

2 Timothy 1:1-8 –November 8th, 2020

Surviving the Storm

JD Farag

Good morning and welcome to our second service on Sunday morning. In the first service, we devote our time to Bible prophecy, and the second service is the verse by verse teaching through God's Word. Last week we finished 1 Timothy, and today, we're going to begin our study through 2 Timothy Chapter 1, and our text will be verses 1-8. We'll encourage you and invite you at this time to turn there if you're not there already.

While you're doing that, I just want to, by way of a reminder, let you know that Phase 1 of our new website at JDFarag.org is up. It is really exciting to see the kind of interaction that we're having already. If you haven't checked it out, you may want to do that. The link to that should be below in the video description there online.

All right. Let's get to it. I'm really looking forward to what the Lord has for us today. As I think you're going to see here in a moment, it doesn't matter where you're at in God's Word, because where you're at in God's Word is where you're at. It is not a play on words because God's Word is alive and active and sharper than any two-edged sword. It doesn't matter where you are in God's Word; it speaks to where you are in your Christian life. Such is the case today as I'm sure you're going to see here shortly. I'll ask you to stand if you're able; if not, that's all right where you're seated is fine.

You can follow along as I read beginning in verse 1, "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus. To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus, our Lord. I thank God [verse 3] whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day, I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

For this reason [verse 6], I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. Verse 7, "The Spirit God gave us does not make us timid but gives us power, love, and self-discipline. So, do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather join with me in suffering for the Gospel, by the power of God."

Let's pray if you would join me? Loving heavenly Father, we want to posture ourselves before you this morning, with this portion that we have open before us this morning here in your Word. Humbly, simply, with ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts to receive what the Spirit would say to us, your church. When you speak as only you can, Lord will you get our attention and hold our attention so our minds, as they so often do, don't wander and become distracted. Because, Lord, we don't want to miss anything that you have for us today, particularly with this passage. Lord, I truly believe that you're going to minister to us and reveal yourself to us in fresh ways today in and through your Word. This, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen. You can be seated. Thank you.

I want to talk with you today about "Surviving the Storm" that seems to be on the horizon on the heels of the presidential election, and with the media just yesterday declaring Joe Biden, the winner. Chiefly, that of what I see as what Biden himself in the second presidential debate referred to as "A Dark Winter." How's that for an introduction?

In the text that we have before us today, the Apostle Paul is exhorting Timothy concerning that, which he at that time in Ephesus was facing. It was quite a crisis that he faced, and Paul, because of his love for Timothy, writes this second letter to Timothy. It's important to understand that this is his last letter, and Paul knows it.

As he writes this letter by the Holy Spirit, Paul is unjustly imprisoned and when you think of this, think of a dungeon as a prison, where you're sent to die. Unbeknownst to him and according to church historians, he's likely weeks away from being beheaded. This is the last letter he'll write, and he writes it to Timothy.

2 Timothy 1:1-8 –November 8th, 2020

Surviving the Storm

JD Farag

What's striking to me, especially in the first 5 verses, I don't know if you notice it or not as we read it, but this raw emotion is on the part of the Apostle Paul towards Timothy. Timothy is like a son to him, and he loves this man so much. He is really a son in the faith. Paul had fathered him in the faith, and Paul is recalling what appears to be the last time he saw Timothy. Apparently, it was quite emotional, and it was the last time they would see each other. But he recalls how Timothy just wept the last time they were both together.

It seems Paul is waxing sentimental. I don't know if that's how you see the Apostle Paul. I know for me I see him as this man, this mighty man, mightily used of God, unflinching, fearlessness. But yet there was this other side to Paul. He had a huge heart. He had a soft heart. I see Paul as being a very loving man. Oh, how he loved people. Here he's kind of traveling down memory lane, as he mentions Timothy's grandmother by name, Lois, and his mother, Eunice.

In so doing, he's reminded of Timothy's sincere faith, and he says that night and day, he constantly remembered Timothy in his prayers. Wow! How would you like to be on the Apostle Paul's prayer list? Timothy was. Not only was Paul praying for Timothy, but he also deemed it necessary to write the second letter to Timothy so as to prepare him. Prepare him for what? Well, understand Paul is not going to be there for him, and Paul knows what he's facing and what's coming, and he wants to prepare him.

If you kindly allow me to, I want to draw your attention to four ways, here in our text, that we can be steadied and readied for the storm that lies ahead, and make no mistake about it, a storm lies ahead. I would venture to say that what we just witnessed this last week is an indication of what's coming. We talked about this in the Prophecy Update, not just for us here in America. What's happening to America is an indication of what's going to happen to the entire world. And it's happening. And it's coming.

Oh, Pastor. Wow! Doom and gloom. There you go again. Well, you know what? I make no apologies because see, I am accountable to God. Because I'm going to stand before him one day, and I'm going to have to give an account for what I did with the profound privilege that he gave me to stand before you, his church, his people, every Sunday morning, and Thursday nights.

Did I speak the truth to you in love? Or did I side-step it because you don't want to hear it? I have to confess I don't want to hear it either. Do you think I want to hear this? I don't want to hear it, let alone teach it. But it's the truth. It's the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God this is what's coming.

The first one in verse 6, it's that of rekindling the flame. It's a good place to start. Here Paul reminds Timothy to fan into flame the gift of God, which was already in him through the laying on of hands by the Apostle Paul himself. It sounds like Timothy probably, in all fairness unwittingly, let the fire that he once had slowly burn out, which is why it needed to be rekindled. I would suggest that we desperately need to stoke the fire of our faith in the days ahead. Well, let me qualify that: If we are to have any hope of surviving, let alone thriving in the days ahead with what's coming.

Let me say it this way. As God's people, not only will we not survive, let alone thrive, it has the propensity to determine how we're going to bode in the days that lie ahead. Pastor, you are kind of intense today. Well, I need to be that flame that once burned bright in that day when we were on fire for the Lord, and the problem is that as time has gone on and things have happened...

What's up? Can you guys check on that? Loving heavenly Father, I just pray that whatever that situation is, just be merciful, guide, provide, protect. This is probably as good a time as any to pray, and then I want to say something. Would you join me? Father in heaven, thank you for your loving protection over this flock, this body of believers. Lord, I thank you that we have aroused the powers of darkness, the anger of the enemy. And Lord, that's a good thing because when he leaves us alone,

2 Timothy 1:1-8 –November 8th, 2020

Surviving the Storm

JD Farag

that's when we should worry because we pose no threat to the kingdom of darkness. Lord, I just thank you for this, your church, and this time we have together in your Word.

Now here's what I wanted to say. The spiritual warfare, I don't want to give the enemy too much... There's a fine line there. There is a balance where you can kind of err on one side or the other. You can either go to one extreme and give the enemy too much credit. Or you could go to the other extreme and sort of dismiss him and not give him enough credit. But there's a healthy balance there in the middle.

Make no mistake about it; the enemy does not want you to hear the Word of God today. He will do whatever he can to bring whatever distraction he can to get your mind to wander, so you miss this. What I am speaking of today is the Word of Life. These are words of life.

What's at stake here is the survival of God's people in the days that lie ahead. Again, I know that sounds intense and blunt, but it's the truth. It's the truth. Far be it from me not to sound the alarm as a watchman on the wall who sees what's coming and doesn't warn God's people. Because if that's the case, then your blood is on my hands. But conversely, if I do warn you about what's coming? And it's coming! And you don't take heed, then it's not on me. It's on you.

Let's talk about this before we move on to the second one, which I want to spend some time on. How do you fan the flame? How do you rekindle that which burned so bright at one time? How does faith come? By hearing the Word of God. It's been said that one week without God's Word makes one weak. Come on. You got that, right? Tell me you got that, right? Do I need to do that over again? That was a play on words, by the way.

Every time we get into the Word, the Word gets into us, and it's like putting another log on the fire. The fresh fire on the altar of God's Word. I wonder when it was, what it was, that Paul did, but it seems that God had Paul lay his hands on Timothy when God called Timothy. We're going to see this in a moment. You kind of get a glimpse of what Timothy's personality was like. He was kind of one of those introverts, easily intimidated, kind of shy a little bit.

Isn't that how it is, though? God chooses the shy to get up in front of people and preach and teach the Word. You know why by the way, right? It's because only He gets the glory because when they look at someone like a Timothy, I pray someone like myself, and they say, wow! If God can speak through him? He can speak through anyone! That's true. God chooses the foolish things to confound the wise, the weak to shame the strong.

But it seems that the difficulties Timothy faced had gotten the best of him, and it was the reason why that flame needed to be rekindled. Let me just say lastly on this before we go to verse 7. If there was ever a time that we needed to rekindle the flame, the fire of our faith, that time is now. See, we're all prone to neglect it. You know how it is, not so much here in Hawaii, but when you neglect the fire, it's going to eventually go out. There are two ways to put a fire out: Neglect it or pour water on it. Either way, it's going out.

Maybe for some here today or watching online, you've neglected it, and it's starting to kind of fizzle out. You know how it is when you just even blow on it? It's rekindled anew. The new second one is in verse 7, and it's a biggie. Some of your translations render this verse, "God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind." It's a very well-known verse, often quoted verse. I think we err greatly, thinking that we fully understand what Paul by the Spirit is saying to Timothy and what the Holy Spirit is saying to us as a church today.

The word for fear carries with it the idea of being intimidated, cowardice, cowering, or faltering under the fear and the intimidation. What Paul is saying is this is no time to shrink back. This is no time to be intimidated or to be given over to fear because the Holy Spirit does not give us fear. What does the Holy Spirit give us? Power!

2 Timothy 1:1-8 –November 8th, 2020

Surviving the Storm

JD Farag

Dunamis, in the original language, is where we get our English word for dynamite. I just had to say it like that dunamis, dynamite. Reminds me of that sitcom of old. I'm sorry to do this for those of you... But I just had a flashback. What was that one sitcom? Dynamite! Well, that's what is.

The power of the Holy Spirit and not just power because the Holy Spirit doesn't just empower us. But the fruit of the Holy Spirit is this next word that Paul says, and it's the word love. And then that's not all. Sorry if that sounds like an infomercial. But get this: Power, love, and a disciplined mind. Stay with me. The power, the ability, the empowering, the enabling to discipline our minds the way we would discipline our children.

You need to be a strict disciplinarian with your mind because that's where the battleground is, and Satan knows it. He doesn't want you to know it. Because then, see, he's going to put thoughts in your mind, and if you don't have a disciplined mind? You're like, no way. He's right there, yeah, way! No! And there's the fear, and then we cower under the weight, the crushing weight of that fear.

Fear is a killer. It's a killer and not just in the spiritual sense but in the physical sense, too. Do you know how much damage is done physiologically? Just because of fear - it affects every part of your body, and that's why we have to have disciplined minds. This is what Paul was referring to when he said, take every thought captive. Catch it! Don't just let it in and set the table and invite it in for dinner. Here comes this thought. It's not of the Lord because the Lord is not going to ever give you a fearful thought.

So here comes this thought. Did you hear what the Pastor preached on Sunday? It's coming! What are we going to do? And Satan's right there. Fear! You take that, and you say, not so fast. Because you have to understand that this is a discipline. My mind is disciplined. I'm going to take that thought, and I'm going to make sure that it's compatible and consistent with what God's Word says. If it's not compatible and consistent with what God's word says? Then out you go! No entry!

You cannot come in. I don't care if you wear a mask. You're still not coming in. Sorry, I had to... It's kind of like if it's not compatible with God's word? No entrance. You can't come in. You probably already know where I'm going with this, so I might as well just get to the point.

This is no time to be afraid. Fear instead of faith at a time like this? I love sayings like this, but sadly, they become cliché. But it's been said we don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future. There's a lot of things right now, particularly here in America, that are very uncertain. I mean, the media has declared Joe Biden the winner of the presidential election. Trump has already stated that tomorrow morning, Monday morning, they're going to flood the courts with many lawsuits contesting the election results with the accusation of voter fraud and the Democrats attempt to steal the election.

So, what's going to happen? Well, I don't know, but here's what I do know: God is seated on the throne. We talked about this in the Prophecy Update that He's not pacing back and forth in front of the throne. What happened? You'll forgive the silliness with which I illustrate this but think about this but is this how we think in our undisciplined minds? Do we actually think that God was surprised by what happened? Here we're praying, oh, Lord! Lord! They're trying to steal the election! Could you imagine the response: What? When did this happen! Gabriel! Michael! Get over here!

Yesterday was an interesting day. We woke to the news that the media had declared Joe Biden the winner. Yesterday... Ruined my coffee. Really?

Then, of course, for those of you, like me, and it's okay. You look at your news feed, and here are all these reports, breaking news, voter fraud, and then there are these videos on social media showing these people filling in ballots. For real! Yeah! Big loads of ballots just out of nowhere, oh, hey, we forgot these! Oh, really? Come on.

2 Timothy 1:1-8 –November 8th, 2020

Surviving the Storm

JD Farag

And then what's our first response? Lord! Do you see what they're doing? It's what one has called instructional prayers. Do you know what instructional prayers are? They are prayers that we pray, and then we give God instructions on how to answer the prayer. I can just hear God say, you want to try to help me? You want to help me? Don't help me! I know what I'm doing. I got everything under control. Yeah! But, Lord, did you see that video that was on Twitter? Yeah, I saw that video. I was actually there when it happened.

Yeah, but I'm afraid they're going to steal the election! Really? That doesn't come from the Lord. That's not the Lord. Discipline your mind. God has given us a Spirit of power. The Holy Spirit gives us power. The Holy Spirit gives us love.

This third one is going to get a little bit more uncomfortable. Actually, the fourth one is really uncomfortable, but you can't leave because we'll all notice if you walk out. Unless, of course, we bow our heads and close our eyes, but we're not going to do that, so you're not getting off. You're not getting out of this.

In the first part of verse 8, this is no time to be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. What Paul says here is very interesting. For a number of reasons, not the least of which is that many had already up to this point, later in Paul's life abandoned him, and abandoned the gospel and the truth and the Lord. Why? Because of how difficult it was. The storm was raging, the persecution off the charts, and it was actually illegal to be a Christian. If somebody found out you were a Christian, like in many parts of the world today.

I made this comment in the first service. Maybe it's appropriate again for the second service. In America, we've had it too good for too long. Now, something like this happens, and the future looks very uncertain. It shakes us to the core because our foundation was built upon the sand and not the rock. They had all abandoned... In fact, towards the end of the chapter, Paul is going to name them. How would you like that? For 2000 years to have your name recorded in the pages of Holy Writ as abandoning the faith and the truth. Oh, my goodness.

But not Timothy. Timothy was so loyal, so committed, and I believe that endeared Timothy to Paul so much. Did you notice that when Paul says this about not being ashamed, he says, don't be ashamed of me either? They were ashamed of Paul. Think about this. In that day, in that time, you're preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ in that kind of an environment. By the way, Caesar Nero was in the White House at the time. I had to say it like that just to put it into perspective.

You know who Caesar Nero was, right? Well, let me just tell you a little bit about him. Maybe it'll fill in some of the blanks. This man was so evil, demon-possessed, and he hated Christians. He took Christians, covered them in tar, lit them on fire, and burned them alive. Then he would ride around in his chariot with his male homosexual men in the chariot, and he would mock them, saying, "You are the light of the world." That's who's going to behead Paul, by the way. That's what's happening here.

Again, Paul is unjustly imprisoned in this dungeon, and there were those who were distancing themselves from Paul and with it the Gospel, because they were ashamed. You have to also keep in mind in that culture, they put the emphasis on man. So, you're preaching this message about a man that was put on a Roman cross and crucified, and you claim that he was risen again on the third day. And oh, your mentor, Timothy et al., he's in prison left to die. Certainly, he will die.

And they pulled back. Why? They were ashamed. They were ashamed of the Gospel. Romans Chapter 1:16, the Apostle Paul writing the church in Rome says, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ [And here's why], for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."

If there was ever a time for us as Christians to boldly - boldly! No shame! Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ that is the power to save that day is now! And we're pulling back? Oh, I don't want to

2 Timothy 1:1-8 –November 8th, 2020

Surviving the Storm

JD Farag

ruffle any feathers. Ruffle feathers! Yeah, but I don't want to get in... Get in their face! Yeah, but you know I don't want to...

Listen, you had better come to the place, and I say this in love, and I say it in Jesus' name. You had better come to the place where you would rather offend somebody into heaven than flatter them into hell. Because that's where they're going!

One last thing on this again, famous last words, "one last thing." Think this through with me. Isn't it true that when the Lord presents an opportunity for you to move someone closer to Jesus, the enemy's right there going, I wouldn't do that if I were you? What if they get mad? Yeah, I never thought of that. What if they fire back at you? What are you going to do then? Yeah, I know. Yeah, maybe it's not a good time. He won. And it happens all the time.

Isn't it true that the number one fear we have as Christians is sharing our faith? Why do you think that is? You know the enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Do you know what he's trying to steal from us? The joy that comes when you share, unashamed, your faith in Jesus Christ.

Listen, I'm not proud of this. I've done a lot of drugs in my life before coming to Christ, and there is no high like the high of leading someone to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Of course, the enemy doesn't want... Well, hello? Here's the enemy going, no, not them! I've been trying to keep them away from Jesus for years! And here you come along. Oh no, you don't! Oh, yes, I do!

Is that not true that the enemy will do everything he can? He will stop at nothing and do everything to keep someone from coming to Jesus Christ! And then when they do? He shifts his strategy. Now he'll do everything he can to distance us from Jesus Christ and stop us from sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul, quite bluntly, says, don't be so ignorant. Don't be ignorant. I love how the King James translates it, the wiles of the devil! It just sounds like what it is. The wiles of the devil! These are his strategies.

In Ephesians 6, that well-known passage where the Apostle Paul likens our spiritual warfare: "We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against..." He lists four entities, the principalities, the powers of darkness, the wickedness in high places, and he goes on to metaphorically connect all parts of this spiritual battle with parts of the armor.

Do you know what's really interesting about that is that the verbiage, the words he uses in the original language, carries with it the idea of the enemy as a military strategist? You know those World War II photos where it shows Hitler and all of his other demon-possessed men next to him, and they're studying, strategizing over a map? I hope this doesn't... Actually, I do hope this messes you up because it needs to wake you up too.

The enemy has a map of your Christian life, and he's studying it, and he's strategizing. He's waiting for that optimum time to attack you with fear, to attack you with being ashamed of the Gospel. To attack you with cowardice, so you pull back, and just kind of cower under the weight of that. He studies you like that. Don't be ignorant of that.

Okay, here it is. The last one, some of you are saying, thank you, Jesus! What a doozy, though. The last part of verse 8: Embrace suffering. Oh, boy! If you were to ask me what I thought was one of the greatest hindrances for a Christian? Understanding suffering would have to be it, and I'll explain if you'll kindly allow me to.

Isn't it true that we do everything we can to insulate ourselves from adversity and suffering in our Christian lives? Do you know why that is? Sadly, we've become too accustomed to our "cotton candy" Christian lives.

2 Timothy 1:1-8 –November 8th, 2020

Surviving the Storm

JD Farag

Any mention of adversity, suffering, trials, pain - that's foreign to us, and by the way, to our own peril because of the purpose of suffering and why God allows suffering. You'll forgive me for the bluntness with which I say this but the road to the kingdom of Heaven is paved with much hardship and suffering.

This is Acts Chapter 14; let me read verses 21-22. "They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. Wow! What did they say to encourage them? You can do it! Big G; little "o!" Go! No!

Do you know how they encouraged them to remain true to the faith? Do you know how they strengthened them? They said to them, "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God." How's that one? I don't mean to bash the pulpits in America today, but it's the truth. You'd be hard-pressed today to find a sermon that preaches this. But it's the Word of God, and it's the truth of God's Word, suffering hardship.

Yeah, but Pastor, come on. I mean, this was a different time. Oh, really? Again, what if I told you that what's coming is going to test your faith like never before. The storm that's coming... The storm that I believe is already here actually. Yes, it might test you like never before.

But you can trust in the Lord like never before because here's the thing. Replete throughout Scripture, we're told that is how the endurance comes. What do you mean? The strength, the endurance to emerge victorious in the storm? Comes vis-a-vis the storm. I wish it weren't so, but it is. That's where it comes.

We pray, oh, God, give me strength! Are you sure you want me to give you strength? Yeah, give me strength. Make me a man of prayer. Did you just pray, make me a man of prayer? Alright. You sure? Yes! Lord, make me a man of prayer. Strengthen me, Lord. Okay. Here comes the trial. No! I didn't ask you for a trial. I just wanted you to strengthen me.

Yeah, but you don't understand. The only way I can strengthen you is by way of the trial because perseverance comes that way. There's no other way. It comes through the storm, the endurance, the perseverance.

I think of Esther: Life and death situation. Mordechai tells her, how do you know that God didn't position you and raise you up for such a time as this? He makes a rather chilling statement to her and says that if you don't do this, then deliverance is going to come from another. Well, what does she have to do? Oh, she had to enter into the presence of the king uninvited.

What you have to know is that if you did that and the king didn't invite you? All the king had to do was not even snap his fingers. All he'd have to do is raise his eyebrows. You know, like we do here in Hawaii. That's it - boom! You are done! It's over! But if he put out his scepter then and received you? Whew! That was close. So she knew that she had to go before the king uninvited. She makes this statement, and I think as Christians, we would do well to be able to sincerely and genuinely and honestly be able to say the same: If I perish, I perish.

I think of Job. For those of you that were with us when we studied through Job. I think it was over a year in Job. That was a trial in and of itself studying through the book of Job. But, wow, what a book. What a man - all that had happened to him. There's this one point where Job says, "Though he slay me yet will I trust him."

Do you know what's sad is that at the slightest hint of trouble ahead, it's like we're shaken to the core? Again, it goes back to this foundation. Upon which foundation did we build our Christian lives? Jesus, in Matthew 7, teaches this parable about two builders, and I'll close with this. He says of the

2 Timothy 1:1-8 –November 8th, 2020

Surviving the Storm

JD Farag

builders... Both apparently were going to build their house at the same time. They both apparently went to the same church. I say that because Jesus said that they had both heard the words of Christ.

In other words, these two builders had a lot of things in common. They set out to build their houses: The one built his house on the sand, and the other built his house on the rock. So when, not if, when the storm hit, and the storm hit, the house that was built on the sand came crashing down. A very interesting detail in the text, Jesus says, and when it did, it fell hard. It just crashed. But then here's this other house built on the rock, unmoved, unfazed, untouched. Why? Because it was built on the rock.

What's the take away? What's the difference? The man who built on the sand is the one who did not take heed to the words of Christ. The difference between the builder who built his house on the rock? He heard the Word, but he put into practice the Word. He wasn't just merely a hearer of the Word, as James says. He was a doer of the Word, and that made all the difference. So, when that storm hit, that house stood because it was on the rock. That house is a picture of every single one of our Christian lives.

The question now has to be answered: Upon which foundation have you built upon? If it's on any foundation other than the words of Christ applied to your life, put into practice, taking heed to the Word of God, being a doer of the Word of God? It's just a matter of time, and that's why I have to warn you.

Okay, one last thing. This last week as I was seeking the Lord, asking the Lord to prepare my heart for today, I just really have this sense that the time has come now for us as Christians to get our eyes off of Trump and put our eyes on Jesus. Don't get me wrong, and don't misunderstand me when I say this, but I don't care who you are or who you think you are. If your eyes are on a man? It's going to come crashing down. But if your eyes are on Jesus and you've built upon that foundation? You will be unmoved, untouched by what's coming. And it's coming. I pray that we would all take heed to this Word from the Lord.

Please stand, and we will pray. Thank you, Lord. Lord, I've done my best, and now the Holy Spirit has to do the rest from here. Lord, I pray that we don't just leave what the Spirit said to us, your church, today here but that we would take it home with us into the rest of our day and into our week this week.

Lord, I thank you for your Word. I thank you for the power of the Holy Spirit. I thank you for the victory that is already ours.

I thank you, Lord, that when Isaiah, in the year king Uzziah died and he was shaken to the core, as was the entire nation of Israel that when he looked up and lifted up his eyes, he saw you, Jesus, on that throne and your glory and the train of your robe filled the temple with your glory, Lord. And the response was, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty!"

Thank you, Lord. I pray that will settle us and calm us and stabilize us.

In Jesus' name. Amen.