we must not be in God's will. That is a very dangerous error to make, if I can say it like that because what comes packaged with that then is the flip side of that, which says if it's smooth sailing, then I must be in the will of God. If it's stormy and it's adversity, then I must not be in the will of God.

And I'll tell you, that is a very scary place to be as a Christian. Because wouldn't you agree that the majority of the time, we're, as one said, either in the middle of the trial, coming out of the trial, or right about to go into the trial? Doesn't that just bless your heart to know that?

In other words, trials, trials, trials. So if my theology, for lack of a better way of saying it, is adversity means I must not be in God's will, and smooth sailing means that I must be in God — I'm in God's will maybe two days out of the year because the other 300 and — I hope my math is right here, — 363, right? Yeah, good. Not too bad. The other 363 days that I'm in the trial, I'm not in God's will?

Are you kidding me? I'm only in God's will two days out of the year because those are the only two days that I'm not in the midst of a trial. So that is a work, right?

Okay, let's move on. **“Now [Verse 25] in the fourth watch of the night...”**

There's just so much here. I'm sorry if I'm interrupting and discombobulating, but this is the darkest time of the night, right before the sunrise. As it's been aptly said, it's always the darkest before the light.

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And they are now — I mean, these are just words on the page for us. But for them they are freaking out. They're like, this is it. And Jesus sent us into this storm. We're not going to make it out of this. So we're told **“in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.”**

Now here they are in the midst of this storm — very well known, this account, as we're about to see — but they're in the midst of the storm. Notice Jesus goes to them. He goes to them. His eye always on them. He knows exactly what's happening to them. I mean, after all, it was Him that sent them into this storm. So He goes to them.

Maybe that's for somebody here tonight or watching online. Jesus will come to you in those darkest times, in those perilous storms. And notice He's walking on the sea. He's walking on the very storm that's in your life, as if to say I am the Lord of this storm. I'm over it, I am walking on it, and I'm coming to you in the midst of it.

“And [Verse 26] when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear.”

Now, as you might imagine, I mean, you can't see anything. You're barely able — you're probably hanging on for dear life. The wind's contrary. It doesn't really even begin to, I think, describe just how perilous it was, These aren't trade winds, these contrary winds, they're not trade winds. Wasn't a soft, gentle breeze.

You know, these were hurricane-force winds, and they were beating this boat up and the disciples with it. And all — I mean, if you — just when you thought it couldn't get worse, now you've got a figure appearing in the midst of this storm, and it's walking on it, and it's coming towards you, towards you! Like, what in the world?

“But [Verse 27; here's that word again] immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! [It's Me] It is I; do not be afraid.” And I love verse 27. **“And Peter...”**

I think we, for one Resurrection Sunday sermon, I highlighted how many times you read in the Gospels, the disciples did this. **“And Peter...”** Those two words. You know, it's kind of like — you know, “they and Peter...” You know, like okay, “and Peter,” okay, you too.

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It's kind of like when somebody says — no, never mind. I'm not going to do that. It's mean. Because I'm the recipient of it. It's kind of like, you know, "all of you gentlemen, and JD."

"And Peter [And Peter] answered Him and said, "Lord, if [And that's "since"] it is You..."

Please never think that Peter is questioning "If it's really You." No. In the original, it is **"since it is You."** Because if you think about it, he wouldn't say, "If it's really You, bid me come." I mean, no, not even Peter would do that. So since it is You, because it's You, Lord, **"command me to come to You on the water." "Bid me come."**

Now this is where I think many have been way too hard on Peter. Because you know what's going to happen, what's going to go down. Literally, Peter's going to go down.

But what he doesn't really get due credit for is the faith that he had, the courage that he had, the trust that he had to even ask the Lord to have him come to Him and walk on the water. The other disciples didn't.

I mean, it's not in the text, but I'm just suggesting that if — I'll just use myself as an example. If I'm in the boat and Peter says that; I'm like, Peter, what are you, crazy? But not Peter. Hey, it's the Lord. Remember when they caught all those fish after trying to fish all night, and this is subsequent to the resurrection?

And Peter [And Peter] [And Peter!], when they caught so many fish after they put the net on the other side of the boat after this guy on the shore that they didn't know was Jesus yet, says, hey, put — go to the other side, you'll catch fish. We got no fish on this side.

Makes you wonder how wide is this boat that you would catch so many fish on the other side. No, that's called a miracle. And the way Jesus did what Jesus did — they catch all this fish, and Peter says, **"It's the Lord."** And what does he do? He jumps out of the boat. This time he's not walking on water. He's swimming to the shore. **"It's the Lord."**

Well, I didn't read anywhere in that account where the disciples are going, yeah, it's the Lord. Let's go!

No. The only time that you don't see Peter getting there first is when John — and he's very precise in wanting us to know that on that morning when that tomb was empty, that John got there first. And then he says, **"And then the other disciple."**

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You know, at least he was gracious and didn't say, "and Peter came a little bit after I beat him there." But that's really the only time. But every other time you see Peter right there, man, and this is one of those times.

So what does Jesus respond with to Peter when Peter says, "**Bid me come**"? Peter, what, are you out of your mind? No, Peter, come on. There you go again. No, He says, "**Come.**"

Now, what does Peter do? Does he say, "okay, are You really sure? Because I'm going to come. But I just want to make really, really sure." No, none of that. "**And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.**"

Nobody wants to talk about this because they want to get to the next part when he sinks because he took his eyes off of Jesus. No, wait. First, he walked on water to go to Jesus. Can we talk about that? You didn't do that. You didn't even ask Jesus for that. Peter did. And he did.

I mean, yeah, okay. You know, we're told, "**But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, [And here's the three-word prayer] saying, "Lord, save me!"**"

Down he goes. And everybody wants to highlight that, underline that, bold, italics, and nowadays put an emoji on it. Wait, can we go back? He's walking on water, man. He walked on water! How long? We're not told. I mean, it must have been at least a little bit of time. I'm not going to try to estimate the amount of time.

But first of all, just think about him getting out of the boat. I'm not kidding out of that boat. There's a storm out there. The waves are crashing into the boat and you're getting out of the boat? Yeah, he's getting out of the boat and then he's walking on water. What?

Now, I know it's not — let me back up. It's true that he did take his eyes off of — here he is. Imagine: he's walking on — first of all, I'm just, if I'm Peter, I'm going, I'm walking on water! And then he's looking down at the water that he's walking on, takes his eyes off of Jesus. Boom. Now he's not walking on water. He's going down in the water.

But we're told very detailed that, "**He saw that the wind was boisterous, [Again, I mean, this was a hurricane-force wind] and he was afraid.**"

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So now fear has replaced the faith that once filled his heart to even ask, **“Bid me come.”** And then to walk on water, that's faith. But now fear has replaced it, and he started to sink. And he prays this three-word prayer, **“Lord, save me.”**

I mean, in all fairness, he doesn't have time for the eloquent prayer, you know. Could you imagine Jesus like, come on, Peter, I taught you better than that. What happened to “Our Father which art in...”

No time. I'm going down. I'm sinking. I'm drowning. **“Save me, Lord.”** And what happens? Here's that word again, *verse 31*, **“Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him...”**

Now this is where we have to be really careful because we're prone to think that there might have been disdain or disgust in the tone of what Jesus said when He said this: **“O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”** It's not, **“O you of little faith!”** (Said with disgust)

No, that wasn't little faith. That was big faith. Get out of that boat and walk on that water. No, that was big faith. But notice, **“Why did you doubt?”** I imagine the tone of the Savior was one of compassion and just even emotion. Peter, why is your faith so little when your God is so big? Why did you doubt? In other words, the doubt, as James says, was the game changer. The one who doubts — you ask God for anything, but don't doubt because, interesting parallel, the one who doubts is double minded, tossed about by the waves of the sea, back and forth, wishy washy. No, that's doubt and no wonder you're going to sink. Doubt will sink you. Doubt will sink you. Faith has you walking on water. That's faith.

“And [Verse 32] when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.” Now doubtless you're familiar with the other accounts. This was not their first rodeo, their first storm. Remember the account when Jesus was actually in the boat sleeping? And they're like trying to wake him up. How could You sleep at a time like this? They wake Him up, **“Lord, we're going to die.”** What are You doing?

And again, He's very compassionate. Why are you, why are you freaking out? Again, that's a loose paraphrase. Where's your faith? And then He speaks to the storm and calms the storm and goes back to sleep. You woke Me up for this? What's the matter with you?

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Well, He... The wind ceased, **“When they got...”** Who's they? Peter and Jesus. And Jesus — How about this? Better said, Jesus and Peter. So the whole thing, the whole time this storm is still raging. It's only when they got into the boat the winds ceased.

Can you imagine the relief on the part of the other disciples who stayed at the boat? (Trying to catch his breath) Lord! Peter. Lord! You know, wow! What was that about?

I'll tell you what that was about. You know why I wanted you guys to get into this boat knowing that you would be going into this storm? I was trying to protect you from the greater storm had you remained on the other side.

What do you mean?

Well, the greater trial, the greater storm would have been the storm and the trial and the test of pride. Think the through with me. The disciples had reached their hands into those baskets, and they witnessed Jesus breaking the bread, blessing it, and then it miraculously multiplying so that there was enough for potentially 20,000 people and even leftovers.

And by the way, that's another interesting detail. If — why do you think that Jesus had the disciples get the leftovers? I'm thinking, Lord, hey, You can just do it again at will. When we get hungry next time, just poof! We'll just get a boy's lunch, say, sorry, we're going to use this and multiply this, and we're going to eat and we're going to feed the multitudes.

This is going to be, by the way, in a week, I think, every detail in our life matters to Jesus. The small details. God uses the leftovers. God cares about those small details. That's another — for another time. We'll talk more about that.

But He's protecting them. He's sending them knowingly into this trial to protect them from the greater trial had they stayed. I wonder how many times has God sent us into the midst of this storm, this trial, and unbeknownst to us, He's actually with urgency, protecting us from the greater trial by sending us into the midst of the lesser trial.

Because had we stayed, that's pride. And we talked about this Sunday. Pride comes before destruction. And God cannot be party to our sin. God does not tempt us to sin. God cannot be a part of anything that would be conducive in our lives to sinning. He's always going to create an environment in our lives that's conducive to us being obedient, not disobedient.

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So He's not going to leave us in a place where we're susceptible, vulnerable to the sin of pride, which is destructive, it leads to destruction.

So if it means that He's got to send us into this trial in order to protect us from that trial, He's going to do it. And by the way, spoiler alert, they made it to the other side. That's lost in all of this. I mean, we kind of stop here, and it's like, wow, Peter walked on water, took his eyes off of Jesus. He started to sink; you know.

Don't take your eyes off of Jesus.

Okay. I won't.

You can walk on water.

Okay, I will.

You know, Jesus comes to you.

Okay, I know.

You know, Jesus answers three-word prayers. Yes, praise the Lord!

But we don't take it further and think on and meditate on how it is that God is so protective of us. You know, oftentimes God will not only protect us, but redirect us. And we're going to make it through. We're going to make it to the other side. Listen, if Jesus said, get in the boat. Hurry up. Peter, get in. And Peter got in. He was the last one to get in - first one to get out - and then the first one to get back in.

But when Jesus tells you you're going to make it to the other side, and I'll meet you on the other side — actually, I'm going to have to come and meet you in the middle of the storm to get you to the other side. But that's cool. But when Jesus says you're going to make it to the other side, you're going to make it to the other side.

Now, I know that might be a firm grasp of the obvious, but when you're in the middle of the storm of your life, I mean, isn't it true — I'll admit it — I think I'm not going to make it. I'm not going to make it through this one. I know He — I made it through. He saw me through the others. But this one, no. This is it. This is how it ends.

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No, Jesus told you that you were going to be on the other side. He would meet you there. If Jesus told you that, then guess what? That's what's going to happen. It might be a little bit rough. You know, getting there may not be what you expected, but you're going to get there.

It's not smooth sailing. But we've talked about this, too. You don't want it to be. I don't want it to be.

Why?

Because, again, what they call a place that has no rain, no storms, no clouds, no nothing, has nothing? It's called a desert, barren, no growth. You know, a poor illustration probably but I'll illustrate it, nonetheless. You know, it's the very adversity of the wind that keeps the air (plane) flying. It needs the adversity of the wind in order to keep those wings which keep the plane up.

Adversity: we are so — what's the word? We are so resistant to adversity. I mean, if you really think about it, don't we go to great lengths to adversity-proof our Christian lives? I mean, we really go to great measures to try to avoid adversity when in fact, adversity in the storms can be the very thing, the best thing that could possibly happen to you.

Here's where I'm going with this and here's why I'm going there with this. Not only was this a protection from the greater trial, but so too was it a preparation for the greater miracle. I mean, absent the storm, absent the miracle, how many times have you been in an impossible situation only to find that God did the impossible which God could not have done had it not been impossible? Please tell me you got that. Right?

I mean, the — had it not been for this, Peter would have never experienced, the disciples would have never witnessed the miracle of walking on water. That would have never happened had this storm never happened. You would have never had the miracle unless you had the trial.

And here we are fighting and kicking and biting and scratching and everything else whenever there's adversity. I mean, again, maybe I'll just speak for myself. We fear the trial. We're afraid of it when, in fact, we should embrace it because of what God does in and through the

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trial that we fear, the faith that is wrought, the miracles that are brought. No trial, no miracle. No trial, no miracle. Trial = miracle.

Sometimes the situation is so perilous, and you're just like, God, this is so bad, You got to be in it. I don't know what You're up to, but You're up to something because only You can get me out of this.

And I just — you'll forgive the humor I see in this — I just picture God going, oh, you're starting to figure it out now, aren't you? See, that's exactly what I'm doing. I'm putting you in this trial, this storm, this situation that is absolutely, utterly impossible and in all of its peril because I'm about to do something that I could not otherwise do if it were not utterly impossible in all of its peril.

And could you imagine? After all of this, everything calms down. The storm stops. He's in the boat. Because Jesus is in the boat: No storm. Everything is calm, and they make it to the other side.

I like that chapter in the book of my Christian life, you know that final chapter because you've got to turn the page. And you get to the other side with Jesus in the boat, by the way.

He's not waiting there on the other side, Hi, guys! (Waving hello) About time you got here, and Peter. Anyway, just glad to see you made it. I've been waiting. Been praying and waiting. Let's go. No, He's in the boat with them. It's okay. It's good. I'm with you. I'm with you in this.

Sometimes it doesn't seem like the Lord's there, but He's there. He's there. Yeah, but it doesn't feel like it. Oh, are we walking and living by ♪ feelings ♪ (singing) not faith? Because isn't faith sort of the antithesis of feelings, the evidence of things not yet seen or felt? Because we tend to be, you know, touchy and feely, as they say, where if I can touch it and feel it, then I'm good.

Well, no, that's not faith. Faith is the hope that we have of that which is not yet realized. Faith is the antithesis of sight: touchy, feely, seeing. You know, seeing is believing. No, believing is seeing. Believe, Jesus said, and you will see.

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So I think we rob ourselves. And God sometimes will pull back because, you know, He doesn't allow us to be tempted or tried above that which we are able to bear, *1 Corinthians 10:13*. But in and through the trial — I wish it wasn't that way — but in and through the trial, He will provide a way of escape so that we can endure it.

How about when James says that basically you're going to get through — the perseverance you need to get through the trial by going through the trial to get the perseverance you need to get through the trial.

Well, no, I need perseverance.

Okay. I'm going to give you a trial.

No, no. I asked for perseverance.

Yeah, but the only way you're going to get perseverance is by going to the trial.

No, I just want the perseverance prescription, not the trial prescription filled.

That was maybe too much, but I think you got the point, right? In other words, I want the perseverance. I want the strength. I want the endurance. I want the spiritual maturity. I want the character. But I don't want to have to go through what I have to go through in order to get the perseverance and the endurance and the character. And that's not how it works.

I jokingly, humorously talk about this, but there is so much truth to this. You pray, "Oh, God, make me a man of prayer." And here's the angels in the Heavenly host going, uh-oh. Oh, no, he didn't.

Oh, yes, he did.

Because see, they know that when you pray, "make me a man of prayer," God's like, "okay, you asked for it, you got it." And then you're on your face and you're praying. You're going, "oh, God!"

And God's like, "you asked Me to make you a man of prayer. I'm answering your prayer. Look at you. You're praying."

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“Yeah, but I didn't expect this was the way You were going to answer my prayer to make me a man of prayer. I just thought You were going to make me a man of prayer. I didn't even begin to imagine You were to give me two sons.”

That'll make you a man of prayer. And then they grow up. Then you have a daughter, and then she is going to get her driver's license. That'll make you a man of prayer. (Bumbling words) The rapture is going to happen first. Right, Lord? Please.

“Well, you asked Me to make you a man of prayer. And the only way I can make you a man of prayer is by you going through these things that bring you to your knees before Me in prayer.”

I mean, let's be honest. When things are going well in our lives — and I'm almost done — when things are going well in our lives, doesn't it show up in our prayer lives? And conversely, when adversity strikes, doesn't it just change the whole complexion of our prayer lives?

I mean, just even the — talk about the length of prayer. I mean, you've got length and strength. You don't got three-word prayers, you got three-paragraph prayers, three-page prayers. Oh, God!

Now we're talking. Now we're praying. I — it's — I don't know how else to say it except, proportionate to the trials of life is one's prayer life. I think it's — I'm getting to that place in my life with all the trials of life, especially as of late where — I hope it doesn't come off wrong. I almost feel sorry for the Christian who's not going through such difficult trials and storms because neither are they tasting from the cup of the miraculous, the deliverance, the healing.

Little things — and this kind of dovetails into the update, the prayer update concerning my wife, who, as many of you know, is battling an aggressive form of breast cancer. By the way. Thank you so much. My wife wanted me to make sure that I just thanked all of you for your overwhelming outpouring of love and prayer. And I mean it really — when I say overwhelming, that's not hyperbole. It's so overwhelming. We are so loved. Oh, my goodness. Thank you. And this is surely a difficult time for us.

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And I was telling the staff today it's moment by moment for us. But God, you know? I mean, we know that this is the greater trial, but it's also the greater miracle because we're tasting again. The last time was when our daughter Noelle died, but we drank deeply and tasted from the cup of God's goodness and saw that He is and was and always will be good no matter how bad it was.

And again, I hope this doesn't come off wrong. But when you go through those kinds of trials and storms in life, you come out of them, the other side of them, having experienced an intimacy with God that you almost — though you'd never want to go through it again, you have a fondness about that time that you had that closeness, that intimacy, drinking deeply, tasting of the Lord, and seeing that He is good.

My wife and I: Our morning time and prayer time and quiet time before the kids wake up, you know, it's such a treasured time for us. And we were talking about — we call them pockets of joy and quiet, too. But we're just, we were just talking about how that little, little fingerprints, little, little things, little things that God just does. And you're going, wow, God, thank You! That was so cool!

And it doesn't take much. Just little things. Yeah, it's just like God's handprint. Like, I'm still with you. I know You're in the middle of this storm, but, man, if you only knew. If you only knew what I'm doing in you.

Because see, God cannot do anything through us until He first does that work in us. And as hard as it is, as painful as it is, I know that, like the psalmist, the sweet psalmist of Israel, David would say in *Psalm 27:13-14*, **“I know that we will see the goodness of God in the land of the living.”** Take heart.

Yeah, this is really scary. This is, can I say, uncharted territory for us? But, you know, you know how many people are going through the same thing and worse? I mean, it's on our prayer list. You read some of these prayer requests, and it'll bring it to your face. So many people.

I mean, we've had numerous people reach out to us through the websites and the church email sharing their stories about cancer. I mean, stage-4 cancer; they were told, get your affairs in order. This is it. I mean, nothing's working.

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And God just healed them. Miraculous so only He got the glory for it. Not natural treatment, not conventional treatment, not both, even for that matter. No, it was God. He made it so that there was no question mark, as we talk about, that it was Him who did it.

And my wife and I are trusting God. We're trusting in the goodness of God. Yeah, this is bad, but God is good. And no matter how bad it is, it cannot, nor will it ever change how good God is. No matter how bad it is, it will never change how good God is.

One last thing and then we'll turn a corner here. You know, when we knew that Noelle was going to die, we got all the statistics from people saying, yeah, you know, 90-some percent, you know, of couples who experience the death of a child end in divorce. Thank you so much. Just, wow. Thank you. Get thee behind me Satan.

What? Yeah 98%. Actually that's a valid statistic. I've seen it in my years of ministry over the decades where you know the death of a child, unforeseen death, unexpected death of a child and the marriage does not — Christian marriage does not survive because the pain is so intense.

But with my wife and I, it brought us closer together. And not only did it bring us closer together — well, the reason why it brought us closer together is because it first brought us closer to the Lord. He got in the boat with us, and we got to the other side. And our daughter, Sabia, was born.

And had we not gone through that trial, we would have never experienced the miracle of the birth of our daughter. I mean, she would have never been born had our daughter Noelle not died. I mean, that's just — I think sometimes we just limit in our limited, finite, fallen understanding the greatness and the grandness of God.

I mean, God, when Jesus says to Peter, **“O, you of little faith,”** it's a — you've got such a big God, you think too little, your faith is too little. You're asking Me for this, and I want to do this. You're asking Me for this concerning your wife. Well, what if I don't want to do that? What if I want to do this instead?

You know, we — you know that common response — and now I'm really almost done. This is maybe, I don't know for somebody. But you know our common response is hey, how you doing? Well, I'm keeping my head above water. Are you?

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Well, what if God wants to do the greater miracle and have you breathe underwater? That's the greater miracle, isn't it? But if you're not trying to keep your head above water in that trial that you're in, how would it ever be possible for God to do the miracle of having you breathing under water? I'm breathing under water, right?

I'm not walking on the water. I'm breathing under the water. I've already went down underneath. That's it. I'm way past the — I'm over the whole thing. I'm under the water, but I'm still breathing, and so is my wife. And that's the greater miracle.

And here's — did I say one last thing yet? One last thing. You know when Paul writes to the Corinthians and says comfort one another with the same comfort that you yourself were comforted with by God when you were going through what that person that needs comfort is now going through?

I'm going to keep referring to Noelle, just again one last time. Do you know how many couples we were able to minister to over the years? She would have been 17, by the way. She would have been driving. But do you know how many couples we've had the profound privilege of ministering to over the years that had lost a child? We could comfort them with the comfort we ourselves were the recipients of from God when our daughter died.

So we could now comfort them, and they could receive that comfort because we had went through what they are now going through.

Okay, let's fast forward to cancer. Now, I tell you, if anything, what this — and this is a good thing. The one thing that this is doing is — like we need it more — to long for heaven and the rapture.

Because that's another thing adversity does, right? The trials, they have this way of loosening our ever-tightening grip on this world and the things of this world. I'm so over this world with all of the cancer, all of this disease and the sickness and death.

And I can't wait because the place that is being prepared for us and eternity future, there is no more cancer. There is no more death. There is no more pain. There's no more night. There's no more cockroaches. There's no more termites. There's none of that. There's no more mortgage payments. None of that. It's just glory for all eternity. And the trials of this life really prepare you and ready you and even steady you for that which awaits.

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I have, and I'm learning that through it all, you have more compassion for people. You know, when you go through stuff like this, you just have much more compassion for people. So Kellie was telling me the other day that — man, she's a — that — she's a tough cookie, that girl. Well, she has to be to be married to somebody like me. But she'll go out and about. She gets out more than I do.

But she'll say, you know, I look at people differently now. And I notice people that I would not have otherwise noticed. And I pray for people. And I just see the suffering and I see the pain and I notice the infirm and those who are, you know, not well. And I just have such a compassion.

Not that she didn't before. Don't get me wrong, she always been that way. But now it is so much more pronounced. You know when — okay, last, last thing.

Romans 8:28. You know, we love this verse. What a promise, right? We know that **“God works all things together for the good.”** Can we make sure that our definition of good is the same definition of good that God has of good?

Because see, our definition of good is He's going to work this out so that I have more finances. Okay, that's good. But that's your definition of good.

What if the good that God is going to bring and work together from this is more like you're going to have more compassion and humility and you're also going to be more like Jesus. You're going to be kinder. Those are all the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

You're going to be more loving. Maybe that's God's definition of good, that He wants to work out of that situation when He brings you to the other side. Maybe the good that He's going to work out of this is going to be forgiveness. That's way good. Maybe it's going to be — that's God's definition of good.

We tend to define good in the physical sense or the material sense. But it's more importantly in the spiritual sense, the good that God wants to work out and bring out. And because of it, He's going to work it together for the good, making you — and that's what *Romans 8:29* is, to make you more like Jesus.

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That's His purpose, is to make you more like the image of Jesus Christ. And you're going to look more like Him when you come out of this. And that's the good that's going to be worked out of this.

Well, I went way longer than I thought, and I know Kris is very happy about that because... But let's start with Pastor Leitu. Come on up. And then after Pastor Leitu will be Pastor Mac. And then after Mac will be Kris. Then I'll come back up and talk for another hour.

PASTOR LEITU: Half an hour, Right?

[Laughter]

[Pastor JD says, "That's all?"]

PASTOR LEITU: Aloha, everyone. I'd like to share from the *Book of Romans, Chapter 12*. I'll be reading from *verses 7-13*. It tells us **"If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously.**

If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them.

Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble and keep on praying. When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality."

On behalf of Pastor JD, Pastor Mac, our staff, and myself, we are blessed with the opportunity to pray for and serve the body of Christ here at Calvary Chapel, Kaneohe.

There have been so many with spiritual and physical needs. The leadership here loves and cares for the body of Christ. We'll do our best to fill these requests within reason, of course, whether it be for prayer or for any other need.

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In the past, the Lord has blessed so many who are in need through this ministry. It's an honor to serve our brothers and sisters. It's an honor to serve our God and Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us pray.

Father in Heaven, we come before your throne. We thank You for Your love, Your kindness, Your goodness, I mentioned tonight compassion, Lord. We thank You, Lord, that You hear our prayers. We thank You that You provide for our every need, especially that of salvation.

We never forget the cross and that You sent Your only Son so that we could be saved by putting our faith and trust in You. We love You, Lord. We worship You; we adore You, and we lift You up today and each and every day until we see You face to face. Lord, we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

PASTOR MAC: Blessings to you all and peace be multiplied. And so in the *Book of Proverbs*, Chapter 21:31 the word of God reads, **“That the horse is prepared for the day of battle: but safety thereof is of the Lord.”**

On behalf of Pastor JD Farag and the staff here, I want to thank everyone who volunteers in the department of security. The times that we live in today are indeed becoming more perilous by the day.

There are things that happen behind the scenes that many of you do not see, but perhaps could speculate. We're thankful that we're here in this position on the island and the property that the Lord has blessed us with that puts us in a secure location. But as the proverb said, **“the horse is prepared for the day of battle.”**

We have a responsibility as individuals, as staff, as Christians, and all of the above. And so as we move forward, I just want to send an extra thanks to all of the volunteers who will do the unthinkable for most, which is the greatest love, is to lay down your life for your friends. You stand on the front lines, fearlessly, knowing that the Lord will indeed deliver us as He continues to protect this His Church.

Thank you for your steadfast training as we intensify it, as the days become more intense and that you're here to do that without a squeak or squabble. No complaining. It's all because of your heart of servitude. And it does not go unrecognized. So we truly thank you

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for your service and we love you and want to pray right now for the continued protection of you, your families, and your loved ones, as well as this church.

So join me in a word of prayer. Loving Heavenly Father, I want to thank You, Lord, for being the ultimate protection that we have. We know we have You. And You've given us discernment to be able to prepare in ways that only You can provide for us to prepare. And we know that the heavenly host that protects this Your church exceed far and wide to keep all enemies at bay.

But, Lord, if You would allow one to slip in, You have provided us with that due diligence in everything that You would give us to thwart off any threat.

And we're so thankful for all the servants here that you've brought inside this Your church. Lord, we are truly thankful. We ask that You would just bless them and keep them protected. And we ask that You just continue to give them a servant's heart.

And Lord, we thank You continuously for all that You continue to do in throughout this ministry. We loved you and we indeed praise you in the mighty name of Yeshua, Jesus Christ, we do pray. Amen. Thank you.

KRIS: Oh, I feel so short up here. Okay. So Pastor JD is a jokester because he keeps on bringing up my name. And the reason being is because I don't like public speaking. And so he was just like, okay, Kris, you know, you don't have to do it if you don't want to. But I told him, "Didn't you mention my name last Thursday?" So it kind of puts me on the spot. But anyway, I just wanted to share a little bit about what's happening in the Children's ministry.

So for the past four years, we've been using the Answers in Genesis curriculum, which goes from Genesis through Revelation. And starting next month we'll actually be finishing up the curriculum in the *Book of Revelation*, in which we beat Pastor JD. It has taken him 20 years thus far. And it has taken us four years to get from Genesis to Revelation.

So after Revelation, we will go back and repeat in Genesis and continue to teach and proclaim the Word of God to whoever the Lord brings in our midst.

And so would You please join me in prayer? Heavenly gracious Father, we just come before You and we just give you all the thanks, glory and praise for each and every child that You

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bring into the ministry. Thank You so much for the servants that work tirelessly each and every weekend who cover for one another. And we're just so blessed above and beyond.

And so, Father, You say, **“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart.”** And so I pray for the parents, Father, that we will have the willingness, that we will have the boldness and the courage to train our children up in this world because it is just full of deceit and lies. And that You will just give us that strength that we need, as well as the wisdom to raise our children in Your truth, that we will not cower.

And so, again, we just give You all the thanks, glory, and praise. And please continue to strengthen and pour out your wisdom into the teachers and those who serve within this ministry. Continue to give us hearts that will serve You and glorify You.

And again, we just praise Your name and thank You so much for this privilege and this calling to the ministry and to be under the leadership of Pastor JD, Pastor Mac, and Pastor Leitu.

And just again, in this church where it preaches and teaches the word of God. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray. Amen.

PASTOR JD: All right. So let's take the remainder of our time and we'll have a time of intercessory prayer. And pray as the Lord leads. Does everyone have a prayer list?