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A Mind Renewed Is A Life Made New | 3Sep2023

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START OF TRANSCRIPT

[00:00:00] Pastor Erik West

Good morning. Welcome to our Sunday morning service. Grace, Love. Glad that you're joining us this morning. And we're going to get right into our lesson this morning. Last week, we if you're looking for a title, I think we call it the God's definition of success. And we looked at the life of Joseph. Is that right? And how he was enslaved. We know if you go back and read about his life, we know that he was loved of his father and we know he had a dream. And God showed him a great plan, a great vision for his life. He was excited. No doubt. He was excited. Why wouldn't he be excited? Except he told everyone he knew about it, especially his brothers. And in that dream, he told them exactly what he saw. And he says it was an awesome dream I had last night. Let me tell you how this works. He's the youngest of all of them. He said, I see that I'm going to be this important person and all y'all going to be bowed down to me, including Father. No one said, Praise the Lord. Actually, they put him in a pit and sold him as a slave. So don't tell everything you know, even if you're right. Well, God, it didn't stop God's plan, even though he got real, you know, out of sync with, you know, how he could have handled it, should have handled it. But he was he was young. And in his immaturity, he made some decisions that that that, you know, put him in a place where I mean, we know where he ended up in the palace.

[00:01:24] Pastor Erik West

Right? So there is a way to go from the prison to the palace. He was in he was in prison for 13 years. You say? Well, I hope God doesn't give me a dream or a vision. Well, the vision came forth, but there was a time in preparation for him to take the place that God had for him. It doesn't mean it had to be prison. It just was prison. And so I don't want you going off say, well, God's got in prison you and break you up and break you down. That might be true spiritually in some dimension. In other words, there's going to be a making and the remaking of everyone. And, you know, just naturally thinking, you know, most people never grow in their life spiritually for sure. Very few people grow when everything's easy. Most growth actually takes place during difficult times. We had this way in America, just like this weekend is the three day weekend. So a lot of people mean I'm gone. Well, you're supposed to stay because it's Labor Day weekend. You just stay and pull weeds or something. I don't I don't know where. It's not beach. It's pull weeds. No, I'm just joking. But anyway, he went to the palace and we read the scripture. We won't go back there. In Genesis 39, it says, though he was in prison, this is this is how God viewed it. Just when you when you read the scripture said Joseph was in prison and God said he was a prosperous and a successful man.

[00:02:55] Pastor Erik West

And so we contrasted that between the world's view of success versus God's view of success. This meeting coming up in Trussville is called the Summit. When large corporations get together with their stockholders and with other leaders, they talk about large ideas. So there was a reason for moving it away from the normal, be honest with you. Not just because it was halfway in between another church. It was moving the venue away so God could talk to leaders. So everyone's invited. So but we're not trying to accommodate. We're not bringing someone from Wales and asking to be through in 45 minutes because there's only two meetings. And so it's going to be really, really good anyway. So I'm y'all ready to go to that next level? Well, the truth is, you'll never straighten out your life until you straighten out your mind. Amen. And we're always talking about the mind, right? Because Proverbs 23 says a man thinketh in his heart that's who he is. Amen. That's not. I didn't write that. As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. And where the mind goes, the person follows the body. Go right with the mind. We won't go there. But. Matthew. 1233 1233 It says a tree is known by its fruit. The same is true with your life and my life. Because thoughts bear fruit. All thoughts bear fruit. Good or bad. And so when we have emotional issues, which we'll talk about again this morning somewhat, and we have the census that talk to us. Just know this, that the word of God not attached to your soul, your mind, will and emotions is the is the will.

[00:04:51] Pastor Erik West

They will. In other words, if you don't attach the word to your soul, to your mind, your will and your emotions, it will not affect your soul and your body and your and your. The person will follow always their mind. And I came across this story a number of years ago and it was a really it's true. In fact. But it's a really good analogy. They'll say that what I want to say this morning, I don't know if he was the originator, but I and he might be Myles Munroe. He's in heaven now. He said there's two animals that the creator identified himself with in the Bible. One is the Eagle and the other one. The second one is the lion. I want to talk to you about the lion for just a moment. Of course, we know the eagle is the king of the bird kingdom. In the lion is the is the is the king of the animal kingdom. How many y'all would agree with that? That the lion is known as the king of the animal kingdom? So it begs the question to say this. Why is the lion considered the king of the jungle? I'm just reading you what he wrote here. He said, Why is the lion considered the king of the jungle? He's not the tallest. Giraffes are taller. He's not the biggest because elephants are bigger. He's not the heaviest. Hippos are heavier. He's not the smartest in the kingdom. Animal. Kingdom. Because hyenas are smarter. He's not the most intelligent.

[00:06:18] Pastor Erik West

Chimpanzees are more intelligent. When an elephant sees a lion, an elephant will run. Even though he's bigger. He's. He's bigger. He's stronger, he's smarter. And he's more powerful than this cat. The lion. The elephant is a victim because of how he thinks. When the lion sees an elephant, he charges toward the elephant. Because when he sees the elephant, he believes he's found lunch. Now, what's wrong with that? The lion is the king of the jungle because he has a different mindset. He has a different attitude. The lion's action reflects the way that he thinks. His mindset makes all the animal kingdom respect the lion more than any other animal. So he went on to say, Picture this. Two persons, same skills, same same degrees, same economic conditions, same location, same problem identified by both. One thinks lunch and the other thinks danger. How about that? So your mindset is the result of your beliefs and your actions reflect what we believe. We become what we believe and we limit ourselves by what we believe. Anyway, that's a good little story. So our lives today. Your life, My life, all of us today, they're always. They're always moving in the direction of your most dominant thoughts. That's why it's so important when we talk about renewing the mind. And when you hear a scripture that, you know, sometimes sometimes you we have a tendency to quit here and say, I know that knowing that and doing that was two different things. I know some things about. I know some things about, you know, good nutrition. I know some things.

[00:08:19]

There we go.

[00:08:21] Pastor Erik West

We try this one?

[00:08:24]

How about that? You're there.

[00:08:31] Pastor Erik West

I don't hear myself at all. Okay. Sorry about that. Anyway. So. I know some things about the physical body and working out. But without any actions. Me just driving by the gym and the health food store. That'd be awesome, wouldn't it? How much would you pay if you could just drive by saying, Look, I'm going to give you a I'm going to give you a 90 day, you know, I'll pay my membership and I'm going to drive by here three times a day and just and just breathe it in. And what's your goal? Well, I want to lose £50 and I want to build this. And, you know, I want to. Okay. But then when you come by here, you know, put your arms like this, you know, breathe in and shake your legs a little bit, you know, And I want somebody, you know, like this and like that. Well, that is going to be another \$100. Okay, well, I'll drive by five times a day. I'm going to drive by the health food store, you know, and and I'll be healthy. Then I can go home, eat pizza because I already drove by the health food store. Wouldn't that be awesome? You know what I described to you? Maybe heaven, because you don't want to miss that. Do you know? You don't want to miss that. So. But we are today the result of our thoughts in the past. And who you become in the future will be determined by your thoughts today.

[00:09:56] Pastor Erik West

Where are you? Where you are today in your life and your is based on how you was thinking yesterday. That's just a biblical truth and you will be tomorrow based on how you're going to believe today. If this is church to you today, if you're punching the clock, if you're making yourself feel better that I came to church. We're glad that you're here, but it probably won't benefit you a whole lot. He said, the truth will set you free. But you have to you have to accept the truth, believe the truth, and adjust your life to truth. You have to be willing to release, let go and say, I have believed this all my life. My family believed this. And but the Word of God says this. Yeah, but, Grandmama. Well, thank God. So what are you going to do about your life? I mean, there's things that. That we walked along in years. This is the way it's supposed to work for anyone. Not fivefold ministry. I mean, there's things I preached, you know, 30 years ago. I don't agree with myself. Why? Because I worked. I went further and I saw more revelation. Most of the time was progressive. Amen. You see this and you see that? You see the church coming to such a place. You know, or Roberts, in his day, you know, had of course, you know, he's known for having a great healing ministry.

[00:11:22] Pastor Erik West

People would come under the tent by, you know, over 10,000 people and they be healed. And his ministry started because he needed healing. He was on the death bed as a kid. Brother Hagan was on a deathbed. Brother Hagan was healed after being in the bed for 16 months, had three diseases. Either one was going to take his life. He was 16 years old and he said never ran and played like a like a regular teen or child. And he had bad blood, had a bad heart. He had paralysis and by all medical means, he had to leave. He had to leave. He had no spiritual help. Everyone told him, you know, every time he was trying to tell him, he said, I only had till like 1030 in the morning because he says, you know, my mind was going this way. Then my vision would be and, you know, I lose good vision and I couldn't read the Bible, he says. He says, And I had so much paralysis, he says, Sometimes it took me ten minutes just to turn one page over my Bible. And all he wanted to know when he found certain things. Is this true? So pastors would come. He asked for pastors, and he says some of them never come. And he got discouraged. One finally came and he and all he wanted to know was he found this truth in Mark.

[00:12:39] Pastor Erik West

11 2324 and he wanted to know, does it mean what it, what it, what it looks like it means? And he was trying to say that and he was saying a and the pastor just grabbed his hand and just went like this. He said, It's all right, boy. It'll all be over real soon. Which is what every 116 years old wants to hear. With no help. By God. Amen. Come on, he said. You know, it didn't take 16 months to get healed. He said it just took 16 to think, right? Even with no help. And like I said before, I'm not trying to endorse him. I'm just saying. But and even though it affected our lives. But every four hours, a new Greymouth church starts somewhere in the world every four hours. From a teenager dying on deathbed. Now, the Lord didn't say, I'm going to heal you and you're going to do this and you're going to do that. And he didn't show them what the life was going to look like. He was just trying to live. Kirsten was talking about because she's wearing some of the stuff and, you know, he could hear him in there. He could hear his mom and his grandparents and the pastor and the pastor was just there trying to console the family. And they were just, you know, he was praying for the family pre-death to comfort them because he was going to die.

[00:14:08] Pastor Erik West

And then they asked him, his parents and grandparents, his mother, his dad left his mom. His mom had a nervous breakdown. There was other kids that had to come live with the grandparents. So he's totally bedridden, but he could hear them in there planning his funeral. And the pastor who came to see him, he was trying to, you know, comfort them. So they all accepted he was going to die. And by natural by natural thinking, he would have died. He was supposed to die. But God. And so they asked him. They said, Well, what song would you want to. What song would you want would you want sung at your funeral? He was just trying to get out in words that they could understand as Mark 11 2324 mean what it says. But they said, Well, what songs would you like sung at your funeral? And he he said, Well, I don't know. He says, he said, I don't guess I'll be there. He said, Well, why don't y'all just sing something y'all like that's like, I can't get no one to answer my question. He finally got some understanding of Mark 11 2324 and he says, oh, oh, I see it, I see it. In other words, I'm supposed to believe that I'm healed while I'm laying here in the bed with paralysis, with a bad heart and bad blood? I'm supposed to believe that I'm healed even when it looks and feels like this in the Holy Ghost.

[00:15:37] Pastor Erik West

Holy Spirit says, he says Now you believe. Now you see it, Now you believe. And he was excited. And no one was in the room with him, paralyzed from the waist down for a year and a half. And then the Holy Spirit said, he says, you know, most people are up at 1030 in the morning. In other words, now faith has to have some action. He said, that's right. So he didn't call for help. They had a little mechanism. He tried to pull himself up sometimes. So it took him quite a while because he was trying to move his legs. He was trying to pull them like this with his hand. He's trying to get them off the side of the bed. Took over an hour or so to do that. And he said when he when he did it and he pulled something to stand up because he hadn't stood up in a year and a half, you can imagine the weakness of the body. He said it felt. So wonderful and hurt so much at the same time. In other words, all the nerves in his body, you know, like with little needles and feeling begin to come into his body because he saw something that he didn't see the day before. And he had to change. He had to exchange information. For Revelation. And I'm getting ahead of myself.

[00:16:57] Pastor Erik West

But most people looking for a breakthrough and God is the God of breakthrough. But what you really need is transformation. You need to transform yourself from information to revelation. You you need exchange information for revelation. And and I'll let me say this. You can have the right information, but it's not relevant to you because you heard it from someone else. But you haven't made it church yet. In other words, you could see a truth and it be the truth. And you could say, Well, that's awesome, that's good. But you never put it into practice. So what you're trying to live you're trying to live off secondhand information. Because you never made it yours. Once again, Brother Hagan, I'll move on. He said. He said even in the ministry, he said most ministers. Most ministers. Not the laity. Most ministers, he said. They're their echoes and not voices. In other words, or most people are thermostats or I mean, they're not they're not the thermometer. They're thermal. You know, In other words, God wants you to be a thermostat in the sense of that back wall. There's a there's a thermostat on it. We can set the air or the heat anytime we want to, right. For what we want to. Now, that doesn't produce the air conditioning. It's on the other side of that wall. But when we say we're we want colder air, we want it warmer, then we put the information there and it gets in touch with it gets in touch with the compressor and the air conditioner on the other side.

[00:18:49] Pastor Erik West

And he says they're asking for more air. Let's go. Get to work. In other words, you're the one who sets the tone. You're the one who creates the atmosphere. Because it's who. Who's in you. Christ is in you. Amen. Where does the Holy Spirit live? In us. But the church has been busy for at least a decade or two. You know, writing songs about All Fall Down on Us. Oh, come. Oh, God, I'm so thirsty and dry. Fill me. Well, but if you and I don't mean to demean anything, I'm just saying. But it's hard to find good music in the scripture. You can find something that's emotional, that moves you, but it's just most of it. It's not scriptural. I mean, you read the stuff they're putting out now, it's just, Oh, there was an ocean and a tree and the the mist just washed over me. There was sin I could see, but God came down. So it's like, shoot that thing in the head. It has nothing to do who you are or what Jesus has done. Andrew Wong said this way, He says, I think he says like this. He says most people believe God can do anything, but they don't believe he's done very much. That is the most true statement.

[00:20:16] Pastor Erik West

You know, Pastor, for 2 or 3 decades and you'll say, I know, I know. That's a fact. That's a fact. Someone called me that day and I had one of these calls in years and they said, and I think they've been here twice. And they said, Pastor, how come you ain't called us? I said, called you for it. How come you ain't been checking on us? I'm like. For what? Not to name any names. And I said. I'm not your pastor. Oh, yeah. You're a pastor. I said no. You came twice. One time you got there ten minutes where it was over. You've been one and a quarter times. And I didn't do this my third. You don't take me that many words no more. As you get older, you'll use less words to get where you're going. A whole lot less words. And I said, This is the way it works for me anyway. I said, Until you take and until you take advantage of my public time, don't call me on my phone and take my private time. This is available publicly at this time. And if you don't take advantage of that, don't think I'm looking for you. If you if you have something, you need something, you call me. Because I do care and I'll be a part of that. Well, I thought pastors are just supposed to keep in touch with all the sheep. I said, Well, you thought wrong.

[00:21:51] Pastor Erik West

Hmm. I'll see. If I was one of those shepherds, I would have a cane with a crook on it, and it'd be around your neck, and I'd be snatching you from left to right all day long. And you wouldn't like that. Then you'd be mad at me for sure. She said, Well, I don't want to think about you. She said, I'll lie. She said, Boy, you tell it straight. I said, You want it another way? See, when I was 20 and I thought someone 80. I thought, man, that's way out there, right? Because two plus six is eight. Woo! Can you see that far? But six plus two is eight, too. So you see the you know, you see it kind of you know, it won't take as much time to say it because you want you want to help people, but you want it to be relevant, not just make them feel good. Not make them just like you or me to like you. I mean, you know who doesn't want to be liked? But, you know, sometimes when you go. I've had doctors who were I've seen doctors who were great doctors, but they had no bedside manner whatsoever. They were just write down. Rude. Rude. I had to have a surgery. What was beginning of this year or sometime last year, a kidney stone had him 20 years before that. This one they said you ain't going to pass is too big.

[00:23:17] Pastor Erik West

So we'll have to shock it. You know, all that kind of stuff. And I got there. They give me some things for pain before I got there and praise the Lord. I'm glad I knew some scripture. Most women tell you who had who had babies and kidney stones. They said, we've had children. We've had kidney stones. We'd have a child in there. They don't help me right now to hear that. Oh, my God. Don't tell me that. And and I got there to the the hospital, you know, and they was getting me ready. And, boy, here it come again. And you don't know what to do. I mean, you're hot, you're cold, you're hurting. I mean, you just want to. I mean, you could bite. You could bite a tenpenny nail in half. You just with your teeth. And this, the surgeon come in and I'm just in pre, you know, pre-op, and he just comes in having a bad day and I wasn't with it too well, and he's asked me all kind of technical stuff. I said, oh he said now is the is it on the left or right. Is the is the. He's asking me things that he thinks I'm supposed to know. And even in that condition, I said, I don't know. Is it not in my chart. I know there's a part that he wants to know that we're talking about the same thing.

[00:24:30] Pastor Erik West

But when I got through, everybody was apologizing for him and a guy came up and he had on shirt like Nathan does, had an auburn shirt, and he walked up and he was real nice and he said, I'm sorry about that. He's usually not like that. He says. And I said, It's no big deal. I said, He says, I'm going to be with you. I'm the anesthesiologist. I'm going to put you to sleep. And I said, War, eagle, war. Some people say say other ways. I said, I said, You good at this? I said, Yeah. I said, I said, I'm an Alabama fan, but War Eagle, man, I'm all for you. I said, let's let's do that quick. Let's do that quick. So they put you to sleep and then they had this machine that comes just shock. Shock, shock. They're trying to break the stone in small pieces. It was a ten millimeter and they're trying to get it down to 1 or 2 fragments. Then you just pass it out of your body. But they left me a five millimeter stone after all the surgery, which I had to pass at home, I sent them the bill. They haven't responded yet with a check. Amen. And I passed it pretty much with these. And I knew what it was and felt it was coming. And because we had to go back in two weeks later or a week later, I had to do a checkup with the doctor and he did an x ray.

[00:25:52] Pastor Erik West

Oh gosh, he says. They still left five millimeters there. He says, I may have to send you back in there. He said, if it ain't passed by tomorrow, I will send you back in there. So he did all kinds of things. It was going to make it pass, but it didn't pass, he says, But I want you to come in the morning. We're going to do this, this and this, because I'm going to try to make it move before I close today. I said, Why? He says, Because I don't want you to be out tonight and not have any help. He says, I'm going to try to make this thing move, and I won't go with what he did to make it move. But it did. After he closed. And all of a sudden this all of a sudden I mean, just I was just sitting there and that initial kind of like a well, you could call it fear, but just like the panic of that extreme pain's coming and they're closed and die and the surgery is over and. All of a sudden, the Holy Spirit gave me a scripture that he knew. I knew that, you know, and y'all are familiar with it here, but I've never heard but one person ever preached on it. And this is in the book of Jeremiah.

[00:27:00] Pastor Erik West

And it says, he says, I will break up the the stubborn places. He says he said, my word is like a hammer that will break up the stubborn pieces. The amplified says my words like a hammer that will break up even the rocks. Even the stubborn rocks will break it. Even those of the most stubborn resistance. And they'll break it into pieces. And I was like, That's right. I went and grabbed my Bible and I read it and I said, That's it. I says, This stone is going to be broken up into small fragments. And in 20 minutes later, it completely passed in little bitty, bitty granules, all that. And then the Holy Spirit said to me, he said, You know, that also works pre-op. Pre operations. I'm like, Oh, so it's good not just to have information, but to have revelation. All right. Let me move on real quickly now. Most people because you want to think like the line, remember, because he's he's the one who's comes and he's he's considered the the king of the jungle, king of the animal kingdom because because of his mindset. How he thinks. You're you're going to succeed or not succeed based on not just your work ethic, not just because you have a degree or don't degree, but because you how you think. True. True story in America. And I'm not saying you shouldn't get education. I think you should get I think you should go to school.

[00:28:38] Pastor Erik West

I think you should get educated. You should take advantage of whatever's available to you. But the honest to God truth, if you ever want to do a study on this, the A student generally works for the B student who works for the C student because the C student's one who owns a company in America. That's just that's just true. It's not true for everyone. But generally speaking, the B to C student is the one who had the dream, who had the idea, who had the work ethic, and he put it into practice when everything said, you know, you would never succeed at this level in doing that because, you know, you wasn't the valedictorian. You didn't graduate top of your class. You didn't go to all these schools, you didn't have all these things. That's why I've been asked by so many times through the years. Pastors would ask me, said, How do you start a church? And I just said, I don't know the way. Well, how did you start church? I said, By trying not to start one. I did everything I could to tell God this is the bad idea. I mean, I know you know everything, but you've been real busy. And if you just look at your records a little bit longer, you can see I'll be a bad choice for you. Because I can look around and see people a whole lot more qualified.

[00:29:54] Pastor Erik West

Huh? And you never know what something is and you never know where you are and things until you're faced with a situation, whether it's, you know, Daniel in the lion's den or is the three Hebrew men, Shadrach, Meshach and a Billy goat, I mean the Bendigo, you never know until the fire comes where you are. The test. The test will reveal where you are. The test will write. It's the same thing nationally in school. When they give you a test on Friday and it wasn't to tear you down. They're just trying to see, communicate and say, are you are you you know, in other words, are is the teaching going forward getting to you or are you receiving are you accepting? Are you are you learning? That's what the test reveals to them. And if you didn't study, you didn't pay any attention. The test. I guess it does. It might tear you down, but it really it just reveals where we are and we need that. I mean, you got Jonah who wouldn't go do what God told him to do until he got into test? And then he was swallowed by a whale. Right. And had a whale of a lot of problems and. But Jonah knew what he was supposed to do. But when he was in the belly of a whale for three days, he changed his mind. He had a new mindset.

[00:31:17] Pastor Erik West

Then he looked around and says, I'm not supposed to be in here. I'm supposed to be in Denver. He said, In other words, he repented and said, I'll go to Nineveh. Then he looked at his situation in the Bible, says this. He says he called his situation inside of a whale lying vanities. He said. I'm not supposed to be in here. God sent me to preach to people of Nineveh. I didn't really want to go because I don't like them people. I don't like the people of Nineveh. I know God's merciful and he's going to forgive them. I don't want them forgiven. Long short of the whole story. And he was right. God, God is merciful. God is kind. God is loving. So he wanted them to get what he thought they had coming. So he went the other way. It's funny. Who? God. Jesus. In it. And so, you know, Joe was smart enough to get a clue. He says, think I'm going to go to Denver? I think I should go to Denver. Then he called his situation nothing, nothing more than the lion vanishes. And then he went forsake the mercy that was being offered to him. Now, if you feel like a victim, then you're certainly going to act like one. That's just the way it works. You eventually talk like a victim. Develop the mentality and attitude of a victim because what you feed on will grow.

[00:32:34] Pastor Erik West

But what you starve will die. I like this particular if you want to call it a sermon, because it was one I was. I couldn't write fast enough. I hear. I hear and I write. I hear and I write. And Lord, he'll give you things that you know. But he also say, I don't want to talk about that part, what, you know. And so I was writing this down. Is there a connection between how I feel and what I do? Think about it. Is there a connection about how I feel about things and then what I go do about then when I go do after that? In other words, you may feel depressed. You may feel like the words not working. You may feel lonely, hopeless, you may feel afraid. But if you allow yourself to be governed by those emotions, negative emotions, then defeat and destruction for you are probably inevitable. You may say, Yeah, I feel those feelings right now. But second Corinthians five seven says We walk by faith and not by senses. Now, listen to this. This is just me writing down. Feelings are the enemy of faith because they contradict the word. We all have feelings, right? It feels good to feel good. But what if you don't feel good? What if you're going through a mental attack or a mental stress? What if you have problems on every side and those feelings always suggest something to you? In other words, they're not just feelings.

[00:33:56] Pastor Erik West

They're predetermined. They come with a definition. Y'all here? Yeah. So feelings are the enemy of faith because they contradict the word of God. You can't win being governed by how you feel. Amen. I was talking about the line. The mentality, the line. He's not the biggest. He's not the strongest. He's not the smartest. But he's the king. Why is he the king? I mean, can you see a giraffe looking down in the and and then the lion. He's got a big robe. He looked up at giraffe and he says, I am your king. The giraffe could just punt, kick him. All the hippo had to do just roll over on him. But the lion thinks these people are his lunch. Because he has a different mentality. What's your mentality? What's your mentality? What's your attitude? You can't make important decisions based on how you feel. Don't ever make important decisions when your feelings and your emotions are out of sync. Most of the time you'll misinterpret. Feelings didn't go to the cross for you. Feelings didn't bleed and die for you. Feelings wasn't your sacrifice for sins. So feelings can't rule as your savior. Your feelings will never bring victory to you because the walk of sight is the walk of the flesh. When you go back and read Romans eight, 14 and 16, we find out that he says he says we are sons of God and sons of God are led by the spirit of God.

[00:35:30] Pastor Erik West

They're not led by the flesh. They're not they're not led by the emotions. We have emotions and God wants us to have emotions and emotions are to serve you. To bless you. To help you. I mean, I thank God for the sense of taste. Don't you? Especially when you get to eat something you really like. There are some people who have no taste, and so they eat just to live. But they can taste nothing but seems kind of mean and cruel, don't it? Thank God for the ability to have physical touch. Thank God for the ability to be able to hear. But when? But when the enemy comes. And that's where he invades you because he can't fight you in the spirit realm. He knows that he can't he can't fight you the spirit realm, because the weapons of your warfare are not carnal. They're not fleshy, they're not physical weapons. Your weapons is the word of God, which he has no defense for. So he's never going to fight a war with you based on your terms. He's going to draw you away from everything. He's going to draw you into the realm of the senses. And it says, what are you going to do? I mean, and he's not introducing himself here. I'm here to fight you on the devil. He'll see my pitchfork and here's my ID He'd rather you think that he does not even exist, you know.

[00:36:41] Pastor Erik West

You know you can have. What was it? The Underwood ham years ago, you know, had him with the, you know, red suit, the pitchfork and had the long tail. He's never going to come that way. He would rather think that you don't exist as long as you live by based on how you feel. When you don't feel good, you won't do much. When you don't feel annoyed, you'll never stop. You'll never step out and do anything that that involves the anointed. If your activity is based on how you feel and how you feel, whether you're annoyed or not, then you'll do nothing. You'll have. You'll be dormant, you'll have no you'll have very little, very little to do with activity. So what are you going to do with these feelings? What are you going to do with your emotions? What are you going to do when they get out of check? What are you going to do when fear comes? Because fear comes to everybody about something and your feelings are real in the sense of you feel them and they're there, but it doesn't mean that they're true. So how do you do? Well, you have to bring them into a system of checks and balances. You have to you have to take every thought the Bible says, and you have to determine whether that thought or that feeling is truth based on this book, not based on how you feel.

[00:37:52] Pastor Erik West

Yeah, but Granddaddy died with that fact. Well, Granddaddy may not have known the truth. Fact, huh? Amen. I've done funerals that I shouldn't have. That I shouldn't have done. You say, Well, God called him home. Now, I'm not trying to get on this point because, you know, we got all these things in the South because you got a spirit of religion. If there's a spirit and there is that's over the South, the Bible Belt. It is. It is the it is the spirit of religion. And its biggest message is the sovereignty of God. And if you want to get in a fight with someone over that, you'll have one on your hands. But I just keep on saying, well, if we want to talk, I don't want to fight with you because the Bible says, No, don't argue about stuff like that. But if you want to talk about that, bring your Bible. Bring your Bible. Well, God's in charge. Oh, really? Well, if he was, he'd fill up some of his chairs. If God was in charge of everything, everybody would get saved. We'd go home tomorrow. If God, God was in charge, my deposits would look a lot better on Monday than they do some other Mondays. Because everyone don't give. They don't they don't contribute nothing. You go to a restaurant and you don't contribute.

[00:39:01] Pastor Erik West

They'll haul you off to the county jail, man, if you come in there and eat. So God's not in charge. Is God getting his way about everything? Do you think God is really in charge? Because if God is in charge, then this is kind of what happens is going to look like a mess, right? How many want to believe that God's not running everything the way he wants it run? That's what he puts you on the planet for. Why? Why is it such a mess? Because you're living in a fallen world. Where? Second Corinthians four. Satan is the god of this present world system. Satan is running. That's why it's a mess. He is in charge of the world system now. He has he has limited help in the sense of demons. Demons don't reproduce. So so what he does is, you know, he he sponsors people to do his work and to do his bidding. But if you're just stubborn, that's why I said, you know, Christians ought to get possessed to get possessed with the Holy Spirit. And when the devil tells you to do something, say no, no, I ain't going to do it. No, no. I did that for you for years. Now, if you don't do something quick, I'll just go to heaven. But no, I ain't doing that now. You know you better. I mean, you can't just let this thing go on.

[00:40:25] Pastor Erik West

Yeah, let us. Let it go on. Just let it right now. I ain't doing nothing no more. But you could die from this. Paul said die is gain. So now gain sounds better than profit. Sounds better than no profit. I'm supposed to be a no profit organization. I don't. I don't believe in no profit. Yeah, that's just a joke. But anyway, every believer will be confronted in a situation to walk by faith or walk by your flesh. Romans eight six To be part of that verse says So then they're in the flesh. They that are in their senses, they're they're being ruled by the thoughts of their mind. Cannot please God. You can't. He didn't say it would be hard. He said it would be impossible. If you're walking in your senses, it's not going to be hard. It's not going to be difficult. It's going to be impossible. I don't know how to get it any plainer than that. There's got to be some way. Y'all helped me sometime. Because the carnal mind, the Bible says verse seven is enmity. Now, the word enmity doesn't mean enemy, it just means hostile. It means in opposition to which when we're preaching, you know, a few weeks ago about stop opposing yourself, that's where this this verse was one of the verses we use. The carnal mind. The flesh, mind, the sense mind. The natural mind is in the atom mind. The fallen atom.

[00:41:47] Pastor Erik West

Mine is in opposition. Hostile does not agree with God, for the carnal mind is not subject to the Word of God. Neither indeed can it be. So your mind that that's not transformed, not renewed, does not agree with God. It's in opposition to him. Amen. Did I say that? Okay. Until you have your mind renewed, you might be a great person. Your parents might have been great people. But when you're when your mind is not renewed to the Word of God, your mind is an enemy, is an opposition. It's hostile to God. It cannot agree with God. Amen. Won't. Won't. Jesus was asked by his disciples, Well, would you teach us how to pray? Because your life looks pretty good. I mean, signs, wonders, miracles. I mean, what should we pray? Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth. The way it's been done there. Oh, God wants what's being done there to be done here? How does he do that? He wants to use you. Amen. But how does he get his will done with a mind that opposes him? I know. I get right to the point sometimes. You need to learn to esteem your emotions and esteem the Word of God. Amen. When you're governed by your emotions, the devil has an entryway because you're not resisting. James four seven. In faith. So you make yourself accessible to him when you don't resist the enemy.

[00:43:30] Pastor Erik West

By faith, you make yourself accessible for him to come work in your life. Boy, I'm doing better preaching, y'all doing Amen. I know that the mature believer conducts their life through persistent and consistent transformation of the Word of God, but they're persistent about the mature believer does. They're persistent. They're consistent because the Kingdom of God is real by spiritual laws. So if it's real by laws and you're not consistent with laws, you're going to have wins and losses. Can you see that? That's like in sports all the time, especially since football started. Most coaches say they go back and say, well, they're analyzing film. Well, how did that go wrong? He was he he wasn't in position. To make the tackle or he wasn't in a position to stop the air raid. In other words, we were on the field, but we weren't in position. And that caused that. When the enemy comes in like a flood, the spirit of the Lord is ready there to put up a banner or a wall against him and stop him. But you've got to be in position. You know the analogy that that well, I don't remember the exact name of the book, but Gloria Copeland read a book years ago that God is looking for a receiver. But in football, again, when you have a quarterback, when he's going to throw a pass, doesn't he? They've already talked about it.

[00:45:06] Pastor Erik West

He anticipates where the receiver is going to be. He throws the ball not to the very second of where he is. He throws it to where he's going to be in the next two seconds. That's the way it's supposed to work. When he throws the ball, usually the receiver is not there at that moment. But but the goal is for him to be there in the next one, two, three seconds. Right. That's the way it does work. So if you're not in position, it's not that God didn't give. It's just we weren't in a position to receive. Amen. Brother Hagan. Later on he said, I laid on a death bed for 16 months because I was in a position to receive what God had already give. God's already given. Now. So we need to disesteem. Sometimes your thoughts and your emotions, but you need to steam the Word of God. Something someone's going to rule. Someone is going to something or someone's going to ruin your life. I just think you ought to be in charge. Amen. Amen. Psalms 2123 says, you know, whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul his mind, as well as motions from troubles. So what does that mean? It means this. Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from troubles. In other words, if I control my mouth, I can rule over my emotions. When you don't have control over your mouth and your mind, your words are just going to say, Oh, it's killing me.

[00:46:36] Pastor Erik West

I can't take no more of this. I just like just like, you know, you know, I forgave him, but I ain't going to forget it. You ain't you ain't forgave nobody because you keep bringing it up all the time. You keep on telling him or her every time you get into a fight. What they did five years ago. Boy, I know I hit something right there. Huh? The fact that you are remembering it means you haven't forgiven me anything. That means your your soul still has all these wounds in it. And you let them know every time it's like that. Aren't you glad the Lord didn't do you that way? Amen. Huh? But you told him about how pitiful you was two years ago, he says. What are you talking about? Aren't you glad he doesn't remember your past? Because we all had one. Without Jesus, where would we any of us be? You on the road to hell is where you and I both was on there. Oh, one might have been a little bit better than the other, but, you know. Well, I never did all those things that you did. But like Andrew Wommack said again, he said, Who wants to be the best sinner who goes to hell? Well, they're both down there, Barnum. Well, I didn't do what you did.

[00:47:52] Pastor Erik West

Yeah, but maybe we both here. In other words, we needed Jesus and we didn't receive him. That's why we're here. Mm hmm. Amen. So if your your habits aren't consistent, you won't just remain neutral. You'll lose ground. It's not just good intentions. It's living intentional. I said a mouthful right there. I'm using the analogy of the lion. You see? See, The lion thinks he's going to be king tomorrow, too. So he lives that way intentionally. He doesn't feel like a kitty cat tomorrow. He feels like the lion. I don't care if he's in the cat family. He doesn't feel like a Siamese cat. He just tomorrow he thinks the elephants his lunch again. He does. And he's not the strongest. He's not the biggest. He just thinks different. Y'all getting this? I know that you know this, but it helps you to hear this. Good, huh? Amen. Well, they say the they're still talking about, you know, that that we're going to go through a recession. We might. I don't know. But I'm not participating. Amen. You don't have to participate. I already knew what I knew. But the year of Covid was our greatest year to that point until the next year. And it was better than that. The next year is better than that with the least amount of people. We have. I don't know, my accountant says. He says, Well, you know, they try to keep it with things.

[00:49:30] Pastor Erik West

You know, they keep it with things, you know, just I guess they're good to have if you need them, but I don't really need them. And so membership and this and that and the other, they said, well look like you you get about \$30,000 a year. People don't even come to your church. And I said, Well, I'm not mad at it. You want me to be mad? Mm. They all have reasons why they seem they don't seem like they can attend and some of them can't attend for for logistical reasons that I do know of. But. But they're just givers to the ministry. You know what I do with it? I do what you do with it. I pay bills. I send people to the mission field. We're helping starting the school in Liberia because they don't have they don't have they don't have any they don't have any school. The kids aren't going to school. They can't afford school. There is no school. So me and some other pastors from Michigan and this pastor's wife, she used to be an educator and had Christian school. They actually retired from pastor. And she said, well, we don't have the funds are not allocated. In other words, she went out to pastor anymore. So we don't have any say so about whatever. But the pastor wants to help some, she says. But his his needs are much greater than that, she says.

[00:50:43] Pastor Erik West

So all my friends, you know, she said, they're all retired, living on social Security, but they're all going to take so much of their Social Security to get these kids through school. And I said, Well, that's amazing. That's generous. She said, Yeah, they're all Social Security. And she said, But we had Christian school for years. And and so these kids don't know how to read. They don't know how to write. There's no school for them. The the government is corrupt, but we have five teachers who's going to teach start off with 50 kids. But the teachers in Liberia now, they have they have a degree in teaching and some have a college degree as a teacher. So they have to be paid. So the teacher, you know, says she has to have \$30 a week. So they're paying for three. If I'll pay for two, so I can put 5050 kids in school this year if I just have \$2,400. You want to know what I do with that money? The people who don't know show up. We're sponsoring kids who don't have a chance to go to school. Five, six, eight. I mean, they're going to have kids that are 12 years old who don't even know the alphabet. But in two weeks, they're going to be going to school because you sent them there. Now, is that important? I just told it because I think you ought to know some of the things that happens.

[00:52:13] Pastor Erik West

How about that? Is it important? I mean, what future will they have if they can't read, write, spell or do math or do anything? Right now, the goal is just go from kindergarten to third grade, you know, using the church that you already built. One day there might be a facility. That'd be great. One day you might have all the books. But it's like I told the pastor yesterday, Pastor Sondergard says faith makes plans. Vice makes plans. So we'll start here. We'll start here. So all the things that come together when the government, whatever, and for it to be legal and everyone and we got four teachers said we're coming, but we we have to have \$120 a month to live on. There's some of the highest paid people. So most people in his church and Sondergaard's church works all week and they make \$12. So he so they bring \$1.20. His total income for the church. Right now, he takes in anywhere from 100 to \$150. He has over 100 people. And then they look at your life and think they could think that that ain't fair. It just don't it ain't fair. So you have to teach them, because there's only one Bible for the world. I know it looks different than it does here, but there's a way to. If Joseph can prosper in prison and God say you're prosperous, you know, when you don't own yourself and God says you're prosperous.

[00:53:53] Pastor Erik West

God doesn't think like you think. Amen. I mean, when you're when you're a slave and you don't own you, that's that's seems to me poor. But God said he's prosperous. And he was a success. And it was because even for his slave owner, he saw that God was doing things in him and he put him in charge of the entire prison. They went from the prison to the palace. They'd become the vice president of the nation. With a felony. Yeah. Well, if you get a felony, your life is over. Joseph, don't even know what you're talking about. Well, what do you do? He had a dream. Talked about it. Yeah. You know, he had the. The baker and the undertaker. You didn't go too well for some of them. Okay. Oh, gosh. That lion clock in Jesus name I rebuke you in Jesus name. Stop that. This is kind of some things unusual that don't usually come out of me. I won't get to all this. So the thing is, and we'll get there next time. He wants us to learn how to trust him. He wants to go from trying to trusting. This is a little funny thing. Yesterday I thought about and I believe I just heard it this way, he says, you know, when people die, he says, he says most people talk about and they'll put it on their on their on their tombstone and say, rest in peace.

[00:55:27] Pastor Erik West

He said, But did you know you don't have to die to rest in peace? I said, Amen. Of course, isn't that kind of normal? People say, well, he passed. Well, just rest in peace. But he's telling you today, according to Hebrews four, he's telling you to rest in peace. He said, God work these days. He said he finished all the work of creation and he has ceased his labor from that day to this day. Then he invites you to go do what he did. In other words, all the work's been finished and God has ceased from all labor from that day to this day. Now he invites you to rest as he rest. So you can rest in peace today. Then on your tombstone they said, Rest in peace. Done. Did you, Mississippi? You can get whiter than that. Paul said in Romans 15:13. I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. I pray that God the source of your hope. God, the source of your hope will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit so that you know that I'm finishing much here. I'm just writing. Some people pray prayers to me, hoping for a lucky streak. Like throwing dice in a casino.

[00:57:06] Pastor Erik West

Blowing on them and rubbing a red head before throwing. And I guess superstitious. I don't mean nothing, but I've never said that in my life. That's just where I heard it. It's not the dice. It's not the man or the woman or it's not the dice. It's not the blowing on the dice. It's not rubbing on the red head. Right. It's the man or the woman holding the dice looking for a new angle. Heaven. He said, Tell the people heaven has no fail. No failure policy that the king, my kingdom is run by an absolute spiritual being who is nothing but light and has no darkness at all. I am not confused in any shape or form. Praise God. So the mature believer see, he conducts his life. He's persistent. And so when these things come to your life and you just the emotions come in. The feelings come in. It doesn't look like it's going to work. It's not. It doesn't seem to work. Your accountant says it doesn't work. Your body says it's not working. You says, Well, I've been, you know, they've laid hands on me. I've had oil. You know, I had this prophecy. I had that prophecy. When I got that prophecy, everything went backwards. That's how you probably know you're on track. The enemy comes to steal the word. You know, if you go to the meeting when it may speak a word over your life.

[00:58:36] Pastor Erik West

Probably will. If not the stone throwers. If he puts Sandy up there. Sandy. I've had Sandy come in sometimes and she'd minister to people she don't even know. And I thought, my gosh, it's like it's like I wrote it out and said their names George and say this and it'd be exact. And I was like, wow that is exactly you just look at what God brings to someone who knows no one and just speaks to their life, to them. Only thing I've just noticed over the years is that God is a lot kinder. He thinks about them nicer than I have sometimes. I was like, Well, he didn't even mention this about three years ago. And you know, yesterday when he did all this, he said, They're a good old boy. But when the prophecy comes like that, sometimes you. You think it's going to happen that afternoon? Yeah. For me, sometimes it's been weeks, months, even years. I had a woman call me about three years ago. She said, you used to come to church with us years ago. I mean, years ago. Well, Miss Dana, she knows you. When we started in that little video building, the one that y'all came to, your family came to. I mean, we just rented that place because we. We started my home, the Bible study, and I was still, you know, running the floor cabinets that the family owned.

[00:59:51] Pastor Erik West

And so we had Bible study and the floor covering, and then we moved out in that little building. So it was mostly just family. So when the Joneses came in, I was like, What are they doing here? It's like, Oh my God, that looks like a visitor. When are you supposed to have visitors? That's been almost 30 years ago. So she's almost my oldest standard member. I mean, age. I mean, chronologically. So don't mess with her, because I'll be. You'll be in big trouble with me. Faithful. Just faithful through the hard times. Faithful. Faithful through, you know, things that happen in your life and all of our lives. But just. Just persistent. Just just. Just stay persistent. See, there's. There's not a big secret. Everyone's looking for a big secret. You want. Well, heck, I'll just go and give it to you. You want to know what the big secret is? There's not one. Except this. Just. Just don't quit. Just. Just keep going. Go when it doesn't feel good. Go when it does feel good. I mean, what value can you put on feelings? I always say it this way. Everyone's always felt good about something. One day. I mean, something happened to you was exciting. It was a great day. You tell him like, man. I mean, it's fun. You've been waiting on this. Something happened. Something came through. Check came in. People, you know. But did those feelings stay forever? Madden.

[01:01:23] Pastor Erik West

I could tell you about one time the ministry got a check and was we were in the office together and the couple came in the church on Sunday and met with us and said, This is what God's done and this is just the tithe and said, And so Matt looked at it and I looked at it. Remember, it was \$275,000. That's just the tithe. And then Michelle and I argued, Who's gonna go to the bank and make the deposit in the morning? And of course, I'm bigger, so I won. So I just played it off and I was like, you know, Monday was like. She went, Well, she says, What's this? I said, What? She says, Oh. She said, Well, you know, you're positive. It's like. I said, Oh yeah. You know. She said, Did your have some big fundraising thing? I said, No, no, we just church. She said, Just church. I said, Yeah, yeah, just tithe and offerings, which it was. It was a tithe. Just someone received a check for 2.7, \$5 million. You know, tired was \$275,000. I felt good. I felt real good. I felt really, really good. First thing I did is I send a \$30,000 tie that into missions. And then gave a whole lot more than that. You know how much of that I got left? I got nothing. It's all been gone. Years later, I had needs. Financial needs.

[01:02:52] Pastor Erik West

So. So what are you going to do with feelings when you feel good? Well, you can enjoy them, right? But do they stay? Or even does even bad feeling stay. So how much value are you going to put on feelings? Because they're fickle. You know what's not fickle? The word of God settled. The word of God settled. So every time the thoughts come and the enemy's talking to you. Okay, okay, You're right. That's happening. They did say that it's on the x ray, and I know my kids doing that. Not enough, But. But. But let me tell you about something else. Amen. It just helps me sometimes. I'm not saying it works this way, but when I'm in the church, sometimes what I'll just say I'll say Satan, Since you're here and you want to talk, then I have the ability to bind and loose. I don't even want you to go nowhere right now. I'm not casting you out. I'm casting you in, and I'm bind you to that chair. And in my mind, I just take my Bible. I said, Now I'm going to read the Bible to you. And I can hear him go, Oh, I said, I said, No, no, no, no. Shut up and hear. And I just read the Bible to him. And I said, I like your story that you ran over here with Jesus in the wilderness. I really like that story because you you picked the right time.

[01:04:03] Pastor Erik West

He was tired. He was hungry. He was in a natural body. He left heaven. He stripped himself of deity. He's God, but he's all man. He's the 100% man. But the Bible says he's full of the Holy Ghost is the only way he can win. Which tells you you can win when he says the works that I do. You sure you do? That'd be unfair if you didn't have the equipment that he had. Right? But he was God who became man. He was hungry. He was tired. He was thirsty. He was weary. And they said, that's a good time to attack. So he'll wait if he needs to a year on you and say the conditions are not perfect, the attack will be thirsty, bam! And you'll be like, you'll be, Oh, the devils have to be. Oh, he was after you a long time ago. He just planned it thirsty because he sees a little he sees a little crack in the crevice right there. Right. And then they'll come in. They're all kind of spirits. Lying spirits deceiving spirits, spirit of fear. But all those spirits are just what they are. I don't care. What you feel is you're feeling the manifestation of who they are. If you have a lion spirit and you feel all these things, you're like, I don't even know if this is true. I don't even know if God's true.

[01:05:15] Pastor Erik West

I mean, not I mean, who said it was? I mean, I just grew up they said, you know, they told me the story about being a Christian. I mean, how do I really even know? You know, you know, where you're getting all that from, Lying, deceiving spirits. That's all they are. They're just speaking to your senses of your mind, and you get a spirit of fear. No, no. That little hair thing is always afraid. That's all it is. He's manifesting who he is, which means he's more terrified than anything he's manifesting himself. When a skunk sprays, he's manifest in Skunky. The stink is him, right? The fear is the devil. I mean, see, we focus on the stink. But the stink came out of the skunk. Yeah, that's pretty good, actually. You know, think about the fear of the spirit of fear. Come out of the spirit of fear. Yeah. It's not you, it's him, you say? Well, I'm just afraid. No, he's afraid. You're thinking about you because you're thinking in your senses. What you forgot to do is take him to here and say, Sit down, sucker. Shut up. I said, shut up. Don't treat him like your mother did, not your mother. But these new parents. I stopped that one to seeing all these parents count to their kids. My daddy can count to ten. My mother counted to one. Two. Could be your funeral. She might give you the what option of the yard you want to get buried in. Well, praise God. Amen. Hallelujah.

[01:07:03]

Well, that's enough.

[01:07:09] Pastor Erik West

Between the offering day if you didn't get help. I don't know what you're going to do. I mean, there were so many answers between the offering today. You ought to just grab 1 or 2 of them. Just grab something, go with it. God's developing you as people and as leaders. The summit is for leadership. The summit is a place where leaders come together to hear God ideas. So if you'll sign up for us out there, if you go see, once you commit to do something, then. Nathan, will you be open next week? Your business. Yeah. Too easy to whatever, right? Well, how do you know? Because you don't know how you're going to feel. Well, I ask you, do you have customers lined up who want their car fixed? Painted? And they got they got, you know, a time frame, 5 to 8 days. Right. But but it could be longer than that because, you know, you don't know how you're going to feel Wednesday or Thursday. You know, something might come up and they just have to whatever. When you fail and you what you do, you crack that. Busted the elbow, had to put in metal and everything in there and risked everything. So you just took off for months and months and just went to the beach. Did the car still need fixing? Yes. Was you involved at all in fixing them?

[01:08:48] Pastor Erik West

Yes, I was.

[01:08:51] Pastor Erik West

Did you with your left hand. You were not left handed. Right. But you painted these cars and they had a pass inspection. But did you feel like doing it? Oh, no. See, now we do that every day because we think we have to, right? And we do. Why would you do it spiritually? He tells you. He says the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, patience, goodness, kindness, temperance. Against this, there is no end to it. But then the work of the flesh is this. Then he tells you there's. There's going to be a war between two of you. I figured that there is a war. There's a war, you said. When did it start? I don't know what? Your birthday. That's when it started. I mean, think about it. When you come out, you just already screaming and crying. Oh, and if that wasn't terrifying enough, they don't do it now. But some of us who's my age or even younger, they picked you up. I mean, you just get into the world screaming, crying. Then they pick you up upside down and beat you and bam. And then you breathe. Then they put suction. Then they get some big scissors and cut off your food supply. Less than a second. I mean, it's traumatic. I mean, it's traumatic. And you want to know why babies cry? Somebody cut off my food supply that fast.

[01:10:14] Pastor Erik West

I'm going to scream, too. I'm going to the Publix, where shopping is a pleasure for reattachment. How many y'all ever went against your feelings? Seriously, mentally, physically, socially. Whatever you ever felt like your life wasn't working, be honest with you. Like it was a big, chaotic mess. Like, what are we actually doing? I mean, are we making any difference at all? It's like, where are we headed? It's like I used to like you. I've even heard this. I'll admit this because y'all was kidding about that day. If you'd have done this when we was dating, you know, we probably would never be married. I was like, Well, I didn't feel like I need to ever do it till I met you. We went to Paris, Georgia, and Miss Phyllis's house a couple of Fridays ago. And, you know, he was just real quiet. Then he asked me a couple of things and I told him I was telling him some stories and I wasn't trying to, but they just all laughing and all these pastors in the room. And he said on the way he says, Eric, I don't remember. When did you get to be so funny? I said, Well, I didn't mean I don't think I was like this growing up. I said, I said, Be honest with you. I said, I think it started when I started pastoring.

[01:11:47] Pastor Erik West

I said it was a survival mechanism the Holy Spirit gave me to survive, just to laugh at myself and not take it so seriously. Amen. Amen. I've seen a few things. I've heard a few things. I love people. I this is the joy of my life like this. But, you know, sometimes in dealing with situations and people, as you know, it's it's wild. It's absolutely wild. I'm sure Jessica, you know, she does massage all like this. I'm I'm glad you got some stories that you could tell us. Like, I wished I hadn't even known that I wished I had never seen that. Oh, my gosh. I imagine Logan's cut some hair for us, have y'all? I mean, you probably never said it, but do you know they have shampoo? Did you think about using it before we got together? But what do we do? We just. We just keep going. See, it's not the big splash that you need to do. It's just the consistent, everyday choo choo. And we forget that because we're thinking it's going to take this big thing. But if you're just like, choo choo. If you just take the chisel and keep chipping at the rock, you know, it's the. It's the. The rabbit and the. What was it? The turtle? Yeah, the tortoise and the hare. Well, you you know, it's.

[01:13:10] Pastor Erik West

It's the lion and the rest of the kingdom. He's. He is the king, but he's not. He's not the fastest. You put, you put. He's fast, but you put him with a cheetah and the lion and that cheetah is going to smoke him in the dust. And when they get then he says, I beat you. And he says, I'm still king. Matter of fact, I think I'm going to eat you for lunch. I ate your brother yesterday. I've been looking at your sister, waiting for her to gain a few pounds. The rhinoceroses says you know how much bigger than I am you. I said, Yeah, That's why you're so slow. That's why I got you all three year old legs for you can even turn around giraffes. He says you ain't nothing to me. He says, Yeah, but I'm going to wait till you get a sore throat. It's going to take a while if you get hill Throat that big. So he thinks different. Same problems, same situation. You have two people sitting, you know, in the same row and one says, well, you know, I could never do that. And I said, we're going to wow, we're going to go do this. Same meat, same people, same word, same same scriptures, two different mindsets. And that the way it works. It's always worked that way. Isn't that amazing? That Tuesday through Friday, Nathan's going to fix people's cars and he don't even know how he's going to feel that day.

[01:14:34] Pastor Erik West

I'm all called Wayne to see if he's actually there. Thursday, I may show up to see if he's actually there, just telling the truth or just telling us the big one. You can't know what you're going to do until you see, I've already decided I'm going to go to the meeting, so now I don't have to rethink it. I'm pretty sure I'm going to be here next week. And Wednesday because I borrowed this idea. Where are you going to tithe? Yeah, I remember having to go through that. Boy, that was a big one for me to say because I was like most Americans, I was spending 30% more than I made. You said, How can you do that? It's called credit cards. It's like, oh boy, come church, here's another ten. Oh, boy. Huh? That was a big thing for me. Not because I didn't want to. I see no way I could do that. I got out my little calculator and we barely make it. Now you take ten out of that, well, you're taking a dime away from a dollar. And the Lord said, he said, Are you going to trust me with your salvation? I said, Well, I absolutely trust you with salvation. He said, You're going to trust me with your eternity.

[01:15:36] Pastor Erik West

Yes, sir. He says, You can't trust me with a dime out of \$1 and you trust me for your eternity. I said, When you put it like that, that seems kind of silly. He said, That's what I was thinking I saw over three decades. It just seems to me like the people. Because you got the argument, Well, think new custom, New Testament. I can make a case for either side of it. Y'all do what you want to. I'll be fine either way. Amen. But I just it's just been my it's just been, you know, my recollection of just watching the people who were consistent and they were consistent givers. They they just live more blessed lives. They just had all kind of breakthroughs. It wasn't that God owed them something because they'd done that. It's just because they saw that God had already blessed them. And so they were coming out of a place of We're already blessed in Jesus. Our finances will catch up. We'll catch you up. So because Chris was asking me, you know, yesterday about the building and we bought that and I forgot a lot of things and I said, But when I go back and and remember that whole story, I said, that was wild. How do you buy a quarter of \$1 million building, which would be nothing today? And I didn't have any money.

[01:16:58] Pastor Erik West

I mean, I had zero money. And when I went to the bank, they said, Well, we need two years financials. I said, Well, we're only nine months old. He said, Well, that's not possible. I went to 3 or 4 banks and I said, Well, Lord, see, I can't borrow the money. He said, Who told you to go to those banks? I said, Oh, well, well, you did, I guess. He says, Oh, tell me what to buy. I didn't want to buy it. I didn't want to buy that building. I said, I don't buy no funeral home. He said, Well, then do what you want to. I said, Oh, I fixed buy me a funeral home. I knew I was that smart. Gave me the prize. The price was 100 and. \$65,000. I gave 165,000 less what they asked for. They just laughed him off. In the third time. You know, my realtor, she was embarrassed to make the offer again, which I would have been, too. But it's a friend of mine, so I just said, Well, I woke up one morning about a week later. It looked like nothing work and the Holy Spirit just said, he says, Well, you ready to close on that building today? Buy the building? I said. Really? He said. Oh. Just. How'd that go? What's the question? Do you want.

[01:18:24] Pastor Erik West

Me to show you how to get out of that? Yeah.

[01:18:28] Pastor Erik West

What? He said I woke up that morning. You know, we negotiated this thing, but he gave me the price. You know, negotiation is like, okay, they wanted 375, but all I had was 210. And for 8000 square foot building and ten acres of land, all 65 And they said. So my my realtor said, well, no, you got a counteroffer. I said, okay, to ten. She said, No, that's what you offer. They're still laughing about that. And I said, Don't you kind of offer. I said, I'll counter it again with 210. So they all just go away, Leave us alone. So that a week later, when the Holy Spirit I woke up, he says, Are you ready to close on the building? I says, That building? He says, I only talked to you about one. I said, That's right. I said, okay. He said, okay, now call your realtor and say this and say it exactly like this and tell her to present this offer to them. Use these words right here. Don't. Don't change the words. Say it just like this. And I said, Well, how much will I offer? He said, 210. I was like, Boy, my realtor, she's like, Eric, you just. But I said, Well, I'm sorry, it's embarrassing to you. I said, But but we're going to buy the building and this is the offer. I said, Just be honest with what the Lord told me. She says, Yeah, I know, but you know, you're buying 8000 square.

[01:19:56] Pastor Erik West

I mean, even, you know, 1998, that was, you know, a decent amount of money. But there's a lot to me. I had nothing. I didn't have \$2,000. I didn't even have well, we had \$1,600. What we had church was two years old. We was buying the first everything, you know, everything. I mean, this little thing right here, this \$1,500 right here, that would have been. That would have been three weeks offering for me back then on a good Sunday. So. I picked up the phone and I called the realtor and she said, I said, we're going to want to make another offer on that building. She says, okay, all good. She says, So what are you going to offer? I said, 210. She said, Oh, she said, I can't do that. I says, Well, here's what I want you to offer and I want you to write this down word for word. And basically it was real simple. He just said, My offer you is 210, not the building and two acres, but all of it. The building and ten acres without the ten acres. I'm not interested and I'm only interested for the next 24 hours. It's 210 and ten acres. Or I'm not even interested tomorrow if it's \$5. He said, Tell him to say that and you'll close on the building. So she did. She was embarrassed, but she did. And two hours later they called back and they said she said because she'd already told me, she said, well, she's a friend of mine and I had the floor covering store.

[01:21:25] Pastor Erik West

So I did all of her business in her home, personal home. She'd buy them, you know, flip them. And so I had that relationship with her and it was kind of embarrassing for her. I guess it it would have been, you know, and she but she had told me, you know, she was trying. She said, well, you know, it was good experience for you. And the Holy Ghost didn't like that. I knew he didn't like it when she said it. He wasn't mad at her. He just didn't like it. He said, No, the experience is not for you. He said it'll be for them. And you know, I didn't want to buy an old funeral home. And so. But this was the plan of God. And so there's a way to do that. There's a success. But you can't go with your mind and get it. There's no way you can go to your mind and get it. So I'm all involved in this. You know, I'm supposed to buy this building. And so now he says he said, this is how you close it. And so they call back and she says, Man, I've been selling real estate for years and years and years. She said, I ain't never seen nothing like this. I said.

[01:22:22] Pastor Erik West

Why?

[01:22:24] Pastor Erik West

She says they're going to take your offer. And so now, at this point, I'm kind of rejoicing. You know, I have good feelings. I'm like, man, praise God. I mean, it's just like God said. Then it just dawned on me all of a sudden, oh, I ain't got no money. They accepted the offer. I ain't got a penny. So I had to call back. I had to go back. What am I going to do? He says you're going to put a lease purchase on there, but you're going to agree on the price and they're going to come appraise it and the bank is going to give you We will give you a loan when you have, you know, if you can get a year's worth of, you know. So I didn't know the church or the building was almost in foreclosure. And it was not in the bank that I was had went to. And they were already risking because they're going to foreclose. So so I became at least a better risk than who was in there because they wouldn't get paid. Then I guess the Lord knew that.

[01:23:23] Pastor Erik West

He might.

[01:23:24] Pastor Erik West

Know it. It seems like he knows a lot of stuff. And so but I didn't know any of that stuff. So the president of the bank came to look at the building and to meet me. He says, Well, you seem like a sharp young man. I said, Well, I appreciate it. I said, This is the building. And he says, Well, there's a lot of potential. He said, We're going to make the loan, but you'll have to have a well, I have to have a year, you know, he said. He says, we don't make loan less than two years, he says. And now that, you know, he says this, this is almost in foreclosure. So that's the reason why we're willing to take the risk, he said. But we have to have a year. And I said, Well, I'm only about four months away from that and account. I need another month to pull the thing together. I said, I'll have it in six months. So it was a year. You know, two. We'll pay you so much a month. Then in a year or less, we'll pay it off. So when I call back and I presented that to him, he, he, he, he cost me like a dog. He says he come out there and said, You you stole this place. You absolutely stole this place. I said, No, I didn't.

[01:24:25] Pastor Erik West

I just I said, I'll just be honest. The Lord told me to buy this place and tell me how much to buy it for. He says, Well, my dad was a pastor. He said, But you still stole this place, he says. And then. And then after all that, he said, After all that, you ain't even got no money. I said, Well, the Lord has money. And I says, But didn't you take the offer? He says, I guess I have to. I said, Well, then we're all good. I said so you can at least it for this now. I said, So what would be the least every month for the year? And I said I had enough for a deposit right now. He said, Oh God, I had enough for a deposit. I had to sign a \$200,000 personal guarantee to get the building. He told me to spread it out for my church and get about 15 families. I said, 15 families I ain't even seen. I didn't want to tell him, You can have 15 people at one time. He's got 15 families all signed, 5 or \$10,000. He wanted to spread it around. So if something goes wrong to get the building. But they got more security, I said, No, I can't do that. I said it would be me or nothing. He said, Well, we wouldn't want you to sign the whole.

[01:25:35] Pastor Erik West

I said, Well, if it's going to be signed, I'll sign the whole thing. Because I said, Just be honest with the Lord told me to buy this building. So I'm not worried about it not working because he told me to buy the building. So if he can't make it, then I'm going to go to him and then we're going to trouble. He says, You sure are. He said, you, boy, you're something different. And I said, Well, I don't even want to buy this place anyway. I said, What do you want to buy this place? I said, They've been working down people down in the basement. Everyone who comes there, we try to give. I said, Oh, that's the old so-and-so building. And true. They always did. I spent I spent \$200,000 on that building. I kept on saying, Now where are you at? I said, Well, the next board of Education, Oh, the old senior home. I said, Stop it. I never did stop it. And so he says, Well, we have to have \$1,500 a month to do that in the insurance. And so I said, okay. So we're two years old. I'm renting a building for \$400 a month using all my faith, I think, to pay \$400 rent. I just went full time and I'm buying a quarter million dollar building. So I called Michelle back and I said, I need to know right now how much we got in the church that's free.

[01:26:43] Pastor Erik West

She said, Well, ain't nothing really free. I said, Well, I know, but you ain't been sending out in the mail. She said, Hang on. She said, I'll probably make this call back in about 15 minutes. And she says, We have \$1,600. And I says, I tell her what we're doing so we can do it. She says, Yeah, yeah. So I went to the realtor and we sat down and had everything notarized and had the bank of intent to make the loan and so many months. And I paid the first month's, you could say rent, but I'm buying it, right? And I signed it and I wrote 1000 hundred dollars check and I have \$1,600. And I'm renting another building too. And the people were so excited. I was excited. But they said, Well, when you want to have a work day, what do you want to fix first? And I looked at my checkbook and I'm thinking, Not much. It's \$100. \$100. We own a building, but we have \$100. Because faith makes plans. And if I went by my senses, we never would have bought that building. But I had a word from God, and the plans of man will always fail you. But the word of God will never fail you.

[01:28:00] Pastor Erik West

Amen.

[01:28:01] Pastor Erik West

And within two months. Some of the wildest, craziest stories you ever heard in your life. People came and started giving money to the church. Some people that you couldn't agree with nothing about the Bible but the Lord told them to come give. We had an electrical problem. And I will finish with this because it's almost 1130. We had an electrical issue. And we couldn't go forward. And the guy at the church, he he knew someone and he said he come looked at it and he says it's a mess. He said, but I can fix it. Take me a couple of days. It should be about \$3,000. I don't have nothing. I own a building. I'm just believing God to pay the \$5,000 next month. You know, you want to get in your new building, but we don't have nothing to fix it with. Nothing? What? I mean, nothing. I mean nothing. And so his name was Duke, if I remember right, Duke come gave us a price. So this guy in the church, he goes to work in Birmingham. They work in downtown Birmingham, down there on what I call University Boulevard. You know, everything's down there, right? So the guy who owns the company asks the guy who goes to church with us, who, you know, really helped remodel the whole thing. Randy, you know, talked about he said, how's it going to the church? He said, well, it's fine.

[01:29:22] Pastor Erik West

He says he says, well, what are y'all doing next? He said, Well. And he said, well, you know, Duke, he works for works for you. So he said he come, looked at it. It needs rewiring. He said he said, well, right now we can't do that. And the boss, his was real kind. He's in heaven now. I believe he's in heaven. He said, How much are you going to cost? He said, 3000. And he said, Well, Randy said, you know, if we Duke doesn't work for us, he's just one of our subs. He said, Yeah, I know. Then just all of a sudden, I mean, just all of a sudden and the World Series had just been like, not before. And his he said his ministry was real prophetic everything number every time, every this, every everything meant something. And he had this book he went by and it was a magazine and I saw one of them. He sent one to the church and it had like this means this and that means that and this means and that means that. And in the World Series last night, the fourth player hit a home run and someone got on, you know, got a double and someone or whatever, and all this numbers meant all these things.

[01:30:33] Pastor Erik West

And I was like.

[01:30:34] Pastor Erik West

Okay. So in his mind, this is how it works. So Randy said, Well, we're kind of stuck. We need \$3,000. He said, no. Then all of a sudden he said there was some pigeons that flew. And he says, Oh. And he went. He said, Randy. He said, Oh my gosh, look. Did you see that? He says, What? He says, Does pigeons fly? Well, there's pigeons everywhere. I said, No. They flew right in front of us. He said there was three of them. He says, Go in there and get that magazine. I'm telling my Prophetical magazine. He's he's.

[01:31:15] Pastor Erik West

Oh, wow.

[01:31:17] Pastor Erik West

Yes, Lord. He said, Go and tell my secretary. I checked your church. \$3,000, he says. Lord sent them three pigeons. And I believe he did. So you say, Well, how do you get how do you get when you get stuck and you need \$3,000? Then what will you do? Pastor? I said, You see how I would answer a question like that? Pigeons. That's how we remodeled the building. Crazy, wild stuff like that. This never happened before or since. But in his heart mind, that meant for him to go do this or whatever. And I know the Lord used him, but. He asked one time. He says, You reckon you want me to come speak? I'm thinking, I ain't no way in the world. And it take me six months to undo what you might do in 30 minutes. So is it possible? It's possible. It's possible. You ought to get excited about that. Amen.

[01:32:19] Pastor Erik West

Amen.

[01:32:21] Pastor Erik West

Amen. So you can buy a quarter million dollar bill with no money whatsoever, you said. What? Did you buy it with? Faith. And I had a word from God. Amen. I had a word from God and I had faith. But I had I had a divorce. All my feelings and emotions because, boy, they were talking to me. I felt like an idiot. I mean, an absolute idiot. I felt like there was no common sense to the I didn't even tell you any of the details, but there was no common sense to any of it. And then the day that Matt and I were there together. Now, in that building, just a few years forward, then there's a check can of tea for \$275,000. I thought, God wonder if I quit. And then the people came and you saw them saved and healed and filled with the Holy Spirit and marriages reconciled and people's lives changed. And you thought, What if I quit? It's kind of wild that God used pigeons, you know, just to keep moving things forward. It's kind of wild the way the way things work sometimes. But we just made a decision to keep going forward. We made a decision to not quit. We made the decision that God's word is truth. Amen. Amen. Regardless of what it felt like, it looked like we just said, God said it. So therefore it's true. And what I feel doesn't really mean anything. Amen. And if Nathan can come to work next week and he doesn't even know how he feels. That's wild. Amen. How many y'all might go to work Tuesday? And you think you're going to work Tuesday?

[01:34:13] Pastor Erik West

Maybe.

[01:34:14] Pastor Erik West

Because how is he supposed to know how he feels on Tuesday?

[01:34:23] Pastor Erik West

Amen.

[01:34:24] Pastor Erik West

Well, praise God. That's good. See y'all Wednesday.

END OF TRANSCRIPT



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