

Summary

This sermon emerged from a powerful early morning prayer experience where the pastor felt led by the Holy Spirit to address the spirit of despair affecting both individuals and the church. The message centers on the theme of not losing hope even when we've done everything we know to do and are waiting on God's promises to be fulfilled. Using biblical examples from 2 Corinthians 4:8, Isaiah 59:19, and 1 Samuel 30, the pastor emphasizes that God is always on the move even when we can't see it, and that we must strengthen ourselves in the Lord during difficult seasons. The sermon concludes with a prophetic declaration that it's time for the church to 'pursue, overtake, and recover all' that the enemy has stolen, comparing their situation to David's recovery of everything that was taken from his camp. The pastor believes they are on the verge of a new season and encourages the congregation to hear 'the sound of an abundance of rain' - God's blessing and breakthrough coming after a time of spiritual drought.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts, acknowledging that You are always on the move even when we cannot see it. As we gather together today, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to speak to us. Help us to lay aside any discouragement or weariness we may be carrying and position ourselves to hear Your voice clearly. Lord, we invite Your Holy Spirit to move among us and teach us how to strengthen ourselves in You during difficult seasons. May this time together draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one thing you've been waiting for that seemed to take much longer than expected, and how did you handle the waiting period?

Key Verses

- 2 Corinthians 4:8
- Isaiah 59:19
- 1 Samuel 30:6
- 1 Samuel 30:8

- 1 Samuel 30:19
- 1 Kings 18:41

Questions

- How do you distinguish between being 'perplexed' (not knowing which way to turn) versus being 'confused' in your spiritual walk?
- The pastor mentioned doing 'everything we know to do' but still waiting on God's promises. Can you share a time when you felt this way and how you handled it?
- What does it mean to you personally to 'strengthen yourself in the Lord' during difficult times?
- How can worship and praise help us when we're facing situations that could lead to despair?
- The sermon talks about the enemy coming in 'like a flood' but also God coming in 'like a rushing stream.' How do you discern the difference in your own life?
- What are some 'God dreams' or promises that you feel the enemy has tried to steal from you or your family?
- The prophet in 1 Kings heard 'the sound of an abundance of rain' before seeing any clouds. How can we develop this kind of prophetic faith in our own lives?
- What does it look like practically to 'pursue, overtake, and recover all' in your personal situation or relationships?

Life Application

This week, identify one area where you've been tempted toward despair or have given up hope. Commit to 'going up again' in prayer and worship for that situation. Spend time each day strengthening yourself in the Lord through praise and declaring His goodness, even if circumstances haven't changed. Ask God to help you hear 'the sound of abundance' in that area of your life.

Key Takeaways

- We can be perplexed without falling into despair because God is always on the move, even when we can't see it
- When facing overwhelming situations, we must strengthen ourselves in the Lord through worship and praise before moving to prayer

- God comes in like a rushing stream to drive away the enemy - He is the one doing the flooding, not the enemy
- It's time to pursue, overtake, and recover all that the enemy has stolen from us personally and as a church
- We are on the verge of a new season and should listen for 'the sound of an abundance of rain' - God's breakthrough after drought

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for reminding us today that You are always on the move and that we don't have to live in despair. We choose to strengthen ourselves in You and to trust that You are bringing us into a new season of breakthrough. Help us to pursue, overtake, and recover all that the enemy has tried to steal from our lives, our families, and our church. Give us ears to hear the sound of Your abundance even before we see the evidence. We declare that like David, we will recover all and that nothing will be missing from what You have promised us. Fill us with hope and expectation for what You are about to do. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.