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START OF TRANSCRIPT

[00:00:00] Pastor Erik West

We're still in the series and you might have thought I abandoned it, but I didn't. But on possessing God's promise, you'll remember that. So we're going to add to that this morning. And if you want a title, we'll just call it well, what would you call it? See if y'all following. God's definition of success. That's exactly what I have down here. It's almost like y'all had insight into that somehow. Oh, you did? That's right. That's right. Yeah, I have to text it before I get here and say this is put it up. I have if it works out this way, I have some things that's going to build one upon the other. They tell speakers, you know, whether you're a professional or whether you just like me, you know, and just ramble on sometimes. But you people have about a 35 minute window of attention. I, I don't disagree with that, but I don't also agree with it. Hungry people have a have a much longer attention span. The satisfy doesn't have 35 minutes but but your Holy Ghost people aren't you and so you have more than just 35 minutes to avail yourself to the Word of God. I have scriptures that I want to give to you. If we if I don't get to read all of them, I'll give them to you. I've been for the last. Whether you realize, not the last two years I've been changing kind of the way that I minister.

[00:01:24] Pastor Erik West

I used to just throw some scriptures if I had any, and just put them on a little sticky note and take off. And now everything's changed for me. It's like I, I don't know how everyone else does it. And I'm going to have friends who tells me how they do it. It's like for me, it's like I hear the message. And then I write it down and it comes to me word to word. Never was like that to me for years. And so when it comes out, it doesn't always go. Word for word, but it's written down. Like if you just read the book or something and it doesn't always come out that way. But, but, but I hear it. And then there's sometimes I'll go look for a scripture and all that hanging out. Know, like. Oh, thank God for good help. We're going to contrast what success is according to the scripture, and we're going to contrast that with what it looks like in the world. So we can get God's definition of it. Because if you don't have His definition of it, then you'll work to an end that doesn't have any eternal value. The Scripture says that that the Scripture says that life does not consist in the abundance of the things that man accumulates or that he owns. That's so if we can see what not, maybe the world's definition is, we're going to look at all that.

[00:02:52] Pastor Erik West

But. You know, God's definition of success is going to be so diversely different from from what people think about success. If you go to the scripture, so let's first define the world's view of success, or I'll call it corporate America. And a lot of times it could be an exhaustive list. But just to put it in a subtopic, the world or corporate America defines success based on what you have, what you achieved and what you what you've accumulated thus far. And it's also based on your focus of the accumulation of that. In other words, there's natural wealth, there's possession, their position, there's resources, there's people, there's human accomplishment. That is the world's view of success in corporate America. And they keep score with a financial statement, don't they? They have a financial portfolio and there's 4 or 500 companies and there's all these things that they classified as small, medium and large sized corporations. And there's people who come in and say, this is how you can make your company more lucrative. This is how you can change. And so you have analysts who come in and help with companies to streamline what they're doing. Once they define, you know, you can't increase in something until you know what you're doing. That's like the book of I hope I remember it from good to great. I forgot who the author of this. Do you know who I thought you and I talked about that book Keith one time.

[00:04:26] Pastor Erik West

But anyway, it's good to great. But in that book they just send in people to a company who's looking to fix problems in their company and their profit margins are down. And so they come in and study the company. And he says, We really just have two questions when we first come in, this is what is your business? I mean, tell us what you do. And he said, you think anyone could define that? He says, But they'll go and talk about everything forever. And he says they really haven't decided what they do yet. So first tell me, what is the goal? What is it? What is it that you do? And I say, What's your business? And they'll tell them what their business is. And then he said, Our second question is how's business? So we can say it this way to us. What's the business of God? The Kingdom of God. How's the kingdom? We're in what we call our neck of the woods. How's the kingdom where we live? So you have to really understand on two things. Cps just wants to know two things to help you. Where do you want to go? Where are you when you start? In Siri, the male or female voice. Either one of them can take you where you want to go. Now, my phone. I don't know. Maybe the android is different, but mine won't take me down a pig trail.

[00:05:46] Pastor Erik West

Take me through a pasture. If I think it's about a 10th of a mile closer, it's like there's not. There's not a road. Well, it could be. Just go down that road. So. So anyway, let's go from here. So the world system leads to greed. It leads to self focus. You know, saying, get all you can, can all you get. Then what? Sit on the can or barely can. So that model success is worldly, it's self indulgent and it's rooted in selfishness. This is all about self. That's the that's the worldview of success. It's it's the old Babylonian system the brother has been talking about for years, which is really just man's attempt to succeed. Using his own wits. Even without God, he might acknowledge God, but he's still attempting to succeed in life, in his endeavors, to do his way, to do his will. Even without God. That would be the old Babylon system. But we're going to look at just we're going to begin to look at God's definition of success. And this is a scripture that I think you're familiar with, but I want to read it in the PC Translation Amplified Classic. And it's in Genesis 39. We're going to read verses one, two and three in the Amplified Classic. And verse one says, And Joseph was brought down to Egypt. And Polyphor, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain and the executioner of the Royal Guard in Egyptian brought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there.

[00:07:17] Pastor Erik West

Now you know who Joseph is. And you know you know the story of Joseph. And he was his father's favorite son. And all his brothers hated him for it. And God gave him a God, gave him a dream. And in his youth, he told everybody about his dream. You don't tell everybody about what God told you. Uh, because most of them don't believe you and the other half don't want it to happen to you. They want you to stay where they are. But Joseph did have a dream from God. But in his youth, his immaturity, he shared it with his brothers and the symbolism that he saw. And he said, this is I see this dream. And in this dream, he says, All all you, my brothers, older brothers, you'll be bound down to me. And even Father Will and his father rebuked him. Two. And so it wasn't very long after that dream of that he was given to his brothers that they devised a plan, you know, that said, we're out and about. And, you know, he's a wild animal. Got him. But actually they put him in a pit, didn't they? Then one for long after that. Here's this army come by and he sells them to him, take him to Egypt and he's a slave. So God gives him a destiny of a palace, but he finds himself in a pit.

[00:08:28] Pastor Erik West

You ever had a dream of doing something wonderful and great? And you've had a. Something the Lord has showed you for years about where he's taking you or you've had a prophecies that have been given to you about God. This is what he's going to be doing in your life. And you think, Wow, it was so amazing where you felt in that service. And when it happened, you thought the angels would meet you home and roll out the red carpet. The next day they let you go at your job or something like that, you know? And so that's kind of how that works. And so many times so Joseph went he actually went from a vision of the pit or from the palace and put him in the pit. But we know in the end, God took him from the pit and put him in the palace. And so there's a there's a time and there's a season and there's a maturity and there's a growth. Doesn't matter necessarily what you just been called to. There's not a there's not a short there's not a shortcut to success. Everyone likes shortcuts. Everyone likes the most quickest route. But there are some things that you just can't shortcut. There are some recipes that you ladies know that, Oh, I could do this faster. I could do it quicker. I could not use these ingredients. I could get the instant this and I could put it in the pan, stir it with some water, and it would still be called whatever.

[00:09:46] Pastor Erik West

But it wasn't like he made it. You know, it just wasn't there. And so when you when you do that, you may have a result, but you won't have the best result. You won't have the fullness of what's been set aside for you. The scripture says in Colossians or Corinthians, it says he has made things and kept them ready for for you. Just think about that. God, who knows You knew before you was born. Decided your your time and and your and how you would get here. And he decided your purpose before you were born. So he's made everything and kept it ready for such a time as this. So we're in this moment. So we have to begin to understand that if you don't understand, you'll. If you don't understand your purpose of something, you'll always abuse it. You know, that's true with people, but that's true with you can say tools if you don't understand what the purpose of a tool, you know, you can't fix everything with a hammer. And I suppose a screwdriver is probably one of the most misused tools in the tool chest. But it doesn't fix everything. Sometimes you round off a screw. Well, you know, it wasn't the metric. It was actually, you know, you know, it wasn't called for 11/16. And you're you're one up from that and you wonder why it's all rounded off.

[00:11:04] Pastor Erik West

Well, it kind of grabbed it and it worked. But you changed, you know, the you changed the proportion of that screw head because you didn't have the right fit to it. And when you don't understand your purpose, you don't understand why you're here. You don't understand your calling, then you'll never step into it. I was reading again this week something Brother Hagan. Jesus told Brother Hagan in one of the visions that he I think he has eight visions over the period of his ministry where Jesus appeared to him and peaceful. I don't believe that. Well, let's do what you want to at that part. I'm just telling you what he said. But I'm not going to get into the purpose for the visitation. That's not what I'm making reference to. But it had to do with purpose. It had to do with fulfilling the plan for your life. And he told him, he said that Jesus told me, he says that many, many people He said, even many of my ministers. Those. Even I've called the ministry, he said. They live and die and never enter into the first phase that I call them to. And if I thought that was true, do you think how sad that is? You would think a minister would have some kind of hold on it. But but ministers are people. We're all ministers. And so he told him, he says many, many.

[00:12:20] Pastor Erik West

I don't know if that means most, but he said many live and die and then never enter into the first phase. A member of Andrew Wommack, said one time, I think he Jesus told him something almost exactly to that. I couldn't remember if he was in the ministry of 15 or 20 years by then, or maybe more than that. And the Lord told me, he says, You are now entering the first phase of your ministry. And Andrew was shocked because he had a measurable success. But but he never had entered into the thing that God really had prepared for him. That's where some people talk about permissive will and three different wills. I don't think there's three different wills. I think he has one will, but certainly you can see that people can do can have a lesser version of the better. I'll see that. So but a lot of it is not you know, if he's if he's allowing you to do something a lesser of what you will be, it's just it's because it's your training. I mean, you might be. Well, there's someone who was drafted or they volunteered into the military or they went into service. You don't go to the battlefield as soon as you get a haircut. Thank God you don't. So someone trains you and they do that by deprogramming you. They pull you out of you. They pull your mind out of you so they can put their mind in you.

[00:13:34] Pastor Erik West

The purpose of that is so that you will think like you're supposed to and not like you have been thinking. Because if you think like you've been thinking in battle, you're going to get killed and you're going to get everybody else killed. That's just the way it is. So boot camp is not fun. It's not hard. It's not a vacation spot. It's just not it's not a place that you take your suntan oil and, you know, and your beach chair and say, we're going to have a great time. No, it's calling for you. It's calling many times for more than you than you think that you have to give and not everybody makes it through it. Sometimes it's just it's too enduring. And so that's the way it is, You know, I know this won't be popular preaching, but that's what it is. If you're actually going to obey the call of God on your life, no one wants to hear this part. But the first week I went, the first week in 1992. Wow, that's been a while now. How time go by so fast? Sitting in room just. 30 years old. 30. Was early used almost 30 and the for the first week. Brother Hagan took a whole week of orientation try to talk you out of being there. He did everything you could to get you to quit. Because he knew if he could get you to quit an orientation, you'd never last.

[00:14:49] Pastor Erik West

Ministry would eat you alive. He knew that. So he started off in Timothy. Endure Hardness is a good soldier. I didn't come here to find no hardness. So you won't have to find. It'll find you. It'll come looking for you. Satan comes for the word, and he doesn't wait a long time. If I read it right, it comes immediately. What's he going to do? He's going to steal the word. How is he going to do it? Going to put pressure on you. You get enough pressure, you'll stop. You know you'll do the uncle thing. I mean, how how much further can I go? He wants to see if you'll scream. Uncle. So Brother Hagan talked about the whole week, about endure hardness as a good soldier. He went on to talk about it in those scriptures that Paul was addressing in the letter to Timothy. He said, You are to deposit these. These truths I give you to faithful men. Not to people. But to faithful people. So it depends on what you're building. If you just build it for for for fellowship, it won't take that. But if you're building an army, it's going to take everything. Amen. And so that's why you have to you have to choose who you're going to hang out with. You love everyone. No one's any better than the other. But strong people and strong leaders don't hang out with weaklings.

[00:16:08] Pastor Erik West

They can't. They have nothing in common. They don't even think the same way. They can't. The thing completely different. They have nothing in common other than they're all people. And so none of this is in my note, you understand? So that's just how that's how it works. So we was in verse one of Genesis 29. So he's he's bought and he's taken to Egypt, verse two. But the Lord was with Joseph. Now we're talking about we're talking about God's business or what God's definition of success. Look at verse two. But the Lord was with Joseph and he though a slave, was a successful and prosperous man, and he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian. You see up there, That's the amplified classic, though. He was a slave. He was a successful and prosperous man. Now, naturally thinking, would you call a slave a prosperous person and successful? Bobsleigh. Well, according to the Fortune 500 and corporate America, who runs everything by, you know, by their financial statement, who defines success, by accomplishments and accumulation? What did he own at this point? What did Joseph? Oh. Nothing. He was poor. How poor? He didn't even know himself. Isn't that. Doesn't that sound kind of poor? You don't even own you. But God said, though he was a slave, he was successful in the promised land and he was in the house of the master, the Egyptian.

[00:17:53] Pastor Erik West

Now. Now watch here. But you say, Well, God must see something that others don't. Boy, you hit it. You hit the big point right there. Look at verse three. And but now even the master saw that the Lord was with him and all that the Lord had made, all he did was cause to what? Flourish and succeed in his hand. So here you have an inmate, a slave, a prisoner, and his master. His master. He's a slave. She has a master. He sees that everything he puts in his hand causes it to increase and multiply. This guy could organize if a train derailed and a hundred cars went off. He'd be the one you'd want to send out there to get everything back together. And he could do it. They always say, if you need something done, give it to a busy person. That is a truth to that. Find someone who's already busy. Find someone who's already a signal. And you say, Well, they've got so much going on. Yeah, but. But. But they can do it. They do have a lot going on. But you give it to a lazy person and they'll have it just be like with the talents, you know, they gave them one, give them two, gave them five. And then he came back to check on them. And the one with one, you know what happened to him? He come back and he says, Well, I know you're a hard man.

[00:19:09] Pastor Erik West

I knew if I lost this year, you'd be mad at me forever. So I decided I didn't want you to lose anything. So what I did, I just took what you gave me a year ago, five years ago. And I wouldn't buried it. So I'd go get it and give it back to you. Now, Jesus, in that parable, said that that man was wicked. Wicked, rebellious and slothful. And he says take what he has and give it to the one with ten because he took what he had and doubled it. Jesus expects us to increase. He wants you to at least double. How? You say, Well, I went church and they know, you know, we're not supposed to have anything. Well, I don't know what Bible they were using. I mean, I don't know where you find stuff like that at. You certainly can't find it in the New Covenant. You can't. You can't find it. You can't find it. The father of your faith. I mean, Abraham lot has so much they had to separate their herds and crops grew so much that. You know, Law said, what are we going to do? He said, I think we're going to have to separate. I said, It looks like God because he knows everything. He knows the land looks like he would take the survey of the land. So this is so many square acres, so much land. Okay. And I got, you know, this covenant of increases all over them.

[00:20:25] Pastor Erik West

So they're going to increase. But but God produced more. He produced more herds and he multiplied more than they had land to take them. I mean, it's a little stop. A little bit. I mean, let us let us get through. Count this deposit before you bring another one in. The bank's calling me all the time. Say, now, now we only fairly sure the 100,000 and you're running around. Like, which bank are we going to use now? Oh. Somebody say that's a fairy tale. It is listening. Hmm. I know of some people not by a book, but I know because I've been in meetings, business meetings, not not churches. And these. And. That's a true story. You wouldn't know the names, but their businesses of years ago. So this business meeting and one guy was bragging about his wealth. True story. Both of them in the United States. And one of them was bragging about his wealth. And he says, you know, when I go in the bank, he said, every head turns. He said, Every teller stops. And they look at me and they always they greet me. And he said, he said, every loan officer stops and comes to shake my hand. They bring me coffee or they bring me a drink or whatever. So the bank president comes out and greets me. He said. He said. I bet he said. I mean, every time I go to the bank, I make the part.

[00:21:49] Pastor Erik West

That's what I do. He said, I bet they don't do that at your bank, are you? He said, No, they don't. I wouldn't know. He says, I don't go there. They come get mine. I don't have to go there. Well, that was that was a true story. Now, why would that be important? Well, God is a god of increase. We're not talking about currencies. We're talking about increase. Increase with the purpose. See, next year, instead of doing a \$15,000 budget and going 18 places to get it, we might just write a check. So now you can go, go, go. It's like the feathers. They're coming, you know, there. And they've been at this thing and. Been faithful for years. Years. And here. Here they out there running around their 80s. They going to drive a thousand miles to come see y'all. You many 80 year olds going to drive a thousand miles to come see you just to spend time with you. Minister the word so they can go. He said, We've got to reach a few more people while we're still alive. We got to, he said he was telling me, he said we got to pick up the pace. He says time is short. We got to pick up the pace. When I was like, Man, I'm talking to a lady girl, man. Plus. And they live in Nebraska and go and drive all the way to come see you.

[00:23:14] Pastor Erik West

I'm thinking I left thinking, man, what am I doing? I better pick my game up. So. So this is what the master saw. He saw the succeeding so clearly. The contrast is not what you own, not what you possess, not your accumulations. But it said the Lord was with Joseph because the Lord was with him. That means he was successful and prosperous. Did you get that? So by just using this one scripture. Prosperity on God's terms is. I'm with you. That was not your situation. So you could have a situation that seems like it's just unnerving you. It's like, but is the Lord with you? Then if you use your succeeding. Or potentially you're succeeding because he's with you. No, I got to hurry up. So. So it's clearly God's presence in your life that creates success, not what you possess. Joseph, as a slave, as we said, owned nothing. He was a slave. He didn't even own himself. Why was Joseph considered prosperous? Because God was with him. So we probably should stop thinking about pursuing. What the creation has created, what man has created, and think about the one who created everything. And we begin to. Put our focus and our attention there. All of our focus on pursuing God in His glorious presence. It seems our relationship with Christ is more valuable than anything we could ever achieve in human terms.

[00:24:59] Pastor Erik West

Now I want us to go to if you can do it up there, I want you to go to Proverbs eight. And I really I know you have your translations and you do what you want to, but I really would like you to, to to see my translations on this Proverbs eight. We're going to go through nine through 21 and 33 to 35. In the Passion Translation. And I want you to listen, if you will. And. If I was reading a secular book, it'd be one thing. If this was a word of a man, it'd be another thing. If it was a word of, you know, wealthy people in our time or if it was the old Rockefeller family. But I'm going to read you. I'm going to read you the words from the creator, the one who created you, the heavens and the earth. And I know a lot of you are very familiar with these verses and the whole chapter is awesome. But I had to narrow it down to just all these verses, just to narrow it down. Listen intently now to these verses. We're talking about God's definition of success and how so much contrast in the world. And I want these scriptures, you know, the scripture says you are clean through the words. I've spoken to you. John 15 Let these words of God anointed, filled with the Holy Ghost. Let them in and let them just wash all over you.

[00:26:42] Pastor Erik West

Now. Here we go. Proverbs eight, verse nine. The passion translation will restart if you have it. Now, just listen. Can you receive these words from God? These words? Okay, here we go. This is God talking just to you. All my words are clear. They're straightforward to everyone who possesses spiritual understanding. If you have an open mind, you will receive revelation knowledge. Verse ten My wise correction is more valuable than silver or gold. Yes, the finest gold is nothing compared to the revelation knowledge I can impart. Wisdom is priceless. That is, that exceeds the value of a jewel. Nothing you could wish for can equal her. For I am wisdom and I am shrewd. I'm intelligent. I have at my disposal living understanding to devise a plan for your life. Wisdom pours into you when you begin to hate every form of evil. For thus with worship and fearing God is all about. Then you will discover that your pompous pride and your perverse speech are the very ways of wickedness that I hate. Verse 14, you will find success. When you find me. Is that different from the world? For. I have insight into wise plans. He didn't say some insight. I have insight into wise plans. They are designed just for you. I hold in my hands living, understanding, courage and strength. I empower Kings to reign and two rulers to make laws that are just. I empower princesses to rise and take dominion and.

[00:28:41] Pastor Erik West

Generous ones to govern the earth. I will show my love to those who passionately love me. For they will search and search continually until they find me. Verse 18. On Ending Wealth. In glory. Come to those who discover where I dwell. The riches of righteousness of a long, satisfying life. Life will be given to them. What I impart has greater worth than gold and treasure. And the increase? I bring benefits more than a windfall of income. I lead you into the ways of righteousness to discover the paths of true justice. Those who love me and great wealth and a glorious inheritance. And I will fill their lives with treasures. Verse 33. Listen to my counsel. For my instructions will enlighten you. You'll be wise not to ignore it. If you wait verse 34 at wisdom's doorway. Longing to hear a word for every day. Joy will break forth within you as you listen for what I say. The last verse 35 for the fountain of life pours into you every time you find me. And this is the secret of growing in the delight in the favor of the Lord. Amen. Now, these words were penned by Solomon, who had a couple of nickels. And for most of his life had wisdom beyond anyone who had ever been on the planet until his later years. And so you could just do a series. I mean, just like I feel like I'm doing a great just justice going to the next point.

[00:30:32] Pastor Erik West

But just the weight of those verses are just the weighty. Yeah. So when you go back and think about Joseph again, he had no degrees, he had no bank accounts, he had no 401 K's. He had no he had no connections with influential people. Except one. He had a connection with one influential person and that would be the Lord himself. So when you have Jesus in your life, you have everything. The Bible says you would be complete in him. You're one with him. You succeed in life because he triumphed over all the works of the devil. Now, when I say Jesus is with you this morning and I say He is with you, I don't mean because you feel it. We're taking a turn here now, or this thing will build just like a brick. Mason But now we're taking a turn. So when I say Jesus is with us this morning and we know the verse greater is he that's in us and he's in the world. So we know that by word. We believe that. But he's worthy whether you feel like he's with you or not. So don't. Don't make decisions based on feelings. Feelings will come and go. The word of God will remain. Like we said before, if there were some way for you to leave here and leave your Bible, sit in the chair next to you and we were gone.

[00:31:56] Pastor Erik West

This is hypothetical. If we were gone for 200 years and came back. The Bible would still be sitting in that chair. And I think it would say the same thing then that says now. The chair might have. They might not be green. The pages might be brittle. They might have turned brown, yellow. Whatever they are, it might just be almost dilapidated. But if it was readable, it would stay the same. God somehow wrote a book that he doesn't think needs to be updated. How do you do that? That's why people say, well, I was watching the no, I don't want to get into the names because I'll get monitored and all that. And other was I was watching this interview, someone interviewing a Christian leader and a pastor, and they said, well, don't you think the scripture needs to be put into applicable terms in the sense of this is 2000 years, you know, whether, you know, dealing with same sex marriage and homosexuality, all this kind of things. I mean, I mean, we have to understand, you have to keep up with the times. I mean, you can still have the word and you can still have, you know, Jesus, you're not going to change who he is. But even he ought to understand that for 2000 years, everything has to change. And this pastor had a whole lot more patience than I would have had. And he was kind of stumbling around for answers.

[00:33:20] Pastor Erik West

And I thought, man, he just threw you a question. This is just a softball baseball. The word of God is never going to change. Jesus said, I'm the same yesterday, today and forever. What's good about that is you can always count on it because you know what his position is. You say? Well, death's come to seize me. Well. Well, I've come to rescue you. Right. You know, when you need protection, he's the protector. When you need healing, he's the healer. If you need saving, he's the savior. Amen. He doesn't know where he is the way. But the church didn't seem to do that. We refer people all the time. Well, you need to go see the psychiatrist or they refer you to this. They refer you to that. They refer you to someone who can help you with the finances and this council or that council. The the church has become the great referral system. We were we were supposed to be the ones who have the answers. The government should be looking to us for answers. We're in situations. We've come to ask for your counsel. What can we do in the city? What can we do in this nation like this? That's the way this thing is supposed to operate. It's supposed to not because we're a great people, but because we have a great God. Amen. So feelings is is if you can hear it.

[00:34:46] Pastor Erik West

So I just I wrote down feelings is not how you know he is with you. Quite the opposite, actually. Feelings will take you down a deserted road, throw you out of the car and drive off with nothing more than feeling trying to free it. And they run over you. But back. Back over you and takes off. But the Lord Jesus Christ in Romans Chapter eight, I'm in the Nlt. You don't have to. It didn't really matter, but I'm reading verses 34. 339. In Romans chapter eight, verse Romans eight and verse 34 says. Who then will condemn us. You see, this is the contrast of the world's success. What God thinks. Your feelings. But this is what God thinks about your feelings. Who then will condemn you? For no one for. For for none. For Jesus Christ died for us. Who will condemn us? No one for Christ. Jesus died for us. Was raised to life for us. And He is seated at the right place of honor, at God's right hand, pleading for us. Now, many translations say don't use the word pleading. It uses the correct word, which Jesus said at the right hand of God right now. What's he doing? He's interceding for you. Interceding his prayer. Have you. How does it make you feel that now that Jesus right now is he is praying for you? He's praying for you. The thrust thing. I mean, I'll always makes us feel good to have someone that we that we trust, that we know at least cares for you in some measure is praying for you.

[00:36:42] Pastor Erik West

But I'm telling you, Jesus is praying for you. And he's not reading the book about how to get your prayers answered. He's in the habit of getting all his prayers answered. So it goes on to ask us in verse 35, Can anything separate you from Christ's love? Just think about everything that you're dealing with in your own life family finances, everything that connects life to you, that wants to define you by what's going on to you, around you, with you. See, that's looking to define you, but you are not what you are dealing with. You say, well, I'm having a problem with a kidney. Well, here's the good news. You're not a kidney. You say, Well, I'm having problems with my ears. Well, you're not. Ears. Your spirit. You have a soul and you have a body. Your body has ears, but you the spirit. You're not an ear. You're not a foot. You're not an ankle. You're not a bone. You're not a spine. You're not a brain. You're not a. You're none of those things. You are a spirit being. You have a soul. And the real you just lives in that body. But you are not that body. Amen. You know, it's hard on people when loved ones leave the world. But but when a Christian leaves, that ought to be rejoicing.

[00:38:04] Pastor Erik West

They're out of that body forever. Like forever. Like a really long time. I mean, in a spirit body, young spirit. Body forever. Just the moment they can depart from that. I don't want to go too much on that because you all get excited and you all be trying to leave your body today. And then we have still got some work to do. Like you mean this shed, this thing. Well, he said, can anything separate you, verse 35 from Christ love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity or persecuted or hungry or destitute or in danger or threatened with death? If it meant that I think he hates me. Any of those things ever happen to you? He said, Does this mean because you deal with these things sometimes that he does not love you as the scriptures say? Verse 36. Now they're quoting an Old Testament scripture, you know, from the Book of Psalms. And so Paul is talking about a scripture out of the book of Psalms, where it says, as the scriptures say, well, for your sake, we're killed every day. We're being slaughtered like sheep. Paul fixes that verse. The next verse? No. He said, despite all these things. Overwhelming victory is ours through Christ who loved us. Paul said, I am convinced. He said He didn't say. The jury's out. I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love.

[00:39:29] Pastor Erik West

He continues. Verse 38, He said, Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither fears for the day or your worries about tomorrow. Not even the powers of hell can separate you from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below. Indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus, our Lord. It's revealed in Christ Jesus, our Lord. The love is revealed in Jesus Christ, Our Lord. From which you cannot be separated from. Now let's make a point out that about this love in first John chapter four, verse ten. Not sure what's translation. Just pick you one. Probably the NIV or the King James. I don't really know. But first, John, chapter four, verse ten says, Herein is love. What is love? He says, It's here. It's right in here. He says, I'm going to show you what love is. Here in his love verse. John 4:10. Not that we love God. But that he loved us. And he sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins. Whoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwells in him and he in God. Now, verse 16. Awesome verse. And we have known and believed the love that God has to us. God is love and he that dwelleth in this love dwelleth in God and God dwells in Him.

[00:41:01] Pastor Erik West

So Romans eight tells you, can anything separate you from the love of God is real in Christ Jesus? And the answer is no. First, John 4:16 says, Well, then believe in that love. Now put faith in that love. Put confidence in that love. Firstly, the fight. So when there's no fire, there's just. There's just. It's just. It's a fun day. It's a play day. I'm talking about when. When the physical and the the senses and the mental part come to attack very strongly, whatever the situation is. It's always saying one thing to you. God is not here to rescue you. Have you noticed? I mean, where is this great God who loves you so much and you're dealing with all this? And where is he at? You say, Well, I don't feel like I have God's presence. Did you breathe? And are you breathing? You have God's presence. Always. So never interpret what God's doing or not doing based upon the situation or circumstances around you. Don't wait to move out till you feel anointed. A lot of Christians, you know, they they remain dormant with all the ability God on the inside of them. They're waiting for the feelings of feel good. They're waiting to feel anointed. If you get the right song, I'll jump with it. I'll shout with it. But if it's not, or if there's not 500 people around me, then I can't go. Woo! Well, you may have to one day by yourself.

[00:42:37] Pastor Erik West

And there's no one around you to help you. It's not Sunday. The Christians aren't here. You might have to learn to go all on your own when it don't feel like. Whoa. Hmm. I hit a corner somewhere. Some of y'all know what I'm talking about. You know the praise teams not out there. And the Hammond organ is not, you know, just. It's just Monday, and it's you in that situation. And. And all the voices that come and say, What are you going to do now? What are you going to do now? You ain't never seen like this. Oh, I know, I know. Yeah, I know. God. He said, But but. But this time is going to be different. You heard what the doctor said. You saw the x ray. You saw the financial report. They say this is on the way. They say it's imminent, that we're going to have a recession. Well, we might have one. We've had we've had them before. So if you say, are we going to have one? I don't know. But I'm telling you, if we have one, it doesn't matter. Why doesn't it matter? Because you're in the kingdom of God. So if the world is going to have a recession this year or next year, here's all you need to know. Don't participate. Just don't sign up for it, huh? If someone's going to get to work, you are. Why? Because you're a kingdom ambassador.

[00:43:54] Pastor Erik West

Doing kingdom business, the flow never shuts off to you. I mean, you can find out from the old Covenant. I mean, because God made a promise to your. Your father, Faith, Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. And when there was a famine and there was drought, he said, just just stay here. And so you see, well, there's no rain. Who was it? Wasn't. It wasn't. It wasn't. Who was it? Staying sober seed. Was it Isaac? Everyone was going to Egypt. You can't grow crops. And God said, Just stay here and sow your seed. You look at the ground, I look yesterday I was out in yard somewhere because of the heat and it hadn't rained. And there's a patch of just ground dirt and it was cracked, you know, like cracked peanut brittle, like you see sometimes like in a, you know, a desert or dry places where it just gets so dry and it just begins to crack. And the Lord says you have to stay and put your seat in there. He said without any water. He said, what is it going to rain? And but isn't that violating the principles? He says, I am the principles. Well, I don't need to go to Egypt. No, you just stay here. I made a covenant with your father. He died. But I got to keep my word to him. I even keep my word to dead people. Right. So Isaac, when well against all conventional wisdom and started trying to break up that dry ground but seed it with no water.

[00:45:43] Pastor Erik West

He said, Where did he get any kind of harvest? Bible says he got 100 fold return on his seed with no water. Yes. It's not. You know, I'm still studying this. I don't want to preach it. I want to be careful when I come out and say it. It looks Well, don't let no one out there hear me. It looks like God knows everything. You know, you ought to see it in the Word and then you ought to live it out before you just preach any kind of new doctrine. But it looks like God almost knows just about everything. So just don't participate. Our greatest financial year. Since we've been since we moved here 13 years ago this October, our greatest financial year was the year of Covid. Well until the next year. In the next year, it was a greater and greater. We were able to help more people. And more missionaries around the world. While the world lay dormant. You know. Stay home. Stay away from people. Yeah, I don't want to get down there, but I'm just saying. But, but there's a, there's a, there's an agenda behind all that and their agenda. I'm not, I'm not looking to talk about it's this person or this person or person, this party or that party. It's not it's not this country or that country.

[00:47:13] Pastor Erik West

You may have many players in it, but it's only really one player. You don't wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers might. The devil just uses people who's usable. And guess what? You know where he learned that from? He learned it from God. God can only use who's usable. You know, that's why I said, you know, Christians ought to get possessed like, you know, demon possessed people. You ought to get you ought to be criticized. You ought to be possessed by the Holy Ghost. Amen. Me. What kind of logic is it to sow your seed on top of concrete and walk off and say, Blessed God, we're going to have a major harvest this year? You say you're looking at your seed because you can't get the ground opened up. You know, he didn't have a massey-ferguson tractor. He went, no, John Deere. He could just tell the ground that, well, you just beat it with a stick and just beat it back at you. The Bible says, You think I'm going to plow through that? There's no way. Just go and shoot me and have me for supper. You see it on the ground? He just said Just. It just comes up everywhere. And it's a great day. Everybody's gone to Egypt and you just stay at the house. That way, when you go to restaurants, there's no waiting. You're out there on your camel. You know, the traffic's great.

[00:48:27] Pastor Erik West

You say, let's let's get out of our Cadillac camel. This week we're going around the two. We're going to ride the two hump this weekend. That's luxury if you've got a two upper camel. Praise God. So. So he said, You need to know this love and then then believe it. Where love is a person. God is love. Right. So what it says. And you could say. Love is God, but that don't really take you nowhere. Because you need a picture. God is love. And you could say love is God. It wouldn't be wrong, but it's an incomplete picture. It don't take you anywhere. But let me give you an accurate picture of what that looks like, love. God is love and love is Jesus on the cross dying for your sin. See, love has got to take you back to the picture of Jesus. Who is the author and the headship of of his church and of this covenant. Of who he's interceding for. It has to take you to Jesus because he everyone says, says that. Hebrews one. It says that your forefathers, the prophets, everyone in the Old Covenant only knew him in portion. That means Isaiah only knew some things about God. Moses knew some things about God, but they never really knew Him. But when Jesus come, he said, I think I'm in Hebrews one. If you want to look it up later, Hebrews one, I know I'm in verse three at least, and Amplify says He is Jesus is the express image of God in manifestation and a representation.

[00:50:27] Pastor Erik West

He is the express image in the likeness of God. So if you want to know what God is, then you have to look at Jesus. You can't you can't even get a right picture with God without Jesus. Because Jesus is the express image of God. So God is love. But Jesus is the love of God. On the cross. Dying for people. Who's dead wrong? How many people you want, you know, willing to let themselves die for people who's dead wrong? Who's against them? Wow. I'm so two mouthfuls right now. First, John, chapter three, verse 19-20 says, And this is how we know that we belong to the truth. This is the NIV. Listen to this. This is how you're going to know that you belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence. If your heart condemns you. We know that God is greater than your hearts. And he knows everything. So I put down here. Sin and condemnation will bind us. But love and compassion will free you. From all accusations and condemnation. I want to go back and read that again in the NIV. First, John three 19-20 says, This is how we know that we belong to the truth because people say I have the truth. Well, here's how you know, if it's the truth and if you belong to the truth, how we set our hearts at rest in his presence.

[00:52:01] Pastor Erik West

What was Joseph? Why was he successful? Because God was with him. Which means his presence with him. You have God. You have his presence. Joseph Joseph is in prison as a slave and he's successful and prosperous. And one day will take his rightful place as the second highest in command of Egypt when he was sold as a slave in the dream. And the vision that God gave him would come to pass because the brothers did come because they thought he was dead. But he wasn't. And they come down because they were in a famine and they had to go. And Joseph was in charge. They found out who he was and they ended up bound down to the brother. Then a few years later. Now, my story is not about to bow down just like that. What I'm saying is just because you don't see it doesn't mean it's not working. It's still in the process. You don't put a coin in the ground and then you turn back around and say, boo. It's not hide and go seek. You don't put. You don't put a coin. And so what you're going to have for supper tonight, we're going to have coin. I'm going to water it a little bit more. Just don't come up. I'm going to pick you about 5:00. I'm going to shuck the corn and we're going to have corn on the cob.

[00:53:11] Pastor Erik West

Well, you might have corn on the cob, but it won't be. It won't be from that. You don't even have stock here. It's just a seed in the ground and a seed has to die first. Jesus had to go. He had to die and be put into the ground so he could be raised up. That's why the scripture said if they would have known what they were doing, it says they had any idea what they were doing. They would never crucify the Lord of Glory. Why? Because he's the anointed seed that went into the crown, the ground. And so what they planted was what they planted in death was a Christ. What they came up with was the harvest of Christ. Like if you plant tomatoes, you don't get this one. You don't get this one tomato. If you plant a corn, I mean, how many apples are in one seed? They say, Well. You just got a harvest that you can't count. So when you put Christ in the earth and you plant him the anointed one and he raises up. That he has untold numbers of the naughty ones all over the earth. They were trying to stamp out the Christ and get rid of him by killing him. You multiply them. You know, and he's talking metaphors. He's talking in parables. They don't even talk. He said, you know, he says, you know, this is going to happen in three days.

[00:54:26] Pastor Erik West

This whole temple is going to come down and I'll rebuild it in three days. They're looking at the building, thinking you a nut, you you going to tear this whole temple down? You going to rebuild the whole thing in three days? Just three days. You're thinking I mean, this guy, I mean, he has some miracles, but, boy, smoking something somewhere, he's going to tear this thing down and we're going to rebuild it in three days. How long? How long? He's raising the dead. Three days. Who's the temple? You are. Did you get raised up? But I read. You did? Yeah. You've been raised up with him. She didn't have heavenly places. So if you stay in your place, in Christ, in him, in Christ. And when the devil comes looking for you, he won't know he's attacking you or him. If you just talk like he talks and think like he thinks and acts like he thinks when the devil pushes on the door, he doesn't know who's going to answer. So. So keep your head down and just say, open the door, he says. You just say it's me. Jesus. You'll see. He's hoping you come the door. But Jesus comes to the door. The anointed Son of God, look at him. He says, You want some more? Because? Because I have a whole lot of mouth. I've got a whole lot of more.

[00:55:46] Pastor Erik West

Come on. If it's a fight you want, it's a fight you're going to get. I mean, you. I mean, you know, you're all familiar with scripture, but you're in Psalms two where it says, you know, they're saying, you know, we're going to destroy God's anointed, we're going to cut him asunder. And God says, you're going to do that. You're going to cut my people. You're going to cut them. You're going to cut them asunder. You're going to disband them. And just and and God doesn't say anything. The Bible says he just sits in the heavens, laughs. He laughs at the devil's plans of how he's going to destroy you, he says, And you're going to take her out. How? Oh, really? How are you going to do that? Huh? Even. Even. Even the devil couldn't get the job, he says. I've tried to get to him. He said. You've got to hedge around that old boy. You know you do. He said, Well, ain't no neat line. I do. If you don't have a hedge around you. You're on the inside. You don't need no hedges. Hinges can be cut down. Mm. Well. So here. So here we are in this low. So he said you might feel like, well, I've done so much and I've done it all wrong and I made so many mistakes. My life is just a mess. And I did this and I did this marriage and this and all that.

[00:57:07] Pastor Erik West

And I'm in my third marriage and God can't love me. I've been divorced two times. What, did he forgive you? Does your forgive, Sofia? Well, he didn't know you had two wives before then. See, we remember people's mistakes. He forgets them. He thinks this is your first go round. Let all be good news to somebody I don't know. That ought to help someone. Is it scriptural? Huh? Even Isaiah 43, I think verse 25 says, I, even I, he says, Forgive your transgressions. He said, I do it for my own sake. I think for your sake he forgives you for his sake. He said, I blot out your transgressions. And he says, And I remember your sins no more. Why do you keep bringing them up when he's already forgot them? Why in Jesus. It's finished. It's a finished work. So when you feel condemned about your life. Or if you make a mistake and sin, you feel condemned. But this scripture says. That we are to be at rest in his presence. And if your heart condemns you, you need to know something. God is greater than your heart. God is greater than your feelings. God is greater than the condemnation that you're feeling. Even if your heart is trying to condemn you, he said. God's greater than your heart. My goodness. What's he pointing to? Your righteousness. Not. Not your mistake. Not the failure. He's still telling you.

[00:58:43] Pastor Erik West

But you're my righteous one. Yes, he is. Can I go a little bit further? I'll hurry. So, verse 18. This is first. John 4:18. Love never brings fear, for fear is always related to punishment. So there is no punishment in him for the born again. You don't need to fear the day that you see him if you're born again. He's not going to talk to you about your past. You have no past. You only have now and present. Jesus took all your past and all your present. So he tells you love never brings fear, for fear is always related to punishment. But God's but love's perfection drives out the fear of punishment far from your hearts. Whoever walks constantly afraid of punishment, has never reached love's perfection or maturity. So if you're always afraid, you're always in fear. You're always afraid for your life. If you're if you're afraid that one day and seeing God, he's going to reject you and you're you're afraid, he says. He says that's because you've never been perfected. You're not matured in love yet. Well, boy, these are. I'm opening up all kind of cans that I'll just be. I'm moving on. So when we start practicing, a better word would be participating, acknowledging his presence. Then you experience his love, his peace, his strength, his joy. You hear him speak to your heart, his wisdom, his counsel, his assurance will begin to flow when you just begin to practice and acknowledge his presence, all these things begin to flow.

[01:00:26] Pastor Erik West

Joy begins to flow back in again, where there was sorrow. When you was when you was afraid, when you was disturbed. Just practicing his presence and knowing he's always with me and he never leaves me, he never fails me, he never forsakes me. God has my picture in the throne room right there. Hmm. Then wisdom begins to flow. All sudden you get counsel and you have the assurance that begins to come in. Your decision making ability will be sharpened. Change for the good begins to flow effortlessly, effortlessly. You don't have to struggle and strain to bear results. Fruit trees do not bear and strain. To produce fruit. If they are rooted properly and if they have proper water and sunlight, they produce effortlessly. We're a peach country right here. You know we are for you. Well, we're coming to the end of it, August. But you can go in any peach orchard where there's peaches. I know something about that, doesn't it? You go in the orchard and be real quiet and listen. Can I tell you what you won't hear? You won't hear Peachtree straining to produce it. Oh, Benita. Peachy. Peachy. And one comes out Peach. Oh, Peach, Don't do that. So why would you want to strain to be what you already are in him. Or it could be comes squash. You'd have to have farmers. They'd have to have headphones on so they don't even know they're hearing.

[01:02:16] Pastor Erik West

Oh, I hate when we have to pick this stuff, you know, leaning down to it. All that noise coming up to me. Oh, the foolishness of preaching. I said, Well, I'm trying to be God. Well, quit trying to just believe you. I'm going to be healed. What did that do? Greg? Greg did what? Oh, but don't you sometimes see that in some measures of healing lines, pick them up again. 47 times more. More. Jesus did rotting in the ground. I've heard 10,000 sermons. What He's writing. You know what? He wrote the ground. I don't know. And they don't know either. You can assume he's writing anything. He wasn't paying attention. He might have been thinking, I'm going to let all these fools talk. See, you want to eat here for lunch? I'm going to go over there. He killed that woman. After 18 years. She has a spirit of infirmity. Spirit of infirmity. 18 years. Notice they didn't call it. Rheumatoid arthritis or something like that because Blue Cross won't pay for a spirit infirmity, but they don't have the code. I mean, Barbara didn't used to work Blue Cross. You ever seen that on? Can you can you code something a tormenting spirit or Blue Cross won't pay for that. But Jesus was always casting out devils to heal the sick. But I mean, that Blue Cross will not pay for that.

[01:04:12] Pastor Erik West

So you have to call it something. It has a name, but it's the devil is what it is. Yeah. And they could ask us for codes and we can give it to them, go and pay it. But it says devils what it is. So Jesus healed that one with the spirit infirmity. She was, what, 18 years? They said she was bowed together like this for 18 years, and Jesus healed her on the Sabbath, which was illegal. Faith in the law. Because. Because she's like this for 18 years and Jesus delivered her on the wrong day. As the wrong day. He says there are six days you can come. Well, she been coming for 18 years. Ain't helped her at all. Now, don't you think that she'd ask for prayer somewhere in 18 years? It don't say, but I just. I can't help. My mind has to think there's more to this story than they're telling us. This ain't the first time she's been there because they know the woman. Morning. How y'all about same. Now, what has year like this? It's a devil, right? Spirit of infirmity. Yeah. 18 years. Blue Cross won't pick up the bill on their time. You put an ointment on it. What did you say? Yeah. You put an ointment on that devil? Give him a cup of Tylenol. Well, he don't want to lose his home. All devils want a home. Even devils don't like being homeless.

[01:05:53] Pastor Erik West

Well, when they find a home, they find rest. Well, if you don't have a home, you don't get rest either. Are you looking for somewhere to go? Rest right now? It works. Same with the devil. He's homeless. It says he's seeking rest. Well, if your home is gone, you know, and I know we take care of one another, but homeless people are always on the move. They're looking for somewhere to lay down, safe and rest. Those devils don't want to lose that body. So devils will. Oh, I didn't mean to do all this. This is true. I'm not even trying to be funny. But devils will be quiet sometimes and back away and they'll go hide over here for a while and let you think what you just did was. Yeah, they will. They'll just move around over here and you'll say. You'll say whatever you're going to say. And they'll say, Well, let's let it because. I don't want to lose my home again. This is my fourth home this year, and I'm tired of all this packing and unpacking. So let's just back off and let them think they whatever. And then we'll come back out in a couple of weeks. And they'll move around, I'm afraid, to people through the years like this. I did it for years until I found out a little bit more about it. And I thought, well, we're praying this. We get the victory over there.

[01:07:06] Pastor Erik West

And then two days later in the hospital and now the dying of that, then I go jump over here and over there and he just runs over there. It's like trying to it's like trying to when you don't understand how to do it, it's like going to the county fair and trying to get a ribbon for catching the grease pig, the devil. He just flies out of your hands, but he just goes over there. So what I do is I have to bring him into the obedience of Christ no matter where he's at. You have to expel him right high and seeks over. The little maze. The walls are gone. Dare you is. Massacre. Hasta la vista, baby. Amen. Okay, let me finish right here. So the chain fruit trees. We did the fruit trees. Hallelujah. Now. Let's finish this with this. Now, remember. Our relationship. With God, as we understand it, in the New Covenant, not the Old Covenant. God never changed with how he relates to you and people is different in this covenant that was in the Old Covenant. You know, David will say some things that was right in his covenant but would not be right in yours. And he did it with a right spirit. And the Lord highly accepted it. But people now take it and preach it. And then they they make songs of it, you know, like God created me a clean heart, which was right in his covenant.

[01:08:45] Pastor Erik West

It's not right in your covenant. I don't care who puts it at Bethel or Hillsong or or who puts it out. Because he believes he has. He has created you with a clean heart. He's on the inside of you. Right? So, David, as a king and a prophet, he saw some things here. He knew some things. So he saw your covenant. A prophet is a seer. They see a portion of things. David saw into the future. He saw your day. He was jealous of the day that you're in. Because really, David pronounced judgment on his own life and should have died. But the Lord allowed him. Really? You might say, to step into your covenant and live. That happened. You say, Well, I don't know that there's scriptural proof of that. Oh. I wouldn't have said it if it wasn't for one thing. You can see people that Jesus accepted and he let them have what belongs to you. Now when they weren't even in that covenant. I think it has something to do with it always has to do with faith. In faith is when. So like the like the the centurion that got healed. He didn't have a covenant. Jesus only talked about two people having great having great faith. And neither one had a covenant with him. That Syrophenician woman. You remember her? She came and she had no right. Her daughter was grievously vexed with a devil and Blue Cross.

[01:10:30] Pastor Erik West

Don't care for that. And your house insurance won't cover it. I mean, it's like Joe said, you know that woman Grievous, the vector, the devil. He says she was hard on furniture. Hard. Hard on furniture. So? So your insurance won't come when the drapes get tore up, you know, and the scratch and paint off the walls and whatever breaking lamps. And she come to Jesus and she said, Help me. Well, she needed help because she's living with her daughter, who was grievously, grievously, grievously vexed with the devil. And so her disciple says, Send her away. Send her away. And Jesus said, Well, I'm only I'm only sent to the lost sheep of Israel. And, you know, in her kind and those they were called dogs. So Jesus is we don't cast this, you know, to the dogs. She said, I know I'm a dog. I understand who I am. But she said, my daughter is grievously vexed with the devil. Now, remember, faith is right now, right? Faith is timeless. So she does. She don't even have a covenant with God. By faith, she jumps into it, he says. He says, I'm only called to the lost sheep of Israel, which he was. She said, I know I'm a dog. She said, But even dog gets crumbs from the table. And Jesus. My interpretation said, Oh, no, you didn't. What does that mean? He said, By faith. She said, I know who I am.

[01:11:53] Pastor Erik West

I know this don't belong to me. But even dogs in the house don't sit at the table. But even the dog can get the crumb on the table if the master drops it. Would you just give me a crumb of help? And Jesus said, Woman, your faith is great. He said, Go. So when she went home, I mean, it was the first time, you know, that the couch is where it's supposed to be at. And it wasn't upside down. And she she quit tearing the house up. She didn't have a covenant, but faith put her into your covenant. So we have to remember how he how he deals with us in our covenant. And this is it right here. We'll finish it right here in Romans Chapter four, verses six through eight. David said this. He said, Even King David speaks to us. This is Romans four, six, eight. Partial translation. Even King David speaks to us regarding the complete wholeness that comes inside a person when God's powerful declaration of righteousness is heard. Over your life apart from your works. God's work is enough. Amen. Can you all put that up? I want them to see they're here. Me? But I'm past the time of comprehension that told me I violate it, like every week. But anyway. Romans four 6 to 8 in the Passion. Translation I want you to see verse six yourself. Okay. You all read it with me.

[01:13:16] Pastor Erik West

Even King David himself speaks to us regarding the complete holiness that comes inside a person. When God's powerful declaration of righteousness heard over our life, apart from our works. Go ahead. God's work is. I mean, what are you going to add to it? What do you need to add to another next verse? Now. Now he's a he's a king and a prophet. So a prophet. Season to the future. Here's what David says. What happy fulfillment is ahead for those whose rebellion has been forgiven and whose sins are covered by blood. I mean, can you put that scripture into King Jimmy? James had a buzzing moment. I'm sorry. He's called King Jimmy. Okay. Saying, blessed are those who sins are forgiven, whose sins are covered. To me. Both of those translations are not quite correct. We call it. We know we're healed because of the atonement. In Christ's atoning work. The sacrifice he permitted our sins. But. But. But your sins in the New Covenant really aren't atone. They're removed. It's the removal. The removal. So the passion was good. I think I actually had it in here, but I wanted you to see it. What? Said it said. Um, verse seven and the passage says, Here's what David says. What happy fulfillment is head for those whose rebellion has been forgiven. True. Whose sins are covered by blood. That is true. But see, but. But. But our sins in the old country. They came once a year.

[01:15:17] Pastor Erik West

Right? Brought their sacrifice. He put the blood there and that covered their sins. There's nothing to cover in our in our. In our covenant. They removed and infirmity and the old covenant, they said because of their sins. Their conscience was never purged from their from their evil and dead. Worse because there was they always remembered, even though they brought the sacrifice, even though it was atoned for and all this, they had a hard time forgetting some things that happened. But he said, in your covenant, not only are they removed, he says they're purged from your conscience. He says, get rid of them. He said, I hold nothing against any of you and I'm not even keeping a record book anymore. So you think, Well, I wish I was born back then. Not me. I like right where I am. Well, praise God. God's God's ways and methods are different in it and our covenant. So if you feel like you're in prison, you're headed to the palace. You know, not always. And don't don't take this because, you know, some people take what they're going through and they say, well, maybe I'm going through this because, you know, and a lot of that is true sometimes. Sometimes the pressure that you're facing, the problems that you're going through is simply Satan coming to do a work and stop you before you begin. I can sit here and tell you about many ministers.

[01:16:51] Pastor Erik West

Um, of things that if it could be stopped, you would, you would kill it in the most important stage that it is. They knew the prophet about the Messiah would come and King Herod, they told him about that. So he believed it would come to pass. So he was going to try to stop that the way he was stopped that he didn't he didn't know who the Messiah would be. So he said, Well, they felt like he was already. On the planet. So he sent his men. To do what? To kill every male child. Two years old and down. So you didn't know who he was? Sometimes you've been preparing for something for years that you don't even realize what you've been prepared for. You're holding something. You're carrying something on the inside of you that that will be birthed at some time. He don't know all what it is. Sometimes he has some indications of it. So he comes to stop. Most of my troubles was in the first three years of ministry. Not just because of lack of, you know, doing something you've never done before. Some of it. But a lot of it was just satanic. It it helped me to go to a few ministers conference. One of the greatest helps that I had was it was we were so glad we went. It was November 1999. We went to a I was told 3 or 4 times and I finally got sharp enough to listen.

[01:18:16] Pastor Erik West

He said, I want you in that conference. I want you to go to Texas and I want you to go to the ministers conference of John Osteen, not Joel John. We win in November. And John Osteen died in January. That conference. It helped me so much. It matured me and things of that day and things to come. It had answers to questions I didn't even know to ask. He said, If you're kind of a new pastor here, I'll just tell you how this is going to work. So you'll know. So you won't think it's strange. Sometimes you're out there by yourself and you just don't know. He's the devil do about everything he can. Usually in the first 2 to 4 years of your ministry to to try to just take you completely out. You know, while you're still on your training wheels. And why are you still crawling around? Well, I mean, I got my mother's Bible at home, you know, and she wrote in it the date. She she says, this is the day that I died in church. Well, that was a different kind of day. I mean, that wasn't just like, you know, Sunday school and, you know, 20 minutes. And let's go to Cracker Barrel. That was that was a different day. Your mother's dead. You know, after I just get through, after I just get through saying, you know, we're going to be coming in two days.

[01:19:35] Pastor Erik West

We're going to see the dead race. I had no idea. We talked about 20 minutes from now. So when I talk to her about that after a few days when she had time to rest. And she didn't know anything because she of course she did. You know, and. She said. I said, Well, what was you aware? She said. I mean, I couldn't tell you. I died naturally. But she said, When you said what you said about coming into the days, the church, this place will will see the dead race even in our service. And she said, I heard this most satanic voice. He said, that will not happen here. He says, Now I will put a stop to this today. And he said, I will do it by discrediting him and you by killing you. And she says, all of a sudden, I had a pain go down my arm, whatever. And she was gone. In other words, how would you like to stand up and preach? We're coming to the days, you know, of the supernatural being natural, just being natural, and the dead are being raised. And then 20 minutes later that your mother died and they have to come pick him up. How would you like to be in one piece? They said those things. So he said for those words. I cannot and I will not happen. And what greater way to stop them than even kill his own mother? After said.

[01:21:13] Pastor Erik West

Well. The same thing was pronounced over my father. I mean, it was just they said, well, he has about 24 hours to live. Tops. Tops. Well, they was. They just missed that by I think it was 27, 27, 28 years, which is more than 24 hours. But he all he needed was brand new nerves in his body. Well, I just. We just prayed over. We just believe God. And God just put all brand new new circuits are authorized by brand new nurse. You know, a complex nervous system is of the body way beyond way beyond my intellect and study and understanding. And the Lord designed it and he just reached in there, just fixed everything in the nerves that was destroyed and just just fixed him. The doctor comes out and calls the medical phenomenon. He says sometimes. We have seen things unexplainable. And I said, Is my father right? Is he okay? He says, Yes. Your father. Very good. He says, That's what I'm trying to tell you. We sometimes in medical. We have unexplainable. We'll have happenings that take place that we do not have medical terminology, he says. And so we call these medical phenomenons. I. What do you tell us? He says, Well, I told you your father must die because his sugar was too high for too long and destroyed his nerves. I said, I remember that. He says, Now I tell you with no explanation other than medical phenomena, your father has brand new nerves throughout his body.

[01:23:08] Pastor Erik West

He not die? I know when my dad's face. I know that. He talked in tongues and interpreted them. Known tongues, mostly four letter words if he was not hot math. So I know. I know when him. I know. Because if His Holiness. I've asked the Lord. I said, Does he have to die? In my in my infancy of whatever I said, this man just told me for the first time in his life, he's sorry for this and that and the other. And he and he said he said he loved this. He loved me the first time, and then he's just going to die. I said, And that is something I mean, we're going to wait till the last 30s and say, you know, I kind of like you a little bit, then you're going to take off. I said, That stinks. I said, Does he have to die in the is like, No. So he'll come sometimes because whether you realize that you're carrying something. And there's a time to give birth to it. So the time. So what he's looking for is an abortion. He wants you to abort it. Well, naturally, if a woman who's pregnant, she does certain activities she shouldn't be doing, She can miscarriage or have an abortion. Right. By accident, not wanting one. Well, Satan is a professional con man who understands abortion very well.

[01:24:49] Pastor Erik West

So he just sets up your circumstances. And you. And you know what they are because he can only do it by he has to use your mind, your body and your senses to work with. It's a great advantage for him because you you feel all that know all that. Chris Now talking about this show yesterday, if you could just remove senses from your body, whichever ones you want to do for a while like if you was in pain but but of all the senses was put on quiet and you couldn't feel pain, then how would you know it? I mean. I had a spine block 3 or 4 times and she said, Are you concerned about us putting your sleep? I said, no. She said, Well, no problem. But, you know, you got to sign a form because there's a very small chance that some people never live from it. And she said, there's no way we can go into the spine and put this block in here without you being asleep. You just move. I said, No, I get it. I want to be asleep. I need. Was about that long? Yeah. You bring a needle sleep. And I'm just thinking. So the worst that could happen to me is I'm totally asleep, and then I wake up in heaven. What are we waiting on? And I said how long it take me? Go to sleep. So you'll be asleep in seconds.

[01:26:09] Pastor Erik West

And I told you that story. And I said, I looked it up and I said, She says, Oh, are you going to be one of those? I said, Well, I said, I don't think I'm going to fall asleep that fast. She says, You want to try? I said, Yeah. I said, I'm going to. They said, She said, about three seconds. I thought, Man, I wish I had so much at home so late already, you know, come in here and the joints right there and then they get ready. She said, okay, the doctor's in here and they mark the spot where they're going to go in and feed you, gown up and think, Oh, I'm sorry, Vice God. And then she said, Are you ready? So I'm laying on mine like this. And she said, Here we go. She's going to count and I count two. Then you wake up about 45 minutes later and you're like, you're in a different room and you kind of like And I said, Oh, she says, How do you feel? I says, I said, like, I could take a nap for about three days. And I said, Oh, how about how about the count? She says, You did better than anyone I've ever seen. I said, Did I make it to the 10th? She says, Oh, no. I said, What did I do? She said, Because she said three. She said, You said one, two, three, four, four, 444.

[01:27:22] Pastor Erik West

She said. Fa fa fa fa fa fa fa. But while you're going through these situations, you don't have to deal with all the problems, the pressure you can cast your care upon the Lord. He can give you that anesthesia while you're going through it, and you can rest even no matter what Satan is doing. You can go. Fdfdfdfdfdfdfdf. Fdfdfdfdfdfdfdf. Fdfdfdfdfdfdf. Fdfdfdfdfdfdfdf. Fdfdfdfdfdfdfdf. Fdfdfdfdfdfdfdf. To where you have the attitude. So you have this attitude. And this attitude was what Paul had. He said, he said this light affliction. He said, it's just for a season. Then when you when you look at what he calls light affliction, it's like you call that light. He says it's just light. It's just temporary. He said, if you can see it, feel it, touch it, taste it, you can know about it in your mind. He said, It's just it's just this light. It's just light pressure. He said, You can't even compare it to the eternal glory that's waiting for you. And in you, you have an eternal glory on the inside of you. That no matter what the affliction is, whatever the pain, whatever the situation, whatever the torment is on the inside, he says it's light. Just like. It wouldn't be light if you wasn't in him. He said. But when you don't consider things and you consider other things. So you're considering him? You don't consider the fires? They're real.

[01:28:58] Pastor Erik West

They look real. They feel real. They are real. But they're just not truth. It's like I was telling you. Well, this morning we talked about something else. I said if you was in a tent outside camping. And someone pulled a terrible prank on you. And they put a recording. Of a lion or a tiger, and it was roaring. And they would do with your teeth like this. Well, you know, a lion or a tiger just with his nails. They tear that shreds and get to a human in that second. But it'd be a terrible. Prank to play. But if you hit that record. You'd be afraid. You'd be terrified for your life. You're just in a tense. You're not in a block building. You're in a tent. A canvas. But eventually you come out with your little water pistol and got to face whatever you got to face. And you look around, you look around the tent and they're sitting on some firewood. Is a little recording out there of a line. You had all the feelings of fear and death and all it was was a prank. It had no power to harm you whatsoever. But you thought it did. You felt like it did. It looked like it was real, but it wasn't. It was just a facade. So what do you consider. What are you considering? This. Hebrews three says consider this not have you considered the apostle, the high priest, your Lord Jesus Christ? Have you considered him? Mm.

[01:30:41] Pastor Erik West

So the day that we leave here, we leave our bodies. If it happens that way. There's nothing to fear. You see, you've already died once. You'll never die again. Naturally, you will. But first, John three says, here's how we know that we love him because we love the brethren, because we have passed from death to what? If you've been born again, you've passed from spiritual death into spiritual life. Now, I've talked this before. When I found this years ago, it blessed me so much. I preached it at funerals. When you study passed from death into life, you know what it means. It means when death comes to you one day. And I use this example like you have 218 wheelers and lost control and they can't do nothing or two trains on the same track and they can't get off the track. They weren't supposed to be on there. Someone made a boo boo, right. And they're say the throttle is hung and there's no way out. But before those trains collide, he says, you know, you have passed from death to life when you love the brethren, when you when you look up those words passed up, it means it means picked up when death comes to you, one day to your physical body, the father will come in and he will pick you up right before the collision and you'll pass over the collision and you'll be in heaven to God.

[01:32:14] Pastor Erik West

I mean, the Lord even lets you leave in style. He says, So your body may look like a wreck. So that's why Paul said death. Where is your sting? Because you you passed over before. You didn't feel the sting. It's glorious. It's glorious. It's the glory of God is what it is. It's the wonders of his glory and the wonders of his person. Amen. Man Thank God for the glory of God. Thank God the glory is the way to God. The splendor of God, the wealth of God, the preservation of God. Oh, the wonders of His person, the glories of who he is, The wonderful, majestic glory of our father. So he says, Awake unto righteousness. The scripture says sin not. How? How, Lord? He said, By awaking to your righteousness. Who? I made you in me. So wake up and you'll see. Wake up and rise up. Rise and shine, for the glory has come. And it shall be seen. Within you about you and without you. Begin to remind yourself each day of who I am and who I have made you, and that we together are just one. We're just one in spirit. Which means we are to be one in truth. We are one together. When you go, I go. When you sit, I sit. When you rise, I rise when you speak. I as in this prophetic word. I give the words.

[01:34:09] Pastor Erik West

I give the understanding. I am the council. I am the wisdom. I am the might. I am your strength. I am the power. I am the healing. Man's wisdom. Is limited. Man's ability and capability is so limited. To know me is to know no limitations. To know me and to walk with me. To walk in. My presence is to walk in my love and my confidence and my assurance. To walk in my peace and to let the peace, my peace rule your heart. For my son said my peace I give you is not a peace that the world can give and they can't take it away. My peace rules in your heart. So think on these things that are good and pure and lovely and of good report. If there's any praise, there's any virtue. Think, think, think, think on these things. And the peace of God that passes all understanding shall keep your heart in mind, in and through Christ Jesus. Count it all, Joy. When you fall into divers, temptations, tests and trials. Knowing this, that your faith Worketh your faith Worketh your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work that you may be perfect and entire wanting or lacking nothing. For the Lord is my shepherd and I do not want. I do not lack. I lie down. In green pastures. He restores me. He restores my soul. And even when the battle comes on one side and it comes on the other, a thousand at one side and 10,000 at your right hand.

[01:36:01] Pastor Erik West

Yet, yet, yet. Did I not say it shall not come to you? I did not say that you would not see it. I said, but it will not consume you. For my hand is upon you. I am your fortress. I am your strength. I am the strong tower. My word says the righteous run into it and they are safe. And my righteous are as bold as a lion. In the enemy understands. The defeated foe understands. He understands he has been stripped of all authority. He has no he has no authority. He has no rights. Give him no place. Give him no place, for he cannot take the place that is not given to him. So walk. Walk. In me. Walk with me. Walk in, step with me. Walk in, cadence with me. Walk with the understanding of It's not you walking, it's me in you. It's my faith in you. It's my love in you. It's my walk in your walk. My talk in your talk. My strength is your strength. My joy is your joy. My might is your might. My wisdom becomes your wisdom. You two have become 111 in spirit. Joined together. Do not be deceived to look at you in your natural flesh. But walk in the spirit and you shall not fulfill. The desires of the lust of the flesh walk controlled by my spirit.

[01:37:56] Pastor Erik West

Put this mind. Put on the new man. Let this mind be in you. That was in Christ Jesus. Put on the new man's mind. Created in righteousness and true holiness. When you do. When you do. When you do every victory. Oh. Oh. Seater. Mocanita. Oh. Oh. Seater. Nabatea. Stonebrook. Asha Bhosle. Tramocar. Shoutaura. Masotta. So they shall come. They shall come in great numbers. They shall come as a mighty force. They shall come. And it shall be so terrifying to many. And when they see it on the news and when they broadcast of all the evil that's taking place, when it seems like it's impossible, when it seems like the church and the prayers shall avail much. Never, never, never, never, never consider what they say as truth. Yes, you shall see it. And yes, some of those days shall be in your times. But you are my church. You are my people. I have chosen you. I have ordained you. I have called you and I have equipped you. So this is the day of understanding of strength. When the spirit of wisdom and counsel and might shall be increased more and more and more. And you shall walk. And you shall live. And you shall be a light unto my people. The light will get lighter. The dark will get darker. There'll be a great contrast between the two. But that's what light is. In the darkness will never overpower the darkness, will never extinguish the light.

[01:39:34] Pastor Erik West

So walk in the light. Walk. In my word. Speak my word in your life. Speak my word into your situations. Speak my word into the calling that I have upon your life. Too many are living in. Too many are living in just. The senses of the natural life, the natural mind. They're living a natural life. When I've called you to be super natural. Not a day to fear. No fear for the Saints. No fear for the family. No fear for I send you forth into the harvest. A mighty harvest is being gathered. Time as you know it. Even as you know it. Was much shorter than what you would understand. So there will be an acceleration of things. Things that used to have taken you a year or two to accomplish. Some things that might have took you five years to accomplish will be done in a matter of days and weeks. You will grow and increase in the anointing and in my might exponentially. And I will draw people to you whom I have selected who will strengthen this House. I have called people who will come not only from this area, not only from this state, not only from this nation. I say again, not only from this nation, who will hear my spirit say to them, and in the time that I have chosen will come and they will sit and they were here and they will listen and they will grow.

[01:41:50] Pastor Erik West

And then they will go, Come here, grow. Go, come here. Go grow, grow, grow, grow, grow, grow. Go. And the number shall increase mightily. Though you never saw it. Though you never asked for it. Though you never saw it. Possible. It's my work. All I ask for is a yielded heart. All I need is a yielded vessel. I speak to you as one and I speak to you as individuals. I ask When you leave here, I hear the Spirit of God say, When you leave here, things have been in your heart. And you said, It's not time. It's not time. I'm not ready. I'm not ready. I'm not ready. Things that you've had in your heart, that you've been praying, which is wisdom. But in your heart. In your heart. When you listen to your heart. And the piece. The time to act is now. To whomever that belongs. The time to act is now. Not because it looks like it is. Not because you feel like it is. But the time for you to move forward and to move out is now. Obey. Obedience is better than sacrifice. Time. Is the most precious commodity that you have. In the days are evil. So rise up in my strength in my might. Your eyes upon me. And move out. And go forth and begin to do those things that I have spoken to you. Over and over again.

[01:44:19] Pastor Erik West

He has confirmed these things to our heart. But we thought it wasn't now, and perhaps it wasn't. But now it is. Now it is. Thank you, Jesus. Thank you, Holy Spirit. Someone's someone's watching or you're hearing this in another time. You're actually not in the United States. But you're going to hear this. This broadcast. And you've had a club foot almost all your life or all your life. And the Lord's healing that club foot right now, in Jesus name. Someone I don't know all the medical terms, but you're the you're a singer. But it seems like there was what I hear or see. I don't know if it was a cancer in the throat. If it affected the larynx, it affected the voice box or whatever we would call it. But you're you felt like. Um. Like your life? Kind of. You. You speak and then and someone may even have some kind of mechanism through you that you speak. But you once was a minister. You once was a musician. And that seems to be lost forever. And now. And now I speak to that person. I hear it by the Holy Ghost. I know you're not in here, but I know you're there. But we're connected to the world. So now I speak healing to that. A recreation of everything that was destroyed in your body. Who? The enemy came in, destroyed, but now made new, made new. And in begins here. And then you'll see improvement. And you'll see improvement. But in a short time, you'll have the fullness of your voice restored to you. And you shall glorify God with the gift that He gave you from the very beginning.

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