

Darla Rakes
Renew Part 15
August 7, 2011

Well, a million thoughts going through my mind this morning and I'm like "God really settle them so I know which divine direction to go." But I've been thinking that how God works, you know, and how it all works. You know how we all want to be changed. We all want to be blessed, but...you know in my thinking and contemplating on this I've realized that we can't be victorious without a victory. Right, makes sense? And we can't be triumphal without a trial. And we can't be blessed without obedience. We can't really have faith without trust in God and how all these things work together. Because I think like when we think about...I mean because you know you'll hear God's people say "we are just the victorious people of God" you know like "we are victorious." Well, yes, we are, that's what God has done and that's what we are supposed to walk in. We are supposed to be the triumphal people of God. We are supposed to walk in that and believe that, but for that to be so there's got to be some trouble and some difficulties and some things in our lives. That I really believe that God orchestrates these things and God ordains these things, which is a little bit scary when you think about some of the things that you've been through. If you think about it...that God orders things in to our lives to make us victorious, to make us triumphal. It's not just something that we declare, you know? I mean it's a lot more fun to just say "Okay, I am victorious in Jesus yes, amen, uh huh, right?" And then it's just so, right?

Well in thinking about this...not exactly. You know, if we wanna be warriors of God, then there's some participation in our part in actual war, you know. And to make us victorious that has to be a victory. You understand the correlation of where I'm going here? We want to say we are these things and we are to be these things and we are to be the mighty people of God. But it's not just the verbal sense that I'm talking about here. It's not just something verbally, it's truth and it is true...it is who God has called us to be and who we are in him and in his power. So, just a thought... do you believe that God does the work in your life? That God does the work in your life? Because, we need God to do the work in our lives. And I think there are a lot of good church people that do the work. And you know when you do the work, you've got to come here and put on a mask because it's really not that successful outside and you know it. You know? Because a lot of failures that are not that victory and triumph that God has for us when we are doing His work. And I think most of us believers...we do the work, and we can't even cross over and understand how God does the work. But I want to talk to you a little bit today and "God I pray that you open our minds and that you open our ears to hear and touch Christ today...and to come alive in your truths and understanding God. You have to do that in us." God does that in us. God does everything and I believe it's time that we as His people are truly victorious and truly triumphal. And that's not just a verbal thing that we say but we are living in it because we understand that God does these things and this is who we are called to be. This is what it is meant to be. And all to bring God glory!

So, I am confused sometimes when I hear people talk about being victorious because they talk about it being the easy life. "You live in victory sister. You just claim it. You live in

victory!” Well I think they are living in an illusion because you know things are going on. And then what happens when they suffer something and a challenge comes their way or trouble comes their way or they get cancer. And then what? Right? Because we know that bad things happen to good people. We know that to be so. It’s not for us to go “well you know, they must have done something.” Really? Is that how we are going to explain it away? Good people have bad things happen to them. But yet God says we are victorious, we’re triumphal. We’re over comers. We are those people. So it sounds a bit confusing. But I’m hoping God will help us and bring us some understanding today but without battles, without struggles, without challenges. Christ often isn’t evident. It’s in those opportunities that Christ is evidenced in the world and in our very lives. They’re opportunities.

I found in the scripture Matthew 16:19 and also Jesus says the same thing in Matthew 18:18 in a little bit of a different context, but Jesus says to Peter upon Peter’s confession of faith. He says these words “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of Heaven; whatever you bind on earth we bind in Heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in Heaven.” Now most of us are familiar with that and you don’t necessarily have to look it up. But if you want to - it’s Matthew 16:19. And the NLT reads it this way and I think it gives a little clarity to it. “And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid (we can also say lock) on earth, will be forbidden (or locked) in Heaven. And whatever you loose or permit on earth will be permitted in Heaven.” Now, we need to understand what Jesus is talking about – this forbidding and permitting, locking and loosing. What is he talking about? He is talking about exercising the authority. Exercising the authority that upon our confession of faith we have...we have authority...over? We have authority over the enemy. I mean if there is not a battle then how is there a victory? How are we victorious if we’re not struggling against something? Yes we are. We are struggling against the darkness, yes? And the weapons of our warfare, you know, are not carnal. We know these things. We’ve heard these scriptures, but we exercise authority. But, the enemy is powerful and we need to understand, and I have come to understand, that the enemy is way more powerful than little ole me and little ole you. However, Jesus is saying here “I am giving you my authority to exercise over the power of the enemy,”...the keys of the kingdom to forbid or to bind and loose or forbid or permit. He is giving us authority. And what Jesus is giving us authority for is so that we will be victorious, so we will be triumphal. We are to act in that authority.

Now, when we expand the Greek translation and let me impart this to our minds....”whatever you forbid to be done on earth (this is what it sounds like) will have already have been bound in Heaven. And whatever you permit to be done on earth will have already been done in Heaven.” Now that’s the stretched out a little bit Greek translation. What are we talking about “it’s already done in Heaven?” Whatever I’m forbidding, whatever I’m permitting, or whatever I’m loosing and unlocking...it’s already done in Heaven. Why? Jesus was all about doing the Will of God and he was giving us authority to do the will of the Father. He’s giving you authority to get God’s will done. And I think sometimes we think praying is just wishing for what we want. But when we begin to want what God’s wants...and I’m telling you God wants you to be

victorious, God wants you to be triumphal. He wants you to be obedient. He wants you to be blessed. God wants all of those things for your life. And in his authority he is allowing you to lock and unlock, to bind and loose, to permit and forbid that which he has already ordained to be. So, in thinking down this line, whatever we are permitting must first have been permitted by God. And whatever we are forbidding must first have been forbidden by God. So, how? Prayer literally achieves what God's already fore ordained. Prayer brings about what God has already planned. And prayer is going out and getting what God has already intended. And I really, I honestly believe this. Every now and then I feel compelled to say this again because I know that lights come on for different people at different times, but I'm telling you there are things for your life that are waiting out there, and you have to go and get them. We must go out in to the future, get the Will of God and bring it back in to now. And God is saying "I've already ordained these things for you...come pick them up." Come get the will of the Father for your life, come get them. The plans, the purposes of God, the things that he has already fore-ordained, He is waiting for you to ask for them, to pray them in to now and some will never be. Yeah, you get it? Some of you will never go and get who you are, get the plans and the purposes of God because you simply maybe forget to pray and ask for what God has already willed for your life, and it waits on us. It waits on you. It waits. And God sits and he waits until his people on earth permit and forbid the very will of God. You've got to unlock and loose the will of God upon y our life.

I have come to understand that when I pray things happen, why? Because when I pray God arises, he gets up and he goes to work. I am telling you I am beginning to come to grips to realize that God goes to work for me, and for you on our behalf when we ask. What is the Father's will when you pray? And people who pray frequently, I have come to find, generally know the will of God. It's amazing! Because the more you pray, the more you get in to the mind of God, and you begin to know the mind of God. You begin to know it! And you begin to pray the will of God because you know the mind of God. But you know the enemy does not want you to pray because he does not want you to know these things. He wants to keep them hidden from you...your destiny, your purposes, all hidden in Christ. It didn't happen, he didn't speak that until Peter professed and confessed who Jesus was. He didn't say he was a great man. He said "no, Jesus, you are the son of God!" And when he professed that, the lights came on in that moment, and Jesus said "he has given you the keys of the kingdom." Now in that profession of faith you have the authority to forbid and permit the very things that God has already fore-ordained for your life, and for this earth while you're here, the purposes and the plans that God has fore-ordained. Go and get them! Go and get them! God compel, compel them to desire what it is you have already fore-ordained and planned their lives to be. God I pray that. I pray that lights come on in the building. Lights come on! That you wake up to who Jesus is! You wake up to the plans of God.

Now God what do you want to do in here this morning? Pastor is going to come in just a minute and I thought about maybe there are some things that we need to forbid in our lives. I tell you, some of us are trapped in sins we don't want to be in and we want out of and we want free of. God does the work! I am telling you, he does the work. And when you begin to desire it and will actually pray. I mean if you want set free from something,

you feel convicted about it and you want set free from it, God is ready to work. He is ready to work! I am telling you He is. But you need to ask, you need to say...."Father, set me free from this, my desires are wrong, I've got wrong desires. I am desiring this and this is not your will for me. This is not what it says in your word, it is not what you have for me. So God I need you to change my desires because I have a sinful nature, I have sinful desires." And God has to change those. It doesn't just happen. We don't work our way out of it. We don't quit desiring something because we are working at it as Christians. We quit desiring something because God does a work in us. And that's freedom! And that's how you're set free. And that's what God wants to do in each of our lives. What are the things you don't like about you? God probably doesn't like them either. And he is waiting going... "okay when are they going to work on that anger issue? When are they going to ask me so I can get up and work?" Let's get that right, when are they going to ask and want to be free of that and so they are going to inquire upon me and say... "God set me free, God do this work in my life, I am so tired of desiring (umph) when I know it's not what you have for me. And then we ask and God says "yes! I can do that, that I can do!"

And maybe today you need to pray the activity of God in to someone else's life and then be patient and behave yourself while God works. Sometimes we talk too much and inhibit the work of God because we think God needs our help, and he is okay. He can talk to them even without you. It's amazing. Sometimes we do need to be quiet. We need to be quiet because we are irritating somebody and we are not opening their eyes. Jesus does that work. He does that work. He revealed to Peter who He was. Peter woke up and saw it. But what is it today? What is it today that you need? That you perhaps need to be free of? Maybe you're tired of cigarettes. You're done with it. You know it's not good for you, you want free of it. Maybe it's drugs? Maybe it's some kind of sexual immorality? What is it? Maybe it's just simply your anger and maybe it's just simple little things and it's something that you want today for God to do.

I'm trying to think of how God might want us to do this. But I'm going to ask just please, you know, nobody be a liar and stay seated. There are things I still want for you. Everybody stand up to get the Will of God. If anybody wants the will of God, the one true God, if you want the will of God today, if you want to know if Jesus is real, stand up! Let's ask him. Perhaps today he will open your eyes and open your ears in this moment if we would ask. So everybody in the building, no matter where you're at, if you are a believer, or you are just not really sure who this Jesus is, then we are going to ask this morning what God has already fore-ordained, His will. We are going to ask for it.

So let's just close our eyes and kind of just pray for a moment. "God I pray that you bind whatever is not of you, whatever thoughts that are not from you in our minds today. I pray that you bind them. And God right now, I forbid them in the name of Jesus. I take authority over thoughts that are not of God. I forbid every one of them in the auditorium. I forbid the enemy's thoughts to be in our minds at all and I lock them in the name of Jesus. I take authority over that. Every demonic thought that is not from you, every thought in our mind that is just in our minds that is in us that is not from you, I take authority over it and I bind it today in the name of Jesus. Now there are people in this

auditorium that want to know are you real, are you truly the son of God and I pray that right now you loose your spirit in a revelation to them. I ask for that God and I am asking for the very will of the Father that if this is their fore-ordained moment that you open your eyes to the truth of who you are, even now God. Burn in their hearts. Loose the spirit of God in this place. Permit what is of the Father's will already. Some of us need free of sin today, God. We will it, we desire to no longer desire it. So God, right now, I bind desires that are not from you that are wrong desires, lustful desires, sexual desires, sinful desires, desires for cigarettes, desires for drugs. I bind them in the name of Jesus and I loose your power, God, to work in our lives. God go to work today, in this house, God. We loose your spirit to work. God work on your behalf. Work on your behalf God. And we take authority on this situation God. And your will be done God. I pray your will be done. Your kingdom come, your will be done.”

Dr. Mike Rakes
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I want go right back to the passage we looked at last week and we won't have to do a lot of introduction because we are already in II Samuel 6. II Samuel 6. Remember, renewal is always needed both personally and corporately. Renewal is needed continually. That part is true. And renewal is simply a new way of seeing an old problem. It's a new way of seeing an old problem. And David is really wanting to bring back the ark and he sees the ark as important for a lot of reasons. And to be honest with you, David needs God's help desperately in this situation. So, I want to think about now we went through this passage. We'll just read a few verses as the ushers finish. Verse number 1 of Chapter 6, II Samuel. David again assembled all the choice men in Israel, 30,000, and he and all his troops set out to bring the ark of God from Baal Judah. The ark is called by THE name, the name of Yahway of Hosts. Lord of the Armies would be another translation and some of yours may call it. Who dwells among the cherubim. Those are worshipping angels, just giving glory to God. They set the ark of God on a new cart and transported it from Abinadab's house.

Let me tell you what happened to the old cart. Years earlier, a couple of decades earlier...it's a long story and I went back and reviewed it even this week and was going to give you some of those details, but I just felt compelled not to do that today. Suffice to say, the new cart that was built then to move the ark to Abinadab's house was burned and sacrificed along with the animals that pulled that cart. So there was no cart to move the ark. So they built a new cart here. David constructs this new cart. And it says they set the ark on a new cart and transported it from Abinadab's house on the hill, and Uzzah and his brother, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the cart and brought it with the ark of God from Abinadab's house on the hill. And Ahio, his brother, walked in front of the ark, and David and the whole house of Israel were celebrating before the Lord with all kinds of instruments. There they are. So they are all excited. They are celebrating about what the Lord has done. And then when they came to the threshing floor, Uzzah reached out to the ark and took hold of it because the oxen stumbled. And then the Lord's anger burned

against Uzzah and God struck him dead on the spot for his irreverence. The last time they moved the ark, seventy of them were killed because they looked inside. It's a very serious thing and it's a call to us to understand that we are not able to look in to the mysteries of God and stay alive.

You don't know what God is doing with your destiny. You have no idea how God is using your life to construct a message for the people around you. You have no idea how the test you are currently going through is actually being used by the Lord to advance His work in your personal life. In fact, God is actually trying to get you in a place where He can bless you, that's why he has to kill you, that the Lord's holiness is so great. This is why I think that we are always looking for a word from the Lord, because we can't really get a word from the Lord because if He spoke it would kill us. So we have His word and so I call them links from Heaven or even just God thoughts. That God will give you a message and sometimes it will come through nature. Sometimes it will come through a friend or even an enemy. That God will just send you a little note, a little post-it note to say "I love you" but He can't get too close or it will kill you. And Uzzah, who had become too comfortable, complacent with the ark, in the presence of the Lord. So, renewal, in this little section.

I want to give you a couple of thoughts here. The big thing to write down here is that David needed God desperately. Now why did David want the ark? It was more than just the obvious reasons. He wanted the ark to be close to the people. In fact, what I would suggest to you is that David wanted the people to be near the presence of God six days a week. Remember on the Sabbath, every Jew celebrated the Sabbath and took the Sabbath and rested, and did no work on the Sabbath. But he wanted them to be around the presence of God and to have that in among the people the other six days of the week. But there is also an underlying cause here as well. David had his struggles going on. Flip back to Chapter 3, same book. II Samuel 3:1. I just want to point out to you that in verse 1...."the war in the house of Saul and the house of David was long and drawn out, with David growing stronger and the house of Saul becoming weaker." Not only does that speak to the literal war going on when David was going to become king over Israel and Judah, but even once they became and once David, because here he has been king many, many years...some speculate even as much as 20 years before he goes for the ark. There are all kinds of arguments on this but the key point that is for us is to say that the old mindset was struggling with the new mindset. That David was bringing renewal and the mindset of Saul was blocking it. And so David is figuring that if I can get the presence of God in the middle of the people, it will validate my authority and my leadership and therefore the people will follow me as King. You're talking about one of the greatest warriors ever. You're talking about one of the most brilliant military guys ever. He was brilliant because he listened to the Lord. All of that.

So David takes 30,000 troops. He has killed giants and assaulted Philistines and shoved them around for years. And he goes to get the ark and then God kills somebody in his party. This was David's political reality. He had people that didn't like his kingship that were still pushing for the house of Saul to surge. And I know that and I'm giving you the context because if you will read both from here all the way through the next couple of

chapters, you will see that Saul's name keeps coming up... both with Michael, and I plan on dealing with that next week, dealing with Michael, his wife who rejected his celebrating the ark coming in because it would basically mean the dismantling of her father's legacy. She was upset about that. But also then you see Mephibosheth and other elements of the house of Saul cropping up in the narrator's explanation of David's leadership. So this is David's political reality. He had a lot of concubines because he wanted to have a lot of babies, so that people could say my third cousin is kin to the king. That's the way in which kings lived in those days. So, David was working hard to try and advance his influence. And all he needed, the single shiny moment... what he needed was the ark of God. But interestingly enough, God's presence will not obey any man. God will do what God jolly-well wants to do. And God will go where he wants to go and God will stop where he wants to stop. And God wanted to stop David at the threshing floor, at the place of being wounded. So David goes to get the ark and now they experience death and frustration. Here is point number two: that God's delays are on purpose. That God delayed David on purpose. "No David we're not going to do it." I'm going to connect the dot for you here because some of you probably already have it in your mind.

But, if you will flip back with me now to I Samuel 13 just for a second, you will notice that this is the story of Saul. I'm just going to paraphrase it but I wanted to show it right here. Saul went through the very same test David is going through right now. So David has got momentum, gonna get the ark, gonna bring the blessing in to the people of God. Gonna bring the blessing back to the people of God. Gonna bring the blessing. Gonna bring the blessing. Gonna get the people around the presence of God. This is going to be great and it's going to establish the house of God right here. We're gonna do this! Saul was in the same spot. And I want to just paraphrase for you, but Samuel told Saul, King Saul, I will be there at X time and then he didn't show up. He was delayed. He didn't come. The word of the Lord told Saul I will be there at 6:00 pm and then he's not there. But what's your point pastor? Did God lie? No, God didn't lie, he was there. He just didn't come in the way Saul thought. He came in the form to search out and expose Saul to the motives in his own heart. So Saul, you can read the story, but Saul takes this spiritual role that he was not asked to take and he assumes that God is giving him a Word so he disobeys and refuses to wait when God is saying to wait. In other words, if the Prophet said I will be there at 6:00 and it's 6:15, I recommend you still wait. You know, even in colleges if you have a doctorate degree, which I used often, you can show up a half an hour late and the class still has to wait on you. Now if you have a lowly Master's Degree they only have to wait fifteen minutes. You probably don't know that. And maybe it's different in other university systems. But that's the way it used to be when you had to show up for class. That was a jab. So, David waits. Saul doesn't wait. It's the same test. This is what is important. We see Saul had an appointment with God. See, this is... and I've preached this before, this is not a new concept but I believe it's an important concept. And people often try to rebuke me and correct me on it and frankly, you're in the wrong on this.

God is often late and God is late on purpose. Oh God's always on time! It kind of goes with what Darla was saying about being victorious. You are victorious and you can be victorious in the middle of cancer, is what she was saying, in the middle of that. And so

God is not always late but he is often late. Why is that? Because God stands outside your Timex. He stands outside of that and he will show up when he chooses. So you say “well what I mean is - then God is on time.” Not if you’re Daniel in the lion’s den. See, from Daniel’s perspective God was late, but not from God’s perspective. “Well, I’m going to get glory out of this and this is going to be a great story.” You say...well, that’s just one story, that God’s never late. Well ask Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego if God was late. Seems to me you are going in the furnace, you might be late. Except when you get in there, and you start walking around and realize “we’re still here and there’s someone else here.” That in the middle of your test, in the middle of your fire, in the middle of your trial, God is right there. He is not late. He is right there with you, waiting on you to exercise your faith in him. That though you don’t see His action in the circumstances, He is at work. That God delayed and was late for David. David is frustrated. It says it. It lays it out. David is frustrated. But David doesn’t take spirituality in to his own hands. In other words, if he didn’t get the word he wanted he makes up his own word. That’s what Saul did. And that’s what American church does. They will make up their own word, or somebody at the Burger King says something...”did you hear that? That’s it! They said that at the Burger King” That’s not a word. You will know when God speaks.

In 1995 when I had my encounter with the Lord, the Lord told me Pentecostal people worship their vocabulary rather than listen to my Spirit. We don’t think the Holy Spirit is working or moving if somebody isn’t speaking in tongues. Well I have a word for you, from the Holy Spirit himself and he would say to you that we must get in alignment with the words that have already been spoken. We must align ourselves up. Saul, ironically, goes so far from obeying the word of God that he won’t even wait on God that he looks for a message in tongues the rest of his life. And at the end of it, he goes seeking a witch doctor to try to give him a word. He is so hungry for a word. And God says “I object you Saul, you have grieved my heart. I’m sorry I made you King.” I’m sorry I made you king. It is not the word that is to be worshipped. It is the God of Heaven, the Holy Spirit is active. The Holy Spirit was all over Camp Hope and the Holy Spirit is all over this room and he is working inside of you speaking. The question is – will we wait and listen? What is He saying to you specifically? And David had to figure it out. So he drops the ark off at Obed-Edom’s house and heads back to Jerusalem. Jerusalem, ironically, which used to be the home of the Jebusites. The Jebus. And David takes it. He has established this military victory. This is the city of David and he just wants the ark in the middle. David gets embarrassed in front of the whole community, the whole community. It says they were celebrating and all of a sudden Uzzah dies. That will kill a worship service every time. You have somebody quit the church. Have somebody get up and walk out. I remember my first church, I had had this encounter with God and intimacy was just oozing out of me. And the board were so excited. We had a pulpit, it looked like the chariot of Ben Hur. It was a big ole pulpit and a communion table right down front. And we were growing and the deacon board wanted to surprise me. And I knew, I knew, I had been pastor there for several years, and I knew you don’t even move that pulpit an inch at a time. You don’t touch the sacred desk or you get killed. Well, the deacons didn’t know that. They’re in love with God. Let’s move forward. They bought Chuck Spong a keyboard, set it right here, and then they bought a plexi-glass, cool looking pulpit. So, on Monday and I knew I walked out and boy was I surprised. Pastor, look what we did! I’m

like ohhh, we were at about 300 to 350. Oh man, God's moving! And on Monday, I had 40 people in the conference room, I mean furious at me, and said we will walk out if you don't put that pulpit back. And I went "ohhh, I wish you hadn't said that, that means the desk has become an idol, not the word of God. I fully intended to put it back on too. I fully intended to put it back to obey. And they said we're gonna walk out. We're all gonna walk out. I'm 28 years old going "Oh God, they're gonna walk out. We're gonna kill this church. I went in to prayer and fasting. I mean I didn't even eat a do-do the rest of the week. This is before I knew I was allergic to doughnuts. They make me swell. (laughing) I mean, I went in to prayer and fasting. I did, seriously. Wednesday night I struggled through that service. Those people glaring at me, I could feel it. Ironically, they were the biggest tithers in the room. I said God somehow you have got to show me wisdom here. And I'm telling you that in the room the Holy Spirit began to speak to me. And he said if you trust me I will build this church. And he said when they stand to walk out – you say "wonderful idea, let's all stand." That's what the Holy Spirit said to me. And I have a witness right here. So when they stood up to storm out I said "praise God, let's all stand!" And they all four sections stood up and Chuck started leading the worship and they marched right out the back little door. Within three months our church had doubled. Within three months, God replaced every tither with more worshippers and the power of God. We grew to 650 people in a matter of a couple of months. Now that story wasn't in my notes, it wasn't even in my mind. I don't know that I've ever declared it publicly. But it's a powerful moment to say God will not be held hostage even by a king.

And David knows if he pushes against God – get that ark out of the ditch, we're still going to Jerusalem. David backed off. Saul didn't. David has a heart to back off. David backs off. Each story, in Saul and David, they contain the ark, the prophet and the king. The ark - the very presence of God. The prophet - bringing a timely word. In this case it's Nathan that's going to bring a word to David. And the king of course, King David or King Saul. All this authority. And here's the point I want you to see. Verse 11 back in our text. II Samuel Chapter 6. I spent a long time on that and I'm just going to trust that was God's idea and he will forgive me if it wasn't because he knows my heart. Verse 11. The ark remained in his house three months and the Lord blessed Obed-Edom and his whole family.

My point is God is delaying in your life so he can bless you. Here are four things. God delays your renewal as a way to clarify motives. He wants to make sure that the motives are right. He wants to make sure. You are asking God to show up, asking God to deliver you, asking God's presence for something. He wants to make sure your motives are right. Number two – God delays renewal to make a dramatic entrance. God wants to know that you know he is the one that brought about that promotion and not your skill at work. He wants you to know that. God wants you to know that he is the one that brought your wayward daughter home, not your manipulative phone calls trying to talk her in to serving Jesus. God wants to enter your life and he will often do it in a dramatic fashion. Number three – God delays renewal as one way of bringing humility. God doesn't care if you're the king, if you're the pastor or you're some big hot shot. God wants humility in your life and he will get humility out of your life one way or another. We can take the hard way or we can take the easy way. David humbles himself. It's embarrassing, 30,000

troops. All the nation knew. David's bringing the ark! David's bringing the ark! What happened? David didn't get the ark. Saul's crowd went - "Told you, told you that renewal was not from God. I told you it wasn't. Look at him walking away in failure. Look at him. He even got somebody killed. Tell me God was with him." God will do things his way for maximum benefit. II Samuel, Chapter 7. If you will just glance at Chapter 7. I'm going to deal with blessing the next few weeks. Chapter 7. It says: "when the king had settled in to his palace, the David we know brings the ark back after 90 days. And when the king had settled in to his palace and the Lord had given him rest on every side from all of his enemies, the king said to Nathan (the prophet) look I'm living in a cedar house while the ark of God sits inside tent curtains. So Nathan told the king - go and do all that's in your heart for the Lord is with you. But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan." So God corrected the prophet. "Go to my servant David and say this." This is what the Lord says: "are you to build a house for me to live in?" And watch what happens. "From the time I brought the Israelites out of Egypt until the day I've not lived in a house. Instead I've been moving around with a tent as my dwelling." In other words, God will move where he wants to move, go where he wants to go and he will stop where he wants to stop. Verse 7: "In all my journeys with all the Israelites, have I ever asked anyone among the tribes of Israel, whom I've commanded to shepherd my people Israel, why haven't you built me a house of cedar? Now this is what you are to say to my servant David." He is telling the prophet. "This is what the Lord of hosts says. I've took you from the pasture and from following the sheep to be ruler over my people Israel." The Lord is saying "David, you are just a shepherd boy and I have picked you. I have been with you where ever you have gone and I have destroyed all of your enemies before you, not your skill with the slingshot. I have destroyed all of your enemies." The Lord said that. "I will make a name for you, that of the greatest in the land. I will establish a place for my people Israel and plant them so that they may live there and not be disturbed again. Evil doers will not afflict them as they have done ever since the day I ordered judges to be over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all of your enemies." Now watch what happens right here. You wanna talk about how big God's gonna bless you? You have no idea how big God is gonna bless you in this culture. Next verse: "The Lord declares to you. The Lord himself will make a house for you." So basically God says - you're gonna build a house for me? You're gonna build a house for me? I'm gonna build a house for you and the house I build for you is a legacy. You're not even thinking about a legacy David. You're thinking right now what I'm doing in your life. I'm building a legacy. And what was the curse he brought to Saul? He said to Saul: the throne is torn away from you and your family will not sit on the throne. You will not have a legacy. But he gives to David: I'm gonna build your house. I'm gonna build your house right here. I've got a house not made with hands. Something you can't see. A powerful, powerful, movement through the generations that I am gonna do because you humbled yourself and obeyed me. It's a powerful thing.

God wants to bless you, the 24/6 church. I believe God wants to take the constraint that's on the ministry of the body of Christ and he wants to release them in to ministry. That right now that paradigm is confined to your individual effort at work or your individual effort to do something, or you combining every now and then like at Camp Hope or something. But that we do something good together but it's not on a daily or hourly basis.

And I believe God wants to pop open the doors and say I am God seven days a week and on the seventh you will rest and worship me and six days a week you are going to all get involved in my kingdom. The reason I know that God wants to bless you is because God is always about raising up contrasting spiritual communities. So, in a nation where everybody is struggling financially and everybody can't hardly make it, I prophesize to you that the Lord is going to bless the church stronger and bigger and greater in ways. But he's gotta know he can trust her first because every time you get a blessing it brings great danger. But if you are a person with humility, God can trust you with it. God can trust you with more, trust you with more, because he wants to advance his message in this American society. He wants them to see there's a difference there in the church. Not that the church is always asking for money, but that the church is actually offering to lend us money, to invite us, to hire us, to get us involved in whatever God is doing.

Here are some basic assumptions as I get ready to close the message. Listen to these assumptions that God has brought to my own heart relating to the 24/6 church. We assume the resourcing of God's kingdom and activity in the world is changing. We assume government programs like health care for seniors and other programs may diminish in the decades to come. We assume things like the Pell Grant and other programs may diminish the next generations ability to get a Biblical education. We assume that funding the church and Christian schools through tithing and tuition will become a greater and greater challenge in the years ahead. We assume God is speaking to leaders by his Holy Spirit to create new ways to fund his work both in the people here and around the globe. We assume the percentage of charitable giving for tax credit will change in some way in the next couple of decades and we assume that God is wanting to do a great work on the east coast of the United States through some local church and we assume God wants the spirit driven church to be dramatically more innovative, to reflect the imagination of the Holy Spirit available for dealing with cultural complexities. We assume that God wants to re-language the gospel to mainstream culture for the next few decades. We assume that God wants to raise up men and women and children to respond in new and creative ways that will advance God's kingdom. We assume that God's people and others need ministry after business hours. We assume that a greater emphasis on the love of God by his Holy Spirit to all people everywhere better reflects a biblically functioning community. We assume He must become more in our daily lives through the mindset of a 24/6 church than one that emphasizes the 90 minute Sunday worship experience. We assume all this and much more can serve to bring renewal to local churches by utilizing current facilities seven days a week rather than just a few hours a week.

So why do we need a 24/6 church? It's the ark, the very presence of God available to everybody all the time. Where you can come in and get in to the atmosphere where there is faith and hope and love. That the prophet, the prophetic message, the timely message of God on how to deal with cultural complexities is coming forth continually. And that the king, the king Jesus will be worshipped. That all authority distributed by Jesus to his disciples to go and do his work and go and celebrating one day a week the good news and the good work and the good hand of the Lord flowing through us to touch a city. Can you say Amen? I believe this is what God has for us to do. Pastor what does that mean? At

this point, the implications are huge for us behind the scenes as we figure out how. But we are going to make a few steps toward you and you are going to watch for it and see it in the next few weeks. We are going to talk more and more about it. But I just want to say to you that God has a plan for your life. God wants to bless you. God has called you in to ministry, all of you. That God has a ministry, something for you to accomplish. I don't know what it is and it doesn't mean that you just show up at the church and do a little work. It means that you engage with what the spirit of God is saying in you and we get intentional about doing the work of Jesus 24/6 and resting on the seventh. I believe this is the word of the Lord to us. Can you say amen?

Well stand on your feet. I bless you in the name of Jesus. I pray that you will walk in victory even in the fire. I pray that you will walk around your lions den with great confidence knowing that the God who got you there, that the God who sees you there is also the God that can shut the mouths of the lions and protect you through the night season and in the morning. I pray that God will bless you and bring joy on your heart and in your mouth and in your mind so that you might encourage others that are going through difficulties. I bless you in that name that is powerful enough to heal every cancer cell in your body. I bless you in the name of Jesus that wants to do great things in your personal life. I bless you in the name of Jesus. And everybody said – Amen! Let's give God praise – Amen? Give him praise. Glory to God. Just a little bit longer. God we praise you. We praise you Lord. We praise you Lord. We honor you. Well, amen. On Wednesday night, Darla and I will be here just blabbing again. If you want to come. We will see you again. God bless you everybody! Have a great day in the Lord! Amen!