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“The Covenant Church In Contemporary Times”

Thank you. Well let's give the Lord praise. He's worthy of all of our praise. Let the people of the Lord praise God. Amen, amen and amen. Now just before you're seated, turn around and shake hands with somebody and say, God loves you anyhow. He loves you anyhow. And then you may be seated.

What a joy it is to be with you here this morning, to worship the Lord with you in spirit and in truth. Carmelita and I have looked forward to the time that we could come and be with you. It's been on the books as we say for a long time. And in many respects, this is a homecoming. We're getting together with people we haven't seen in a long time, but who are very precious and dear to us as you are precious and dear to us because we all serve the same Lord. Do we not? And it's in him that we live and move and have our being.

But today for me is a day of good news and bad news. The good news is that it's wonderful to see how the Lord is blessing your church and how he is using you not only in this community, but in this city and around the world. And that's good news. The good news is that it's a joy to be back with Bishop Mishagan and your Pastor Allen. To see them again and all the Mishagan family and the Swilleys and the Trippletts. And we reminisce on old times together. The Paulk family and the Walker family and the Mishagan families go back longer than any of us

want to remember. But we're all in this together and there's been a wonderful bond of fellowship through good times, bad times, and in between times, through thick and thin, you name it. And it's a real joy to have that opportunity. That's good news. The bad news is that all of this reminds me of how old I am becoming. That's bad news. Getting old is a bummer anyway that you look at it. I read all this stuff about growing old gracefully. That's a lot of humbug. I'm enjoying this year my fifty second year of ministry. I started preaching when I was five.

This past June, Carmelita and I, we celebrated our fiftieth wedding anniversary. We got married when I was ten and she was nine. You know someone once asked the question, what is the secret to such a long marriage? To answer, I remember a story I heard of a man that was being interviewed on television. He was eighty five years old. He was strong. He was healthy. He was alert. He looked and acted like he was about fifty. And the interviewer said, to what do you give tribute to such a long, and healthy life that you've had? He said, well I tell you it's this way. You know sixty years ago, my wife and I got married and we agreed never to have a quarrel, never to have a cross word, never to have a misunderstanding. That if we ever saw a time coming when we were about to have a quarrel or a misunderstanding or a cross word, rather than do that, I would just go outside and take a long walk in the woods. I attribute my good health to the fact that I spent most of my life in the woods. So this is a banner day for us today and we thank you for the opportunity to be here with you. We look forward to a time of fellowship this afternoon.

But all of us know that we live in a world of bad news. And it's in desperate need of the good news. And we come together today to give it the good news. And I today have felt as if the

Lord would be leading me to talk to you about a subject that I think is quite important, that is to talk about the covenant church in contemporary times.

Now just a couple of weeks ago, I had a little heart problem. My heart got out of rhythm. I had to go to the hospital for a couple of days, so I had to cancel a couple of appointments. But you know last Saturday, people were praying for me and I got a phone call and one of my neighbors came over and prayed for me and I began to feel the strengthening, healing power of the Lord. Anybody know what I'm talking about here? Amen.

So this will be the first time I've preached now in about three or four weeks and I generally don't go that long. Back in the days at Mt. Paran, I used to preach four times every Sunday. And wished I were dead on Monday. So today, as we take a look at this subject, turn in your Bibles with me to Matthew chapter sixteen, verses eighteen and nineteen. Shall we stand together for the reading of God's word? Shall we stand all over the building, please? Matthew chapter sixteen verses eighteen and nineteen. Where Jesus Christ is talking to his disciples and talking to us, and giving to us some very important information. It is so important for us today, particularly in the challenge that God is giving to us in a church in this time. And Christ says to the disciples and to you and to me, upon this rock, I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to you the keys to the kingdom of heaven and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Shall we pray? Father, lead us by your spirit now. I thank you for this church. I thank you for this pastor and his family, for the bishop and his family. For the bond of fellowship that we've shared for all these years and the great harvest you have given to them and I thank you because your presence and spirit is with us today. As we've enjoyed this music and

we've seen this talent that is dedicated to you. Now I pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, you will give us ears to hear, eyes to see, lips to speak, and hearts to receive. In Jesus' name, amen. Thank you and you may be seated.

If I were to ask you this morning, what is God doing in the world today?, what would you answer. In all probability, each one of us would have a different kind of an answer to that particular question. But in reality, we would probably agree that what God is doing today is confirming the covenant that he has made with his people to all generations. Because what we are serving is a covenant God. We read the Old Testament, it is a covenant with Israel. We read the New Testament, it is a covenant with the church under Jesus Christ.

A covenant is an agreement. A covenant is a contract. A covenant is a partnership. And God is saying to you and to me today that I want to come into contract with you. I want to come into partnership with you. And I want to come into a relationship with you that is different than any relationship with all of the world. And in order for me to do that, I'm confirming the covenant that I've made with my people. God is confirming the covenant that he made with Eve and he's crushing the head of that serpent called Satan. God is confirming the covenant that he made with Noah and he's keeping the rainbow in the sky. God is confirming the covenant that he made with Abraham and he's restoring and refining his people, Israel. God is confirming the covenant that he made with Moses and he's keeping all of his precious promises. God is confirming the covenant that he made with David and he's establishing his throne forever. God is confirming the covenant that he made with Christ and he's establishing a church and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. Well give him praise and give him glory.

But what this means is that we have to ask ourselves, what is a church? I have the feeling

that when God talks about a church, it's different than when we talk about a church. When God talks about a church, it's more than a denomination. It's more than an institution. It's more than an organization. It's more than a geographical location. It's more than just a few people gathering together on Sunday morning and Wednesday night. When God talks about a church, he uses certain Greek terms. In God's language, the church is *eclesia*, those that are called out of the world into fellowship with Christ. In God's language, the church is *laos*, the people of God. In God's language, the church is *liturgia*, the work of the people of God. It is *koinanea*, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. It is *caruso*, those who go back into the world and proclaim repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. God's church is made up of those who are called out of the world into fellowship with Christ to become the people of God, to do the work of the people of God, as the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, to go back into the world and proclaim, repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand and our job is to get ready for the greatest event the world will ever know. Jesus Christ is coming back to earth again. Well let the people give praise to God.

When God talks about a church, he gives it to us in the book of Ephesians. Chapter one, we are the body of Christ. Chapter two, we are the temple of Christ. Chapter three, we are the revelation of Christ. Chapter four, we are the new humanity of Christ. Chapter five, we are the bride of Christ. Chapter six, we are the army of Christ. And God raises us up to take the territory of Satan and pull down the gates of hell. For upon this rock, he builds his church and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it.

So then if we are a covenant church, what is a covenant church and how does a covenant church really act? Well to really understand this, we sit down with Christ and his disciples at the foot of Mt. Herman in Israel. In a place called Ceasaria Philippi and Christ sits down with his

disciples there and give them a little test. He says, who do people say that I, the son of man, really am? And they give him all the stock answers. Now these have been his disciples. They've left their fishing nets and they've left their money changing tables and they've left all the things that they were doing for a living to follow him. And they still weren't really aware of what is going on with this itinerate preacher who calls himself a king and the son of God. They say, well, some people say that you're John the Baptist. Some people say that you're Isaiah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets. But then he looked into the eyes of the man we know as Simon Peter. I like Simon Peter. I like him because he was always saying the wrong thing at the wrong time. I can identify with him. He was always sticking his sandal in his mouth and he was just an open transparent, raw bone fisherman. And he looked into the eyes of Simon Peter and I think Peter then answered and he said, I know who you are. You are the Christ, the son of the living God. Hallelujah be to God.

And I think that Jesus looked at him and said, Peter you're not that smart. You don't have the ability to understand that. Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you. This has been revealed to you by my father, which is in heaven and you are Peter. You are a petros, the piece of the rock and upon Petra, your faith in who I am, I'm going to build a church and it's the kind of church that the gates of hell cannot prevail against. Well, give him praise and give him honor in this place.

So, when we talk about a covenant church, we talk about a church that functions in faith. When he says, upon this rock, he's really saying, upon this faith that I see in you, Simon Peter, I'm building a church and I'm building a church on faith. What makes us different today from the Lions Club, what makes us different today from the Rotary Club, what makes us different

from all the social groups that meet all over the world, we are a community of faith and we live by faith.

When we talk about faith, it's more than trust. Faith is more than belief. Faith is more than just confidence. Faith is the release of every presence of God that he's put in us because we are created in his image and by the Holy Spirit, we do his work on earth. Amen, amen and amen.

So, when we talk about faith, Hebrews eleven and one says, faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the confidence of things not seen. In verse six, it tells us that without faith, it is impossible to please God. He that comes to God must believe that he is. That he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him. Romans fourteen and twenty three says, whatsoever is not of faith, it is sin. Galatians five says that in Christ is not circumcision or uncircumcision that means anything, it's faith expressing itself in love. First John five and four says, whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world and this is the victory that overcomes the world even our faith. Hallelujah be to God. I want you to say those three words to me all over the building. Even our faith. Now you can do better than that. Say it one more time. Even our faith. Now give God praise for faith in this place today.

Well we can't talk about faith without talking about prayer. We're a covenant church that functions in faith as the church functions in prayer. Faith and prayer go hand in hand. They go together. And when we pray, we have to pray in faith. And when we have faith, we have to pray. When we really begin to look at prayer in the eyes of God, prayer is God's invitation for us to share fellowship with him. First Corinthians six nineteen and twenty, do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you which you have of God. You're not your own. You were bought with a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body. So when we pray in

faith, we pray in fellowship with him. When we pray, God invites us to have partnership with him. Galatians two and twenty, Paul says, I am crucified with Christ. Nevertheless I live, but yet not I, but as Christ who lives in me. The life that I now live in the flesh, I live it by the faith of the son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. So we partnership with him. But when we live in prayer and we live by faith in the church functions in faith, then we represent him and all that we are and all that we do. One of my favorite Scriptures in Second Corinthians chapter three and verse eighteen is found in the Philips translation, but all of us who are Christians have no veils on our faces, but we reflect like mirrors the glory of the Lord and we are transformed in ever increasing splendor into his own image. This transfiguration comes from the Lord who is the spirit.

And when we pray in faith, things begin to happen. When Moses prayed, the Red Sea opened. When Joshua prayed, the sun stood still. When Daniel prayed, the lions fell asleep. When Samson prayed, the heathen temple was destroyed. When Peter prayed, his shadow brought healing. When Paul prayed, the Holy Spirit prevailed. When we pray, the demons flee. When we pray, the devil is bound. When we pray, the miracles occur. And when we pray, he that is in us is greater than he that is in the world. Well, give him praise and give him glory in this place. Hallelujah be to God. He is worthy of our praise today. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

So the covenant church functions in faith. Upon this rock. But the covenant church focuses on the founder. Christ said, I will build my church. Now that is an awesome statement. There is not anybody else who can say, I will build my church. You know we got enough churches in the world, we ought to save the world twenty times. There are two hundred and

seventy five different denominations in America. There are thirteen thousand denominations in the world. There are thirty three thousand different parachurch ministries. That means it seems to me that we'd all really have the whole world converted. Amen.

But you know we often refer to these churches as my church. We know that God has all of these delivery systems. And we know that he's having his gospel delivered all through different kinds of ways. But you know often as I pastored in Mt. Paran at thirty seven years, probably for hundreds of times, I said, my church. I'm very sure that Pastor Allen says my church. I'm sure that all of you say I want you to come and join me at my church. I got bad news for you. You don't have a church. I don't have a church. There's only one person in this world who has a church and that's Jesus Christ because he's the founder of the church and he says I will build my church and it's his church. Hallelujah be to God. Now's the time to shout. Now's the time to give praise to God. That's the church. There's one church and that church is his. I don't care what the delivery system is. If it's not his church, it's not a church. Amen, amen and amen. Hallelujah be to God.

Now when you talk about this church, we have to understand if he's the founder, we have to understand who he is. We don't worship the babe in Bethelhem. We don't worship the man of Galilee. We don't worship a man who is hanging on a cross. We don't worship a man who was resurrected from the dead. We worship the one who is at the right hand of the father making intercession for the saints and it's in him that we live and we move and we have our being because he's Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever and he is the founder of the church. Amen, amen and amen. Well give him praise and give him glory.

I was out in Los Angeles a few years ago and I was preaching at a conference there with

Paul Yung Cho, and now David Yung Cho is the pastor of the world's largest church in Seoul, Korea. He was doing the night services and I was preaching in the day services in a theater in Southern California. It's been several years ago now. And we finished up on a Sunday night with that crusade and the Lord blessed in a great way and I saw that I had time to get on a plane and get back to Atlanta. So they rushed me to LAX to get on a plane and I just barely got on, the last person rushing to get on a plane. I imagine all of you at some time or another have been in that position. That was in the days that there was still smoking on planes. I don't know if you remember those days or not. The only thing available to me was a seat right in the back of the bus. Right in the back of the plane. And I sat down by a young lady and we got in the air and she was a chain smoker. She was doing the smoking and I was getting all the benefit. You know I was turning kind of green. You know the feeling? If you're not a smoker and not around it any, it really gets to you, the big chafe.

Finally she looked over there and said, sir, is this smoke bothering me? I started to say, no, green is my natural color. I come from Mars. I said, well, to tell you the truth, it is bothering me some. But there's something bothering me that's even worse. She said, what's that? I said, you must be going through some real terrible troubles to have to smoke like you're smoking. She said, what are you? Some kind of a psychiatrist or something. Well, I am. I said, yes, you could say that. I learned a long time ago if you're going to witness to anybody, don't tell them you're a preacher. If you tell them you're a preacher, school is out. They reach in their purses and in their suitcases and come out with a halo and start polishing it right in your presence. Sometimes they ask you what do you do for a living? And I say, I sell insurance. They say, what kind of insurance? And I say, fire insurance. And so I got her to talking and she talked about what kind

of trouble she had. She had been left an inheritance and had been traveling all over the world and she had lost just about all of it. She was down to just a few hundreds of dollars left. And she was really worried about it. People had taken advantage of her. She had been to Paris and she'd been to Rome. She'd been just partying all over the world and she had lost all her money. Now she had to come back and she lived in Dallas and she was going to fly from L.A. and the plane stopped in Dallas and went on to Atlanta.

So I heard all of her story and after she got through talking, I said, I can solve your problem for you in two words and she said, what are those? I said, Jesus Christ. She said, what are you some kind of a preacher or something? I said, yes you could say that. And I began to share with her what Christ could do in her life. Does anybody know what I'm talking about here? You know there are great gifts in the world, but the gift of evangelism is the greatest gift that we have. And tears began to form in her eyes and she began to cry and I looked over there and took her two bony hands in mine and led her in the sinner's prayer. And the greatest miracle in the history of the world took place. She went from death to life. She went from being lost to being found. She went from being a sinner to a saint. Hallelujah all in the matter of time.

Well we stopped in Dallas and I gave her the name and told her to call a man who had worked with me and had a church there in Dallas and gave her my address and phone number. And I said, you call me and we'll stay in touch. And I want to pray for you and I'll keep praying for you. And she got off the plane and I didn't hear anything more from her for about three or four weeks and I thought, I wonder what's happened to that woman. One day I got a telephone call collect. And it was from her. She said, I just thought I would bring you up to date. I got a hold of that man that you told me about. Told him that I had met you and what had happened in

my life. And said, you know I got in his church and they were having a revival and I got this thing called the Holy Spirit. She said, you know anything about that? I said, well you might say that. I've heard of that a time or two. She said, I'm singing in the choir and said, I've never felt better in all of my life. She said, you know a strange thing happened. I got off the plane and had to get a taxi to go downtown Dallas to go to my apartment and said that there was a man waiting for a taxi going the same place I was. So we shared the taxi. I got in the taxi. Told him what happened to me. He said, that's wonderful. Said, you think it could happen to me. So I told him what you told me and the same thing happened to him that happened to me because we focus on the founder. We focus on the founder. I will build my church. Hallelujah be to God. Let the people of God give praise to God.

Alright now I want to find out if you're listening or you're just clapping. Upon this rock means that we what? No, we function in faith. Come on now. Where have you been? I've been preaching here for twenty minutes and you've been listening to me. Now what did I say? What's the first step of the covenant church? Say it. Functions in faith. Now say it please. Functions in faith. I will build my church. It focuses on the founder. Say it with me. Focuses on the founder. Are you getting the drift here? Hello. Hello. Look over at your neighbor and say listen. Look over at your neighbor and say think. You'll enjoy it. I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Now it not only functions in faith, focuses on the founder, but it fights the fight. Now some churches don't have to worry. The devil is never going to visit them. They're not doing anything for the devil to visit them about. But now you know we're in a fight, that we're in a spiritual battle. We talk a lot about spiritual warfare. Well what are we talking about when we

talk about spiritual warfare? Well we know that the devil is alive and well on the planet earth, don't we? We know that the devil is a deceiver, but his battle ground you see is about a six inch battleground from ear to ear in our heads. The battle is the mind. Hello. When we talk about spiritual warfare in Romans seven, it tells us that we're fighting an inward battle. There's a law of our members that's at war with the law of our mind and the law of sin tries to bring us under the subjugation of the law of our members. Oh wretched people that we are, who's going to deliver us from this bond of death? But in chapter eight, it says, but thanks be unto God, there's now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. It's an inward battle. Hello. Are you still with me here?

Now it's a spiritual battle. Second Corinthians ten and four, for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but they're spiritual and mighty before God to do what? Pulling down of strongholds. We're in a spiritual battle. Now it's an invisible battle. I hate that. I wish I could get the devil bodily. I'd solve this problem. But it's an invisible battle. Ephesians chapter six verse twelve, we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but principalities and powers, rulers of darkness in this present world, spiritual wickedness in high places. Are you all still with me? It's a faith battle. First Timothy six and twelve, fight the good fight of faith. Lay hold unto eternal life, where unto you've been called and made a good profession before many witnesses. It's a lifestyle battle. Hello. Second Timothy two and four, what does he say? Endure hardness as a good soldier and a good soldier does not get entangled with the things of this world in order that he might please the father. Now the devil doesn't want your money. You don't have enough to worry about. He doesn't want your wife. He doesn't want your husband. He doesn't want your house. He doesn't want your children. He doesn't want your business. He wants your

mind. If he's got your mind, he's got all of that. And the battle is a thinking battle. We've got to learn to think spiritually.

You see the devil imitates everything that God does. The devil sows tears among the wheat. The devil tries to instigate us to following false doctrines. The devil tries to blind us to the truth. The devil tries to hinder us in everything we do for God. The devil tries his best to tempt us, to allure us, to accuse us, to afflict us. He does all of those things. But we have to remember is that the devil is a conquered foe. He is not omnipotent. He is not omniscient. He is not omnipresent. He is a deceiver and a liar. And the Bible is very clear. He that is in us is greater than he that is in the world and where does he belong. The God of peace will soon crush Satan where? Under your feet and that's where he belongs. Amen, amen and amen.

Fight the good fight of faith. Now you've got to decide. We've got to decide how we're going to think. Now take a look at this. Romans one twenty eight talks about the possibility of an reprobate mind. Romans eight and seven talks about a carnal mind. Ephesians four and seventeen talks about a futile mind. Colossians two and eighteen talks about a puffed up mind. Titus one fifteen talks about a defiled mind. Now you see that's where Satan wants us to live. And then we're just playing games with God. We're walking with a false faith. That's hypocrisy. And hypocrisy is to wear a false face. But the Bible turns around and then says, what the Holy Spirit does, he gives us a new mind. Does he not? He gives us a new way of thought. A new way to look at it. When you begin to look at that, Romans eight and six talks about a spiritual mind. Romans twelve and two talks about a transformed mind. First Corinthians two and sixteen says we can have a Christ like mind. Ephesians four and twenty three says that we can have a renewed mind. Second Timothy one and seven says we can have a sound mind. And

when we think with the baptized brains of Jesus Christ in our life, the devil is no tempter to us because we are more than conquerors through him who loved us, because Jesus Christ is the head of the church and in him we have the power and the glory. Amen, amen and amen. Well give him praise in this place. Give him glory in this place. Give him praise in this place. Hallelujah be to God. Hallelujah be to God. Amen.

You know in the Church of God, we used to we don't talk that way much anymore. We talk about being saved and sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost. But what we really need is baptized brains. Most of our problems come because of stupid thinking. We think dumb. We think stupid. We think in the ways of the world. We get caught up in the categories of the flesh and it's time for us to understand that there's a better way to live and a transcendent lifestyle and that is in Jesus Christ our Lord by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

About four or five years ago, I guess about four years ago now, I preached in Romania. We have a large constituency in Romania. We probably have two hundred fifty or three hundred thousand members there, a couple of thousand churches. And I was there for their seventy fifth anniversary. At that time, I was the General Overseer in the Church of God. And I was sitting there on the platform in this auditorium that they had rented because it was a large crowd. And I was sitting by the interpreter and he showed me an elderly man sitting on about the third pew. He said, you see that man there? I said, yes. He said, he's one of our ministers. He said, he comes from Russia. He was put in a concentration camp, in a prison, in a Siberian prison for twenty four years under Kruschoff. He was imprisoned because of his Pentecostal witness. Stalin and Kruschoff put thousands of Christians in prison because they would not recant their faith. He was one of those. He was a Pentecostal. Over fifty thousand

Pentecostals were put in prison because of their faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ. They were put in the gates of hell, were they not? And he said, he was talking to me during the service and he was telling me, he said, you know of those twenty four years, nine of those years were spent in solitary confinement in crude intervals because he would not quit preaching the gospel. He kept getting people saved and filled with the Holy Spirit and they would have a revival break out and they would put him in solitary confinement. Five times he nearly died, but he was snatched from death miraculously. And he said, then, when it came to pass that Gorbachev came in and the iron curtain fell and all of these political and religious prisoners were loosed, he came out of that prison. When he came out of that prison, he came with twenty six called ministers that are pastoring churches in the old former Soviet Union right now because the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Amen, amen and amen. Hallelujah be to God. Halleluah be to God.

Alright, it's test time. Point number one. I will build, alright. I did it wrong. I just an F. Upon this rock is, function in faith. I will build my church, focus on the founder. The gates of hell shall not prevail against it, fight the fight. Are you all starting to get it here? Look over at your neighbor and say, are you getting it? What is a covenant church? It functions in faith. It focuses on the founder and it fights the fight. Then it fulfills the formula. I'll give to you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bound on earth will be bound in heaven. Whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Now why would he use the image like a key? Why would we use that kind of a metaphor? A key shows authority. If you've got the key, you've got the authority. A key shows access. That means you can enter into something. The key means that you've got acquisition. You can access to yourself what you need out of that particular place that you've got the key to.

Is everybody still here? I'm going to give you the key so you can enter into the reservoir of God and you have access to everything he's promised you in his word. Do you understand what I'm saying here?

There's no need for us to live in depression, to live in fear, to live in worry, to live in anxiety, to live in all of the things that the world has to offer because we have already read the last page. We know how the story ends and we know there's going to be a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwells righteousness and we shall see even be like him for we shall see him face to face for Jesus Christ's kingdom has yet fully to come. Amen, amen, amen. Now's the time to praise him. Now's the time to glorify him.

Now when it talks about binding and loosing, what is it talking about? It means that the word that God gives us when we open up the key has power and that word never falls void. And you don't understand what that word may do. It's amazing what the word does. Since I've been away from Mt. Paran, as you remember, we were on television for a long time and used to watch the Machagans when they were on television, so we have already done that drill together. But I find myself in airports now, having traveled around the world three times in the last five years, I find myself walking down a concourse in the Atlanta airport and somebody says, are you Paul Walker? I say yes. I used to see you on television. You don't know this, but I got saved one Sunday morning when you were preaching. I've never seen this person. Binding and loosing. If you hear this word and you receive it, you're loosed. If you hear this word and you don't receive it, you're bound. It's not real complicated.

Now I know the commentaries will write several pages on this, but it's very simple. When you share the word under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, it will not return void. It's

going to take root. Now the people who accept it, they're going to be loosed and set free. The people who don't, they're going to be bound. Does that make any sense to anybody here? And when we use that word, it changes a whole lifestyle. So we walk out of here as the church of the living God, fulfilling the formula and the formula is to use the key to the kingdom and the kingdom is the living word that is in us.

When we release that living word and it touches other hearts, they have to make a decision. They don't have any choice because that's what the anointing does. It brings a person to you have to decide. Now that's why we have to understand God is probably doing a lot greater things than we think he is. Hello, you all still here? And I'm not sure that the figures and the statistics that we talk about, we get concerned about Islam and rightly so. We get concerned about Buddhism and rightly so. We get concerned about Hinduism and rightly so. We should be concerned about all those because we have the great commission, but I have a feeling that God is working by his Spirit within those people and when they hear the word, they've got to make a choice.

I was in Turkey not too long ago and I found out there through a couple of young missionaries that the young man and his wife who set up shop on the days they had the flea market in Istanbul and just while they were selling a certain product out there, they would pass out these tracks and had a number of them to call and they got hundreds of calls every week and praying for people every week that were receiving the Holy Spirit, that were receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and they were still in the Islamic faith but they were serving a God who is greater than Alla ever thought about being. Are you all still here? Are you all still here? Now that's the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

You know we in the Western world we forget that we only have four percent of the world's population. Hello. And we have to see that our responsibility is beyond these doors. You know we ought to have a new category for figuring things out. That's the number of conversations we've had with unbelievers. Hello. And nobody is saying that you've got to get a blimp and drop five thousand tracks on your next door neighbor's house. You're not going to have button hole people on the street and say, are you going to hell? What he is saying in binding and loosing that you have to have a conversation.

How many times have you had a conversation this past week with an unbeliever? And did you share with them the good news of who you are and what you are in Christ? Are you all still here? You know that's what a church does is it fulfills the formula. All power is given to me in heaven and earth. And then I'm giving you that power and what's that power for? To feel better? Good, sure. To exercise gifts? Good, sure. But all of those are given to us as enablers to do what? Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, the son and the Holy Spirit. To observe all things that I've commanded you. And here's the way it gets done. Behold, I am with you even to the end of the world and the way this world is going to be won will not be through the pulpits of America as important as the pulpits are, not be through the churches as important as the churches are, it's going to have to be a market place revival when Holy Ghost people begin to act like Holy Ghost people and share the gospel with their neighbors and we begin to bind and we begin to loose and take the keys to the kingdom of heaven and turn this world around. Amen, amen and amen. Look over at your neighbor and say, you are an evangelist whether you like it or not.

During the days at Mt. Paran when I was preaching four times every Sunday and we had

one church in five locations. And I was making the rounds and I was preaching at the Central church one eleven o'clock service and after the eleven o'clock service, I was shaking hands with people as I always did as they were leaving after the service. An elderly lady came up to me. I found out later she was eighty two years of age and she through her arms around my neck and gave me the biggest kiss you've ever seen. On one hand, I was glad that she was eighty two. On the other hand, I was not real sure. If she had been young, I would have been looking around to see if Carmelita was anywhere. She said, to me, you know you've got angels in this church. I thought about that for a minute or two. I had never seen any angels. I had run into a devil or two on occasion. I said, what do you mean we've got angels in this church. And she reached back and got a hold of a lady who was probably in her forties and said, this woman is a member of your church and she is an angel. Well she didn't have any wings. I mean she wasn't blonde hair and blue eyed. We all know that's what angels look like. I mean that's a given. We know that. We've already figured all that out. And they flutter around from place to place. Hello. Hello.

And I said, well how is she an angel. She said, well she's a registered nurse and she said, three years ago, I had a terrible stroke. And I was paralyzed from the neck down. I couldn't even speak. But I still had my faculties. I could still understand. But I could hardly speak and I was paralyzed. And they did everything the doctors could do and told me they could do no more and told my family I would probably be. Six months. Best thing to do was put me in a home and let me die. Well my family said, if she's going to die, we're not going to let her die in a home. We're going to take her back to her home and put her in her bedroom and we'll take all the life support systems and take all the stuff we need and we'll set up shop in her bedroom. We'll have nurses around the clock to be with her and said, this woman was my night nurse. She came into

work every night at eleven o'clock. Eleven pm. And she taught me the ten finger prayer. And I couldn't speak it, but I could understand it. And she would hold up ten fingers and pray the ten finger prayer.

We started praying the ten finger prayer together. Said, through the ten finger prayer, said, lo and behold I started to talk plain. They said, well that's fine, but that's all that's going to happen. But she said, through the ten finger prayer, I started to get feeling. The doctors said, well that's fine, but you'll never sit up. But she said, through the ten finger prayer, I sat up. They said, well that's really good, but you'll never stand up. But she said, through the ten finger prayer, I stood up. And they said, well that's good, but you'll never walk. And she said, through the ten finger prayer, I walked. And we decided as soon as I was well, we would come here to church and this is the first Sunday I was able to come to church and I'm here today because of the ten finger prayer and she did a little pirouette so I could see that she was in business. She said, by the way, do you know the ten finger prayer? I said, no ma'am I've never heard of the ten finger prayer. She said, you mean you're a preacher and you don't know the ten finger prayer? I said, no ma'am. She said, let me teach it to you. She held up both hands and said, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. That's the ten finger prayer. Well, give him praise. Give him glory. Give him honor. Amen. Hallelujah.

Now I want everyone to stand up please. Stand up good and strong. Put up both hands in the air. Put them up. All you Baptists in the back, get them up. Get them up there. Now we had three Methodists that joined us on the last call there. Now I want you to say it with me. The ten finger prayer. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Do you believe that? Do you believe that? Well give him praise and give him honor and give him glory.