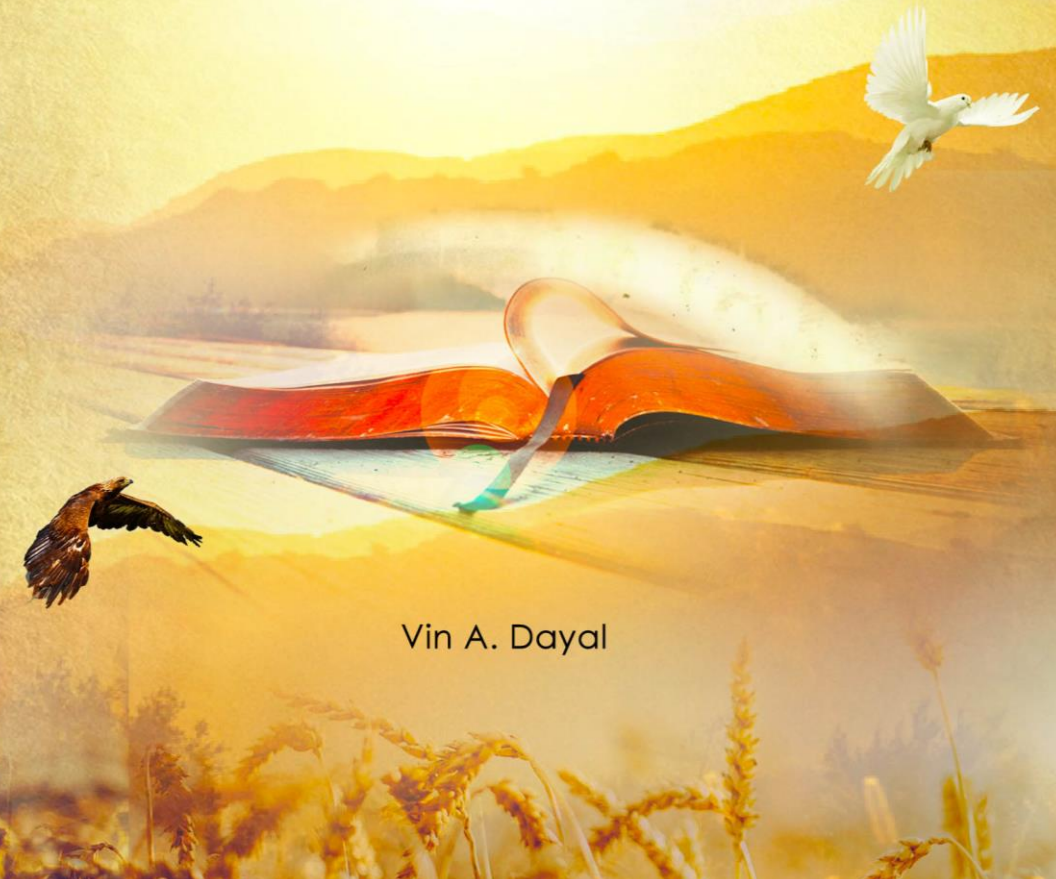


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Third Exodus Assembly

# Skill And Understanding

28<sup>th</sup> November 1990



Vin A. Dayal



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## SKILL AND UNDERSTANDING

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# SKILL AND UNDERSTANDING

TRINIDAD

WEDNESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1990

**BRO. VIN A. DAYAL**

[#569 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

*For I know You will lead me  
In the footprints that You have left,  
And I know You will guide me  
And keep me in this path.*

Amen. Let's bow our heads and close our eyes.

Oh, gracious God, Father, we thank You tonight to know that You have been our Leader and our Guide down through these years, dear God. Though it has been a straight and narrow path, though it has been a very dark time, Lord, yet because of Your Holy Spirit, the Divine promise that You have made, that You said You will never leave us nor forsake us, "Lo, I am with you always," Lord, we realize that if we had to walk by ourselves, if we had to depend upon our own ability, surely we'd be lost somewhere today.

But here we are still walking in the Light. The Word is unfolding; the way is growing clearer. We see that we are nearing Home, Father. The joy rises in our hearts; we know it's not many more days. And even though it might be getting a little steeper, Lord, yet we are encouraged to know You are here. Truly You have never left us, nor forsaken us, and we thank You for this, Lord. We thank You for Your unfailing Words of promise. We feel comforted, Lord. We feel loved; we feel accepted. Oh God, You have been good to us. Thy loving kindness is better than life.

We are thankful tonight, and God, it gives us confidence that You Who began the work will perform

it, even until that Day. You have proven and shown to us, down through these years that You are a prayer-answering God, that You are a God Who cares; You are a God Who is more than able. You have shown us that regardless of circumstances, regardless of how much the enemy will try to hinder us, that if God be for us, who can be against us.

So, we worship You tonight, Father, and we express our thankfulness that we can be in the house of the Lord tonight; that we could come, Lord, with our offspring, we could come and be gathered together and worship You, knowing that Your Presence is in our midst. Blessed be Your Name. We salute You, Lord. We give You honor and glory. Blessed be Your wonderful Name. Hallelujah!

Oh, thank You, Jesus. We look forward to Your blessings tonight. We depend upon Your inspiration. We ask for Your guidance and direction. May this service be a blessing and an upliftment to the hearts of Your people. May at the end of it we feel strengthened, rooted and grounded, Lord. May we be encouraged, Lord. May we be more determined to serve You. Hallelujah!

Teach us Your ways. Train us, Lord, (hallelujah!) that through Your grace, through Your Divine leading, Lord God, through the ordained experiences that You have ordained for us, Lord, may we be perfected and may we stand full and complete in Christ, fully redeemed. Oh, how we love You and appreciate You.

God, bless all Thy children. Bless the strangers and visitors within our gates. And those who are unable to be here, oh God. I pray You touch them. Father, the ones that are in need, the ones that are in grief, dear God, the ones that are weak at this time, oh God, may You remember them in a special way. May the All-sufficiency of the Living God be so freely extended to them at this time of need. You said if we cast our cares upon You, You careth for us. Through sunshine or shadow, You care for us. Lord, let them know that they

who have cared for Your Word, that You care for them. Have Thine Own way in this service now, we commit all things into Thy hands. In Jesus' wonderful Name, we pray.

Father, knowing the things You have put in my heart, Lord, just feeling strangely led this way tonight, I depend upon You, not knowing what to say and how to go, and what to do; just came into the pulpit here, to depend upon You to lead Thy servant, and have Thine Own way. Get glory to Thyself, in Jesus' wonderful Name we pray, amen.

God bless you. Let us turn our Bibles to the Book of Daniel. Also, I want to get 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel. And I don't know, I was just, you know, there trying to study today and it just seems that I felt so impressed to come and speak to the young people tonight, that I just thought I would do that. And I asked the brothers to just get all the young ones up in front and have some of the young ones sing so that we could create that type of atmosphere. Because I just, you know, felt like God just wanted that tonight and I would put a little emphasis especially for them.

And when we preach for the adults, we always trust and have faith that they, who are of a lower level of understanding, would receive in the measure and the capacity that they could receive at their level. So I trust that when we speak for the smaller ones, the bigger ones would be able to take even the principle and apply it at their level and benefit also. Because the Word of God covers all and it's the same Word, and He said, "Feed My sheep and feed My lambs." And I just want to try to do that tonight.

And I ask for the undivided attention for all the young people. And I'm included; I'm young. Though I stand here and my head is fully gray, and I feel tired and weary and came through many hard years, but yet I feel young at heart. I told my wife and I told the brothers, (sometimes they say, "You know, we're growing old,")

maybe I can't do a lot of things I used to do as a young boy, but in my mind, I sure feel I can do it. It's only when I try to do it sometimes, I realize I'm many years past that, but the thoughts and the feeling as a young man are still there.

I guess I'm closer to eighteen and nineteen, than I'm closer to fifty. Do you understand that? Because I may have to live another ten years to be fifty, but I believe the Lord is going to come before that ten years, and I believe I'll be eighteen and nineteen—between eighteen and nineteen, so I feel closer to eighteen to nineteen, than to fifty. Amen.

So, I trust you feel the same way tonight, regardless of what age you're looking at and you feel closer knowing the nearness of the Coming of the Lord. God's Name be praised tonight. Do you feel good to be in His house? Amen. Praise His wonderful Name.

Daniel, Chapter 1. We're trying our best in the Assembly here, to help all and with special emphasis to the young ones. And I believe... You know, like my little boy, Timmy, was telling me on Sunday (we were going home, you know, or when he was home, rather,) he was so blessed in Sunday School and he said, "When the sisters said that the class was over, I just felt I could have told her, no, no, just keep going on." He was so caught up. And you know, as any father, that will bless your heart if you have a little boy or a little girl, to tell you they are enjoying the things of God.

And I trust tonight that what little portion I could say to encourage them... You know, many times, I don't have much communication with them; it's more like I pass and see them and say, "How are you going?" shake their hands or unless, maybe, it's for some special need or if you have the time in some special place, you would spend a little more time with different ones and talk to them and communicate with them, only to realize they like it and appreciate that, and I enjoy it myself, talking to them.



So I guess maybe tonight, I trust that God can make me a blessing to them in a direct way, that they could sit and hear the Word of God, and see something. I was just... I didn't have much time, (you know, it just came to me today,) and I was trying to study and I had to try to come up early because I had an appointment here.

One of the sister's sons here, who wants to be married and he is not really a Christian, but talking to them and presenting Christ to them and trying to help them. And I think God was really moving in a very tremendous way in the room. And I just had to... I heard the time for me to come on the platform; I just had to come out.

So I'm just trying to speak from my heart and catch the inspiration to say something that I believe at this time is going to help them. And God will help me to build on this little thought that He gave me today concerning them. Amen.

I thought it might have come out differently. I was going to have a little meeting with just those involved and then Something said, "No! Use the service and do that. You know, just bring them up in front, speak to them because you may not even have the time and you may not even get to spend the time with them. So do it like that because they are important also." So I just trust it's going to come out right and be a blessing for us all.

Daniel 1, verse 3. I want all those boys—little boys and girls, to look in their Bibles; to have their Bibles there. I want them to know when they come into the house of God, it's always good to walk with your Bible and you know, learn to read It the same way you learn to read your reading book. Amen? It's the most read reading Book that there is in the whole world – the Bible.

*<sup>3</sup> And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes.*

*4 Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom...*

I like that: "Children in whom there was no blemish." Amen.

*... but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and [gifted] in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability...*

And I'm going to break it down. There are some young ones here who understand science. There are those here who are well-favored. There are those here without blemish, clean; unspotted by the world and these things. There are some here who are skillful in wisdom; gifted in knowledge.

*... and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.*

*5 And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end [of them] they might stand before the king.*

*6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:*

Verse 8:

*8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank...*

I want all the children to see that: "He purposed in his heart"; made up his mind. It was settled with him. He put a rock inside of there; purposed in his heart that he was not going to move away from that.

*... that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he*

*requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*

*<sup>9</sup> Now God had brought Daniel into favour and compassion with the prince of the eunuchs.*

Verse 17:

*<sup>17</sup> As for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom...*

Notice, they had skill in all learning and wisdom. When it says 'all learning', it covers everything: Mathematics, Geography, History, Language; Social Studies. It covered everything: 'In all learning'. Brother, even the more vocational side: architectural drawing, mechanics, whatever it was; woodcraft, whatever it was, in all learning, God gave them skill. Because I want you to know, God can give you skill in all learning.

*... and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.*

*<sup>18</sup> Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.*

*<sup>19</sup> And the king [conversed] with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.*

*<sup>20</sup> And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better...*

Why were they ten times better? Because they got theirs from God. God gave it to them. It didn't say they didn't learn. They had to learn ten times harder than the other children. It said they were ten times better because God gave it to them. It wasn't of their own ability, it wasn't that they spent more time in it; it was that they had purposed in their hearts to please God,

and God was purposed in His heart to give them something a little more. Amen?

Verse 20:

*20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.*

*21 And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.*

And I want to read in 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel. I want to take two young boys: Daniel, (three young boys, rather,) David and Esau, young people tonight, (amen,) that God gave skill to.

We want to talk about, **“SKILL AND UNDERSTANDING”** for a little subject; “SKILL AND UNDERSTANDING.” And we will make this a young people’s tape, (amen?) that young people will have this tape in the library for them, so that they could listen to it over and catch back some of the things.

Try to see what the Holy Spirit... Because the Holy Spirit put that in my heart today. I am looking to the Holy Spirit. I am looking to see It confirm it here tonight, that it is the Holy Spirit. And I’m looking to see Him deal with you, and you know it is Him, seeing that He gave it for you, and I want to see you benefit from it after having received it. And then you’ll look back in your life, to the obedience of the Word, and see that this night, the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 1990, the Pastor came and said that God put something in his heart for you. And if you receive it as from God, that maybe later on down the road, you could look back and say, “I had faith in It and I had believed It, and I had received It as God, and I see how It has helped me down till this time.” Let’s have faith. Let us try Him tonight. Let’s just exercise our faith and try Him tonight, by the grace of God.

You are my little brothers and sisters, and I love you very much, and I want to try to make up where I lacked

in years past, in giving some time and attention to you to help you. And I feel God knows my heart for you and He put something in my heart for you. Amen?

1<sup>st</sup> Samuel, Chapter 16, verse 18. This was a little story, that they were looking for a man to come and play music for king Saul to try to soothe his spirit because he had a mental problem, because an evil spirit from the Lord was troubling him. He was very tense and moody and neurotic and, you know, and to kind of soothe his nerves. Maybe all the nerve pills weren't working and all the medication from the doctors, you know, wasn't helping, so they were trying to get a skillful person. But God always has skillful... God always makes His children skillful.

Verse 18:

*18 Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is cunning...*

Or 'skillful' is the better word.

*... skillful in playing, and a mighty valiant man...*

He was mighty; powerful. He was valiant. He was brave.

*... a man of war,  
Courageous; disciplined.  
... and prudent in matters...*

Responsible!

*... and [an agreeable] person...*

Not argumentative and always in strife, and trying to bring division and you know, full of animosity. An agreeable person – a person you could work with; a person who could cooperate and you could get along and you could achieve a lot of things with – an agreeable person.

*... comely person, and the LORD is with him.*

Do you see why he had all those things?

*... and the LORD is with him.*

And Genesis 27. Last but not least, Esau, a lovely boy, a talented boy; also, a skillful boy. Daniel was skillful; God gave him skills. God gave David skills. Esau was very skillful. Did I say 27? I think I called the wrong Scripture. It's Chapter 25 I have here. Chapter 25, verse 27, that is what it is. Chapter 25 verse 27, speaking about these two boys: Esau and Jacob.

*27 And the boys grew...*

Grew up right under a prophet's influence. Grew up coming out of a womb, out of the bride that Eliezer brought.

*27 The boys grew: and Esau was a cunning [or skillful] hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man [or quiet man], dwelling in tents.*

Let us pray.

Our gracious Father, we look back here in the Bible that You gave to us for examples, instruction, righteousness, knowing the Scriptures came by inspiration; men of old were moved by the Holy Ghost. It's been preserved and handed down to us, that Lord, we could meditate on It, give ourselves wholly unto It that we could grow up to be real, fine examples of what Christianity really is all about.

I pray, dear God, as we would endeavor to speak something tonight, Father, that these, Thy young lambs, Thy servant asks for grace and inspiration, words Lord, that can go deep down in their hearts, cause them to take what's relevant to their lives, Lord, to help them understand their purpose and how they can serve You, how they can develop to be real, fine young men and young women, to be written epistles read of all men; oracles of the Living God.

Jesus, we ask for Your assistance tonight, for only You can speak words that will have the influence that will shape and mold the lives of our young people, Lord, which is something that would really stand out in this Hour. And Lord God, knowing we are taking this time

for them tonight, we ask for this assistance. Wouldn't You bless us, Father? Give us this grace, for we ask it in Jesus' Name, amen.

God bless you. You may have your seats. Amen. As I said, it's just basically for the young people, and I'm just going to try to get their attention, and I want them to listen to me and look at me, just like they would look at their teacher in school. When they go to school and the teacher stands up there and just like when they are in Sunday school and they sit there in their own class and the Word is being taught to them.

And I'm taking for a little title tonight: "SKILL AND UNDERSTANDING". Because you know, ever since we have seen the great need to help our young people, to pay attention to them, to try to enter in at their level and see how they feel, how they think, not to let our opinion and our thoughts override theirs, and not to keep them in forced subjection, but to recognize that they too, can be blessed of God, because the Bible says, "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings, God has ordained strength; God has perfected praise." And in many other places It says, and... Jesus said, "If you become as one of these, then you could be converted; then you could receive something from God. If you humble yourself like one of these, then God could exalt you." And He pointed us in places where He said also, "A little child shall lead them."

And we see in the Bible that even a little girl gave advice to a general's wife. She was a slave in the Book of Kings, in the house of Naaman. And she was testifying about a prophet. And God used those words to bring peace between two nations. God used those words that came out of the mouth of a girl, to bring deliverance to a great, mighty man who had fought many battles, who had seen thousands and tens of thousands die on the battlefield, who had led men to great triumphs, who had done great exploits, who was a great man in his nation, who was an important man,

who had a national status, and yet God used such a figure, to be humbled by the words that came out of the mouth of a little girl; to take direction when the man sought the best medical opinion – a little girl there.

Sometimes we don't know what we can say, sometimes we think we have to try to express ourselves with great learning, but all we need sometimes is just to speak from the honesty of our hearts because that is where truth lies. Truth doesn't lie... [Tape skips -Ed.] The more learned people become, if they don't have truth in them, they'll use all their learning to fabricate convincing lies, or they'll use their learning to try to destroy the truth and propagate ideas to lead many others astray.

And especially in this Twentieth Century, they found out that most of the great criminals and most of the people behind bars and the crimes being done today, are being done by people in 'collar and tie' jobs, and people of great learning. Because to beat the system today, you have to be a real thinker, you have to know the ropes; the ins and outs. You have to be able to talk to people in high places.

And it seems like the educational system is just breeding—cultivating and culturing the people in that type of mold, in that type of attitude. It seems that the kind of films that the film world is bringing out for young girls and boys, and things that they are seeing there and they are being influenced by and their lives are being shaped, they are doing things that their mammy and their grand-mammy would blush and have fear to venture into. As young teenagers, they have lived lives already that their mammy didn't even live when she was eighty. Sure!

It's a changing world. It's a rough world. It's a ruthless world. And I believe because many times we don't have situations to cause us to look at it... Because many times it takes a situation, it takes conditions, to cause you to look at certain things. If you have no



children, you don't really look at things that pertain to children because your whole life revolves around yourself. There is not a need, there is not a demand in your life to share your life or to live in the lives of others.

Like I was talking to a young couple just now, I told them, I said, "Look, you know, you are thinking about getting married; you can't think about your own selves now. If you have a child, you'll have to start to think about the child; you'll have to sacrifice your own needs. If you have a wife, you have to start to think of what she needs, and what's going to please her and going to help her, if you all have to stay happy together; if you all have to stand together and these things."

And you know, we start to realize how our lives change. As an individual, as a family, as a church, as a nation, we go through changes. Events, experiences come that we don't cater for sometimes, that makes us come out different and think and act differently after those experiences.

Look on a national level, what we are going through at this time because of what had happened on July the 27<sup>th</sup>. [Attempted coup in Trinidad in 1990 -Ed.] But they never planned for that. But look how the whole course of everything, administration in the nation, has changed. Events come. Things happen. And so it is...

When we began to speak on the 'new ministry' and all those things, we saw how, in the church, there is a need. We had experiences of losing young people. And when they were lost you could say, "They were Serpent's seed. They were not of God." Or you could say, "Did we do everything that we could to help them? Did we really plan for them?"

Parents, when having children, plan for it. I even told them that just now too. I said, "You know, when you are going to have a baby, you will start to buy the booties; you will start to do this. What are you doing? You are making preparations for the life that is coming."

I said, “Look at God. God created the world and prepared the Eden before He brought Adam, because He was making preparations because He knew he was coming. It’s a trait in human life.” If they say, “Famine is coming,” you are going to store up food. If they say, “A storm is coming,” you are going to make preparations. If they say, “A disease wants to break out,” you will get inoculated. It doesn’t matter what field it is, we will try to make preparations to save ourselves from certain things.

Now, what happens is that we begin to see this one, you know, not coming out to be what they ought to be. This one is developing but not in the attitude, in the way they should develop. And sometimes things are beyond human ability. Sometimes it brings on birth pains and you need to seek God more. Sometimes you think your life is settled.

As a Minister, you may think, “Well, I have a revelation, I have people to preach to, I love God, my life has no sin, I’m settled and just waiting for Jesus to come,” and God may see, “You need to get deeper.” But there is no crisis, there is no situation to drive you deeper. So what does God do? God could use any situation to bring you—to drive you deeper, to focus your attention in a certain direction, to cause you to pay emphasis at a certain time, on certain things, because of the challenge that is rising, that in those areas you need to be fortified to face those challenges.

Sometimes because of a lack of proper administration in your home, sometimes because of a lack of harmony among parents, sometimes because of a lack of proper planning in your home, sometimes because of neglecting certain responsibilities, things come and happen later on. And when it comes, we are unprepared for it; we only think of how unpleasant the situation has become or we try to see the immediate cause, “Maybe this happened and that is why this took place.”

But sometimes we don't see we could have avoided that; we could have been ready for that, that when that comes, that would not have been able to disorganize, to destroy, to bring into ruin the lives of people, or shatter their home, or destroy the relationship, if we had taken time to pray together, to read the Word, to spend time together, to be so knitted, that one day when the pressure comes, on the link, you are going to find strong links that can't be broken.

But if we are short-sighted, we prepare only when trouble comes. If we are wise and we could anticipate the type of trouble we could expect, or the road that we are heading, or the part of that road we are soon coming to where we need to have certain precautions, we are going to find ourselves looking ahead and preparing. That's a lesson we all learn.

Children who have their exams coming up in school, they don't try to wait until the week before exams to start to try to learn everything. They are going to find themselves... They can't learn everything at one time; their minds can't relate to everything at one time. They are going to find themselves... They should have been a little more systematic.

They are going to find that sometimes the price that they have to pay for a little indiscipline, where you want to enjoy this for a satisfaction, that you realize there are other important things in your life and not just this one thing. And you will not even be able very soon to enjoy that one thing that you are trying to give all the attention to, by letting the rest of your life get disorganized.

So children in school, they, many times, are being prepared, they are being trained, they are being, you know, brought in a certain pattern of learning that would later on apply in your life.

On the message *Leadership* [1965-1031A-Ed.], the Prophet said, "The first teacher you have is your mother, then your mother brought you to the school teacher, then the

school teacher, maybe, brought you to your Minister, then maybe your Minister—from your Minister, then you go out and you have a boss. Then you know, finally you come to die, and then you are leaving this world, then you still need a leader in life because life doesn't end there." Do you understand what I'm saying?

We need leadership. We need to know the importance of leadership. We need to really understand that we were made to be led. And we can't redesign ourselves and we can't make ourselves function under a different law and still succeed. We are designed to self-destruct. Working in any form outside of God's original will for us, we will self-destruct. There is only one way provided by God for everything.

If you are a businessman, your business will self-destruct if you don't get within that law. A church will self-destruct if it doesn't stay within that law. A home will self-destruct if it doesn't stay within that law. Your individual life will self-destruct if you don't stay within that law. In whatever field we're in, we need understanding, we need skill in whatever we are doing. To be unskilled, it means you are very limited. And to have a lot of skill and no understanding, means you wouldn't be able to use, properly, what you have, even though you have it and it could be an asset to you.

God connected those two words in the Bible: skill and understanding. For us... Gabriel came to Daniel and said, "I've come to give you skill and understanding."  
[Daniel 9:22 -Ed.]

Now watch. Now, looking at the children, we began to realize that we could have done a lot to save many of ours. We could have had something proper. We could have made a sacrifice there. We say, "But..." We may feel justified and say, "Well, we were involved in this and we had this to do, and that wasn't as important and they had enough hearing," but sometimes there is something extra we can do. It's how much we believe in what we have. It's how much we believe we can do.

To a person with real faith, who has found the real Source, the supply of God becomes unlimited. I want you to know that. To a person who has faith, who lives in the faith realm, it becomes unlimited. You say, "How can you be so sure?" The Bible says, "Ask what you will. Ask anything in My Name; whatsoever you ask. Ask what you will." It is unlimited once it is in the realm of faith. It is unlimited. Ask that your joys may be full. It's unlimited.

It depends on how you see yourself; how much you want to drink. As the Prophet said, "Little fish, if you want to drink sparingly, that's your business. If the rat wants to eat a grain from the big grainary of Egypt instead of eating out the whole thing, that's up to him. He is in the realm of reasoning, not in the realm of faith." Amen.

And we started to have Sunday school and we thought, well, we need to have the children at different levels, that they can benefit; they can learn at their level. And we found out that that is not just a children-adult business because at the adult level, we still have a lot of levels too. See, you have people now coming in, because...

Just let me inject this right here; I missed it on Sunday. It was in my heart to say it and when I was going home in the car, I said, oh my, I was supposed to make that announcement on Sunday.

I want to encourage many of you, from sixteen years down, please, come out to the Sunday school; it is going to help you. We don't have a young people's service at present, but come out to the Sunday school; it's going to help you. Many of you need that little foundational knowledge of the Bible, of those principles that are going to help you.

Don't think of it like it's for little children. This is not little children's business. That's why we separated the classes and so on. And we have many who sit right there, even some adults, the little children right there

know more than them when it comes to the things of God—the Word of God. The bigger [elder -Ed.] ones may have more experience but we don't just want experience alone, we have to know the Word of God too. Because that is why when you have the—when we know the Word of God, we could keep our experiences in the Spirit and in the Word, and we don't get detoured with experience. Do you understand what I'm saying? Then we can get deeper in our experiences and we'll know the Word too. Alright.

So the Bible here (as I was taking the little examples,) speaks of skill and understanding in music, also speaks of it in work, and it speaks of it in the Word. And I want to look at those areas because I'm addressing this to the young people, and especially the little boys who we have a little—some activities planned for them, that the objective is to bring unity, to increase their friendship and more fellowship among the youths in the church.

We don't want our little boys and our young people, and our children, even adults, we are trying to eradicate the spirit of 'a group of people fellowshiping at the same address'. We are trying to eradicate the spirit of 'a bunch of people under the same roof'. Because it could have a family, (they call themselves a family sometimes,) and it is just a group of people under the same address, living under the same roof, because a house is not a home. Amen.

And it's going to take unity, it's going to take co-operation, it will take fellowship; it will take integration. And that is why we even have decided to launch out and have our own premises, and the type of surroundings suited to the type of needs that exist amongst us.

Whatever you are going into, you are thinking of it as meeting your need; as fulfilling a need. Whatever you do, it must have a fulfillment. If it is intended to be for style or for show, or for glitter, it doesn't have anything to do with 'purpose' and 'meeting a need'. But if it is to

meet a need, then it must be designed with a knowledge of what your needs are.

So knowing what our needs are, we are thinking of having this and having this, and having this done this way, and having this done this way because it's going to meet the type of needs, and in those needs being met, the achievement will be bringing a greater integration among the people.

Well, so it is with the boys. We have some events planned for them in sport and so on. And I want to kind of speak it, to show that this is a scriptural thing in the Bible. The Bible doesn't spend much time on sports because It is dealing with the plan of Redemption, but the Bible has many references to sport. And as I say, an activity. I call it an activity because it depends on the purpose you are doing it and what you are doing it for, or what you intend to get out of it, and why you go into it, and how much emphasis you are going to put into it, and where you are going to draw your lines.

We are not preparing people for college football here. We are not trying to make international stars of tomorrow. We are not trying to make future World Cup potentials and these things. What we are interested in, is having a type of activity that boys of a certain age could come together, enjoy together, have interaction among themselves in a Christian atmosphere that will breed friendship, will breed harmony, will breed unity and will breed fellowship. That is what we are thinking of.

To just have that, it means to say, you just want so much of it. The boundaries must be exactly here and it will be done in a manner suited to our particular need, because it is something being applied to a situation. It is like medication for an existing situation. Do you understand what I'm saying?

So, I thought I'd help some of you parents and some of you other members of the church who may have reservations about anything that doesn't have a Bible

reading inside of it or so, so it will kind of help us in those areas.

And that is what I want to preach to the young boys here, that they don't get carried away either, and that is the only thing they enjoy and when they come to church, everybody is sleeping. And when they come to church, everybody is uninterested, and when they get outside, everybody is anxious. Then you are missing the mark. Do you understand what I'm saying? Do you all understand that, boys? You little fellows here, do you little boys understand that? Are you getting that? Amen. Sorry all of them are not out tonight, but they will tell their friends what the Minister was saying. Amen.

Now, let's just turn our Bibles and I want those boys too, to turn when I say to find those Scriptures. 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 15, verse 22, let's just find that. After Kings are Chronicles; Samuel, Kings, Chronicles. 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles we want, Chapter 15, verse 22. And It says here... This is when the Ark had come back and the worship was being restored, and you know, there was a revival among the people and they were setting everything in order. It says:

*22 And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites,  
was for song: he instructed about the song,  
because he was skilful.*

This is one place the Bible uses the word 'skillful'. Now 'skillful' means 'expertness'. It means 'practiced ability'. It means 'highly trained'. It also means 'experienced'. It means 'facility in a certain type of action'.

You see, somebody could play a guitar and then when somebody really plays, you'll say, "That person is skillful in playing that guitar, boy." You've differentiated one as maybe not more talented but more trained in the field to execute it, the playing, with greater skillfulness; more expertise in it.

Then also, 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 5, verse 18. Chapter 5; just turn back a few pages. It says:



*18 The sons of Reuben, and the Gadites, and half [of] the tribe of Manasseh, of valiant men...*

Great, courageous; brave men.

*... men able to bear shield and sword, and to shoot with bow, and skilful in war, were four and forty thousand seven hundred and threescore, who went out to the war.*

America right now, and all those other nations, have their troops out there in the Gulf, and it could be a long, bloody war if ever it has to break out. So they want some of the best troops, they want some of the most highly trained men; they want certain types of weapons that would be effective in the type of war they are going to fight under the conditions.

There are times you fight war in the sea, there are times you fight war in the jungles; there are times you fight war in the desert. Well, this is a desert area. There are not a lot of trees and mountains to hide behind; it is desert and sand. You have to learn to maneuver those tanks inside in the sandstorm, how to keep the sand out of your eyes, how to keep the sand from, you know, messing up your weapon that you can't function in case you are under attack.

So, even though these men have been trained in all their career of being a soldier, yet when they go out there, they are not just sitting and waiting for the whistle to blow and say, "The battle has started"; they go out there and they are having war maneuvers every day to get skillful in fighting in that kind of situation.

They were skillful in war. You don't just want a man who is big, to go out and... That is not going to frighten some people. There are little, little, short fellows, they don't care how tall you are, they don't care how big you are, they don't care how bad you look, they don't care how loud you talk because they intend to show you they are more bad than you. Amen.

Now, I'm going to get to something just now; you are going to see why I'm taking this line. And they realize the courage those... It has nothing to do with how tall you are.

Look at David and Goliath, yet David had courage. He didn't care how tall Goliath was. People who didn't have courage, were seeing the man's height. People who didn't have any valor, who weren't really brave, were seeing how many people the man killed; how bad the man was. But a man who was courageous, who was brave, who trusted in God, who got skill from God, who got courage from God, he didn't care how big the situation looked. He had confidence that he was skillful. Because the Bible says, "One that was skillful, one that was mighty, one that was valiant, one that was prudent in matters, and the Lord was with him."

He wasn't just skillful in playing, he was responsible; prudent in matters. "David, do so and so." He was going to do it; brought back a report: "This one did so and so and so." He went and did it; didn't waste time and got caught up in something else and forgot what he was going to do. He was prudent in matters. He was reliable. He was dependable. He was diligent. He was obedient.

What is the use of being skillful and you aren't obedient? What is the use of being cunning and you are not prudent in matters? Then the same matters that you are skillful about, you might be lackadaisical about it because you are not willing to apply yourself because you are not skillful, you are not prudent, in it. Amen.

Now, prudent in matters! Valiant! Sometimes you are outnumbered, like those valiant men David had. One man killed eight hundred, one man killed a thousand, one man did so and so. You are outnumbered. It seems like a foregone conclusion. You could put up your 'white flag' right away. But some men say, "I'll defend this with the last drop of blood in my body. I'm going to stand here and I'll go down fighting, because it's a worthy cause to die for." Amen?

People were skillful. They were skillful in war; skillful in song. Let's look at something else. 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 28. Even in this Book of Daniel, may God give all of us skill and understanding in the things that we need to be skillful in, in the understanding we need to have to really execute those skills with precision, with, you know—like it could really do something. It could cause your business to grow. It could cause your life to be more stabilized; it could be an influence to others.

We have a lot of people with a lot of skills in the church, but many lack understanding. But God could give you understanding with your skill and help you, make you successful, put some valor inside of there; make you a little more prudent in your matters. Amen. Some of you are skillful but you aren't prudent in matters at all. As they say, "The shoemaker's shoe always needs fixing. The barber always needs a haircut." Why? He's not prudent in matters. You don't want to be that kind of way. See?

1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 28, verse 21.

*21 And, behold, the courses of the priests and the Levites, even they shall be with thee...*

This is David encouraging Solomon to build the temple.

*... and there shall be with thee for all manner of workmanship every willing skilful man, for any manner of service: also the princes and all the people will be wholly at thy commandment.*

David was telling him, "You are going to build a building; you are going to need skillful men." He said, "But don't be afraid, all those skillful men, God is going to move upon them." Because David was looking back, maybe, at Moses, when he was building the tabernacle and saw how God anointed men with skill, so he knew he was going to move it from the tabernacle to a temple. And he knew that God is the unchanging God, and that

the same God Who gave skillful men back there, would give skillful men here. Amen. So he was encouraging Solomon with those words of advice.

2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 2, verse 14. Amen. Verse 14:

*14 The son of a woman of...*

This is Hiram now, who was a king of Tyre and he was helping Solomon because he was a good friend of David, Solomon's father, and he knew what he was going to do, so in verse 13 he said:

*13 And now I have sent a skillful man, endued with understanding, of Hiram my father's,*

And:

*14 The son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre, skillful to work in gold, and in silver, in brass, in iron, in stone, and in timber, in purple, in blue, and in fine linen, and in crimson [multi-crafted]; also to engrave any manner of engraving, and to devise every device which shall be put to him, with thy skillful men, and with the skillful men of my lord David thy father.*

He said, "I have some skillful men here who I'm going to send over to put with the skillful men your father has, and you all are 'bound' [certain -Ed.] to get that job done. You all could build the Hall of Justice if you all want when you all are finished there. Amen. You are going to pool your resources together. There will be no limits to your achievements," amen, "because it will be a thing being led by skillful men, influenced by skillful men, and they are skillful in all variety of ways: cunning, skillful, expertise, practicability, highly trained; efficient.

So, here we have three different examples of God using skill – with music, using skill with war; using skill with work. But many times, we talk about skill, we also talk about skill in sport, because that is a very skillful

person: very skillful player, very imaginative player, very cunning; you know, very talented. See? So, he is a highly developed person. See? He knows... He could explode on a field; he could change a game. He could command a situation; he is not intimidated by the opposition. He is brave. He is courageous. He is valiant. If you put him to hold a position, he is prudent in matters. He is responsible. He is going to man that post. Nothing is going to distract him. Amen. Nothing can compete there; he is going to defend it down to the last drop of perspiration; last ounce of strength. Amen. He is going to do it wholeheartedly.

Now, God gives skill and understanding because we see the Bible says David... Gabriel said, "I've come to give you skill and understanding." The Bible says, "God gave Daniel skill in wisdom and all learning." Then also, seeing that God gave these skills, He gives understanding with it because He knows that if He gives a man a lot of skill to do a lot of things, it might be used to do things for a lot of other people who employs those skills, but direct him how to use it for their purpose, and when it comes to his own self, he can't direct his own skills for his own purpose and his own benefit. So he has the skills but he can't do anything for himself.

But a man could come and say, "I want this done. I want this done this way. I want this done in such and such a time and I want it done this way, and don't do it that way at all." What is the man doing? The man is directing his skills for him. Oh, it makes something wonderful. Then the man leaves him on his own. He still has his skill, (his skill wasn't taken away,) but then he didn't have the understanding to use it. It was the man's understanding using his skill. But when God could give you understanding with your skill, how much greater it is. Wouldn't you like to have that kind of understanding in what you are doing? Sure!

Look, God in the Bible has done that. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. You, maybe, don't need

healing tonight but you may need understanding, and that understanding would bring healing to your soul. You may find yourself not being brought and influenced into all kinds of situations that have you depressed, that you were formerly led into because you were void of understanding, but now, understanding might be able to keep you out of certain things.

Some of you have died a business death already. You may still have business life left in you. Some of you entered a business crash, died a business death and had a business funeral, and entered into business corruption, and only the grace of God could give you a business resurrection. Amen. Sure!

But the grace of God... God is more than able. The power of the Holy Spirit, He could give Life. And the kind of Life you want, is the Life God gives. If you want a certain life to make your little project, your little situation, whether in the home, or your children, or whatever it is, for your family, for your own self, to work and succeed, you want God's Life. You want it to run by God's Power. You want it to run by God's energy. Because then it means it wouldn't have any shortage. It could handle any situation. It wouldn't be turned back by any circumstances. Is that right?

Then is there a way for us to tap into God... Remember when God was God of Israel, God was God of Israel in war, God was God of Israel in church, God was God of Israel in providing food, God was God of Israel in clothing them; God was God of Israel in their economy. Is that right? God wasn't God of Israel only in the tabernacle in the wilderness, you know. God said, "I'll make your bread basket grow, and you are going to have economic problems if you disobey Me. I'll make your land into a desert and put you into famine, and put you into bad business. You may have to beg from your neighbors and they who are heathens, and even humble you, if you don't obey Me." Is that right? Sure!

But we are the spiritual to that. And the God we are talking about, this Revelation 10:1, this God Who came down under the Seventh Seal with that open Book, that God we are talking about, He is God over everything and He knows everything. He knows all things and He made a way and laid it out in the Word for us to do everything: to raise your children, to run a business...

Didn't Paul preach about it, the messenger of that Age, that first Age, laying down that foundation revelation? Part of it was that. "Men," he said, "you aren't working, you aren't eating; you are worse than an infidel." He said, "You are living off of 'dole' [Charitable distribution -Ed.] and bumming and begging. You are worse than an infidel." He said, "It's a stumblingblock to the faith." Is that right? Sure.

Then you know there are men with business talents but they are lazy, because Jesus came and told the same parable. When one man could have gone out and got two more for his two, he buried it and had it there. Slothful! Did Jesus call him a slothful servant? "Thou slothful and unprofitable servant"? [Matthew 25:26 -Ed.] Then Paul came back and said, "Don't be slothful in business." [Romans 12:11 -Ed.] Is that right? "He giveth bread to the eater and seed to the sower"?

And he showed the whole... That is the whole cycle right there. Every economy upon the face of the earth is based on that principle right there - bread to the eater and seed to the sower. That is the strength of every economy, right there. If you don't work, you don't eat.

But sometimes people don't know what to do. They need to have their understanding open to see avenues to do things; to find ways and means. They need wisdom. They need the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They need to find the key in God's Word to unlock those doors that are closed.

Your door could be a financial door. Your door could be a health door. Your door could be different doors. You may not be able to... You may have an open door to

reading and praying and a locked door to health, because with all the reading and praying, you aren't getting the key to unlock that door. Do you understand what I'm saying?

You may have a lot of ideas, but they are not working. You need to find the business key in the Word to open the business door. There is a key for that door. It's in the Word, friends. We talk about the Seven Seals and the Seven Thunders. Do we know what that is? You have the Seven Thunders, Rapturing Faith, faith to create, and you almost... Do you understand what I'm saying?

You see, many of us, I think we see the Gospel as 'Peter' and 'Paul' and 'Mary' and things, and 'Lazarus', and 'the Rapture coming', and that's where we see the Gospel, and then live underprivileged the rest of our lives after that. So all we have to show is some knowledge of certain subjects, but as far as life and influence and what we're doing and what we are achieving, and what we are able to do, and what we are possessing and what we are conquering and what we are subduing and what doors we are opening, you know, it's missing. Why? Because somehow, we can't utilize, harness the power, and use it.

And if the promise of the Holy Ghost is here with all the power, but it is going to take faith to move It, and faith is revelation, how to get that power that is here, he says, "But it is governed by a law, and you don't holler, holler, holler to get it to work. No! You find the law. Alright! So, we are dealing with a law here. That is what I'm dealing with. To achieve spiritual things, work by spiritual laws. To achieve scientific things, you work by scientific laws.

So, God gives skill. We see it in the Bible. God can give skills in any field. Who gave them the skills to build the temple? God. Who gave them the skills to fight their battles? God. Who gave them skills to worship? God. So in building, in industry, God was giving them skills. In



war, in fighting, God was giving them skills. In worship, God was giving them skills. In learning, God was giving them skills.

God wants to endue us. That is why the Bible says, "If any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of God." [James 1:5 -Ed.] "Lord, how do I do this? What is the way to be successful with this, Lord? What are the principles? What am I doing wrong, Lord? Where is my current grounding off? What must I do, Lord? Show it to me in the Word." He'll show it to us.

Now there are many references in the Bible concerning sporting events. Because I guarantee you, they never used to use the bow and arrow for war time alone. The Bible says Israel had so many men who used to sling, brother, that stone at a hair's breadth, at so many paces away.

Back then, there weren't any big set of stores to go and buy turkeys, to go and buy... If you wanted a turkey, you would go and hunt a turkey. If you wanted some meat, you would go and hunt your meat. That was the society because it was all out there. They were conservationists. The land had plenty and they would go and they would hunt it. And hunting was one of their main sports. Hunting is still a sport today.

Archery: David and Jonathan out there, brother, they were shooting. They weren't hunting and neither were they in war. And he told him, he said, "Shoot the arrow in a certain place and I'll go and hide there," and different things. Why? Because they had a feast, they had their weapons and everything else, and they used to do a little target shooting. Because they trained to develop that skill. It was used for war. Only when they had to defend their lives, defend their country, defend their heritage, they used it. But really it was a skill to help them to live.

Also, they had horse riding. It was a great thing they had out there. Jehu was a master in that. Sure. The Bible talks about the driving of Jehu; the chariots and

so on. It was something that was required; a great skill – horsemanship. Because they had footmen and horsemen. And there were some men, maybe they were falling out of a horse every time, and they said, “You were born to be a footman. You just can’t seem to master the horsemanship.” Because they were not just taking a stroll; it was horsemen who were trained for battle.

Now you had to like riding. You had to like horsemanship. You weren’t forced in the army to ride a horse; you had to like it. Do you think a man would never have ridden a horse unless he was going to war? They had those horses that they rode. They would go horseback riding. They enjoyed that. It was a feeling of enjoyment. If you read the history of the Israelites, they had many things they did.

And you know, seeing then that we have kind of regimented our children to a great extent that is not too good for them... And we have reasons to do it, which we feel justified because we know the kind of influence sometimes they could pick up getting out there in certain places.

Like Bro. Branham told the girl, he said, “Honey, nothing’s going on, on the basketball court. If you are a Christian, you are a Christian anywhere” – *God’s Power To Transform*. [1965-1031M - Power Of Transformation, para. 193 -Ed.] “Because if you go out there, those kids start to swear, this and that, daddy knows you are going to hear those things.” See? But what was she going to do now?

Now, it’s either... Some children have the mentality, they could go anywhere and don’t be influenced. But not everybody could do that. Not everybody has that. Ninety percent who think they have it, don’t have it, because people like to think of themselves more highly than they ought to think. They like to think they can do this, they like to think they could do that because they don’t want to be seen as, “I can’t do this and I can’t do that.” And a child ought not to have any complex about

what they can't do and what they can do. Because doing one thing doesn't make you a better person than another person.

And some children have late development. Do you know how many people figured I was a no-good, bound for failure in life? Do you know how many people today still see it's some smart man, just like they were being, as being a smart man, that's how it is? And I guarantee you, there are a few people who meet me today, that have favor in God's sight like me.

Now you may feel that sounds 'funny' [strange -Ed.] as a Christian, if you don't understand it right, how I said it. Is there anybody that has more favor in the world than in the Bride? Is there somebody who isn't married to Jesus Christ, who has more favor than who is married to Jesus Christ? Is there somebody who has God's Name and God's Life, who has more favor than God? Do you understand what I'm saying?

But what is our problem? He said, "You are living below your God-given privilege." It is the way you are seeing yourself. But if somebody isn't seeing themselves a certain way, you don't have to live in their bondage. If God liberated you, you have to live in your liberty that He has given you. That is why He said, "Don't stand before a man who has faith. If a man has faith to go in the Rapture, don't stand before him and say, 'We can't have that faith yet.' Let the man go. Say, 'Lord, help me and give me that kind of faith. That is what I need.'"

We could do many things to have it. We could have a birthday party. We could have a nice 'eat and drink' for them and get them all together and let them laugh with one another. But there is a way that children could express themselves much better, in a more enjoyable way, when they relate to one another; when they do things together that they can enjoy in a certain type of atmosphere.

Bro. Branham said, "We know the boundaries. We know the boundaries between sin and faith." See? We

know what is too close to the world, and we know when something is getting too strong. Because in there...

I'll tell you something: the world today that we are living in, (I was thinking about that today,) you see, life, school, work, in general, is a very competitive atmosphere. When a person is out there on their work [job -Ed.] I guarantee you, if there are fifty persons on that job there, and you are a Christian, and they are obsessed with the world and the economic situation, they are going to try to outdo you, victimize you, push you, step over you to get that position which means a little more money; which means a little more privilege. It's competitive.

And sometimes you are soft and nice, and you are just dainty with your cellophane paper all over you, still in your bag, you know, and you go out there and they bounce you, and they push you, and they step on you. You can't live in that world. It's too rough for you. It's too competitive for you.

And you start to think you are a failure in life; you can't fit in. And you have had a bad experience and you don't know how to relate to one another out there. And sometimes you feel so humiliated, you can't tell anybody about your humiliation. So you try to avoid confrontation with those who humiliate you. And then you can't find, you know, someone to let out how you feel and how you were hurt, someone who will understand you and help you, to give you the courage to go back inside of there and succeed. This time, you may have what it takes to succeed.

And I was thinking, I said, you know, school is so competitive, work is so competitive; life and the business world and everything is so competitive. It's like sharks – who is trying to devour whom. It's survival of the fittest. And the world, the whole world today has become a very competitive place.

A person who drops from their mother's womb and is growing up, is meeting a cruel, cold, ruthless, deceitful

world out there. And sometimes they are growing up with such innocence, they don't understand what is out there. They don't understand what the world and the society have been deteriorated into. That is why they don't even understand God's judgment, and how God has already marked the world for judgment. If we could see through God's eyes, we would see that God was not unjust. God was totally longsuffering before He told that Prophet, "Throw up that rock; judgment will start in the earth now"; totally longsuffering!

But we may look and still see a lovely world. And sometimes children who have to face it and who have to be in it, they find themselves disappointed. In school, this one hits them, this one pushes them around like...

You know, my little girl came to me the other day and said, "Daddy, you know what?" [Bro. Vin imitates his daughter - Ed.] Just so she talks. "A girl pushed me down in school," and she showed me a bruise here and a bruise here. And it was like, as she remembered the push, the tears wanted to come too, again. So, you know, I held her and started to comfort her.

I said, "Don't mind that, honey. Don't mind that." I said, "You know, maybe she didn't bounce you for spite." And you know, I said, "Were they running and playing in there?"

She said, "Yes."

I said, "You see the same thing. They were playing. She didn't do it for spite."

And then you get to realize sometimes how fragile children who are growing up and are sometimes being kept unexposed to a lot of things, can become, or children who have not been taught what to expect, and how to deal with certain things when they are confronted with it. So they find themselves unprepared and it just shatters them and they can't cope with it. So then they say, "I don't like school. I don't want to go to school. I don't want to do this. I don't want to..."

And sometimes it's not the school. They love to learn, they love to know new things, they love these things, but they can't cope with the situation out there. They can't handle the competition out there. They can't understand the brutality of others. Because the people they interact with, everybody is: "God bless you" and "Fine, I'll be praying for you." And this and that, and "Mommy loves you," and "Daddy loves you," and so and so. And they are all sheltered and protected.

And if they want something and somebody 'cuffs' [hits; strikes -Ed.] them at the first instance before they even could explain something, somebody curses them or something, or does something to them, then they are faced with that. Then the rest laugh at them and they feel humiliated. And if they are not assisted at those times, they could degenerate into cowards, they could just try to be drawbacks, go into a shell, build up complexes and these things.

And some of us have been the victims of those things. We grew up big [older -Ed.] and it's inside of us. We still don't know how to come out of it. We can't even relate to people with it. We can't handle atmospheres; we can't handle situations. Why? Because in our upbringing, we were not prepared for the things that we face now in life.

And even though we come to the Gospel, not having the insight and not understanding the Word, and not understanding the world, and only know it in a religious form, we still can't deal with it. Because we need to know it by revelation. We need to be strengthened by the Word. We need to be prepared to deal with those things outside there; to know that through God, we can do all things.

Why do you think Paul talked about his hardships and being beaten, and his imprisonment, and the time in famines, and fasting and shipwreck? And he showed that with Christ in your life, you can succeed regardless of circumstances. You don't have to be a vegetable. You don't have to live like a big marshmallow; you've got to

be a big marshmallow in church and, you know. Christianity is a rugged business!

So, I thought it was good, you know, the Spirit, I felt, dealt with me, you know, when I began to see, look, you know, sporting activity that is of a competitive nature, is a suitable situation that has the right kind of conditions to develop and train children to be better equipped to face the conditions that they meet in daily life. Understand me!

It's not the sports so much for them. The activity is like, only an experiment; is only a situation. Because out of there you are going to see who is selfish, you are going to see who likes self-glorification, you are going to see who is quick to get vex; you are going to see who is quick to accept failure. It's all showing their personalities. You will see who is quick to get discouraged; you will see who will fight to the end. It will show up in their personalities.

And then when you know certain things and certain traits in children's lives, that could only come out and be visible before your eyes under certain conditions that are designed to bring them out, you could know how to minister to some of them, because you'll know where their lackings are. You'll know why they are failing in life. You'll know why they can't progress as they should. You'll know why they have certain drawbacks. You'll know where they are weak, and at times when they get pressured in that area, they give up. You'll see it.

And spiritually, it happens to all of us. And that is what God gives us our experiences for – to discover those places in our lives, that we'll know how to pray and what to pray for.

Because it's a very competitive world. And anything that is competitive, that they have to fight, that exerts a certain amount of will-power and displays a certain amount of intelligence and that is going to take a certain amount of endurance, is going to develop those things within them.

Sure, as boys they are full of energy; they are going to love to play. Right now, all they are thinking about is playing. They are not thinking about these things; we are thinking about those things for them. But they are not thinking about it in that way at all. They are just thinking about, to get back in church and tell who scored and who shook who, and who did this, and who did that to whom and... They are thinking of it on that level. And they wouldn't even understand why they failed and why they have certain drawbacks. They wouldn't understand it, because they are still in the age of being trained up in the way that they should go. They are not even trained to start to look inward yet.

It takes the Spirit in your life to make you look inward. There are big, old people who haven't started to look inward yet, and realize their problem is right inward here. It is growth in the Holy Spirit that shapes you to start to think, "Maybe it is something I didn't do right. Maybe it is something that, you know, I missed, that God was showing me this was going to happen. Maybe I need to take inventory. Maybe I didn't apply the Word correctly." Do you understand what I'm saying?

So those boys here, we are hoping that it would be something, that the interaction among one another, the fellowship, the unity... Because the whole objective is for fellowship, for unity and for friendship. If among them we have... When they come in the house of God, and the Sunday school teacher says, "We are going to sing *My Lord Delivered Daniel*, everybody is very happy and enthused and wants to sing and worship God. And it would...

Because David, when he was playing, he was playing skillfully. When he was hunting, he was hunting. When he was doing, you know... When he was worshipping, dancing before the Ark, he was dancing with all his might. Do you understand what I'm saying?

Now Esau was very skillful in hunting. He was a great sportsman. When Esau started to run like that, run



behind a deer or something, let me tell you, the terror in that deer. When he started to hunt and track that animal and the viciousness that he would hunt with and the cunningness... The Bible said he was a skillful hunter.

Now, I preached the message on *The Traps Of The Mighty Hunter* [1989-0614 -Ed.]; did a little reading on some hunting and what hunting entails. And it's a contest between the hunter and the animal, and how the animal, you know, has the edge because the animal is in its own environment. And that was why guns and weapons were invented – to kind of balance, you know, the competition between the hunter and the animal. Because if the hunter didn't have any guns, he would have never been able to catch the animal at any time.

That was why even in primitive times, they had a bow and arrow, they had something there, you know, maybe a rock, maybe a slingshot or something that they could use in hunting to kind of help them compete with the animal at a distance, to sling the rock, or throw the spear, or shoot the bow and arrow or something like that. And what is the use of you going to hunt and you haven't learnt to shoot? A man who's going to hunt...

Like the Prophet, they say when he got on that range there, he would shoot and he would put up that target, and unless he didn't hit that bullseye, through the eye of the thing every time, until he even won something, and they had the president of the shooting gallery signed it, that never a man had hit those things about ten times straight through the same hole. Because he loved it. He loved the sport.

Well, we don't have hunting as a big thing in Trinidad because we don't have the kind of territory for it, and then it doesn't have the kind of game to really say who is a really skillful hunter or not. But in this type of environment, they have other types of sport that you exercise in, that is clean and nice, that you can do and enjoy and it brings out the things in you.

Because you still need the Holy Spirit. Let me tell you, you'll be surprised to know the things the Holy Spirit wants to show you and can teach you. The Holy Spirit can teach you in any situation. The Holy Spirit can use anything to give you a lesson.

And you know, many of the boys that we have here, in trying to help them... And it's not that we are neglecting the girls; we have to do something for our girls too and try to help them and let them enjoy themselves too, and let them meet one another, and know one another in the way. Because as children, we are not carrying them and they have a work to do and go and...

You know, make sure that they are studying for their work. Their world doesn't have those things in it. Their world entails certain things, and for us to really win their friendship, grow them up in a way that they could know that when the things of God are so important, and they could understand us that we are not fanatics.

There are many, many young people who have grown up in the Message, (and some right here in the Assembly,) who see their parents as fanatics. And some parents have lost the influence over some of their children because they saw mammy was a fanatic in the Message, daddy was a fanatic in the Message, who were on a limb and was seeing things in a radical way, and never had a balance, and they were forced to be subjected to fanatical things, fanatical ideas. Do you understand what I'm saying?

And sometimes we don't know the pain that that is to children. Sometimes we don't know the resistance children put up, that when they see a lot of their lives has been missed, and then they would spend the rest of their lives trying to get a hold of and enjoy. What if they had been brought up through the right channel, that when it was time to wear out those things, they'd wear it out.

Do you think anybody could get me back to be a sporting fanatic? Do you think somebody could get me back to go and start to train to run a hundred meters in so many minutes and to do this? Do you think somebody could influence me to do that? Nobody can convince me of that. I've grown out of that. I have better uses and other things to use my energy for now. Mentally, I will sit down and enjoy it and be amused by it, but I'm not going to indulge and participate and spend time and sacrifice for it, because we have outgrown it.

And it's the same way they want to... There is an age you will grow out of those things and it will mean no more to you because you know it was for a time and season; because your intellect has developed to greater things. Different types of things hold your interest now because you've come up the right way.

Just like a mother nursing a child, it will have a day that she will wean that child. And when she weans that child from that breast, she could put back that child on that breast, but that child doesn't want that breast anymore. He wants a cup. "Give me a cup, man. Put some ice in it and let me shake my juice." Do you understand what I'm saying?

Well, it's the same way, when people are connected to certain things... And that is why, what happens many times, it takes such intelligence that only the Holy Spirit can give to be a real parent. It takes sacrifice to be a parent.

A lot of people think, "I sacrificed to buy this shoe, I sacrificed to buy that suit for you, I sacrificed to give you this dress, and so and so and so," but they are not sacrificing themselves. So all the sacrifices they made were just physical, for the physical needs, and the interest of the child, at the time, was for something else than what they see they sacrificed for. But they look at all that they did. They never looked to see if the child was happy or if that met the need or if that was the real

need they should have sacrificed for. And some parents say, well, it should not have been brought up; the child is ungrateful to even say and question the sacrifice that they have sacrificed. Do you understand what I'm saying?

But friends, let me tell you, there is nothing greater than the Holy Spirit in your life. There's nothing greater than that. And those children, when they are around Holy Ghost filled people, they know. When they are dealt with by Holy Ghost people, they know. They feel the Holy Spirit. They may not know It or understand It in a way to identify the evidence and all these different things, but they know it's something else there. It speaks to their heart; It convicts them. It holds their attention. It could get them happy. It could... You could deal with them in a way, you could win their confidence in a way.

The time when they want comfort, the Holy Spirit is quick to discern that they need a little comfort, they need a little hug up; they need a little cheering up. And you could do it because the Holy Ghost is there. When they want you to play with them, you could play with them, and they know that is the Holy Ghost there. They appreciate that because that is what they are pulling on you for at the time. And you have their attention and you have their support because they are getting from you what they want for that time, and what they were asking for was not simple. It was going to make them happy. And when they get happy and you were the ones who contributed to their happiness, then you'll have their confidence willingly. You don't even have to ask them or kind of prove to them that they should do this; you just have to walk and they are following you.

And you know, seeing that we want to do something for them, we have the space up there. We had asked the parents to be involved and to participate in the Sunday school. We asked them to participate in these things. And I think we had some of the brothers to ask them

too, to attend when the children were participating so that the children could know they had their mom and dad's support. And you know, it's something to help them and to make them happy. And sometimes we are going to end up enjoying it too, by seeing them happy. Because we are happy when they are happy. We are happy when they stay around us. See?

And then it gives us a good chance to see things in them that we don't see when they are playing outside and we are in the house, or when they go down the road to play and we are at home and we don't see. And then you know why they are so quickly discouraged, or why their feelings get hurt so quickly or why they can't persevere.

And then sometimes you even see some of those things, they get it from you. And then you see the places in their lives where you are failing to reach and how limited your communication is with them. Because if your communication was of a certain depth, they would have had development in some of those areas that they don't have any development. So then you know now, the things to kind of give them self-confidence that they can do this, they can do that. You know, give them a positive attitude instead of the negative: "Nobody likes me, nobody cares for me, I can't do anything, I can't fit in, they laugh at me," you know, to deliver them from those things.

Because to see them develop... What we are interested in is real child development; to see them develop into fine young men and fine young women that they could see in the Bible, David was skillful in hunting.

Esau was so skillful in hunting, but do you know what happened? He rejected the things of God. He just lived for the sport. Hunting was his life. Sport was his life. When he came back with those trophies, "Ahhh," he laughed. He looked at Jacob. He gave Jacob all the 'sissy fatigue' [Local term for jeering -Ed.]: "Look at you, you are

a sissy. You can't do this Jacob." Competing! "Look at you, Jacob, you are always home around mammy's dress. Give him the broom, let him sweep up the place. Let him wash up the 'wares'. [Dishes -Ed.] A man has to go out there and face the wild." 'Peer pressure' they call it.

They say most of the crimes taking place today, elder boys are putting peer pressure upon the younger ones, daring them, "Do this, do that," humiliating them in front of a crowd, in front of a girl, somebody that they want to kind of maybe, you know, show a little manliness around. And then somebody else comes to kind of put them down and used right there.

The Devil knows just the things to get them, you know, just the places where it's going to hurt them the most; just the time to humiliate them in front of a crowd. And that is how the Devil breaks your spirit, breaks it, breaks it and pushes you inward and makes you an introvert.

Some of us got abused; we can't even communicate with people. Sometimes you put two Christians in a...

We had a situation: two brothers were staying together; like they weren't talking to one another or something like that and it started to cause some friction. From the time I heard it, I knew they were two lovely boys. They loved one another; really good friends. It's just that, it's the growing up and the development. From the time I heard it, I could see it was their growth and their development. They didn't grow up in a home with family and you know, real, real family interaction, and sharing and doing things together.

So it's a complex in there. It's something lacking in there, that when, you know... They have nothing to communicate on. But get three or four other people around the two of them, they'll all communicate together. Get one who could start to talk and pull the interest from the rest and get them involved, you'll see everybody get participating. Put two non-starters on

their own and they'll watch—they'll stare down one another. It'll become a staring contest. Sure!

You see, let me tell you, our Christian life, it needs so much. We so need to understand people and relate to one another. We have people inside of here who could be real, real friends: love one another, nice; participate. But in church, they don't want to come out and participate. This one's going to say that about them, this one's going to say that, this one's going to do this; this one's going to do the other. See? They have their critics there and from the time they see their critics, they lose all nerve to do anything. They can't do it anymore. They have to bend down their head and try to do it, and they are fidgeting around and everything else.

Why? They lack the power to rise above that. "It's not how you see me; it's how God sees me." They don't have that extra thing to raise them there. You don't need to correct my book; it's God Who will correct my book. Who are you anyway? You can't even correct your own book, do you want to correct mine? Amen. You see, they need to get there but they don't have what it takes.

Now some people, you see, they've learnt to—they have to fight for everything in life. So brother, they get there in a crowd, people are pushing for something, and there are a few who check and don't want to go in the line at all and there is a worker whispering, "Oh God, they're coming!" Somebody needs to fight for everything. They'll push everybody back, you know; get right inside of there. They say, "Come on, line up here, man! Have some better order than that!" See, if it's a job, you know, then they'll go right to the front. You see?

In other words, they know the 'ropes'. [Know the routine; the procedure -Ed.] They know how to move. They know how to move around situations. They are Christians, but nobody is going to bully them, and nobody is going to kind of, you know, intimidate them and rough them up. They are not going to go out there and be obnoxious now. They are not going to go out there and kind of fight

back, because they are harmless like doves, but they have such wisdom in being harmless, that it repels, that even the very people who wants to come to intimidate them, think twice before they come round among them because they could turn back the sarcasm right back upon the people in a very nice way. See? And then you see who really needs the help.

Because Jesus was that way, you know. They came with all kinds of things to trap Him and tie Him and trap Him in His speech and everything, and when He was done with them, they had to hang their heads and walk out, you know. Sure! Because He turned what they brought, right back upon them. Because He had wit. He was quick. He was smart. He could read situations. He could discern their spirits. He could check their motives. He could see the angles they were coming at to put Him under pressure. He knew the indirect attacks and all those different things, so He could have handled those things.

Now some of us fall victim under it and just get retarded. We get, you know, like we are under rehabilitation or something after a while. We become invalids. May God help us.

Because young boys are supposed to go out there, do their best; know that God is there with them to give them skill. Young girls could know that they don't have to be put under and made to feel as a granny and pushed back there, and kind of be insulted by some Jezebel who's just trying to make them feel that, you know, they don't have any joy, and they are like a big, you know, sour—like Bro. Branham, the Prophet, said, "More sour than a bump on a pickle." You know, you are like a wart on a log or something; you can't enjoy yourself; you can't do anything at all. All you know how to do, is like, go to church.

Let me tell you, we aren't church mice, you know. We are no church mouse. We are not going to Heaven because we are in church every day. Christianity does



not depend on how many times we come to church; it's the Word living inside of us. And wherever we are, the Word inside of us, our atmosphere, the love, the grace of God flowing from us, the Power of God in our lives, the willingness to work and to help, the cheerfulness to lift others spirits, (amen), wherever we are, we change the atmosphere because there is a Power inside of us. We are like that lily to brighten up the place, give some beauty to the surroundings wherever we are, that brother, the passerby could come and get a whiff off of our fragrance that we draw from the Holy Spirit. Sure. God put us there to be a light; to be a testimony.

Remember the Prophet talked about John Cartwright [Peter Cartwright -Ed.], the preacher back there when they were going to have the revival, and he walked in and he rented the barn, and the town bully came and said, "Nobody is going to have any revival inside here until they whip me first."

He said, "Oh, is that what the condition is? Sure."

He dropped down the brush, he dusted his hands off, (he was painting the place,) he went, put a good licking [physical beating -Ed.] on him, and came back and preached the revival and the man got saved. [1962-0311 - para. 35 -Ed.] Sure.

If that is what it takes, sure, we will do that. Amen, put some... See, by the grace of God. I mean, it doesn't always have to be physical. It doesn't always have to be physical. There are many ways you can put a good licking on a person – a good love-licking, amen, by the grace of God. Sure! You see.

I think, you know, we lack a lot of cheerfulness. We lack a lot of enthusiasm. And you know, we get so, we always want to know, "Is this right? How to do this? I don't know..." It's just... Bro. Branham said, "Don't be odd to be a Christian. The Third Pull is being yourself. Just let the Holy Ghost take you over. Just surrender to the Holy Ghost. Just get more of the Holy Ghost in your life."

Let me tell you, if you go out to sweat [exercise; work-out - Ed.], you get a really good sweat! And you don't get a sweat outside on the field alone, you get a sweat in church too. Amen. You put everything inside of Him when you get here. Yes, sir! When you work, you work hard, when you play, you play hard, and when you pray, you pray hard too. Amen. Sure.

And there is a time and a place for everything: time to work, time to play, and a time to praise God too. Sure. You don't want to conflict your working time and then trade in time: "Well, I can't come to church today because there is a 'match.'" [Sporting event -Ed.] You have what match? You have a match against the Devil in church! Come on, man! We need you on the team, by the grace of God. Hallelujah! Yes, sir. Amen! Yes, sir.

Sport is a powerful weapon. Nations use it. Where politics fail, where big summits and people at the table fail to agree on policies and ideologies, where cultural barriers separate people, sport brings relationships between nations.

From the time we hear 'West Indies' [Caribbean region cricket team -Ed.], we get a certain way. West Indies against Australia; West Indies against England or something, you feel a certain way. Why? Because when you talk about 'West Indies', that's general. But it's something that unites a region because they see the power of it.

Do you know why? People want to share together. People's basic nature is to want to do things together. It's politics and ideology and these things that separate people. Just like in denominations, that separates people. But the Church really was to share, had all things in common regardless of race, creed, culture, color, everything; regardless of that, people were to be one in Christ. But then interpretations came, divisions came, ideologies came, politically, religiously everything came and walls started. See?

But the world has recognized the power of things that cause people to interact, things that cause people to get

in an atmosphere where they can exhibit certain talents, certain potentials; certain skills. They can do it in a way for the upliftment of others. They can do it, you know, to really work together. People admire people and win their friendship.

I remember there were certain brothers here, it wasn't until they got on the land [the church compound -Ed.] and they really began to work and show the skills that they had, they began to get a certain respect. They began to show their willingness; they began to show their skill.

Because in that area they could display their competence. In another area, they might have been a nobody, but in that area, they are 'somebody'. And from the time they were 'somebody', they stamped their importance. They attracted attention because they showed that there is something that they possess that makes them unique; makes them different.

And that is where people get confidence. People get confidence in the things that they know they can do, not what they can't do. What you know you can't do, you have fear. It's normal for you to have fear there. Why? If you have to depend upon that, you don't have that ability. See? And except God comes in there, then you'll have problems.

That is why we need God's ability and we depend upon God's ability, and we have confidence when God is around because we know God has all ability. God doesn't lack any ability. See? He is... God is more than able. Amen?

Oh my, the time is up. I had some other things I wanted to go into along this line, but I'm wondering whether it wouldn't be too appropriate here, I think, but I wanted to speak there for some of these children to see how Daniel in the Bible purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself. David purposed in his heart.

Let's just read also in Psalms 101 as we close. And anything that you are going to do, children, you must purpose in your heart. Success or failure is going to

depend upon how purposed you are in your heart. It's going to determine what type of effort you are going to put out. It is going to determine what type of sacrifice you are going to make to succeed.

And whether it's in school, whether it's in sport, whether it's in the things of God, whether it's in your trials, in your testings, in your problems, what you yield to, if you purpose in your heart: "I will not defile myself," you will not defile yourself. Many people who have ended up being defiled, were people who didn't purpose in themselves.

Young people, remember my message in the young people's service on *Defiled Dinah*. [1987-0630 -Ed.] Because she never purposed in her heart that she wouldn't defile herself. If Dinah had purposed that in her heart, she wouldn't have gotten defiled. But you see, sometimes it's the place we want to take chances, it's the things we go into unprepared; it's the things that we don't recognize how dangerous it could be and how detrimental it could be for us.

Daniel was so skillful in his lessons. He had skill and understanding in all learning. David was so skillful in playing, cunning with ability; prudent in matters. Esau was so skillful in the sport. But the difference with Esau was, it was all sport and no God. And when the time for the birthright came, Esau rejected the birthright and God rejected Esau. So he ended up being a good sportsman, had a good sports history, a lot of people talked about how good he was in sports, but he ended up in the lake of fire.

But David is still playing his harp tonight. And all through eternity, he will play his harp and show his skill. And Daniel, God told him in Chapter 12, "You will stand in your lot. Don't worry, Daniel, go to rest. On that day you will stand in your lot."

He is going to come up again in the Resurrection because he had purposed. He was very skillful, became an expert in all his learning and schooling, in his

wisdom, as a counselor, as a Prime Minister – the third most powerful in the time of Babylon. First, under Darius, a great man of great authority, but watch him, he always took time to pray. He knew where the secret, he knew where his skill, he knew where his learning, he knew his ability, he knew the supply that would not run out, where it was coming from God, and he kept connected to God.

Don't be an Esau tonight, be a Daniel; be a David. Daniel purposed in his heart, David purposed in his heart, but Esau, all that could be said about him was that he was just skillful in sport.

I'm sure none of you young boys and young girls just want to be skillful in sport, or skillful in learning, or skillful in something like that; you want to know you have Eternal life at the end.

There'll be a lot of great sportsmen in Heaven, let me tell you that. You are going to meet all of those men who could have slung a stone at a hair's breadth from three hundred paces away. Southpaws [left-handed -Ed.] they were, all of them, the Bible said. You are going to meet those who were skillful in horseback riding up There. Great hunters even like the Prophet whom we had here in this Day, who walked thirty miles a day, and ran up those mountains and got red in the face.

We never even went up and climbed the Catalina Mountains to that height. We just went up to where the 'sword' was in those places. And the first time we went there, many of us, (in 1979, eleven years ago,) still had a good bit of youth left in us. And we climbed a little part of that mountain. I don't want to call names here tonight [Bro. Vin laughs -Ed.], but some of us... I will say 'us', though I was not in that position, who was crawling down on their back; who was so afraid to walk down for fear of falling.

I remember when I took my wife there after she lost the baby in 1981, up there, she started to cry. She said, "Is it up here you brought me. You see the same thing."

She started to cry, because when she looked down and saw the height... It's a rugged mountain. It's just a little, thin, narrow trail, just for one person to walk. And there's nothing to hold on to like trees, you know, it's cactus all around you; rugged mountains.

And then to have somebody hunting in that kind of terrain. Wild hogs will charge at you when they feel cornered, and they get dangerous; they will kill you in an instant. And someone who would hunt, will go into Africa to hunt the big yellow-maned lion. Down there, when they roar, you see the rocks fall. It's not like those in the zoo. It's sport. It's for sport. You talk about sport: a man takes a whole hunting trip to go for sport. They love sport.

The Prophet had loved it. It was in his blood to hunt and fish. He said, "God doesn't count time when a man is fishing." Do you understand what I'm saying? But let me tell you, from the time the Presence of God came, he took that hat off, and under the conviction and the purpose in his heart, he said, "If I have to go up in that mountain and stay without bread or water for twenty-one days until God talks to me, I'm willing to wait there until I hear, 'THUS SAITH THE LORD' from God." And when it came to standing for the Word and all kinds of popularity and fame, and money was being offered to him, he refused to take it to stay true to the Gospel. Is that right?

He wasn't a fanatic, he was a man, he could enjoy himself. He could enjoy himself with his children; he could enjoy himself with the people. He said, "Me and Charlie and them..." He said, "You know when... I'm coming down to August for a little vacation; we're going to go down there in Sportsman's Hollow." The congregation started to laugh, and you see they put: 'Congregation laughs' in parenthesis. And Bro. Branham said, "Don't think I'm just going to be squirrel hunting alone," because they all knew he meant squirrel

hunting with the brothers. They loved it. Do you understand what I mean?

There are a lot of things you could do, but don't ever put those things before God. Know that those things have their place. Know that those things can be used for joy. Know that those things have their boundaries. And know that anything, even eating food that is good, if you eat too much and you abuse it, you move from enjoyment to abuse and you become a glutton and it becomes sin in the eyes of God.

Anything that is abused becomes wrong. Balance! The Bible says, "Be sober" to have your correct balance. Each thing demands a certain amount of emphasis, and don't give it more than it needs. And any disciplined person will always have their priorities right. When the time comes for something to be done, as much as the pull is there, they know: "That is a little test. It's time to shake that off. It's time to finish; I'm needed somewhere else. I have something else to do." When you can see the life in you being lived out in these places, you know you are bringing your body in obedience to the Word.

So as I said, be a Daniel tonight, (we are going to close with this Psalm,) be a David, but don't be an Esau. Daniel and David, they had their sport—they had skill in learning, they had their skill in sport, they had their skill in playing music; in a lot of different things; they had understanding, they were prudent in matters, brave, valiant, skillful in war, but they purposed in their hearts, they were not going and defile themselves. Because when it came to God, they knew that they were the tabernacle of the Living God. They didn't want to go into idolatry. They didn't want to go and pick up sporting idols and go into idolatry and start to idolize and start to make...

When you start to fall in love with something and you start to like it so much and it starts to influence you, something in your flesh wants that to be right in every way. If this man says so and so, even though you know

it's off the Word, you kind of want to wish he didn't even say it. You have to know, there are sinners outside there; they dominate this type of world.

Many times, we may do something and we may bring that right into what we are doing, when that must not come in what we are doing, that must not overtake what we are doing; that must not become the pattern of what we are doing. What we are doing is suited to meet certain needs and to bring development of certain things and to uncover certain things that we know why we saw it fit to have certain types of experiments of activity, where that could be a blessing if used in the correct way.

And think of it on a positive side and do it in a positive way and enjoy it. Don't do it with a straightjacket; do it to enjoy it. Get in the mud, man. If you have to fall, fall and get up. Amen. If you have to score and shout, shout. Enjoy what you are doing. When you get happy, you shout. Shouting comes from when you are happy. If you just shout in the house of God and the Word isn't getting you happy, that is just noise you are making. That's not praising God; that's just noise. It is when you get happy from the Word and you start to shout, that is praising God. God doesn't care how loud that goes. Do you understand what I'm saying? That is because you are happy!

Long ago, you used to hear a lot of people commenting when the Word was going forth, saying back things, and you used to know it was in the flesh. You hear the fleshly ones; you know it's just like people wanting to be heard. And then some people get happy and they lose all control; the joy of the Lord fills their heart. It's a different thing.

Let us close with Psalm 101, and let us purpose in our hearts. And I want these young people who listened to me tonight and may have listened attentively, (some may have understood in part and some may not,) I want you to know, my first desire for you is to see many of



you who are still young and have not yet been baptized, come to a Christian experience and be baptized. The greatest joy, the greatest victory we could celebrate in this church, the greatest thing that could get all of us happy in this church and unite us, is when we begin to see achievements like that.

I'm glad when you pass your G.C.E [General Certificate of Education Examination -Ed.]; I'm glad when you pass your exam, I'm glad when you build something nice with your hands, I'm glad when you play and are enjoying sports, and you achieve certain goals in sport and so on, but I believe God will be most pleased when you would make an identification to accept the Lord Jesus Christ; to train on His team.

Because He and Lucifer are meeting on the battleground and you want to be on His team. You want to say, "Michael, I'm on Your side." Who is on the Lord's side? The Lord has a side, you know. And he said, "Who is on the Lord's side?" And the Lord is revealing the names that He picked to be on His side. Do you understand what I'm saying?

And when your heart could say, "Amen" to the Captain of the Lord's Host, and you know you are on His side, let me tell you, the Lord is leading on to certain victory. Amen? Victory is sure for this team. And there will be a great prize-giving day, when we climb the ivory staircase, for those who played on that team.

So I'm saying tonight, put on your gears tonight. Put on your whole armor tonight. Come through the Blood to get on the field. Get washed in the Water of the Word, and let's really put out a performance that will be complementary to what all those who have played on this team in past generations, that we could be identified in the ranks of some of those great players in Hebrews 11 who played and came out with great achievements during the eras that they had played on the Lord's side. And we who play on the Lord's side, let us do everything that we can for our team.

*<sup>1</sup> I will sing of mercy and justice: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing.*

Let the congregation read the second verse. [Bro. Vin and the congregation alternates reading -Ed.]

*<sup>2</sup> I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.*

*<sup>3</sup> I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of those who turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.*

You may read. [The congregation reads the 4<sup>th</sup> verse -Ed.]

*<sup>4</sup> A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.*

*<sup>5</sup> Whoso secretly slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I tolerate.*

*<sup>6</sup> Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.*

*<sup>7</sup> He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.*

*<sup>8</sup> I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD.*

How many young people tonight are willing to say, "I will behave myself wisely, in a perfect way. I will walk within my house with a perfect heart." How many young people tonight would say, "And I purpose in my heart, I will not defile myself." Let me see those hands if you really mean that tonight. All those young people who sat and heard these words, do you really want to make a stand for the Lord, many of you? May God bless you. May He see the desire in your heart.

And may you keep your eyes on 'the perfect of the land'. May you not look down there to the drunkard or

the harlot for example, or to the Jezebel out on the street, or to the womanizer outside there, but may you look to ‘the perfect in the land’ – they that walk upright. And may you purpose in your heart, (amen,) that you are going to stay away from all unbelief tonight. Amen. And let me tell you, you are going to find that there is such a joy, there is such a happiness, a peace, a full assurance, a full satisfaction, that we can draw, in serving the Lord.

Do you appreciate His Word tonight? [Congregation says, “Amen.” –Ed.] Amen. I just felt in my heart, I wanted to do that. I felt the Lord put it upon my heart for these.

And you know, we have had a situation that wasn’t so pleasant. Our Bro. Keith Stephens and his wife, you know, who was expecting, she was traveling in a maxi taxi [public transport –Ed.] and it almost got in a collision. And I guess, you know, she, with the driver trying to escape from being involved in the accident, you know, it really shook her up really badly and she began to hemorrhage and they had to take her quickly to the hospital. She had twins, two little girls, but they were premature and they lived for a little while, and then the Lord took them. So they have suffered that loss. And we trust that God will really encourage them and comfort them, and we too can stand with them and really cheer them up. He has made a great sacrifice, helping us in the building.

I think just a couple of weeks ago too, Bro. Errol George and his dear wife... He was out there working and she was having... You know, she wasn’t due yet, and she began to go into labor. I don’t know if something had caused it, if she had fallen or what, but she had lost that baby too. And you know, he had to deliver the child, as a matter of fact; had to run home. The little girl came quite down where he was working and he had to run up there quickly.

And then Bro. Sankar [Bro. Rawle Sankar –Ed.] himself was involved in an accident yesterday. He was going to work on Monday and escaped with only minor injuries. God

was gracious to him to help him. Bro. Collin [Bro. Collin Wellington -Ed.] was telling me he was in an accident, and a couple other brothers were in an accident over the past few days. And you know, Sis. Susan was telling me on the phone, of an incident too, and of how, you know, it just seems like, you know, it wasn't the saints' fault in any way in some of these situations; it's just like the Devil was on the rampage.

And I tell you, when the people begin to get together and unite together and we begin to do something positive and stand the way we should stand, I tell you, the Devil is going to try to come with everything. And as we got there in the Word, these last few seasons here, in the Book of Daniel, and I think that God has really opened the Word and really began to bless our hearts. And we are going to find ourselves under a great attack.

And that is why we need to be so consolidated and stand together, and I know God will give us certain victory. Because we are ordained to win. We are ordained to win, friends. We are not going to be losers. Amen. We are going to be the winners in this race.

God bless you. Let us stand to our feet tonight.

Also, I have one announcement here. You know, we are trying to see a rapid development in the landscaping, and we have been setback so far, because what's retarding our progress at present, is the availability of good topsoil to begin planting the lawn in many areas where we need to do it. And we are trusting that if we make an announcement like this, it could have fruitful results because we only had a couple of people looking for us. So we thought if we make an announcement in the general assembly, then we would have, instead of four, five eyes, six eyes, or eight eyes, we'll have a few hundred eyes.

So, it means to say wherever you are passing and you see, maybe, they have topsoil or they are digging up some place or something, good dirt for planting, all you need to do is enquire, you know, of the availability of it

and we could manage the transport or pay for it or whatever it is, we are glad to do it. We need the acquisition of it at this time. We are trusting that God would open it up to us because we need that to plant the lawn.

So I want to have you all on the lookout, wherever you might be, and if you see it, you get back to any of the trustees, by the grace of God, and let us know you saw it in such and such a place. And at least what information you can bring that will help us to locate this, it will be greatly appreciated. Amen?

Let us have a word of prayer before we dismiss.

Our gracious Heavenly Father, taking some little Bible examples and making some comments tonight, Lord, and directing it to the hearts of the young, of being endowed with skill and understanding, how it can make us more successful in life, how it could cause us to strive for great achievements; achieve goals that we may have thought it was impossible to achieve those things or that those things were beyond us, or it was only a dream and could never be a reality.

But we realize, Father, through Christ we can do all things. And we see in the Bible that in work, in play, in war, in music, You gave skill and You gave understanding. And how we as a church desire skill and understanding like Daniel, to consider the matter and to understand the vision, especially in these last days, to stand with a force to be reckoned with upon the face of the earth that we can fulfill this great commission, Lord.

But thinking more of the needs of the youths, Lord, and what we have in our hearts for them, and what we are trying to do to see a better relationship, greater unity and friendship and fellowship. And these activities, Lord, that we have arranged and planned, that they might have the opportunity to interact with each other, and to do things together in a meaningful way, to see positive results come among them, Lord, see them

develop in their childhood, in their growing up; to see them become more disciplined, strengthened, more joyful in their outward nature, Lord; make them a little more free with each other. I pray, dear God, that You will bless them, Father.

And even as, Lord, we look at the examples of Daniel, how he purposed in his heart, and David, how he purposed in his heart, and the dangers of being like Esau, who was just wrapped up in the sport and rejected the things of God, rejected the birthright; didn't think of it, Lord, in the way he should have thought of it; didn't attach the value to it that he was supposed to give to it.

Help our young brothers and our young sisters. They are a great resource amongst us, Lord. If there is to be a tomorrow, they will be the ones who will have to stand, Lord; they will be the ones who will have to carry on this work. If we have to pass it over into other hands, they will be the ones, Lord.

Oh gracious God, I pray that their association with us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ will have such a godly influence upon their lives; would cause them, Lord, to grow up, like it's said of David in the Bible: prudent in matters, valiant, skillful, the Lord was with him; oh God, a man after Your Own heart, (blessed be Your Name,) youths in whom there is no blemish; skilled with all learning and wisdom.

Let Your Holy Spirit move in their hearts, Father; let them see that You are their sufficiency. Let them see, Lord, that the thoughts You think of them are thoughts of peace and not of evil. Let them understand the great mystery of Calvary. Let their hearts be won by Your Love and affection for them. Let that Love and affection be so clearly reflected through us in the form of an exemplary life, leaving footsteps for them to walk in – clear, defined, not obscured, not uncertain, Lord; not crooked but straight.

Let us be happy here in this Assembly, serving You together. Let us work together, to know that we can achieve together. In unity there is strength. Let us rise and shine, knowing, this is our Hour. Let us be fully convinced You are in our midst, Lord; there is no gate that could stand before us. Let us see in every aspect of our lives, every area, Your Word holds the answer to help us develop; overcome. We praise You tonight.

May these words sink deep down in the hearts of these children and also in our hearts. May from this day we be so purposed in our hearts to walk close to You; to live for You every moment. All that we will say and do, it will be done with Christian example, with Christian influence, with godly purpose; not for self-glorification, not for carnal competition, not to try to prove we are better than someone, but in love and unity.

Let Your blessing be upon our efforts. Let what we strive to do be successful. Let those who have responsibility, let us work together. Let us accept the responsibility, let us have humility, sincerity. Let us not try to get over our personal influence, but let's have a godly influence, that You can be identified and be pleased to honor our efforts, and to stand at our side and to undertake for us in every situation. Lord, may You grant it tonight.

We thank You tonight, Father, for being here. May as we leave this place to go to our homes, may Your Divine Presence be with every one of us. Dear God, if You should tarry and allow us life to come back another time in Your house, the time to work on the project, may dear God, may we turn out willingly to labor, Lord God, with great enthusiasm, pouring out our strength; giving our service. When it's time to play, may we play energetically, enthusiastically, enjoyably, Lord, doing all things together as a family in Christ. We thank You for these things.

May it cause us to come to a greater experience, a greater revelation, a closer walk with You, in the Name

of Jesus Christ in Whom we glorify in all things. We pray and we ask these things, amen.

You can have your seats. Remember the Prayer Meeting, prayer service on Friday night. And I think they are going to have one of the first games for the kids on Saturday afternoon. And to you all, it will be greatly appreciated to be there for the kids, to help them, the children, to cheer them, to spur them on; give them the support; let you be happy with them when they are happy; the time of relaxation for some of you to sit down and enjoy the beautiful situation – the breeze.

The brothers with the work, I guess that they have been informed that there will be a couple of little meetings after service tonight. We need to get things planned to keep on going. And please, remember, we have within one month to meet our financial commitment to the building. And may God help us in all our efforts, in our sacrifice; in our giving.

I feel so energetic these last few days. It's like a burst of spiritual energy just seemed to flow, and I feel that no gate could stand before us at this time. I just feel... [tape skips -Ed.] It's like: "Thou mountain, become a plain before Zerubbabel." We can go on forward, to see great things happen.

Trying to help the brothers in their businesses, trying to help them in different areas, and God certainly has been blessing; helping many others. And it's been good to see that in many places where many might have been shackled and bound and kept back, and remain underdeveloped, they could really strive to be what we need to be.

If you have a special prayer... We want to ask for you to remember in the prayer services, concerning our Articles of Association that we have had, that we applied for some tax exemptions, that we could bring in some fixtures and the carpet and different things for the tabernacle. And we have, at present, an obstacle facing us through the legal channels, but something in my



heart, I just feel so positive about it that... I guess, in this Book of Daniel, I see God rule in the kingdoms of men. I saw God raise up men like Cyrus to say, "Pick the people of God to go forth and build the temple," and these things, and Something just made me feel strong.

And you pray and pray purposefully, pray concentrated in these areas that whatever obstacles have to move, whatever advice we need, whatever way these things need to be presented to have the right influence, whose hearts God has to touch to give us favor, who God has to blind to pass the things, (amen,) by the grace of God, our desires can be fulfilled. Amen.

God be with you; take you safely to your homes. Keep positive. Keep in His Presence and know that you can do all things through Christ Who strengthens you. All things are lawful, but all things are not expedient.

You want to have consideration for one another. You don't want to be a stumblingblock; you want to help one another. We can all serve God and strive for greater heights so that we will not be spiritual dwarfs, we'll be spiritual giants; we will go forth and conquer what is before us. We are more than able to take any promise that is spoken in this Bible.

This is our time, friends. We didn't live in Luther's time; we didn't live in Wesley's time. We could rejoice with them in what they did and their achievement, but we have our time. And our Message has come and released something to us; now let us work with that and let us achieve. Let's hold that key and let us unlock those doors and go forward. God bless you. Amen.

In my heart I just feel so filled with His Presence tonight. *Flow through me, Holy Spirit, flow through me.* Oh, that we'd all be so energized, quickened, charged, the Holy Ghost pulsating in our lives, fueling the power of God. And what we do, we do in the Spirit; we do with faith. And what is not of faith is of sin. Believe God. If you trust and never doubt, He'll surely bring you out.

Let that Holy Spirit flow through us as we go home. As we talk with one another, as we greet one another tonight, let It flow from heart to heart. Let It flow through the members to each other. Let It so unite us and bind us together, that we will be a force to be reckoned with. Brother, the Devil will get so fed up, he'll just want to... He'll just get so discouraged when he sees such a united people. Amen.

[#539- Songs That Live -Ed.]

*... Flow through me;*

*As I lift my hands,*

Wouldn't you lift them tonight?

*As I lift...*

*Oh, to worship,*

*And to magnify Thy Name;*

*Flow through me, Holy Spirit,*

*Flow through me.*

Oh, flow through me, Holy Spirit. Let Him breathe on you tonight.

*Flow through me...*

"Whatever we do, we do in the Spirit, (amen,) with understanding," Paul said. Oh my, don't you feel Him just coming in. That is what God wants – a Spirit-filled church. Yes, Lord; me and my brother and my sister.

*Holy Spirit, Flow through me.*

Oh, worship Him in Spirit, friends.



