

SERMON TRANSCRIPT

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SPEAKER

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Between Two Worlds

PART

5

TITLE

Loving One Another Earnestly

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 1:22-2:3



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Well, good morning Providence family. And on this wonderful special weekend, we're glad you're here. If you're a guest with us today, we're thrilled that you've joined us as well. Let me say that to every woman in the room, as well as to every little girl, we want to honor you today. God tells us in his word that you have been created in the image of God and that you have this unique ability to reflect some of God's very characteristics so that we are able to see a little bit more and admire a little bit more and love a little bit more about who Jesus is. We're thankful that he created everyone in his image, two different kinds of people, male and female and both uniquely gifted and wired in order to tell us something about God, to worship God.

And so we're thankful for that. We're also thankful because the Bible tells us very, very clearly and experience plays out this authority over and over and over again. And that is that you are essential to life and not just life, but to culture, to family, to church, and even to the kingdom of God. And so we honor you, we thank God for you. We also want to honor moms who are here because even though in this broken world where our love is never perfect, there are moms throughout the ages who have persistently loved us and who have modeled for us, a love that is earnest, and that is fervent. And so we thank you and we honor you.

So let me pray. Father in heaven we thank you for your grace. On this special day when we honor you most importantly, when we honor you, because of what we see in other people, we see your graces in their life and we say thank you. I pray for those in the room who are thankful for their mom. I ask that you would give grace to their hearts. I pray for those in the room who are feeling a sense of grief and loss at the loss of their mom. I ask that you would give them grace.

I pray for the moms in the room who were overjoyed at being a mom. I asked that you would give them grace. And I pray for those in the room who were moms, who were overwhelmed at being a mom and exhausted and tired and maybe even a bit discouraged. I pray that you would give them grace. I pray for those who have lost their mother, as well as for mothers who have lost their child. God that you would give them grace. And then I pray for those who want to be a mom, God that you would give them grace or for the mother figures for grandmothers and aunts and friends and people who have invested in our life. We just say, thank you. Now we pray God that you would teach us to love.

We ask God that not only would we seek to love as a mom can love, but we know your word says that they've learned love because you first loved them. And so would you help us to be mesmerized this morning at the love of Christ and in turn that you would lead us to love one another earnestly. We pray in Jesus name. Amen. Amen.

If you have in your hand, a Bible turn with me to 1 Peter 1. If you're brand new with us, we're in a series in the book and we have to be up to verse 22. The author, his name is Peter. He's writing to a bunch of believers and he's writing really with the urgency and the compassion that a mother would have in gathering her frightened children during a storm. You see Peter knows that these people, these believers are being persecuted around the entire Roman Empire. And so they've scattered to different regions and they're frightened. Not

only are they frightened, he also knows that many of them are young believers, which means that the roots of faith are there. They're valid, they're genuine. They really have saving faith in Jesus Christ. And yet those roots don't run so deep quite yet.

And then so a strong breeze might push them over into patterns and habits that aren't very healthy. And so he's concerned about that, but he also knows that they're vulnerable, but something else is taking place. And it's the same thing that happens today was happening then. And that is that he knew that they were asking a very important question, an important question, because of what God has made us. You see the Bible says that when we trust Jesus as savior and Lord, that we become citizens of heaven.

He says our citizenship is in heaven. And from there we eagerly await, eagerly await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. And yet we're here. We're citizens here. We're citizens there as Christians. And the question that we oftentimes ask ourselves is the same question that they were asking. And that is as dual citizens, how do we live between these two worlds?

When you have a King in heaven, you have laws in heaven, virtues in heaven, things that are true in heaven. And those things are not valued and treasured here on the earth, when there's not an alignment between the authority of heaven and the authorities on the earth, what do you do? How do we live? And what happens when we're on the earth? And we know that there's problems that are happening and he has the power. He has the power and the authority and the compassion to move and change things. And it seems like he doesn't and we look up and we go, "God, where are you? Why aren't you moving to help me in this moment?"

How do you live between two worlds? You've ever asked that question? God gave you a gift, because he gave the answer. And the answer is read 1 Peter 22 says this, "Having purified your souls by your obedience, to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart. Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable through the living and abiding word of God for all flesh is like grass and all its glory, like the flower of grass, the grass withers, the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you. So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander like newborn infants long for the pure spiritual milk that by it, you may grow up into salvation if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good."

Now I know that when I out, I see people, many people who are very talented. I imagine that the level of expertise, when you just canvas this room and the different levels and the different areas of expertise in front of a pretty accomplished people. And so it may be difficult for you to hear God almighty through the pen of Peter say like an infant, "You need to grow up," but that's what he says. We all need to grow up. We all would admit that if sometimes of our life, but sometimes we have a hard time. You see when you were born, physically, God planted seeds of intellect, seeds of ability in your life, aptitudes in your life that over a period of time, as they're watered by time and discipline and other people bringing them out and strengthening us and helping us and shaping us, what happens is those aptitudes and abilities, they sprout out of the ground, those seeds, they sprout and suddenly we're good at something.

So there's engineers and there's doctors and lawyers and mothers and fathers, all kinds of things, all kinds of abilities and aptitudes skills that are in the room. And some of those gifts are awarded, they're acknowledged. They're celebrated by others. And so we become our identity is wrapped up in those things. And then what happens is for many of us in the room and those who are at home, we hear the gospel of Jesus that because he loves us, even though we sinned against him, that he sent his son Jesus Christ to the earth where he came and he lived without sin. And yet living without sin, he chose to die for our sins so that we could be reconciled to God.

He's buried in a grave. He rose from the dead. He says, "If you'll trust me, I'll forgive you of all of your sin. I'll make you a citizen of heaven. I'll make you one of my children. I'll give you my righteousness." It's called the gospel. When you believe that we're born again. And so here's what happens for many of us, years and years and years after we were born and some of these seeds of natural ability, they take root and suddenly they sprout. And all of a sudden we're known for something. And now all of a sudden we're born again. That's what the Bible calls it when we trust Christ. Spiritually, we're born again. And so you can be a 30 year old at a body and you can be a baby spiritually.

And we tend to take as much time to grow spiritually and sometimes longer than physically, which means that if you've ever wondered, like you've been a Christian seven years and you think, why is it that I'm still so impatient? Well, it's because you're seven. You're seven. And some of us, we we're like one and everyone around us were like, yeah, it's like an infant. It's hard for an accomplished people to believe. But this is what the Bible teaches is that when we're born again, is that we start over in spiritual matters as a newborn. And so he tells us that we need to grow up. And because it's so hard, let me try to give you some pictures that is true of little people. You go, yeah, that's true of a little person.

And then you go, wait a minute. That's also true of a Christian, a new Christian or a Christian who isn't employing the principals that Peter is teaching here in order to grow. Little people, they're pretty unstable, aren't they? They move around a bunch. They're just always moving. They're always moving. In particular when they little, like our kids used to just do this, this flail, they didn't know. And then they hit themselves. They didn't know who hit themselves. And so they'd cry because they, they they've been punched in the face and they thought somebody punched him in the face. But it's because they couldn't control themselves. They're unstable.

Mom would walk out of the room to go get a snack for them. And they just fall apart, "She's never coming back," and they just emotionally is outpouring. Then she'd come back and, "She came back. She loves me," and not now that's pure happiness. Our emotions, they're pretty unstable. Those roots they're there, but they're not deep. Same thing is true when you look at a believer, who is immature. Great things are happening in their life and they come and they go, "God is so good." And then we go through a stretch where things aren't so good. And we say, "Is there a God?" We're unstable. Babies, they're selfish. They're self-centered.

They think about themselves. They wake up thinking about themselves. They struggle to share. They struggle to wait. They struggled to understand why everyone in the world is an orbiting around all of their immediate desires and wimps and Christians who haven't grown up, what do they do? They struggle to share their stuff and they struggle to wait on God and on others. And for the life of them, they simply can't understand why is it that when I walked in the room, that the world didn't start orbiting around me.

Why is it that when I have a concern, why is it when I'm frustrated? Why is it when I want something that the world doesn't immediately bend to my desires. It's wild similarities, isn't there? Little people they're distracted, easily distracted, right? Which is why everything has to be colorful and exciting and quick. And this is why we speak to little kids in exaggerated ways. We go, "Well, hello. How are you doing?" We don't talk like that to anybody else. But we do to them because we want to keep their attention when it's picture time, right? It's like, okay, you take the picture. We'll all be there. And you have to have somebody, you have to have an extra. And the extra stands in back of the camera and they're doing all this number. And the why, because there's a squirrel over there. And there's a moving leaf over there. They're easily distracted.

And same thing is true of Christians who haven't yet grown. Everything has to be excited and quick and exaggerated. There's Christians all over the country today. And they don't really want to teacher of the Bible. They want a ringmaster. They want some bears to come out and ride on their bikes and throw out spiritual nuggets to people. And they are very idea of what, you're going to talk for a half hour right now? Like a whole half hour? Like where's the crayons. I need crayons right now. Another characteristic of a baby. Last one is they're gullible. This is what makes it so fun to be an uncle, right? So we've got these little people around our house and I just love it because you can just play, you know they're going, they're going to believe you because that's what little kids do.

So I put a quarter in my hand and we've all done this to a kid, and you go, "Hey, come here for a second." You pitch it, put it up to their ear. And they don't know what's there and lean over and you tapped a little head and then they pick them up and they go, "Oh, your brain makes money. It fell out of your ear." And they're like, "Mom. Mom, my brain. It makes money!" You look around today and believers who aren't mature, what happens is this, as you'll find people that will believe almost anything will be fearful about almost everything.

And so he says, "It's good to grow up." So what we're going to do, I want to show you two things here. Very simple truths. And then a few applications. The first thing we find here is this is that we're invited to grow up to love one another. We're invited to grow up. This is such a gift to me. He could simply say, "You're not mature yet." And there's nothing you can do about it. So good luck. That's how he could do it. But he doesn't. No, he invites us. Isn't it beautiful that you can grow? I mean, isn't it a wonderful thing that like for those of you who are impatient or in-patient unkind that you don't always have to be like that, that you can grow spiritually? Isn't it awesome that we are redeemable, right?

And so he invites us to grow to love one another. You see, Peter knew the vulnerability of immaturity. They knew that when we don't have deep roots, we blow over easy. And so what does he say? He says, "Grow up," and then he gives us the target. He says, "Into salvation." Now that's hard to quantify. What is that? I need to grow up into salvation. What does that mean exactly? Some people through time they've made growing spiritually into some kind of higher state of consciousness or abstracts form of purity.

And but the Bible takes all doubt out of what it means to grow into salvation. Paul keeps talking about what he's doing throughout the New Testament, how we seeking to grow people to maturity in Christ, Ephesians 4:13, maybe one of the most beautiful pictures of what maturity is, what the target is. When he says, look, I want you to grow until you become mature. And then he tells us what maturity is. It's attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Of Christ. In other words what Peter is saying is this, "Grow up to be like Jesus." And he could in this very moment, then give us all kinds of really practical instructions that would each correspond with one particular attribute of Jesus that we want to be like, that he wants us to be like, and so he's merciful be merciful. He's compassionate, be compassionate, but our texts, there's only one for actually there's two, but one to wear one thing that he tells us to do that literally so much of what we read is built in order to fortify and accomplish that one thing.

And what is that one thing? Is to love one another earnestly with a pure heart. There's part of symbols all around. You remember what a part of civil is that helps us get the verb done, right? There's all kinds of things that are happening before and after these words, but this, he goes, this is it. Everything else is going to help you do this. Love one another earnestly. Earnestly can also be translated fervently. What it means is to reach or to stretch to the limit. It's where we're straining. It's where we see a gap. Like we see somebody in need all the way over there and we go, wow, that's a neat. Now I may have compassion in my heart that rises if I may love them, but to love them, earnestly is to stretch and strain in order to fill that gap to meet that need.

Here's the question. Has anyone ever strained or reached as far in love for you as Jesus? The answer is no. Jesus left heaven. Jesus took off the garments of a king, took on the garments of a servant. And the first thing he did was he became a baby. The creator of the universe became a baby. That's reaching in order to love you, that's straining earnestly in order to love you and to love me. He grew up, he faced temptation. He touched the sick, right? He saw sick people and he goes, wow. I have compassion towards that person. He didn't simply walk up into a safe, manageable distance. No, it says that he went up and he touched them.

He reached out strained in order to touch them. He fed people. He reached down for his disciples feet. He goes, "Give me those feet," and he washed those feet. In Luke 22, it says that he prayed earnestly through the night, prayed earnestly, so earnestly in Luke's gospel, it says, that he began to sweat drops of blood. What was happening? Is that inside his heart, he's reaching so fervently to pray for us, that there became this physical force within him to where his capillaries began to stretch to the place to where they broke and he began sweating through his blood, not sweating. He was sweating, but then blood came through his sweat glands. He's literally stretching his heart and stretching his body in order to pray for you. And then the Bible says that

he took our sin and he stretched himself out on a cross.

And there he died for our sin. And then he rose from the dead. And when he rose from the dead, what does he do now? He stretches out and he says, come to me, all you. All you who are weary and heavy-laden, and I'll give you rest. Come to me, believe in me. This is how you believe in him. You admit that you need a savior. You put your faith in Jesus that you can save me. You're the only one who's been sinless. You are the only one that God, the father says, your blood, your sacrifice has atoned for their sin. Your blood was sufficient to satisfy my wrath. It's the only sacrifice that God has accepted for our sin, but he has accepted. You believe it. And you confess him as Lord. The Bible says he forgives you of your sin. You become a citizen of heaven. You become one of his. He's wrote constantly through the Bible. He's just reaching out to, is still today. He's reaching out to you. He's reaching now to you and to me. So what does he call us to do?

John 13, the night before all of this took place. He comes and he says, love one another. Right before this he says, "The new command I give to you." And then he says, "Love one another." They would all been like, "That's not new. We've heard this before," but this was the new part. Up until this point, the Bible had always made the measurement of how much we love ourselves, the measurement of how we love others. That's why the second greatest commandment and love your neighbor as what? Yourself.

You want to be warm when you're cold, think about other cold people and get them a coat. But here's the problem. We don't love ourselves perfectly. Sometimes we don't love ourselves sacrificially. So what does he do? He changes the metric by which we love one another. It's not just how you want to be loved. He says, I want you to now to love one another, and how? As I have loved you. Reaching out, straining in order to meet people's needs. And then he says, now this is your mark of authenticity by this, all men will know that you're my disciples if you love one another this is why Peter says, "Look, we can talk about all kinds of attributes of Jesus. And we can talk about all kinds of commands in order to imitate those attributes." But this is the one, love.

We cannot improvise maturity if we don't love. We try, we do take on positions of service within the church. We say, "See how mature I am." We memorize Bible verses how mature I am. We make rules for morality and force ourselves and others to keep them, you see how mature I am. Jesus says, "Do you love?" So Paul comes to us in 1 Corinthians. He goes, "Think about this for a second." He says, "If I speak in the tongues of men and angels, tongues of man is literally means languages. If I could speak in languages to where, if this room was populated by every language in the world, and I could open up my tongue and suddenly everyone understanding their language, indeed, even if I could come from heaven and speak angel language to you. But if I don't have love, I'm simply a noisy gong and a clanging symbol.

And if I have prophetic powers, if I have such wisdom and ability to articulate that I can preach the paint off the walls. And if I understand all mysteries and knowledge, if I have such wisdom that people literally line up outside my door to simply ask me questions. And if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, this is literally

a visionary faith where we can see within our eyes of faith, we can see boy, if we did that, this could happen. And then to have that visionary faith that can even compel other people, huge masses of people to say, “Do you see what is possible if we will go and do this?” And we can mobilize. If we have that gift to mobilize literally masses of people, mountains of people in order to move to see that strategy of righteousness come to pass.

He says, but we have not love. I am nothing. If I give away all I have, if I’m super generous, and if I deliver my body up to be burned, I’m so sincere that I would die for my faith, but I have not love, I gain nothing. You see what he’s saying? He’s saying talent in the hand is not the same as love in the heart. We measure maturity by Christ’s character in us, by his love in us. What is love? Love is patient love is kind it doesn’t envy or boast. It is not arrogant or rude. It doesn’t insist on its own way. It is not irritable or resentful. It doesn’t rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices at the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things

Somebody will say, I’ve been teaching for 20 years. Here’s the question. Are you patient? I don’t need to be patient and calm because I teach The new Testament says, you need to grow up. But I’m a deacon. I’m irritable, but I’m a deacon. Grow up. You see you don’t you see that if this... Can you imagine, can you imagine how sweet it would be? Not that we all long for our death, but when we die for people to come and say, do you know what this person was lying? This person, just kept bearing with me and they kept believing in me and they kept hoping.

They were so patient, and they were so kind, they’re so humble. They kept forgiving me over and over and over again. Do you want to be like this? The Bible says you can. Isn’t that good news? We are invited to grow, to love this way. The second thing I want you to see is that we’re enabled to grow, to love one another. This is a beautiful thing. God never instructs us to do something that he does not already anticipate plan and has already orchestrated how he’s going to empower you to do it. You see our old nature though, it is some kind of resilient. It’s, it’s like a big rubber ball, right? Where we squish and we’re like, oh, I don’t want to be patient. But right now I’m going to be patient. And here we are. And so with this rubber ball, we’re like, okay, we’re being so patient right now. But then what happens?

What happens when you release the pressure on the ball? It just pops back to its original size and shape. Now we need to do something more than simply improvise for periodic or for brief periods of time. No, he says this. He goes, “What if instead we love one another by leaning on what God enabled so that we could love. And that’s what the rest of the passage is all about.” So let me show you how this happens. Okay?

He wants us to love one another earnestly. And what he does is he lays before us four ingredients of how we grow so that we can love one another. The first ingredients is God’s word. You have to have truth. And the beautiful thing about this truth is it remains forever, he says. The word of God remains forever. The reason is because it’s the word of God. He never changes. He’s the same yesterday, today and forever more. And therefore his word is the same yesterday, today and forever more.

And that is why. If there is any moral instruction within the scripture and the culture says, we no longer believe that that's a moral virtue. Then the culture is in the wrong. Instead of the word of God. His word never changes. It's a fixed standard of truth. And this standard of truth, it's the word of God is living at a bidding. It came to us. And when it came to us, it was through hearing this message that was preached to us, it was through hearing God's truth, his word, when we heard it, it was preached to us. We believed in it. It says that we were born again, and it was through this living and abiding word of God. And because the growth sequence always begins with truth.

When he gets to verse two of chapter two, what does he say? Therefore long for the pure spiritual milk, the word of God that by it, you may grow. You see what this means? It means we cannot grow without a Bible. We can't grow if we don't open the Bible. We can't grow if we don't read the Bible. We need a Bible. If you don't have a Bible, you go out to the welcome desk. Once we're done, say, "Hey, the guy in there with the gray hair, he said I could get a free Bible." They're there. You can have a Bible. We want you to have a Bible. Your spiritual growth depends upon it. The second step though, once you have the word of God, it's preached to you, you read it, you're longing it. And you're like, okay, this is what it is then what? Well, second is obedience.

That's what he says. He goes, there's this true standard. Instead of disobeying this true standard, we're to obey it. We're to obey it. You see rebels to God, they never grow in God. We love we have to obey. And so whether it's your first step to come to Christ and believe, or your 5,000 step as a Christian to do something that he's asking you to do, the sequence is always the same. Admit, believe confess A B, C, if you're here today, and you've never trusted Christ, the very first thing you have to do to trust him is admit, I need a savior. You can save me, Jesus. Why? Because I believe B, I believe that you came to this Earth, that you died for my sin. You rose from the dead, and I confess you Lord of my life. And now I step out in faith and I act upon that admission, belief and confession. And I'm going to follow you with my life. That's how you trust Christ. You can do that right now.

And then we're reading as a Christian. And all of a sudden, we come to this and it says, you know what, love one another earnestly. And suddenly God's spirit within. It goes, Hey, I want you to love Ernest. And we're like, I want to love earnestly too. I need to obey that. How do I... We first admit God, I admit that I want to see this in my life, but I admit that it's not always there. I believe that this is your word. I believe that even though this may, whatever it is, run culture or run counter to our culture. This may not be celebrated. I believe this over what I believe about other things. This is truth. I confess you as Lord. And therefore I confess, this is what I need. And now I'm going to step out in faith and I'm going to act, you need to obey.

You need to obey. So it starts with the word, then obedience, the third is you need spiritual power. And that power comes from the Holy Spirit. He says that when we are born again, that's what he calls it. When we're born again, it says that God's spirit, which is this imperishable seed, it begins, it comes into us, it opens up our eyes it helps us to see Jesus. When we trust Christ, he awakens our heart and suddenly he comes and he takes a residence within our life. Now, this is a beautiful thing. If you really imagine what's happening here,

He talks about the seed. This perishable seed and unpublishable seed. You see, when you were born, physically, you received DNA from your parents that unfolds over time.

Which is why over time, you look more like your parents, you talk, you inflect, you pause like your parents. And when you were born again, you received imperishable seed of the holy spirit, Jesus DNA. You say it like that, that unfolds over time so that we become by his power more like Christ. Every single day, you see being a Christian is not picking up Jesus more principles and saying, "I think I'm going to try to like like this." If you try Christianity because you have a bad habit going on in your life, or it's a season of difficulty, or you feel like you simply need inspiration. And his principles seems so inspiring.

You try without being born again. Then you try to use these very moral principles as a ladder in order to reach God. But the ladder never gets to God. Now, every one of these instructions, there's the presupposition that says, this is for somebody who has been born again. And this is what they do out of the overflow of being saved, not in order to be saved. And that's why, even for us, as Christians, people who have already have been born again, if we try to love without looking at, depending upon the spirit of God, for power, we will tire and our level will dry off. There's one other thing that is needed. And that is repentance. Growth is protected by repentance. You see the spirit is grieved by sin.

The Holy Spirit lives within our heart. When we sin, he feels it. He doesn't like it. And so the heart must be purified so that we can love one another earnestly from a pure heart. This is why he says in verse one to chapter two, therefore put away repent of all malice and deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander. And this is why. For you and I to try to love one another earnestly while at the same time, clutching unrepentant sin, that would be like trying to drink and be nourished from God's milk while packing, poison pellets within your cheeks. The Bible says, first spit clean out the sin.

There's malice in your heart. God forgive me of the malice in my heart. Now let me drink so that I can be nourished. What is the result of all of this? What's the result of God's word and obedience and spiritual power and repentance working together? Notice what he does. All of this happens for a sincere brotherly love. Now, this is the B of the Bible. Before he tells us what to do, love one another earnest through all of these gifts, he creates a climate. He creates a condition to where the heart is inclined to love. In other words, Isn't it easier to love one another earnestly when you already love them like a brother or a sister.

So this is what he does. He says that you live like this. I'm going to plant in your heart, a sincere brotherly love for people that then you can simply act on what you have as opposed to trying to act on something that you don't have. So let me encourage you with a few things. First, let's feed ourselves regularly with God's word. We talked about this briefly last time, but because we have such distorted ideas about our emotions, we simply do not know how to obey biblical commands to feel. And the second command within our text is a command to feel. Notice what it says and long for the pure spiritual milk. Long is a desire. It's a thirst for something. But you say, well, what if I wake up in the morning and I don't want to read the Bible? What if I don't have a

longing? For many people, they live in the prison of their longings. Well, I don't want it. So I won't read it. Peter says, "Use your brain to shape your heart. Use discipline, to shape your heart. Keep reading the Bible until your heart loves to read the Bible."

Second, let's yield to the Holy Spirit's promptings from his word. When the spirit of God opens your eyes to the truth and quickly, do not create a backlog of obedience. This is so important. Some of us in the room we're like, there's five things God's told me to do. I've done nothing. And yet I expect him to give me the sixth. No, there comes a point to where I believe God comes to us and he says, "Look, my word is not going to change, but I've already told you to do some stuff. So let's work on that. Is there anything that God has already told you to do that you've never done start there."

And then as you open up the Bible and God's spirit opens up a verse, a passage, something you're like, you know what? He puts somebody on your heart. You're like, that person needs to be encouraged. That person has to be loved. Act on it quickly. Listen, if you're sitting here today and saying, you know what? I feel like the holy spirit is telling me that I should trust Christ right now then trust Christ now. Now. Right now if he's telling you to repent of something, repent of it right now, if he's telling you right now to give, thanks to him for something in your life and give thanks right now, don't create a back log of obedience. And last is lets love one another as instructed in his word.

We're told here to love one, another earnestly. So let me simply ask you this question. Who in your life can you imagine right now with a need? Who has a need and what can you do to fill that gap in order to reach strain in order to meet that need? This is how people get the gospel. We look at people around the world, they don't have the gospel. How are they going to get the gospel? Somebody has to fill that boy, someone has to reach and strain in order to love them that way.

Hungry people, they need somebody to reach and strain to give them food, cold people, they need somebody to reach his train and give them a coat. Who do you know, has a need? What can you do to love earnestly, to reach, to meet that need? So let me pray in the sing. Father we love you. We thank you for your goodness to us. Your goodness has been poured out time and time again. Now, pray for those who were here, who were contemplating trust in Christ today, I pray that you would incline their hearts right now, or to admit they have a spiritual need to believe in Jesus Christ and to confess him as Lord. I pray for those of us who have trusted Christ and yet have something else in front of us that you're calling us to do. Would you help us to be quick, to admit and to believe and to confess and to run and do. Well thank you for your kindness and your goodness to us. And therefore we sing of these things now, and we pray this in Jesus name. Amen.



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