



## Beyond the Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: You're Doing it Wrong

This guide offers a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print it to study on your own or use it in a group to experience transformation together.

### Message Theme

The Secret To Calling Things Into Being

### Prayer Focus

*"Heavenly Father, open our hearts and minds to Your Word today. Teach us to see ourselves as You see us, to walk in faith, and to hold fast to Your promises. May Your Spirit guide our thoughts, strengthen our hope, and grow our faith as we meditate on Your truth. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

### Key Truths

We may begin our day by reading the Bible, but true meditation means carrying it with us throughout the day—turning it over in our minds, applying it to our lives, and asking questions like, *"How does God's Word shape the way I treat the people around me?"* It's not enough that God sees *us* a certain way; we must learn to see ourselves through His eyes. With the imagination He has given us, we can picture ourselves living in His promises even before they come to pass, standing firm in faith.

God gave us His Word to transform our thinking. If we don't view ourselves the way He does, we'll never exist above the level of our own limited perspective. Faith is meant to grow—"faith to faith." The faith we start with is not enough to carry us into our destiny; we must continually deepen it, rooted in the knowledge of who we are in Christ.

In the New Testament, hope is more than wishful thinking—it is a positive imagination of what God has spoken. Faith doesn't change God or persuade Him to act against His will; it is simply believing what He has already promised. Faith must be active. A promise alone does not guarantee its fulfillment in our lives. As Jesus said in Matthew 11:12, *"The kingdom of heaven has been suffering violence, and the violent take it by force."* We cannot be passive about God's promises, because the enemy is always working to distract, deter, and keep us confined according to the lies we've believed and empowered. Faith requires persistence, focus, and determination to see things the way He sees them and walk in that as our reality.

### Practical Application

You cannot wait until adversity strikes to prepare—you must build strength ahead of time. That means storing God's Word in your heart, meditating on it daily, and allowing it to shape your thoughts and actions. Faith grows when you consistently feed it with the Word and prayer.

Keep God's promises in front of you. Write them down, speak them out, and picture yourself walking in them. When His Word is alive in your heart, you'll be ready to stand firm no matter what comes.

## Reference Verses

- Joshua 1:8
- Isaiah 26:3
- Proverbs 23:7
- Judges 6:11-14
- 2 Corinthians 5:16
- Romans 12:2, 4:17-22
- Genesis 12:2-3, 13:16, 15:5
- Hebrews 11:1
- Matthew 11:12
- James 1:5-8

## Declarations:

- "God's Word is alive in me, shaping my thoughts and guiding my actions."
- "I will not be passive about His promises—I will stand in faith and seize them."
- "I will walk boldly in Christ, knowing that His promises belong to me."
- "No adversity will shake me, because I have hidden God's Word in my heart."

## What's Next?

Here are three ways you can implement this teaching to shift your mental habits and align your life with the principles discussed:

### 1. Practice "Spiritual Ruminating"

In this message, Pastor Duane compares meditation to a cow chewing its cud—processing the same information multiple times to extract all the nutrients. Instead of reading a large chapter of the Bible, pick **one specific verse** (like Joshua 1:8 or Isaiah 26:3) and "mutter" it to yourself throughout the day.

- **The Action:** Choose a verse in the morning. Speak it out loud while driving, washing dishes, or walking. Ask yourself: *"How does this specifically change the way I treat my family or coworkers today?"*

### 2. Audit Your "Imagination" (Swap Worry for Hope)

Pastor Duane defined worry as "meditation on the wrong thing"—focusing on the worst-case scenario. And, he notes that "hope" is the New Testament word for a godly imagination, meaning you can actively redirect your mental pictures.

- **The Action:** This week, every time you catch yourself visualizing a negative outcome (worry), stop and

deliberately visualize the "God-case scenario" based on a promise. If you feel fear about a bill, stop and picture God as your provider instead of picturing a bank foreclosure.

### **3. Shift from "Sin-Conscious" to "Blood-Conscious"**

People often disqualify themselves because of their past or their "Barney Fife" (weak) tendencies. To be "blood-conscious" means focusing on your new identity in Christ rather than your old mistakes.

- **The Action:** When a thought of past failure or inadequacy arises, do not argue with it. Instead, say out loud: *"I am a new creation; the blood of Jesus has cleansed my conscience."* Practice seeing yourself as the "mighty man or woman of valor" that God sees, rather than the "Gideon in the winepress" hiding in fear.

**Which of these three areas—consistent meditation, flipping worry into hope, or shifting your self-image—do you feel is the biggest "sunken boat" in your life right now?**