

# Increasing Your Wattage

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Luke 14:25-27

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Morning, I'm pastor Darryl. One of the older, no, the oldest pastor on our staff. Jon has me come in from time to time just to stir you up, to irritate you, my wife says it's my particular gift. Hebrews 10:25 says, "Do not forsake. You gather yourself together," which is the habit of Some, "But stimulate one another in the love of good deeds." And the word stimulate, and the Greek speaks of a long pole with a pointed end. That they would stimulate animals by poking them in the backside. It can also be translated, to irritate. So, Holly does say that is my gift. So, I'm here to irritate you on love and good deeds. Let's go ahead and put it up, and you're going to be sitting there going, "What is that all about?" Well, you're going to be wondering for the next 30 minutes. But in that picture is a clue to the whole point of the message this morning. You know, we live at a time that the world's getting rough. Some will say it's getting really darker. You look at just the events of this week in Texas. They don't get darker than that. Talk about innocence. How could a young man be so deceived, so in trouble in his soul, that could take such innocence away from so many people?

You know, we need to be praying for those families. We also need to be praying for the Christians that surround those families, that they are faithful to love, faithful to show the love of God in the hope that those little innocent ones, they are safe in the presence of God. But what is left, is I cannot imagine what those parents are feeling. So, let's take some time and pray for them right now. Heavenly Father, we don't even pretend to understand. And yet Lord, You are our sovereign, but we see in the world that we live in, it is dark. It's getting rough living down here, and we see evil just walking around, having and showing its way. And we see this suffering and the sorrow of innocence. But I pray that You give Your special presence to these families who've lost such a precious thing in their lives. Or that You would encourage the Christians and use the Christians, to minister to them of hope and love, and compassion. Father is any of us connected and tis there anything we can do? Then Lord guide us. But we put this into Your hands in trust and we pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. And God's people said. Well, you know our nature in this fallen world, people say things are falling apart.

No, they're probably falling in place. Jesus said, "It's going to become more like the days of Noah." This world's not going to get more and more safe. And it is going to become more dark. And by dark, we mean more and more people are being deceived and really confused. And it's our nature to want to curse the darkness. Boy, I'll tell you, let's blame this, let's blame the police. Why didn't you get there sooner? Let's blame the teacher who didn't lock the door behind her. Let's blame, let's blame. And it is so easy to join in the course of everybody else around us and curse the darkness. But who's going to light some candles? Who's going to bring some light into this darkness? And if not us, who would it be? You see, your problem is we speak in metaphors. I just did it right there. So, let's light candles and bring light. Great. What in the world does that mean? Let's break out of the metaphor and what are we talking about?

We're talking about the reason you were created in the first place. Talking about sense of purpose, is the reason you were saved in the first place that has everything to do with sanctification. That is spiritual growth. Once you're saved, then what? Why were you saved?

Then what? And His sanctification really has everything to do with where do you go from here as a Christian? And the fact is you grow, you deepen and it's called sanctification. It's the spirit of God conforming you, changing you so that you think differently, you behave differently like someone else. But who's that someone else? And why is it him? You know, there are themes to books, themes to movies, themes to songs. Have you ever wondered what the theme of the universe is? And when we finally get over that maybe it's not us, because Psalm 19 says the heavens declare the glory of God, and the expanse, the skillfulness of His workmanship.

So, I look at the heavens and the earth and I go, "Okay." See, God wants to be known. God's not hiding. How does He begin the Bible? He begins Genesis 1:1. "Hi, I'm God. I made everything. I want you to learn something about Me." And so, Psalm 19 says, "We learned something about God's glory." Well, it's the Apostle Paul in Romans chapter 1:18,19 explains it. When Paul says, "We're really without excuse, because the reality is by the Creation itself God made Himself known, and He gives us two things that are invisible that would not be visible unless He made us known through the Creation." And he says, "God's eternal power and His divine nature can they be clearly seen through the Creation." What is that? Well, okay. The eternal power. Picture you were God and you want to try to communicate to your Creation, the concept, the concept of eternal.

How big would you make the universe? I know that some of the universe is so huge has got to be life on other planets. We're puny little things stuck over there in the corner. So, we get a good view of the rest of it. But you see, Paul gives another explanation. How big would you make the universe if you were God and you wanted to communicate the concept of not just power, but eternal power. I would say the universe is about the right size. Wouldn't you? And as far as His divine nature's the second thing, His intelligence. Well, what do you learn about God's intelligence through the Creation? Well, gee, what am I doing right now? I'm blowing air at you. I got two little vocal cords vibrating that air. Somehow it hits your tympanic membrane in your ear, which vibrates these three little bones hooked up to a little seashell, full of goop, with little hairs in it. And that wiggles and wiggles those hairs. And you hear my thoughts and you understand, hopefully.

The fact is that's a bit complicated. And yet you look at biology, geology, you look around us and the complexities of chemistry. Oh yeah. God's made himself known through the Creation, but I got a little problem. I was kind of a squirly little kid. I was smaller than you. I got beat up a lot. And I remember that there were kids on the school grounds that were big, strong and smart, and we called them bullies. So, if all I know through the Creation is God is big, powerful and smart. How do I know He's just not some huge cosmic bully, just pushing us around, using us any way He wants? How could I ever know what God has really like, His person? How's He going to manifest that through a stone?

And yet Genesis 1:27 says, "God, when he created all of this, He created man, both male and female. He created us in His own ..." what? In His own image. Do you ever wonder what that meant? You see nowhere in the Bible does say, "God creates any other creature in His image." They can't do what we can do. Matter of fact, in the Bible, nowhere does it say angels are created in the image of God. They can't do what we do. What is it that we do? Image of God is we have, with these bodies, the capacity to manifest the beauty of the person of our Creator. Say, can't we learn that from angels? No. Study angels. All you learn from them is they obey. I mean, they obey a lot. But they never teach you anything about the person of God, about His love, His compassion, His perseverance, His forgiveness.

So, all of the person that makes the beauty of God, who God is, how is He going to communicate to it? If it's just through His Creation, Heaven's on the earth. All we know He is a big maybe bully because He's all powerful and He's super intelligent. But the beauty of His person comes through those He created in His own image, which is all of us. Our problem is that this thing is a little smudged. I mean human beings, we can manifest love and graciousness, compassion, forgiveness, but we also manifest selfishness, self-preserving, hatred, anger, vengeance. So, I get a little confused. What is God like? Because the image of God's pretty well smeared in most people. And yet God wants to redeem us, to redeem His image. So, that once again, we can find our purpose of our Creation. That was the manifest the beauty of what God is really is like. Why do you think Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:19 and 20. "Don't you know you've been bought with a price? Therefore, glorify God with your body." The word glorify is the word 'doxazo'. The Greek word speaks to manifest and reflect God's glory.

His person, the beauty of what He's like. Now the only thing is, all right, if that's bringing light, showing people what our Creator really is like, well, how do I get started? Well, you get started by, first of all, God saved you. I mean, He made you His child. He made it possible for that image to actually work again. Remember John 1:12, "But as many as believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, to them God gave the authority to become the ..." what? Children of God, Romans 8:16. "Don't you know the spirit of God in you bears witness with your spirit?" Reminding you you are a what? Child of God. 2 Corinthians chapter 6, God says, "I'll be a Father to you. And you will be son and daughters to Me." Even within the Trinity you see the kind of relationship God wants. Instead of God, Father God to Son, God to Spirit, they could have just identified Himself as 1, 2, 3. One, so loved the world, He said. Number two. Number two died on the cross, was raised from the dead by number one. But then He said, number three. But then number three, we've got number one and two, because number one loves the world. Now that would be great for a mathematician. But that doesn't mean anything because God didn't want to be numbers. He chose He'd be a Father to a Son and a Son to a Father. That's the relationship He wants. See, God's got all kinds of creatures. He's got dogs, worms, pigs, insects, and us. But the difference is we are what we bear, we're created in His own image So, that we can do that which nothing else can do, but by becoming a child of God, that means He had to take care of the big cosmic betrayal.

Fact that we creatures, He doesn't want a relationship between creator and creature. Because what is that? Creatures run from, ignorant of, ignore, or don't even exist. Believe there's a Creator. But God wanted a relationship of father to a daughter, a father to a son. And so, He took care of our betrayal by pouring wages of sinners' death. So, he pours His holy wrath on His own Son on the cross. And why do you think Christ cries out, "My God, my God, why have Thou forsaken me?" Well, because He's panicking. No, you don't quote scripture when you panic, and He's quoting Psalm 22:1. Because, at that moment, He's experiencing this consequence of the holy wrath of God, for all people sin on the cross, so that the Father can offer us a pardon, forgiveness. Have you ever tried to forgive somebody who doesn't believe they've done anything wrong?

Have you ever tried to forgive somebody who doesn't want to be forgiven? Well, that's what repentance is all about. It's just telling the truth. How can God give you that forgiveness if you don't believe you need it. And that's all what repentance is. It's coming to the point in your life that you tell the truth. "God, I'm a sinner. I've turned my back on You, and I basically want to manifest the goodness of me, and live my life and be my lord." And that's what the Bible calls a sin. And yet to finally come to a point in your life, you tell the truth, "God, I'm a sinner. I turned

my back on you. That is cosmic betrayal. But God thank you for providing for my forgiveness. I need Your forgiveness. Will You forgive me?" And the Father then not only forgives you, but He welcomes you as one of His sons, one of His daughters. And now the image, the very reason you were created has a chance to do what it was created to do, to manifest the reality of your Heavenly Father. Because when a child has a loving, caring father, it's the nature of a child to do what? To want to honor that father. See, that's the most remarkable thing. Christians we are, but disciples we're becoming. We were labeled Christians by the world about 2000 years ago, based on Acts 11 in Antioch. You see, our ancestors in the faith were not very good compatriots. Because in Rome, if you were a compatriot, then every six months you'd pinch a little incense and say, "Caesar is Lord." And the word Caesar is the word 'Kaiser' in the Greek, like World War I, the Kaiser of Germany. And so, they were called 'Kaiserianous', Caesar worshipers, compatriots. But our ancestors of the faith, they wouldn't do it.

They wouldn't declare Caesar is Lord. They only declared that Jesus Christ is Lord. So, they began to mock them by saying they're Christ worshipers, they're 'Christianous', and the name stuck. And that's where we got the word Christian, and anybody can claim to be a Christian. But you know, the Father never calls us Christians. The Father calls us His children. Jesus never calls us Christians. He calls us His disciples. His disciples. Do you know the word disciple is used 265 times in the New Testament? Although you only find it in the Gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and the Book of Acts. But what's interesting to me, is of those 265 times the word disciple's used, guess how many times Jesus uses it. Eight times. And seven of those eight times are conditional. By conditional, in other words, He says, "If you want to be My disciple, you will do this." "If you want to be My disciple, you will do that." Now, if you say, "I don't want to do this and I don't want to do that," what you're saying is, "I don't want to be a disciple of Jesus Christ."

It's interesting. The word disciple, 'mathetis' in Greek, it simply speaks of a learner, a student, a follower of a teacher, a leader, but Jesus in Matthew 10:24 and 25 puts a little punch into it. He says, "For it's enough for mathetis, a disciple, to be like His master." So, the whole point of being a disciple of Jesus Christ, as He said, "Go into this world and make ..." what? Disciples of Jesus Christ. It means that we are to become like Him. Why do I want to become like Him? Well, because when I became a believer, Ezekiel tells me, Ezekiel 36, "That he sprinkled my sin with water, forgave me. Then He ripped out my heart of stone and put a new heart in there, says His spirit that gave me a desire I never had before." What desire? A desire to honor God as my Father, not to fear Him as my Creator, not to run from Him being indifferent to Him, but to honor Him as my Father. Jeremiah 31:33 says that after He came to the point that He'll remember our sin no more, our forgiveness, then He says, "And he put His law within us." I'm not about keeping rules. I'm about one thing. I want to honor my Heavenly Father. That's all it's all about with me. It's not about religious rules. And so, here I have this deep desire to honor God as my Father.

My problem is I don't have a clue how. I know. I'll go to church every Sunday. I'll get a golden pin. I'll read the Bible. I'll walk around and I'll be really, really good. I won't smoke. I won't chew and I won't go with girls who do. I mean, I'm going to be so spiritual, I'll impress you. And yet for the world looks at us, it looks pretty self-righteous to me. And of course, then we're called hypocrites. And when people say, "I don't want to go to church full of hypocrites," I say, "There's always room for a few more. Come on." But the fact is I have this desire to honor God as my father and I can try all kinds of religious things, but I honestly don't know how. That's a bit

frustrating. Deepest desire of my heart to honor God as my Father. I wish I knew somebody who did honor the Father perfectly. I wish there was somebody who actually was made in the image of God and can manifest the beauty of God perfectly. Oy vey, I know one. Who's the visible image invisible God? Colossians 1:15. The Son. Who's the fullness of deity walking around in bodily form? Colossians 2:9. The Son. What did Jesus say to Philip John 14. "If you've seen Me, you've seen the Father." Ah, that's why Paul says in Romans 8:28, He works all things. "God works all things together for good." What good? "To those who love Christ." Why? "For their purpose." What purpose? Read the next verse. "That they be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ." Because Jesus is the only one that heard from Heaven, twice. Once, Matthew 4, in His baptism. Once in His transfiguration in Matthew 17, "He heard from the Heaven, 'This is my beloved Son in whom I am ...'" what? Well pleased. He's the only person that's ever heard that. And others because He honored the Father perfectly, thus manifesting the beauty of our Creator.

That's why I'm not a disciple of God the Father. I'm not a disciple of the Holy Spirit. I'm a disciple of Jesus Christ. Christian, as they call me. Disciple, I'm becoming. Because I want to be more like Him, because maybe one day I'll hear, to everybody else's shock, "Daryl, you're My beloved son. And I'm well pleased with you." That's why we're becoming disciples. Well then, where do I get started on this thing? Well, maybe let's begin with the first conditional, if you want to be My disciple that Jesus says. And there's seven of them. But let's take the first one, the foundational one, maybe even the hardest one. And you find it in Luke 14. Now this is not something that Jesus says that you're going to find on a magnet on a refrigerator. Nobody's got this tattooed on their stomach.

This is kind of you read it and you go, "Oh my, sweet little Jesus child, Jesus wouldn't say this." Ah, but he does. And listen to what he says in Luke 14:25. "Now great crowds accompanied Him." Boy, he's getting pretty popular. But what He is about to say is not going to help His popularity. "And he turned and said to them, if anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, and wife, and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me, cannot be My disciple." Oh, great. What is that? No one's ever told me Jesus said that. But that's the foundational thing. The first of the seven, when He says, "You want to be My disciple?" What's this hating mom and dad? Is that the message of Jesus? To be a disciple you got to hate everybody around you? Well, let Jesus help us understand this. Back in Jewish literature, as well in the scriptures again and again, you have what is called an Oriental idiom. In other words, if you want to force somebody to make a choice, then you put a black and white contrast. Like 52 years ago, I could have said, "Holly it's him or me." I didn't, because I wasn't sure what she would choose at that time. But that's kind of the idea. You're trying to force a decision. Yes or no. And because, well, how did Jesus feel about parents? We're supposed to hate them?

Well, in Matthew 15, Jesus has an argument with the Pharisees and Scribes about parents. It says in chapter 15:1, "Then Pharisees and Scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, 'why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? Why do you break our religious rules? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.'" That's probably a good idea to wash your hands before you eat. But it was one of their religious rules and they're Jesus' disciples. He wasn't doing it and they're ticked. How do you think Jesus is going to answer this? He's answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your religious rules? For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother, and whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.'" Then he goes on to expose what they were doing. You're supposed to honor your

mother and father. Take care of them, financially. Keep telling my kids that, they don't seem to hear it, but take care of your parents. But what they did was they took their money and gave it to the temple. "Mom, dad, I'm sorry. You're going to have to starve to death because I gave it to the church." He says, "When God said, 'You honor your father and mother, or you should die.'" Now wait, wait, wait, wait. Here He's saying we're supposed to honor mom and dad. And here, He says, "You want to be in my disciple? You hate mom and dad." How do you put that together? Well, you put it together by doing a little more work and go back to Matthew chapter 10, where Matthew basically gives the parallel passage. Notice, He says in chapter 10 of Matthew verse 37. Jesus says, "Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And whoever loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me." How do you know this is a parallel? Next verse. "And whoever does not take His cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me." Do you see the parallel? He's talking about the same thing. But now He's explaining when He says, "Hate father, hate mother." What I'm talking about, make your choice. Who's going to be your Lord? Who are you going to choose first to please? Boy, there's a lot of voices out there of people that want us to please them.

And there's a lot of folks dear to us that we want to please. Remember junior high? They called it peer pressure. What you're really doing you're trying to please everybody. But when you hit high school, college, you're going to realize in your attempt to please everybody, you please what? Nobody. So, here we're running around like a chick with his head cut off, trying to please everybody. And so, we're all confused. And yet Jesus says, "Make a choice." As is between love and hate, black and white, make a choice. Who's going to be your Lord? You cannot have 10 Lords. You can't have five Lords. You can't have two Lords. Even the most precious people around you, precious to you, but they can't be your Lord. "You can only have one Lord if you're going to be my disciple, and I'm Him." That is I choose to please Jesus first, before the people closest to me, my mother, my father, my children, my brother, my sister.

But what about these dear folks? Does that mean I run around hating them, ignoring them? No. Matter of fact, just the opposite. We do an interesting thing. We try to sound spiritual by setting up categories. And we set them up sequentially. Let me tell you how spiritual I am. Here are my priorities. God's first. Then my wife, then my children, then everybody else. And then on the bottom is little old me. Oh, joy. Jesus first, others second. And then you, you're on the bottom. Well, that sounds really spiritual. And they want to impress people? Fine. But how do you live that out? Guess who you spend most of the time of your life pleasing? Little you on the bottom, because we can't live out categories that are sequential, only concentric circles. See the Lordship of Christ. You know, people talk about, "I want a relationship with Jesus Christ." That's great. But have you ever wondered what kind of relationship He wants with you? And the relationship He wants is, "I'm going to be your Lord. If you're going to be My disciple, that means you please Me first." That means He's in the center of these concentric circles. And what that means is that anything I do, I please Him first.

What about my relationship with my wife? I please Him first. That means He defines all my relationships. So, Jesus, how to relate to my wife and please You first? Daryl, you take loving headship over your wife. You make sure she feels protected in every way. You honor her and you listen to her fears. Everything she says, you weigh her thoughts heavily and that will make her feel safe. And when she feels safe, she'll feel loved. That's what will please Me Daryl. That's how I define your relationship with your wife. What about my children? You make sure your children feel safe in every way. You honor your children. You listen to them. You respond to

them. And you discipline your children because you love them, so they'll feel safe. And if they feel safe, they'll feel loved. If they feel loved, then I've defined that relationship.

What about my friends? What about, do you see it? When I let Jesus, my Lord, I please Him first. And I let Him define every relationship in my life. Everybody wins, because everybody experiences the beauty of my Heavenly Father flowing through the image of my life, as I obey the commands of Christ. I please Him first, because it's not that Jesus is having an ego trip, "I want you to do everything I say." Because all the commands of Jesus Christ have simply one point. To honor God as your Father. That's all. Every command, without exception, is all designed for us to honor God as our Father. And when we do, we manifest the beauty of the person, of our Creator, which is the very purpose and the reason we were created, and is the very purpose and the reason we were saved. And so, therefore it's about Jesus is my Lord. It's about surrender.

John, and I close with this. Remember Jesus, when He was on the cross, and you don't blow smoke when you're on the cross, He's hurting. And remember He looks down at the bottom when He's hanging on the cross, where are the Apostles? There's only one. Who is it? It's John, the youngest of all of them. He's standing next to the mother of Jesus, Mary. Remember here, He's burying the sins of the wrath of God in the whole world. And he looks on, and He cares about His mom. Says, "John, you take care of her. And mom he'll take care of you." Later on, we read in history, in Acts chapter 7, there's this huge persecution that blew up in Jerusalem. Jewish believers were being murdered and, boy, Mary, she's identified with this. And so, John takes her as far from Jerusalem as he can to modern day Turkey, Asia Minor, Ephesus. And that's where she will die. I've been there four or five times. There's a big memorial to her grave, in Ephesus. That's where John was when he was arrested and put on the island of Patmos, when he received the letter of the Book of Revelation. But a lot of people don't know, but the fourth century Jerome tells us that John got off the island. Domitian, who put him there, the Roman emperor was assassinated by one of his officials. The Roman Senate thought what he did was so horrible, that they changed the edict and John got off the island. How do you think we got the Book of Revelation? When he was on island of Patmos, the penal island, there's no food service. There's no medical care. You sit there, rot, die, you're fish food. And any books you got or anything you wrote, it's fish food too. So, who do you think brought the Book of Revelation, and brought those letters to those seven churches there in modern day Turkey, ancient Asia Minor. Well, John became known as the 'presbuteros', the aged one, kind of like I'm known here in this church.

He writes this book 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, after the Book of Revelation. Well, why aren't they at the very end? The Book of Revelations is about the end of the world, where do you think you put that book? At the end of the picking book, right? But 1 John was written afterwards, after he returns. And here's the point. He's writing to third generation Christians. I see the first-generation Christians, they're the ones who are alive at the time of Jesus. So, they knew of Jesus, or saw Jesus, or witnessed Jesus. Now second generation, they're the people who know the people who knew. But the third generation, their faith is relying on what they've been told about those people who knew the people who knew the people. As a matter of fact, John 17, when Jesus is praying, after he finishes praying for the disciples, He says, "Now I want to pray for those who will believe because of your testimony." Guess who He's praying for. Only place in the scripture I know that Jesus prays for us.

Because we believe the testimony of the apostles, the eyewitnesses to the resurrected Christ, just like the third-generation believers, but they were struggling a little bit, "How I know, for sure,

I'm a child of God and therefore I'm reflecting the beauty of my Father through the image of God that He created me?" [inaudible 00:33:19]. In chapter 2, He says this of 1 John. "My little children, I'm writing these things to you that you may not sin, sin. But if anyone does, we have an advocate with the Father." 1:3. "And by this we know that we have come to know Him." By what? "If we keep His commandments," Huh? "Whoever says, 'I know him,' but does not keep His commandments is a liar." Boy, John sure is not running for office is he? Because he just lays it out. There's a liar. Truth is not in him. You can tell he is an old man. The older we get, we just get really that way. "But whoever keeps His word in him, truly the love of God is perfected." How's it perfected? "By this we may be sure that we are in Him, for whoever he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which Christ walked." See we're being changed to be more like Him. Yeah, but it says here that we all keep the commandments of Christ. Who does that? I mean, I blow it every day. But don't panic, because how did he end the last chapter? If we confess our sins, he's faithful and just what? Forgive us our sins, cleanses from all un-righteousness. But I love the last verse of chapter 1, which is just before the first verse of chapter 2. He says that if we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us. Well, what does it mean to keep the commandments of Christ? The word is 'tero'. Does it mean to obey absolutely, because he knows that we fall and he says, of course we fall, and we confess. But what he says here is this, the word 'tero' simply means to guard something as precious. To view something as important. Here's the question. Do you blow off the commandments of Christ? The way you know you have the spirit of God, that you're a child of God, the fact is that what Jesus says, what He commands, it's important to you. When you blow it, you feel badly about it. That's why you confess it. But how do we know? It's because we know Jesus is our Lord. And what Jesus commands and what Jesus says, I will do. Because as my Lord, I will please Him first. I'll let Him define every other relationship I have. And while I'm doing that, I am becoming, by the Spirit of God, conformed into His image. And thus, the image of God He's placed within me will do what it was purposed to do in the first place. Begin to manifest the beauty of my Creator. Talk about finding your purpose in life, your purpose for being saved. This is it.

Now this picture. What's that all about? This is a copy of one of the pictures in my wife's collection. And she wrote this blog about this picture, and I want to read it to you. She writes, "What does complete surrender look like? It looks like an artist's rendering of a beautiful woman, draped in sunshine, sitting on the ground with an open Bible at her feet. Her head is bowed in deep devotion, and her hands are folded in humble submission. She's attempting to surrender to something." To what? Holly picks it up. She is beseeching God to help her cease resisting His will. And at the same time, she is earnestly asking for His help to wholeheartedly submit to His perfect authority and wisdom in her life.

The whole point of this is surrender. And the reason I have a lady up there, is it seemed like you ladies do better at this than we guys. We've got about an inch thick of something that blocks this idea of surrender. I think it began in junior high pre-puberty. Whereas I think, I got to prove that I'm a man. Me, myself and I, the blessed Trinity. I got to show I'm strong. I got to show I'm independent. And we get this thing gentlemen, in our mind, so the concept of surrender sounds feminine. In reality, it's a disciple of Jesus Christ who's not afraid to surrender their will, every aspect of their life, to their Lord.

I'm different by one thing. I please Jesus first. I let Him define my life. And His commands are all so that I know how to honor my Father in Heaven. And as I honor my Father in Heaven, the



image that I bear people can actually see the beauty of my Creator. And there's no greater fulfillment in life than fulfilling your purpose. This makes sense to you? Then I want to close by praying for you, but also with you. If you will, bow your heads and close your eyes. If you do, we'll finish. If you don't, I'll just stand here. And as you pray, this is our closing prayer, and I'd love to pray it with you, quietly, between you and your Lord Jesus Christ. If this is your heart, pray with me.

Heavenly Father, thank You for creating us with a sense of purpose, a desire for purpose, that we're unlike any other creature or creation, that we're made in Your image. We are made to manifest the beauty of Your person and who You are. Lord, we lost that when we walked away from You. No wonder no one has any idea what God's really like when they watched my life. But Father, You saved us. You've provided forgiveness, a pardon, because Your Son on that cross took Your total wrath for our sinfulness, and offered us forgiveness. Thank You for that forgiveness. Thank You for embracing us as sons and daughters with the Heavenly Father. Thank You for giving us part of Yourself, Your Spirit, giving us this deep, hard desire to want to honor You. And so, Father, we do want to honor You. And [inaudible 00:40:12] only ways become disciples of Jesus Christ. We want to become more like Him, and He's shown us it begins with realizing He's Lord. We please Him first. Keep His commandments. We are on our way of honoring You. Until Lord, just maybe, one day, even to the surprise of those around us, would hear the Father say, "This is Daryl. One of My sons. And I'm well pleased with him." I pray this for all of us in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.