

"WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM GOD?"
Psalm 46 Pt. 2

91503

Shall we pray? (message in tongues) (interpretation) Be strong in my spirit, saith the Lord. Walk steadfastly in the way that I have given to you through my Word. Know that I, the Lord God, have called you with an everlasting call. I've given unto you my eternal promises that you might and not falter. I've given unto you my spirit that you might be strong and not weak. I've given unto you my love that you might have joy and not sorrow. I, the Lord, will go before you and strike down all of your enemies. I will tear asunder the walls of resistance that rise up against you. I will defeat the armies of the enemy who come against you. I, the Lord, will be a mighty tower unto you. I will be as a steadfast bulwark. You shall not be moved, for I the Lord have called you by name. You are in the hallow of my hand. I have numbered the hairs of your head. You are mine. Therefore, do not fear nor be dismayed, for I, the Lord, have given you the victory this day, saith the Lord God of Host. Hallelujah be to God. Praise the name of the Lord. Praise the Lamb of God. Praise the Lamb of God. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah. Amen and amen. (I Love You Lord) (Jesus Breaks Every Fetter)

Let's just praise the Lord because it is finished. It is

finished. The work is done. It has been accomplished by faith.
The work is done. Amen, amen and amen. (special music)

Let's all stand together. Let's just praise the Lord, shall we? Hallelujah. (Immanuel)

If you'll just remain standing for a moment, what lovely music this morning and I think you will want to be back here tonight and seven to enjoy a mini concert with Sue and the ministry of David Cooper also.

May I remind you as you leave today, you'll be given a blue sheet that is a questionnaire for our Real Life Ministries, for real life for you. We're starting a new program beginning in January, every Sunday night at 9:30 on channel 69. We're going to be trying to respond to your needs and the needs of the people in the street. We've already done several interviews with people and we'd like to get your input, not only about the program, but about some things that we might need to deal with from the pulpit that would be of help to you.

If you fill out that form and take it by the tape office, you can get a free tape. You understand that marketing procedure, do you not? That's how we want to get you to bring it back. It will be helpful if you'll do that. They'll give them to you as you leave today.

What beautiful music ministry and what a joy to have Stan Whitmire back with us today. Aren't we happy about that? He missed the key a while ago. He thought I held up 3 fingers and I had 4 fingers. See Stan, 1, 2, 3, 4, you understand that, do you

not?

If you have your Bibles, turn with me to Psalm 46 if you will. I want to finish up what I started two weeks ago. If you weren't Sunday before last, then what that means, I've got to preach the whole first sermon again and then the second one too.

I heard the story told of a little girl who was about 8 years old that went to church for the first time. She'd never been to church anywhere before. After the service was over, they asked her, "well what did you think?" She said, "I thought the music was really cool, but the commercial was entirely too long." I don't know how you feel about the commercial today.

There are three things that we see here that what we can expect from God. In general, we looked at them somewhat in specific. First of all, we can expect that God will work with us in our human limitations. Verses 1 through 3. "God is our refuge in strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear. Though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though it's waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging."

The second thing that we believe is that God will prepare for us or perfect in us his divine plan, that God will perfect in us His divine plan. That's what we can expect from God, beginning with verse 4. "There is a river who's streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the most high dwells. God is within her. She shall not fall. God will help her at break of day. Nations are in an uproar. Kingdoms fall. He lifts his voice. The

earth melts. The Lord almighty is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge."

Today I want to talk with you about the fact that God prepares us for eternal relationship. We can expect that God to prepare us for eternal relationship, beginning with verse 8. "Come and see the works of the Lord, the desolations He has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear. He burns the shields with fire. Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord almighty is with us. The God of Jacob is our fortress."

Will you be quietly seated please for prayer.

Father, take the Word now and apply it to our hearts. Make it come alive that we can respond in a new and a living dimension and we'll thank you for it and praise you for it in Jesus name, amen and amen.

I have the feeling that if we're really honest with ourselves, each one of us has probably felt like Simon Peter must have felt in Luke, chapter 18, verse 28, when he said to Jesus Christ, "Lord we've left everything to follow you."

The implication of that statement is now Lord, we've given up everything to follow you, now what do we get? What is the payoff? What can we expect from you?

Christ was quick to reponed in verses 29 and following when He said, "No one who has given up his homes, his wife, his brothers or his sisters or his parents for the kingdom of God will fail to

receive many times more in this life than in the life to come, eternal life."

When we really hear that statement, it almost blows our minds because it gives to us a promise that really boggles us. It's almost like utopia and shangrila and almost like it's like the American dream, the Loveboat and Camelot all put together in one package. It really is promising to us everything that the American dream says, everything that we want, everything that we're looking for, everything that we're working for. No one who really gives up everything for the kingdom of God will fail to receive all of these things.

When Mark talks about it, he gives us a number and he says, "No one who gives up all of these things and follows me and follows the gospel will fail to receive a hundred fold more in this life and in the age to come, eternal life."

When we look at that, it really sounds great. It really sounds fantastic. That's what we really want. When Mark talks about it, he talks about it in the fine print. When you look at it in Mark, chapter 10, verses 29 and following, particularly verses 30 and 31, Mark gives us a little different slant and puts the fine print in it. He embellishes it. He shakes it out. He says, "No one who has left all to follow me and for the sake of the gospel will fail to receive 100 fold more in this life." Then he names it, homes, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, family and fields. Then he puts a statement in there that I wish he would have not have put. "With them persecutions."

That just kind of just fouls up the whole idea. Here we are going along and everything's going to be wonderful. We're going to have houses. We're going to have fields. We're going to have family. We're going to have status. We're going to have everything you could count for and then he says, and with them persecutions.

The reason that we see that is because we know that the Bible is a human book. It doesn't gloss over. It doesn't embellish. It doesn't sidestep. It tells us life is just like it is.

When we hear that word, persecution, it has a lot of different connotations for each one of us. When I say persecution, you might think about a prison. You might think about a dungeon. You might think about a christian martyr. You might think about someone being tortured. You might think of a Terry Anderson who was a hostage for 7 years. That's persecution.

The word is a much broader word then that because it means that which is driven away. It means that which is pursued with the intent of punishment. It means that which is disconnected from the original plan. When we are driven away from where we want to go, when we're pursued by those kinds of circumstances that would punish us, when we're disconnected from our original plan, we are persecuted.

Some of you would sit here today and you've just lost a job. You probably feel persecuted. Some of you who may have lost your wife or your husband, you may feel persecuted. Some of you who have lost your health, you may feel persecuted. Some of you have

lost your status or your standing or the success that you have enjoyed, you may feel persecuted. Some of you who might feel locked into a no ending situation, you feel persecuted. You've lost your self-esteem, your self-image, your self-concept. You don't know where to turn and you feel persecuted.

When we come to that standpoint, then what can we expect from God? It's a legitimate question if we're going to be a christian to say what can we expect from God? In answer, the Bible tells us that the first thing we can expect is I Kings 8:56, that there's not one of this failed, of all of the great promises that God has given to his servant, Moses. He tells us that we can anticipate and we can expect Romans 4:21. Paul says, "I am persuaded that God has power to do what He has promised."

We can expect II Peter, chapter 1, verse 4. "God has given us very great and precious promises that through them, we might be partakers of His divine nature and that we might escape the corruption that is in the world through lust. We can expect I John 2:25, and this is the promise that he has promised us, even eternal life.

We say that sounds fantastic but that's so theoretical. That's so abstract. That's so out there in space somewhere. What does that really mean to me if I'm going through the persecution. The homes, the family and the fields and all are promised to me and with them persecution, but right now, I'm on the persecution track. What can I expect from God?

We can expect Psalm 30, verse 5, that weeping may remain for

the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning. We might expect Psalm 34, verse 19. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord has delivered them out of them all." We can expect Psalm 41, verse 3, "The Lord will sustain us on our bed of sickness and He will restore us from our bed of illness." We can expect John 14:1 and following. "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. If you believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you and I got to prepare a place for you and if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am, there you may be also." We can expect John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you. Not as the world gives unto you do I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled and neither let it be afraid."

We can expect John 16:33, "These things I have spoken to you that in me you might have peace. In this world, you have tribulation, but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world." We can expect Romans 8:28. "We know that all things work together for good to those who love God who are the called according to His purpose."

We can expect II Corinthians, chapter 4, verses 8 through 10. "We are handicapped on every side, but we're never frustrated. We're puzzled but we're never in despair. We're persecuted, but we don't stand alone. We're knocked down but we're never knocked out."

Look at verses 16 to 18, "This is the reason we never

collapse. The outward man indeed suffers wear and tear, but the inward person receives fresh strength daily. These little troubles which are really so transitory are working out for us a far more solid reward out of all proportion to our pain, for we look not at the things which are visible, because they are temporary, but we look at the things which are invisible, because they are timeless.

What we know is that it's not a matter of the tragedies. It's not a matter of the trauma's. It's not a matter of the circumstances or the negative situations. It's not a matter of all the difficulties and the stresses and strains that this old world gives to us. It's really a matter of trust. We rise above all that because in God we trust. We trust in His promises. We trust in His power. We trust in His participation. We trust rejoicing will come in the morning. We trust He'll deliver us out of our affliction. We trust He'll sustain us in our time of illness. We trust that He's preparing a place for us. We trust we have a legacy of peace. We trust that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens Him because in Him we live and move and have our being and by Him, we are more than conquerors. Amen, amen and amen. We trust. Hallelujah be to God. Praise the Lord in this place.

We say that sounds fantastic, but how do I really bring that home to my own circumstance? How can I learn to really expect from God. It really boils down to a matter of perception, the way that we look at things. The big danger is, we try to bring God into our own perceptive box. We want to make God to be unto our

own ideas of what God ought to be ... ought not to be. We look at God through our own mentality, our own mindset and we try to reduce God into something that we can encompass and He can be to us a jenny, a Santa Claus or whatever we want Him to be and it becomes a frustrating circumstance.

It reminds me of the story that I heard from one of our elders, Jimmy Rogers, this week in one of our meetings. Jimmy tells the story of the pope who came to visit in the United States in Washington D.C. There was a great acclaim, a great aculeate, many great meetings and he was being transported around in this beautiful black limousine, bullet proof, darkened windows so nobody could see in it, sleek and long and brand new.

One day the pope came out of the hotel to get into the limousine to go to a place and he went around to the driver's side and said, "You know, I've been driving this thing and I've always wanted to drive one of these things." He said, "Why don't you," to the shouter, "you get in the back seat and let me drive." So he finally he talked the shouter into it and the shouter got in the back seat and he drove.

He got out on the freeway and was driving along and he really liked it. Got up to 70, 80, 90 miles an hour. Got picked up on radar and the police took out after him. The blue light and the siren went and they pulled him over to the side. They couldn't see inside to see who was there. The policeman walked up and knocked on the window and he rolled down the window and the policeman took one look at him and there was the pope and he recognized the pope.

It frightened him to death. He just started to shake all over. He couldn't say a word.

He went wobbling back to the police car and said to his partner, "Do you know who's driving that limousine? Do you know who the shouter is?" He said, "It's the pope." His partner said, "Well that doesn't matter, you've got a duty to do. We clocked him at 90 miles an hour. Go give him a ticket." He said, "I can't give him a ticket. Have you ever thought, if the pope is the shouter, who do you think is riding in the back seat?"

It's a matter of perception, isn't it? It's how you look at it that really counts.

This is where the psalm comes in, see. The psalmist gets ready to tell us, now come and see the works of the Lord, because what He's trying to do is work for us an eternal relationship. You can't read this passage without understanding it's an eternal relationship. Come and see the works of the Lord, He's doing something eternally. The desolation He has brought on the earth.

When you look at what's happening in Russia, you look at what's happening in the world, you get to feeling I wonder if anybody knows what's going on in our world? He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear. He burns the shields with fire.

What He's really saying is that in this eternal relationship, we have to understand that God is working out something eternal in history, in external history that when things are going on around us, they're not just wily-nilly, but God is working out a pattern.

We can't come to this time of Christmas, I'm talking about an eternal relationship. The only way that Mary could have survived this news was to understand an eternal relationship.

In Luke, chapter 1, verse 38 when she gets the announcement from the angel, she says, "I am the servant of my Lord. May it happen to me just as he said it would." May it happen to me just as the Word said."

What we've got to do as we look around the world today is say, may it happen just as the Word said. We begin to understand that God is working out an eternal relationship.

When she got over to Elizabeth, her cousin, and got to talking about what God was doing in her life and God was doing in Elizabeth's life, Elizabeth said, "Blessed is she who believes that God will accomplish just what He said that He would accomplish."

The thing that we have to understand that God is at work in history and He is the one that is raising up the nations and He is the one that is taking down the nations, that history is moving on an eternal external that brings us into the knowledge that God is in control.

Joseph had to understand, this is an eternal relationship, else how could he have handled this situation with Mary? The shepherds had to understand, this is an eternal relationship, else why would they come because angels came to tell them the way to go. Wise men from the East and they follow a star, where you going wisemen, we're following the star, oh you're following a star. Have you seen your psychiatrist lately? Do you understand what

that means, you're following a star, they're following a star.

It had to be an eternal relationship. What we've got to understand is when Jesus Christ comes into our heart, we are no longer citizens of this world. We are no longer members of an earthly kingdom. We are social outcasts in one sense of the word because we become social incas in a brand new kingdom and God is working out His will in the world today. Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah be to God.

That's what He's trying to get us to see. I was called to Washington D.C. some months ago to sit down with the heads of all of the churches in the country and some of the greatest names you know about were in this meeting. We were talking about what we can do to stem the tide of immorality, what we can do to make this pagan nation christian. We had one agreement, we no longer live in a christian nation. We now live in a pagan nation. You are part of the greatest pagan nation in the world today. You might as well put that down in your book. That day of christian nation has long been gone. We met together to try to understand, what can we do about what God's doing in the world today.

We came to the point that we've got to make the world aware of the anchor points of history of what God is getting this world ready to do, that everything you read in the headlines and everything you see on television comes right into this, come and see the works of the Lord. Come and see what God is doing. God is moving history in a direction. It's not going in nameless cycles and it's not going to some kind of a world order and it's not going

to be some kind of a social engineering utopia. The anti-christ will have a few fleeting times of bringing it together, then the whole thing changes.

What we look for in history is we're looking for a rapture. I Thessalonians, chapter 4, verses 16 through 18, "The Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout and with the voice of the archangel and the trump of God and the dead in Christ shall rise first and we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Paul looked down right here at the Christmas season of 1991 and said, here is the message, comfort one another with those words.

I don't care where you put the rapture. You can put it at the beginning of the tribulation, you can put it in the middle of the tribulation. You can put it at the end of the tribulation, but just know this, it's going to happen and we're going to be like Him for we shall see Him as He is. Hallelujah be to God forever more.

If you want to go through the tribulation, be my guest. Help yourself.

We know when we talk about the future, the second anchor point of what's going on, there's going to be recompense. We've got to meet the Lord. I wish He had never put Romans 14:12 in there, "So everyone of us shall give account of himself to God." I'd rather give account of you to God then give account of myself to God. That would be a whole lot simpler. I wish He had not put II

Corinthians 5:10,11, "We'll all stand before the judgement seat of Christ and we'll give account of ourselves to the deeds done in the body whether they're good or whether they're bad."

I wish Jesus had never said, "By your words you'll be condemned and by your words, you'll be justified." I hate that scripture. That's tough to think about. By my words, I'm justified. By my words, I'm condemned, but it's there. I have to understand that. There's that sense of oughtness in each one of us.

Why do we feel guilty? I don't care if you don't believe that God ever existed, there's a sense of guilt in every person in this world because it comes from God almighty because He wants us to know we belong to Him and we'll never be satisfied until we're reconciled into His heart. Amen, amen and amen. That's what He wants us to know. Hallelujah. We look for that day.

We know that there's going to be a day of great renovation, that what you're seeing around you is temporary. This old planet is wearing out. It is wearing down. When you look at the rocks and the hills, they are not permanent. II Peter, chapter 3, verse 10, it says that the Heavens are going to disappear. It says that the elements are going to melt with fire. It tells us that the earth will be laid bare and everything that is in it. That sounds awful bad.

Then you get down to verse 13, "but in keeping with His promise, we look for a new Heaven and a new earth wherein dwells righteousness." Hallelujah be to God. So that means there's going

to be a restoration.

You look at Revelation, chapter 21, John said, "I saw a new Heaven and a new earth, for the first Heaven and the first earth had passed away and there was no more sea and I heard a voice out of Heaven saying, behold, God is going to tabernacle with men. God says, I'm going to be their God and they're going to be my people." I like this part, "God Himself shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. There'll be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying. Neither will there be any more pain."

The reason is because the former things have passed away, that He that seats upon the throne says, "Behold, I make all things new."

What I'm trying to say to you is that history does not wind up in some dust pile somewhere where we go back to the dust from whence we came eternally, but history winds up around the throne of God with God sitting in exultation and we rule and we reign with Him. Amen, amen and amen. Praise the Lamb of God in this place. Hallelujah.

I don't know if you know who you are or not or what God's really got in mind for you. There's a couple of little scriptures tucked over there in Daniel 4:26 and 27. We get all hung up on the anti-christ and we get all hung up on the anti-christ taking over the world and we know that it's going to happen with it's primary focus in the middle east and the fallout. All the rest are on the rest of the world. When you read what you read in the papers, we know it's moving toward that direction.

When you read that scripture, that whole chapter talks about the anti-christ coming to power. Then you get down to verses 26 and 27, it tells us something very significant. It says that the court, the court in Heaven will make a decree and they'll strip him of his power and he'll be destroyed forever. Then the sovereignty, the greatness and the power of all the kingdoms and the nations will be handed over to the saints. Does that mean anything to anybody or are we just off here drifting some place in space? Do we take this book seriously or do we not?

Then it says that He will establish an everlasting kingdom. You wonder where history is going. What's going to happen to communism? What's going to happen fascism and what's going to happen to democracy and what's going to happen to socialism? Where's this whole thing going to come out? I'll tell you where it's going to come out. It's going to come out in a benevolent dictatorship under the theocratic rule of God because it says he'll make an everlasting kingdom, and every nation and every ruler will do two things, we'll serve Him and obey Him under the anointing of the people of God. Amen, amen and amen. Hallelujah be to God. Blessed be the name of the Lord. I want you to praise the Lord in this place this morning. Hallelujah. Praise God. Praise God. Praise God.

I just got a sermon title I'm going to preach sometime, "Let God out of the Box." Let God out of the box. That's what I'm trying to tell you right now. Don't you judge your life by what you see on T.V., you judge your life by what you read in this book.

Amen, amen and amen. Hallelujah. Praise God.

There's a second thing here. You get down to there to verse 10. Here's a verse of scripture that tells us that not only is God working up this eternal relationship in external history, but He's working out this external, He's working out this eternal relationship in eternal history, what's happening to us personally.

World history is made by individuals. Spiritual history is made my individuals. In verse 10, He says, "Be still and know that I am God." I wish that were not there. That's tough to do. "Be still and know that I am God."

That's probably the toughest thing for me. For all of who are type A, it's hard, number one, just to be still. This would be a lot easier for my 4 1/2 year old grandson, Justin, he's laid back. He's like Mark. We use to see Mark walking across the room and I'd say, Carmelita, go shake him, I don't think he's alive. Be still and know that I am God. Now Ashton, the little 1 year old, she'll never fit this scripture. She has got a real problem.

Be still and know that I am God. You have to learn to be still. I've had to learn that this week. I got back on the horse this week. I went skiing. I skied for 4 days out in Utah. Hector Deos, one of our elders, took me to go as the guardian angel, the warden and the guard. I signed in blood with Carmelita before I left that I'll be still and know God. I promised her, no jumping, slashed my wrist. No coming down black diamond slopes. For those of you who are skiers, you know what I am talking about. No hotdogging. All in all, it was the most boring ski trip I've ever

been on in my whole life.

Be still and know that I am God. I learned that what you can do is turn on skiis. I use to think that turning was of the devil. It had to be sin, but now turning is sanctified. Anytime I was tempted to deviate from this commitments, there was Hector Deos. He told me on one occasion, if you go down that slope, I'm going to give you a black eye. He's about 30 years younger then I am. He can do that and knowing him, he would do that. That's what really bothers you.

Be still and know I am God. How can you do that? Everything moves so fast. Isn't this a fast moving generation? Haven't you been running your head off this week to make everything happen? Come on, let's be honest. Even on the freeway, it says 55. How many of you even thought about 55. You drive 55, you're dead in this town. No way to go 55. Fast food, you know. I use to eat in the restaurant they advertised, if you don't get your meal in 10 minutes, it's free. I'd always foul them up so they could never get it there in 10 minutes, you get it free.

Computers, telecommunications, fax machines, can you believe that, fax. We get them in here from Indonesia. Zip, it's there. Ten thousand miles away.

I heard the story told of a man here in Atlanta, got his tie caught in a fax machine. When he came to himself, he was in Los Angeles.

Be still and know I am God. How can you do that? I think the biggest struggle that anybody ever had with this had to be the

Apostle Paul. I mean the Apostle Paul, you wouldn't vote for him to be your pastor. I mean he was ugly. He stood about this high and they tell us in the writings of Paul in Thecla, he was bandilegged. That meant he was bowlegged. He had thick eyebrows that covered his face. If he preached when he had no word, it would be bad. I have a feeling it was hard for him, if he ever read this in the Psalms which I'm sure he did, "Be still and know that I am God," he had to learn that. That's what he struggled with and I think he learned it when he came out of Romans 7 and he got in Romans 8, because he came out of restlessness into security. He came out of fear into faith. He came out of worry into assurance.

When he got into Romans 8, the whole thing changed and he got in jail, he was still a new god. Half of what he wrote came out of a prison experience and he was still and he knew God. He wrote to Timothy in II Timothy, chapter 1, verses 8 through 12 and he said, "Timothy, don't be afraid to witness for the Lord Jesus Christ." Don't you be ashamed of me as prisoner. Then he told Timothy something. "You come and join me in suffering for the gospel, because I'm suffering by the power of God, and it's the power of God that called me and it's the power of God that saved me and it's the power of God that brought me into a holy life and it's the power of God that revealed His grace and purpose through Jesus Christ in my life and it's the power of God that called me to be a herald and apostle and a teacher and I'm not ashamed. I am persuaded that He's able to keep that which I've committed unto Him

against that day."

How do you say that and how do some of you stand up under the odds in which you're standing and how do you deal with the losses you're dealing with and how do you handle the grief and the hardship that comes to you? You handle it because you know one thing that you're secure in the power of God and whatever is going on is temporary and there's a better day coming. Amen, amen and amen. That's how you do it. Praise be to God forever. Hallelujah.

If there's anything that Paul learned, I think he learned to live by some spiritual laws of security. In Romans 8, there are certain spiritual laws that He wants us to live by to have that eternal history really worked out in us. "Be still and know that I am God."

First thing, I think he learned to live by the law of spiritual intuition. "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." Isn't that marvelous?

Intuition means that you have the ability to know and to perceive without conscious reasoning. It just happens. It's a spontaneity. It's a creativity. It's your heart speaking to you. It's that intuitive experience.

I read the testimony of a man this week who was a sound engineer. He had a small firm and it had the biggest job of their career that was going to make or break their year and they made up

200 speakers, large speakers for a particular function. When they got the speakers all on the place, none of them would work. They went all through the blueprints. They went back to everything they had done and they couldn't find the answer. The head engineer was getting all the flack because he's the man in the final analysis that had done all the designing.

Being a christian, he went in his office and got on his knees to pray. Said, "Oh God, my job is on the line. The company is on the line. The future's on the line. I've got to have help." All of a sudden, he got an intuitive inspiration, that if he crossed two little wires in a certain space in that particular speaker at each speaker, that they would work. There was no sound reason why he should do that. There was no earthly reason why it should be done, but they had tried everything else. He went up to one of those speakers and crossed the wire and the whole thing worked. They crossed all the wires in 200 speakers and they came around to him, said, "How in the world did you know to do that?" He said, "God told me. That's how I knew to do that."

What is God telling you? I want you to know it's not just you talking to God, if we will be still, then God will talk to us. Amen, amen and amen. Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.

Then there's this spiritual law of insight. Look at verses 6 and 7 of Romans 8. "To be carnally minded is death. To be spiritually minded is life and peace." We make the choice.

The problem of most marriages that I deal with is that they're living a carnal life. The problem with most alcoholics that I deal

with, they're living a carnal life. The problem with most drug addicts is a carnal life. The difficulty with the pandemic of AID'S and all the social problems we look at today is people live a carnal life. If you sow that kind of seed, you reap that kind of harvest. Is this pretty good preaching? You have to make a decision.

I miss people in the congregation, people that I have a history with, people that I have counseled, people that I have married. I call them on the phone, "Haven't seen you in a while, what's going on", and I find out they've gone back to the carnality. They've returned to their own ways. They've got the same old burdens, the same old problems, the same old difficulties because they live the carnal life.

There has to be a time in your life that you make a choice. You don't live by your feelings. You don't live by your thinking. You live by what you know to do and when you do what God says for you to do, all the rest of it will follow in place. Amen, amen and amen. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Then there's a spiritual law of inheritance, a security law of inheritance. Romans 8:14, you see Paul had to learn this to be still. "As many as are led by the spirit, they are the sons of God. For God has not given us the spirit of bondage again unto fear but the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry abba Father. His spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God and if children then heirs, heirs of God and jointheirs with Jesus Christ, an inheritance.

What you have to understand is that you're not running the mill. If Christ is in you, the hope of glory, you're a different kind of a person then you see round about you. When you live by the law of security, then you live as a prince or a princess. You live as a son or a daughter of God Himself. That's hard to really do when you really get under it.

Back in the 50's, I had the great privilege of driving from California to Florida pulling a trailer 4 different times. That will try your soul. When you get through with that trip, you're not even sure you're alive, much less a Christian. The last time I made that trip from California to Florida pulling a trailer, everything we owned on a U-Haul trailer, including a piano and one of those great big television sets that was about half the size of this stage with a screen about 12 inches in it. Do you remember those kind? Anybody remember those? That's what we had.

When you got finished, the trailer just kind of squatted. We were expecting Mark any time so Carmelita flew. The dog and I drove. The trailer hitch broke 3 times. Three times, they don't break at noon. They don't break at 2 o'clock or 4 o'clock. One time it was 1 o'clock in the morning, 3 o'clock in the morning, 5 o'clock in the morning, like Dr. Pepper, 10, 2 and 4. On top of that, the dog, a little Boston Terrier got sick. She gave freewill offerings all over the front seat. It's hard to be a child of the king when you're cleaning up that mess. You just don't feel very prince like when you're cleaning it up.

We'd been going about a day and it's about a 3 1/2 day pulling

a trailer, when the hitch breaks that much, took over 4 days, time you got it fixed, you went on your way. So I took the dog to a vet. I pulled into a little town to a vet, found a vet. I said, "Do something with this dog." He shot that dog with something and she laid in the floor of the front seat with her tongue hanging out for the next 3 days. It's really hard to feel very very prince like under those conditions. You're going along and you look at that stupid dog and I really wanted to kill the dog. That's really what I wanted to do, but then I knew that Paul Dana and Carmelita would kill me. So get the dog home any way. That's better then cleaning up freewill offerings.

So now we're coming to a construction zone. Do you remember the days of preair-conditioning in the cars? Anybody remember that far back? You stop in this long line where they let one line go and they let you go and we don't have any freeways in those days, so man it is long and you're sitting there. You roll down the windows, you get all the dust. You roll up the windows, you can't breathe.

So I'm sitting there and there's a guy over there digging ditches who's a part of the construction crew and he's singing. I mean, I'm not feeling like singing, and he's singing, "My Father's rich in houses and lands, He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands, of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold, His coffers are full, He has riches untold." Then he had the audacity to sing, "I'm a child of the King, a child of the King, with Jesus my Savior, I'm a child of the King." I said, how dare that guy out

there dig ditches, creating all this dust and singing a child of the king.

So I got out to go interview him. I said, "I hear you singing?" I said, "What are you singing?" He said, "I'm singing, 'A Child of the King'." I said, "What does that mean?" He said, "It means I'm a christian." I said, "Well what does that mean?" He said, "I'm a son of God, I'm a jointheir with Christ. I'm a prince." I said, "You're a prince and you're digging ditches?" I said, "How do you reconcile that?" He said, "Well I asked my preacher about that?" Said, "My preacher said that being a prince was a spiritual mindset, that it wouldn't become a reality until I really got to Heaven, but in the meantime, the princes of God made the best ditchdiggers that the world has ever known." Hallelujah be to God. Are you getting the point? Are you getting the point? Praise God forever. Praise God forever.

It's that law of security, a law of spiritual inheritance, but then you see, there's a law of spiritual intercession. When you look at Romans 8:26, I'm talking about being still and know that God is God. There's a law of intuition. Say that, intuition, would you please? Then there's a law of insight. There's a law of inheritance. There's a law of intercession.

Romans 8:26, it says, "We don't know how to break how we ought. The Lord knows our weaknesses." I'm glad he said we don't know how to pray like we ought, so that means if you struggle in your prayers, you're biblical. You don't know how to pray like you ought to pray. I don't know how to pray like I ought to pray.

Sometimes I get down to pray, all I can think about are basketball scores or football scores or something, I've got to get my mind focused. Does anybody have that experience here or is everybody here, I mean are you all so spiritual that never happens to you? We don't like to be honest, we talk about prayer and we get real pious. You notice when we talk about prayer, we kind of put our chin up. I pray, I pray.

You don't know how to pray like you ought. There's a law of intercession. There's a song that we sing and Stan, "He Is Ever Interceding", what's the name of that song? That's the name of the song, He Is Ever Interceding, thank you. Makes sense, doesn't it?

We don't know how to pray like we ought, but the spirit makes intercession with groans that words cannot express. He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the spirit, so you don't have to be eloquent. Foul it up, but just pray. Talk to Him like you'd talk to anybody.

Coming down the road, I finally had to pray for that stupid dog. You pray, you see. Intercession.

I was preaching in a campmeeting in California and when the service was over one night, a lady brought a very elderly lady that was bent over and it was obvious she had been quite ill and she was quite elderly and she'd had a hard life and her body was autheretic apparently. They said, "This lady wants to meet you", and brought her up and she got real close where she could see because her eyesight was dim and she touched me in the hair and the face and my

arms, big tears streamed down her face. She said, "I came here especially tonight to meet you." Said, "Twenty years ago, somebody gave me one of your tapes and the Lord laid it on my heart to pray for you every day. I've been praying for you every day for 20 years and I've never met you until now."

See, you don't know who's praying for you. We throw all these names on a prayer list and we take it pretty lightly, but there are a lot of people take it seriously. He is ever interceding. He is ever Interceding. That's what we can expect from God.

There's a law of insulation here. Romans 8:35 to 38, Paul got a hold of it and he makes it very clear, "What can separate us from the love of God, death nor life nor persecution or famine or nakedness nor parral of the sword. Know in all these things, we are more then conquerors through Him that loved us. I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels or principalities, no things present or things to come, nor height nor depth nor any other creation can separate us from the love of God." Insulated.

When you say, be still and know that I am God, He said, I want you to live insulated, that you can't measure yourself like everybody else measures yourself, themselves, but you live insulated.

I received a letter the other day. It said, "When I was 6 years old, my father was severely injured in an airplane accident, was left partially paralyzed and brain damaged. My mother then became the bread winner of the house." Can you imagine the trauma of a 6 year old? It says, "My mother was often not there as she

attempted to make a living and my dad not there physically or mentally. The stage was set for family failure, but our family did not fail. Through difficult times, both parents stayed faithful to God and to us, prayer, belief, steadfastness and love surrounded us. Money and fine homes didn't. When my father died, my 2 brothers and I stood in front of his casket and made the following statement to the friends who had gathered for the funeral service." Here's what those 3 boys said. "Our father did not leave a financial empire for us to carry on. Many things that a dad normally does with his sons, ours was unable to do. He was unable to teach us many things that a dad normally teaches, but he did leave us something that he had. He left us with the love of God, a love for the Bible and a love of people, an understanding of worship and an inability to hate. We feel that he's left us only those things that will last. So we stand before you as his sons and declare publically, we will follow His God."

Shall we pray? (message in tongues) (interpretation) Trust in me. Stand firm in my Word. Do not yield to the pressure of the evil one. Do not bend under the load and the care of this world, but seek my first kingdom. I, the Lord, will add unto you all these things that have been promised. Stand firm and I, the Lord, will be your deliverer, your strength, your shield and you shall be more then a conqueror through my power, saith the Lord of host.

As we're sitting in the quietness of this moment, there may be those of you that you're following a far off. You hear what I'm saying about the spirit, but it's been a long time since you've

really come to the point of knowing and really experiencing that eternal relationship with Him and you need renewal. You need restoration. Would you just raise your hand and say, please pray for me? Put it up good and high. Bless your hearts. Thank you so very much.

There are others of you here this morning that perhaps you've been struggling with addiction, habits, the old life, the carnal ways have been pulling at you and it's tough for you to break through and you need a breakthrough in that area of your life, would you be honest enough today, it's nobody's business what the details of that are, but in general, there's the tug and the pull, would you just raise your hands and say, please pray for me. Bless your heart. God bless you.

I just feel like the Lord would want to just bring us close to Him, near to Him. I think He wants us to do our first works over and if there are those of you that sit in this congregation who've never known Him, He's never been Lord of your life, today is your day.

Then there are those of you today that need healing for your body. You're struggling physically or struggling emotionally or socially or financially, but you need a healing in one of those areas, would you let me see your hand please? Bless your heart. Thank you.

The only reason I ask you to do that is so that you can make a response. I want to pray with all of you this morning. I just haven't felt led to call you to the altar. We'll do that as we

normally do, but I just feel like the Lord is working through the congregation. I felt that from the very opening prelude to the opening call to worship and right through the meeting that the Lord is here.

Would you stand with me please and let's just stand that please. (He Is Here)

Father, your Holy Spirit is moving in this congregation and every place that we stand in this place or sit is an alter before you and I'm lifting up those who need to do their first works over. In their hearts, in their minds and in their behavior, may they repent and confess of their sins now and except you a new and fresh as Lord and may they sense they're being brought close to you again, reconciled and brought into alignment with the knowledge of the fact that you are the Father, they are the children and this is the unity of your spirit and that they are redeemed and set free. Lord I pray for those right now who are struggling with the old ways and the tug of the carnal days are upon them. I come against Satan and all of his attacking ways. I come against his tempting forces. I come against his demonic activity and I claim victory in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, knowing that with the stripes of your Son, we are healed. That healing power now brings that deliverance and we believe in that deliverance right now and we receive healing for our bodies. We receive healing for our minds. We receive healing for our spirits. We receive healing for our finances and right now, we claim the victory that is rightfully ours because we have learned what it means to walk in the light and

if walk in the light as you are in the light, then your spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are your children and we thank you for that now in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, amen, amen and amen.

Let's just praise the Lord together. Magnify His name. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Amen, amen, amen. (He Is Here)

The Lord bless you, keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you. The Lord be gracious unto you and grant you peace and may every day that you walk this week, be a walk in His grace and may you know that He will do what He has promised to do. May the words of your mouths and the meditations of your hearts be acceptable in His sight, because He is our Lord, our strength and our redeemer. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen.

Shake hands, be friendly, God bless you real good.