

Calvary Before Pentecost

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at Oak Grove Baptist Church, Paducah, Ky.
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John 16:7

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

Acts 2:33

Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

In my last message to you on October 13th I preached what was, for me, a remarkable insight. You have to understand my baggage from my Pentecostal days had established a precedent that said in order for me to experience the Holy Spirit I had to do certain things; perform in a certain way, be very holy, pray, fast. I had to do all of these things in order to experience the dynamic vibrancy of the Holy Spirit.

Because of that, I cannot express to you the liberty I experienced when I discovered in the preaching of Peter on the Day of Pentecost this remarkable fact that the Holy Spirit's giving to me was not based upon my performance or yours, but solely and completely on the performance of Jesus Christ.

This is what Jesus is saying in the text of John 16. It's necessary that He goes away because it's in His exaltation that He will have the authority to give us the Holy Spirit.

The best way to illustrate this is with atonement or forgiveness of sins. We all know that our sins are not forgiven based upon our performance. It's not what you do that saves you and it's not what you do that keeps you saved; we are saved from beginning to end by the finished work of Jesus Christ. All that necessary for me to receive that salvation is I repent and believe in Him, turn from my sin and turn to Him. That's not a qualification it's a condition. It's my faith that attaches me to Christ but it's Christ that saves based upon what He has done in His life, death and resurrection.

In Acts 2:33 the Apostle Peter is saying that as Christ was exalted He earned the right to give to us the Holy Spirit and all we have to do in order to receive it is to repent of our sins and believe. That's what he says in Acts 2:38. After he finished his sermon the crowd asked him, "What must we do to be saved?" "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to

you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

Repenting and being baptized is what God demands. And what is baptism except a public profession of the faith of God that’s in our hearts? It’s a public declaration of an inward trust and faith in God. Repentance and faith grants us the gift of the Holy Spirit, not our performance.

It is utter nonsense to be deceived by well-intentioned preachers who say, “Let me give you five easy steps to be filled with the Holy Spirit.” I’ve read some that have 10 steps. By the time you get through the steps you don’t remember what you are seeking. All of these steps, all of these qualifications, and hoops you have to jump through in order to experience the power and anointing of God are false. I say to us that we’ve been set at liberty. The gift of the Spirit has been given to the church and if you have repented of your sin and trusted in Jesus Christ, you have the Holy Spirit already dwelling within you.

It’s not a question of whether you have the Holy Spirit; the question is could you be saved without Him?

Paul the apostle, in Romans 8 says that you cannot be a Christian unless you have the Holy Spirit, “Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.” How do I have the Holy Spirit? I possess the Holy Spirit because Jesus Christ obeyed and fulfilled the Father’s will and as a reward, the Father exalted Him to His right hand and established Christ with all authority in heaven and earth and now the Spirit has been given. There is nothing for me to do to get the Holy Spirit, He is mine and I am His.

I. THE NECESSITY OF EXPERIENCE

We have received the Spirit of God, but having received the Holy Spirit does not remove the need to experience the Spirit.

Why do I say that? Because I don’t want anyone who left here a few weeks ago to have said, “Well, we have the Holy Spirit and it’s not based upon anything I do, therefore I have the power of the Holy Spirit whether I experience Him or not. He’s mine.”

There is a danger in that kind of thinking because there is a teaching that says all of the Holy Spirit has been given the moment you are saved and there is no more of Him to be experienced and you simply take it by faith that you received the Holy Spirit. What they mean by that is this: Don’t expect to experience the Holy Spirit in your life. Don’t expect Him to be a real person to you; take it by faith as a matter of fact that you’ve already received the Holy Spirit and that’s all there is to it regardless of feelings or experiences.

Beloved, that is so contrary to the New Testament teaching on the Holy Spirit. That is the recipe for a miserable and empty life. God has issued us a Helper. What does that mean? It means as Jesus was to the disciples before Calvary, so the Holy Spirit is to us today.

Jesus was a person in that He could be engaged. The disciples lived with Him, talked with and experienced Him. Jesus is saying to them in John 16 and other places that as they had experienced Him on this earth they will experience the Helper who will come. One just like Him, in fact the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus. Jesus promised He would be with them through the Spirit, the third Person of the triune God. He will be with you and in you and He will guide, teach and instruct you.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the living God. He is a person to be experienced and encountered by you. To just take things by faith, accept it as a fact and not worry about experiencing Him, hearing from Him, or experiencing His comfort, peace, joy and love is contrary to personhood. No! He's a real person to be engaged and you are to encounter Him.

As Christ led the Apostles, the Spirit of God is to lead each and every one of us. You are to know Him. You are to hear Him. You are to follow Him. You should be able to recognize His voice among the myriad of voices that call for your attention. And when you get into the New Testament epistles you cannot read them without an experiential understanding of the Spirit. In other words, the Holy Spirit is to be experienced.

The apostles tell us how they experienced Him. In the book of Acts you see the Spirit of God speaking and separating Paul and Barnabas for the work they were called. You see Peter on Simon the tanner's roof at noon and the Spirit saying to him, "Behold, three men are seeking you. Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them." The Bible is very clear that it was the Spirit of God who spoke to Peter. Then you see the Apostle Paul developing this in doctrinal form. "And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit." Well, what does that mean if it doesn't mean an experience? I can certainly drink wine and feel something and God forbid we do that. Therefore, Paul is saying that just as alcohol can be consumed and you feel its influence and control, don't do that, but rather be influenced by the Holy Spirit. He is a person and He wants to control your life—let Him do so.

We're not into this feel-less, emotionless religion. I want a God I can know and experience and I have one. Having received the Spirit does not remove the need to experience Him, it provides the ability to do so. Now let me quickly warn us about seeking experiences.

Warning About Seeking Experiences.

I need to do this because some of us in this room are of an emotional sort—we *need* experiences, we need to feel. We're of that kind of makeup. We don't believe God is active unless we can feel Him. What happens with that kind of temperament and personality can be dangerous. We tend to seek experiences for the sake of experience, not for God's sake.

Listen closely. When you start seeking experiences, you are opening yourself up to the counterfeit experiences that Satan will offer and he will always tell you it is God. He will never say, "I am Lucifer, the fallen one." No, he always counterfeits himself as being from the Spirit of God.

If you're seeking experiences, here is what's going to happen. You're going to open up your heart to receive an experience that may seem like God. It will have all the earmarks of God and it might even seem doctrinally and biblically sound, but it's not God.

But when you experience the Holy Spirit, He always leads you to a person, not a feeling.

This is very important.

Genuine experiences with the Holy Spirit, always lead us to a Person—Jesus Christ—and glorifying Him, not the experience.

In other words, you can know if you're experiencing God or a counterfeit experience because a real, genuine experience of the Holy Spirit will always lead you to focus on Christ and magnify Him, not be thrilled with what you felt. As thrilling and wonderful as the feelings are, that's not what you walk away with when you encounter Christ. It's always the person of Christ that impresses you the most.

I'm not diminishing the emotion, I just told you God created us body, soul and spirit. He created our emotions and because He has emotions He will communicate with you in a way you can experience, but the warning is that experiences for the sake of feeling something are dangerous.

What I want is for Christ to be more real to me. I want to walk away with an encounter with Christ that leaves me cherishing, adoring, and being thrilled with Him so that I magnify Him. How gracious He is to reveal Himself to me.

Yet, there are many today deceived and simply chasing another emotion, another feeling. They go from one meeting to another meeting, from one sermon on the Internet to another trying to duplicate feelings. Or they read a book and get a great feeling so they find another book from the same author hoping to get the same feeling. They're chasing experiences. No! We must pursue God Himself and because He's a person He can be experienced.

II. WHAT KIND OF EXPERIENCE SHOULD WE SEEK?

The Absolute Lordship of Christ.

That's what you should be experiencing and seeking. This is the experience I pray every one of you in this room is seeking.

When does Jesus Christ become our Lord? The answer is at conversion. There is absolutely no way He can be your Savior and not your Lord. If that is true, and it is, then why should I be seeking His absolute Lordship since I am a Christian and have come to know Him as Lord? Though He is your Lord—meaning master, controller—would you say He has total possession and control of every facet of your life? If you say yes, He has absolute control and sway in every area; then I

would say you are a perfect person. You have come to the full stature and measure of Jesus Christ and I need to sit down and let you preach.

There is not one of us who can stand here today and say that every area, every facet, every detail, every desire of our heart is under the domination of Jesus Christ. He is my Lord, but as King He is still conquering me. That's the experience I encourage you to pursue today—to experience Jesus as absolute Lord having domination over you in every department, category and facet of your life.

The second experience we ought to be seeking is:

The Anointing of the Holy Spirit.

The anointing is the Spirit of God empowering you to live for Him. I want to serve the Lord, we say. I want to live for Him but I find that hard. I find it hard to progress beyond where I am now. And here is the reason why—we have yet to learn a most fundamental fact of true New Testament Christianity: **you cannot serve the Lord in the strength of human wisdom and intelligence, nor by the might of human energy.** “‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts.”

The natural will not work in the spiritual. That does not mean God cannot use your mind or your body; He's using mine, I pray, at this very moment. But He can only use our minds and body when they are yielded to Him as His instruments and I'm fully aware that in and of myself, my mind, my tongue, my eloquence, my strength, my energies, are insufficient and quite inadequate to move your spirit to encounter the living God while I'm speaking. That is not possible. What needs to happen is the Spirit of God to come to infuse, energize, and quicken this experience right now so that something mysterious and unexplainable happens. The power source has to be completely the Holy Spirit. That's the kind of experience we should seek.

How do you get the anointing of the Holy Spirit? By seeking the absolute Lordship of Christ.

Why do I say it this way? Because they're the same. When you seek the Lordship of Christ in the areas of your life that need to come under His dominion, yielding and submitting those areas to Him, the power of God will come upon that area of your life. The anointing of the Holy Spirit comes on the person who is seeking the absolute Lordship of Christ in any and every area of life that God shows him or her.

Do you want the power of God on your life? Simple. Be surrendered. It's just that elementary.

III. CHRIST AND HIS LORDSHIP CAN ONLY BE EXPERIENCED THROUGH OUR DYING

The only news I have is that you have to die before you can experience the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Once again Satan and demonic spirits will persuade you and me that because we are now Christians and have the Spirit of God in us and since we don't do the things we used to do, we are pursuing the Lordship of Christ.

Let me put it in a negative way. *I don't sin the same sins I used to sin, therefore I am a Christian and a righteous person; therefore I am under the Lordship of Christ.* That is the kind of logic the enemy will try to persuade you to use. "If you've been saved," Satan argues, "you've had to die to self because there's no way you could become a Christian without dying to self." I answer, Oh, you're slick you devil. Very slick. Because you're right. I could not have been saved unless I had died to myself. But devil, you foul fiend; you've not told the whole truth. I still need to die because Jesus said to men who had already died to themselves and followed Him, "If you want to follow Me you have to deny yourself and pick up your cross daily."

In other words, God is conquering us section-by-section, piece-by-piece, category-by-category. He working in you until one day His crown will fit over all of your life and His scepter shall rule in every facet of your being. That requires constant dying and continual self-denial. This is the way you experience His Lordship. It is not a one-time experience.

God does not perfect us the day He saves us. In fact, what happens the day you're saved is that you can see your imperfections the way you've never seen them before. You smell a foul order you've never smelled before and oh does it stink. You see how much more you need God than even before you were saved. You thought you needed Him then but now you recognize that without Him you are undone. You say to Him, *You've saved me, but unless You do more than forgive me of my sins I'm doomed.* So what does God do? He takes you through the experience of humility.

There is a rule in the kingdom of God I want to share with you, and I hope you understand what I'm about to say.

Humility Before Exaltation.

There is no exaltation in the kingdom until there is first humility. That's the way God works.

That's what this church has been learning year after year. Because our church is made up of individuals, and the individuals in our church are learning this. I've been learning this too. The way to exaltation is not by flaunting yourself or by doing what the world tells us to do—be self-motivated and put your best face forward with self-confidence. No, it's through brokenness. By the way, let me be very clear about this. God oversees the broken stage. It's He who is the Refiner. He is the One who breaks us. You cannot break yourself no more than you can put yourself to death, but He can and will. That's why some of you are hurting today. It's not because you've done

something wrong or you sinned. Maybe I shouldn't be so dogmatic here. Maybe you have rebelled against God and He's chastening you. But there are some of you who are going through some severe trials right now and you don't understand why. I'm telling you why. It's because God wants to exalt you. But before exaltation comes humiliation. Always. Isn't that what Peter says?

"Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God and He will exalt you in due season" (1 Peter 5:6).

"Humble yourself in the sight of God and He will lift you up" (James 4:10).

Humiliation before exaltation, that's the way the Holy Spirit comes.

In Acts 2:33 Peter says that what you have witnessed and seen and heard happened because Jesus was exalted to the right hand of God and He gave Him the Holy Spirit to pour out on us. This proves who He said He was. But before that, Peter preached something else.

"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles..."

Oh, if I could just preach Christ to you right now and that you would see this Man born of a virgin, stricken with poverty, esteemed by none. This same Jesus was anointed, vindicated and sealed with the Holy Spirit of God to do miracles.

*"...wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—²³
"Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death..."*

He had to die before He could be exalted.

²⁴ *whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it" (Acts 2:22-24).*

There is no Pentecost unless there is first a Calvary. You cannot have the giving of the power of the Holy Spirit until you have a death. It's the way it is historically in the church and it set the precedent for all of us. There is no Pentecostal power unless there is death, Golgotha, agony and brokenness. There is no power until there is death, that's the way it was for Jesus.

Why was it necessary for Jesus to be baptized in the river Jordan by John the Baptist? In Matthew 3, John asked that very question. Listen to what verse 14 says.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. (Matthew 3:13-15)

What does Jesus' answer mean? If you understand the answer, then you can see why before there is Pentecost and before the Spirit can come upon us in anointing power there has to be death. John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. What sins had Jesus committed that He should be baptized and forgiven of? None. That was John the Baptist's whole point. But Jesus says it's important for Him to be baptized to fulfill all righteousness. What does it mean to fulfill all righteousness?

The Father's will.

Jesus came to die. What does baptism demonstrate? Death and burial. Jesus is going to start His earthly ministry at this point and how does He begin? In submission to His Father by humiliating Himself to a baptism He did not need because He had no sins to repent of.

But He submitted to the Father and therefore symbolically showed that His way was the way of death. He had come to die. To die to His own will so that the will of the Father might be accomplished through Him. And so He was baptized in the murky waters of the Jordan symbolizing His death and burial. He dies to Himself because no man can do the will of God until he has taken his own will and brought it under submission to the will of God.

No, Jesus didn't need to be baptized, it looked foolish to John the Baptist, but Jesus knew it was what the Father wanted and that meant He had to die to His own reputation.

What happened after John baptized Jesus?

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. (Matthew 3:16)

The Spirit of God anoints Jesus for His public ministry. What happens when a man submits to the brokenness of God and to his own death? What happens when a man or woman will deny himself or herself to fulfill obedience to God? I'll tell you what happens—the Spirit of God rushes in.

One of the reasons we are not experiencing the power and vibrancy of the Holy Spirit is because we don't want to turn loose of control. There is no other explanation. It's not about buildings and finances, programs or ministries. It's about death. It's about relinquishing control of the areas of your life that are yet to be brought to the absolute Lordship of Christ. It's just that simple.

For example, what is your relationship with your spouse like? Have you brought your relationship with your husband or wife under the dominion of the Lordship of Jesus? If you're married that's part of your everyday life. Your identity is a married person. Have you brought that area of your life under the absolute crown, scepter and reign of Jesus Christ or are you merely operating with your husband or wife based upon your past experience and what you think best?

Let me tell you what that means. If that's the way you're operating, by routine, you're operating by the arm of the flesh not the Spirit. The Spirit of God may want to take that relationship in a new direction and you will have no clue how to do that because in your mind God never tells you to do things you don't want to do. He always leads you in ways you have to say, *Lord, I don't have a clue. I don't have any ability*, and He says *Exactly, now we're working together*. This is the way it's supposed to work.

I just mentioned one area of your life. What about in your relationship with your children or your entire family?

This is a powerful, pointed, sharp question—if you relate to your family as the most important relationship you have in this world you're not operating in the Spirit and you're not under the absolute Lordship of Jesus Christ in that department.

There are many people sacrificing their relationship with this body for the sake of family and your heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit are grieved as a result. The Father has a family that Jesus died for and it takes precedence over even my wife and my children. We have undervalued the Lord's church, which is His wife.

Let me see if I can help you with an illustration. I don't know of a man in this room who, if someone talks bad of your wife, wouldn't get up in their face. How do the young people say it? You would get up in their grill. I mean, if somebody was threatening your wife you would stand between them and her because you love her. Remember, you're Jesus' wife. He doesn't love your family more than He loves His wife. I can't say it any simpler than that. He does not love your family more than He loves His wife. Be careful.

There are two areas we thought we had under the Lordship of Jesus Christ when possibly we do not. How many more areas of your life aren't under His Lordship? I don't need to go any further than that. I'm just giving you a couple of examples, let the Holy Spirit speak to you right now. But let me tell you there is no opening of heaven and the power of the Spirit coming upon us until we submit by self-denial, relinquishing control and giving these areas to the Lord Jesus Christ. There can be no Pentecost before there is first a Calvary and Jesus said it's a daily Calvary, a daily picking up your cross. This is how it was for Him.

Then what happened to Jesus?

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (Matthew 4:1)

Immediately the Spirit of God is directing Jesus. The public ministry has begun and now the Spirit of God is working in His life in a far greater degree than He was prior to that baptism. That doesn't mean the Holy Spirit wasn't working in Christ before then, of course He was, but His ministry hadn't started yet and He hadn't required what He now needed.

True Power Comes in Proportion to Submission.

Submission. We pray, “Lord, show me what You want me to do.” The Lord says, “I’ve already shown given you several commands and you haven’t done them yet, why do you want a new one?” Let the Spirit of God take you to the Jordan this morning and show you areas that you need to bury in its murky, muddy waters. Let God show you areas that seem so simple and yet the enemy has deceived you into thinking they are simple and that you’ve already mastered them and don’t need any more information.

Power comes in proportion to submission. Now let me start to bring this to a conclusion. The power of God is real because God is real. The power of God is not a subject or theme of a Bible lesson, it’s a person.

A story that happened a few years ago will give us an example and prove that power is real. The power of God is real and can be experienced.

The US government was very anxious that a particular Indian reservation should be modernized and that the Native Americans refusing to come into the modern world learn to live with electricity and other modern conveniences. So they talked to an expert, a man who was very knowledgeable about the reservation and asked what he thought would be the very best way of introducing the tribe to the modern way of life in America.

The man said, “Well, I think the only way in which you’ll do it will be to get one or two of the most influential and intelligent of the tribe, and bring them into a big city and let them see first hand what it’s like and they’ll go back and explain it to their people.”

So they commissioned him to do that very thing.

He went back to the reservation and found the most influential man in that entire tribe and took him to the city. They got to the city about dusk, checked into a very elegant five star hotel, walked into the room, flipped on the light switch and the Indian was flabbergasted. He had never seen an electric light.

“How did you do that?”

“Oh,” he said, “I simply put my finger on that little button there.”

“I don’t believe it. I don’t believe it. Do you mean to tell me that all that is just in that little button? All you have to do is touch that little thing and all this comes on? I don’t believe it!”

“Okay,” said the man as he turned off the light. He climbed up on the table, unscrewed the light bulb and asked the Indian to get on the table and put his thumb in the socket. He went back to the switch, flipped it on and, when the Indian picked himself off the floor, asked if he believed the

button had anything to do with that power.

“Oh yes, I believe it now, I believe it now!”

Why did he believe it now? Because he experienced it!

Power is not a theory or a doctrine. Some of you have been listening to me and processed this sermon through your intellect but it's not just another theory. It is not simply a subject of a Bible lesson; it's the energy of God we're talking about. It is active, not static. Though it may be latent, it is not still. This power is not a doctrine, a theory, a subject, or theme; it's a person! And His life is real and its influence in us and over us is real. The question is how real is Jesus to you?

I ask for your answer. How real is Jesus to you? The more you die to yourself the more real Jesus will be to you. There is the confirmation. Have you said yes to Jesus? Have you said *I want You to be my Lord but in this area I cannot relinquish control because I'm afraid of what it will cost me. I love this too much and I don't want to turn lose of it?* If so you have turned the power of God off in your life.

He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him (John 14:21).

It's power, it's an experience, and it's real. So think about this, the power of God is what you need to change you and we still need it. I woke up this morning thinking about the power of God and it came to me that part of our problem is we always think of this in terms of the miraculous. The power of Jesus healed blinded eyes and made lame people walk and we think—*there's power*. But I believe the Spirit of the Lord taught me that those demonstrations are of little power. Much power is the power of God to make a man or woman holy. Then the illustration came to me of the paralytic. Friends opened up the ceiling and lowered him inside the house where Jesus was teaching and what did Jesus say? “Thy sins be forgiven thee.”

Everyone stirred in the house. “Who is this man? That's blasphemy. Only God can forgive sins.”

Then Jesus said, “Tell Me, which is easier to say, ‘Take up thy bed and walk,’ or ‘Thy sins be forgiven you?’”

What did Jesus mean? Are we to count the syllables and see which is easier to say? No. He is asking which takes more power, to make the man walk or to forgive him of his sins? It takes more power to make him whole spiritually than physically. Only God has that kind of power and therefore Jesus was demonstrating that He was God. Peter could say to the man lame at the Gate Beautiful, “Rise and walk,” and he did. He said the exact same thing Jesus did to the paralytic but one thing Peter never said to anyone, “Thy sins are forgiven thee.” He didn't have that kind of power.

The greatest demonstration the power of God can do is to work in your heart and uproot the

things He hates that you have cherished so that you now find them repulsive. Only God's power can do that. That's not you reforming yourself and changing. My dad used to say, "Well as I've gotten older I guess I've gotten more mellow." No, this is not some mellowing with age; it's the power of God to make a man or woman holy and to love the process. It's an amazing thing that you wake up one day and think about some of the things you used to enjoy of this world and now your stomach rolls thinking about it and you're ashamed that you would enjoyed it. How does that happen? Only by the power of God. It's God working in you both to will and to do His good pleasure.

Would you not like to have more of that in your life? Then submit to His Lordship. Be willing to die. Relinquish control. Say, "God, my life is Yours. You bought it with Your blood, I don't belong to me. Here I am, a single grain of wheat and unless I fall to the ground and die I will simply abide alone. I won't know Your presence or the thrill and joy of Your power in my life. But if I die, the power will produce much."

Dear friend, if you're not a Christian, I've brought you some good news. The good news is that the power of God is required to see your life transform and He has enough power to do it. He can do it. Your power is not sufficient. Thank God, because if it was you would try until you died and then you would leave this world unsuccessful. But He tells you, "Not by might or by power but by My Spirit." I'm asking you right now to cry out to the Lord. "Lord, do for me what You did for that man who was lame. I cannot walk and serve You. I cannot do what You've commanded me to do. But if You speak the word I shall rise and walk and leap in Your power and I will do what You command me to do because I know that You will give me the ability."

That's what God holds out to every one of you. What a glorious day this is! What an opportunity it is for each of us at this very moment. The power of an omnipotent God wants to be released in your life. All He's asking you to do is to go down in the waters and submit. Amen.