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Building A Strong Spirit Part 3 | Be Strong, Finish Strong 9Jul2023

DATE

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DURATION

1h 49m 48s

START OF TRANSCRIPT

[00:00:00] Pastor West

You talked about when and where we're going to worship and what it's going to look like and all such as this. But Jesus says something it wasn't about on this mountain or this place or that place, but he said, God is a spirit. In other words, he can't be contained in one location. And they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth. You can be seated. But there was a I won't mention the name, but there was a well known minister. And that minister was in a room with several hundred people in a service. He was enjoying the praise and worship and he was on the stage before he ministered and he said, Lord, this is a wonderful atmosphere to be here together where everyone is worshiping, praising. And the Lord said, There's everyone's not worshiping, praising me. He said, almost no one is worshiping me. He said, and he was in awe because he was just so caught up in worship himself. He said when he looked up and the lights was out in his worship and praise and and there were hundreds of people in the room. He said he saw these lights on top over like over their head. And he said there was about a dozen people out of hundreds. And the Lord said, those are the people who actually worship me. The rest of them are going through the motions and some of them are reading the words off the screen, but there is no worship from them whatsoever.

[00:01:30] Pastor West

Worship is an attitude. Worship is heartfelt if your heart doesn't engage in it. You haven't worshipped yet. And. Sometimes the word worship has been overused to the place, to where it's not really even used correctly in the applicable sense that you ride by. And it says worship service, you know, is from 11 to 12 after Sunday school. Or they'll call the whole thing come tonight for our worship service. Well, Jesus said in the book of Matthew, he said, he said, You think they're honoring me? He said, they do honor me with their lips. In other words, they're doing lip service. It looks like what you're saying is true. He said, But their heart, their hearts far from me. What does that mean? That means we can go through the motions. That means we can do Sunday. That means we can give but isn't giving a part of our worship is isn't every part of the life of a believer. Worship. It is from our heart. When God sent the prophet. To anoint a king. He sent him to the house of Jesse. And there he had several sons. He says I'm going to anoint me a king, for I have rejected Saul. For he's disobeyed me. And the prophet was waiting and he was looking among his sons. And he looked at his oldest son. And the prophet himself said, This surely is the Lord's anointed.

[00:03:20] Pastor West

And the Lord said, No, he's not the one. He's the Lord. He's of great stature. He looks he looks majestic. He looks like a king should look. And God had to tell the prophet himself. He says, Man looks on the outward appearance, but I look on the heart. You know the story that he went through all the sons and couldn't find the king. And he said, Are these all your sons? And he says, Well, no, there's one down there keeping the sheep. He says, My my youngest son, David, I didn't see nobody bringing him up. I didn't see the need to bring him up. So the prophet called for him and said, Bring him here as soon as he got into the presence of David. The Lord says, That's him. That's the next king of Israel. Sometimes you're in the back room and you're in. You're in the back of the back and and you're not looking for recognition. You're just looking to live your life and obey God the best that you know how. No one's asking and no one's calling on you and no one's You seem unnoticed, but the Lord notices everything. He knows everything because he knows the heart of man. And he saw the heart of David. And David was a worshiper at heart. You know that because you read all the songs, the Psalms, many of them, the mass majority of them. David wrote himself while he was keeping sheep.

[00:04:48] Pastor West

It is something that you can be out into a field by yourself at night, under the stars. As a shepherd with a shepherd's staff working for your father while everyone's asleep. You're out there just doing your job and you're communing with the Lord under the stars and the Lord's there is with you. No one else is around. And the Lord sees in David. He sees in you what someone else can't see. There was a day that David was called upon. There was a day because he had prepared him for such a time. The preparation is ongoing. It never ends. But there is a day to begin. I believe those days that we are in are those days where preparation is taking place. You may not feel prepared. You may not look. You may not look prepared. I had to learn a lesson a long time ago that the Lord spoke to me and he we we we had a certain confession and I didn't know I was going to say this, so I may not get it right because I ain't said it in years. But we used to say it's something like this. We thank God that he has to this church daily, such as should be saved. We receive this building filled to overflowing as we, the body of Christ, as we, the body of Christ, go out into the harvest field. And He says and find those who are ripe for harvest.

[00:06:09] Pastor West

Well, ripe for harvest. Well, no one has a sign over their head says I'm ripe. No one does. If you're if you're in the supermarket and you're looking for a ripe cantaloupe or a watermelon, generally, the way that you do that is you don't shake it, you thump it. Sometimes you find if someone's ripe by thumping their head and sometimes you say they're not ready yet, just let the boy go back to that room. It's like that commercial about what is it, the the cheese crackers, Cheez-It and the cheese that's always talking back. It's got smack. And he says, You're not ready yet because you know cheese that only puts out the Nabisco or whatever it is puts out on the best kind of crackers And we got we got a smarty cheese. Well. Is this your time? Is it time? It's time to move forward. What would stop us. This morning, we want to continue in the series that we're in about being building a strong spirit. To go a little different direction and I won't have you turn anything right now. I want to quote some things out of the parable of the sower, out of Matthew, chapter four. You can you can turn if you want to, but I'm not really going to. Word by word. Verse by verse. But I want to make some comments first about that parable. So in the parable of the sower, we read this sad reality.

[00:07:42] Pastor West

It's very sad when you read the parable The Sower. The reason why we need to understand about the parable of the sower is because Jesus told us, If you don't understand this parable, you will never know how the kingdom of God operates. Elliott was giving us great understanding, really about the kingdom and how it operates through seed time and harvest. About the power of the incorruptible seed. You know, you're born again of an incorruptible seed which can never fade away. Your your salvation, if it's in Jesus, is secure. It doesn't wash away in your next mistake. God doesn't change his mind. So don't change yours. Well, in the parable of the sower, we find out that there was different type of ground, wasn't there? There was different kind of people. But he was liking he was liking a farmer that sowed seed into different type of soil. But what was he really talking about? Was he talking about a farmer? Was he talking about agriculture? Not really. What was he talking about? He was talking about the heart and the condition of mankind. And he said the soul was job is always to sow. And what does he so. Well, the scripture tells us the sower sows the word of God and then he gives us the type of ground that he sows it into. In Mark chapter four, after and after verse three, we said, the sower sows. It says it came to pass as he sowed seed some by the wayside and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up and some he he sowed on stony ground and it had not much earth.

[00:09:37] Pastor West

And immediately it sprang up and because it had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up, it was scorched. And because it had no fruit, it withered away. Verse seven. And some fell among thorns. And the thorns grew up and choked it and it yielded no fruit. Verse eight. But other seed fell on good ground. Okay. The seed fell on good ground. And it did yield fruit. It did spring up and it did increase and it did bring forth much fruit some 30 times as much, some 60 fold and some 100 fold. Verse nine, he said to them, he that hath ears to hear. Let him hear. You might say, Well, everyone has ears. They all have ears, but they don't all hear. In other places. He said, take heed what you hear. Pay attention to what you hear. Pay attention to who has your ear. So the disciples had no clue what he was talking about whatsoever. The people went away and they said, Well, praise the Lord. And the disciples came up and said, Master, that was a really good teaching. What in the world are you talking about? I mean, I thought we were going to do some church stuff today, and here you're talking about how to grow corn and butter, peas and all that kind of stuff.

[00:11:02] Pastor West

And he says, Oh my gosh. So he taught him verse 14. He says, No, the parable means this. The sower sows the word. And these are they which are by the wayside when the word is sown. When they heard Satan comes in two weeks and takes away the word. Oh, just say, Oh, I'm sorry. I'm in verse 15. Satan comes. What? So as soon as the word comes. It has Satan's attention. Why does Satan care so much about He needs to come immediately. It tells you something about the power of a seed, doesn't it? How does he come? Oh, he comes in many forms. You know, all all type of things. People situation, arguments, fighting car tears up, dog does whatever dog vomits on the carpet, all kind of stuff, baby, you know, baby won't stop crying even though he's 45 years old. All sorts of things that go on. Just steal the word. He doesn't come to you and say, I'm Satan. I've come to get the word from you. Give it over. And he pulls out a machete. He doesn't do that. He can't get the word out of your spirit because he has no access to your spirit. Now, listen carefully. This is important. This is one of the things you need to get if you don't get nothing else. If the word stays in your spirit, you're the good ground person and you will receive a 30, 60, 100 fold in your lifetime.

[00:12:35] Pastor West

I've been watching this for over 30 years. The people who come every week hardly ever need counseling. You know where they get it? They get it sitting right here. They get it in the Bible study. They get it in their own prayer life. You see, you don't have to go from crisis to crisis. In Miracles. A wonderful. But we don't. It's not even God's best that you go from miracle to miracle. Why? Because Miracle usually has enough provision for what you need. If you need a miracle, it's generally because you know you're in trouble. You need a financial miracle. You need a physical. You need some type of miracle. You need you need a breakthrough. Thank God for miracles. We'll always have them. We'll always need them until we get to heaven. But that is not God's best. What would be God's best? Well, third, John. Two would be God's best. Beloved, I wish, above all things, that you prosper and be in health as your soul. As your what? Oh, even as your soul prospers. I mean, God wants us to do something. Yes. How many of you went to school and got through? The 12th grade and most of it. Or you're still in school. Did you have some form of math? All 12 years? Yes. Did they cram? Did they? So they don't cram every form of math in 12 years.

[00:13:59] Pastor West

Can you see taking a someone in kindergarten and say, okay, children, get out your book of calculus one, get started today. That wouldn't be the place to start, would it? No more than you would give an eight year old. You might give him a, you know, a rifle or a certain type of, you know, pistol or whatever. That's a collector that's been in your family. It may be the plan of the father to give that to his son, but he probably won't give it to the son at the age of seven, eight, 9 or 10, or even until he's older. He's not old enough to handle the responsibility. He doesn't know the danger of it. Well, God never puts anything in your care. Your responsibility until he knows that you're ready. So we don't start in college. We start in kindergarten, right? Remember in kindergarten, we used to. I don't know about now. You used to have the little mask that fold out and you had to take naps. It'd be good if they let you do that at work now, wouldn't it? So it's nap time. Where's my chocolate milk and my little Debbie? You know, the Middle East has been fighting for years. The United States is trying to go over there and westernize these these these mid Eastern countries for years and it's never worked. You ever wonder why? You ever think before we ever start a war? Does anyone ever read a history book? I think there's a more simpler way to fix some of it or ease the tension.

[00:15:28] Pastor West

I think we ought to send over our some of our our aircraft and we ought to drop off care packages of cold milk and warm cookies and just say relax and have a great day. Maybe put the arm down and go home. If not, you can come back the next day and shoot them anyway. We tried the other first. Notice in verse 16 said These are their likewise which are sown on stony ground. And when they have heard the word immediately, they receive it with gladness. But here it is. They have no root in themselves. This is this is the verse pastors know the best. They have no root in themselves. In other words, they hear the word. And they receive it gladly. They get excited about it, man. They they get excited to hear that God wants you to prosper. They get excited to hear about the miracles, signs and wonders and deliverances. They get excited about breakthrough and it's all true. And so they get excited and say, Man, I'm going to do this forever. Without exception, in three decades, this has happened to me every time. And when someone starts to say, No, no, no, no, stop, stop, stop. They say, Oh, this is my church. You're my pastor. I'm going to be with you forever. And I'm like, They're gone two weeks.

[00:16:55] Pastor West

It's the ones that you share will never come back or hear. It's the ones that you, you know that sometimes you have to talk rough to and say, stop that. You think, Well, I probably won't come back. I had to be corrected. And you don't like correction. And they're like, back the next week. They're like, wow. Two weeks later, they do something else. Knothead. And you got to stop that. People said years ago teaching children's church. Someone said, you know, children's church can be really challenging. And I said, I know it can. We appreciate all that you do. They said, We just like to be able to teach adults. I said, Why? I said, Because it would be a lot different. I'd like to have the opportunity to teach adults. And I said, You think? And that's you see, you can get frustrated because children act like children, but you'd be more frustrated if you taught adults and they acted like children. Hmm. You've heard me say it before. You'll never find a scripture in here. It says my little adult. Now then there anywhere we are his children. But I'm talking about in a sense of maturity, of growing up. There is a process to growing up. There is a process to being strong. Are you listening? Not everyone's going to enter the race. They're going to talk about it. They're going to get excited about it. They're going to go.

[00:18:22] Pastor West

I mean, all the all the young men and women who get a scholarship to play some form of athletes or, you know, athletics, you know, whether it be volleyball or tennis or football or basketball, whatever it is, it may be exciting. They might enjoy it. But they never played on that level before because when you get there, there's going to be people there's going to be people just as good as you and not better. Who wants that job as much as you do or more? They're not going to tell you we're not going to have practice today because it's over 90. You know, they're going to tell you to get out there and they're going to run and get in full pads and we're going to knock each other around, huh? It's going to call for more than what you think that you have. What does it take to be successful in ministry? You want me to tell you the truth in life? Not me in the ministry. But I'm talking about as a believer, who's going to be fruitful? You know what's going to cost you. Can I just be honest with you? If you're going to be successful? It's going to cost you everything. It'll cost you everything. But I want to tell you, it'll be worth the cost. It'll be worth the cost. Amen. You know, the Scriptures talked about that God's not really looking for golden vessels. He's not leaving looking for silver vessels.

[00:19:49] Pastor West

He's looking for yielded vessels. God's not looking for who has the greatest IQ in the room. He doesn't need to go back to the house school for sure. He's not looking for the most qualified. He qualifies you. The university, your schooling, your trade doesn't qualify you. It can help you. It can assist you. Schooling can help you, but schooling does not make you successful. Sometimes they would chastise Smith Wigglesworth because he. He didn't really have an education. He didn't matter of fact, he didn't even know how to read. His wife, Polly. Which was the nickname he gave her. She taught Smith how to read in his 50s. She was the preacher, and he worked with the kids. Until one day he actually met Jesus for himself. Yeah. He heard about the Holy Spirit. The turn of the century. And he. He wanted to go see. Ah, this amazing thing that he heard that he knew was in the Bible, but he knew no one had it. And he went to Los Angeles like so many others did, to William Seymour's meeting in Jesus Street. And he had an experience that changed his life. Well, most of you know who I'm talking about when I say Smith Wigglesworth. Born as an Englishman. He was a plumber. He was a good plumber, but his wife was a devout Christian and minister, and he helped her. And she wasn't too sure about this Holy Ghost thing.

[00:21:48] Pastor West

Probably wasn't speaking in tongues. She didn't see why that was necessary, but Smith had it and she didn't want him to have something. If it was what God had and if it was God, she wanted to have it. But she wasn't too sure that he needed that. So she just told us, she says, I'll tell you what, I'm going to see if you're a changed man next week. You aren't going to teach the kids. You're going to teach the adults. He said, okay. Smith got up there the next week and opened up his Bible and began to read. It wasn't but just a few minutes. Polly said, I don't even know who that man is. That's not my husband. My husband can't nor has he ever done what he's doing right now. And she was convinced and asked the Lord to forgive her and fill her gloriously with the Holy Ghost and power. Will Smith went around the world. He raised 14 people from the dead. He was called the apostle of faith. He could be a little gruff. People didn't want to be around him, but they needed the miracles. He had a style that you probably wouldn't want to adopt in today's world because you would you would you would meet Alex Sharon a quick. They did not understand him. He didn't apologize for it. He never read a book after he learned to read. He said, I never read another book in my life, but the Bible, I don't have time for it.

[00:23:16] Pastor West

No. Anyone like him in the world? I don't mean he was getting started at almost 60. He said, I don't have time for that. Lester Summerall came to his house to visit him in his 20s. To be mentored by him. And he'd come in to Smith's house. He said, I thought I'd be out there all day long. I thought the line would wrap around half the world to get in to see me. But there was no one there. There was never anyone there. But yet you couldn't. You couldn't get in the building. You couldn't get in the churches where he was. Why? Because everywhere he went, there was miracles. He told a man one time. Who had both legs amputated. He ministered to him and says, Tomorrow go down to the shop. And he said, Order you a pair of shoes. And the guy said, But he says, Do what I said, documented. The man went home. Two stumps, two wooden legs. Couldn't hardly fathom this. You know, go to the store and buy shoes. Well, something happened that. That night the Lord spoke to that man. He says, Why don't you obey my servant? How would you like the Lord to call you his servant by other people? The man went down to the next morning and he went in. He has his wooden legs. He sat down and the guy, the storekeeper said, How can I help you? And he says, I'd like to buy myself a pair of shoes.

[00:24:47] Pastor West

He said. He looked down. He said, Sir, I can't. He says, Just, I want to. He said, I want a pair of black shoes. He a size eight. I guess you can choose. Instantaneously. From his wooden legs, two legs begin to grow and appear all the way down to the feet and the toenails. And the man saw him and he ran out of the shop. And Smith had to wait on himself and let the money on the counter. They bought a baby to him who was dying. And there's nothing that could do for the baby. As Smith said. Will you will you let me do what the Lord tells me to do? And they said yes. And he took the baby and kicked it off the stage. And everybody went, of course. And the baby landed, healed. And I said, Why? Why are you? Sometimes he'd hit people with who had cancers or tumors who hit him in the stomach. And they said, Why do you do that? Why are you so mean to people? It has nothing to do. The people. He said, it's the devil. He says the people will be okay. He said they'll they'll get an anesthesia from the Holy Ghost. He says. He says, I'm not playing with the devil. Amen. We'll see. No one wanted to be around him.

[00:26:09] Pastor West

They just wanted the miracles. You kind of wanted his healing line, but just kind of scared you Next. We need some of that today. We don't need to be him. But but we but we need the spirit of it in the church. We need to get rid of the Wimpy Church. We need to get rid of the the. Just the church. That's just. We're afraid that we might offend you. If I don't ever offend you, I'm not even doing my job. You ought to get rid of me quick. Now, if I'm just looking to offend you, maybe get rid of me, too. But I'm talking about if you just read the word every day and you don't come across something that offends you. In other words, it differs with your life. If it's not offensive to you. That. I don't know what you're I don't know if you've ever read your Bible. I mean, every day when I read the word or I'm spending time in the word, it's correcting me all the time. But why? People love correction. Don't they? Successful people love correction. Oh, we should do it with the spirit of meekness and kindness and love. But. But don't you love to be corrected? Boy, got got quiet in this Presbyterian house, didn't it? Huh? Why did your parents discipline you? However, they did it because they hated you or because they loved you. Mother used to say, I don't think she was always right, she says.

[00:27:55] Pastor West

I mean, they always say, this is going to hurt me more than you. And I'm thinking you must be in a lot of pain. But she says, when you when you don't obey God, it's not that God will hurt you, but your decisions are going to hurt you. And I want you to know that when you miss it, it's going to bring some form of pain into your life. So I would associate the pain of the of the switch or the board or whatever it was she used. She didn't ground her well, she did. She grounded me for half a year one time. And. I missed Elvis in Birmingham and I begged her to be off parole just for that weekend. I said, because Elvis may never come back. And he didn't. He died in 1977 and never got seen. I felt like a hound dog, but I couldn't go because I was in Jailhouse Rock. And I said, I told mom, I said, Don't be cruel. Just love me tenderly. I wanted to wear my blue suede shoes. I felt like going. Just getting out and going maybe to Kentucky and just walking around. Anyway, I got to get off that. I just turn to your Bible. I mean. Sorry. So the devil stole from people with a stony heart. I got excited. They were thrilled. They said, We're going to do this. And they go. He says, for a little while they endure for a little while, he says.

[00:29:29] Pastor West

But then when persecution. Affliction and persecution. What's your verse? 17? It arises for the word's sake, not for you, for the word's sake. Why does the persecution arise? It comes for the word's sake. Immediately. They are offended. Mm hm. But these are they. Which are among thorns. Such as? Hear the word and the cares of the world. And the riches, riches and the lust of other things They enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. The Word of God become unfruitful. Yes. By your choice. See, there's you can have clutter. I won't tell you what clutter is, but you might already know you have a garage. You might know what clutter is. You got a sock drawer, you got kids in the back floorboard, something like that. But so it's not just physical clutter. Most people walk around in life in mental clutter. There's physical distractions and then there's mental distractions. Now, I think that if we're going to do something, we should be successful. In other words, what I'm saying we should we should master things. We have this phrase, he or she. Maybe he's not a master, but they're a jack of all trades. That's not good enough. I mean, it's helpful, but it's not good enough. If you need a brain surgery. Do you want the jack of all trades doing it? I don't. I want a master craftsman.

[00:31:02] Pastor West

I want. I want. I want lots of reviews. I want to know you've got lots of experience, right? Well, it's important that we master this. So you have to see that 75% of the people, when I'm trying to say, was to have a strong spirit. In other words, we're talking today about being strong and finishing strong. It's easy to start. A lot of people start. Anybody can start. But can you finish? I couldn't put the people in this room if we had four meetings, one after another who said, I'll be here forever, who I see almost every month somewhere? And they say, Hey, Pastor, I look around and there'll be some with them and they'll think, I mean, I'm just it just happens. I'm not making up. I'll just be somewhere and they'll someone be with them. They say, Hey, this is my pastor. And I'm thinking, I ain't seen you in eight years myself. I say, If this was a husband and wife relationship and the husband didn't come home for eight years and then he saw his wife in Walmart and he's with someone else and he says, Hey, babe, this this is my wife. I bet she ain't. Well, what do you think? You know why I'm not upset with any of them. I'm just saying they started. But they didn't finish. And I don't mean it's wrong if there's somewhere else. I mean, a lot of them are nowhere else and they have all the reasons why they can't why it doesn't work for them.

[00:32:42] Pastor West

You can give them the word and they'll say, Yeah, but the whole life is full of butts. Then we have the church today and here we go. If I can offend you, it'll be right here. So why don't you just be nice to everyone? Why do we have to take sides on what's going on in the world? Why can't we just let the bathrooms be the bathrooms? You just go in the right one. Why do we have to get into political realm and whatsoever? Because that's how every nation that's no longer a nation. Lost their nation is because their people were asleep. That while you sleep at night, those who do evil. Continue to do evil and darkness while the people who are supposed to be the light are asleep at the wheel. See Jesus. Jesus said I didn't come to bring people together always. He said I came to separate them. He said I came to bring a sword. Sometimes we forget he has other names like Lord of the Host, Captain of the host, the general of the armies, the Lord of the Armies. See, we just think about him, you know, holding the little sheep and just being sweet and kind. Oh, he's sweet and kind, but he's also the Lord of vengeance. Remember, vengeance is mine, says the Lord. So, in other words, if the light doesn't set the standard, then darkness thinks it has the run of the house.

[00:34:15] Pastor West

Why would he tell us to pray for those in authority if we weren't in control? And didn't need to be in control. So say you conservative. Well, I'm not not conservative. What do you think? I'm neither a conservative nor a liberal. I'm God ism. Amen. Amen. Huh. You ought to be Holy Ghost God ism. Always said if someone could be filled with the devil and be demonic, you ought to be. You ought to be possessed to yourself. Amen. The reason why some people are having so many problems in life. I told Michelle this week, I said I got off the phone with someone who would call me pastor and it went on forever. It went on forever. And it's like, What do you think we could meet? Wait. When could I come see you and talk about all this? I said, Well, we could meet, like, every week. My. At least some of them. Got off hour and 19 minutes. Covered the whole world. But my house. That's my problem. That's my fault because I let it go on. Well, what I mean by that is I let that go on, but. It's not wrong to help people. I'm trying to make a bigger point here. That as long as you're willing. As long as you're willing. You, me, any of us. As long as you're willing to tolerate. What's going on around you and in your life.

[00:36:01] Pastor West

It will dominate your life. Until you say no. So I got off the phone and and Michelle said, I heard you in there talking. I said, Yeah, I guess you did. And she said, Are you okay? I said, I'm fine. I'm fine. I just you know, I said, It's just sad. And I was sitting there and all of a sudden I just spoke to me just as clear as a bell. He wasn't mad at the person. He wasn't whatever. And he said, Do you know what their main problem is? And people like them, just like them that you talk to all the time. I said, Well, he said, they never died yet. I said, Sir. He said, they're they're still very much alive. They haven't died yet. I said, Oh, yes, sir. He said. Are you staying there? Yes, sir. Yes, sir. I'm dead as I can get. Yes, sir. I'm alive to God because I'm dead. Eric West is dead, He said. When? When did we kill him? I said, Well, it's supposed to be at salvation, sir, but I was still wiggling around a little bit and went on for a few years and I got on a lot of support and he had to come back and kill me again. I said, my mother tried to kill me several times and I said, this, this, this spirit of the world. See, Jesus said, So you won't like this.

[00:37:18] Pastor West

Somebody may not like this. He said, he said, if you're if you're a friend to the world, he said, You're my enemy. Well, let's just get along. If you're a friend of the world, you're my enemy, he said. He said, unless you love your father and mother and children less than me, he said, You cannot even be my disciple. I told you it would cost you everything. Now the King James uses a harsh word. It's not the right word unless you hate your mother. Well, Jesus wasn't teaching. You hate your mother. It's the word. It really means love less. Unless you love the world. Unless you love the people. Unless you love your life less than me. He says, Don't call yourself my disciple. Easy to start. Very few finishers. Very few finishers. If I was in trouble outside of any of you guys. If I was in trouble. Real trouble. I only know two people in the world. Three? Three. I could call them if I was in major trouble. I know a lot of people. I know a lot of people with titles. I know a lot of people that I respect, but there's only 2 or 3 people in the whole world that I would share intimate things with and would trust their confidence and trust them to navigate me through a difficult time. I don't know if that's good or bad. It sounds kind of sad, doesn't it? Because not everyone's going to walk the walk.

[00:38:55] Pastor West

They talk it, but they don't walk it. Are we going to be walkers? What? Are we going to just talk? So Jesus is the Lord of the host. The Scripture says, You and I will give account to him one on one. You can't say, Well, Jesus, can you wait till my pastor gets here? He says, I'm your pastor. Now. Now, we're not talking about seeing if you're a believer because he's already dealt with your sin. He's going to talk about what you did with your whole life here. Of why that you're here. There's a purpose for you to be here. This is a place where excuses won't roll off his back or yours. This is where we will give an account. See how that we're talking about death And life is in the power of the tongue. And there's a positive side of that, but there's a negative side. So it says every vain or inoperative word that you spoke. You see, if you live with if you're born again and you know Jesus and you, you've seen the power of God. You've seen the power of God or you've even prayed for those and you've seen the power of God in their life. You've seen people healed. You've seen people delivered by your testimony. You've seen people that you've ministered to lay hands on the sick. In other words, you know of the power of God, but you still continue to live in a place of sin.

[00:40:24] Pastor West

You are in a very dangerous place. Because on the day of judgment he will know that you you know that you know, you can't say, well, I was weak in that area, He said, But you knew the power of God because you demonstrated it in this area. So you have no right. You say, Well, I don't want to hear about this. I know I didn't either for a long time. I wish versus I could take out of my Bible if I took all of them out. That didn't appeal to me for years. I only have about three pages and two of them would be the book of maps. Most people would live with a very skinny Bible. In other words, he said, if you know to do what's right and you don't do it, he says, let's just call what it is. It's called sin. And God hates sin because look what sin did to the world. Look what it cost Jesus. And then you have his take on sin. Don't mistake what you've heard about the grace of God to say. It's okay. It's covered. He still loves me. I'm forgiven forever. Yes, yes, yes. And wrong. Yes, it's true. It's grace that delivers. It's grace that empowers. The Holy Ghost is a grace that empowers you. It doesn't look over you. God doesn't say Go ahead and sin. I'll turn my back.

[00:41:45] Pastor West

He said, I'm here to deliver you. I'm here to help you. I'm here to lift you out. But it's time to walk out. Amen. It's time to repent. It's time to change our mind and change our ways. And not be going to churches who preach weak messages that appeal to your soul. Seek your friendly churches. You know, we just let's just be friends and we'll break off a little cell group and have a hot dog. Well, that's great. Eat your hot dog will offend you right when you get through. Or do you want to get offended before your hot dog? Because I had to get my friends studying for this. Now, I'm not saying it's all like that. I'm just trying to make a point. Do you get it? There is a Jewish proverb. I don't know who said it. It says truth is heavy. That's why so few men carry it. The Christian life is not how you start that matters the most is how you would finish. It's a stated fact. That in ministry, if someone starts at the age of 21 and they go to age 65, here are the the up to date statistics for people who have begun ministry at 21. It says for those who started at ministry at 21 and are still on track at age 65, there's only one out of ten. Then it gave all the reasons when they did the study of so many thousands of ministers of why the nine didn't finish and only one out of ten, they got shot down.

[00:43:23] Pastor West

Morally, they were they were discouraged, obsessed with money affairs, wrong doctrine, making shipwreck of their faith. One out of ten. You can. You can't say, Well, that wouldn't happen to me. We're not here to criticize them. We're here to help them. But you can't say it won't happen to me because I don't have time to go there. But I got scriptures right here that tells me how to help them when they've done it. When they have fallen. When they have failed. When they're shipwrecked. The scriptures about restoring them. You know, it's a rare man or woman who finishes strong. Are you all hearing. Amen. Amen. It's an exceptional man or woman, actually, who finishes strong. It's a teachable man or woman who finishes strong, but they're very rare. You know, they're very rare because when you read the book, we won't go there, but we read the Book of numbers in chapter 13. This is where everything went wrong. God told Moses to send spies out and to go into the land. He told them what the land was. He told them it was exceedingly great and precious promises. He told them. He told them of its bountifulness. He told them everything about what he had in store for them. And he told them. He told Moses who to choose and the kind of people to choose and to send them out and to spy the land and the way that they would go in.

[00:44:52] Pastor West

And so they did. And so Moses chose one from each tribe of the 12 tribes of Israel. And so God's ready to hand over the keys to the promised Land. That's pretty cool. Under the leadership of Moses, this is not a story about Moses. I'm talking about you. I'm just using Moses as an example. And we need to do that because other places in the Bible, like in Corinthians, he points us back to the Old Testament, points us back to the Psalms and says, I'm telling you this, so this will be an example to you. Do not do what they did. I mean, there's people that I really like, even in ministry, but I stay away from. In other words, I might be in a room with him. I might be in a function with him, I might be doing all kinds of things. But but I stay away from them because they hurt my faith. They're not prayers, they're players. They have a they have an agenda that doesn't seem to be of the kingdom. When I see them use people or or money or whatever, I stay away from those people. I stay away from complainers. I stay away from people who criticize other people. I stay away from people who criticize other ministries. There's always stay away from complainers. Never be one yourself.

[00:46:28] Pastor West

God calls it evil people, calls it bad habits. God calls it evil. God calls. Unbelief. Evil. Not a bad habit. Unbelief is what kept these people out. The amplifier says that the waste is unbelief. Shut them out. Amen. Let's don't get shut out of the promises, Church. Amen. Amen. But in numbers. So he's ready to hand. I mean, 2 million people are poised to take this whole thing over to the rich and prosperous land. So God gives instruction to Moses to pick out 12 men, one from each tribe, more specifically to pick out 12 leaders. God is looking for leaders. Anybody want to be one? Are you sure? You know, leaders face first. If you're if you're going in the back country and you're cutting away with a machete through a trail. I mean, some missionaries have done that. We we used to have a missionary years ago name was Nick White. And when Nick would come preach the kind of mission trips he went on, you know, they weren't they weren't that glamorous. There was no hotels. Oh, he was believing God with everything he had in him to eat what they were eating. I said, He showed pictures. I said, What was that? He said, We never figured it out, but he had pictures of him in his in his whatever. I mean, to me it looked like a little canoe. And he had his machete and he's walking through the water, you know, making sure there wasn't, you know, snakes and moccasins.

[00:48:00] Pastor West

And he was cutting he was cutting back there. And when he got back there, there was nothing but witchdoctors and they were there to kill him. Well. I said, what? What what came first in your mind? He said, When I saw the witch doctors, he said, What class are we? Did I take on that? And, and he said about the witch doctors. And real quickly he said, he said, oh, that class about Holy Spirit. So you don't need a class on witch doctors. Get this part, you say, Well, I don't know if I could do this or I don't know if I could do that because I've never done that. I'm afraid to start this. I'd be afraid to go on a mission trip. I don't think I could start a business. I don't know that I could cast the devil out of someone. I don't know if I could stand up and give a message or preach the gospel. I've never done that before. Did you forget about the greater one in you? Did you forget who you are? Do you forget who lives in you? Do you think the one who lives in you is never stood before a crowd and spoke? You have to remember the one who lives in you. You are his address. Wow. My God. Did you hear what I said? You are the address of the Holy of holies.

[00:49:22] Pastor West

Amen. In this covenant. Amen. Amen. Amen. There's the one who quietly lives in you, who split the Red Sea. And you don't think you could talk to your Sunday school class? You weenie. Praise the Lord. Amen. Amen. I know I'm not called to minister to everyone. Praise God. You know, I'm probably more like broccoli and carrots and peas. Mm. You more. More like cheesecake and chocolate cake. I liked it too. But if you eat chocolate cake all the time, you're going to be a sick puppy, right? Some of y'all aren't convinced, are you? You said. Let me try it. Well, so he picked out 12 leaders who had proven themselves as leaders. These were Israel's finest and brightest. They weren't rookies. I mean, these 12 are salty, gritty veterans. With a proven record of vision for a future. This is who Moses picked out. I won't say it this way. Moses was not picking wannabes. Has beens or hope to be's to lead this expedition, these 12. For a mission like this, you don't send in the third string. You send in the first string. You know how the story goes. He picked out the best of the best. And what happened out of 12? Two stood strong. You want to be a leader? You want to finish strong. You want to build a strong spirit. We don't want to forget the ten leaders who came back with a negative report. They are the same people who saw the Red Sea depart just like the other two.

[00:51:15] Pastor West

They saw Pharaoh's army drown, didn't they? They saw the miracles. They were firsthand spectators. They freaked out when they got into Conan because they were saw that they're contained. There are some very powerful tribes of people in 4 to 5 cities. And they said we were as grasshoppers in their sight. They said, oh, the land is just like God said, look at it. We brought evidence back. It's just like God said, it's wonderful. And it does it flows with milk and honey. But we we are not able. We are grasshoppers. Well, who did the name calling? They called themselves grasshoppers. I'm thinking, how can you walk through a red sea and be be afraid of somebody tall? Short, people have an advantage. I mean, when a tall guy gets ready to reach down and get you, you've already cut his knees out, you know, because you know about his belt buckle. So you just go ahead and hit him in the gut or cut his knees off. Hello. So only two out of the 12 are the best of the best. In other words, they had a far greater fear of men than they had a fear of God. A holy fear of God. E Stanley Jones said fear is the sand in the machinery of life, and so it's brought to them to a leaching halt. You know how sand does the machinery? Ten leaders who had a great start but just couldn't finish.

[00:52:47] Pastor West

When push come to shove, two out of 12 had what it took. What did they have? The Bible said they had a different spirit. That's what he called Caleb and Joshua. He said these two have a different spirit. Endurance is one of the things that separates the starters from the finishers. We're talking about how to build a strong spirit. Endurance separates the finishers. Endurance will determine whether someone will finish strong. I'm going to go quicker. Endurance is the fruit of a godly character. The Christian life is not a 50 yard dash. It's a marathon. People want to run it like it's a 50 yard dash. Whew, man, I got that. I got. I got that message. Praise God. First message I got was Mark 11 2324 from Pastor down in Nowheresville, Alabama, who just went to heaven a few months ago. Man he preached. Mark 11 2324 because he got it from Brother Hagan. I was sitting there one day and thinking, Man, I've been church all my life. All this stuff can't be true that he's saying. I mean, I think I would have heard it. I mean, because my mother jerked me church three times a week. I ain't never heard any of that stuff. And so he he put the word in. And I was sitting there one day, and I've always wondered why this doesn't happen to other people.

[00:54:13] Pastor West

I don't know why it doesn't happen. I'm still perplexed why this doesn't happen to other people. When I met read Mark 1123 and 24 where Jesus himself had cursed the fig tree the day before. Then they came back. He cursed it because it had no fruit on it. In other words, if you're not going to produce, there's no need you being here. If you're not going to finish, there's no need keeping a start around. Oh, so he cursed the fig tree. He didn't curse it. He cursed it. They came back and then Peter saw it the next day come back and he said, Master, look. The fig tree you cursed withered away. And Jesus said, Really? Let me go and see. No, he didn't say that. He said, Oh, Peter had the faith of God or have the God kind of faith. He says, What does that mean? He says, Well, Peter, verily, I say unto you, whoever says to this mountain, be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe the things which he says shall come to pass. He shall have whatsoever, he says. Next verse. Therefore, it says, therefore you better. You need to see what's there for. Therefore, I say unto you what things soever ye desire when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them. I asked my pastor, I said, Pastor does, does, does, does the Bible mean what it says right there? He says, What part? I says what things soever ye desire when I pray believe I see them.

[00:55:42] Pastor West

He says anything that's in the word, it's the will of God. I mean. I mean, you don't you don't claim say, Well, I'm believing to have the largest marijuana farm in Alabama. Well, that's you can't go in the Bible and get that. You say we have but God gave herbs. Well, it wasn't marijuana. Well, in other words, it has to be a promise in the word. And he says, if the Bible says it and you believe it and you begin to put it in your heart and you begin to speak it, In other words, therefore I say unto you what things soever ye desire when you pray, believe that you received. When do I believe that I receive them? When I prayed. Do I have it at that moment? Always. Am I touching it? Very rarely do I ever see it at that moment. But when I was praying for it or when I prayed, I believed that I received it. Which means that word received means I believe that I took it. I received. I have it. In other words, when I prayed, I believe it's mine. Amen, he says. And if you believe that, he says, you shall have what you say. So watch what you say. Because you're already having what you've been saying.

[00:56:41] Pastor West

If you don't like what you've been having, you might want to quit saying what you've been saying because you're going to keep on having more what you say because you do have what you say, which is why you're having what you say. So you need to change what you say about what you're saying. I'll have to go back and listen to this, if that's right. And if it's not, I'll fix it. And I said, if that's true. I'm going to go around the world and change the whole world out of two verses. Well, I had a lot of zeal. I was still in my 20s. Have a little bit left now. Man, I'm more excited now than I am then. I just have a little bit more knowledge. I had a lot of zeal but didn't have any knowledge. But I took that zeal and I took that passion and. And I look for sick people everywhere. I look for people who are demon possessed. I couldn't hardly I was like, Could you all get us a demon possessed person? I said, Well, what would you want? I said, I want practice. And I said, I said, Man, I wouldn't want to touch one of those. I said, Well, I don't I don't know if I have to touch him or not. I'm just I'm just going to command him to get up. Jesus name. They said it's not that simple. I said, It's not.

[00:57:48] Pastor West

I said, No, you need to know this and you got to know this. Well, church people gave me all kinds of things I had to know. But when I read Jesus, when he cast them out, he says, Go, come out, get out. So I started practicing in the mirror like someone was demon possessed. And then I say, Go. I get a magazine. Someone really ugly that could be demon possessed. And I put it there and, you know, they was looking at me, but I was looking at them and me in the mirror and I would just practice. I said, I said, You foul spirit, go. Come out. Get out. Then I kept it going. Go. Come out. Get out. Then I made the little jinx. Go. Come out and get out. Go. Come out and get out. So. Yeah, but I believe that word. Well, that word that I believe was able to see multi, multi, multi miracles with just those two verses. Miracles, signs and wonders and people who's going to die, who had died and now are raised. That was exciting to me. You think I was going to give it up? You're not talking to me at all, huh? Well, I don't get I don't understand why people don't get excited about that. I didn't want to start with it. I wanted to keep it from the very beginning because I'm not running the 50 yard dash. In other words, what I'm going to say is you have to put your faith in God.

[00:59:12] Pastor West

Trust in God. And you're going to need if you're going to finish strong, it's going to it's going to it's going to require that you have some intestinal fortitude. Amen. May I just say it in an old fashioned way, man? You're going to need some guts. Hmm. Because if you stay in this long enough, you're going to get. Well, I almost said that, too. You're going to get a gut punch. You're going to get your rear kicked. And you're going to find your head where your feet was just a moment before that. And when you get and you get that and the air is knocked out of you and you're laying on the ground for a while and the enemy's laughing at you. You know, the scripture talks about that in Micah. He says, he said, Now look here, sucker. I mean, that's my translation. He says, Don't you be rejoicing over me. Okay? You knock me down. But I'm but I'm but I'm going to get up. I always said, if you're going to fall, if you're going to fall down, fall on your back. Because if you can fall on your back, if you fall on your back, you can see and if you can see, you can get up, dust yourself up and start all over again. That's where people quit because they fail. So. Oh, well, I don't.

[01:00:24] Pastor West

I just don't. I just don't do that no more. So you don't do what? You know that you used to mark that mark. 1123 So I tried that. I had a headache and, and I spoke to it two times and nothing changed. I said, Oh, man, you talk to it two times. Two times, two times. My gosh, you're not even fit to be You're not even fit, you know, to for anything. Huh? Two times. I mean, I've heard a lot of stuff. Oh, yeah, Pastor, I know that. But we read that the other day and. And I prayed and nothing's changed. So. So I just. I don't do that no more. You're not even fit to be backslid. You're too far back. You'd have to come forward to be backslid. You're so dumb, it hurts. The enemy just loves stupid people. He does. Listen, God never deals in ignorance. Amen. He deals in wisdom, knowledge, understanding, power. He does not give the authority in the name of Jesus to wimps. When you go in the military, the first thing they do is they do not build you up. They tear you down. I did. You want to be a leader? You said yes. When you go in the military, those who been. Am I telling the truth? They don't come and say, Well, man, we've been looking for you. You're going to have a party tonight. You know what time you usually get up in the morning? No, they're there to tear your down and how you think and how you walk and how you talk.

[01:02:09] Pastor West

And then they'll tell you after they get through that how you think. You don't make decisions, you take orders. See people like Savior. They don't like Lord. Lord means. Yes, sir. Thank you, sir. Give me 50 laps. Thank you, Lord, for the laps. Hmm. What is your building? Building your character. Building your strength. Because you're going to go all the way. Because you're going to get to the place where you're going to build a strength, where your weakness was. And then when that comes up again, you built so strong, the enemy comes back that way. He forgot he didn't know that you was actually doing this. And the last time he went blue and you went. This time he's going to go blue. And you can say, Oh, just you sucker. It's like that old joke. I know you've heard it, but it's just like I said, the devil went to church one day and he showed up and then he revealed himself. And people started running everywhere. I mean, the pastor run the pastor, run the choir director. They all ran the youth pastor all around. And they just one old guy sitting at the front. And hundreds of people have left. And the devil come to him. And he says, he says, What are you doing here? Everybody else is gone. He said, Don't you know who I am? He said, Yeah, I know who you are.

[01:03:25] Pastor West

He said, Aren't you afraid of me? He said, I ain't afraid. You said, Why? He said, Because I married your sister. I'm not afraid of you. I've been knowing you a long time, sucker. Yeah. Finishing strong is more than a statement. It's an attitude. Make a decision today for your future self that you will thank yourself for. Starting strong is good, but finishing strong is epic. It's heroic. It's grand. We started this. Study with Proverbs 18:14, which says the strong spirit of a man will sustain him in the time of bodily pain and trouble, but a weak spirit who can bear a crushed spirit, who can bear. The Bible says, be strong in the Lord and the power of his might. Have you ever had things happen to you that you felt like you was too weak to handle? You couldn't do it on your own? Well, you were absolutely right. You can't. But the Lord never told you you would be by yourself. He never told you to do anything on your own. He says, Be strong in the Lord. Put on the full armor of God, the weapons of your warfare. They're not. They're not natural weapons. Don't take what the world offers you a strength in the natural way of things. You can't fight any demon or a devil on natural terms. He'll whip you 15 ways from Sunday.

[01:04:57] Pastor West

Even the weakest ones. You can't approach a spiritual, demonic being with natural means. I don't care if you're greedy. I don't care if you are salty. I don't care if you're. I don't care if you're a marine. I don't I don't care if you're a or however you been trained. You're not ready for the demonic world in natural terms, but there's no demon who's ready for you. Because if you're in the spirit and Jesus Christ is your Lord and savior, Amen. If Jesus is your Lord and savior, he's your lord and savior. Then you are the devil's master. You need to know that you are the devil's master. In other words, the roles have been changed. The God of this world. Who was the God who still is the God of this world? He's no longer your God. Your mind is no longer blinded. Now you know the truth. You know the truth that sets you free. You're no longer in bondage, but you're free. And you're free to set other people free. Yeah. Amen. You have the spirit of truth and the spirit of liberality in you. You have the spirit of the Messiah, the Holy one, the Anointed one. To set every captive free. Amen. Amen. It's time to rise up and shine and be who you are in Christ. Amen. If I ask you how you say this. Don't even answer. Because if you ask general courtesy. Well, do you have the Holy Ghost? You'll say Yes, I'll say.

[01:06:25] Pastor West

But a better question is, does he have you? Because I don't see anyone getting saved. I don't hear anyone that got anyone healed. I don't see anyone bringing anyone to church. You can't tell me the Holy Ghost is directing your life and you have no fruit. What are you going to do when you go to heaven? You have no fruit. Not even one person You ever got saved in your lifetime. You're going to present that to the Lord. I've come here with no fruit. Oh, it beats the. You know what? I will go into hell. But you have no fruit. You have no fruit. And the Holy Spirit is there to give you fruit. He is the fruit. Walking in the spirit is just what it said. It's walking in the spirit. It's not walking in you. It's walking in him through him. By him in him. There are many days when you walk and you go closer and closer to where you're going. I don't mean doing what I'm doing what you're doing, because what you're called to do is just important, as I'm called to do. And it's going to call for some days where you think that you can't. I know what I'm talking about. That you feel like you need to call in. And sometimes you need to take the risk, but sometimes you need to know what it means to shove on and push on.

[01:07:38] Pastor West

You know why There's days and. This is just not. You know why there's days that you have missed on Sunday here when you weren't busy. You missed because you didn't feel good. I was here when I didn't feel good. You said you're the pastor. It's still the same principle. Same. The principle. I'm a little tired this week. I'm glad I never got tired. I'm glad I would never hit the emergency room at 3:00 in the morning and I thought I was going to study and just trusted. I'm like, Oh my God, I'm going to be the pulpit in four hours. Another cup of coffee. I don't know what where are we going to talk about? Huh? In other words, you want to take a Winnie the Pooh day and have some honey, there's okay to have some Winnie the Pooh days because you need natural rest, but you can't live a strong life, you know, glued to Netflix. And just playing all the time. They did a study years ago of people that did wanted Oral Roberts University, did another one in Chicago, Illinois. And this is where, you know, scientific people put this and they put all the nodules on the brain and the study of all this. And they had people who prayed, just prayed. They open the Bible and would pray prayers. And they want to see the activity of the brain and what would happen and if the body what would happen.

[01:08:57] Pastor West

And this true studies and when they did this, they found out when the people who would just pray the prayers, they would see the frontal lobes, you know, that engages in conversation when they begin to pray, you know, prayers in the Bible or they read a prayer, they get see the mind information working. But then they did they did a study on several people who was filled with the Holy Ghost, spoke in other tongues. And when they prayed there was no activity in the brain because it wasn't coming from the brain, it was coming from the midsection. Amen. And the brain was at rest. And here's what they studied. These are documented studies. Here's what they found out about these, the people who prayed in the spirit. They couldn't explain it. They said it seemed like everyone who prayed 20 to 30 minutes in the spirit, their immune system got 30 to 60% stronger just by speaking in another tongues. Well, first Corinthians 14 says he that speaks in an unknown tongue, does not speak unto man, but unto God. Howbeit in the spirit he speaking mysteries. He that speaks in an unknown tongue is not talking to a man, but unto God. How howbeit what he speaking is mysteries. Man How'd you like to get into the mysteries of God? Now there's another side of tongues where there's a tongue interpretation for a purpose. I'm talking about in your private prayer language.

[01:10:14] Pastor West

Let me finish with this, this morning. I've already went a little bit over, but it wasn't the first time in my ministry. I want you to get this part before you go, because I think it'll help you a lot. We won't go there. But there was a time when David, who has already been anointed to be the king, but he's not the king yet. He's not on the throne. You know, God sends Jesse to the house. We talked about knowing him to be king. He's the boy as a teenager. It was many years before he took the throne. Saul was still on the throne, and when Saul knew it was David, Saul was his father in law. Saul tried to kill him the whole time. David is hiding in the cave from his father in law, who's whose demons have taken over his mind. He's trying to kill David, his son in law, because he knows that he is going to be the king. David. One day is out and he takes his army out and they're visiting and dealing with some things with the Philistines. And he comes back and you can read it. Most of you aware of it in first Samuel 30. But they came back and they came back to a crisis, an epic crisis that. They were already fatigued. This army was fatigued and they came back to their camp and when they got to their camp.

[01:11:36] Pastor West

What had happened was while they were gone in the Army was gone. The advocates came in and they took all of the women, all the wives, all the sons, all the daughters, all the babies and all the possessions. And then they burned the whole camp down. And David and his men were so tired and they got back there and they saw all that. Their family was gone. Assumingly they were probably dead. The Bible says that they wept so bitterly till they had no more tears left in them. I'm not going to ask you, have you ever been in a place where you have just wept because there was nothing left for you to do, but after you couldn't weep no more? That's where they were at? They were so frantic in their mind of what I mean, they're looking at the smouldering of the city and they just assume all their worldly possessions and the most dear possessions of their family is all dead. There's there's nothing left. And they got angry with David that about maybe we should never have left here. And they began to talk out of their business and out of their anger and out of their frustration. And they said, let's stone him. And David, the leader, was now in the midst of all of his men, his mighty army, who now was going to turn on him and said, because of you, we've lost our life. We've lost our children.

[01:13:00] Pastor West

And they picked up stones to stone him. It's funny how I remember this message. This is my my last class at Raymond 1994. I had one instructor. He says, I don't know what you're going to do when you leave here. He said, But somewhere you're going to have a David moment. He says, I thought, What could I share with the class? No. One, what they're going to do when they have they've not ever done anything like this, when they're going to get out of this bubble that they're in here in Oklahoma. When they're not going to be in a building with thousands of people and millions of dollars in the orchestra pit that comes up with 200 people, you know, with 60 instruments saying, you know, this is the day the Lord hath made. My first building, I didn't have an orchestra pit. It just was a pit. And so he shared that message. And I have found it to be so applicable through the years. So they picked up the Stones to kill David. They said they wept until there was no more tears left in them. And David began to cry unto God. He the Bible says he began to inquire of the Lord. And this is what leaders must do. I don't know if I'm talking to one person here or everybody in the room. I hope everybody, but usually not. Or if you're watching, I hope I'm talking to you because if we need something in the world today, I know every generation said it, but I'm going to say it myself.

[01:14:37] Pastor West

If the world needs anything throughout the world now, not just in ministry, but in the workplace, in the home. Oh, dear God. In the home. We need leaders. We. We need men to be men and women to be women. We need godly men and women. We need fathers who are and mothers who raised up their family. And they will be an example to their children. Not to say don't do don't just do what I did. Yes, they made mistakes. There's no perfect parent, only God himself. But God had trouble himself. I remember one time thinking, Where did I go wrong? You know, when problems happen in my own family raising kids. And the Lord asked me, he didn't talk about them. He didn't say, Well, you went wrong here with this one, and you went here wrong with that one. And this kid or that kid or you did or they did. He didn't say any of that. You know what he told me? He he asked me a question. That's how he usually deals with me. I ask him a question. He asked me three. He said, Where did I go wrong? I said, Sir, we didn't go wrong. He said, Where did I go wrong with Adam and Eve? What he said was, I'm not a good father, was not a good example.

[01:15:45] Pastor West

Didn't I teach him right? Didn't I spend time with him? Why did they go this other way? He said they had kids. He said, I'm the first recorded family with a murderer. Well, where did I go wrong? He said your kids murdered each other. I said, Well, no, not yet. Got my eye on a couple of them. Keep rocks away from them. Big sticks. The Scripture said what David did at the place where he himself and all the army, his 800 men wept bitterly. And they have stones in their hand ready to stone them. And the Bible says that David encouraged himself. In the Lord. He didn't have anyone to encourage him. I got a text from a dear friend this morning that meant more to me than you'll ever know. Send something to me that was personal. And it was when that text came to me today, it was so it was so perfectly timed. And I told her, I says, this was so on time for something that I needed myself, that I needed myself. And so they didn't know the situation. And so I snapshot it and I put it in my pictures and I read it 4 or 5 times to the left of the house. And I read it in my office before I went out there. Before I came out here. I took time. I took time just. Just to soak that up. Because, see, for me, I don't know if you understand this, but just for me.

[01:17:31] Pastor West

My assignment is you. I'm to lay my life down for you. I can't just come in here. Oh, I can go to Lifeway store and get a sermon book and just turn to one and just, you know, I can do it. I'm trained enough to get by. Just give me a few notes. I'll fill in the rest. I couldn't start that way. But I can do it now. And most people wouldn't even never know it. But I'll listen. And I'll wait. And I hear. Because I never forget the words when I read them over in first Peter. I think it's Peter, he said. He said. Remember. Remember when you minister to them. Remember this about my people, he said. They cost me the blood of my son. So remember when you minister to them, Remember what it cost me for them? How can you take that lightly? How can you see Jesus on the cross and just throw out something and say, Well, it's Sunday and whatever, and we'll do this, get this, get the offer and go home if it's too much, I'm sorry. Hmm. Irrefutable. That should never happen. I had to do it. I wept before I got there. Wept with you there and wept when I got home and I was mad as 14 pigeons who can't find a cheese cracker. Saying we won't go that again. Get up, brush yourself off.

[01:19:04] Pastor West

Start all over again. People say, well, you know, Peter, get out there. And he failed. Peter walked. He walked twice. Don't you know the rest of them was in the boat? They didn't even try to get out. I bet they were holding on to Peter's tunic, said, Man. Don't do that. Don't do that. I bet you when he walked, they'd come back and said, Well, you know, if Jesus hadn't come in and said, Let's go the other way, I could do it too. Mm. When we used to own and manage the floor covering store and plant. Before I started ministry, I had a salesman who his name was Wayne. I don't even know if he's alive by now. He was a pretty negative person. Every time he came, sometimes I would just run the other way and sometimes I would buy something I didn't need because I know if I bought it, he would go away. His nickname. We call him Sunshine because he didn't have any. Ever worked for someone like Sunshine? You don't dare ask him how the weekend was, because they'll tell you this was Wayne. So when he found out I was going into ministry and I was going to turn the floor covering store over, he said, he said, they told me you're going to quit. You're going to turn the store over. I said, he said, What are you going to do? I says, going into ministry full time.

[01:20:22] Pastor West

He said, Oh. He said, Well, you know, man, you better you better hang on to this thing. He said, You got a little gold mine here. Hang on here. You just keep on building. You got a little goldmine. And I said, Well, I don't know what to do about that. The Lord told me. He didn't ask me to add and subtract. He said, Go this way. He said, Whereas. I'm just going to tell you, I don't want you to do the wrong thing, he says. He says. He said, don't, don't do that. He says, you'll never make it. He said, I don't know. I mean, this is what I knew what he meant. He says some people call this is what he told me. He says some some people are meant to run companies and other people is meant to pump gas. And he says you might be a gas pumper. And I want to say, you know, the order I just gave you, it's cancelled, but here I am, right? And so they tell me one time I said, Well, you know, I said, Well, what I was thought I was always going to do, Wayne. I thought I was going to work for the power company Alabama Power Company. And someone told me one day, years later, he said, You are working for the power company, huh? And you shall receive power after the Holy Ghost has come upon you.

[01:21:45] Pastor West

Yeah, right. You shall receive power after the Holy Ghost has come upon you. Amen. And then you shall be witnesses unto all men. Well, I found out I've been pumping gas for 30 years. You have people come in who won't even sell serve themselves. They won't even feed themselves. Brother Hagan, you say it this way. He said you. You give your body three meals a day, but you won't even give your spirit one cold snack a week. And I come dragging in. Same old thing. Same old problem. Same every week. Same old problem. He just got a little different face on it. Oh, Pastor, you just don't know. How long is this going to last? Oh, dear God. How long? When's the devil going to leave us alone? And until you find out who you are. Huh? In other words, it's okay to wipe a three year old's mouth, but when that kid is 60 and you're still going over there and you're 85 and wipe his mouth, it looks kind of nasty then. Yeah. See? It's time to grow up. Amen. Amen. My mother taught me how to make my bed. Then she stepped back, and every Saturday she went shopping. Because she worked. She worked two jobs. Five days. Well, four days a week. She wouldn't do it on Wednesday. We was in church, but on the fifth day she had to shop and everybody had a job. Everybody? Barbara's washing clothes, cleaning the house.

[01:23:07] Pastor West

Chris, I was doing outside work. We had to clean room. We was doing garden work. Barbara's cooking all. Barbara cooked my dad's meal every night for supper because my mother was working a second job, so she didn't have time for foolishness. I know. I make her sound like she was hard. It's only because she was. But she wasn't mean. We knew she loved us, but she didn't have time to play. And I have created her. I almost felt like Abraham Lincoln sometimes. He said everything that I own, everything that I am I ever hoped to be. I kind of owe it to my mother. At the time, it didn't feel good because I felt like we as in boot camp my entire life. I said, Mom, why does it got to be so tough? Why do you have to just be so tough? And then she told my brother, I said, Why are you ground me? When when when he was with me, she said, Well, I can't do nothing about him. And she was right. He went off to the Navy, come home, told her about it after he joined. And then she said, But you went off with him. And that's when I had my Elvis Presley tickets. I to go see Elvis, you know. -15, 16 years old. 16. I go see Elvis. But I went off with him and his friends and. You know, I don't know what we did.

[01:24:31] Pastor West

Probably partake of strong drink. Got sick. Come home evidence. She knew what we did. So she fed us some greasy food to make it come up. And it came up well, she couldn't handle the older son. He's fixed to go off anyway. She said You're grounded. She said you're grounded for half a year. That's after she brought the backside into submission. I said, How long? She said, a half a year. She said, You'll go to work and you'll go to school. You can't use the telephone. I mean, there wasn't no cell phones when the boy texted No one. We actually did something outside. Kids weren't fat. We had bikes. I didn't even have a basketball hoop for a long time. We took we took a bucket, a 55 gallon drum, took the rim up and nailed it to a tree and took shoelaces. I didn't even know the difference. I didn't even know they had Nike shoes. Mine came from Fred's after you got them out of layaway. I hated layaway. I hated layaway. Bargaintown layaway. Like, I was like, Man, I hate this. Cutting firewood with saws. Bo saw me on one end, Chris on the other, and I looked up at the wall. He wasn't even gone. I thought. I thought this was getting tougher. He washed dishes one night and I drive the next night. I washed them. He dried them. I asked him, I said, See, Mike, you had to go to the bathroom every night.

[01:25:59] Pastor West

But right in the middle, Lenny, he's like, I was like, How long does it take you to go to the bathroom? He's waiting to get here. All the dishes up. Every other night when he had to wash, he had a tummy ache. I guess so, because when we say a prayer and we had chicken there, we open the eyes and most of it was gone during the prayer. Honest to God truth, I said, Well, how come he doesn't get how come he does not get the same punishment I got? Well, we were caught before we left, but we were sneaking out the car. We was pushing it into neutral, you know, 1:00 in the morning and it started going down the hill. And she come out there and said she called both of our names, but we got in the car. We didn't hear. So we just you know, we come back the next morning. So I. So I knew when I love Lucy. Come on. I knew when. Andy. Come on. I knew about Gomer and Goober. I knew all of them. I knew everything they were going to say before they said it. I knew every show when it came on. Huh? I had to learn to read. So when Elvis came up, I said, Mother, I said, Can I know? I said, I only got about two months left. I said, But can can I have this weekend off? I mean, it's Elvis Presley. He may not ever come back. She says, Ain't my problem. I said, Mother, please, you can grab me for three more months if you just let me go this weekend. Mom, it's Elvis Presley. She said, Don't do the crime if you can't pay the time.

[01:27:35] Pastor West

Amen.

[01:27:36] Pastor West

I said, But why are you doing this? She says, Son, look at me. She said, One day you're going to be a pastor in the ministry and you won't have to learn what's right. If you're ever going to be anything for the for God and his kingdom and for people, you've got to be strong. Amen. And she says right now, I'm your drill sergeant. Bless God she was. I said, I'm not. Why do you keep saying I said, I'm never going to be the minister. Why do you say that? She said, Because the Lord told me you're going to be the mother. I said, Mama, I mean, I don't I'm sorry that you want to sign the ministry. I ain't going to do that. And I know my brother ain't going to do. I know for a fact he ain't going to do it. But don't throw that on me. I'm not ever going to do that. I have no desire to do that. Oh, I'm going to be a Christian and go to church and all, but I ain't going to be no pastor or no minister, she says. She says, We'll see. I said, Mother, I'm not going to do it. She said, Why don't you just give up today? I said, What do you mean give up? She says, You lost everything. She said, Because here's what you need to know and I'll finish here. She said, you you will never, ever outrun my prayers. Amen. And that woman knew how to pray. Amen. She knew how to pray. So when David was about to be stoned. In his life was going to be over killed by the bitterness of his own men. He said, Lord, should I pursue? But he had to encourage himself in the Lord. Have you ever had to encourage yourself?

[01:29:15] Pastor West

Huh?

[01:29:16] Pastor West

I mean, there's just times that you can't call church. So now, Pastor, I'm going through a hard trial. Could you send a praise team over? No, I can't say them all over. Could you say in about 14 people over here to intercede for me? No, it's Monday. Everybody's at work. There's times that you're going to have to encourage yourself in the Lord.

[01:29:38] Pastor West

Amen. Amen.

[01:29:40] Pastor West

There's times some of you businessmen, you ain't been doing much business. They think. You think you're rich because you got a checkbook. I hate the color red. They come to check books. When I run, we run that story. It'd be in the red and I'd put that checkbook down sometimes and close the doors and I'd walk around that thing like Jericho. I went around at 700 times, not seven. I shouted. I screamed if I had a ram's horn, I pulled the horn off the ram. I'd done everything. I prophesied the floor covering. I said, Someone likes you, someone loves you. Someone's going to come in here and they're going to da da da da da da da da da da. Man, I've done everything that I had to encourage myself in the Lord.

[01:30:19] Pastor West

Amen. Amen.

[01:30:20] Pastor West

Strong people see, a strong spirit will sustain a man in time of body pain and trouble. But a weak man who can bear him, Who who can deal with someone who's weak. A weak person will never deliver. Someone who's weak.

[01:30:35] Pastor West

Amen.

[01:30:36] Pastor West

A person who's possessed with anything or given to sin and never error will never help to deliver someone in that area.

[01:30:43] Pastor West

Amen.

[01:30:44] Pastor West

You can't give what you don't have and you can't walk someone through what you've never been through. I used to think years ago when because there was we were doing a lot of healings, you know, a whole lot. And then someone came to the ministry one time and they said, I have a healing ministry, too. I said, okay, good. She said, Mine's mine's for emotional healing. Now, this is why I was out spiritually. I said, It's a what now? So he said, Emotional healing. I said, emotional healing. Dear God, what you need? Healing for emotions for you. I'm thinking, why don't you just believe the Bible? Until I went a little further in life. One day my emotions got kind of messed up. Then they got real messed up. And then I was dealing with some physical things, and it was overbearing. It was overwhelming. It was to the place it was. I couldn't keep my mind. It was overwhelming. And then I would weep and I didn't even know why. I was weeping. I was crying. I didn't even know why I was crying and I couldn't stop it. And I thought, what am I doing? Why am I doing this? Stop it. Why am I weeping and crying like this? It's because the physical had got so, so out of whack that the emotional realm couldn't. It was overtaxed. Then I understood more about Isaiah, which said he was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of your peace was upon him. But by his stripes, you were healed.

[01:32:18] Pastor West

Amen.

[01:32:18] Pastor West

They said he was put to grief. That's emotions. But did you know even the Holy Spirit could be put to grief? He's not as flighty as most people think he is. Is like you say this. He's gone. No. Where is he going to go?

[01:32:34] Pastor West

Amen.

[01:32:35] Pastor West

711. He's still around. Tom Thumb. You know. Did you know some of the times that the Holy Spirit could be put to grief is when you talk about a brother or sister. Because Jesus died for that person. Would you begin to put your words against someone? It puts the Holy Spirit to grief. He grieves when you speak despairingly about someone. Someone you know, someone you're married to. Someone in the church. Anyone? This is my final closing. I was in a ministers meeting years ago and it was after the meeting and we was all in the back room. Never forget this. And I don't say this to say, look what I did. And someone was speaking about Pastor Hagan. Not that Brother Hagan. Brother Hagan, The pastor went to heaven. And I said, Well, I just can't listen. Pastor Hagan just I just don't. Man, He ain't nothing like his daddy. Well, I could tell you a few things about Pastor Hagan. Brother Hagan wrote no curriculum for Rhema. Brother Hagan didn't hire no instructors. Brother Hagan didn't get the school going. Brother Hagan didn't run the school. Brother Hagan did like I did, showed up and started preaching. You know. Do you know any idea what takes place for me just to come here and administer the who has come here before me? Do you know the hours it takes to do what they're doing back there and then get that ready to go out into 40 different countries? I just kind of show up.

[01:34:28] Pastor West

But without them, I can't do anything without the people in the nursery. Who's praying right now? Stop, please, Lord, stop him. I know. I'm so sorry. I mean, I can't wait to see your mansion. Heaven. I'm probably going to be a little lean to. And y'all going to be like, Yeah, we kept. We kept his nursery. That's what they'll be looking like this forever. I mean, how many floors does it have? Okay, Lord, I know. Stop. But I was in that meeting and they was talking about Brother Hagan, about how he wasn't like his dad and how they couldn't receive from him and how he was loud and brash and all this kind of stuff and just like, oh, I just can't. I mean, he ain't nothing like Brother Hagan was. And I just felt the grief. I mean, I had never felt it before, but but grief came all over me. I thought, what am I grieving about? Because, you know, I kind of I kind of agree. Kind of agree. I mean, he wasn't my favorite. I mean, he was one of my instructors. I mean, you didn't dare cross him. Brother Hagan was just sweet and kind. Pastor Hagan would he had to fix things. You know, Brother Hagan could just flow. But brother Pastor Hagan had to go. He had to run the whole show. There's a rainbow church that starts every four hours somewhere in the Earth. Someone has to be accountable to that.

[01:35:45] Pastor West

Someone has to run, that this man is now the age of his father. Amen. So the grief came over me and I felt the grief of the the Holy Spirit about these ministers who were speaking despairingly of another minister. And he said, you're going to let that go on? Well, I'm the junior of the group. I'm not going to raise my voice to someone, you know, who they've been in ministry, you know, ten, 20, 30, 40 more years to me. He said, you're not here to correct them. Then he showed me what to do. And still I said, Oh, he says this and he does this. And the way he does that. And then I just raised my hand I knew would do. And I said, Let's get your hand right for I just want to ask something. Say something. What? I said, I know what you're saying. I understand what you're saying. I said, But he's not his father and he's not supposed to be his father. And perhaps he could make some changes. And then I was standing up and then in the back room, I got down like this. I said, could could we pray for him? Amen. You know what happened? The whole room got real quiet. There came a whoosh all over the room. You could talk all day long about him and her and what she does do and don't do. But could you just be quiet a moment? Say, Father, would you help my husband? God, would you help my wife? Dear God, help my pastor.

[01:37:11] Pastor West

Quit preaching the law. Lord, do I actually need this much help? Yes, yes, yes. As the Lord. They would encourage himself. Sometimes you have to be your only and best cheerleader. I have to know from a personal fact that Brother Hagan in his he lived to be 86, passed away, I think, in August 2003. We were privileged to be at Bible school when he was still alive. And. It is early 70s. He just wanted to go home. He felt like he'd been around the world 15 times. He just, you know, he's like Paul said, it's better to be with the Lord. It's far better. It's far better. So not him telling us, but the ministers and I knew Pastor Webb. He was in the room with him when it happened and he said, Brother Hagan, please don't go now. We we still need you so much. I mean, the body needs you. The church needs you. Please don't go right now. You know, Paul was in that same dilemma. He said he said, you know, I'm in a Twix between two, probably wants to go this way and I want to go that way. He says it's far better for me if I could go be with him. He said, Depart from here is far better. Don't feel sad when someone leaves here. You're not feeling sorry for them, feeling sorry for yourself. That's okay for a while, but you can't get into the spirit of grief because you still have him.

[01:38:57] Pastor West

He says it was far better, he said, But it's better for you, I suppose, if I stay here. It's more advantageous for you if I stay for a while. So Brother Hagen had all these ministers around and he says, he said, I'll. I'll stay 15 more years then. After his funeral about a month later, I was talking to Pastor Webb. I was in his office. We was talking about it. And he said because that was he was his pastor and he was showing me the like he had the dates down. He was showing me where he was in that meeting with the several ministers, some of whom you would very well know in the body of Christ now national ministers. And they asked him to stay. He said, I'll stay 15 years. Brother Hagan died 15 years to the week that he said, I'll stay 15 years. Catherine Coleman died. In the hospital. It's a change of nurses. But the nurse before us, Catherine Kuhlman, said, All I want you to know is I'm going to leave here on August. I forget the date. And she said, I'm going to leave here at 1:13 a.m.. She says, All I want you to do is tell them all I want in my funeral is roses. I love the smell of roses. Nurse left there. All her organs are shutting down. And all of a sudden the hospital was in two parts and several floors.

[01:40:29] Pastor West

Then it had a corridor that went to another hospital. She was actually in Tulsa. She was in Oklahoma doing a meeting and they had to get her to the hospital. And she says, the Lord said, I can come home. No one wanted to come home. I wanted Katherine to stay. She said, But I'm going to go. I'm going to leave at 1:13 a.m. I'm going to die and be with Jesus. 113 Tell them all I want is roses. Boy, the head nurse come up there. She was. She didn't know anything about the statement with the nurse. This is all documented. You can actually watch it on YouTube. Nurse comes up Benny and actually had the nurse years ago come to give the testimony at his meeting because Kathryn Kuhlman was his mentor. You could see the ministry almost runs almost the same. And so they she came in because you're not allowed to have floor flowers on on the critical care unit. And the smell of roses was on all the floors. Turned out the smell of roses went throughout the whole hospital, went through the corridor and went into the other part of the hospital. It was flooded with nothing but the smell of aroma with roses. And when the head nurse got there to chastise someone, there wasn't a rose in the room anywhere. The Lord let the beautiful smell of aroma, which she loved to flood the entire hospital. I don't know why he would do that.

[01:41:54] Pastor West

Why would God flood an entire hospital? With the aroma of roses. If he doesn't love someone that much. Amen. I didn't really preach a sermon to you today. I talked to you from my heart. This is not a message. It didn't have three or 4 or 5 points to it. But I talked to you about being a leader and leadership and walking to a different walk. Which means you have to lay some things down, which means you have to walk away from some things, which means you may have to walk away from some people. You're not better than them, but you can't walk. Maybe that relationship took you this far, but it can't go further because your walk goes somewhere that they're not willing to go or not called to go to. Every relationship doesn't always go like this together. Sometimes they intersect and then they go back this way. That's okay. You have very few people in life that will be like this with you all the way. It's a very rare thing for someone to have a friend all their lifetime. It's always been said, if you have one good friend in this world, one, you are a rich individual, you are a rich man or woman. If you have one good friend, could you imagine that someone who knows everything about you and still likes you? And if you're going to like someone, you ought at least like yourself. You know why you need to like yourself? You need to love yourself.

[01:43:22] Pastor West

You know why? Because you're told to. The other reason is you're probably going to spend a lot of time with you. That's right. How can we learn? I've learned a lot yourself. Hey, man. And some of you need to quit letting yourself a little bit more because all you think about is yourself. Hmm. So when people are always aware of their needs and what they don't have. It's because they haven't died yet. When you die to him. You take up his cross and you walk with him. You don't come concerned about what you don't have at that moment. Are you grateful for all the blessings? But it no longer. It no longer controls your life. He no longer controls your life. People say sometimes. But when the money don't come, I'm thinking, What do you mean? When the money don't come in? Hey, there was a lot of times the money didn't come in this place. That's right. You could pass the buck around 15 times. My board could set my salary, anything they wanted to. But if they don't come in, they don't come in. Right. We got that last night. I know you did. Had to. Emily and Parker sent that picture, man. I wanted to show it, but I wanted to be by myself. I wanted to do it next Sunday. Of that, I don't know what she was. She a midget? I suppose it look like an older person or as a child, I couldn't tell, but had never had walked in.

[01:45:01] Pastor West

And she they prayed for her. Prayed for her. She began to walk without pain for the first time. Was that in Peru? I suppose it was. And had criss crossing from Peru over to where we say the country, Brazil. And when you read the text from, it was Parker who sent it to me. I love Parker. He he calls me Uncle. Pastor. Uncle Eric. Pastor. Pastor. Uncle Eric. You could tell, you know, because he's. He's just now Emily's a little ahead of him, but he's taking all the. He says you all sent us. He said, But we've been crisscrossing back to two nations, He said, and I've got to see 40,000 people saved in 600 documented healings, instantaneous miracles, because someone in Chilton County says, Yes, I'll send you. He said, it's hard to take in. He said, I've seen 40,000 people saved. Do you know what the population Chunk County is? About 40,000. That means every house, every child, every young person. It'd be like if everyone in Chilton County was lost and got saved in a week or two. Amen. Hallelujah. I'm going to support that. Praise the Lord. Well, I preached two sermons, so we won't meet next Sunday. Now. You know that's a lie. Hallelujah. I would never work at one of the churches where you got to be through in 30 minutes, I think. I just. I just go back to selling floor covers.

[01:46:47] Pastor West

Huh?

[01:46:49] Pastor West

Yeah. It's got to get them in. Get them out. It takes a while to build something into people. You've got people that you need to sit down and think sometime with a letter, not not a text, a letter if they're still alive and thank them for what they put in you and deposited in you, whether you're a kid or they're still doing it right now. It may be a teacher, a friend somewhere, a coworker. You need to reach back sometimes and just send a letter just to say thank you. Some of you are your positions that you have at work. Someone trains you for that. Some all you businessmen. You had someone who trained you to do what you're doing. I remember when Nathan, I met him, he was working at Stokes, at Paint and Body. But the time I met him, he. I mean, he was working diligently over there, but he had a dream of having his own paint body business. He talked about it all the time. All the time. He wasn't going church with his time. He was going to another church and he'd come by our church and just leave notes all the time. Like, you know, we have a rival and y'all just come. He was excited. He was like he was like Paul Revere, a young Paul Revere. Jesus is coming. He told me every time for Sunday. He said, I used to pass your church for a few years. The Lord told me, That's supposed to be where you're supposed to be going to church. Well, the time came that he did.

[01:48:14] Pastor West

He came on a Sunday night or Sunday morning and came back that night, I think. And then all of a sudden, I had a vision. I had a vision. I don't have many of these visions. And I could remember his name, but didn't know him anything about him. And I saw I saw the church and I saw myself at the pulpit Say, Sir, Mr. Sir, Mr. Burns, would you come and come and stand right there? Don't come all the way up here, but stand right there. I was on the platform there and I said, Come out in that middle aisle and come and stop right there. I saw myself do this. Then I would come off the the pulpit area, the stage, and I would come and I would wrap my arms around him like this real tight. Now, he didn't show me what was going to fall. And he gave way and I just felt dead on top of him. It looked kind of crazy. But the Lord says, I won't even know that this is his place. And he'll know it by you wrapping his arms around him. That I've called him here. But the kids didn't understand it. Some of my nephews went home and asked. They said they said, Mom, daddy, how are we ever going to have a church and build people if Uncle Eric's going to tackle people on the ground? It'd be a good question because you wouldn't do it in the natural, would you? Let's give the Lord a shout before we go.

[01:49:44] Pastor West

Hallelujah.

[01:49:44] Pastor West

Glory to God.

END OF TRANSCRIPT



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