

"THE COVENANT CHURCH IN CONTEMPORARY TIMES"

Matthew 16:18, 19

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In his book, The Coming Revival, Bill Bright, the founder and director of Campus Crusade, makes the case for the fact that America is under the judgment of God. He describes this in many different ways and from many different angles, but he tells us in this regard there is both good news and there is bad news.

The good news is that America has always had a very unusual, unique and intimate relationship with God. From the time of Christopher Columbus, to the pilgrims, to the founding fathers, to the great revivals that our land has had, to the fact that our documents are the only governmental documents devised in the world that give honor to God, to our motto that is inscribed on our coins "In God We Trust" and to the fact that we see ourselves as one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all, makes us to know that however we think or whatever we say or whatever revision this might bring to us, we have been a Christian nation.

It's attested to by 130 million people who sit together today in sanctuaries all over our land, depending on the time zones.

The good news is that we are a very benevolent nation. We feed the hungry. We help the poor. We come to the emergency needs of nations around the world. We rehabilitate our enemy nations and put them back into strength and power. Every year we give some 65 billion annually to various charitable organizations to help life be better quality for many thousands of people.

The good news is that America is a blessed nation. With only 6 % of the world's population, we have in control 56 % of the world's wealth. We've reached a level of affluence that no nation in history has ever reached. That's the good news.

But the bad news is, according to Bill Bright that America has lost it's soul.

When we look at our nation today, we are aware of the fact that we have secularized our public life. The result of that is that our social problems are pandemic. The result of that is that crime is become our national obsession. The result of that is that we have turned our affluence into greed. We have turned our freedom into X rated living. We find ourselves in a condition where we have lost our sense of shame. Major scandals are found in our White House and in our congress. We've come to the position in our nation where we reward that which is wrong and we punish that which is right.

According to Bill Bright, and I think we would probably agree in many respects, America has lost it's soul.

But in spite of what we see around us and what we know to be a reality, this is the only world that we have. This is a world in which God has given us a mandate to minister. He's called to every one of us who sits in this sanctuary this morning who is a part of this entity that we call the Mount Paran ministries, He gives to us the understanding that he's brought us to such a moment for just this time.

What we have to understand is that God is doing a great thing in the land. There is a turning point that is just before us. We ask the questions sometimes, what in the world is God doing in the world.

It's very obvious that in this world God has built a church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

What God has done, He's made a covenant with His people. And He's working out that covenant to it's very fullest extent. That covenant is found in this entity and this organism that we call the church of the living God.

What is God doing in the world today? He is confirming the covenant that He made with Eve and He is crushing the head of Satan. He is confirming the covenant that He made with Noah and He's maintaining a rainbow in the sky. He's confirming the covenant that He made with Abraham and He's saving a remnant of Israel. He's confirming the covenant that He made with Moses and He's keeping His great and precious promises. He's confirming the covenant that He made with David and He's establishing His throne forever. He's confirming the covenant that He made that was fulfilled in Jesus Christ and He's put a church that is the church of the living God.

When the Bible talks about the church and who we are and what we are to do in this world today, the Apostle Peter tells us in I Peter 2:9 - ...we are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God.

The Apostle Paul talks about the church and says that we are the body of Christ. We are the temple of Christ. We are the revelation of Christ. We are the new humanity of Christ. We are the bride of Christ. We are the army of Christ.

Paul says that we are no more foreigners, that we're no more strangers, but we're members of the household of God. We've made fellow citizens with God's people. And he tells us we're built upon the foundation of the prophets and the priests. And he has given to us the chief

cornerstone which is Jesus Christ himself. We are built up into a temple that is where the Spirit of the Lord dwells. We are a building in which the fullness of God eternally dwells.

But when God talks about the church, He talks about the head of the church. And what makes the church different from any other organization, what makes the church different from any other institution is the fact that Jesus Christ is the head. And what God is doing in the church today, He's doing through the power and the person of Jesus Christ. And in Jesus Christ we live, and in Jesus Christ we move and in Jesus Christ we have our being. And kings come and kings go, and Governors come and governors go, and governments come and governments go and ideologies come and ideologies go, and organizations come and organizations go but there is one person in power that ever lives and that's Jesus Christ the eternal son of God who is the eternal Son of God who is the head of the church. Amen, amen and amen....

We can't talk about who we are and what we are until we see Jesus Christ as the very head and the very source in the center of all that we are. To Matthew, He was the King, the Messiah. To Mark, He's a wonderworker. To Luke, He's a friend to publican's and sinners. In John, He's the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In Acts, He's the risen Lord. In Romans, He's the peacemaker. In Corinthians, He is the Lord of glory. In Galatians, He is the liberator. In Ephesians He is the goal of character. In Philipians, He is the supreme prize in life's struggle. In Colossians, He is the head of the church. In Thessalonian's, He is the Lord himself who shall descend from heaven with a shout. In Timothy, He is the only judge. In Titus, He is the redeemer. In Philemon, He is the heavenly kindsman. In Hebrews, He is the high priest. In James, He is the healer. In Peter, He is the chief shepherd. In John, He is the advocate. In Jude, He is the coming with ten thousand of his saints. In Revelation, He alpha and omega, the

beginning and the ending; the root of David, the bright and morning star. And above all, He is King of kings and Lord of lords. And He shall rule and reign forever and we will rule and reign with him because we are apart of the church. Amen, amen and amen...

Well you say Pastor Walker, that sounds fantastic but how do I really fit into that picture. This word church seems such like an abstract ideology. Something that's out there in space. When we think about the church, we have many different kinds of understandings. And it's hard for us to realize that we are in a covenant relationship with God. That the strongest relationship power in the world is a covenant that God has with us as His people through Jesus Christ that makes us apart of the church.

Well what are we talking about when we talk about the church?

****JOKE****

Well when Paul Dana was growing up and we'd only been here a couple a, well I guess he was about 4 years old, back in about 1964, if anybody can remember back that far. Someone asked him one time, "What is the church?" He said, "The church is the place where my daddy preaches and where I do coloring every Sunday morning."

****JOKE****

Well, I've heard it said, if you take every sermon that had ever been preached and you typed it up on 8 1/2 by 11 manuscript paper and you laid them end to end in the Sahara Desert, it would be a good thing.

****JOKE****

Someone asked Mark, my other son, one time, what is the church. He said, "That's the place where people sing and I sleep on the pew. And he was just a boy.

****JOKE****

Well we sing great songs, we sing a lot. I was in Ohio this past week, speaking at a prayer conference. A lady came up to me and said, "I've known you since you were a baby. I was a great friend of your families out in the Dakota's." I can't understand why she moved from the Dakota's to Ohio. Looks like she would have moved south somewhere. But she said, "You know, I remember your brother's when they were here in Ohio." Said "They used to sing together as twins", I have twin brothers. When they were about 8 years old and she said, "I was there the day that they sang in a church that transformed that church, it's never been the same since." I said, "What did they do?" Said, "Well, your father introduced them and told them how much he appreciated his twin boy and he had them to stand up to sing before the whole congregation. And they stood up and sang, 'Lay that pistol down babe, lay that pistol down. Pistol packing momma, lay that pistol down.'" I think the first verse of that is 'drinking beer in a cabaret' and they went through the whole deal.

Well I don't know if that church ceased or got saved that day. But none the less. But what are we really talking about the church. The church is who we are. Each one of us individually makes up the church. We decide the quality of the church. We decide the behavior of the church. We decide the outreach of the church.

When Jesus Christ got ready to talk about this covenant, He talked about it in terms of a kingdom. He said, "I'm building a kingdom." And that kingdom is lived out in this entity and this organism I call the church. And that kingdom is within you in Luke 17:21, He told the Pharisees, "It's not here, it's not there." It's not some geographical location. The kingdom is within you.

When He talked about the kingdom, He talked about it being conferred. It is place upon us. We don't have any choice. If you're a born again believer, you never get out of the church. You might be Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Church of God and everything else in between but that really is not the main issue. The main issue is whether you are born again by the Spirit of God, sanctified by His blood and living by His Spirit. That's what makes up the church of the living God. Amen, amen and amen....

In Luke chapter 22 verses 28 and 29, Christ said, "I'm conferring on you a kingdom, just as the Father conferred on me a kingdom. He says, "This kingdom, this church has a future relationship." In verse 30 He says, there's coming a day when you're going to sit down with me at my table. You're going to eat and drink with me in eternity and you're going to sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. This kingdom is an inward kingdom. This kingdom is a conferred kingdom. This kingdom is a future kingdom. But this kingdom is Spiritual kingdom.

Romans chapter 14 verse 17, the kingdom is not eating and drinking but it's righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

We were singing about joy a moment ago, if I weren't getting so old and could have kept up with the beat, I almost felt like getting out here and dancing a little dance for joy. Some of you would have fainted. We would have had to have done something if that would have happened.

But what makes the church the church? The church isn't the church because of it's buildings. The church isn't the church because of it's programs. We've got 66 different ministries coming out of the Mount Paran outreach but that's not really the thing that makes the church. The church is made by the joy of the people of God who go into the saddened world and say, "We've got the answer to every need you have because it's Christ in us the hope of glory." Amen, amen and amen....

Well, how do I live out this thing called the church. Well, Christ sat down with his disciples at Caesarea Philippi and He looked at them and said, "Whom do men say that I am?" And they gave Him answers. Some say you're Elijah, some say you're Jeremiah, some say you're John the Baptist, some say you're one of the prophets. Then he looked into the eyes of Simon Peter. I like Simon Peter because he always had the pinship of saying the wrong thing at the wrong time. He learned how to eat shoe leather. And Peter looked at Christ and said I have the answer to this question, "Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God." And Christ looked at him and said, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven and on this rock I will build My church." He said, you are petros, you are a piece of the rock. But upon the petra, the whole rock "I will build My church." Upon the fact that you confess Me as being Jesus Christ. On the fact of your faith in Me that is what I will build my church.

And the covenant church is in us today. And we live out that church. First of all, as we function in faith. Upon this faith I will build My church. Christ says My church functions on the degree and the quality of the faith you possess.

Faith has to be more than belief. It has to be more than confidence. It has to be more than trust. It's releasing all the power that God has given us.

And when we leave this place today and we get in our automobiles and we drive our various ways across this metroplex we call Atlanta, we're going with a release of faith. And everywhere we go and everything that we do, there ought to be seen in us one fact, the joy of the Lord is our strength because we live by faith of the rock and we are a piece of the rock but we live by the whole rock and that rock is faith in Jesus Christ. Amen, amen and amen....

It's interesting about this word rock. Now I know we use it in a lot of different ways. We know about rock and we know about roll. But the way this word rock is used in the Word; the old rabbi's used to use say that Abraham was a rock because he was a formulator, he was a creator, he was the originator of their nation. Abraham was the head of the Habarew that became the Hebrews that we know as the Jewish people today. And he was called the rock because of all the rabbinic writers you see that word in the Old Testament used for rock. The Hebrew word for rock. But the Bible says that God was a rock.

In Deuteronomy 32:4, we hear Moses singing his last song on earth and he says, God is the Rock, His work is perfect.

When Hannah was singing a song to God of praise to the Lord after she'd given Samuel to the Temple, in 1 Samual chapter 2 verse 2, she said that there is no other rock like our God, there is no other foundation like our God, there is no other source like our God, there is no other originator like our God.

And when David got ready to sing the song to God after he'd been delivered from the hand of Saul in 1 Samual 22:2, he said, the Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer. And

what we know that makes us different from any group of people in the world is that we have the power of faith in the rock.

I don't care what you're going through today, I don't care what your problems might be. I don't care how bad it looks or how down in the dumps you might be, when you find Jesus Christ as the rock of the living God and you live by faith in Him, you are more than a conqueror because Christ that is in you is greater than he that is in the world. Amen, amen and amen.

But the second thing that we have to see here if we're going to really live out the covenant church, if the kingdom is going to be released from in us, we've got to focus on the founder. Christ says I will build My church.

I often, after 37 years of with you, refer to this as my church. There's nothing about this church that belongs to me. It belongs as much to you as it does to me. We know what me mean by that. But the reality is nobody can say it's my church. This church and every church belongs to God because the founder said, I will build My church. He is the only one qualified to build a church and he builds his life within us.

Now the way we know him and the way we come into an understanding of him is through His covenant work within us. He has made an agreement with us in the church is that agreement with Him. And the kingdom within us has rapport with Him, relationship with Him and everyday kinds of expertise comes to us because of who He is and what He does.

Now when He says I will built My church, He says He's building us as people. He says I'm giving you all of the covenant resources that are available to you.

It's hard for us Westerners in this computerized society, when everything comes by a print out and we get it instantaneously, to understand this process of the covenant. A covenant is an

agreement. A covenant is a contract. But more than that, it's a commitment. God has said, I have made a commitment to you emotionally, spiritually, physically, ideologically, sociologically, I have made a covenant with you. If you do certain things, I'll do certain things. If you perform certain functions, I will perform certain functions. If you obey Me, if you follow Me, then I'm going to go before you, I will bless you and I'm gonna help you.

That's what He's talking about when Christ says, "I will build My church." And when we look at the covenant that we have with Jesus Christ in Hebrew 6:20 it tells us it's a revelation covenant for he is a Priest after the order of Melchizedek who was revealed even before Christ. It's a revelation covenant.

In Hebrews 8:6 it tells us there that it is a perfect covenant. A covenant that is perfect before the Lord. In Hebrews 8:8 it tells us that it's a new covenant. In Hebrews 8:10, it's a spiritual covenant because He puts His law in our hearts and He writes it on our mind. In Hebrews 8:12, it is a grace covenant because He says our sins are forgiven and our wickedness is remembered no more. Hebrews 9:15, it's an inheritance covenant because He says, we are called to receive His promises. In Hebrews 13:20 it tells us He's an everlasting covenant. We don't trust in the blood of bulls and goats. We don't have to rely on human instrumentality. We don't have to look at a High Priest to go into the Holy of Holies once a year for our sins. We have a High Priest who is eternally at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us and in Him we have the answer to every need because He's made a covenant with us. Amen, amen and amen....

Now what God is saying to you and what God is saying to me, you've got to take advantage of that covenant. I am in a priestly relationship with you. I want to be your High Priest.

****ILLUSTRATION****

I read just this week something that was very interesting. I was a story of a father who had sent his little girl about two blocks -- she was about 10 years old -- sent her down to the corner grocery store just to get some milk and bread. She had often done it - in a nice neighborhood - and so it wasn't something to be alarmed by.

But she lingered and didn't come back and so he got a little concerned. So he went outside and started down the sidewalk and just as he got about a half block from the house, here she came.

He could see that she was not feeling real well and something was troubling her. He said to her, "Darling what happened? Why were you late? Did you have trouble?" She said, "I met my little friend Cynthia and Cynthia had a brand new China doll and she dropped it on the sidewalk and broke it all to pieces and I stayed with her."

The father said, "Well I'm glad you stayed with her and helped her pick up the pieces." She said, "Oh, I didn't stay to help her pick up the pieces, I stayed to help her cry."

That's exactly what God says when He gives us Christ in the covenant. He knows every tear that is shed. He's been through every temptation we've been through. And He says because I went through that, I will bring you through that and you never have to walk alone because I've built My church and you're apart of the church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against that church. Amen, amen and amen....

****ILLUSTRATION****

I had an interesting experience not long ago. I had a lady that came to church -- I hadn't seen her in many many years -- said, "You don't remember me at all do you." I said, "No." She said, "You don't remember a night at Grady Hospital when you cries with me and you introduced Christ to me."

I got to thinking back -- it was one of the most moving experiences of my life. I had gone to Grady Hospital because one of our members had tried suicide. Now that's not a very good advertisement for a Christian, but none the less, it had gotten too much for him. So I had been called to Grady Hospital for him.

We were waiting for his stomach to be pumped before I could go in to talk with him and to pray with him. While I was sitting there, one of the orthopedic interns who was a member of our church saw me there and he came to get me. And if you've ever been to Grady on a Saturday night in the emergency ward, it is a zoo. You see everything. One man came in who had just been clobbered by his wife with a shovel. It was a sight to behold. They got him all fixed up and said, where are you going. He said, I'm going back to clobber my wife with the same shovel. Well that was an interesting place that night.

But the interest came and said, "Would you come with me?" Said, "A friend of mine in orthopedics says he's got a young lady and she's just had a baby and the baby was born dead. But that's so much the problem, three weeks ago her husband was killed in an accident. She's an African-American girl and needs somebody with her. We'd like for you to come."

I went in the room and she was crying profusely. She was beside herself -- If you've ever seen anybody go through grief reactions. I didn't know what to say, I didn't know what to do. So I just reached out and took her brown hands in mine. Where she went, I went. When she sat on

the bed, I sat on the bed. When she cried, I cried. When she hollered, I hollered. When she screamed, I screamed. When she writhed, I writhed. For about twenty, twenty-five minutes this went on until finally, the grief subsided.

She got quite, we began to talk. I talked to her about Jesus Christ and what he could do in her life. I prayed with her. When I got ready to leave she said, "Sir, I really don't know who you are but I want to thank you for sharing my pain."

But there's no pain that I can share that's like the kind of pain that Jesus Christ can share. And it doesn't matter how you hurt. It doesn't matter what you feel. It don't matter what you're going through, there's a divine hand at the balm of Gilead that can reach down and pick you up and minister to you and we can say to him, we thank you for sharing our pain because he said I will build a church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Well, praise Him in this place....

So what we have to do is function in faith, we have to focus on the founder. But then you've got to fight the fight. I wish you never had to fight a battle. I wish you never had to go through any kind of a trauma. But we all know that we are in spiritual warfare. The devil is alive and well on the planet earth.

But Christ says to us, "I'm going to build My church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." I want you to fight the fight.

When He talks about fight the fight, we know that it's not a tangible battle out here that we can get a hold of the enemy. But the battle is within us. In Romans 7:22,23 it tells us that it's an inward battle. Paul says, But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my

mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? But then he says, Thanks be to God-- who delivers us, who saves us, who makes us whole by Jesus Christ our Lord!

In chapter 8 he says, There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh but after the spirit for the law of life in Christ has set us free from the law of sin and death. Is anybody here know what I'm talking about.

When you fight the fight of faith, you're in an inward battle. When you fight the fight of faith, it's a spiritual battle. That's the problem. 2 Corinthians 10:4, For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds. And it's a spiritual battle.

It's an invisible battle. You know, I would like to get a hold of Satan. I'd like to chock him if I could. I'd like to throw him into the lake of fire early. That's what I'd like to do. But I can't get a hold of him because he's an invisible foe. Ephesians 6:10-12, we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

It's a fight of faith. You're fighting for this faith everyday of your life. In 1 Timothy 6:12, Fight the good fight of faith, -- Paul told Timothy -- lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. It's a lifestyle battle. Everyday of our lives we have to make choices -- am I going to live like a Christian or am I going to live like a pagan? Am I going to live like a spirit filled believer or am I going to live like heathen. Am I going to swallow the secularism of the world or am I going to live by the sacred Word of God. We have to make that choice every day.

2 Timothy 2:3 and 4, Endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

What we have to understand is that the devil is alive and well. But I don't see him behind every bush. I don't see him behind every tree. I think today we have to understand that he is not omnipotent, he is not omniscient, he is not omnipresent. He is a defeated foe and the Bible tells us very clearly in Hebrews 2:14 that through the blood of Christ he has destroyed the devil. In 1 John 3:8, he has come to destroy the manifest works of the devil. In Romans 16:20, he puts the devil where he needs to be. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet and he that is in us gives us the power over Satan on every key because we will win the battle as we fight the fight. Amen, amen and amen.....

Anybody here know what I'm talking about. You don't have to be a loser. You're a winner. Look over at your neighbor and say, "You're a winner." Now look over at your neighbor and say, "Act like it wither you feel like it or not."

Now, if we're really going to talk about having this covenant church in contemporary times, what do we do?

We function in faith, we focus on the founder, we fight the fight but then we have to fulfill the formula. I will give to you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven. Whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

That means that everyone of us is a church. Everyone of us is a covenant church in the contemporary world. We can't bottle this whole thing up and take it with us every place we have to go. We say we want revival. We want to see God work mightily and the seeds are there.

In my duties as General Overseer, I go through the country and I hear from people all around that revival is breaking out everywhere. But that revival will not be maintained unless we live it out everyday of our lives. We takes the keys.

Now the word key is a very important symbol. A key means we have authority. Whoever has the key has authority. Key means we have access, we can open up what needs to be opened up to get to God's reservoir.

The key also means that we have the availability of everything that is available to us in that particular storehouse when we open up the door with our authority accessibility and the availability of what is there.

But then he says, whatever you bind on earth will be bond in heaven. Whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. That means we have impact. Doesn't mean were little gods running around acting like little gods but it means our message, our lifestyle, the impact that we make on others make them make a choice.

Our lives should convict. Our lives should condemn. Hello, anybody still here. People ought to see in us something that is worth while.

****STORY****

When I became a Christian -- you know growing up in a preacher's home, I got saved at least 59 times -- but one of the times that it really took, we had just moved to Beckley, West Virginia and I was in the 10th grade. I left Baltimore, Maryland and moved to Beckley, West Virginia out of a very strong youth group where they had a strong Sunday school class -- in fact, out of a class of 11 regular boys, 7 of us preach the gospel today out of that one class, out of that one Sunday School class. Scattered out all over the world really but 7 of us out of that one

Sunday School class of 11 regular boys. Now there was 15, 16 sometimes but the core of that class was taught by a former professional baseball player.

I'll never forget him, he would get us on our knees on Sunday morning at the end of the class and he'd put those big arms -- he stood about 6'6" weighed about 240, he'd been a professional pitcher until he'd hurt his arm -- big tears would stream down his face and he'd pray for us boys. God use these boys and God answered his prayers - 7 of us, as I said preach the Gospel today.

But you know, when you begin to think about what God has done in our lives, we have to see that we're not little gods but the message, the words that we say, the very impact our lives have, those are the keys. It makes people to makes a decision. And if they make a decision for Christ, their loosed. If they turn him away, their bound.

You're living everyday in your neighborhood and your dealing everyday in your business and all the people that you're living -- people that are bound, their walking dead people. Does anybody understand that?

We have the answer to life here. We've got this great gift and God says release the gift, open up the alabaster box, let the perfume out, let the world know that I am alive and I am alive and I am alive. Amen, amen and amen.....

So you have to fulfill the formula. The keys -- you have to insert the key.

****ILLUSTRATION****

I got a letter some time ago from a women - it's been several years now - and I just happened to run across it. She was thanking God for the popcorn prayer. I've heard a lot of prayers, but I've never heard of a popcorn prayer.

I thought to myself, what is she talking about. Then I went on and read the letter. She said there was a time in her life when she was a cheerleader for the Falcon's. (I wouldn't let that be known too loud. There's not a whole lot to cheer about the Falcon's.) That was in the days when the Braves where not really good. Does anybody remember those days. I mean, through many dangers, toils and snares we have come with Braves, Falcon's and Hawks. It's all for the birds. Who said that?

She said, "I was dating one of the Braves and I decided to go back to college so I quit being a cheerleader and I saved enough money but I needed extra money so I was working at a theater on the weekends. You had three of your congregation working there. You remember when "Star Wars" first came got big and it first came out, -- now I know none of you've seen "Star Wars", just 50 times -- and she said, people were showing up and the line was 2 or 3 blocks long and we're getting ready to open the place up and the popcorn machines broke down.

We knew if we didn't have popcorn, we'd all be lynched. These people of yours said, "We've got to do something about this, what are we going to do? Said, well let's pray. So she went upstairs in the conference room at the theater and they joined hands and told me to join them and said they were going to pray in the Spirit for the popcorn machines.

Don't laugh about it, I anointed a horse one time for God to heal. If He hadn't healed him, I would have been in sorry shape. Hello, anybody here know what I'm talking about or is religion that far removed from us. What is the covenant we have?

So they prayed, but they didn't just pray for God to fix the machine. Said, God give us the knowledge and the ability to fix these machines. Said, they went down and they beat on it here and turned it here and both machines started to work. They were saying thank you Jesus and praising God all around the place. I was thinking, this is nothing more than a coincidence. These people are crazy.

But she said, I they kept working on me. I came to your church on Sunday night. I responded to an altar call and gave my heart to Jesus Christ but said, I'm not going to get into it that deep. I'm going to stay in the back.

It's kinda like one lady and her son were heard walking across the parking lot back in the hippie day when revival fire's were burning and we were knocking out walls and all that. Anybody remember that, put them up high. You remember the hippie days. How many of you were hippies in those days, let me see those hands too. How many of you wish you were still hippies today.

They were coming across the parking lot and one of our traffic attendants heard her say, now look, they tell me this is a weird church. We're going to sit in the balcony. When they bring out the snakes, we're going to leave. I thought I would test our faith today. Usher's would you bring in the snakes. We're going to pass them out.

But she said, I'd sit in the back, I'd come late and I'd leave early. I would profess Christ, but I didn't want to get into that thing. But then I got sick. I went to the Doctor and they diagnosed me with Leukemia.

I went through all the treatments and they got it is remission but they said it was a serious case and that I would be fortunate if I could live very long. See that's when I turned to God. One

night in my bedroom, I called on God and said, Lord, I don't know what this spirit filled living is all about but would you fill me with your spirit and bring your healing presents to me.

She said it was a though the room lite up with the glory of God and she began to speak in other tongues as the Holy Spirit gave her the witness. She came and was anointed with oil by our elders. Went to the Doctor. They began running the tests. Over a period of three months they checked on her regularly. She said, all signs of Leukemia were gone.

Now I just heard from here not long ago -- probably 6 weeks ago -- this has been at least 12 or 15 years that this happened -- and she said, I'm still perfectly well because I have the keys to the kingdom of heaven. What I bound is bound and what I loosed is loosed. Amen.

INVITATION

MESSAGE IN TONGUES/INTERPRETATION

CLOSING PRAYER