

Life in the Great Shepherd — Delivery Transcript

Hebrews 13:20–21 (CSB) · Wes Terry · Sunday, April 20, 2025 · Faith IRL

⚠ AUTO-GENERATED TRANSCRIPT — verify against the audio before quoting publicly. Produced from a Descript transcription of the Broadview Church sermon recording and lightly cleaned (filler words removed, obvious mis-hears of names and Scripture references corrected). No timestamps. This is not a publication-ready manuscript and it is not Wes's exact words for print. Check any line against the recording before it goes on a graphic, in an email, or in a book.

We're going to be in Hebrews chapter 13. Hebrews chapter 13. And as you're turning there, I want you to try to think back to the time, the last time in your life where you started a project assuming you had everything you needed to finish the project only to find out halfway through the project you couldn't finish it with the things that you had. Has that ever happened to anybody before? It's one of those Monday type of things where Monday keeps on coming. And the last time this happened to me was not on a Monday, it was on a Friday.

I was mowing my ginormous yard and there was some sucker rod I think that's what it's called laid down. I've gone over that sucker rod with that lawn mower ten times before. But for whatever reason, I don't know if it was a beetle underneath the sucker rod or whatever, it raised it just enough so that my mower blade caught that sucker rod and it sucked it up into that mower and it made the most horrific noise I think I've ever heard. Smoke was coming out of the spindles and I tried to turn the mower off and I drove it over to the shop or my little shed.

I can't much call it a shop. I drove it over to the little shed. And I thought, wow, you dummy. How are you going to fix this? So I got under there and it looked like the blades needed to be changed. You might imagine that. Blades needed to be changed. So I went to Tractor Supply. Guess what? They had the exact blades I needed. So I bought the blades. I borrowed a jack from my father-in-law who graciously obliged and I got under there and I took off all those blades and I replaced all the blades with these beautiful new blades and started the mower up and it was making the same noise. It wasn't the blades. Turned out I didn't need new blades, I needed a new spindle because I'd bent that spindle with that sucker rod and it was no longer going around the deck the way it was supposed to go.

And so guess who had to wait for two-day shipping from Amazon? That's right, this guy. And I waited for two days for that spindle to come in and I watched five or six YouTube videos on how to change out a spindle because I wasn't paying attention to my dad when he was trying to teach me how to be a man, obviously when I was growing up, and so I'm learning from

YouTube these days and then I changed out the spindle and it still wasn't working. Although it wasn't quite as bad. And then I looked and I actually had to get a sledgehammer.

And beat that carriage under there so I could get that blade to spin the way that it was supposed to spin. And I was so frustrated because I just didn't feel like I had what I needed to do the job that needed to be done. And it's very, very frustrating. If you've ever been in that position. And just like that can be true of lawnmower repair or general things in life, as you know, as simple as wedding planning to lawnmower repair. There is a sense, generally speaking, in which we can get to a place in our life where we just feel, generally speaking, I don't have what it takes to live the life that I've got.

Your life can't cash the check that you have written. And if you find yourself in that position, you've probably been like me when I was sitting there at the shop looking at those lawnmower blades, thinking to yourself I wish I could have the kind of life where I had what I needed. And I would say to you today in light of the passage we're reading that because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ God is not only able, but he's actually eager and willing to give you everything you need to live the life you should.

God is willing to give you everything you need to live the life you should. Not only is it available, it is gladly given by God, who loves you if you will just put yourself in a position to receive it. And that's the message of Hebrews 13 verses 20 to 21. In my Bible, the heading of it says benediction and farewell. Growing up, I always loved the word benediction because I thought it meant the sermon was over or the service was finally over. And so that was used to be my favorite word.

It's ironic I became a preacher. But it doesn't actually mean that. It doesn't mean service is over. It comes from two Latin roots, which is bene, which means good, and dicere, which means to speak. And so it is literally good words. These are the good words that are at the end of Hebrews chapter 13. And good words they are indeed, if you actually look at what he says. He is writing, of course, to second generation Christians who've converted from Old Testament Judaism. They had been drifting away from the Lord, back into that religious legalism of Judaism.

And so he's rebuked them, he's warned them, he's encouraged them to stop drifting, to press on, to keep believing. And now he closes with these good words in verse twenty. Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead, our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the everlasting covenant, equip you with everything good to do his will, working in us what is pleasing in his sight. Through Jesus Christ to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. Now that is one long run-on sentence.

Especially in the Greek New Testament, it's all one long run-on sentence. But if you take all the choppy syntax aside and you just focus on the big idea of what he's trying to

communicate it's essentially God will give you what you need to live the life you should. The God of peace will equip you to do his will. That's what Hebrews thirteen is saying. And it is a good word for Christians who were severely doubting whether or not they had within themselves what was necessary to live the life God wanted them to live.

That's why they were drifting back into that Old Testament Judaism. And the author of Hebrews is saying, I know you think going back to that will be the answer to all your problems that it will make everything good again, but it's actually not going to make your life better. It will in fact make your life worse. Because everything you need, God has already given you through Jesus the great Shepherd. And so God's greater life, according to the author of Hebrews, is found in Jesus the great Shepherd, which is an interesting title, is it not?

Jesus the great shepherd, it's right in line with what he's been doing in the book of Hebrews. The book of Hebrews is all about how Jesus is greater, greater priest, greater prophet, greater king. Better revelation, better foundation, better rest, better, better, better. Now he's saying not only is he a shepherd, he is the greatest shepherd. He is the good shepherd. But beyond the good, he's the great shepherd of the sheep. And the life that you need, the life God wants to give you so that you can have everything you need is available through faith.

Now the idea of a shepherd would have not been new for Jews coming out of Judaism because the Old Testament talks about God as a shepherd a lot. The famous Psalm 23, the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. That's a classic. But you've also got Ezekiel 34, Ezekiel 37, Micah chapter 5, Isaiah chapter 40. And I can keep listing them on and on. God is a shepherd to his people, but not only does the Old Testament say God is a shepherd, but that he's going to send a shepherd.

The idea being a human shepherd, who would shepherd his people much better than what they had been shepherded before. And he would rebuke the religious leaders like the Pharisees and the Sadducees because they were exploiting God's people instead of caring for them and tending to them. And so he says, I'm going to send a good shepherd who's going to meet your every need. And that shepherd is Jesus. And Jesus actually applies that title to himself, oddly enough, for those who think Jesus was just a good moral teacher and did not believe himself to be special.

Jesus in John chapter 10 says, I am the good shepherd. I'm Psalm 23. I'm what Psalm 23 is talking about. I'm that prophesied Messiah who was going to shepherd God's people. And as a shepherd, Jesus does some very important things for his people, who he calls his sheep. He knows them by name, he calls them by name, he cares for them, he guides them, he feeds them, he leads them, he keeps them, he protects them. All of these things are experienced by us because Jesus is a shepherd. And he is the great shepherd.

But when he says great shepherd, I think the reason he's using that imagery in this particular context is because there's a tendency in us when we think about living the great life to shift from a posture of dependence to a posture of self-reliance. And great effort. And what he's saying is, as a Christian, you can never lose the posture of a sheep. Because Jesus is eternally a shepherd, you must therefore eternally be dependent. That's what sheep are like on a shepherd. I don't know if you've ever handled sheep ever since becoming a sheep farmer.

I learned a lot about sheep. They're the most helpless, insecure, fearful animals on the planet, and they need someone to take care of their needs. And the reason I think the Bible gives that analogy to us is because we can never outgrow that posture of dependence. Obviously we're more than sheep, right? The Bible says we're children of God. The Bible says that we're the bride of Christ. You know that's pretty cool. The Bible says that we are co-heirs with Jesus, that we will rule, that we will judge angels, that we will shine like the sun.

But even though we may indeed be more than sheep, what Hebrews is saying is you will never be less. You can never lose the posture of ongoing dependence, because a posture of ongoing dependence is the means by which the greater life in Jesus will come. And if you lose that posture, you lose the greater life because Jesus is the great shepherd. He's more than a shepherd, right? He's the king of Kings, he's the Lord of Lords, he's the greater prophet priest, he's all of these things, but he's always never less than a shepherd, which means you can never be less than dependent if you want to receive the greater life.

And this is, I think, really amplified. If you see how he correlates Jesus, his resurrection, his great shepherding virtue alongside of what follows, which is this phrase. Through the blood of the everlasting covenant. In fact, if you throw that verse back up there in the Greek, it's translated a little differently than the CSB English. It's may the God of peace who brought up from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep, our Lord Jesus Christ, through the blood of the everlasting covenant. And so it's directly juxtaposing this phrase, through the blood with this idea of God bringing Jesus back from the dead.

Which is a kind of weird way to put it, to be honest. When I read this, I kind of had to take a double glance, because a lot of people separate those two things. Good Friday is different from Easter. The death of Jesus for our sin. Three days later, God raised him from the dead. But the author of Hebrews is saying, no, you can never see one without the other. You can't really understand the importance of the resurrection without viewing it through the lens of the death of Jesus on the cross.

Now what is the relationship? Well, imagine you're a Christian coming out of Old Testament Judaism. You are struggling to believe that the death of Jesus was sufficient to cover your sin, to give you the greater life. And so you're drifting back into the Old Testament Judaism when the author of Hebrews comes along and says, the death of Jesus is sufficient, and the

way you know it was sufficient is because God raised him from the dead. All of a sudden you begin to get a little more certainty instead of the doubt that was crippling your faith.

He's saying the resurrection is historical proof of a theological truth that your sins are forgiven. That you have everything you need. You don't need Jesus plus something else. All you need is Jesus because God raised Jesus from the dead to prove that true. And that is what the resurrection means for us today. The resurrection is historical evidence, a historical, undeniable history altering reality that testifies to every person who sees it, Jesus is enough. You don't need Jesus plus. It's not Jesus and all you need is Jesus. The greater life God gives is through Jesus, the great shepherd.

And the resurrection is the proof you need to know he's all you need. That's the point of Hebrews 13. That's the good word. The good word is God desperately desires to give you a life in which you have everything you need through Jesus, your great shepherd, who got raised from the dead to set in stone, to make certain in your heart that He's all you'll ever need. Now, how does that look practically? Well, if you just take Hebrews 13 and this benediction as a template. There's three things that the death of Jesus secured that the resurrection proves true.

And they're all in Hebrews 13. There's a greater peace. With God because of the death of Jesus and his resurrection. There's a greater power is the word I'm going to use, and then there's a greater power. First let's look at this idea of peace. May the God of peace equip you with everything good to do his will. The Bible talks about God a lot of ways, but it rarely talks about God of this, God of that. He talks about the God of comfort sometimes. God is love, but this idea that he's a God of peace is pretty instructive given the original audience.

They needed peace because they were feeling very stressed because of the social pressure they were experiencing to convert out of Christianity. We need peace because we live in a world full of absolute chaos. There are literal wars going on in the world right now in the Middle East and in Europe, Ukraine and Russia and all that stuff. You have a political polarization in our culture today that is pretty severe. You probably today, because it's Easter Sunday, are going to go to grandma's house or somebody's house for dinner, and somebody's going to be there.

You forgot you don't like very much, and you're going to be reminded today how little you like them. Or maybe how little they like you. So there's opposition relationally, there's opposition politically, there's all kind of chaos economically right now. Oh what's the financial news? CNBC? No. What's the what's the money news channel? Nobody watches the money news channel? Evidently I don't either. I watch it on YouTube like most other things. But Squawk Box. Turn on Squawk Box. All you hear about is the financial uncertainty and nobody knowing what's going to come.

In that way I think the illustration of a shepherd is apropos, because sheep are the most frightened, fearful creatures anywhere. This really came home to me. I was thinking about this text. I was in the back pasture cleaning up some mesquite trees. This is the best time to clean mesquite trees because all the living ones are really green. And all the dead ones are not. So you just find all the dead branches and you pull them down and you throw them in a pile. That's what I was doing Saturday. And I had let the sheep into the back pasture and it was really nice grewed up, big green grass, and the sheep were like cats on catnip.

They were just super excited. They were running in, they were running around the perimeter, they were finding all the tall grass, they were laying down in it. They were super excited and they were they were over there eating, everything was cool, and I stepped on a branch that was pretty big and pretty dry and it made this big loud pop. And I swear one of the baby lambs jumped ten feet in the air. I'd never seen anything like it. He goes up super high. And then all the other sheep, when they see that little lamb jump up in the air, they all got spooked.

They jumped up and they ran back to the front pasture. Because they're just not made to deal with threats. They're too fat to be fast. They don't have any claws. They don't have any kind of defensive mechanisms. In fact when a real predator is coming after a sheep, a lot of times they'll just lay down and pretend to be dead so that maybe the predator will get bored. And move on with their life. They are animals in need of peace, which is why they need a shepherd who can create the kind of climate so that peace can be enjoyed.

And that's what Jesus does for Christians. He gives us a better peace. Now, what kind of peace does he give us? Well, relationally, the most important peace he gives us is obviously peace with God. He takes the enmity and wrath that God was pouring over our head because of our sin, and he absorbs that wrath into his own body on the cross so that instead of being condemned and judged by God, we can be redeemed, adopted, and loved by God. And that happens through his blood. Through the blood of the covenant, that new covenant that Jesus creates, he creates because he takes his sinless life and he lays it down as an atoning sacrifice in our place for our sin, and then takes his sinless life and credits it to us so that when God sees us, he doesn't see our brokenness and sin.

He sees his son, whom he loves, and he welcomes us into his presence. So that's a big deal. Jesus has paid every sin debt, and because of that we can have peace with God. But the sin debt that Jesus pays also enables us to have peace with other people. That person at the Easter table who you're going to probably avoid or make pleasant conversation with, even though it's extremely difficult. The reason that there's opposition between the two of you is either because you sinned against them or they sinned against you, or even worse, they sinned against someone you love very much.

And one of the things that makes Christians unique is their ability to take people who have sinned against them and to treat them as though. They no longer owe a debt. Because that's what happens when someone sins against you. They owe you. That's why forgiveness is hard, because when you forgive someone, you're paying the debt. You can get revenge, which is to make them pay the debt, or you can pay the debt twice. They take from you in sinning against you, and then they take from you again in forgiveness because you take what they owe you and you pay it yourself that's why, again, forgiveness is so difficult because you're paying the debt they should have paid you.

How can you do that if you don't have a endless fountain of grace from which to draw? That is the only way Christians can forgive unforgivable acts and unlovely people. And that unlimited fountain is because of what Jesus has done at the cross. He paid not only your sin debt. That you could not repay to God when you had no desire to do so. He also paid their sin debt that they owed, not just to God, but to you, because every sin is fundamentally not just against you, but the greatest offense is always against the Father.

He paid that sin debt against you so that you can find within yourself a unique grace to say, because he has forgiven me. When I was undeserving, I choose to forgive them though they are undeserving, and either their sins will be atoned for by the death of Jesus on the cross, or a God who is just will get justice in the end. And either way, it's not my place, it's not my business. I choose to forgive. And that gives you peace with people. That is uniquely better than any kind of peace that this world can offer.

The greater life, the way that you can always have what you need to live the life you should is because Jesus has given you a greater peace with God and other people. And ultimately even your circumstances, even your suffering, even your pain. There is no pain that Jesus can't redeem. And if you ever doubt it, just look to the resurrection. Because what the resurrection shows you is that even the worst moment of human history, the crucifixion of Jesus, who was sinless and did no wrong, even that moment, God worked in it and through it to bring about the salvation of the world.

And if he can redeem that suffering, then he can redeem your suffering as deep and painful as it may be. And some of our people in our church have walked through some very painful suffering. And I would never in a thousand years be so brazen to say this is why. This is why God did what he did in your life, or this is why God allowed what he allowed in your life. I have no idea. But here's one thing I do know, God can take beauty from the ashes. He can infuse those tears and that pain and that unspeakable horror.

And infuse it with divine purpose so that even though what happened to you is not good and breaks the heart of God, he works through what happened to bring good and redemption. Because if he does if he could do it through the cross, he can do it through your cross. He can do it through your pain. And that enables you to have the kind of life where you'll never not

have what you need to persevere through suffering. Because Jesus has given me a better peace. But he also gives you something else.

It's an interesting word if you look in verse 21. May the God of peace equip you with everything good to do his will. Again, you read the word equip, what do you think? Think of like a football helmet, shoulder pads? Tools? That's not what the word really means. The word is a Greek word.

In fact, the CSB has a footnote. My CSB footnote says perfect. What does yours say if you look at it? Some of you may not have one, but that's what the Greek word actually means. And the best illustration of this word I think is a physical therapist. A physical therapist has a job to do, which is to take your broken muscle or your broken bone and to prepare you through exercises and therapy to use that bone the way that it used to be used, to get it fully operational so that when game day comes, you're ready to go.

That's what this word means. That's what equip means. Sometimes in the New Testament it's used to talk about preparing fishing nets for going fishing. Sometimes it's used to talk about preparing yourself for the second coming of Jesus, but in every case the idea is that you take something that isn't ready for game day and you do whatever is necessary so that it is ready for game day. And that's what God does for us, and that's why through the life of Jesus we can have everything we need because no matter what happens to us, God is using it to prepare us.

And so for lack of a better term, we don't just have a greater peace, we have a greater prep. We have a greater prep. He is using all things good. To equip us for his will. Now, what are the all things? Well, there's a lot of things. In Hebrews, you've got Jesus, he's given us a greater revelation than the Old Testament, He's given us a greater deliverance than Moses and the people out of Egypt, he's given us greater rest than the promised land, he's given us a greater foundation than Old Testament Judaism.

All of these are the warning passages. And every warning passage was trying to communicate Jesus gives us something better. God has done a better thing through Jesus than what came before. We have a better community. We have a better cloud of witnesses before whom we run our race. We have a greater kingdom, a greater life that can't be shaken. But it doesn't specify what the greater thing is. What is everything good? It could be the good in your life that God has given you that you're really, really thankful for. Maybe for some of you it's your family.

God has given you a beautiful family. Giving you a beautiful child or husband or opportunity maybe for you maybe a business owner God's giving you this really wonderful thing and you think, that's it, I'm going to have the life I really want because of this good thing God has given me. It could be a physical asset like a house or a certain number in your bank account,

it could be a lot of those things, but I don't think that's what he's talking about. And I don't even know that this is what he's talking about, because there's no specification of what everything good means.

So the lack of a specific designation in my mind points to a more universal truth. Which Paul I think talks about in Romans 8 when he says, if he who did not spare his own son, but graciously gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Or when he says God works all things together for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose, that seems to be the all things that Hebrews is talking about. Because again, remember he's not talking to Christians who have like got a new house.

I'm so excited. It's not Christians who got a new car or just got married. It's Christians who are suffering. It's Christians who are in the valley low. They're wondering. How in the world can being a follower of Jesus create this kind of hardship? I don't want to follow Jesus anymore. And he's saying, no. God is actually working in that and through that to prepare you for the life you need. He's prepared you, he's equipped you with everything you need to live according to his purpose. Even the hard things. So essentially, all that happens to us, God is actually working for us.

In the good and the bad. In the tears and the joys. In the greatest day, in the worst, lowest valley, God is equipping. And the reason he can do that is, or the way you know he is doing that is by looking to the death of Jesus on the cross and God's resurrection of Jesus from the grave. That's the proof positive that God can work in and through even the worst of things. To prepare you for what's coming, to give you everything you need to live the life you should. He's given you a greater prep.

He's given you a greater peace. And then he closes with this final greater gift of greater power. He equips you with everything good to do his will, working in us what is pleasing in his sight. It's I know easy for me to say as a preacher on a stage, even though you suffer, God is using it for your good. It's a totally different thing to be in the valley and be persuaded of that truth. And you may feel like if you're in that valley, I just don't have it in me.

I just don't have what it takes to keep believing. Just like these Christians were feeling, I don't have what it takes to keep believing. And so what he does in this benediction, these final good words, he is saying, not only does God control the inputs so that you have everything you need to do his will, he's also Determining the outputs because it is he who works within you to do what you need to do. He takes everything that happens and he uses it to prepare you. And in the process of preparation, he is energizing and empowering every step you take.

It's not as though you put in 50% and then God puts in 50%. Although that's how a lot of people live the Christian life. I'll do everything I can do, I'll try as hard as I can possibly try,

and then God will take care of the rest. And that's not the message of the New Testament gospel. It's not as though God, like a father teaching a kid how to ride a bike, you know how the dad'll just push the bike enough so that they can get enough traction to start pedaling.

Some people think that's how the Christian life works. You know God kind of gets me started and then I keep running. God aren't you proud of me look at me go. That's not the Christian life either. Paul says in Philippians 2, you got to work out your salvation. Yes, you should be active. You should be doing. For it is God who works in you. Paul said, I worked harder than any of the other apostles. Kind of arrogant thing to say. But he said, but it wasn't me. It was the grace of God in me.

So it's like I'm taking the first step. But in my taking the first step, God is taking the first step because God is at work in me as I take each step. And how different would your life be if in those moments you realized, I just can't do it, Lord. I don't have what it takes instead of focusing on what you don't have, being reminded of what you do have and that he is at work within you to walk according to his will. This was helpful for me getting ready this morning.

You know, I always stress out before I get up here. I get a little nervous, butterflies, all this stuff. And I was like, man, it's Easter Sunday. You got to really deliver the goods. And the Holy Spirit was like, because God is working in you. So, you know, if you can forget about yourself just a little bit here, Wes. It's not about you. And it's not about you. That's why these are good words. The life we want. A life in which we have everything we need.

Is available to us through Jesus the great shepherd, but it requires from us a posture of dependence. And if you will remain humble and submissive and dependent on the shepherd, he will overshadow you with greater peace. He will take whatever is going on and he will use it for his purpose. He will redeem the pain. And he will actually provide through his Holy Spirit every power you need, physically, emotionally, spiritually, in every way. To help you be pleasing in the eyes of God. And really what is pleasing in the eyes of God is not a great sermon.

It's not a successful business. It's not a kid who never makes mistakes. What really pleases the Lord is you having faith in Jesus every single day. It's you trusting he has done it. I'm resting in him alone. And so really all that God wants from you, if you just take this text as an example, is a posture of dependence. Well how can I have a posture of dependence? Well let's look at the text one more time. He opens it with a prayer, may the God of peace, may the God of peace, he's praying.

God, this thing you've promised to do, will you do for these people? And then at the end, he praises God. He says, to whom, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever, which is an act of worship. And if I had to boil the Christian life down, it is repentance and faith from beginning to end. The only thing really God wants from you is a posture of

dependence. And the way you pursue a life of dependence is through prayer and praise. That's it. Prayer, why prayer? What prayer does is prayer communicates to you and to the Lord.

I can't, but you can. Prayer is how you embody a posture of dependence. In fact, for those of you who don't pray, I'm just right there with you, I think the reason we don't pray is not because we're too busy, it's because we're too proud. It's because I think I got this part covered, Lord. I'll only pray when I don't have it covered. And the New Testament is inviting us to a greater life of prayer because in every moment you get to recognize I'm working because God is working in.

I'm joyful because God is working through. Everything that happens to me, God is working for me. I can have peace because Jesus has paid it all. That is how you continue in a posture of dependence is by increasing in your life of prayer. And so if you have a prayerless life, you will not have the greater life. You can't have the greater life if you have a prayerless life. The greater life in Jesus comes through greater prayer. And so I want to encourage us to do that this morning. And then finally also greater praise to whom through Jesus Christ to whom be glory forever and ever.

When we think about Christian worship at Broadview Baptist Church, it's not just that we worship God in general. We want to worship God the Father through the exaltation of God the Son and the power of God the Spirit. You actually see all three members of the Trinity present in the benediction. God the Father gives the peace through God the Son who purchased the peace that gets applied to you through God the Spirit who applies that peace in your life. God the Father gives you the power.

God the Son enables the power. God the Spirit applies the power. So worship Jesus for what he's done. And if you have a life characterized by genuine worship before the Lord, you will have a life that is much more characterized by dependence on the great Shepherd. And if you'll have a life of dependence, God will give you what you need to live the life you should. And so that's what I want us to do as we enter into this time of response. The first prayer that I think some of us might pray this morning.

Is a prayer people call the sinner's prayer. It's just a prayer to God recognizing I don't have this peace in Jesus and I desperately need it because I know I don't know what to do with my guilt before the Lord, and I know Jesus alone can save me, and so I'm tired of trying to lean on myself and I want to trust in Jesus for salvation. And if that's you this morning, if you're not a Christian and you feel guilt before the Lord because of your sin, and you need God's grace and forgiveness through Jesus, you can obtain that by faith.

You communicate that faith through prayer. So I'm just going to give you a little sample prayer. You can go ahead and close your eyes and bow your heads with me. This is not

anything anybody else needs to see. This is between you and the Lord. But if you would just say, Father, I believe that you love me and that you sent Jesus to bring me peace. And so I confess my sin. I understand that it has separated me from you and the life you want to live, the life you want to give me.

And so I repent of my sin and I put my faith in Jesus. And just call out to him, Jesus, would you save me? Jesus, I'm so tired. I'm so weak. I just can't do it anymore. I need you to save me. And the Bible says anybody who calls on the name of the Lord, they will be saved. If you believe in your heart. And you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord. That God raised him from the dead, you'll be saved. And so just pray that, Lord, would you save me?

I receive you into my life. Make you my Savior, my Lord. Amen. You should continue to remain in an attitude of prayer if you're a Christian person. That is the Christian life from beginning to end. So as you examine your life and you see areas where there's a lack of peace. Where there's a lack of perspective of what God is doing in your pain where there's a lack of power to live the life you feel God calling you to live, would you this morning fix your eyes on Jesus? Would you look to his resurrection?

Be reminded of God's promise and just ask him. God, would you give me peace? God, would you help me trust your purpose in my pain? I don't have to understand it. I certainly don't like it. Would you help me trust you? Would you keep me believing so that I don't shipwreck in my faith? And would you fill me with your power so that I can take one step, put it in front of the other, until you complete this greater life you're building for me. Father, we thank you for this time and your word.

We thank you for your promise that everything we need has already been given to us in Jesus. We ask you to forgive us for those tendencies we have, just like the people in Hebrews, to drift away from that into the lesser life. And we ask, Holy Spirit, that you would open our eyes to see how we can rediscover, receive afresh and anew the greater life. That's already been purchased through Jesus. His life, his death, and his resurrection. And we pray now as we enter into this time of response, you would give us really concrete, specific examples of what obedience should look like.

We pray it in Jesus' name, amen.