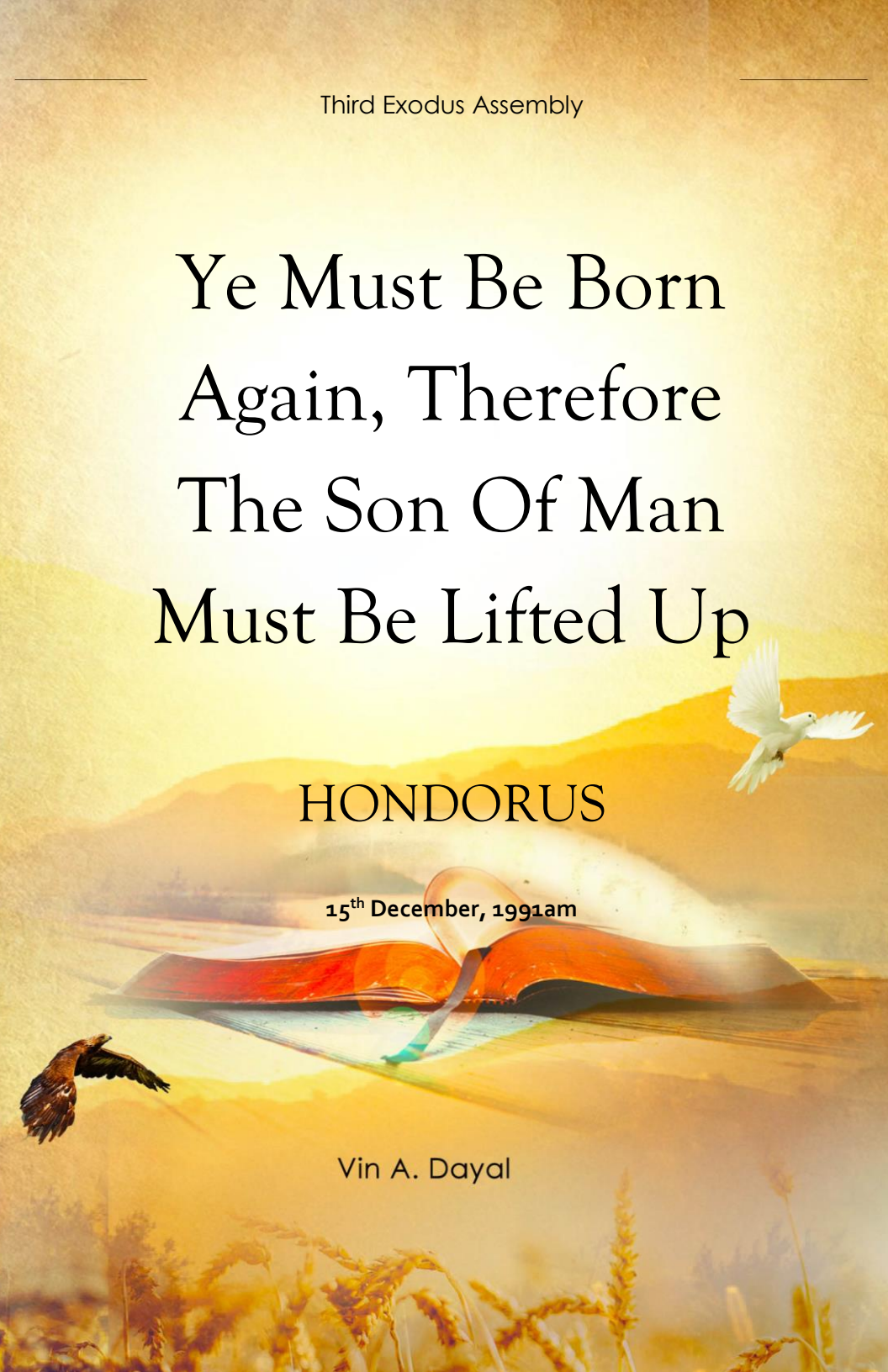

Third Exodus Assembly

Keep Your Eyes Fixed On The Prize

*Refuse To Be Compromised; We Must Complete The
Job*

31st December 2003

Vin A. Dayal



KEEP YOUR EYES FIXED ON THE PRIZE

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TRINIDAD

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TRINIDAD

WEDNESDAY 31ST DECEMBER 2003

Bro. Vin A. Dayal

[#573 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

*Oh, that Angel with the swept-back wings,
He's the One that means the most.*

*He took us in the Inner Veil,
To reveal Himself more privately.*

Here we are...

*Here we are in perfect step,
In the promises of God.*

*Oh, that Angel with the swept-back wings,
He's the One that means the most.*

He's the One that means the most.

Let us sing: All honor and glory.

All honor and glory, and praise to His Name.

Oh, for He was found worthy to take the Book and
then show us our names.

And show us our names.

Flesh of His flesh...

*Flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone,
In harmony we stand,*

In God's provided place

In God's provided place

In the Seventh Seal of God.

In the Seventh seal of God

Oh, let us lift our hands and sing it unto Him.

Oh, that Angel with the swept-back wings, the Covenant Angel, the Lord Jesus Christ, the great Holy Spirit amongst us.

He's the One that means the most.

Oh, He is the great Guide tonight, to bring us into the Place that God hath prepared for us.

To reveal Himself more privately.

Here we are in perfect step,

In the promises of God...

In the promises of God

Oh, that Angel...

Oh, that Angel with the swept-back wings,

He's the One that means the most.

Blessed be His wonderful Name. I believe that is the same Angel that came to Moses, that is the same Angel that gave Elijah cake and water, that he went in the strength of for forty days. I believe that is the same Angel that came to Gideon, that he sacrificed to, and he saw that Angel go up into the flame of fire. That is the same Angel that came to Manoah's wife. That is the same Angel that Jacob wrestled with. Hallelujah! That is the very same Angel that came down in this Day, the unchanging God, friends. "Jehovah of the old, is Jesus of the new. What a mighty revelation that has come to me and you." [#624 - Songs That Live -Ed.] Amen. Thank You, Jesus.

Paul said, "The Angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, appeared to me this night." [Acts 27:23 -Ed.]

Oh my! That same Angel that came to Peter and delivered him out of the prison. Blessed be His wonderful Name. We believe that is the very same Lord Jesus Christ, the great Holy Spirit. Amen. He did the same things: opened up the Scriptures, confirmed it with signs and wonders following, and all that we saw Him do in the Bible, all that we saw Him do in these last days in the ministry of a Prophet, I believe He is still the same tonight. I believe that He is all that matters here

tonight. Hallelujah! If we can believe, all things are possible.

Do you believe Him tonight? Do you love Him tonight? Do you worship Him tonight? Is He your God? [Congregation says, "Amen." -Ed.] Amen. Blessed be His wonderful Name. Praise and thanks be unto His mighty Name. Hallelujah.

We have come and we are gathered around His Divine Presence. There are many needs among us tonight, but He is great, He is awesome, He is all-sufficient tonight. And I don't believe that with all of us here tonight, and He is ready to do something individually to each and every one of us, it is even sufficient to exhaust the abundance of His supply. Do you believe that? Amen. He promised to give you full, pressed down, and running over. And on a night like this, you want something extra. Don't you?

I came looking for something extra tonight. I came to press in tonight, to receive more of Him tonight. Amen. I want to enter into the year 2004 with a new burst of faith. Amen. Glory be to God! Hallelujah. I believe by His grace I'm trying to hold straight to that course this year. Amen. I might have wiggled here and there, but by the grace of God, I'm standing here tonight with faith in my heart, (amen,) to rededicate my life and to look forward to serving Him another year, by the grace of God, should He keep me alive and give me strength. Amen. I'm here, (amen,) to give Him my best. I came back in the house of God, not just to receive from Him, but to say, "Jesus, I came back to rededicate my life, to give You my best. Take my life and use it this coming year, Lord, amen, and do something to advance Your Kingdom." Oh my.

That is the attitude. I want all of us tonight to come in the house of God with that kind of attitude. "Lord, I came back, (amen,) to rededicate my life to You." Amen. Blessed be His wonderful Name. And I believe He will do the exceedingly, abundantly above all that we could ask or even think tonight. He is faithful. Amen.

I started to serve Him in this Message as a young boy; came off the streets. Amen. I pressed these last thirty years, going into thirty-one years here, looking for the promise of God. And I believe I'm not just trying to make-believe that, I believe that. I have not staggered through unbelief. I believe I'm strong in faith tonight, (amen,) giving God praise and glory. Amen. I'm determined to finish my course with joy. Glory be to God.

Oh, I want to see Him, tonight; look upon His face. Friends, it is nice to be in church, it is nice to know you are a Christian, it is nice to know that you are delivered from the things of the world, but I'm looking to see Him. That is my joy. The Prophet met Bro. Bosworth. He was getting ready to drop the pesthouse, amen, drop the robe of flesh and rise to receive the everlasting prize.

He said, "Bro. Bosworth, eighty-four years you are, serving Christ since you were a young boy." He said, "Bro. Bosworth, tell me, what is that greatest time that you can think of in all your ministry?"

He said, "Bro. Branham, right this very moment, because very soon He is going to walk through that door and I will go to meet with Him."

Amen! Glory!

He said, "He is my life. He is what I have lived for, friends." Amen.

Glory be to God in the Highest.

I'm thankful for that tonight. I can say, "He is my life. He is what I live for tonight." Amen. Oh, He is everything to me.

I greet you all tonight in the precious, wonderful Name of this lovely Lord Jesus Christ, Who shed His Blood on Calvary to redeem us out of every kindred, nation and tongue. Amen. And I'm so glad tonight to look across the audience and see many of you, you came from far, you came from near, but I trust you all came determined in your hearts tonight, (amen,) to live for Him.

And all of you that came from Tobago, may God bless you. Amen. You know, we didn't plan that. I didn't think of it this year. I said, "Well, maybe they are just going to go through the Wednesday night; we do that in Grenada and Dominica." I said, "They will have their normal Wednesday night service. That is it." You know, maybe here, we do it like a little tradition, we would come, go through midnight, go into the New Year by the grace of God. But I was glad to see that you are hungry and you decided not to stay and you came. Amen.

God bless you and give you something special tonight. Glory be to God in the Highest. Oh, praise His mighty Name. Hallelujah!

I am glad to see Bro. Regan and Sis. Shaunielle [Bro Regan Glen and his wife from Guyana -Ed.]. I haven't seen them in years and we are glad to have them here tonight by the grace of God. Amen. Glory be to God in the Highest!

Let us just look to Him in prayer before we open up the Scriptures. You hold your request in your heart by the grace of God. Amen. Just let us look to Him tonight.

Lord, how we love You and how we adore You and how, dear God, we draw near before You, bowing our hearts, dear God, before Your great Throne of Grace, knowing, oh God, that You shed Your Blood, You slew the enmity, You tore down the middle wall of partition and by a New and Living Way through Your Blood, God, You made a Way that we could come without any barriers, without any obstacles right before Your Throne of Grace and be restored to all Your favor, to Your friendship; oh God, Father to every Divine blessing that was ours before, Lord, we fell, Father.

We are thankful for that tonight, because Lord Jesus, when we could not come for our own selves, Lord, You were so determined to have us restored and to have this fellowship because it meant so much to You. Even though, Lord God, You had to become sin and be judged and die under the punishment of God and go to Hell, oh

God, yet You were willing to do all that for us, to pay our price and to set us free.

Then Lord, You rose triumphantly, oh God, to show that You met every requirement, that today we could stand without condemnation, without guilt; we could stand with confidence. The Holy Spirit has come back to quicken us to these Living Realities.

And we stand here tonight, oh God; the first thing we want to do, Father, is offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, knowing that we are not our own, that we are bought with a price. And You search our hearts to see if there are any reservations. Oh God, we don't want there to be one, Father, that we could give, Lord, our lives completely, unreservedly to You tonight, oh God, no holding back, Father. And that we can truly love You, oh God, Father with the Love of God that is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit opening up this Truth and making It so real to us tonight.

Let that be the experience. Let that be the portion of everyone that is gathered under the sounding of this voice. Oh God, may You do something special on this night that we have come in anticipation that You will do, Lord.

God, remembering our brothers, Lord, out there in St. Kitts, Father, standing there with the saints of God. May You bless them, oh God. Then those out there in Dominica, St. Vincent and Grenada, Lord Jesus, those in Tobago that couldn't come, we pray and ask that You would remember them all. May Your Presence be with them. May You undertake for each and every one.

And as we are gathered here tonight, minister, oh God, Father, individually and collectively. Let every need that Your children hold in their hearts before You now be ministered to by the Holy Spirit. May it be a settled thing in their hearts, dear God.

And Lord, how I ask Your Divine direction and leadership in this service, knowing oh God, I'm depending upon You; coming to speak something, dear

God, that I didn't even study, oh God, in the way of holding it in my heart for maybe some weeks and looking at it through the Scripture, but testifying how You came to me in my sub-conscience. You spoke certain things to me, Lord. Lord, You raised me up and through the influence of Your Holy Spirit I just wrote those things as quickly as I could. And dear God, just trying to meditate upon it, not trying to deviate, oh God, in any way, but coming here now before You Who have given this and saying, "Lord, have Your blessed way, and speak, Lord, Thy servant, also together with Thy children, heareth." Let the Spirit speak expressly.

And the Word and the Things that You would have for us, the encouragement and the exhortations and the warnings of the Spirit, may it, Lord, be so emphasized in our hearts by the Spirit, that it be written, oh God, that it will become an influence, it will focus our vision that we could truly be led by Your Spirit into all of Your Revealed Will that You have concerning us this coming year. May You grant it, Father. In the Name of Jesus Christ, we pray and we ask these mercies. Amen.

Amen. Praise His wonderful Name. I would just like to invite your attention now to the Book of Philippians, we open up there, Chapter 3. It is more a Word of encouragement, something to help focus our faith and help us in places where we might have struggled or are still struggling, and I trust that it will release to you the strength that we all have need of, all who are striving to truly be an overcomer in this Hour. Amen. Blessed be His wonderful Name. Amen.

So we read from Philippians 3, verse 7. Paul, you know in Philippians 3, began to speak concerning having confidence in the flesh, people who liked to have confidence in the flesh, and how he himself, you know, was circumcised the eighth day and was of the stock of Israel and of the tribe of Benjamin and so on, and you know, touching the law blameless, and concerning his

zeal persecuting the Church. He showed all the great achievements in his natural life.

But then something happened. He met the Lord Jesus Christ. It changed his life. He could never be the same. Christ had a purpose for him and Christ came and took ahold of him. Now he was writing here. And after he finished showing all the things that he had renounced, now he began to speak of some things he wanted to lay ahold of. That is us. We laid aside a lot. There were things in our lives that were important to us, that we esteemed and put a value upon, but we have come to know Christ and we counted all those things dung. We realized they were temporal. We realized they were vain. If we had that tonight, multiplied, and not Christ, we would still be lost, and that will not profit us when that Hour comes; that means the most. Amen.

But now in verse 7, he said:

⁷ But what things were gain to me...

Those things from verses 4 to 6 that he gave, all of his circumcision and being of the tribe of Israel and taught at the feet of Gamaliel and so on.

...what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

⁸ Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord...

These are not just words; this is a man's heart. This is Christ that a man experienced and came to know and came to live and serve and now he is giving testimony of what his Saviour means to him.

You know today you hardly hear Christians talk from there. People today like to talk about how they know this about the Message, they know this doctrine and they know that over here. You rarely find people... Unless you live in the Presence of God and God has really reduced you to nothingness, and you see Who He really is, then you hear a person speak of the value that they put on Christ. He is everything to them. Amen. I

trust that we will have that kind of love for Him in our hearts.

He said:

...for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

What does he mean “That I may win Christ?”

...that I may win Christ,

Like a prize. I’ll strive after Him. I’ll come in such a condition, like an Olympic runner to win the gold, to live and dream and get up early in the morning and train when nobody is getting up and disciplining yourself, because you are living for that moment; that you will get out there in that big arena and you will run. And you will run with all that is inside of you to win that gold.

He said:

...that I may win Christ,

Watch and see what you are striving for tonight. Is it to win Him? Is it to win Him, friends? You say, “Well, I have Him.” Didn’t Paul have Him? So what does he mean? He didn’t just say, “Well, I got baptized and I accepted Jesus Christ.” He was not talking about that, friends.

...that I may win Christ,

⁹ And be found in him...

I gave up everything. What is the reason I gave up everything for? That I may win Christ. I counted all that I had, dung.

...that I may win Christ,

⁹ And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

¹⁰ That I may know him...

That I may win Christ, that I may be found in Him, that I may know Him.

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection...

And he was not just talking about knowing Him as if he didn't know Him or know about Him. He was talking, "That I may know these Things by experience in my life, in actual reality." That was why he could shake that viper in the fire, because he came to that kind of knowing. That was why, even though the sun didn't shine and the moon, they didn't see it for fourteen days on that sea and there were, you know, all kinds of bonds and afflictions and everything, none of those things moved him. He had come into that kind of knowing where he lived not by human strength. He had no friends and companions around him to pat him on the back. He had no wife and children there to support him.

But he stood there and he carried himself with such a dignity, that when he stood before Agrippa and he stood and gave that testimony, he said, "I would that you be like me except for these chains here." [Acts 26:29 - Ed.] Oh my. Don't you want to know Jesus that way, friends? Oh my! We talk about the Prophet. That was the way he knew Him, I believe. Amen.

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings...

Where do the complainers and the murmurers come in when you read a Scripture like that? Where is the person who complains? They have a roof over their heads, they have food on their tables, they have clothes on their backs, they have a good education, they have a job and they are still complaining. Where does it stand next to that?

10 That I may know him...

...and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

He was not just talking about just the resurrection of the dead because whether you want to or not, everybody will be in a resurrection. Is that right? If you are not in the first, you will have to be in the second. So he was not talking about just being in a resurrection, he was talking about... The word there means the 'out-Resurrection', the out-Resurrection from among the dead, where it said, "The dead in Christ shall rise." [1st Thessalonians 4:16 -Ed.] And the rest of the dead remain for one thousand years. He said, "That I might attain to that."

Now watch. He gave up all these things to win this, that he might attain to this. Here we are tonight, Six Trumpets have sounded, and Seven Seals have opened up to gather us, and Seven Thunders have uttered their voices to show us how to prepare for Rapturing Faith. We are gathered for the sounding of the Last Trumpet. We saw the last sign before the change of body; came and demonstrated to us. Then are we making every effort to attain this? Look where he was, "That I might attain."

12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after...

In other words, I pursue strenuously, I follow after. The word there means to pursue, not just casual walking, following somebody. No. The picture he has here in his mind is the image of an athlete hurtling down the racecourse. And as he is nearing the end...

Have you ever seen those athletes when they are running and it is a close finish, brother, and they strain—about ten of them, it is a breath apart, and they are all there, and some would have to dive and launch forward, everything? They have to touch that tape first. That is the picture here. That is the picture here. Reaching forth.

...I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended...

Did you catch that? Christ took ahold of him on the road to Damascus for a certain purpose. He said, "I am pressing and following after and I want to get ahold of what Christ got ahold of me for." Christ came down in this Day and got ahold of you, to bring you into immortality, to bring you into a Rapturing Faith because this is the last Age; to bring you to show forth His victory and the reason of His death. Then if you are not pressing after that, something is wrong. He said, "That I may apprehend that for which I am apprehended." He said, "When it pleased God, Who separated me from my mother's womb, that He might reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him to the Gentiles. The reason God got ahold of me, He separated me, that He might reveal His Son in me, that I will be the Light to the Gentiles."

So, if I am not that, I am failing in what Christ got ahold of me for. Because Christ captured me and cut me loose from everything from this world, that He might have the preeminence, the oversight and the leading in me, (amen?) that He might take me out of Laodicea and bring me into the Eternal Church Age at the end of the Seven Seals and bring me to that Stature of a Perfect Man. That is what He got ahold of me for.

He didn't just bring me to hang around the Message. He didn't bring me to debate with people. He didn't bring me to be in and out of the Message and live up and down, up and down. He didn't come after me for that. Those whom He foreknew, He predestinated: those whom He predestinated, He called: those whom He called, He justified: and those whom He justified, He already glorified. Do you see what He called you for? To bring you to full, complete glorification in this Day.

¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing...

One thing. Here he is expressing the singleness of his purpose and the concentration of all his efforts, what he was trying to achieve. It was zeroed to one thing.

...but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind...

I have already called that dung. I am not going back after that. I am no Saul. I am not going to try to rebuild the things I was separated from. I am not going back, like a dog after its vomit, looking back for those things. When the Holy Ghost came to me, I knew what those things were. When God quickened me and raised me up above this world and He showed me this world is already judged, this *kosmos*, I am not looking back to it with desire. I'm forgetting those things that are past. I'm pressing on now for one thing.

...this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind...

Which he explained in verses 4 to 6.

...and reaching forth...

And those words there, '*reaching forth*', means straining forward, bearing towards his point. It is the runner, straining forward with every effort to breast the tape. I'm reaching forth for the prize because my eyes are on the prize. I'm not looking behind me. Have you ever seen a runner running and looking back in a hundred meters? No, sir. His eyes are on the prize. His eyes are on the prize. Watch.

...and reaching forth...

Straining forward, in other words, bearing towards the point.

...unto those things which are before,

¹⁴ I press toward the mark...

In other words, that which my eyes were upon, my goal, my objective, what Christ apprehended me for, I have that in focus. My singleness of my ambition, my every effort was in that one thing. I lived for that one thing, when I saw that He wanted to reveal His Son in me.

¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize...

If I could hit that mark, I'll get that prize. It is also like a person shooting at a target and they are zeroed to

the target. The Prophet said, "I watched those apostles, how they zeroed to it and what it produced was a Book of Acts." If we can line up and zero again, it will do the same thing again.

He talked about that gun, how he would shoot targets. And that Weatherby [rifle -Ed.], that little gun rather, it was missing the target. He couldn't hit the squirrel in the eye. And he sent it and the people said, "Ah, don't bother with that. You can't really get that kind of shot."

He said, "But I knew it did it. I even had them sign it in the shooting gallery. So I knew that that thing, if it did it once, it could do it again."

And if we know the apostles and they had a Church without sin, then it could have that thing again. Because these men saw the Son of Man, received revelation from the Son of Man, received the Holy Ghost and it brought them into that Place. Then if they did that, it will have to be the same for Restoration.

¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

It is a high Calling, friends. "We are called with a Heavenly Calling," the Bible said. Those He predestinated, are them He called. Make your Election and Calling sure.

¹⁵ Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, [mature,] be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

But as many as be perfect, (mature,) let us be thus minded. Let us have this singleness of concentration. Let us zero to this mark. Let us have our eyes fixed on the prize and let us run and forget the things that are past, reaching forth, straining to get ahold of that.

...as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained...

What you already... Your journey, you started somewhere. You are at a certain stage in your journey, what you have already attained. Let us walk by the same rule and let us mind the same thing, the principles of the Word that were revealed to you by which you walk and have arrived to this place. Then let us continue to walk by that same principle and come all the way into the promise. Let us not stop short.

Let us just pray one more time.

Gracious Father, take these few words, take the Scriptures, Lord, and inspire them and bring out the context and inspire our faith and let us catch the vision that is contained therein.

May faith and inspiration fill our hearts, that we could be so motivated to rise up. The weak, Lord, will lay aside their complaining and say that they are strong, knowing that what they can confess, You are able to intercede upon.

Bless each and every one. Get honor and glory and we will not fail to give You praise and thanks. We ask these mercies in Jesus' precious Name. Amen.

God bless you. You may have your seat. I want to call it tonight, **"KEEP YOUR EYES FIXED ON THE PRIZE"**. KEEP YOUR EYES FIXED ON THE PRIZE. And I'm taking for a little subject here, **"Refuse To Be Compromised; We Must Complete The Job"**.

We must complete what we started. "The race is not for the swift, neither is the battle to the strong. But to him who shall endure unto the end," the Bible said, "the same shall be saved." So many people start things that they cannot finish. So many people get enthused and rise up and get worked up, and you know, begin to go forward, and then they begin—they easily become disenchanting when they meet obstacles along the way. Jesus, He taught about men who started to build and couldn't finish, those who started a war and couldn't

complete it. He also taught about the man who put his hand to the plough and looked back.

Because in looking at human nature, He can see how people many times became so enthused or became influenced by others or didn't take time to sit and count the cost before they got engaged in something. And that was why He said, "The man, if he had counted the cost, he would have realized that what he started to build, he couldn't finish. If he had watched his army, and seen the type of weapons that his army was equipped with and going out into battle or making threats against the enemy, or seeing the conditions on which this battle would take place, he would have realized that he didn't have what it took to engage that enemy who was equipped that way, and who was trained in fighting under those conditions. And so, he would never have started a war that he couldn't finish." It is such a great battle today for people to really stay focused and finish what they started.

You know, Old Years' Night is a night when we come around and everybody through the (I guess,) culture and the tradition of making resolutions and all these things that go with junctions, you come to a cycle of time, you come back around to a certain place, you come back around to a certain junction in your journey, you make a revolution and you are right back to where you started. And sometimes you can look and see, "When I was here, the last time, I purposed in my heart I will do such, and such, and such, and such." And that span of time runs out and you are back to that same spot. And you look to evaluate what kind of progress you made, how faithful you were and how committed you were, and how you dealt with the things that you didn't anticipate or expect that you will encounter when you were saying what you were saying, and then to see if you really had meant what you said and was determined to stick to what you said, regardless of the consequences.

When two people are going to be married, they say, “For better or for worse, in riches or in poverty, in sickness or in health, till death do us part.” They had not even known what would come in the years ahead, but they are making an undying commitment with faith and confidence, because they believe that is the Will of God for them. And they are believing that the God who is bringing that about has produced something in them, that what they know of that God and what they know of what God has done between the two parties, they know they are willing to face any circumstance that would confront them.

Sometimes, it doesn't even take circumstances, and people begin to break their vows and people begin to back down [withdraw/renounce -Ed.] on what they had said, and people begin to try to put no value to what they said and say, “No, I really did not mean that,” and they try to find a way to wiggle out of their responsibility. Jesus, in looking at that, He was showing us that when you start something, you must take into consideration first how prepared you are to enter in what you are entering into.

Think of those children of Israel who cried for deliverance, and they cried, and they prayed and they begged and they pleaded under the whips of the taskmasters. Then they stepped out and they started their journey, but the first little obstacle that they began to meet, they said, “You brought us out here to kill us.” They said, “Moses is up in the mountain for so long, let us go back into Egypt.” And it just shows that people many times are moved emotionally. They are moved by the influence on a crowd that is around them and they try to serve God that way hoping it is going to work. That kind of life always... It is just a surface life, a church life, that looks good while there is no pressure. And when the pressure comes, you realize what they are really in their hearts, not what they try to project in face value.

I believe if the Church of the Living God can really see what we are called to, what kind of Age we are living in, what the Bible prophesied about this Age, how this Age has paralyzed the nominal church and brought it down to just a worldly institution based on entertainment with a social gospel that cannot give one person inside of it the New Birth to even get them ready for the Coming of Jesus Christ, yet preach out of the Bible and have so many programs day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year and the people are just becoming worse and worse!

It is the same way you see men who started off in the Message when the Message came and they were so eager to separate, and they were so eager to give up everything, and they were so eager to follow the Lord. But sometimes following Him is not easy. You see Orpah and Ruth, she went back. Orpah went back after she cried and wanted to play [pretend -Ed.] she was following and wanted to go through. Finally, she began to sober up and realize, "I don't really want to go through, you know. You know, even though I cried, even though I shed tears and got emotional, I'm just an easily worked up, emotional person who talks things that I have to take back." So eventually she backed down, you know, maybe had a little shame-face [embarrassed look -Ed.] and kind of went back to what she had known.

Rebekah, brother, she went out and she was determined to go all the way in that journey. And she made the journey and she went and got married. Is that right? Elisha, he came into a double portion. He was determined. He wasn't going to stop at Gilgal or Bethel or Jericho, nothing! He was going to go all the way, cross Jordan and get the promise! And you see the spirits of people.

Think of those men that came around Jesus. They followed Him, they loved Him, He was so great, He was such a charismatic person, you know. He taught the Word with such authority. He did such great signs and

wonders, people felt so secured around Him, the sick were being healed, the dead were being raised and these men had separated from everything seemingly, to follow Him. Seventy of them, He gave them power to cast out devils and everything else.

But as they began to get in certain places in their journey, He knowing, and He was teaching, and the Word fell among thorns and It sprang up. That is the person who rejoices and has a great time. But then the sun came up in the heat of the day, and then the thorns began to choke it, and the cares of this life, and they went back. And Jesus, in teaching that, it showed how conscious He was that by the time the Word began to come down, "Except you eat the Flesh and drink the Blood of the Son of Man, you have no Life," they began to go away. Yet Peter and they, brother, maybe with less education than many who walked back, they looked there but there was something that they couldn't separate from.

And when Jesus would speak to them, He would tell them, "You were back there with Me. The Father gave you to Me before the foundation of the world and I know My sheep and My sheep knows Me." And He would talk to them in a way, about "I am the Vine and you are the branches," which meant, "You were in Me, always." "And I came in this life now and our paths crossed and it is being made known to you that we were linked up back in Eternity." And they had the faith to catch those things.

I find today that people, they are settling down for church. When they say, you know, "I love the Message," it could mean, "I enjoy services." But you see your Christian life comes to a place where it is not just about enjoyment. There is service you are called for and there are assignments that God gives you, and there are places He sends you to be a light and a witness! And He knows you are going to be rejected. He knows you will be scoffed at. He knows you will be persecuted! But He

sends you still and He expects you to take it and represent Him, and represent the Kingdom that you stand for, and carry yourself with dignity, knowing you are called and knowing His Kingdom will come into power regardless of how strong the kingdom of this world looks. Amen! It will all crumble because that Rock cut without hands will smite that image and grow into a great Mountain that will fill the earth.

And that is why, even the apostles, they went out in that first Age and they saw the might of the Roman power that they encountered. They saw the great, you know, seats of intelligence in Athens, Greece, where the Greeks had all this wisdom, that they laughed at Paul when he began to preach about the Resurrection and Jesus. It didn't wet the appetite of their intellect. Instead they said, "This babbler is setting forth strange doctrine." Yet here was a man that was caught up in the third Heaven; yet here was a man commissioned by an Angel; yet here was a man (amen!) that was learned, more learned than them and counted all that dung, to come into this reality.

What is it that moves you as a believer? What is the Message to you? Is it that you grew up in it? Is it that your parents believe it? Did somebody influence you into it? Do you kind of come around? Does your faith rest on: "Bro. Branham was right and was vindicated?" What does it mean to you? You can't face the Devil with that. It has to be in that place where you know, "For me to live is Christ." For me to live is Christ. It has to be something with your Eternal purpose. It has to be something that meets the *deep* inside of you, which can't be satisfied by this world, no matter how advanced it gets. No matter how much more comfortable they make it, until they get peace on earth in a great utopia, and the Pope blesses everybody, and everybody has three square meals, and is getting good education, has their own house and car; that still can't satisfy the *deep*

in the heart of a predestinated, that is predestinated to the Word written for this Hour.

I'm not preaching that as theology. I came into this Message as a young boy. God by His grace let me travel around the world, preach the Message. I have seen from some plank of wood and gazette paper and a steel drum for a pulpit, I have seen a church like this come out of the dust. I have seen the Caribbean, He raised up churches that didn't exist by speaking the Word, going by faith. And that still does not satisfy what is inside of me. Why? When something struck me years ago, it put my eyes on the prize. I saw the prize. I saw the prize.

Have you ever considered what it is going to be like meeting the Lord Jesus? I'm not talking about in Spirit now, that One that—if It really thrills your heart, if It really affects your life, if It really grips you, if It talks to you from day to day and influences you. "One of these days, that same Spirit will personalize Itself," he said. "It will be standing there and you could even see the nail prints in His hands." The songwriter said, "Oh, I want to see Him, look upon His face, and there to sing forever of His saving grace." [#664 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

The Prophet told about Sambo who preached the Gospel to the slaves and saw many of them converted, and when he was dying, they said, "Sambo, here is your robe and your crown for being a faithful Christian."

He said, "Robe and Crown? Don't talk about robe and crown. Just let me look upon Him for a thousand years."

The Prophet would tell those stories because he was trying to say there is something in the hearts of people who have come to know this Christ, who have been affected by this Christ, who this Christ has taken aside and put you to sit and said, "Let Me show you how I love you. Let Me show you the love I love you with. Let Me show who I am that loves you that way. Let Me show you how you came from Me and I ordained you to this. And without My grace in your life, you couldn't receive this. You couldn't even have faith to believe this."

And when It is genuinely believed, (not read about,) genuinely believed, where you hunger for It, that when those experiences come and the Holy Spirit comes in your room and He comes in your life and He begins to talk to you, and He begins to do it in a way that He lets you know it is not your imagination or your thoughts or your feelings...

He says, "Open that book..." Like that time when He told me, He said, "Go in your room, on your shelf has a book there, open it, you will find what you are looking for right there." I walked right in and pulled the book out of a thousand books, opened it. First open, boom, it was right there. I dropped the book. I said, "Oh God, what is this? Times when He would come, just like what I'm coming to preach here tonight, to let you know, "I am there. Lo, I am with you always. I have called you for this." He said, "Go tell My servant David, I remember, I took him from the sheepcote."

God, when He calls you, friends, picks you up and He begins to reveal His Will to you. You see today we work from one side: Malachi 4:5, God sent a Prophet, that is not—that can't be John, there are five comings of Elijah, and kind of work that down and break that down and explain that and blow away a person's theology and then put them subject to that. That way, you—what did the Bible say? You got a proselyte.

There is another way now, that God predestinates that soul because that soul was part of God. You were born in that family, and you are growing up and your family is not even religious. Mother was a Catholic, father was a moonshiner, making illegal whiskey. But the ministry that was going to finish up the Plan of Redemption was coming out of a family like that. And the land was packed with great Cathedrals and great churches and the church history was full of great reformers and scholars who wrote books. And this boy was walking in the woods and looking at nature and

seeing God in nature. And Somebody was teaching him in a school. Somebody was putting values inside of him.

He said, "I left my hook in the water on Sunday, I wouldn't take it out. That was the Lord's day. I am not going to fish; just leave it there, laying there."

That loved a dog because he could see, "That dog fed me and put clothes on my back and food on our table," and started to see the value and appreciated a dog; to see how God worked, using a dog to take care of a family! He started to see all that.

You know it is strange. Sometimes we talk things and the Age has gotten so intellectual, everything has gotten so learned, everybody got their mind so set on what they think God is. Then you ask them, "Has He come to you? Does He talk to you? Does He instruct you?" Because remember, it can't be the outside teacher alone. You can't depend on that alone. There must be an Inside Teacher to understand what the outside teacher is saying.

And because you are who you are, there is Something inside of you, He put there that makes you search; like a law of navigation, like the Salmon, thousands and thousands of miles from where it was hatched out, but when that season comes, it turns around and begins to go against the current. And it goes for thousands of miles on a search, and it finds back the place of its origin. It is ordained to do that, while other fishes, it is not important to them. But that fish is made up so. It is wonderful. Isn't it? Think of it.

So, Jesus was teaching: man who started to build, man who could not finish, they lost sight of what they had started. They lost the vision of the original objective. Somewhere along the line they got unplugged. And when they got unplugged, they sat there now and they didn't realize their lives changed to form. Their lives changed to form. There was no real passion to know the Word. There was no cry for reaching out in the Spirit.

Like Bro. Bishop [Bro. Wrenwick Bishop, Songleader -Ed.] who was doing the books, he was telling me, “Bro. Vin, I have noticed, you know, when I saw certain things there when we started to type back the books and so on,” he said, “I have realized that people, there is a lack of a real hunger to read that Word.”

I said, “Well, this, it took this to wake it up and show them.”

Because if you are nearing the end of the race... How many believe we are nearing the end of the race? No true runner who knows they are on the homestretch... On *Countdown*, he said, “We are in the zero hour.” Seven Ages have run out. Where are we at? Seven Angels came down, Seven Seals opened up, a Bride separated; we are on the homestretch, friends.

Then are you telling me a real runner in the race slackens his pace when he knows he is coming to the end of the race? Is that factual? Is that how they are trained? No. When you are coming to the end of the race, and you get on the homestretch—on the homestretch, you see the tape. You see the mark. You see the prize. You see they all stand there, you know this is the last lap.

First lap, Paul; second lap, Irenaeus; third lap, Martin; fourth lap, Columba; fifth lap, Luther; sixth lap, Wesley. Malachi 4 ran his lap. Now the Bride is here, by and through the members He will finish up the thing here, a quick, short, powerful Message! She will be His victory! She will be the reason of His death!

Here we are in that Second Cycle. What are you waiting for? And, brother, you tell me, we are seeing that prize, we are seeing nations falling apart, we are seeing the World Council tightening, we are seeing the land being divided for gain, we are seeing, brother, the whole world, they are saying, “Prosperity and the economy is strong and the economy is strong and the economy is strong,” and it is a lie. The paper money is already gone.

Do you see when you read how the world will be deceived, how easy it is? Because there is a voice that they believe because they don't believe the Bible. They live by that voice and that voice is the voice of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. That is the voice that his people in his Eden eat from that tree. He told them, "Eat from every tree in this Garden, but you see that Tree there, the day you eat of that Tree, you shall surely live." So, he blinds them from that Tree.

Eat from the Baptist tree. Eat from the Methodist tree. Eat from the Jehovah's witnesses tree. Eat from the Seventh Day Adventist tree. Eat from the Catholic tree. Eat from the sports tree. Eat from the political tree. Eat from the entertainment tree. But the day you eat from this Tree... Why? The same way that tree was in God's Eden, this Tree is in Satan's Eden too. He has come down. He has come down and He has a Book in His Hand and He is telling the Elect, "Take and eat! Leave all those other trees, but eat from this Tree and you will go back to Eden! You know this world is falling apart! You will go back to My Eden!"

Then here we are, friends. Are we not at the end of the race? Then when you look around in the race, and you see the feeble hands start to hang down, and the feet get lame and start to turn out of their path, and you see people start to drop out of the race holding their waists, and you see the crowd, there is such a great compass of witnesses, saying, "Go on! Go on!"

And they say, "You could say 'Go on, yes. You stand up outside there. I can't go on.'"

No, but the witnesses that encompass us are those who have had to run in their Age and they have already run their race. Because Hebrews 11, he said, "Look, we went through all these witnesses. All these elders obtained a good report, from Abel all the way to the end." Then he left the greatest one for last, Jesus. And after he preached from Abel all the way down, he said, "Now let us look unto Jesus." Because all of them were

only part of the Word, but this One was the full Word. All of them only had part of the faith, but this One was the fullness of the faith. Amen! He was greater than Abel because the Voice of His Blood speaks better things than Abel.

He, Abel, God testified he was righteous, but God declared this One more righteous than Abel. Enoch, brother, he walked with God and he pleased God, but this One proved, (amen,) He walked with God, and He said, "Father, I do those things that please You always." He didn't just escape death, He conquered death. Enoch escaped death. He never conquered death. He only escaped death to be a sign. Amen! But this One came and conquered death and then led captivity captive.

He was greater than Noah because He Himself made an Ark for His own Household. He Himself was the Tree that was cut down. He Himself, His Life was the very Sap. He Himself, (amen,) brother, His three stages of grace, were the three stories. Amen. He Himself was the Door to the very Ark. He Himself was the One that took them out of the Old Birth and raised them above the judgment and brought them into a New Birth, into a New World, a world of Perfect Faith. He was greater than Noah.

And Paul was saying, "Let us look to this One in our race."

Do you know why? Because He ran and the race that was set for Him to run, every one of us, where we have things that trouble us, those were put in His course. And when He was finished, He was victorious. He could complete the course. He strived against sin, resisting even unto blood! Why? He said, "My meat is to do the Will of Him that sent me and to finish." [John 4:34 -Ed.] He was determined to finish the job. He said, "I didn't start this. Because the crowd was gone, I came down to eleven, the last one was a Devil. Now they are spitting on Me. Now they are plucking out my beard. Now they

are beating Me. Now My own disciples forsook Me. It is better if I give up.” No.

Brother, He tread the winepress alone. He tread the winepress alone! Showing... He said, “You who are in the race and will have to finish this race, you will have somewhere along your race to look to Him, because in Him lies the technique. In Him lies the ability. In Him lies the law of how to run the race.” Amen!

No matter what kind of obstacle is in the race, no matter what kind of pressure is upon you in the race, no matter what kind of enemies you have trying to push you off the track, no matter what kind of evil things come to deter your mind, He will show you how to keep fixed on the prize. “He Who for the joy that was set before Him,” he said, “let us run the race that is set before us. And look unto Him Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, despised the shame, endured contradiction of sinners against Himself.”

And no matter the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life, no matter what came, He lived for the Father. “My meat is to do the Will of Him that sent Me. I have meat that you don’t know of. My meat is to finish this work. I am not about starting. I am not about going around with the crowd and ‘glory to God, Hallelujah’. If the Message came down to me and me alone, I’m about finishing.” Amen!

When we used to go in the Message in the early days, we read that quote, “If you don’t have faith like Enoch, get out of the way.” Amen. Brother, Enoch alone went up in that Age, believing God! The Prophet was saying, “There is going to be a people here in the last days,” and if you believe that you are one of them, don’t let anything stand before you. When God gave me this, I could begin to see the encouragement He wanted to give the Church but also the warning and the instruction, because it is a great encouragement to rise up and finish. Let us finish the job that we have started!

What are we doing out there in the Caribbean? Why are we going there? Why are we standing toe to toe with the enemy? Why are we leaving a church like this to go and sit with ten people and spend two weeks laboring with four or five sometimes in a service? Are we crazy? Are we just on self? Are we just looking for a way of escape or do we understand what the Plan of God is? Was He crazy to leave seven thousand and cross the sea for one? Was He crazy to let Philip leave a whole revival and go for one in the desert? Was He crazy? Service.

Service, when the heart gets filled with Him and everything you are doing is to please Him, and He becomes the object of your life. Listen.

Paul also taught the same thing. Paul taught about those who after tasting the good Word of God and the powers of the world to come, how they fell away. He taught about those who stopped short of the promise; they came out, but they never entered into. They refused to labor to enter into. They didn't have to labor to come out. God broke the bands off them and took them out. But they had to labor to enter in. Watch.

He talked about those who drew back unto perdition. Then he said, "But we are not of them who draw back." He said, "We are not of that kind." We don't have the drawing back spirit inside of us. It takes an attitude, it takes a spirit, it takes a certain condition to go back. He said, "We don't have that." That was the first thing we poured on the altar. We don't have that to go back to. Do you know why? When He woke you up to realize who you are, what He made you...

Do you realize the person who goes back, something has to go wrong with their mind first? Do you realize that is a person who is going and the thing is, Jesus is not the object of their life. You see people say, "Man, I am not going back to that church again! There are a bunch of hypocrites up there." And two or three people that they got close and thick with, disappointed them and they were done. They were done.

Jesus was not the object of their life. Calvary, what happened with Calvary? What does that have to do with “God so loved that He gave?” What does that have to do with, “No man can come except I draw you and those I foreknew, I predestinated?” What does that have to do with that? It just showed us where some people walked. It just showed that when you put those things under the microscope of the Word and you began to strip that thing and break it down, that was not a child of God. That was a person still in an unconverted state. That person’s mind had not even been awakened and opened up to the Things of God yet. That person was not hungering for God. Because do you mean you were hungering for Him, you couldn’t live without Him and when you got Him, you can just throw Him aside afterward to go back to the same old things? No, no, no, no, no. It doesn’t happen so.

Brother, you watch when children of God make mistakes, like Samson and they. They get down inside of there, they beg, they cry, they plead for God to come back. They repent because they see the foolishness that they do. They are willing to pay the price. They are willing to die completely without reservation. They don’t have to look for a little acceptance, a handshake, a hug and a ‘brought back’. No, no. Because they know “It was Christ I walked away from. It was the Gospel. It was the Work that He did that meant something.”

So Paul was saying, “Those whom after they tasted that good Word and the powers of the world to come, how they fell away and stopped short of the promise. They drew back unto perdition,” he said, “because they failed to hold the beginning of their confidence steadfast unto the end.”

Are you getting the thought? Unto the end. When you are starting the race and it begins, your confidence begins, “He who began the good work in you,” you know there is an end. There is an end. When you know He cut you down like a tree, that He walked in a big forest and

selected you and said, “You will be My workmanship. I’m going to make a great ornament out of you.” And He chose that wood out of all the different wood in the forest. He chose that tree and He took it out and He took it into His workshop. He had a pattern in the back of His mind and He began to bring you down to fit that pattern, and He is bringing you now to be the expression of His very thinking. Because He knew He had you there; in that shape and form, you couldn’t do that. So He had to—the time came: Election, He had to cut; Calling, He had to begin the work in you. And you are conscious, “I am no longer in the forest. He sent an evangelist and he took me out. He brought me under a teacher. He began to plane me and cut me to size. He is working on me!”

Then you know there is to be a finished product. Then you know there is to be a finished product. That is why we sing, “He is still working on me. I am not what I ought to be.” [#406 - Songs That Live -Ed.] Amen. He is the Potter and I am the clay. You are conscious it is something that is happening. And you are so taken up with it, you can’t wait to see what it is going to unfold to, how He is going to put you in service, what He is going to do in your life.

When He took Peter and Mary Magdalene and they up, brother, they followed and they followed and they followed. When Peter was walking in and people were standing in his shadow and being healed; when he was going down there in Dorcas’ house and bringing her back; when he was in prison and saw the Angel come down and take him out, you could imagine, he began to see what the finished product was like, where he was in service. He followed all the way. He followed all the way. The race, friends, is not to the swift.

Paul has in his mind here, an image of a Greek athlete on the racetrack and he is running. He is pressing towards a fixed goal, and his eye is fixed on the prize. And so he is talking in that language and the

words he is using, he himself is the athlete. And he is expressing it in the terms of the athlete straining every nerve, testing every muscle to the extent that it can go because of the prize he is running for, because of the prize, "That I may win Christ." That I may win Christ.

This thing was revealed to me. I see why God called me. I see how He wants to reveal His Son in me. I see how he wants to bring man back into fellowship in the Garden again. I see that I am a vessel of honor, a chosen vessel to bear His Name, prepared unto every good work, fit for the Master's use, set aside for His service. I see what He made me in the House that He is building. He was fellowshiping. He said, "To make all men see the fellowship of this mystery; that I count all things dung, that I might live in this reality."

I wonder how many tonight are desiring to live in that kind of reality? Maybe many of you, friends, you came in the Message, and maybe even some of you tonight, came tonight... I don't know what kind of service you came for, but when these kinds of Things come to you, you realize this is not coming to the mental man. This is coming to the man inside of here who is craving to see the fullness in his life, who knows God began the work, who sees the training, who sees the trials, who sees the overcoming, who sees the competition in the race, who sees they are trying to run him away, who sees the distractions trying to take him off the target, take him off the prize! But he knows, "Nothing could make me lose that focus. I am not looking back. I am forgetting those things behind. They can't offer me that. My eyes are fixed on the prize. I have come into the Eternal." I have come into the Eternal. The baptism of the Holy Ghost brings you into the Eternal, friends.

You know today, we talk about after 1963 and 1965 and so and so and the Eternal Church Age and the Seals opened... It is just words. And where is the man in the Eternal and the Eternal in the man? Where is the man in the Holy convocation? Where is the man in this

blessed fellowship? Where is the man saying, “God said, ‘Will you take a walk with Me?’” And from the time you step out of everybody’s little box, everybody starts to get doubts and starts to watch and surmise because everybody wants to leave it as a theory. But there are some people who don’t love a theory; they love reality. And they never came in the Message for a new theory.

That I may win Christ, reaching forth, straining forward, bending and straining every nerve and every muscle to press forward to the prize of this Calling, this reason why He apprehended me that I in return might apprehend the Things. He apprehended me when He sent a prophet and took me out of Egypt, saying, “Israel, My son, out of Egypt have I called him. I’m going to make him a royal priesthood. I’m going to make them a kingdom of priests. They will be the head of the nations.”

Well, those who were coming, like Joshua and Caleb were not just saying, “Thank God, God sent a prophet.” They were looking for that time when they would stand in the land, when they would have their own landmarks, when they stand in their inheritance, when everything is under their feet, because that was what God called them for, that when they were stopping short, God said, “There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed!”

And Joshua said, “Why are you so slack? Go up and possess it!”

Why? Because God was determined, not just to have a bunch of people come out of Egypt, talking about a prophet came, a mighty prophet; God wanted to have a Church living in the land of their fathers, having an inheritance, being placed positionally in that very land.

Has God changed His mind about His Word tonight? [Congregation says, “No!” –Ed.] Is the objective still the same? Do you feel the crave in your heart? Is there some fight inside of you? Is there some determination, you want to rise up? Amen. Can you sense in your spirit that it is getting nearer now than when you first believed? You

are nearing that tape. Can you see you are in the homestretch and you got a second wind, and all of a sudden, you don't know where that new burst came from, but your legs, like centrifugal, it just keeps going on its own? Amen. There is a rhythm in your stride. You are like the Running Brave. [American Film, 1983 -Ed.] You have a kick, (amen,) and when you get into that kick on that bend, you look at the opposition, brother, they are just falling apart. Men's tongues are hanging out of their mouths. They can't catch you anymore because you are going up into a Rapturing Faith.

Why? Because for you it wasn't coming to church. Because for you it wasn't just the friends, you loved the friends, you loved the Kentucky [Kentucky Fried Chicken. -Ed.] after church, you loved the little cook-up and the Bar-b-que during the week, you loved the nice fellowship, you even loved the little prayer meetings. Amen! But if that was all for the people in the church's calendar, (amen,) for you it wasn't that. Amen.

Brother, you heard from your theophany. You have heard from your theophany! The Eternal stirred up something inside you and said, "You came from up There," friends. There is something about you. You might be born in that family, you might be some little, brother, funny looking bird in that barnyard, but you were Eagle from the egg. You were an Eagle from the egg. You were a son of God before you came here. You came with Eternal Life and you didn't even know those mysteries. A Prophet had to come and tear open the Book and tell you, "You were not saved on any certain day, you were always saved."

And because you were always saved, you were seeking Redemption. You were not seeking Salvation. You were seeking to get back to where you were before you dropped down here. You were up in the Nest, on the Mountain Top, inside Papa Eagle. Amen! You were born on that Mountain. Glory! You were hatched out down here, where amnesia, (because you were separated from

your origin,) amnesia had a black spot there. But when Mama screamed, brother, the amnesia of where you came from started to come to light. There was something in that Voice. You see you are coming to the end of the race, there is something inside of you.

Let us turn to 1st Corinthians 9 quickly. I am going much slower than I anticipated. I just wanted to do something different tonight in the service. I wanted to have a kind of pause somewhere in-between and have prayer for the sick and so on; prayer for people who want deliverance and to rededicate their lives before we take the Lord's Supper. Amen.

After Jacob got himself whipped out, then he could get a New Name. Amen. After Abraham had that victory, he could meet Melchizedek. So we have to have something somewhere inside of here. But look at what I'm trying to catch, friends; look at what I'm trying to grasp here because Paul's objective was to destroy complacency in those who were claiming they had already attained.

Some were saying, "We have already attained."

Paul was saying, "I'm still alive and I'm still in the race and I have not finished my course yet, my allotted time hasn't run out, so I have not attained yet. I will consider 'attained' when I leave this world. As long as I'm in this world, there is something, there is more of God for me." There is more of God for me.

I remember in Barataria, some people came and got their heads blown, and said, "We are already adopted. We don't have to pray anymore. We have made it already."

Oh my. Look at me here still in 2004 and I'm ready to go press inside of there. I want to see... I'm seeing things to empty out more, because I know this Eternal God, we only have the Spirit in a measure, but God could give us more, friends. Amen! Glory! We could manifest all of God in this Hour. This is the Age of the Fullness.

1st Corinthians 9, verse 24:

24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize...

He said, "In the race..." He was asking the Corinthians, he said, "Do you know that?" Because right there in Corinth was where they would have those big games, the big Grecian games there. They would see all the athletes come, so Paul was referring to them.

He said:

24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, [so run!] that you may obtain.

Are you running for nothing? Are you just going through the motions: this brother does that, so you do that; this sister does that, so you do that? Brother, when they drew the lots, you knew what lane you got. You know by a New Birth that you are qualified to be in this race. Is that right? Yes, sir! It is the race of life and service, friends. Do you get me? It is a race of life and service that we are running. That is why there is a prize. That is why there are rewards in this race.

24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? [That is the natural race.] So run, that ye may obtain.

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

Have you ever seen... Paul said, "Do you know what those men are running for?" You know I was watching that the other day and West Indies was playing Zimbabwe [cricket teams -Ed.] and after they had gone through this grueling time in the series [cricket -Ed.] and everything else, they came out here with a little bird that they have in Zimbabwe, they have this little piece of wood and they stood up there. That was the trophy they played for. Crossed all that sea, men got bounced [knocked -Ed.] on their heads, fell down, all kinds of different

things, got injured, all kinds of different things, and when they were finished, a little piece of wood-thing they gave them there.

I said, "My goodness! Is that it?"

Then they would play in the World Cup for this big trophy. It is supposed to be worth so much money in gold. It goes into some office somewhere and waits for the next four years; nobody gets to carry it home. The team holds it, takes a picture with it, drinks some champagne around it, and then they take it and lock it up in some vault or something after that.

He said, "Look what they do."

And they train, and they compete, and they go through the whole Red Stripe Series for selection to go on the tour to play for the Ashes [trophy -Ed.] or something, or the Frank Worrell's trophy, and brother, they discipline themselves.

He said, "They are temperate in all things."

Have you ever seen a prized fighter? But he can't make the weight. They say, "You are too heavy. The fight will be cancelled; you will get disqualified. You are over the weight."

Brother, he wants to fight for that prize; it is a belt. He is walking around with a big belt so. The man can't even wear that belt to go anywhere. To hold the thing a little bit, that is what he is fighting for. Brother, he takes all kinds of cuff, takes all kinds of beating up, bloody, fighting for that and in the end, he can't wear it and go anywhere with it. If he doesn't qualify for a certain fight, they would take away the belt.

They say, "You failed to defend your crown in a certain time." Belt gone.

Paul is saying, "Watch." And that man is running in the morning. He gets up early and four o'clock he is down the road, and he is running to Cedros, he is running back up. Brother! He is not eating this, he is not eating that. Temperate. Self-controlled. Disciplined.

Why? His eyes are fixed on the prize. He is fighting for that belt. He is fighting for that belt.

He said, "And they do it for a corruptible thing." They used to run for the olive leaf; a bunch of olive leaves they took and made a little garland and put it around the man's head, a little wreath. Paul said, "Is that why these fellows are doing that?" He said, "But we are running for an incorruptible prize."

Onward to the prize before us,
Soon His Beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open,
We shall tread the streets of gold. [#230 - Songs That Live - Ed.]

Because when the battle is over,
We shall wear a crown. [#291 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

Amen. Brother! There is something we are striving for tonight. We are not just coming to church and going along and wondering if we are right. We are called. Amen. We are chosen. And God had quickened us, and God had opened the Word and God had shown us who we are and why He put us on this earth and how we reflect another Kingdom, (amen,) while we walk in this world with Immortal Life inside of us.

How many know they have Eternal Life in them right now? Half of you don't know that. Sorry to say that, that way. I didn't say you don't have it. I said you don't know it. Because when you know that, friends, you realize why that was put in you. Why was that deposited in you? What was God's thoughts? Why did He wrap that in flesh? Why did He see a need for that in the Caribbean? Why? Lift your eyes tonight. Lift your spirits tonight. Transcend the church realm. I hope you didn't come for some New Year's resolution tonight, but you want to burst into the vision. You want to rise up to your real Calling. You want to get refocused if you have

gotten out of focus. You want to get your eyes set on the prize. You want to have your effort concentrated with singleness of eye. You know exactly what you are in it for; you know exactly what waits at the end of the road.

How many know he said, “William Branham, you better rise up and do something for the Lord.” He said, “You haven’t done anything for the Lord yet,” two million souls under the anointing there. Something inside of him said, “Billy, I’ve got to shake myself.”

And a Voice said, “Would you like to see what lies at the end of the road? Would you like to see why you are in this race, why you are pressing the battle? Would you like to see?”

He said, “Oh God, that would do me good. That would do me good.”

Friends. Why? This Message brings us into the homestretch. This Message brings us into the homestretch, the race. The last athletes are on the course right now. You are one of them. You are one of them, friends. Oh my. Look at that little boy [Kim Collins, 2003 IAAF World Indoor Championship -Ed.] up in St. Kitts there when we were having the Convention right here. He won the world [2003 World Championships 100m Final -Ed.]. Some people in the world don’t even know where St. Kitts is, and the champion of the world, the fastest man with the medal is from a little island that people don’t even know exists. All the big runners don’t even know that place exists.

I am preaching here and telling you there is Supernovae out of this part of the region and they released that thing there. But they are nice things, thoughts in the mind sitting here in a church. Why? You are just in the intellectual realm, but these things are from the heart, where the heart yearns and craves, “Oh God, who am I?”

I remember the days I used to walk like I was crazy. People used to look at me and think I was going mad. They said, “What happened to him?” They stood up there and watched me and talked about me. I was

walking like I was drifting aimlessly. I felt so all alone in this world. I felt so all alone in this world. That was why I was just walking, to fall down in a chasm and disappear.

And when I stepped over, (because I felt the world had no place for me anymore,) and plunged into a dark, bottomless pit, then He reached down His hands for me and Something began to bring me back up. Oh brother, thirty-one years ago. But do you know something? Never the same again. Never... And brother, all the devils in Hell can't move me from that. I grow stronger every day. He makes His Word so clear to me. He takes me in places where I could walk with Him. He does things in my life, where I see His Power, I see His Word, I see His Love, I see His Grace. I see the things that He gave me of value and the things that the world thinks are of value, I had no interest in.

Why? That I may win Christ. I have seen the prize, the Mighty God unveiled. God lifted the veil to show me the prize. Christ is revealed in His Own Word. He opened the Seven Seals, so I could see the prize. I could understand the race. I could know the challenges. I could know the obstacles. I could know the laws and principles of how to run the race. I could know how to finish my course. I know what to look on, and keep my eyes on so I don't get distracted because distraction could be fatal. Distraction could be fatal. Oh my!

²⁶ I therefore so run...

Verse 26:

...not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

Have you ever seen those shadow boxers? They are beating the air. Have you ever seen those batsmen? Bowler nearly bowls them; they are not batting any ball, you know. When the ball comes, they are missing the ball. But they have to go back there and kind of... [Bro. Vin imitates the motion of a batsman -Ed.] Beating the air.

Paul said, “The natural man, in that realm for the incorruptible prize, they could do that.” He said, “But a Christian does not have time for that.” Brother! Every shot has to count. Every shot... Because when you miss, you are knocked down. When you miss, you get knocked down. When you miss, you feel the strength of the enemy on your life.

This, you have to have the cutting edge. This is not beating the air, friends. How do you want to go in the New Year? The same old way, patch you up and let you go in?

Where is Michael? Where is Mike? Bro. Michael [Bro. Michael Peters. -Ed.] told us a joke. He said, “This fellow was in the ring and he was fighting there and the trainer said, ‘Go ahead, man. We are fighting according to the plan. We have him right where we want him.’”

The next fellow was only beating him and beating him. He came back and the trainer said, “Keep calm. You are doing really well. Everything is under control. We are going according to plan. We have him exactly where we want him.”

The fellow went in and got more licks. He came back out. He said, “We are going according to plan.”

He said, “I don’t know what you are saying.” He said, “You better be careful because if that fellow...”

The coach was saying, “He is not hitting you, man. He is not hitting you. He is not doing anything to you.”

He said, “Well, if he is not doing anything to me, watch the referee. I am feeling somebody beating me. Somebody is giving me real licks inside of that ring. If it is not that man beating me, it has to be the referee then, because somebody is beating me inside of there.”

A lot of people lie to themselves like that. The Devil has them, stripping them, licks, breaking them down, weakening them! They could barely stand, they can’t testify anymore. They would come in prayer meetings and fall asleep. They would pick up a book and their minds can’t stay focused to read two pages and they are

telling themselves, “I am going really good. I am going really good.”

And their friend tells them, “Boy, I tell you God is in your life. When you talk so, I feel God around you boy!”

No, no, no. No, friends. That is beating the air. That is a bunch of people that are beating the air. Because in this, every shot has to count. You are in a contest and blows are trading, and in a fight you have a plan and you have an objective. The Prophet said, “Train for the knockout punch,” in the contest. Because a race is what? A contest.

Look at Paul. He was coming there, brother, every city: “Bonds and afflictions await this man in Jerusalem! Bonds and afflictions!” Next city, “Bonds and afflictions!” He said, “The Holy Spirit testified in every city that bonds and afflictions await me.” He said, “But none of these things move me. I must finish my course with joy.” [Acts 20:22-24 -Ed.] I must finish my course.

Friends, I remember, we could have still been stagnated down in San Fernando, in a little place there in the house. But when I stepped out to go to Barataria, a sister got a dream. Another minister, when he heard the dream, (this brother wanted to kill him,) oh, he backed off.

He said, “Not me. I’m not going up there.”

When they told me the dream, I said, “Well, he will have to kill me.” Because I had preached in San Fernando already, House Of Hell and I heard those voices screaming and in this sister’s dream, “It is midnight, go and get them quickly!” I said, “That is what I came here for.” And standing there, showers of revelation fell in 1980, and 1981 exploded and just, brother, shook the country up.

Brother, when that Devil showed that head and that spirit of fear wanted to come... Brother, if back there was just—that was just the lion, going after the lion, or the bear. If after, with lion, bear and Goliath, and you know what you know today, are you going to run from

something like that? No, sir! Brother, we have to believe this to die for It. Do you know where the problem comes? God brings people to junctions, to see what value they put on It, what It means to you. What does It mean to you? Are you here because of this brother? Are you here because of this sister? Are you here because of this one? And the enemy compromises people.

Quickly.

Paul said:

²⁶ I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

Here is a soldier. Here is an athlete! He said, “You see me in this race here; do you think I am just kind of wearing myself out? I keep myself fit for this race. I know what I’m up against. I fought with beasts at Ephesus, in the Ephesus games.” Whoo! He said, “But when I won that, if you had seen the prize.

In Philippi, brother, they tried to run me off, they tried to deter me, they tried to beat me and break my spirit, but my eyes were on the prize. Silas and I lifted our hands and began to sing in the jail. Brother, instead of them breaking our spirits and getting us discouraged, we went into overdrive and started to encourage each other and remind each other what we came here for and how God led us to this place.” And nothing could dampen their spirits.

Is something dampening your spirit tonight? Do you feel you can’t go on? Is something discouraging you? Did the hill get too steep for some of you? Did you lose the fight that you had this year? Did Satan come, and brother, put cow-itch [a vine that irritates the skin -Ed.] in your shoes? Are you hearing it is time for the race to go out and you can’t find your running shoes, you can’t find your gears? What did the Bible say? “Lest you lose your garments and your nakedness appear.” When you have to go with the national colors, you borrow something from somebody at the side to come out with it. But

nobody can make you out on the field. They question, “Who is that person?” because you don’t have your national colors. Keep your eyes fixed on the prize.

He said:

27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection...

Do you remember when I preached that there, *Let No Man Take Your Crown* [[1993-0509 That No Man Take Thy Crown -Ed.](#)]? He said, “The words there mean ‘I beat myself black and blue.’”

...lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

He was not talking about losing his Salvation; he was talking about losing the war. “In the end, I served God, I did all this for nothing? In the end, did I get discouraged? In the opportunities God sent my way, did I find it was too late in the night to get up? Did I find I couldn’t use my last money to do that? Did I find that I could not go there by myself? I found that if I got opposed, ‘What would I do?’ And I crossed bridges I had not reached yet. I kind of figured, ‘Well right now I have an ox to prove, and I just married a wife, and I have my house to build.’” Oh my. And lose, and lose the war. And lose the war, friends.

Friends, does *this* mean this to you? What are you in this race for? Are you convinced we are in the last days? Are you convinced that Seven Angels appeared, the Picture what we have? Are you convinced that the last sign made for the world, that is the last sign before the Change, before the Gentile world burns with fire; are you convinced that that was *that*?

Are you convinced that the world is really again falling apart? Is the economy getting better? Is science going to come out with, brother, the thing that we need to make us live longer and everything else? Is our answer laying in the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil? Is the Rapture really on? Do we feel that we are in the

process of being raptured? Or is it a term we use, “In ’63 when the Seals opened and the Lord descended from Heaven with a Shout? And the Shout is the opening of the Seals, and the Seals gathered the Bride, and the Second Fold is the Voice of the Archangel?” And are you not feeling you are being raptured? Are you not feeling separated? Are you not feeling called out? Are you not feeling quickened? Has your mind not broken into a realm—are you still talking about, “I have mind battles, boy, my mind, and I can’t hold my mind?” And we are in the mind Age and the Intelligence has come down and the Bride has the mind of Christ?

Where are we at? Is it just slogans? Is there something in you tonight that your eyes are fixed on the prize?

You say, “Bro. Vin, when I came in this Message as a young boy, as a young girl, and God dealt with me, I wasn’t seeing too clearly. But after about three, four years, it started to break to me and I began to find my place. I began to see how a lady should be. I began to see how a man should be. I began to seek God to know my position. Then God came one day and revealed it so clearly. I asked God for confirmation and He gave me confirmation.

Then I came to the place, I realized I needed to be anointed for service and I began to seek God and God began to anoint me. Then I began to realize I didn’t have to struggle anymore. There was a Life in me, there was Power in me, there was a Presence with me, I knew I was anointed. I had faith.” When things got dark, I went back and said, “God, it was You Who gave me that there, and I’m Your servant, and You revealed that I’m to do this, and this stands before me, I take authority over it. I’m going forward in Your Name, and it had to move back.”

Where are those people? Where are those people? Where are those people tonight? They are the people

that should be coming to this Table here. They are the people that qualify to come to the Table. Those people.

Those people know that this is not play [a game -Ed.] for them, friends. It is not a boyfriend-girlfriend thing. It is not some little campground business. It is not, "We have the Third Exodus denomination." It is not church politics. It is something. Our eyes are fixed on the prize.

Brother, Abraham knew when El Shaddai came down, when circumcision came, he said, "This time next year." When he sat in the tent door, he was checking the time. Now time became a very important part of his life because he knew God gave him a revelation, "This time next year". Then do you know what happened? He saw three men come walking.

One came and started to open up the mysteries to him. He knew the next twenty-eight days. He went into intercession. Why? He was following something. He was following something. His eyes were on the prize. He was expecting it. Brother, he was stretching forth for that prize, straining every nerve because he knew, "Next twenty-eight days, I'm on the homestretch. Twenty-five years have already passed. It is only twenty-eight more days. I'm on the homestretch." Dunamis is coming for Sarah. Dunamis is coming for her. From the time that Man asked, "Where is Sarah thy wife?" and He challenged her, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" he knew Dunamis was coming for Sarah. Amen! She was going to start to live under the influence of the 'H'. God was killing the 'I'. He was killing the 'I' and bringing the 'H' to life. Amen?

Turn with me quickly. One more. Hebrews 12, I want to get. Don't be compromised, friends. Don't be compromised. This is not time to be compromised. You are here for a good reason. You are here because you might not have lived this year as good as you should have. You are here because you went through a repetition of the year before, this year, and a repetition of the year before, this year. And when this time comes

around, you come around to go through the repetition of the tradition again. No, break the cycle this year.

Break the cycle this year and come out of that. Because many of you are in a cycle; it brings you back here and you go through the tradition; brings you back here and you go through the tradition. You want something to burst that thing and break out of it and not go back to any more tradition. You will begin to soar. You will begin to soar. You would not go back to any more tradition.

Hebrews, just drop down with me quickly. I said that I... I want to read 12, but I want to read one or two others in Hebrews before I get to 12. Let us read from Chapter 3, verses 5 and 6. I want to show you what he was teaching here. What he started, we have to finish the job. Paul was teaching those Hebrews who were falling away, he said, "Don't fall away; finish the job. Go all the way. Labor to enter in!" Don't stop short, don't get tired and give up, don't draw back, don't let obstacles discourage you. You are going to have that. Every runner has that. That was why he carried them through Hebrews 11. He said, "Abel, look at Abel, he lost his life. Look at Enoch, what he went through with all those scoffers and mockers. Look at what Noah had to put up with. But they all finished the race, because they were running for an incorruptible crown.

Hebrews 3, verse 5:

⁵ And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;

⁶ But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

He said, "Sure, we are Christ's House and He as a Son over His House. Moses could only be faithful in his house as a servant, but Christ as a Son over His House, and we are His House. We are lively stones that build

up that House.” And he said, “That is if we hold fast this confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.”

There is a hope that we have. There is an expectation that we have. This Message didn't just call us and say, “You are an Elect.” This Message puts you under expectations; “He that shall come will come and will not tarry. There shall be a return of dynamic power. There is a revival of the just and great power that comes to the Church just before its going and the Third Pull that shall do great things among you that will start the Rapturing Faith to the going away of the Church. There will be a Super Race in the last days, a Super Church.” Amen. There is a hope, a rejoicing. He said, “Hold fast that confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm.” Hold it firm, (don't serve from it,) unto the end, unto the goal, until you hit the mark, until you come to the prize.

14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold...

Verse 14, sorry. Verse 14.

14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;

That I may win Christ; that we will be made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end. We don't let anything shake us. We don't let anything distract us. We don't let anything throw us out of focus. And I know that is a big challenge for some of you tonight here, (and I will get to it just now,) where you are being compromised by the enemy, where you make excuses for the things that you are in. I hate to see people do that.

“But how do they expect me to do that? Look so and so happened; and if that brother didn't do that or if that sister didn't do that; and they don't know what I went through; and they caused that...”

And you have people who like to justify themselves by making excuses for their own weaknesses and they try to put the blame on other people and conditions.

Friends, it doesn't have anything in the Word like that. That does not exist in God's plan. Because the footsteps of the righteous are ordered of the Lord. It is not in man to direct his own steps. And all things work together for good to them that love God and to them who are the called, according to His purpose. And nothing can happen to you except God permits it.

And the Devil traps people in there and throws them out of focus and paralyzes their faith and paralyzes their vision. And instead of confessing their weakness, they try to justify themselves by making an excuse for their weakness. And they try to give the reason why they are in that condition as somebody else or something that comes up that they have to go through, that nobody else has to go through that.

Do you mean to say that what you have to go through is not related to your perfection? I thought you were His workmanship and I thought it was He Who set the course that you are running? He is your Coach. He said, "Hurdle for you." He said, "Relay for you." He said, "Long distance for you." He said, "440M for you and 220M for you and 100M for you." He gives everybody their course and He equips you for your course and He gives you the example in the Word to draw inspiration, to know how to run your race and to overcome! This is not about making excuses. This is not about trying to justify weakness. Because, "I can do all things through Christ Who strengtheneth me and greater is He inside of me than he that is in the world." The Holy Ghost enableth us. Is that what the Word said? That is right.

Not any excuse. No. You go back to the drawing board and see, "What am I doing wrong?" You go back now and go through the race to see, "How should I run it?" You go back and study your opponents a little better to know what to expect of them and what kind of trouble

and competition, and how fierce and hostile they could be, when you are engaged in the race with them.

Look at what I went through in the last couple of years, but my eyes are on the prize. Brother, it is about eight books now around the world in the last couple years. These last three, four days here, people were calling from Africa, calling from Poland, calling from the Czech Republic, calling from Europe, calling from different places. And man is trying to blacken, and man is trying to run you off your course, and man is trying to poison the minds of people. And Satan was just trying to use that to get you faint and weary in your mind. The Holy Spirit just said, “Set those wings and fly above the chipmunks. Fly above the storms! Find a refuge where the righteous – ‘That I might be found in Him!’”

And no matter when the avenger comes, and I am in the city of refuge, he doesn’t control me, I control him. He said, “You can’t come in here; stay right there.” When a man comes into Christ, friends, he doesn’t have to be terrified of anything anymore. That is the whole thing about it. Because any man in Christ is a New Creation. [2nd Corinthians 5:17 –Ed.] There is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus.

What does It mean to you, my friend? How do you utilize It? How do you apply It in your life? How do you use It to stay on top of the enemy? How do you use It? Do you use It? Do you mean to say you are going through this life of trials and testing and you don’t see the need to use It? Do you mean It is not real in your life and you don’t want—you keep getting licks over and over in the same place, and you don’t want to get This? Don’t you want to pay the price to get This? Are you a glutton for punishment? No. No.

You got licks twice by the Devil, you got embarrassed by the Devil, you made God’s Name a mockery and you are an Elect of God? You get down somewhere in the bush somewhere and you begin to cry out to God, that when you leave that bush you come back out changed.

But where is that desperation? It is not there. Because a lot of people are mistaking Christianity for what it is not. A lot of people are having their eyes plucked out that they can't see and understand the Hour scripturally; they don't know where we are at, and what is the nature of their experience, and how we are to relate and respond to the things. We need to know. It is designed. Because this year coming, it is not going to get lighter, it is going to get harder. The hill is going to get steeper. It is going to get darker. The world is going to shake more. The earth is groaning. Look at over twenty thousand people who died in a few seconds or a couple of minutes of the earthquake. [6.6 magnitude earthquake in Iran -Ed.]

They had three, four months of bombing, shock and awe bombing, mother of all bombs. It mashed up a whole country. Then all these months afterwards here, about six to eight months in guerilla warfare and terrorism and all kinds of different kinds of things, and that didn't even kill a quarter of all what disappeared like that, without one soldier, without one tank, without one bomb, without one plane.

The earth is groaning, friends. She is in travail. She is in travail! What for? What for? Are there some sons? Are there some sons? Did the Message really raise up a people? Do you mean to tell me, we see demonic manifestations getting so bold, criminals anointed with the Devil becoming so bold, kidnapping left and right in a place seventy miles by forty miles, bringing terror upon a nation; do you mean to say a few believers can't get anointed with the Holy Ghost and bring a shaking and a revival that shakes this nation too?

Do you mean to tell me we only have to read about the Devil's power every day in the newspapers and say, "Oh God, Lord, we are in the last days?" But in the last days there were some people who would rise up with God's power too. Do you mean to say you don't get fed that people are only talking about the Devil's power?

Where is that kind of conviction? Where is that kind of conviction in people? Friends, are we Christians? Are we believers? Do we really believe? Do we believe these things? Oh my! It challenges me! I trust it challenges you too. I don't want to live so.

Do you think I want to be so? Do you think I want to walk around and say "This is the greatest Age," just by a quote? Do you think I want to say, "These are sons coming into manifestation," and I am not sure we have the Holy Ghost? How can a person live with their conscience, just quoting left and right when there is to be a reality? Mary was pregnated. She was bringing forth the Son. There must be a people that these words have become real in their lives. My!

Hebrews 10 verse 35. Quickly.

35 Cast not away therefore your confidence...

Don't cast it away, friends.

...which hath great recompense of reward.

36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

He said, "Don't cast away what? Your confidence." He said what? "Hold fast your confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." [Hebrews 3:6 -Ed.] Don't cast away your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.

Why? After you have done the Will of God you might receive the Promise. What is he running for? What are

his eyes on? There is a Promise at the end of the road. That is what I'm running for. That is why I am persevering in carrying out the Will of God, because the Will of God is revealed to me. And when the Will of God is revealed to a person, they become persistent. God said, "Take this Message and sweep it into the Region."

Brother, there are days I don't even feel like going. God said, "I'll raise up this church for such and such." I can't read it in the papers, I can't read it in the Bible, but I believe it in my heart. I follow my experience in the Word. I see by and through the members of the Bride; I see where the Branch grows out of the Root; I see Christ in the true Church is the continuation of the Book of Acts, and I can't deny my experience. If my experience was just theory, I would go out and get discouraged and come back; it costs me too much. I'm wasting too much time and achieving too little.

But if it is revealed to me as the Will of God, it does not have enough devils in Hell to stop me from finishing my course. Why? I have started the job. I have to complete that job. I have entered into a war, I have to finish that fight. I have entered into that race, I'm going to run for that prize.

When I come here, I come to relax, I come in a camp meeting to get encouraged, I come to testify, I come to sing the praises of God, and then go back out into the heat, because here is shelter for me. Here is a church. Here is not the battleground. Is here the battleground? When are we going to get to the battleground? Here is not the battleground. Are you going to fight with your brothers and sisters? Here is not the battleground. Oh my. Do you feel good? [Congregation says, "Amen." -Ed.] Oh my. We haven't even gotten to the real good part yet; you wait and see. I'm still trying to lay the Scripture in to show you, **KEEP YOUR EYES FIXED ON THE PRIZE.** There is a prize. Hebrews 12.

Hold your confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. The end is what you have in sight.

The end is what you have in sight. You know, the Prophet told the story about the little boy, (I'll read it for you just now,) who was offered a prize. He had to ride across the plank. Everyone was riding for the prize and everyone was falling off, and he was the last one to ride. He was in the last ride. He was the omega. And he was riding for the prize.

[Hebrews 12:1 -Ed.]

¹ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about [Hebrews 11, he is referring back to] with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight...

A person who is going into a race, they don't want any set of weight around, friends. It shows you how unconscious people are. You see people getting into conditions, they are getting into situations, getting into things and they are heaping up weight. Yet, at the same time, they are talking about the Olympics and they are talking about, "I heard the man is going for the 100M and he is weighing about 350 pounds. His legs are rubbing up so, and they can't get shoes to fit him and he can't get on a diet. He has no discipline, he can't control—he is not temperate."

And he is saying, "Olympics is next month, coming up. When you see... I'm going for gold."

Could they convince you of that? You know they are around the church. Can they convince you of that?

"Brother, the Hour is late and the Rapture..." And are you not desperate? You are quoting. You are quoting. You are always quoting. You are known for quoting. That is why sometimes when you start to quote, you see everybody starts to walk away from around you, and you stand up there and you find like, "You all don't want the Word. You all are not hearing what I'm saying." People don't want a set of talk. You got monotonous. You want an audience. No, friends, no.

...let us lay aside every weight...

Every man has his own weight. Samson knew, to get into that gear, what weight he had to lay aside. God knew what, (before Abraham could see Jehovah Jireh,) what weight he had to lay aside. He said, “Your father, Lot, Ishmael.”

He said, “I’m ready to go.”

He said, “Your weight, you are still overweight. Isaac.” Is that right?

Moses was coming along, still full of self and God knew he was not ready yet. He had a lot of things from Egypt that had to go in the wilderness and get beaten out. Is that right? Paul said, “I count all that, I lay aside all that, that I might win Christ.” I am not letting anything keep me back from this prize.”

This is why I wanted to take a little pause so I... You see, I’m not preaching a message that I studied. God woke me up as I told you and I testified to you on Sunday. I’m trying here... And that is why I can’t preach it as if I studied it. I have to preach it as I’m going here. I told you, I said, “It is not the kind that you study.” When I finished writing, that was it. The last few days I tried to stay meditating because I did not want to deviate from what He told me. It is not... And I could see in the message... This message, somebody could have just spoken it as prophecies. He could have done it that way too, but He gave it in a way for me to preach because there are things in the Scripture, when It came, that I had to say and emphasize on. And maybe that is why He gave it in this form. But it is something He wants to say to the Church going in this year.

There are things to lay aside. There is a prize. There is a focus. There is a strain; it is a recognition of the homestretch. There is an attitude of the person. That is why they are straining forward, stretching every nerve and every muscle to breast that tape that they might finish, “I’ve fought a good fight. I’ve kept the faith. I’ve finished my course.”

He didn't say, "I backslid, I got discouraged, I was confused, I was going to give up, then I decided I changed my mind and I came back around. I said I would give them a second chance." He didn't say that. "I have fought a good fight. I have kept the faith! And I have finished my course." He said, "Now the time of my departure is at hand and I am ready to be offered up. My life is to be poured out as a drink offering." Christ.

I have realized the difference in these things is what Christ means to you. And I trust tonight I could get that back into some lives, where that has become just...

When you think of church, you think of Bro. Vin, you think of Third Exodus Assembly. You think of the deacons, you think of your friends. You think of things to do in church, as a program or something, and somewhere Jesus gets lost. People are walking, going, thinking He is with them, but He is not with them. Then they have to go now and try to find where they left Him. Where is the sweetness that was in their lives? Where is the love that Abraham could go out for his brethren from Dan to Beersheba? Where is Moses going there and carrying the burdens of these people? Where is Ruth, that said, "Your God shall be my God, where you die, will I die." Where is that love?

Because when we come to this Table, that Table is an expression of Christ's Love, in symbol. Broken bread, why? His Body was broken. For whom? For us. Why? His Blood was shed and poured out. For whom? For us. Why are we partaking of it? Because we know it was for us He did it. It was for us Jesus died. And we have come to be identified, and we have come to be strengthened, and we know our life is in Christ. We give witness and testimony that that is what our fellowship is, with Him, that we might know Him in the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death and know Him in the power of His resurrection. Because we got a Life. Because I live, you shall live also. Except a

man eats of the Flesh and drinks of the Blood of the Son of Man, he has no life in him. [John 6:53 -Ed.]

It is something we are coming here for. It is something this Symbol represents in our heart and our experience, that our life has no meaning and value without It and we take this to show where we are tied in the Spirit. We are tied to something that Jesus did for us, and it has awakened to us.

A Prophet came and declared it out of the Bible and that showed us where we are going, where we are heading back tonight. The Church that goes in the Rapture, the Church that will manifest these things is a Church that the Life that was in Him, when He was torn apart, He sent the God part back to man and He kept the corporal body in Heaven. He took the man part and sent back the God part, that we are supposed to have the God part in us here, because the corporal body is in Heaven. Think of it, friends. My! Jesus.

...lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [you] us...

Every man has their sin that besets them. Abraham's own was lying and fear, constantly. Samson and David's own were women. Balaam's own was money. Saul's own was popularity. Every man has the sin that besets them. Satan knows your place.

Now catch this. Don't feel bad. I know it is hard. I know I'm preaching you to the ground right now, but the Corn of Wheat falls into the ground and dies. It is not that I'm unchristianizing you. I'm preaching myself into the ground too, because the thing is, I don't want to go in this year the same way. I don't want an extension of the old life here. No. I have been looking for these things all my life. I know it is not outside of this Message.

If you understood the message on Sunday, where were the angels? Where were the prophecies? Where was the moving of the Spirit of God? Where was the Supernatural? Among Elizabeth and Mary, not

Sadducees and Pharisees; among Elizabeth and Mary, among the Elect who are bringing forth the mysteries of prophecies for this Age among them. Oh, thank You, Lord.

...lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Do you mean to say you are running a race and you don't know your race, friends? Do you mean to say you are running a 100 meters and you are doing the training for a long distance race? When a man says, "But I thought it was the 100 you were running?"

You say, "Yeah."

He says, "And is that the training exercises you are doing?" He says, "I don't think you understand the race, you know."

When you are in your race, you have to know your race. A man running hurdles and he doesn't have any hurdles.

He says, "I'm finished training. I'm ready now for the race."

They haven't seen him jump one hurdle, not one day! He never understood his race.

When the Word tells you what kind of Age you are living in, when the Word tells you the temptations of the Age, when the Word tells you the condition the Bride has to be in, when the Word shows you the attacks and the moves the enemy is going to come with in this Age, and uncover those things... Why was that revealed? So we can know how to be trained because we know what we have to face.

The Prophet knew a Squeeze was coming. He knew there will be a persecution. He went back in the Word and showed it to us. He knew there would be people coming into a promise and they would have to fight to possess every inch of ground. He knew what we would be up against. He knew giants discouraged them. He

knew what was going to discourage many and so he taught us what we will be up against.

Then how could you be complaining and saying, “You know, this problem I have and this problem,” and say, “Boy, women, women, I tell you, women. I don’t know... If God could just put me on an island where there are no women, I will be able to serve God.” As it was in the days of Noah; which island do you want to live on? In the time of Balaam, which island are you going to live on?

This is the Age. That is the temptation! This is where the sons of God must not fall. It just shows that people don’t understand. They are going to church, they are not competing. They are not rising to the standard. This is the Age Satan wants to burst your mind; pressure! This is the neurotic Age, nervous Age, Age of nervous strain, but there is a Refuge where the man could let off the pressure. Because he knew the Age, he taught us how to get away and overcome those things! That is why you have to know the Word. When you know the Word, it proves you are understanding your race. It proves you are understanding what you are competing against. It proves you are understanding what you are striving for and what condition you have to be in.

Why do we have to have rugged faith? Why do we have to know our position in the Word? What is that for? That operates faith. That operates faith. That gives you a channel, to give you access with God. If God doesn’t reveal that, how can we face the challenge?

² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...

He started in this faith, friends. He started to develop this faith. He quickened this faith seed. And He is bringing this faith to a Perfect Faith. That is why, if you are striving in this race, your faith is growing stronger every day.

...who for the joy that was set before him...

He had a race set before Him too.

...[He] *endured the cross...*

When He reached at Gethsemane (now catch this, I have something I want to drop in right here). When He reached at Gethsemane, He sweated with drops of blood in agony. He was wrestling, He was pressing through in order to finish the job. Because He said, “My meat is to finish it.” And there, He started to—He was alone, and He started to press and press, and He was striving against sin, resisting unto blood. He prayed, “Father, sanctify Me for their sakes.” He knew He could deliver not one of them without that kind of battle. Now catch this, and catch it good.

He never said, “If they are predestinated, they would come.” He knew, “I have to strive, I have to press, even to the place where like drops of blood, sweat coming out of Me, because it is taking that to get them. It is taking that to secure them.”

Do you know what happens with us? As soon as a little pressure comes, we say, “No, no, I don’t have to go through that. If they are ordained of God, they will come.” Calvinism. And the Devil is influencing so many people with a perverted understanding, destroying their individual responsibility to God. Did you get that? There is an individual responsibility to God.

Moses went down to Egypt and when he tried to get them out, Pharaoh made the bondage harder. The contest started, and Moses realized it was not just walking around with the stick and waving the stick and bringing the people out. Do you get what I am saying? You see, though God said “Go and do that...” Elijah went, but he didn’t realize Jezebel was going to go in that gear. From the time Jezebel went in that gear, he started to run and bawl, “Oh God, take my life. It is I alone, Lord. They are going to kill me now.” And he couldn’t handle rejection.

Friends, a lot of people are getting trapped because they are walking in a realm where it is just church. That is what God wants to shake us out of; that is why God

gave the Word. Fix your eyes on the prize. Paul said, “I press toward the mark.” There is a goal. “I run the race that I may win Christ, that I may apprehend that for which I am apprehended.” That is not a man that just goes to church. That is a man with a vision, that is a man with a focus, that is a man with a clear objective, that is a man striving for what he is called unto and understands how that is to be identified in his life and to know when I have attained that.

That is not church life, friends. That is not church life. That is a person now who knows, “You are called, the called according to God’s purpose.” And you understand the purpose. You see the purpose why you are called being fulfilled in your life, and you understand your training, and you understand your experience. And when God is bringing conditions, you don’t look for a pity-party; you don’t look for sympathy of people.

Sure, there are times when there is real encouragement, brothers and sisters understand what somebody is going through. The same way one woman knows that another woman is pregnant, and she is in labor pain, she doesn’t just relate, but says, “Come on, honey. Come. Call the doctor quickly. She is into labor.” Why? She is concerned. She is concerned. So there is real encouragement in the Bride.

But many times people don’t want encouragement; they want sympathy. They want somebody to stand with them and accept their interpretation and their mediocrity. They want somebody to applaud a halfway delivered life, and when they are criticized for it, they get upset that they are being criticized, and they get angry, and they start to lash back at those who criticize them.

Friends, let me tell you, even when they wrote all those books about me and said all those things too, I didn’t just react. I checked myself too, to see if that was me, to see if I overlooked that was me, to see if there

were some truth to that somewhere, to see if there were things I needed to guard a little more closely.

When people criticize you, don't just carry on. Maybe they are on the outside looking at something and seeing something that you are not seeing. And when they see those sisters with those tight, tight dresses up there, and they are talking about that and this and the other, some of those things I know. I can't say it is not here; it is here too. I know it is not carrying anybody in the Rapture or carrying anybody to Hell. But I know it is people who got in a selfish plane, got trapped; their minds got trapped in fashion and they lost all sight of their call to be an example and to display real womanhood, to show a victorious Church in the last days and to show the condition that they are in. And to people who are hearing the kind of Gospel they are hearing, it will show that they are not rebellious to the Word, but they are mixing that Word with faith. See?

See, sometimes you watch a person and say, "Ah, they are false, so what they say doesn't mean anything." They might be false, but what they are saying could still have truth to it. Because even though it is false, you can't judge what they are saying, that has truth to it, and discard it. Because God could use a donkey to talk to you. That is right. And that is where people many times, they cast aside things and they let Satan bring a perverted understanding and destroy their individual responsibility.

What God entrusted to us, they let Satan compromise us from exercising and maintaining our discipline. We have to maintain this discipline, friends, to complete the job, to achieve our goal. That is why he said, "The man who is striving is temperate in all things." He wants to eat, but he knows, "That there, I can't eat that now, not when I have a fight before me. I can't eat that and go in the ring. I can't eat that today and go to run the race tomorrow. When the season is over, and the games are over, and everything is on hold, and there are no more

games, then I could eat that. But while there are games, my eyes are on the prize. I want to be in condition. I know the competition. I know what time I have to run. I know the opposition against me. I know if I have to win that prize, what kind of performance I have to put out here.” Temperate.

There is a reason why you can be temperate, when you see what is required of you. And to be there you know it will take a life of prayer, it will take a life reading the Word, it will take a life that can’t walk around with sin, it will take a life that can’t be shady, to have that kind of witness and influence.

Because you know what you called unto, and you are trying to apprehend that for which you are apprehended, because you are apprehended that He might show forth His victory and the reason of His death. If He can’t show His own faith, His own virtue, His own knowledge, His own godliness, His own patience, if He can’t show His own purity and His own transparency, and you are not really striving to apprehend that, how could you say, “Lord have the preeminence in my life?” It will have no meaning.

While I am preaching here now, I’m believing so much more now, God gave us a Word. Do you know why? I don’t know what is going to happen this year. I don’t know what is going to happen. But this Word is telling me, “Now is not the time to slack.” This Word is telling me, if this is giving me some light to what I am going into in this coming year, and I’m seeing the condition, and I’m reading the Word and seeing what God promised, and I’m weighing that and seeing what condition the Church must be in to operate in that, I’m seeing what kind of life the apostles and those men, how they stood and how they walked and how they were able to carry out that commission; then, when I look at myself, even though I evaluate myself a certain way, and God gives me a Word like that and said, “Finish the job, refuse to be compromised, fix your eyes on the prize,

now is the time to press on, you are on the homestretch,” then I have to realize now, “Why is He telling me that?” That is a Voice from the Coach.

That is a Voice from the Coach. That is a Voice from the Coach to the players on the field. He is watching something. We can't be compromised and let the enemy compromise us. We must complete the job. We must complete the job! We must be perseverant until we achieve our goal. We must know what our goal is; a sin-free church; sin can't stand among the people; no Ananias and Sapphira; no Achan in the camp. Joshua killed them and God killed them in the Book of Acts. If we don't run for the prize, we are afraid to be that kind of church. Because to walk there, you have to really mean separation.

If you are enjoying this, Paul is saying, “Don't be complacent, not as though you attained.” Third Exodus Assembly, not as though you attained! Run! Let us run this race that is set before us. We know our lane. We know our lane in the race. We know the course. We know which leg of the race we are running. We know how we have to run it, if the team who encompassed us and everything depends on us – is entrusted to us... For them to have a better Resurrection, we have to know how to finish this. We have to know, “Oh my, we are behind. They are about twenty yards ahead of us.” And that man who has that anchor leg, he knows, “I even have to put out something here that I didn't train for, my best training plus, for my team, because I believe in my patriotism to my nation. I'm willing to give my life. I'll run this race like I'm running for life. I'll run this race as if it is my last race. I'll run this race like I'll never run again, even if I have to die at the end, but I am running this race with that kind of purpose.

That is what he is talking about. That is the picture Paul is bringing. When you fellowship with that, that is the picture, that is the image he has in his mind. That is what he is describing. That is why he was telling

them, “We are not of them who draw back. We are not going to fall away. We are going to labor to enter in. We are going to finish this course. We are looking unto Jesus, the Author and the Finisher of our faith. We are pressing to the prize. We will beat ourselves blue and black. We are running for an incorruptible prize.” That is what he was trying to tell them. He said, “Do you know why? Because I want to be in the out-resurrection from the dead.”

Friends, is that the One, the Master is come and calleth for thee? Is that why He gathered Martha and Mary? Is that why He brought them down to Lazarus’ grave? Is it these Things that God made real among us? He said, “Consider Him. Consider Him. He endured the Cross. His eyes were so fixed on the prize, the joy set before Him, which was to get us, that He endured the Cross. He despised the shame. He endured contradiction of sinners against Himself. He bore the reproach! He took the humiliation. Why? He knows, “It is depending on Me to finish My course. I must finish My course. My meat is to finish this job. I am not a quitter.”

Satan couldn’t compromise Jesus, friends. Jesus knew by revelation He was born for the purpose of Redemption. Did you get that? Do you know you are born for this, friends? This is a thing that you have to be born for, you know. It is not joining a church and saying “Well, Bro. Vin and they believe that, but I’m going to a church where the brother doesn’t preach it so.” Each man has to preach it how he sees it. Paul said, “All kinds of men are preaching the Gospel.” For me, I’m preaching this not as a thing that came out of the sky. I am preaching by faith, that God gave us to create an atmosphere and raise us up into Heavenly Places, and we know our position, and we walk in a world of Perfect Faith and by the rivers of virtue. And we know how to take the Word and handle the Word.

It is not knowing the Word, but it is knowing how to apply the Word, how to apply the Blood; going forth and creating the promise. Like Abraham, he started to buy the booties, he started to, you know, build the crib; getting ready. Why? He knew at the end of the race what was coming; next twenty-eight days Sarah will conceive. When he checked, next nine months he knew Isaac was coming on the scene. He knew it. That was how they lived and that was how they served God, friends.

I think anything below that, we have missed the Message. And the more I realize there is a slumber coming in the Church. The Church, Message people want to sit and say, "Well, I'm in the Message, you know." And just, no expectations, no faith, no sacrifice, no breaking through, no pressing through, no possessing the gates, no wrestling with the enemy, no going toe to toe with the Devil. And you watch most of them; let a life-threatening sickness come upon them, they all want to die. They find they don't have the faith then. When death comes at their door, they don't have the faith. Why? Because all their lives they were living just a church life. Then they try to have faith and try to manifest the promises. No, it doesn't come so. You have to be living so from day to day. You have to be living so from day to day, friends. My. My, my, my, my, my.

Look at Abraham, friends. He had victories, but he always drew back in defeats: Victory, defeat. Victory, defeat. Lie, run, over and over, with Abimelech, with Pharaoh, always. Got under the influence of Sarah... Great victory, "So shall thy seed be," then, under [influenced by -Ed.] Sarah. Separated from his country, came out, built the altar; then when famine came, he went down into Egypt. Continually. And that is Elect's life: victory and defeat, victory and defeat. He was just fluctuating. He was allowing himself to be compromised, but after God came down and brought circumcision, then God required, "Walk now before Me and be thou perfect." There was a time, a day God came

and said, "From today, no more wiggling off the road. From today, walk before Me and be perfect!"

I think He is saying something like that tonight. I think, what I could feel in my spirit, I think what I could draw from the inspiration of this Word that God gave Supernaturally, He is saying, "Now walk before Me and be perfect, this year." Some of you came here, into sin this year, went back here, wiggled out here, compromised here, fell into adultery; you held your marriage vows for all those years, then wiggled off the road, different things. Some of you are playing little games around the church too; coming in, settling down, pretense, image. That kind of church with those kinds of members isn't going anywhere. Those kinds of members, brothers, have not even come out of the world yet. The world is still in them. They haven't gotten sanctified, they haven't gotten emptied out yet. They haven't gotten convinced that this is the Hour to separate. No, friends. God said, "Walk before Me and be perfect."

The time came now when he entered into a stage of his experience and now he had to rise up and seize ahold. And I'm trusting some of you are getting that tonight, that God is saying, "Your time has come. Your time has run out." Now it is time for you to rise up and take ahold of the initiative that He has laid out before you.

Abraham got in the Spirit. The man who was up and down, fluctuating all the time, got in the Spirit and he laid aside his complaining. He laid aside his retaliating, trying to negotiate, "Oh, that Ishmael might live. Oh Lord, You know, why this and why that," negotiating with God as a good Jew. God said, "Now is not the time to negotiate." Some people only want to negotiate with God. Negotiating over and over. They want Him on their terms all the time. God will reveal His Will to them. God sent a minister to preach it unto them, God sent another minister to preach it and another minister to

preach it. God gave them the Bible and they read it, let them hear a tape and the Prophet said it, but they still come before God and want to negotiate. They cannot submit to the revealed Will of God.

Then Abraham came to the place; he laid aside complaining, he laid aside retaliating, laid aside trying to negotiate. He was now willing to yield and submit to God and accept God's Revealed Will completely and come into full, unreserved, surrender to the demands of God.

He started to realize, "God, You called me for this. God, You know better for me than what I know for myself. What I'm looking at there and thinking it is life threatening, if that is the way I have to pass, that is the safest place for me to pass. I don't have to fear, I don't have to doubt. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil, for Thou art with me. And, dear God, if You started this work in me and You are bringing me through these things, I don't have to run, I don't have to hide. I can confess, I can stand and I can separate. I don't even know how I can make it afterward, but my eyes are upon Thee. I don't have to fight in this battle, You will fight this battle for me!"

He refused to be compromised any further. He was now ready and in condition to offer up his Isaac and meet Jehovah Jireh. He started to get into the rhythm of the symphony. He started to feel what God wanted. He started to realize... He rose up early in the morning, saddled the ass, cleaved the wood, took the fire, took the knife, took the boy and he was on his way; no retaliation.

How long is it going to take you again before you get there? Maybe next year's resolution if the Lord tarries? Don't you want that deliverance tonight? Don't you feel that you want to see Christ in your life? Do you want to go through another struggle year? Can't God give you a measure of the Holy Ghost tonight, that you will never be the same again? Can't God give you that, friends?

Did you come in this service with that kind of purpose or did you come for an Old Year's Night something? Tradition? You can tell I didn't come for any Old Year's Night tradition. You can tell God doesn't give a man a message, wake him out of his sleep and give him a message and send him out for an Old Year's Night tradition. No, sir.

Look at Esau. Esau was compromised by the enemy. He negotiated with the birthright. Do you know what was Esau's problem? Esau lived too long in that carnal, humanistic realm. He had given priority to all his fleshly appetite. What he had in his hand, he never took time to look at it deep. He never took time to understand and grasp how God made him privileged to be born first. He never understood what that meant in the family. He never understood what the birthright entitled him to. He had it, but he wasn't interested in seeking it out, and getting into it, and getting in the Spirit that was upon it.

But Jacob, something inside of him was craving and fighting for it all the time. Esau had lived there for so long, neglecting it, neglecting it, refusing to check it out, refusing to look into it, refusing to take time, refusing to give priority to it. And do you know what happened? The day when the test came, the enemy had already destroyed all the meaning and the value of what his birth, what the birthright, and what his position in the family meant. That had no value any more.

Has the enemy compromised you, friends, where he has destroyed the meaning and the value of why you are in this Message and why you are not in a denomination? Has the enemy compromised you so much, that you never looked deep into why you were born in the family you were born in that had Truth, the Truth of this Hour? Do you mean to say, all these things there are in your environment and in your life and you compromise and you never look long enough to see those things. Think of it.

And now the fleshly appetite, the crave of the flesh is starting to get strong inside of you, and you are willing to go to satisfy the carnal mind, the crave of the fleshly appetite. Now you are seeing that the birthright has no meaning and no value and it is of no benefit to you, that you could give it up for the morsel of meat. You could give it up for some little, unbelieving boy or some unbelieving girl; you could give it up for some job, a little extra dollar or something, you could give it up for that. Because you have the Message so long, you have the books and the tapes so long, you heard about the Angel and the Prophet, and you heard about the discernment for so long, but afterwards, it means nothing to you now.

You say, “Man, I am in this Message so long here, I could have already bought a good car or a good house. You see me, I don’t really care about these church people. Church people are something else, yes.” And now you could lay aside that for the carnal appetites. Esau’s problem was that he lived there too long. He never checked out what he had, friends. He never began to lift his eyes beyond the carnal realm to see beyond.

I trust tonight that you will not let the enemy compromise you so. You would not let the enemy destroy the meaning and value... The enemy compromised him so much until it messed up his mind and the enemy blinded him and paralyzed his faith, that he eventually sold out the birthright for the morsel of meat. Let me tell you, a lot more of this coming year, if they don’t really take heed tonight, they will find themselves right where Esau was, right where I’m speaking here tonight.

Yet, there will be some like Abraham who will find themselves tonight and rise up in that place and stop negotiating and put their hands up and surrender and say, “Father, I’m coming to You in full surrender. I want something real in my life. I believe tonight, this Word has come forth to me and I’m receiving It though It cut

me to pieces, Lord God, but I see It is going to raise me up into something that I never had before.”

Friends, listen quickly. Jacob allowed the enemy to compromise him for so long, causing him to suffer so much hardship before he could break through. Look at him. He had the birthright, he had the blessing, but he was there with Laban being exploited, being manipulated, controlled. And all that he had there, he just became another man's slave. He couldn't even see anything beyond. He tried to go for Rachel; he ended up with Leah. Do you know why? He was still a cheat. He was still a cheat. He had the birthright, he had the blessing, but the life was still a low-level life. He still had a lot of the old ways and the old walk.

You know something, he said, “Boy, it is the grace of God, God's Election boy, God called me, this is Election.” Election and grace. Jacob is grace. “Jacob have I loved and Esau have I hated.” It is Election. The purpose of God according to Election. And he thought grace meant living where you could stay halfway, and keep getting blessed.

How many of you tonight, because you are getting blessings, because you are partaking of blessings in an environment where blessings are falling, because you are picking up a lot of blessings that are spilling off a lot of other people too... You are talking about the blessings, but you don't want to change your life. You don't want to change your walk. Because Satan has messed up your mind, making you think grace means, just, “God doesn't mind that, boy. It is grace, boy.” God had to teach him *grace* means power to rise up and live what God requires. *Grace* means God enableth you to live what His Word said.

Grace doesn't mean you are talking about the blessing, you are talking about Election. And so, when the time came, God brought him to a place where he was all alone. All the schemes of trying to bribe Esau and trying to bribe this one, God had to come and deal

with Laban for him. Then God had to come and deal with Esau for him. Is that right? God shook him down, dislocated his foot, made him walk differently, because God let him know, “You are not going to walk around talking about grace, and expect to have the blessing and stay in that condition.”

Too many people are allowing the Devil to compromise them right there. God refused to negotiate with him. Let me say tonight, God is not going to negotiate with you. “God, why this and why that, and God why do I have to go through that, and God why does that have to go so? And God, look at how that one has that. So why can’t I have that too, God?” God doesn’t want any negotiations. God has a Will for you. God wants you to put up your hands and say, “Father I surrender to Your Will. I’m responding to Your Call.” That is what God wants, friends. God wants somebody to believe that through grace, it will enable them to overcome and walk before God and be perfect.

Look at Saul. Saul couldn’t kill everything. He couldn’t finish the job. Saul allowed Agag to compromise him. Saul allowed Agag to compromise him. Agag saw where Saul’s weakness was, where he was vulnerable. Do you get that? Agag found Saul’s weak place. And that spirit on Saul tried to justify himself and endangered the entire nation that was called of God to bring forth the Messiah. Saul, when he was found out for being wrong, he started to justify himself. “Well, it was not really me, you know. It was the people. I was really doing this to worship God,” after he let a man compromise him, and after he was found wanting before God.

Don’t let Agag compromise you, friends. The enemy knows your weakness, he knows my weakness, he knows everybody’s weakness. That is the place where you have to put your ammunition. That is the place tonight you have to put your ammunition.

Pharaoh tried to compromise Moses, “Take the little children and go. Leave the others. Leave the cattle.” Moses said, “We are not leaving one hoof behind. We didn’t come here to negotiate with you. We came to let God’s people go.”

Look at Delilah. She compromised Samson. He took his eyes off the prize. He took his eyes off the prize, when he should be fighting to finish the course.

Potiphar’s wife tried to compromise Joseph. But Joseph was living under the influence of the vision of what he was called for. He was looking at the end. Those sheaves had to bow down. One day that vision would come to pass. He was living under the influence of it even though it took him to prison, but when he came out of prison, he came into the fulfillment of the vision. Is that right? But Satan tried to compromise him before he could enter into the vision.

Esther tried to compromise Mordecai by trying to make excuses.

She said, “Go back and tell Mordecai I can’t do that because, you know, the king didn’t call anybody, I will die and so on.”

But Mordecai wasn’t going to negotiate. It wasn’t time for negotiations.

He said, “You send back and tell her that deliverance will arise from another place if she refuses to go in and she isn’t safe in there either!” Brother, she had to wake up and recognize the true purpose behind her life and then be willing to accept the responsibility; not compromise, not negotiate.

Mordecai refused to let Esther drop out of the race. She tried to drop out of the race. She started to get faint and weary in the mind. “What? If I go in there, I will get killed for sure. I can’t do that.” She started to quote palace procedures: “Well, the king didn’t call anybody, you know. You can’t go in except the king calls you.” She was only looking at the present circumstances. She needed to look at the true objective. The people of Israel

needed deliverance. That was the chosen people. She was endangering all those people. She needed to fix her eyes on the prize.

Are you letting the Devil compromise you here, friends? You are hearing this Word, your Mordecai is bringing the Word to you, your Hatach is reminding you of the Word, and are you letting somebody compromise you? Are you endangering this whole church, for the purpose that God raised it up for, and the things God wants to fulfill, and why God reveals the Things He revealed among us? Did you come in here and sit inside of here and then go after strange flesh and all kinds of different things? Did you refuse to kill Agag? Couldn't you finish the job you started? Did you spare Agag? She had to overcome that compromising spirit. Think of it.

Abraham refused to let the king of Sodom compromise him. Are we going to have compromisers coming tonight here, that the king of Sodom compromised, to sup with Melchizedek? Are we going to get people to bring down the ordinance of God to an Old Year's Night tradition? Think of it. Abraham refused. He said, "I lift my hands to El Elyon, the Possessor of Heaven and earth. I don't want a thread nor a shoe latchet from you." Why? Brother, he had found supping with Melchizedek was something more. He had seen King Theophany.

Moses refused to be compromised by Pharaoh. He esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than all the treasures of Egypt. No matter what Egypt could offer, Moses esteemed the reproach of Christ. He said, "I'm willing to bear the reproach. I'm willing to take this reproach. I'm willing to take the way with the Lord's despised few. I'm willing to go down there. I am willing to leave all this glory. I refuse to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, because I believe this is the hour of deliverance, I believe the prophecy that God spoke is coming to pass. I believe that I am part of that prophecy. I refuse to be compromised." Do we have more like

Moses? By faith Moses. These things were written for our examples.

Balaam let Balak compromise him and exploit his weakness and manipulate him to his own benefit. Daniel and the Hebrew boys refused to let the Babylonians compromise them. Mordecai refused to let Haman compromise him.

He said, "I refuse to bow to you."

They had resisting power. Daniel and they had resisting power. Joseph refused to let Potiphar's wife compromise him. He had resisting power! He was living under the influence of that vision, friends. Ahab compromised Jehoshaphat and four hundred prophets, but Micaiah refused to let him compromise him.

He said, "I'm not taking any illegal substance to go into that race. You could test me. I'm drug-free. They could test me anytime they want to test me. I am willing to stand the test. I don't have to make any excuses and say, 'Well, I had the cold and I didn't know that substance was in that cold medicine,' and so and so and lying and everything else to enhance my performance with something else." No. He is my performance enhancer.

The nations round about Jerusalem compromised those who came out of Babylon at the end of the Seventh decade. They left the building off. They left the work down. They started to build their own houses and the house of God remained flat. Haggai and Zechariah rose up there with the Word, and slew that thing, and they finished it in a few days; what they had left there for years. Is that right?

They brought such a faith, they said, "Tell Zerubbabel, it is not by might, nor by power. This mountain shall become a plain before him." "Not by might, but by My Spirit," saith the Lord. Nehemiah refused to let Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem and them compromise him when he started to build that wall. He said, "You all have no part in this. We would

build this by ourselves without your help.” Brother, when the high priest went and took Tobiah and put him inside of there, he chased him out. He said, “You can’t stay inside of there! You came against us.” They refused to be compromised, friends. Don’t let the Devil compromise you.

Let the musicians come for me.

What they started, they were determined to finish.

Paul said, “I’ll finish my course with joy. There is a crown that awaits me, which the Righteous Judge will give to me and to all them that love His appearing, (not to me alone,) but to all them that love His appearing. [2nd Timothy 4:8 -Ed.]

Has He appeared in these last days? Has He appeared? Oh my! We are on the homestretch, friends. Don’t give up. Let us press on. Keep your eyes tonight, fixed on the prize. In your heart before God, as we get ready to enter into consecration, refuse to be compromised. Don’t be like Esau. Don’t be like Jacob. Break through your hindrance tonight, if you are living there where you are saying, “Grace, grace, grace,” and you are still living halfway, years are passing you.

Let us go unto perfection. Let us rise up. Let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily beset us. Look in your life, you know your sin, I know my sin. You know where the enemy comes in, I know where the enemy comes in. You know where the enemy battles you, I know where the enemy battles me. You know where the enemy battles you. You know the thing that paralyzes your faith. You have to know it. What were in them? They refused to be compromised.

He spoke that so clear to me. He said, “Refuse to be compromised. Finish the job. What you are running for, achieve it. It is a goal set before you. I called you in this Message, not to come and join church. You were going to Tibet, and you said, ‘If this God of the Bible is real, let Him talk to me like He talked to Moses.’ And I did

talk to you. And I did call you. And I showed Myself to be with you.”

Can I look back and say, “I’m successful?” Can I drop down my hands now and say “I’ve attained,” because it was a good career I was looking for, I wanted a few people around me? I wanted to be an eloquent speaker, I wanted to have a church and have the admiration of people? Was that my goal? I wanted to have some money, was that my objective? I wanted to get invited around the world to preach and to travel? What are we all in this for? We don’t want to run in vain. We want to run. We want to fight, not as one that beateth the air, friends. We want to have our eyes fixed on the prize.

Abraham knew there was a promise that he was called unto. The children of Israel came out in that Exodus, journeyed so far, came through so many obstacles, came on the borderline of the promise, saw the prophet, saw the Pillar of Fire, saw the Cloud, saw the healings, see all these things. They reached on the borderline of the promise and they saw giants, and they saw obstacles, and they saw that “We can’t take this land.” They saw that “We will have problems.” And they began to murmur, and they began to complain, and they began to lose their focus.

And that was the time they should have been straining forth to press through to the prize, because they were at the borderline, they had tasted the grapes. They had seen the land was really there. It had come into reality. The fruit that God said was there, was really there. And they let the Devil compromise them and blind them and paralyze their faith and they never entered in. They got discouraged, they failed to hold the beginning of their confidence steadfast unto the end. We must keep our eyes fixed upon our goal. The race is not for the swift, the battle is not for the strong, friends, but they who can endure to the end.

Let us run tonight. There is strength in this Communion. There is a power, there is a fellowship,

there is a victory that this symbolizes; when He slew— He bruised the Serpent’s head, when He brought us back to this great reality.

Think of all these who have traveled from Tobago; flew, came in the boat to be here. They didn’t come for a tradition. They want to go back there and stand there in that island and be a real victorious Christian, to see the Presence of God in their homes, to see the Presence of God in their lives, to see the Power and blessing of God in their environment, to see the blessings flow out on their children, to see God giving them victory, and even though great challenges rise, they don’t faint and break under the pressure. They know “Greater is He that is inside of them.” They know they are more than able to possess the gates of the enemy.

Balaam let Balak compromise him, after he made such a great confession: “I could never say anything against those people. That is the Word of God, that is God’s people, you could give me this house full of silver.” A little pressure, because Balak knew his weakness, like Agag knew Saul’s weakness, like Delilah knew Samson’s weakness, and they were able to compromise them. Samson was raised up to deliver the people and defeat the enemy and bring victory among them, but he became a slave to the enemy.

God refused, think of it, God refused to let them drop out of the race. Isn’t God wonderful? Do you think God will let you drop out of the race?

Elijah, he began to bawl, “Oh God, take my life. It is better I die. Take my life, Lord. I can’t go on anymore,” faint and weary in the mind. But He refused to let Elijah drop out of the race.

Moses said, “God, I can’t handle all these people; too much pressure.”

God said, “I’ll take the spirit off you and put it on others.”

Even when he ran in the wilderness that time, God came back, anointed him and sent him back. God refused to let Moses run away.

God refused to let Jonah run away. God refused to let Peter run away.

He said, "Lovest thou Me more than these, Simon? Is this what you are going after? Are you going back fishing? I thought I called you away from fishing? I thought you told Me you will leave your nets and forsake all to follow Me? You mean you are going back fishing? Lovest thou Me more than these?"

God refused to let Paul drop out. He began to complain, he began to murmur.

He said, "My Grace is sufficient for you. My Grace is sufficient for you. When you are weak, I am strong."

The Prophet went to blow his brains out and electrocute himself. God refused to let him drop out of the race.

He said, "I put the equipment inside of you. I ordained the course. I set your course. And I already saw you at the end of the road receiving your prize." Even before that time came, He said, "Come, let Me show you what lies at the end of the road, that you keep running."

He said, "Friends, I came back to tell you, 'Press the battle.'"

Are you willing to press the battle tonight? Are you willing to press the battle tonight, friends? We are going into the year 1994, 2004 rather. Oh, I don't know why I said that. He is my hope, friends. He is the One I'm looking at. I came through this year, do you know why? He let me live another year. He fed me this year, He clothed me this year, He let me win souls for him this year. He took me out into the islands and let me see His people get baptized and walk in the Truth; tore them away from organization, tore away organization from them, to bring the trophies and lay them at His feet.

Tonight I'm standing here; could be the last message I'm going to preach, I don't know. When I was studying

that, I said, “Lord, am I going to die?” I was studying that and I said, “Lord, am I going to die?” Pressing to finish this course. I have preached it with all my strength tonight, that I may win Christ. He has been my focus. God gave me great friends. God gave me lovely brothers and sisters. God gave me favor before people in the Caribbean and around the world. For all this I’m grateful because I see His Grace. As a little, old wretched sinner, He raised me up; where people wouldn’t even want me in their houses, or want me in their yards, He put me in the hearts of people. He made people love me. He gave me a Word that attracts people. My desire is to serve them. I have made a lot of mistakes and failures. I have a lot of weak places, but I see something like this and it encourages me. Do you know why? That He could tell me, “Son, rise up. Fix your eyes on the prize. Don’t lose your focus.”

Bro. Branham talked about the little boy with the race. They were all falling off the plank. Those other fellows came and said, “How come you could ride? You are a little sissy, you can’t ride.” He said, “The mistake you were making, you were always looking at everything right around you here, but I was looking to the end.”

He said, “That is it, friends. He said, “I don’t look at what is going on around me; I look to the end.”

One day He will come. One day, He will come from Glory. He will gather us and take us away. Then the Lamb will come out, walk along that Table, millions of miles long, begin to wipe their tears, all the Bibles will already be stacked, we all will have finished our course and He will come out and give some of us our rewards. Think of it. What a great, mighty thing it will be, friends, and dry the tears from our eyes.

We have something to look forward to. What excites you, in this year, that you are looking for, to get from God? I would like to go. I would like to go. I would really like to go. I would like Gabriel to blow that Trumpet, the

dead in Christ shall rise and we who are alive and remain... I would like to see that, friends.

They waited ten days in the upper room and down came the Holy Fire of God. People who were there, He had to go and pick them up a few days before; a few days after, sin couldn't stand among them. They had Perfect Love. They were so united.

What are we living for? When we come to this Table tonight, come with purpose, my friends, come with meaning. When you look at your Christian life while you sit there in your seat, you say tonight, "Bro. Vin, I sat and I listened for three hours; heard you preach. I see I am fluctuating back and forth. I see my time came, like Abraham, I must now rise up. I see I am like Esau, where I lived there and I haven't really gone into a deep fellowship with what God has done for me and has given me, until it has no value. I see myself being entangled in temporal things, carnal things, that I have a fleshly appetite for and I'm almost ready to turn loose these spiritual things for those carnal things."

You say, "Maybe I am like Jacob. I let the enemy compromise me. I have been saying, 'Grace, grace,' and I have been seeing things in my life that needed to be trimmed off, that I needed to put the sword upon and I refused to do it. Like Saul, things that I know I should kill, things that... But that desire in me, I know I have been making excuses.

Do you think Saul didn't know he was making excuses, saying, "No, no, this is for worship, this is for God to worship?" He knew he was making excuses. He was trying to justify himself; every one of them. Tonight let us lay aside that weight.

Let us lay aside that weight. Let us lay aside that sin that easily, easily, beset you. Let us refocus and put our eyes on the prize, and say, "You know, I've been coming to church, but I haven't really been living for Christ. I haven't really been obsessed with winning this race. I haven't really been straining forward. I haven't even

realized we are on the homestretch and I should be accelerating with everything inside of me. It is like I'm slowing down now in this Hour. It seems like I used to be desperate years ago, but not now. But tonight I want to finish what I started. I want to complete the job. I have laid down building the house of God, this house of God. [Bro. Vin points to himself. -Ed.] I have taken my eyes off why we came out of Babylon and why we came back in the land of the fathers, but the words of Haggai struck me. The words of Zechariah cut me. I'm going to rise up and build this house to the Stature of a Perfect Man, a Living Tabernacle of the Living God, that the glory of the latter could be greater than the glory of the former. That was why I came back. That was what God apprehended me for. That is what I must apprehend that which for I am apprehended. He called me for a purpose. Now my goal and my focus are to fulfill that purpose in my life.

May we rise to our feet. And wherever you stand here tonight, I'm not looking at the 'twelve o'clock' tradition now. I'm not letting the time element of the clock, because that has no real significance and value... Those who in their hearts, in their hearts they know, "Brother, I receive what you say. I don't disagree. It is right. I receive what you say. I appreciate the conviction that you have. I listened to you down through these years, I examined what you say, I watched you, and I watched your life. I watched your motive and I watched your objective. I watched what you are trying to stir the people to. I watched what you are trying to fix our eyes upon. I watched what Christ means to you in your life. I watched the passion that you brought these things to us with.

Brother, I am glad to be identified with a Word like what you preached. I may not be a celebrated saint. I may not be one that many look up to. I might be a little one in a corner, but brother, I believe, that we are in that homestretch. I want to see the kind of acceleration and the kind of finish—I want to finish strong."

And here tonight, by the grace of God, I wanted to have a little time, as I said it. It didn't go how I planned it, but I'm letting it happen in the sense that I'm not using the 'twelve o' clock' now to cut off. Those people who have not come for a tradition, those people who sat and listened to me when I preached, and what I tried to bring... Maybe I couldn't bring it out in a way that would please everybody and maybe, it didn't sound all stimulating, but I tried to be sincere to God who put these things in my sub-conscience. Like I said, I didn't study. He gave me all these examples, and gave me it just that way, and I just wrote it out and tried to meditate upon it, to come to be faithful to bring this to this little church here.

Does God have something for us this year? Is it something we are going to come into? Is it a Word to prepare us? Is that what the Scripture said, "Let us lay aside and now let us look unto Him and run?" Let us lay aside the weight and then let us run. One is speaking about preparation; getting ready to run, getting in condition to run, because you can't run with a bunch of weight and things to hinder you. When you are running, you have to be free. You have to get your momentum and your rhythm right. Nothing must keep you back. Then now, let us run and let us look unto Jesus. Let us fix our eyes on the prize as we run. And when we meet obstacles, let us consider Him and see how He was determined to finish the job and how He refused to be compromised because His eyes were fixed on the goal.

And see how Paul's eyes were fixed on the goal. And see how Malachi 4 refused to be compromised. He said, "I would rather drink branch water and eat soda crackers." He ended up that way. As one man, he said, "I stand in a hard place. All men have forsaken me." Because he refused to be compromised. Because he saw the cost of what Jesus Christ had paid to get a Church ready, friends.

How many tonight would like to have a real rededication? Then we can have that now. This is the moment. This is the time.

For a few minutes. We don't want to be long and drawn out here, but for a few minutes. People in their heart, they watched themselves this year in this church, they saw this year what had happened to them along the way. When you would come forward, let coming forward mean purpose in your heart. Because remember we are not going to be praying for you individually here; but sometimes it does you good in your heart to know, "Lord, I'm doing this for You. I'm making this step because for the rest of the year I'm going to remember I walked forward there in identification with what the message brought face-to-face before me."

This message tonight has brought something face-to-face before you. It says, "KEEP YOUR EYES FIXED ON THE PRIZE. Refuse To Be Compromised." It is saying, "Let us finish the job that we have started. We are not of them that draw back. We are not of them that are going to fall away."

And in coming there, you are saying, "Lord, like Abraham, I'm determined to walk before You and be perfect. Cut away with Your sharp knife. Circumcise me, Lord. Reveal my New Name to me. Let me live under this New Nature now, Lord. Let me be under true expectation for the Promised Son. Let me keep my eyes on the prize, Lord. Lord, there is going to be no more negotiating. I am willing to accept my responsibility. I am willing to lay aside every weight."

I trust that all of you around here in your hearts right now before the Lord are saying, "Lord, I am laying aside my weight. You gave me experiences, You brought conditions so that the sin that easily beset me could come up before me and I could see it. There were some things I was saying that I didn't have, there were some things I was saying that were not me, but Lord, by

experience, by conditions, You brought it up and You let me see things that I couldn't see in myself, just like Peter did. But Lord, You refused to let me drop out of the race.

You came after me like You came after Paul. You came after me like You came after Peter. You ran me down like You ran down Jonah. Lord, like Elijah, when I was frustrated and saying, 'Take my life,' You refused to listen to my foolish talk, because You are determined to show me that I am going to be Raptured; not take my life in suicide. I'm going to be Raptured, Lord. Because You love me. Because You love me and that is my commitment to You tonight."

And to you out there, in your seats standing, and to you in the side rooms and around the building, as a church, friends, let us all in deep sincerity now, just reach out to the person next to you and you don't pray for yourself, you pray for them.

And I, and the ministers here and the deacons united will pray for you as our church family, our congregation here. To all our strangers and visitors and friends that are here with us, going through this night with us, we pray for you too and you pray for us. And you who have not yet identified with Him, don't you love Him sufficiently? Hasn't He allowed you to see some of what He has called you unto? Are you not willing to make that step and receive Him tonight? Don't turn Him away. You might have put Him away and put Him behind and put Him in a corner over the last few years. Don't let the year 2004 find you without Him. Walk with Him in this year. Let Him lead you this year. Let Him be in your life in a real personal way. Let Him fill you with the Holy Spirit. Let Him seal you up, friends, that the Devil will have no place in you, as we pray, united in our hearts.

Lord Jesus, oh God, how we look to You tonight, Father. This year breaking has found us, some of us, on our knees, some of us don't have a place to kneel so we

are standing, but from the depths of our hearts, our cries, our prayers are coming up to You. Whether we are standing in our seats or at this altar, or in a side room somewhere or on the outside, dear God, thinking of what You have spoken, exhorting us to keep our eyes on the prize, to look unto Jesus Christ, the Author and Finisher of our faith; not to fight as one that beateth in the air, but to be temperate, to lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily beset us. Not to go along casually or just walking around in the humanistic realm, carnal, religious, but oh God, focused, seeing that we are on the homestretch, pressing with all that is inside of us, taking into consideration Him who endured such contradiction.

He Who never complained, He Who didn't murmur, He Who didn't try to justify Himself and look for some scapegoat and give some false reason. He Who didn't try to compromise others because He was compromised, but He Who said, "Father, not save Me from this Hour, but for this cause came I unto this Hour. Father, glorify Thy Name. Unto this end was I born and for this cause came I into the world. Except the corn of wheat falls into the ground and dies it abideth alone."

He accepted the responsibility. He took the humiliation. He bore the ridicule. He didn't let it discourage Him. We thank You for such an example tonight. We thank You that we can still look at it today, Father. We think of the great saint Paul, think of Your Prophet, oh God, men that hazarded their lives; men that put their lives in jeopardy; men that saw what a Church needed and were willing to step out and pay the price; men who saw the King rejected and were willing to bring Him a clean, fresh drink. Oh God, they lived for You, Lord. They lived for the King. His wish was a command to them. He was their lives.

We see such a great lack of that in our own selves. We don't want to say or evaluate ourselves more than we ought to. We confess our failings. We confess our

shortcomings. We confess our slothfulness and our waywardness. We confess our carnality. We see so much of Jacob inside of us. We see so much of Esau inside of us. We see so much of Balaam inside of us, oh God, letting people compromise us, making us change our word under pressure, getting double-minded. We don't like to think of ourselves like that, but we have to be honest before You, Father.

Because You are here to give us something more than our yesterday; something worth living for! Something where we don't have to keep coming back to the altar over and over for the same things. Let tonight, Father, even as we stand here in Your Presence under the effects of the Word You have spoken to us, search us, oh God, and know our hearts today. Try us, oh Saviour, and know our thoughts we pray. See if there be some wicked way in us. And God, cleanse us from every sin and set us free.

Take Your sharp knife and cut away the excess flesh, oh God! Let us walk before You this year and be perfect, Father. Let us rise up as a son and daughter of God, Lord, that You can be proud of and say, "There goes My son, there goes My daughter." They are reaching forth to apprehend that which they have been apprehended for. They are straining, pressing forward, pressing to the mark for the prize of the high Calling of God to come to Adoption, to come into that Oneness, to come into a true reflection of You, Jesus, that this world might see You and know that You live by looking at us, Father. With this, we rededicate our lives tonight.

And to this great Message that You have sent in these last days by Your Prophet, and the responsibility that You have entrusted to us, and for the Work that we have started, and are involved in, engaging with many oppositions, yet seeking Your leadership, yet determined to finish it unto the end; lead us Lord and we will follow. We are reporting for duty and service. Consecrate us, Lord. Raise up mighty warriors of the

faith. Reveal to us that Hidden Manna. Show us Jesus and His program and may we be so unified in love, that we might be in one mind and one accord and in one Spirit with one goal and one objective before us, our hearts knitted together by love united under one headship and one language. May You grant it, Lord, that we truly might be a Branch that came forth from the Root bringing forth the fruit, the identification that we are Your victory and the reason of Your death.

Break every fetter. Look in every life right now: every young man, every young woman, every brother, every sister, every father, every mother, every circumstance every believer is holding before You, every request that is being made, every prayer that is being offered in the Name of Jesus Christ, in this great Almighty, All-Sufficient Name, I pray, dear God, that You will answer, Father. You will meet that need. You will send down the blessing. You will bring that deliverance. You will send that filling, oh God. You will fulfill that request for the glory of God.

I rebuke every devil in the Name of Jesus Christ. Satan, by the Power of the Finished Work of Jesus Christ, by the Voice of the Blood that speaketh better Things, we, the Church of the Living God come against you. Thou unclean spirit, that has held the children of God in a compromise, in a halfway deliverance, that has tried to hinder them, that has tried to sift them like wheat, we adjure thee, we rebuke thee. Turn them loose, in the Name of Jesus Christ. Loose them and let them go, because you are defeated. May You grant it, oh God.

Lord God, from the breaking of this day, and entering into this year, Father, when we would come and gather in this place, oh God, Your Presence, Your Spirit, Lord, the Anointing, Your Word, will be magnified and glorified in our midst. Let Your Name be admired. Let It be glorified in every saint, Lord. May You fulfill the work of faith with power.

Father, as we get ready now to come to Your Table, God, having repented of our sins, having laid aside every weight, having made a new commitment to You, God, having pledged our undying love, God, coming in sincerity, while we would come before You in the integrity of our hearts, in the faith of Your Finished Work, with the objective and the purpose to finish this job, to keep our eyes fixed on the prize and refusing to be compromised, we have come to sup with You, Lord.

Meet with each and every one, as family would come by family, as household would come by household, as couples would come, as young men and young women would come, oh God, may You meet with them tonight. We ask these things, Father, we ask it soberly, we ask it sincerely. Blot out all our sin as a church. Blot out all our transgressions. Blot out all that might be on our record, oh God. Like it was in Israel, on that day of the atonement when that year cycle had come to an end, God, every sin was expiated. God, so let it be tonight. There will be nothing against this church, Father. As a people of God we can go forward in Your Work, being led by Your Spirit, in the Name of Jesus Christ, we ask it, Lord.

Let this New Year be a great year for Your children. Let it be a time of blessing in every home. Let them have 'Ebenezers' where they possess back the things that they have been robbed from; the stored-up help! Let them lift their eyes and fix it on You, that they don't have to fight in this battle, that the battle is the Lord's, (hallelujah!) that You will go before them, oh God. Prosper them in every way, in the Name of Jesus Christ. We bless them, Father. We bless them, that with Your Almighty and all powerful and all precious blessings, they might prosper and in their prospering bring glory to Your Name.

Make us ready, Father. Whatever day, whatever moment You would put in Your appearance, let us live this year closer to You than we lived last year. Let us

live every day as though You are coming today. Would You do that, Lord? May You grant it tonight. All this we ask, we are persuaded You are able to keep that which we commit unto You, for indeed we do commit it into Your hands, in the Almighty and Precious Name, we seal this prayer in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen and amen. Amen.

You deserve the glory and the honor. Let us just sing that. I got up the other morning, I think it was the morning before today, yesterday sometime; it was singing out to me. I heard it in church and I had never learnt it. For two hours, I felt this voice singing this thing inside of me. I was asking the saints to sing that song.

[#943 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

You deserve the glory...

Just honor Him tonight.

...and the honor,

Oh, that sounds so sweet.

Lord, we lift our hands in worship

as we praise Your Holy Name.

You deserve the glory...

Oh, He certainly deserves it.

And the honor,

Lord, we lift our hands in worship

As we praise Your Holy Name

For You are great!

You do miracles so great

Hallelujah!

There is no one else like You.

There is no one else like You

May His Love be shed abroad in our hearts. May wave after wave of the Holy Ghost bathe down into your souls, (amen,) that you will love Him with a love you never

loved Him with before. Amen. That you will surrender all to Him.

There is no one else...

Sing it with all the love in your heart, there is no one else like Him. Amen. He deserves all the glory!

You deserve the glory...

Give it to him freely, unreservedly, with joyful hearts tonight, with thankful hearts, all around the building. Amen.

As we praise Your Holy Name.

You deserve the glory...

Oh my, He is worthy. Isn't He?

...and the honor,

Lord, we lift our hands in worship

As we praise Your Holy Name

For You are great,

You do miracles so great.

There is no one else like You,

For You are great.

You do miracles so great.

There is no one else like You.

There is no one else like You.

Oh, sing it again one more time. You deserve the glory, Lord. We pledge to give You all the glory.

You deserve the glory and the honor,

That I may win Christ; He is my prize. He is the one I'm running after. I must secure Him. I must lay hold upon Him. He is my beloved. He is the fairest of ten thousand. He is my life. He is what I live for.

You deserve the glory and the honor

Lord, we lift our hands in worship

As we praise Your Holy Name.

*For You are great,
You do miracles so great.
There is no one else like You.
There is no one else like You.
For You are great,
You do miracles so great
There is no one else like You.
There is no one else like You.*

Oh, let the daughters of Sarah sing it. Amen. Come on sisters, sing. A new year, give praises to our King. Amen.

Hallelujah! We start this year giving Him praise. Lift up our King, (amen!) magnify Him. What a year. What a way to enter in. Oh, let Him be our Lord of our lives this year, completely, unreservedly. No holding back. Hallelujah!

Everyone now.
*For You are great,
You do miracles so great,
There is no one else like You.
There is no one else like You.
You are great,
You do miracles so great,
There is no one else like You.
There is no one else like...*

Altogether, all around the building, wherever you are, everyone, sing it again.

*There is no one else like You.
For You are great,
You do miracles so great,
There is no one else like You
There is no one else like You.*

Amen. You deserve the glory, one more time.
You deserve the glory
Hallelujah! Oh Father, we thank You.
Lord, we lift our hands and worship
As we praise Your Holy Name
Hallelujah! Hallelujah, hallelujah.
As we praise Your Holy Name.

For You are great,
You do miracles so great,
There is no one else like You.
There is no one else like You.
You are great,
You do miracles so great.
There is no one else like You.
There is no one else like You.

We praise You, Lord. We praise You, Jesus. We magnify Your great Name. How great Thou art, oh God. How excellent is Thy Name in all the earth. Oh, we praise You. We glorify You. We magnify You, oh God. Hallelujah to the Lamb. Hallelujah to the Lamb. Thank You, Lord. Thank You, Jesus. Thank You, Lord. Oh, we praise You, we praise You, we praise You, we praise You. We magnify Your Name, oh God. Hallelujah! Hallelujah, hallelujah. Oh, thank You, Lord. Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah. You are great. You are great!

You are great
You do miracles so great.
There is no one else like You.
Oh, for You are great, Lord.
You are great
You do miracles so great,
There is no one else like You
There is no one else like You
Hallelujah!
For You are great,

*You do miracles so great,
There is no one else like You.
There is no one else like You.*

Hallelujah. Turn around, and greet your brother and your sister, greet the stranger, say, “God bless you. Happy New Year. God bless you this year.” Amen. Praise His mighty Name. Glory be to God in the highest.

God bless you, my precious sister. [Bro. Vin greets a sister. – Ed.]

Hallelujah! May God give you a Spirit filled New Year, start you out with a charge, tonight. Glory be to God in the Highest. Hallelujah! Glory. Hallelujah! All praise and honor and glory and thanks be unto the King. Worthy is the Lamb, worthy, worthy, worthy. He shed His Blood for these things, friends.

Oh, we thank Him. Hallelujah. Let Him fill our hearts with love. Let Him unite us together. Let Him break down all barriers. Let Him clean up our lives. Let Him remove every hindrance. Oh, hallelujah! Hallelujah!

...like You.

Make sure you greet your neighbor. Amen. Tell them, “God bless them.” Hallelujah! Wish them all God’s blessings. Pray God’s blessings upon them. Amen. Hallelujah. Thank You, Lord.

You may have your seat. Before we enter into the Communion, I have a little song; I asked David [Bro. David Dayal –Ed.] and Donna [Sis. Donna Sanchez –Ed.] to sing it. It is a song I used to hear years ago and I asked for it to be sung in conventions many times and it was never sung.

While I was studying this little message, the song came back to me as well. While they are preparing and getting ready to come; brother, keep pressing on! Sister, keep pressing on! Let us press on. Let us run. Let our eyes be fixed on the prize. Let us refuse to be compromised. Let us finish the job. Amen. As they sing it. Praise His mighty Name. Hallelujah.

We will take it as a little anointing. As they anoint you with this song, as they minister that unto you, and you

come up in this line after, we are getting ready for the Lord's Supper, be determined that you are not a quitter. We are not of them that draw back, friends. Let us consider Him tonight. Let us keep our eyes on Him, He is our prize, that we might win Him.

[[Bro. David Dayal and Sis. Donna Sanchez sing *Brothers Keep Pressing On; Sisters Keep Pressing On.* -Ed.](#)]

Amen. Hallelujah. Let us press on. Let us press through. Let us not make excuses. Let us run for this prize, friends. As we get ready now to come, let us stand to our feet.

Now in this New Year, in this first day, as a little church down in the valley here, this year we come. As we would take this supper tonight, remembering that in August, as we gathered for Convention, (the saints from all the regions roundabout were here,) that night in the supper the Holy Spirit gave us a Word, *One Bread And One Body* [[2003-0823 -Ed.](#)]. Many grains of wheat ground into powder, anointed with oil, caused them to cleave together and then baked in a heated oven and became bread; bread that was broken. Even as we have the symbol of that tonight, part of that Bread, it represents His Body. It represents He Who is the Bread of Life for us. It goes into each and every one of us. As we partake of that Cup, it represents His precious Blood, a new Blood, the Blood of a New Creation. Creative Blood. Not the blood of bulls and goats, not the blood from the fallen human race, but by a New Creation, a new Blood Cell. By the overshadowing of God over the virgin, He created that Blood Cell, He created that Egg.

He, God the Creator, by creation, dwelleth in His creation that He might redeem His fallen creation and bring His creation back to Him. What a great thing it is, friends! We just came through the Christmas time, when the whole world was looking at His birth. Here we are tonight thinking about His death. "Except the corn of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it abideth alone." He was determined to finish the job. He finished it. He

cried out on the Cross, "It is finished!" That was His meat. That was His meat. He sweated drops of blood to break through every hindrance that He might purchase our Redemption. He knew to redeem us was not going to be easy. For Him to work through us to redeem others, it was not going to be easy, friends. That is one of the things I'm trying to get to you tonight, that you would see that. That as you would come, God will give you strength, strength in the Inner Man, that the partaking of these Elements would cause your spirit to transcend into another realm to fellowship in this mystery of Christ and what He means to us. Not Bro. Vin, not Third Exodus Assembly, not the Message, not this kind of church, not religion; Jesus, my Saviour, my Lord, His face that I long to see.

Let all of us have that in us tonight that when we are served those elements, as we take It... The Prophet said, "It makes you tremble, almost," though it is just bread, but to you it is not just a piece of bread that somebody is handing [giving -Ed.] you. You know why you are receiving It. You know why I'm going to read the Scripture before we receive It. You know why we come up and we partake of it because the Inner Man who walks in close communion with Him knows what It is by an outward Sign, by a Table, physical Elements, that we witness that He, our Lord is risen.

The elements represent His death, but He is not dead. It is a Living Christ in our midst that we are gathered around; Who reveals to us more and more what He achieved for us and that inspires and influences us to go on with new strength. That is why we can endure the contradiction of sinners against ourselves. We could despise shame when we fellowship with what He has achieved for us.

The Bible said [1st Corinthians 11:23 -Ed.]:

23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the

Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance [in remembrance, in remembrance,] of me.

25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. [In remembrance of me.]

26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

28 But let a man examine...

...let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

Many times, when we eat in a restaurant, we eat at home, we examine the food before we eat. But at this Table, we examine ourselves before we eat, to see if we are going to eat unworthily. We examine ourselves, not the food we examine; we examine ourselves.

29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

30 For this cause many are weak...

May the weak ones tonight try to find the cause of their weakness.

...and sickly...

May the sickly not rule this out, but look at themselves.

...and many sleep.

That is those who are spiritually dead; they sit there, nothing moves on the inside, nothing motivates them.

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened...

We are not to judge one another. We are to judge ourselves. We are to judge ourselves. We are to examine ourselves.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

33 Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another.

You for us and we for you. Praise His mighty Name. Hallelujah.

Oh, thank You, Lord. Thank You, Jesus. Thank You, Father. With love, with sincerity, with deepness of appreciation, God we stand around this Table with the elements of sacrifice representing Your precious Body and Your Blood laid upon it, oh God. A scene that takes us back to when You were gathered together with Your disciples, as You were about to enter upon, Lord, paying this great price for our Redemption, how You took the bread that night and broke it and said, "This is My Body that is broken for you."

We pray, Father, that You will take this Bread, that You will sanctify it. Let it be used for the fulfilling of Your Word here tonight in carrying out this ordinance, in keeping this Feast and remembering You, dear God, how Your Body was broken for us.

We pray Father, dear God, as we partake of It tonight, It truly, oh God, would be testimony. Truly, oh God, we feed upon You, the Bread of Life, He Who is come down from Heaven, the unfailing Body Word of the Son of Man Himself.

Sanctify this cup, Lord God, that contains the blood of the grape; symbolizes Your precious Blood that was

shed, that Blood that was shed for the remission of sins of many, a Blood that had a Voice that spoke better things than of Abel's sacrifice. That Blood that had a Life that came back to bring a New Birth upon Your people, oh God.

May You sanctify It tonight for the purpose in which It is to be used. That even, oh God, as we partake of this Bread and this Wine tonight, even as we remember You, oh God, may the Holy Spirit take our souls, Lord, into such a realm where we could walk into such a place and have a deeper fellowship than that which we had before of this great mystery of what Your death, burial and resurrection meant to us, Lord; what it means for us to commune with You, this great fellowship because of this great Eternal Life, this great Power that You gave us over the earth, that which we walk and had back in the Garden of Eden, and that which was broken, Father. But You became our Peace Offering. You slew the enmity, You restored us to friendship and favor, and of twain, You made one again.

As we partake tonight, let there be thanksgiving in our hearts, let there be joy. Let there, oh God, be victory before our eyes. May we receive new strength. May, oh God, as we begin this year this way, may throughout this year, there will be a fellowship, there will be a feast, there will be a communion. Our souls can be one together, Father. May You grant it tonight.

Bless every household, every family, every individual that would come to Your Table tonight. May Your richest blessings rest upon them. May You supply their every need, we ask it, for Your glory and for Your honor, as we keep this feast, in the Almighty Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who we remember tonight.

How You loved us and gave Your Life for us, that we might love each other, as You loved us, Father. Let this Love so knit our hearts together we pray. Let there be no schisms among us, in the Name of Jesus Christ we ask it, amen. Amen.



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