

10 November 2019 Search And Switch To Who We Are - Part 2 Ps Garth Bendixen (WTB)

Scripture References: : Genesis 9:1-13 (AMPC), Mark 4:14-20 (AMPC), Philippians 4:6-7 (AMPC), Hosea 10:12 (NLT), Proverbs 28:14 (AMPC), Deuteronomy 5:29 (AMPC), Luke 1:78-79 (AMPC), Proverbs 20:4 (AMPC), Hosea 10:11 (NLT)

...sharing, to be able to minister to you and I, thank Pastor John and Pastor Sharon, even though they are not here. It really is a real blessing, it is a privilege for me that I, a responsibility that I take very seriously. If you had to talk to my wife, she would tell you just how seriously I take it. It affects the whole family. So, praise the Lord.

If you will just agree with me as I pray, please. Father, thank You for this opportunity again, to minister to Your people. This morning Father, we all turn our eyes to You, Lord Jesus. We turn our eyes to You Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, You are our great Teacher. We, thank You, that as I submit my vessel to You today, You teach Your people. I ask You, heavenly Father, to help every person here today, hear the way that You want them to hear, see the way You want them to see and ultimately be the way You want them to be. In Jesus Name. Amen.

So, I have my "Search and Switch" notes again. This is the message of Pastor John's; Search and Switch. The reason I am showing you is, because it is that easy for all of us to have access to the transcriptions. Then, I also am going to be using Pastor Sharon's, "The Hard-Working Farmer - session 4", talking about how to plough the hard heart. Glory to Jesus. Praise the Lord.

I want to remind you church, who we are. Can you tell me who we are? We are a House of Prayer; we are a House of Faith and we are a House of Praise. I want you to say that with me, "I am, a House of Prayer, a House of Faith, a House of Praise." Hallelujah. So, that is who you are. I said this, the first time that I ministered, that if you keep coming to this church, then you must recognize and identify with us, as a people and that is who we are. So, for those of you who have not been coming to prayer connect, it is just a matter of time, because that is who we are, and that is why you keep coming here, is because we are a House of Prayer, a House of Faith and a House of Praise. So, this morning I want to focus a little bit on us being a House of Praise.

I want to remind you about the 2 questions that Pastor John has been asking us. What is the purpose of being a Christian? It is to be spiritual. What is the purpose of being spiritual? To bring everything that is in Heaven to Earth. I dare say as well, to create the Garden of Eden, on the Earth again, because the Garden resembled Heaven. There was no lack in the Garden, there was no sickness, there was no fear, there was abundance, there was great fruitfulness, there was creativity. Adam and Eve were able to speak just like God spoke and create, Hallelujah.

If you remember, when I started to minister to you about how we were clothed with the Glory of God, because Adam and Eve did not look at themselves and see their nakedness, they were clothed with the Glory of God. Is everyone remembering this?

God's aim and His purpose is for us once again to be clothed with the Glory of God, for us to have no self-awareness, no self-consciousness, but when I look at you, I see God, when you look at me, you see the glory of God. That is what God is doing, that is what God is doing. That is what He is busy with in these messages through Pastor John, Pastor Sharon, myself, Pastor Melusi, Pastor Christi. He is using the message to change us and to clothe us. Hallelujah.

I am already preaching myself happy. I want to do just a quick recap for those of you who maybe missed the last two messages.

Most people know the story of Adam and Eve in the garden, right. I just want you to imagine it with your mind's eye, quickly. Adam and Eve were created from the dust of the Earth. Adam opens his eyes and God has breathed His Spirit into Adam. Adam opens his eyes and like a child, he is looking for his life source, like Pastor John is teaching us, a baby looks for his life source. Adam opens his eyes and he sees immediately, his life source, he also identifies immediately with God as his Father. He recognises his own likeness as he opens his eyes, and immediately God blesses him and says, "Be fruitful, multiply, and subdue the earth, using its vast resources, using its wealth in the service of God and man."

Now, man and woman set about doing what God has purposed for them to do, to be fruitful, to multiply and to subdue the earth and to use all of the wealth in the service of God and man. Everything that Adam and Eve saw was good. If you remember that is what God did, at the end of all of creation He looked at it and He approved it, and He said, "It is good." Everything that Adam and Eve saw was good.

Then comes the serpent into the mix and starts to have a conversation with Adam and Eve. Well with Eve, in particular and brings to Eve or provides Eve with an alternative way of being like God. He used that desire, that they had to be like God against her, because she was already like God, she was already made like God, but there was a desire, in both of them to be more, to be more like God. He used that desire to deceive Eve, and say, "If you partake of this way that I am providing for you, you can become more." Okay, everyone with me?

You can be more like God, in providing for yourself. Partaking of the knowledge of good and evil through disobedience, changed the way that they saw themselves and they saw each other. They now saw both good and evil. War came into man. The war of good versus evil, light versus dark, life versus death, self versus service, fear versus faith, love versus hate. Now Adam and Eve had need. They were needy. Evil brought about need. So, there is a lot in what I am saying, I am just recapping. Okay, what was good before, was complete, so they only saw good. Everything around them was complete. Now with the introduction of evil everything was broken. Basically, Adam and Eve broke mankind.

What was evil, lacked goodness, and was therefore incomplete. The example, when I was just thinking about this, that the Lord gave me was, you know when you instruct your child to do something and you know, let us say you give them something and you tell them not to use it in such a way because it will break. You know, and they are disobedient, and they use it in such a way that you told them not to use it and it breaks, their initial response is to try and fix it. They would try and fix it, so that they can make it look like it was, like they have done nothing wrong. Then, if they cannot fix it, they will hide themselves, because they do not want you to see what they have done wrong. Is everyone with me?

I have that experience fairly regularly, that is why you get a lot of children examples, but that is what Adam and Eve did. They were disobedient and they saw they were broken, they saw themselves. Immediately they found fig leaves, they try to sew fig leaves together to hide their nakedness. They realised, hang on, this is not working so well. You know, the Father is going to see that this is still broken. Then they hide themselves, because they are ashamed, they are ashamed of their broken condition.

So, man set about trying to cover self, trying to provide for themselves, so God has to recalibrate their purpose. He steps in, and He curses the serpent. He says, "Upon your belly you will be the rest of your days", and He says to women, "You will have pain in childbirth and you will serve man, you will serve your husband for the rest of you days." He says to man, "The ground is cursed for your sake, and you will sweat to master it, to extract a living from it." Does everyone remember this? Okay.

I want to fast forward a little bit to Cain and Abel. Abel works with the sheep and takes the best of what he has to worship God. Cain does not take the best, so there is not, I have only known this from listening to other ministry on this, but he takes the second or third crop and gives that to God. He does not take God his best. The first, he gives God second or third. So, what is Cain doing – he is worshipping provision. He is saying, "I will take the best for self." Whereas Abel says, "I will worship God with my best, the provision, with my best provision."

So, what happens to Cain? Because Cain was worshipping provision, evil came to him to master him. The Father says, "You can master evil Cain, you can master this evil crouching at your door, but the worship of provision always leads to wanting to indulge self." Because even just the worship of provision is saying, "I will do what is good for me". So, he kills his brother, takes him out into the field and kills him. The Father comes to talk to him and says, "His blood, the voice of his blood is talking to me, is crying out to me." It is quite important in what happens with Jesus.

Through the ages, evil produces and if you remember, I spoke about how God limited Adam and Eve and the production, mankind's ability to produce, but even still, evil produced at a rapid rate, to the point where God says, "I am going to wipe out mankind."

There was one faithful person, one faithful family left on earth, and that was Noah. You can please turn with me to Genesis 9 verse 1 to 13. **Genesis 9:1-13 (AMPC) ¹And God pronounced a blessing upon Noah and his sons and said to them,** so this should

sound familiar to you, **Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.** ²**And the fear of you and the dread and terror of you shall be upon every beast of the land, so before that there was peace with beasts, every bird of the air, all that creeps upon the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are delivered into your hand.** ³**Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you; and as I gave you the green vegetables and plants, I give you everything.** ⁴**But you shall not eat flesh with the life of it, which is its blood.** So basically, you shouldn't eat each other. ⁵**And surely for your lifeblood I will require an accounting; from every beast I will require it; and from man, from every man [who spills another's lifeblood] I will require a reckoning.** ⁶**Whoever sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God He made man.** ⁷**And you, be fruitful and multiply; bring forth abundantly on the earth and multiply on it.** ⁸**Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying,** ⁹**Behold, I establish My covenant or pledge with you and with your descendants after you.** That includes us. ¹⁰**And with every living creature that is with you—whether the birds, the livestock, or the wild beasts of the earth along with you, as many as came out of the ark—every animal of the earth.** ¹¹**I will establish My covenant or pledge with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood; Hallelujah.** So, this is the covenant that now stands with you and I,¹²**And God said, This is the token of the covenant (solemn pledge) which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations:** And then He sets the rainbow in the sky to remind Him and to remind us that He will no longer destroy the earth and all creatures on it.

Through the ages God honours His covenant with man. He blesses those who fear Him and worship Him with their resources and with their provision. All the while, God had a plan to restore man and woman to their original condition. He wanted to clothe man once again with His glory. How does He clothe us with His glory church? From the heart, from the inside out. He starts with the heart; once our heart is fully His, then our heart becomes His heart and His heart is filled with glory. The issue is an issue of the heart. Amen. God wants all of it.

Pastor John and Pastor Sharon have been given the mandate by God, to make ready for the Lord a people. That is, you and I. Can you say, "That's me?" So, Pastor John and Sharon have been given a mandate, to make you ready. A people perfectly prepared in spirit. Or you could say it this way, a people perfectly prepared in heart.

You can turn with me please to Mark 4 verse 14 to 20. **Mark 4:14-20 (AMPC)** ¹⁴**The sower sows the Word.** I would like for every person here today to identify where you are in this message, in this scripture, because it identifies all of us. ¹⁴**The sower sows the Word.** Verse 15, ¹⁵**The ones along the path are those who have the Word sown [in their hearts], but when they hear, Satan comes at once and [by force] takes away the message which is sown in them.** I want you to note, how the enemy has access to the heart, here. The ones that are sown on the path. Can everybody see that? **He comes at once and [by force] takes away the message which is sown in them.** So, He's permitted to take form in them, okay. Satan has full right and entrance into a heart like this. He has ownership of a heart like this.

¹⁶And in the same way the ones sown upon stony ground are those who, when they hear the Word, at once receive *and* accept *and* welcome it with joy; ¹⁷And they have no real root in themselves, and so they endure for a little while; then when trouble or persecution arises on account of the Word, they immediately are offended (become displeased, indignant, resentful) *and* they stumble *and* fall away. Notice the difference here. This is a heart that is turned towards God, so the enemy has no access to the heart here. No access, because not the heart belongs to God. There's some work that needs to be done though still on this heart; it's got, it's stony ground. Everyone see that. The enemy has to come to the soul of this man with troubles and persecution on account of the Word.

¹⁸And the ones sown among the thorns are others who hear the Word; ¹⁹Then the cares *and* anxieties of the world *and* distractions of the age, and the pleasure *and* delight *and* false glamour *and* deceitfulness of riches, and the craving *and* passionate desire for other things creep in and choke *and* suffocate the Word, and it becomes fruitless. This is where most believers live. They love God, but they are at war within themselves, because they worship provision and they worship what provision can bring for themselves. This is the escape that most people, most believers are looking for from the system of the world.

²⁰And those sown on the good (well-adapted) soil are the ones who hear the Word and receive *and* accept it *and* welcome it and bear much fruit—some thirty times as much as was sown, some sixty times as much, and some [even] a hundred times as much. This is the heart that God desires for all of us. Is this not the heart that we all desire for ourselves? How do we create a heart like this for ourselves? A heart that will produce a hundred percent life as God originally made us, a hundred percent life filled, life producing heart. A hundred percent good, no evil found in our hearts. Do you think that is possible church? It is possible. That is what the Lord Jesus is going to come back for. That is the bride that He will return for. A heart that is one hundred percent good, one hundred percent life producing hearts, without spot, without wrinkle, without blemish. A church and a people that look like this. Glory to Jesus.

How do we create for ourselves a heart like this? Whose responsibility is it? Our responsibility. You can turn with me please to Philippians 4 verse 6 to 7. This is a scripture that people, that church circle know very well. **Philippians 4:6-7 (AMPC) ⁶Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance *and* in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests),...** There is no vagueness here, in everything. If you picture for yourself, when you leave this auditorium, when you get into your car, when you drive, wherever it is that you're going. In everything God desires for us to make definite requests. **In every circumstance *and* in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God.** I want you to see this quickly with the grammar. By prayer and petition, definite requests with thanksgiving. I want you to see that as one thing. The petition, the request with thanksgiving. Next one, **continue to make your wants known to God.**

This is where I want to just spend a couple of minutes. The Lord has been asking me a question, actually since I came out of drug rehabilitation. He's been asking me this question. When He first started asking me, I didn't really understand what He was asking me, but He was asking me this question for years. What do you want? What do you want? In everything, what do you want? I've shared this with you before. I was in the bath one day with Marcelle and she was talking to me about we're going to discipline the children. The Holy Spirit said 2 words to me, impartial and indifferent. The reason He said that to me is because Marcelle was talking to me about how we were going to discipline the kids and I was thinking, in relation to what we were talking about, I don't really care, in this particular instance. The Holy Spirit was very audible with me; impartial and indifferent, because right now you are not deciding either way what you want. You're saying. I don't really care.

That's just one occasion, but the Lord has been asking me, in everything, what do you want? We have a tendency in our habitual lives that we don't ask ourselves this question, "What do I want?" So, we have this vague, very vague idea in many things about what we actually want. If you engage yourself in that conversation, especially a born-again believer, you will actually begin to understand that what I want, is what God wants for me. The next question is, "Well, what is that? What is it that God wants for me?" Well, He wants me to be blessed. He wants me to be fruitful. He wants me to multiply. He wants me to subdue the earth, to have authority on this earth and He wants me to use the wealth in the service of God and man. That's actually what I want. That's actually what I want.

The more God and you are able to define those things in your life, you know, in that instance for me with, with our children, it was creating a boundary. I mean, a boundary is a word that's been used in psychology and that's become a little bit, you know, it's lost some of its potency. In this particular instance with the kids, I was creating a boundary for what I wanted for the children. So, there was this, there's a certain level of behaviour that is unacceptable. If you cross that boundary, there are consequences. It's not a vague idea, if you cross that boundary, let me see why you did it. Maybe there's a good enough reason why you did it. No, that boundary is in place and if you cross that boundary, there's consequences. That's what I want.

You have to engage with the Lord internally about things, what you want. What is it that you're wanting financially? If you engage the Father, in relationship about that, you will actually know, that what you're not wanting to be greedy and to be stingy, because that's, that's what's in you, in your spirit. You want to be generous; you don't want to be greedy. You're not wanting to hold on to things for yourself, because that's part of your new creature. If you think about what you want in marriage, you're not wanting to lose your temper. You're not wanting to fight, you're not wanting to be out of control emotionally and when there's a small argument you just lose it, you don't want that. So, what do you want? What do you want?

Do you want to give your whole life to Jesus? Your whole life? I see most of you nodding your head, some of you thinking about it, that's okay. That's a good question for

you to ask, because if you don't want that, if you're saying, "I don't really know". Then there's other things that you want more, and that's what Pastor John is teaching us, where we need to have honesty between us and God, us and each other. There are other things that I want more right now, and that's okay, because it can change, and I want it to change. I want it to change. Praise the Lord.

I think that we can, in agreement say, that there are things that are in us right now that we want to change. Because actually if you come right down to it, we all want our whole life to belong to God. We want to serve Him with everything, but there's this war that goes on internally.

So, I'm going to move on to the next bit. So... **with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God (Philippians 4:6 AMPC)** and verse seven, I'm just going to read parts of it, **7And God's peace...** Here's the peace to your war. So, if there's a war going on inside you, about something, there's a high probability you have not brought your request to God with thanksgiving. If you, we are going to get to that. Let me not jump ahead of myself.

7...God's peace [shall be yours...], which transcends all understanding shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds... (Philippians 4:7 AMPC). So, the mind is where the war takes place. This is where the enemy comes to put, to bring trouble, to bring pressure, to bring persecution, to bring offence, on account of the Word. This is where he comes to tempt you to choose provision rather than the Provider, he comes to the mind. We've been taught, very well in this church, about that. That the enemy doesn't have access to the heart if you're a born-again believer. He comes to the mind so that you will, it engages the emotions and you will ultimately speak, and that's what becomes. **7And God's peace, shall be yours.**

So, here is who we are, just in this scripture. We are a House of Prayer, and I'm going to say it to you. You are a House of Prayer; you are a House of Faith and you are a House of Praise. You all are a House of Prayer, a House of Faith and a House of Praise. Can I say it one more time? You are a House of Prayer, a House of Faith and a House of Praise. Hallelujah. Glory to Jesus.

Faith, that He has heard me, loves me and then my thanksgiving, because I know that He has heard me, and He loves me. Isn't that the biggest strategy of the enemy? That he, immediately when you pray a prayer about something, there's some pressure that comes, where you question whether God has heard you and then immediately, whether He loves you. So, I'm going to read now from the "*Search and Switch*" message.

Is this good? "*So, if it's not God that's pleasing you first and foremost, then you are never going to find real peace and real joy*". I am going to say that again, this is Pastor John's message, "*If it's not God that's pleasing you first and foremost, then you never are going to find real peace and real joy*". I think I've shared this with this church before, where Pastor Sharon was talking about how God wants the church to become our main attraction, our star attraction.

I was sitting in that, in the mothers' room, and it was one of those other occasions, where it was like the Lord hit me and He said, "Garth, the church will never be your main attraction, if your family isn't first". Because if your wife and your family are not first, because the same escapes that you want from the responsibility of family, or the relational responsibility of family, are the same escapes that you will bring into the church. The same reasons why you're not enjoying your wife and your children and your family. The same reasons, natural reasons, will be the same reasons why you don't enjoy the church. Why you don't enjoy the people in the church. Why you don't enjoy the message. Why the church isn't your main attraction. I've been on a journey with the Lord, that my family and my wife is my main attraction. It is most pleasing to me. Hallelujah.

I just want to read, where he talks about the fear of the Lord. "*There is only one thing that is important, that is to fear God and live.*" Fear God and live. If you remember Pastor John's message, talking through the whole of Solomon's pursuit of wisdom, and his pursuit of knowing what this life is about and at the end of it saying there's only one thing that's important, and that is to fear God and live. This is where I want to pick up with Pastor Sharon's message on "*The Hardworking Farmer.*"

Hosea 10 verse 12, I'm going to just read a couple of scriptures for you just so that the word can go into your heart, ¹²... **Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come...** I want to read that again, ¹²... **Plow the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek...** to search... **the Lord, that he may come.** Can you hear the voice of the Lord, church? ¹²**Plow the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower salvation upon you (Hosea 10:12 NLT).** Glory to Jesus.

Proverbs 28 verse 14, ¹⁴**Blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied) is the man who reverently and worshipfully fears [the Lord] at all times [regardless of circumstances], but he who hardens his heart will fall into, trouble, calamity (Proverbs 28:14 AMPC).** Deuteronomy 5 verse 29, ²⁹**Oh, that they had such a [mind and] heart in them always [reverently] to fear Me, always and keep all My commandments, that it might go well with them and with their children forever! (Deuteronomy 5:29 AMPC).** Luke 1 verse 78, and this is showing the tenderness of God's heart towards us, ⁷⁸**Because of and through the heart of tender mercy and loving-kindness of our God, a Light from on high will dawn upon us and visit [us]** ⁷⁹**To shine upon and give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to direct and guide our feet in a straight line into the way of peace. (Luke 1:78-79 AMPC).**

The Lord desires for all of us to have peace in our heart. Not to doubt, not to waver, not to question, not to be thrown forward and backwards; is it true, is it not true? Is it true, is it not true? Do I serve, do I compete? Do I serve, do I compete? Remember last week, I spoke about how that's the system of the world. To compete and to compare. I have to compete to achieve, and God says, "No, you must serve to be fruitful". Hallelujah.

I want to talk about how we're going to plough. How we are going to plough our hard hearts, together. How do I plough? This is directly from Pastor Sharon's teaching. The Lord is teaching her how to plough, so I'm going to read from it.

“So, I found in Hosea 10 verse 11 and 11...now I will set a rider upon Ephraim and make him to draw and Judah shall plough. I knew I was onto something with God and Jacob, next verse, Jacob shall break up the clods, verse 11, clods or big chunks of soil. Remember we spoke about Mark 4 and we saw the different conditions, the different heart conditions. “So, I knew I had to go to the Hebrew. Ephraim which means double fruit and comes from the Hebrew word which means to bear fruit, to grow, to increase, to bring forth fruits. Who knew that, not me but here I am finding the gospel in the garden, right here in Hosea and He's speaking to me about how to plough up the hard ground of my heart? So, there is Ephraim.

Then Judah comes from a Hebrew word Yehuda and this means to hold out the hand, or worship with extended hands to make confession of, to praise, to give thanks, and I knew I had got it. Judah to raise the hand and praise, give thanks and make confession of how great and how wonderful God is to me.

Jacob means to remove, uproot in order to replace with something else, to supersede through force, is everyone getting a picture of this? In order for me to be fruitful in areas that I'm not, in order for me to bring forth salvation, in the gospel in my life, where I am barren, I am to fear Him, to revere Him with extended hands, making confession of who He is and how great He is. Giving thanks and praise for all that He is and all that He has done for me. As I stay in a forcible place, because that's what Jacob means. I'm going to replace this hard-heartedness now with something else, because that's what supplant means. I'm going to replace it. As I stay in this forcible place of praise and thanksgiving then that forcible habit will cause my hard ground to be replaced with tender, soft, fruitful soil. It will cause the ground of my heart to become tilled and fresh and fertile ready to receive the seed. I had it, I knew I had got it, it's the Principle of Praise and Thanksgiving, it's the principle. God has not given you the ability to praise because He's having a bad day. He's given you the ability to praise to help you.

So, this is where I want to talk to you briefly. Some of you were here when Brother Jerry was here last year, February. Was it last year February? Last year February and if you remember the teaching that Pastor John and Sharon did for us, to prepare us for when he came. How to be responsive, to be engaged, not to stonewall the anointing, by our South African conservatism, that word, [Laughing]. Do you all remember that?

I have this very strong in my heart, church that Pastor John and Pastor Sharon, should be receiving the same level of honour, if not more, engagement, responsiveness from us as a people, that Brother Jerry had when he was with us in February. Can you all remember the energy that was created when Brother Jerry would say, “Let's praise the Lord”, and most of you would jump out of your seats, and begin praising the Lord. What happened in the weeks after that, when Pastor John and Sharon came to minister? What happened to the responsiveness and the engagement, the honour? You think the enemy came to steal that seed? You think Pastor John and Sharon are worthy of us to

be responding and engaging with them? Most definitely. So, there is an element to walking by faith, that is fake.

If you remember what we did, you could be tempted to think, that what we did for Brother Jerry was fake, because Pastor John and Sharon told us too, so we were just doing it. Were we not just being obedient? What do you think would have happened to this church, if we had continued to be responsive, like that, engaged like that, from then until now? What do you think would have happened to us as a church?

The reason I say that, that living by faith, is at a time, is fake, because when you plant that seed, there is no evidence of anything yet. If you think about a natural farmer. They plant that seed and for however long it is, there is no evidence that anything is happening with that seed. I believe that as I plant that seed, that seed is going to open, something's happening in the soil and very soon something's going to come out.

Pastor John and Sharon were encouraging us to be responsive to Brother Jerry. Another way of saying that is to not be dead, just fake it, that you're alive. We were being obedient by saying, we'll do that. Brother Jerry leaves, what happens? I know this is a little bit tough, but we go back to being dead, unresponsive. Come on Pastor John, come on Pastor Sharon, preach a message to me, until it excites me enough, that maybe I'll say an amen.

If you and I will be responsive, even if it feels like we're faking it, as a church, with Pastor John and Pastor Sharon when they minister to us, it will not be long and that seed will grow in our hearts and it will become fruitful. It will become the real deal, Hallelujah. There are those of us, around us, that are a little bit more responsive than others. You know, maybe in your personality, you are a more responsive person, more extroverted person. If somebody is shouting around you or being more responsive don't compare yourself to that person, don't look at that person and let what they're doing influence you negatively. Because actually as a body we're meant to be looking at how responsive we are and using that momentum to become responsive together. Not, so-and-so is shouting, and I can't handle their shouting. That's that person's level of responsiveness to God.

So, don't judge that person's level of responsiveness. Rather use their responsiveness and say, I can do that too, I can also be responsive, I don't have to sit as dead as a doornail. Let me tell you Church, it doesn't matter what your personality is. When you get to heaven, you will be highly responsive. You will lift those hands, you will shout, you will throw yourself down in the presence of God.

Do we have to, are we waiting for Him or is He waiting for us? Hello? He's waiting for us Church, to be responsive. Even initially if it feels like I'm being fake, it won't be long, and that seed will grow up and we will become the real deal. We are going to practice this morning, and this has been on my heart for us, to practice as a family. Because that is what we are, we are a family, we're growing, we're developing in this together. I mean, you know, I'm, it's a ...you know I was having this conversation with the Lord and just saying, I know that there is spiritually speaking, there is so much more that I can be for

you, and yet I'm so glad to be going on this journey with you, so you can witness my growth and let my growth inspire you to grow. It's one of the blessings of having, and I'm not saying this to draw attention to myself, but it's one of the blessings of having a young person minister to you is because there are still many things in my life that I'm bringing into order, but let my growth and development inspire you.

That should be the case with each other. I've had conversations with Myles recently, where he you know, he talks to me and he's full of the Word. I let his growth and his development inspire me. I've had conversations with Bertus recently, where he's talking to me about his praise and his glorifying God, and I let his growth and his, you know, I don't look at him and say, "Well Bertus you should be much further than this considering you age." I mean that's funny because that's how the world thinks, but actually I let his growth and his development inspire me to grow and to develop, and that's how we should be as a family not saying, not looking at each other and saying, well I should be much further along now considering my age. Or look at so-and-so, look at so-and-so. We should be inspiring each other to new levels of growth, new levels of freedom, new levels of intimacy with God, Hallelujah. So, we're doing this as a family, Hallelujah.

Praise and thanksgiving, I've said this before, months ago now, and the Lord reminds me of this all the time. Abraham didn't have the Bible. Abraham didn't have the Bible. He hadn't been taught about praying in a heavenly language. He hadn't been taught about holding fast to the confession of your faith. He hadn't been taught about, when you have done all to stand, stand. He wasn't taught all the wonderful things that we taught. Abraham knew how to do one thing, he knew how to praise and worship God, and so, because he praised and worshiped God, the scripture says he grew strong in faith, as he gave praise and glory to God. He grew strong in faith as he gave praise and glory to God. He didn't grow strong in faith as he held fast to the confession of his faith. Can you see the relational component?

I said this to my wife recently, the faith message has been misunderstood because it seems to people like if I speaks the Word enough, I just speak, I just speak, I just speak, I just speak, something will happen, and that is not how God intended it to be. God wanted it to be a relational thing. So, Lord you give me the seed to sow and I sow it, and as I sow it, I live among it. I keep speaking it, I keep thanking you for it, I keep worshipping you for it. It is not a formula, it's relational and the faith messages has somewhat been misunderstood because it has become a formula.

I said this to my wife recently, the faith message has been misunderstood because it seems to people like if I speaks the Word enough, I just speak, I just speak, I just speak, I just speak, something will happen, and that is not how God intended it to be. God wanted it to be a relational thing. So, Lord you give me the seed to sow and I sow it, and as I sow it, I live among it. I keep speaking it, I keep thanking you for it, I keep worshipping you for it. It is not a formula, it's relational and the faith messages has somewhat been misunderstood because it has become a formula.

We are going to praise the Lord for very specific things this morning. I was talking to, sharing some of this with the team this week and Otto came, and he said something to

me that was just a confirmation, really. It is that part of the reason people don't praise God and they worship Him, is because they don't know what to say. They don't actually have the vocabulary, the praise, thanksgiving vocabulary, they don't know what to say.

So, we've got some things on slides for you to say to the Lord this morning. I said this to the people at prayer the other evening. Brother Hagin, our spiritual father, knew by heart two thirds of the New Testament, didn't have to look at his Bible, he knew it by heart. Can you imagine how much of the Psalms he knew by heart? I mean he doesn't... as much I've heard of his ministry, which is a lot, I've never heard him talk about how much he knows of the Psalms and the thing that he would say all the time in his ministry, "The Lord is good and His mercy endures forever." He would say that over and over and over and over, and over, and you can imagine, he must have had a lot to say in terms of Psalms. He must have had quite a wide vocabulary of things he could say to God; "You are great, Your greatness is unsearchable, You stretched out the stars, you set the firmament in their place". I mean I'm sure there is many things he could have said to the Lord and yet he would say to Him, "You are good and Your mercy endures forever".

The Angels have been going around the throne room of God for centuries and hundreds and millions, billions, I don't know how many years saying, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty, and around they come, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty. I'm sure they have more of a vocabulary than that.

The point that I'm trying to make is, you can have one simple thing that you say to God, but if it is real to you and you're saying it from your heart, and you meaning it and your talking to Him, it's powerful every time and every time you say it, it softens your heart.

What we worship, what we praise, what we give thanks for, we attract. This morning we are going to thank Him for His goodness. We're going to thank Him for His Healing power in our bodies.

This is part of why I want to mention the blood, and as far as I know this will be, I won't be ministering again for a while, until Pastor John and Sharon say so, but the opposite of self-consciousness is blood-consciousness.

The blood of Jesus has paid the price for everything. You all agree with that? Jesus came, shed His blood, so that we can be restored back, to how we were originally with God, which means no sickness, no lack, no poverty, no self-conscious, no fear, no insecurity, no deficiency in joy. That is what the blood of Jesus paid the price for. I can't go into that, but blood was, what was used throughout the Old Testament to pay the price for man's sin, so that men could come into the outer or inner courts of God's presence. Now the blood has been shed for us to have intimacy with God, to know Him face-to-face. So, the opposite of self-consciousness is blood-consciousness.

There is nothing that I can do. There is no amount of effort that I can strive, that can that can do any more than what the blood of Jesus has done. The blood of Jesus has been shed so that we can have fullness of life. Fullness of life, 100% life productivity coming

from our hearts. Restoration and full healing in our bodies, the discipline that we need to live our lives for Christ. Everything we need is in the blood, and we have been taught magnificently about the blood too, when the enemy comes to you and tells you, you are worthless and you are not doing enough, and you are not doing enough and, look at you, you know you are not spiritual, you are pretty pathetic actually, when the enemy comes to all of us like that. The blood, the blood, the blood.

One of the best things we could ever be grateful for and thank God for is for the blood of Jesus, the blood of Jesus. Thank you for the blood of Jesus, Father, it restores my soul. Thank You for the blood of Jesus, Father, it makes me whole. Thank You for the blood of Jesus, Father, it is my provision. Thank You for the blood of Jesus, Father, it's my peace. Thank you for the blood of Jesus, Father, it is my restoration in every part of my life. Thank you for the blood of Jesus, it is the unity in my family. Thank you for the blood of Jesus, Father, it is the restoration of my mind, the way that I think. Thank You Father, for the blood of Jesus, it is the healing in my body. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Praise the Lord.

So, let me remind you of this, before we begin to praise the Lord together, that the depth, the depth of your praise will determine the magnitude of your breakthrough. So, this is going to be between you and God, between you and the Lord.

I said this at prayer on Tuesday night, if this is you, (very softly and timid)... *"I praise You, Jesus"* even if you don't do that, I just go *"I praise You Father, I praise You Father, I praise You Father, I praise You Father."* If that is your capacity, that is okay, but if your capacity is, (strong voice) *"I worship You Jesus, I worship You, I worship You, I glorify You"*, that is also okay.

It is the difference between somebody going to gym and picking up a 2kg, and then somebody picking up a 5kg, somebody picking up a 10kg. You can develop your capacity, your strength. I really want us to be aware of this as a church, that we as a people, can stir up an environment where God is welcome. So, the more you praise, the deeper you praise with more depth, the more God sees what it costs you, because it costs you a little bit more to go from here to here. It costs you, and in that cost, it softens your heart towards God, and the most miraculous thing, it softens our hearts towards one another as well.

It is a beautiful thing to give praise and thanksgiving to God. If you want just to start here (Gestures Low), or you can go here (Gestures a bit higher), or you know, some people again are more responsive than others, so if there is somebody else next to you or around you that is picking up a 10kg and is going *"Hallelujah, glory to Your Holy Name forever, glory to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords"*, don't be put off by them, okay? Don't be distracted by them.

So, let's all stand please. We are being obedient to God's Word this morning. We are using praise and thanksgiving to plough up the hardness of our hearts, hallelujah. Glory to Jesus.

I'm not going to praise in to the microphone, because this is going to be between you and God, okay and when we are done with this, I'm going to ask the families to come together, and the families are going to do it with each other, and if we are done with that, those of you who are not well, you are going to do it. We are going to join you, but you are going to do it personally, between you and God. Hallelujah. Glory to Jesus. Praise the Lord, let's go church. Let's praise Him.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, praise Your Holy Name forever, praise Your Holy Name forever, praise Your Holy Name forever, praise Your Holy Name forever, praise Your Holy Name forever. Glory to Jesus, Glory to Jesus, Glory to Jesus, Glory to Jesus, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Praise You Jesus, Praise You Jesus, Praise You Jesus, Glory to Your Holy Name forever, Glory to Your Holy Name forever. O, we worship You Father, we worship You Father, we worship You Father, we worship You Father, we worship You Father, we worship You Father, we worship You Father, we worship You Father, we worship You Father. Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah. Glory to Your Holy Name forever, glory to Your Holy Name forever, glory to Your Holy Name forever, glory to Your Holy Name forever. Hallelujah, glory to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, glory to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, hallelujah, hallelujah. Glory to Your Holy Name, Glory to Your Holy Name, Glory to Your Holy Name, Glory to Your Holy Name, Glory to Your Holy Name, hallelujah, hallelujah. Glory to Jesus, Glory to Jesus, Glory to Jesus. Glory to Jesus. Glory to Jesus, Glory to Jesus, Glory to Jesus.

You talk about unlimited energy, unlimited energy. Glory to Jesus, hallelujah. I was having a conversation with Bertus and Stef on Friday, when we prayed for the people and ah, you know there's, there's a tendency for us to say "I need to do this, I need to do this more, you know, I need to do this more and I need to have my feet more in the message and I need to pray more and I need to be more spiritual." Every time, you think that, you should replace that thought with some form of praise and thanksgiving. Because if you will replace that thought or that thing out of your mouth, with praise and thanksgiving, the Lord will make your heart much more productive with the seed that is already in there. Then for you to be saying "Ah, I really should, I really should be, I really should be, I need to, I need to, I really should be." If you will replace that with praise and thanksgiving, you will see what God will do to your heart to turn your heart to Him, where it's not about I need, and I should, it is I want to. Praise and thanksgiving will change that about your heart. To not, I need and I should, but I want to, then it becomes a pleasure, then it becomes a joy, then it becomes a delight, then you can't wait for the next opportunity. Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Families, are there families that are close together? Just put up your hand, if there are families that are close together, that are seated close together? I want you to grab each other's hands, grab each other's hands, and I want you to get close to each other. Because this is what I want you guys to be doing in your family life. Okay, we can all join them, so that they, they are not doing this by themselves, but I want you to begin to thank God together just begin to thank Him and praise Him, whatever it is that you want to say just let it, just do it as a family.

Hallelujah, glory to Jesus. We worship You Father; we worship You Father. Even if you are just saying, we worship You Father. We worship You Father. We worship You Father. We worship You Father. We worship You Father. We worship You Father. We love You Father. We love You Jesus. We love You Holy Spirit. We love You Father. We love You Lord, we bless You, we glorify You, we love You. We love You. We worship You. We worship You. We worship You. We worship You. We glorify You. We glorify You Jesus. Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah. Glory to the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords, glory to the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords. Glory to the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, glory to the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords. Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, (pastor Garth laughing) hallelujah. Glory to Jesus, Glory to Jesus. Hallelujah. Blessed be Your Holy Name. Blessed be Your Holy Name. Blessed be Your Holy Name. Blessed be Your Holy Name. Hallelujah. Glory to Jesus, glory to Jesus. Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah. Praise the Name of Jesus. Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Hear me now church, because I'm speaking to you by the Spirit, there is nothing that will bring you closer together as a family, than praising and worshiping Him together. There is nothing that will bring you closer together, as a family and together to God, than if you praise and worship Him together like this. You can start softly and let it come out of you, don't resist it, don't push it back down. When you know, because the Christ that's in you, your Spirit Man, wants to be wild. He wants to be wild. So, if He rises up in you, don't squish Him. No, you don't. Let it come out of you, hallelujah. Because it's that very thing that costs you to that brings you closer to God, glory to Jesus, Glory to Jesus.

That's why David says, I refuse to bring to my Lord that which cost me nothing, I refuse to bring to my Lord that which cost me nothing. Let it cost you, let it, you know, I mean that's uncomfortable for me, let it cost you something, hallelujah. Let me tell you something, if you do it together as a church, we make this an environment for God to come. Hallelujah.

People who are trusting God for wellness in their body, I want you all to come to the front, please. If your trusting God for healing in your body. If you are believing God for healing in your body. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Let me ask you this question. Is healing ours? Was the blood of Jesus, given to us for full restoration in our bodies? So that we could live the way that we originally created to live? Full functioning in every limb, every joint, every organ, full health. So, the blood of Jesus has already provided it. Now we are going to just thank Him for it. Even if all you say is, Father, I thank You, for my healing, I thank You for my healing, I thank You for my healing.

Church we can join them, so if you can just be there thanking God for what whatever it is. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Thank You, thank You for my healing, Father. Thank You, thank You for my healing, Father. Thank You for the blood of Jesus. Thank You for the blood of Jesus. Thank You for the blood of Jesus. Thank You for my health and my life and the blood of Jesus. Thank You for my health and my life and the blood of Jesus. Thank You for the precious blood of the Lord Jesus, that was shed for my divine health.

worship, our praise, our thanksgiving. Glory to God. Glory to God, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, praise the Lord. Praise the Lord hallelujah.

Just one more thing, sorry, you can go back to your seat. I want all of you to be aware of how uncomfortable this makes you. So, at different, at different degrees or at different levels; thanksgiving and praise and worship will make you uncomfortable. Thanksgiving, praise and worship will make you uncomfortable.

I have learnt that I hate that discomfort, because that is the very discomfort that keeps me from drawing near to my Father. I hate that discomfort; it's the very thing that prevents you from drawing near to your Father. That discomfort disguises itself in different ways. I can't tell you exactly what that is for you, but ultimately what it is, is self-awareness, self-consciousness.

You've invested into self and invested yourself into the system of this world. The more you invest yourself spiritually the more you give and you sow to the spirit, the more from the Spirit you will reap life. Or you could say it like this, the more you sow to the Spirit the closer spirit, your spirit will come to Spirit. There is no better way church, to draw close to the Father because it costs you, than to praise and worship Him. It's quite easy to pray in our heavenly language; doesn't really cost me that much, in fact I can let my mind pretty much go wherever. I can even speak the Word, you know. "By the stripes of Jesus I'm healed." The minute you have to open your mouth and say, "I praise You Heavenly Father." It's a relational component, now I'm talking to somebody. Oh boy, who am I talking to? And then it is that whole shame idea. I'm not worthy to talk to the Father, and does He even love me? Does He want to draw near to me? Hell yes. Hallelujah. Glory to Jesus.

It's just an amazing thing about praise and worship; we already invited Him here. He's already here more. He's already more welcome here, because we're saying to Him, we will, it will cost me something and I will do it. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

You have to, I said this to the staff and just bear with me. You have to love yourself enough to hate yourself. You have to love yourself enough to hate yourself. Because the element of shame in self, is the thing that keeps you from loving God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind and all your strength. To love God with all your heart, your soul and your mind and all your strength, you have to put away self. Does that make sense? Because to love God with all your heart, your soul, your mind and your strength is going to cost you of self.

That's what I want for us as a church, for us together to be, for it to cost us something. So, when we have praise and worship. I must say it's been wonderful for me to be down there because actually a lot of you, you know you really go for it in praise and worship. When you're up here you don't necessarily get that same experience, but we can invite Him even more. We don't have to wait for it. We can make it happen. Hallelujah glory to Jesus.

they go home. They would worship You, they would praise You. They would thank You. As they get up tomorrow morning and have breakfast together that they would worship You, they would praise You, they would thank You. As they drive in their car, they would worship You and praise You and thank You Father. That the fruit of their lips continually would be praise and thanksgiving. When they come home in the afternoon or when they're at work, they would find a private place, the toilet, their car. They would worship You and that they would praise You. They would come home in the afternoon and together they would worship You and praise You and give You thanks Father, and when we come together again, our hearts would be so full with praise and thanksgiving to You Father, that You would be so much more welcome to be in our midst. Hallelujah, hallelujah.

Thank You for protecting Your people Father. Thank you for the blood of Jesus, that surrounds them and protects them. Thank You for your favour upon their lives, in their workplace You promote them, You cause them to find increase Father. Where in the natural it seems like people are not being promoted, they're not finding increase You cause Your people Father to find promotion and increase Father, hallelujah. You are causing business to come to them in abundance. We believe it Father. We believe it and we thank You for it. We give You praise for it we say, "That You are good, and Your mercy endures forever." Hallelujah amen.

Thank you, church, thank you for coming and thank you for coming back next week.