

# How to Get the Most Out of Life

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*Psalm 119*

By Dr. Jeff Meyers

**Bible Text:** Psalm 119:17-24

**Preached On:** Sunday, January 28, 2024

## Crossroads Ministries

301 S. 8th Street

Opelika, Alabama 36801

**Website:** [www.fbcopelika.com](http://www.fbcopelika.com)

**Online Sermons:** [www.sermonaudio.com/jeffmeyers](http://www.sermonaudio.com/jeffmeyers)

This morning, I want to encourage you to open your Bibles to the book of Psalm chapter 119 right there in the middle of your Bible today as we continue through the longest chapter in all of the Bible, we're going to find ourselves in the third respective section that begins in verse 17. If you're a guest, if you're a visitor with us, or maybe you're worshiping with us for the first time in some time, I want to welcome you to a very strategic journey not just through the longest book or chapter of the Bible, but through a chapter for 176 verses in 22 respective sections has as its subject matter, the impact and the influence that the Word of God should and can have in our life. In previous weeks, we've addressed the benefit of God's Word. We've addressed the power of God's Word. Today, we're going to make a statement but also ask it in somewhat of a rhetorical form, is it possible that the book that you hold in your hand actually is the guide for how to get the most out of life? Today, we have been and will continue to be subjected to endless amounts of opinions, ideologies, and philosophies and yet today, as we turn to Psalm 119 verse 17, we're going to discover that everything that the world is propagating is about to be turned upside down because God in his Word says that the actual way to get the most out of life is very different than what the world often and more often than not propagates.

Beginning in verse 17 of Psalm 119. It says,

17 Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word.  
18 Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.  
19 I am a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me.  
20 My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy judgments at all times.  
21 Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments.  
22 Remove from me reproach and contempt; for I have kept thy testimonies.  
23 Princes also did sit and speak against me: but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes.  
24 Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors.

Eight very simplistic, yet as we're about to see, very powerful verses that give us a guide on how you and I can actually get the most out of this life that God has given unto us, and the first thing we discover in the very first statement of verse 17 is the person that God has called us to be. It says there, "Deal bountifully with thy servant." I want you to

notice, this is a very unique perspective. In fact, the reason it is so unique, the reason it is so unique is because we live in a world today that you would have to admit, you would have to confess that the general theme that is propagated to each and every one of us is that we will never be content, we will never have pleasure, we will never experience life as it's designed to be lived until we acquire or have just a little bit more. The world tells us that you need at least one more of, quote, fill in the blank, more power, more authority, more position, more assets, more resources, whatever it may be.

But what does it say here? Deal bountifully with thy servant. Now when we speak of Jesus Christ, understand, and I know most of us understand this theologically, he is God in flesh. He is the one that spoke the creative order into existence. I believe he is the one that took his hands and he fashioned Adam out of the red clay in Genesis. So if there is anybody who truly understands how life was designed to truly be lived, it would be him. And in Mark chapter 10, I want you to hear what is stated from Jesus Christ. It says that he came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. In fact, you deal with the very first miracle in the life and ministry of Jesus, he is serving, he is giving, he is helping those that are in somewhat of a sociological bind with a wedding feast. You go to his very last miracle when he rose from the dead, he provided salvation for all who would call on his name. His entire ministry is not about what he could acquire, but what he called for, what he could give.

One of the things we discover, even in the, quote, secular world, is that if you want to add misery to your life, just think you need a little bit more of whatever it is you're seeking for. Whether it is assets, power, position, authority, whatever it may be, the studies have been done, do you realize the most content people on planet Earth are the ones who give, sacrifice, and serve others? It's amazing because this is the exact opposite of everything that's propagating our world and you and I, we're the same. We're no different because we discover this is a human condition. Probably of all the apostles, the one that most of us identify the most with is a man by the name of Simon Peter. Why do we identify with him? Because he, like you, often opened his mouth before his brain connected the proverbial dots. He was known for reacting and then realizing that he had either erroneous information or whatever it may be. We identify with him because he, like we, are stiff-necked and hard-hearted. are we not? I mean, think about how many times Jesus had to correct Peter. How many times he had to pull him aside and say, "Man, I know you got the best intentions, but you're just a little off."

You know, when you get to the end of your New Testament, there's actually two letters that are ascribed to Peter's hand. The very first one, 1 Peter chapter 1 verse 1, I want you to hear how it begins, "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ." Now think about that. That's a man who is displaying his title, his position, and rightfully so. I mean, even the Apostle Paul, when he goes to Jerusalem in Acts 15, he said, "I perceived he was one of the three pillars of the church." And so I understand we rightfully recognize him, that was a title he possessed, that was a position he held, but you know, by the time you get to 2 Peter chapter 1, something's happened in Peter's life. He has witnessed those who he loved dearly who are believers in Jesus lose their life for the gospel. He saw powers begin to rise up and systematically begin to persecute the church. You know what he says in 2

Peter chapter 1 verse 1? "Simon Peter, a servant of Jesus Christ." Now, here's the great news, it took Peter to the end of his life to get it which means there's still time for us. At the very end of his life, he finally got it. It's not about my position. It's not about my authority. It's not about anything that I acquire. It's about me being willing to, quote, serve and give myself unto others.

Now, what is the product of doing this? Notice what it says in verse 17, "Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word." Probably the one of the most picturesque passages in all the Bible in regards to this, shall we say, worldly upside down concept, it's found in John chapter 13. John chapter 13 begins a section in your Bible that we call the farewell discourse between chapter 13 and 17 of the gospel of John. It's about twenty percent of the gospel of John and it takes place over about four to six hours. I mean it is an intense time. This is where we find the Garden of Gethsemane. We find the arrest of Jesus. This is where we discover all those Passion event stories. But it begins in chapter 13. It's an event that Jesus had been telling the apostles about for days. Why? Because the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the feast of Passover was coming. He told them where to find the colt. He told them who owned the room. He said, "Here's the place, here's the time. I'll meet you up there." I can just imagine the scene. And by the way, those of you who've never experienced this, imagine a room that's filled with nothing but rowdy men. I mean, they've gathered, they're probably picking on each other, having a good time, there's no telling the jokes that were being told, and then Jesus walks in.

Now this is the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This is Passover. This is a really big deal. I mean, Jerusalem has expanded in its population at this time. You would think this is when Jesus would come and be the center of attention, this would be the time where he would pontificate words eloquent but can I paint the scene of John 13? Jesus walks into this room of guys who for at least 12 hours have been walking the streets of Jerusalem. There's no telling what they looked like, and to be honest with you, there's no telling what they smelled like. Jesus walks in, never opens his mouth, takes off the sash that's keeping his tunic together, gets down on the ground, and he starts washing their feet. Now, I'll let you guess who's the first one to rebuke Jesus. You guessed it, Peter. He said, "Hey, Jesus, we're going about this all the wrong way. This isn't the way it's supposed to be done." Jesus and him get in an argument, by the way, if you've ever argued with Jesus, just go ahead and default. He needs to win the argument. So he does. And then Jesus begins to explain to the disciples, "What I have done unto you, you need to do to others." In other words, this picture of serving, this picture of making others more important than ourselves, he says, "Go and do this unto others."

I love how this passage ends in verse 17, not only does Jesus get up from doing so, he makes this statement, "If you do this," listen to these words, "you'll be happy." That's the word Jesus actually used. How many of us are on this endless search for happiness? We think that one more toy, one more experience, one more this, one more that, but Jesus, the one who formed us, fashioned us, and keeps us who and where we are, he said, "Here's the deal. If you want to be happy, then you need to serve. You need to give. And you need to be about others, and not about ourselves."

Now can we just go ahead and confess we're into the first verse of this section of Psalm 119 and it already is flying in the face of everything that we hear every day of our lives. But that kind of sets the pace, it kind of sets the tone because when we get into verse 18 we're going to see a process by which God has laid out for us, and when we walk through this process and we begin to see what the Word of God needs to be in our life, should be in our life, we're going to go back in time, we're going to go back in history and we're going to look at how many failed attempts humanity has tried to somehow out-think or out-figure God's plan for our lives. Notice in verse 18., "Open thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law." In other words, understanding that to get the most out of life, we need to be a person not self-consumed about what we need or what we want, but rather what other people need in their lives, the process is that we seek God and we say, "Okay God, I need you to show me what I need from your Word."

Now, before we get into the details or the proverbial weeds today, allow me to make a statement. It didn't originate with me. I don't know who it did. But if you want to call it a Meyersism, God bless you. Here it is. The Bible is not trying to keep up with the world, the world is trying to keep up with the Bible. In other words, God has given us information that at times has taken us hundreds and thousands of years to discover. Three things I want to communicate to you before we kind of bring that to a proverbial head. The first was this, tonight, when the sun goes down, and by the way, aren't you grateful it's going down later than it used to a few weeks ago? When the sun goes down, I'm going to challenge you, if the clouds so allow, just look up. Just look up around you. Look at what surrounds us in this incredible universe. Did you know that a thousand years before we quote saw it through a telescope, a thousand years before we as humanity adopted the principle, the policy by which we exist today in Isaiah chapter 40 verse 22, it says that when God looks down, listen to this, he looks at the circle of the earth. Isn't it amazing, it took us at least a thousand years with all of our mind power to figure out something God had already told us.

He said, "When I look down, I see the circle of the earth." Another thing about looking up is found in the book of Job chapter 38. If you're not familiar with that chapter, basically God comes to Job and he says, "Okay, I got a list of questions here that I know you cannot answer. I'm going to ask them rhetorically so you'll realize that I really do know what I'm doing." Do you know that the book of Job, the person of Job, the character of Job was a contemporary of either Abraham's children or his grandchildren? Now that's a nice way of saying he was old. Probably the book of Job, is the oldest book that we have in the Bible and in verse 31 of chapter 30, I want you to hear what God says. He says, "Can you loosen Pleiades or Orion's belt?" And you say, well, why is that important? Because it would be thousands of years later before humanity would actually discover and name those items that are in the sky. In other words, even though the Bible is not a scientific book, what we discover is when science discovers it, the Bible already talked about it. It was already there. But that's not as impactful to me as looking out. In other words, just navigating life and seeing life from our, quote, perspective.

The book of Joshua chapter 1 and God has commissioned the Israelites to go into that famous Promised Land." It's a great chapter in the Bible. It basically says that wherever

your foot touches, wherever you go, you will conquer in his, the Lord's name and under his authority. But in verse 4, there's this little interesting salutation. It says, "And the land of the Hittites you shall overtake." Now, I don't expect you to be real familiar with the, quote, Hittites, but did you know they play a pretty prominent role in your Bible? You say, really? You remember one day David had a hiccup with a young lady by the name of Bathsheba? She was a Hittite. And even though that child of that illicit relationship passed away in its first week of life, she would bear another child, and his name was Solomon. Now can we all agree, Solomon is a pretty big deal in the Bible. I mean, he's a pretty big connecting piece, not just to the Old Testament, but also as we go into the New Testament. Solomon is a main critical character. Did you know, for thousands of years, one of the greatest criticisms of your Bible was that we didn't have any archaeological, we didn't have any secular, we did not have any academic references to the Hittite people. And then came the 1930s. That's right. Just as it always goes, the 1930s, somebody was digging in a place nowhere dug before and we discovered that there was actually these mentioning of the Hittite people.

Now, lest I stopped if today you say, "Pastor, I've never heard of the Hittites. I want to study the Hittites. I'd be interested in learning more about those people." Oh, do you have the opportunity? Now remember, for thousands of years, we were told you can't trust the Bible because we don't know who these people were. Do you know, right now, you can enlist and enroll in the University of Chicago and do a graduate degree in Hittite studies. You can go to Oxford, can we just agree that that's a pretty big one, right? You can go to Oxford and as a part of their D field, which is basically a second PhD, you can major in Hittite studies. And just in case you're ambitious, [unintelligible] University, you can get a full-fledged PhD in Hittite studies. Now let me tell you why that is so important, because for thousands of years, people talked about these Hittites and said, "You can't trust what the Bible says because we've got no verification." Do you see how the dominoes began to fall? In other words, if you give it enough time, academics in the secular world will finally catch up to what the Bible's already been telling us.

Then you look out in Genesis chapter 14. There's this famous story where Abram, it's right before he becomes Abraham, Isaac hasn't been born yet, Abram is going out to fight a battle. He meets one of the most fascinating characters in all the Bible. His name is Melchizedek. Melchizedek, according to the book of Hebrews, was without mother, without father, without lineage. He's a king, he's a priest of a place known as Salem, or the place of peace. After the battle, Abram sees Melchizedek at minimum a representative of the Lord. Do you know what he does? He takes 10% of the spoils. Listen, this is before the word tithes is ever mentioned in your Bible. This is before giving is ever referenced. He just knew, I'm supposed to give away, quote unquote, 10%. Somehow, somehow, he just knew this was to happen. Now, can I tell you how we're finally catching up with this? I don't know if you know this, but at least in our culture, I know you're aware it's sarcasm, we are fascinated with fast food. I mean, it is a multi-billion dollar industry. And you can go look it up, you can go look up fast food industry by volume or by impact. In other words, who sells the most total? You can probably guess, they've got arches and they're made of gold. You know that. But who sells the most per store? Who has the greatest profit margin per location? Did you know that by a

margin of over two to one, in other words, there's not another single fast food restaurant that even does per store half of what this company does, is the only one, you guessed it, closed on Sunday. Yeah, the Baptist bird. You can't get it today. You're going to have to wait until tomorrow morning. Why do I share that with you? Because all the way back in the book of Genesis, the Bible taught us that when you're blessed, if you'll give to the Lord, will you reap abundantly. And their stores do twice as well profitability as any other chain in America.

Isn't that fascinating? We can look up, we can look out, and what we discover, and we could spend hours on this, is there's an untold list of things that the world told us, "Oh, you're not doing that right," and then we finally find out, "Oh, the Bible had it right." So let's look in. Do you know in the book Leviticus, chapter 17, Baptist's favorite book of the Bible, Leviticus, you know what it says in verse 11? That life is in the blood. It's real simple. Humanity for years and years and years thought if you were sick, we need to get the blood out of you. The problem is if you get the blood out of you, you die. That is why when we're sick today, what do we do? We give you good, clean, fresh blood because life is in the blood.

Then you go over the book of Revelation chapter 13 verse 16 through 18. There's this famous story about what we call the mark of the beast. Now did you know that 400 years ago, when the first mass-produced English translation of the Bible was produced, in that passage, they translated it that the mark of the beast would be inside the body. And you say, "Well, why is that significant?" That was 200 years before the hypodermic needle was ever used on the mass market. And you go back and you look at the commentaries on the book of Revelation from the 1700s and the 1800s and they say there's no way that's how it should be translated, for we all know, listen, we all know, you can't put anything in the body. Yet what do we discover today? They not only can put stuff in the body, they can track where you are based on what they put in your body.

In other words, the line is so long of the areas that finally, eventually, secular society said, "Well, I guess the Bible got that right, too." So if we're going to get the most out of our life, rather than adding to this list of things that we, quote, don't have an archaeological dig for yet, maybe, just maybe, we ought to open it up and go, it doesn't matter what the issue is, what the subject matter is, the Bible should be the guide for my life.

Now let me bring that to real time, contemporary culture. What I'm about to address and where I'm about to go is as politically incorrect and as culturally insensitive as you can get. Some of y'all just got excited. But did you know that the first two chapters of your Bible actually address one of the loudest issues of our culture. God forbid, please note the sarcasm, in Genesis chapter 1, God said, "Let Us make man male and female," and yet we got a whole world going, "Oh, that can't be true. That doesn't line up with my feelings. That doesn't line up with my..." Can I just be crass for a moment? My dogs got this figured out. I don't understand why we don't. Then you get to chapter 2, you know what God says? It's not good that man be alone. Now, by the way, another sermon for another day doesn't say it's not good that a woman be alone, somehow y'all can pull that

off, but guys can't. Nonetheless, it says, "It's not good that man be alone. I will create a help meet for him." And the first marriage was between one man and one woman. And yet today, in light of Isaiah, Job, Joshua, Revelation, and a host of other verses, we got a whole culture going, "I don't know if the Bible knows what it's talking about." Isn't it interesting?

So what's the product? What's going to happen? And I know y'all kind of verbally jeered with me this morning. What is going to happen if we actually agree with God's process? Notice what it says in verse 19, "I am a stranger in the earth." We live in a society today that if you talk about what we've just talked about, particularly from the book of Genesis, that our culture will tell you that you are a half-bubble off-center, that you don't know what you're talking about. You don't have a clue. You're going to be a stranger. In fact, you go to the book of Ephesians chapter 2, it says that we're strangers. We are aliens. We don't belong. We don't fit. Congratulations! You're not supposed to fit. Congratulations! If you believe and subscribe to what the Bible says, it is not going to line up with the popular culture and what they are and will continue to propagate. But that's how to get the most out of life. Not to go with the latest fad. Not to agree with the latest opinion. But open up the Bible whether it be in Genesis 1 or Revelation 13, say, "Well, over the last thousands of years, every time we've questioned it, every time we've disputed it, we discover later that God knew what he was doing. He said what he meant, and he meant what he said."

So that being said, what should our petition be? Look at the last statement of verse 19, "hide not thy commandments from me." One of the fascinating biblical studies, you can do this on your own time respectively, is go back and look particularly at the Old Testament, but the entirety of scripture, one of the things you'll discover is this, that when humanity rebelled against God, when humanity thumbed their proverbial nose at God, you know what God did? He got quiet. He got real quiet. He said, "Fine, you're not gonna listen, I'm not gonna speak." You don't believe me, just look between Malachi and Matthew, you got 430 years of silence from God. But all the way back in the book of Samuel, we got a young man Samuel who's there with Eli the priest. God comes in one night and he speaks verbally. Samuel doesn't know what to do with it, he's just a young child. Eli, a grown man with a family of his own, doesn't have a clue what's happening. Isn't that a scary thought, that a priest of God didn't even know when God was talking. Nonetheless, we discover it says in those days, the word of God was precious. In other words, it wasn't readily available. Let's bring this to more of a modern era. 500 years ago, one of the, quote, architects of the Reformation. A man by the name of Martin Luther, listen to this, had a degree in theology and had never seen or read a page from the Bible. You say, well, how did that happen? Because it wasn't readily accessible. It was a time period of rebellion on behalf of humanity against God.

Do you know what the Bible says in the book of Amos chapter 11? It says, there's a famine coming. There is a famine coming for the Word of God and I want to ask you a somewhat rhetorical but difficult question. When you look at our culture, you look at our society, and you compare it to those Old Testament days, you compare it to 500 years ago, you realize that if you're God, you'd go quiet too. There is a famine for the Word of

God. It's coming. Now, I know you and I have a copy in our hands right now, some of you have it on your phone, and that is great, but you know that every other thing we've talked about today the Bible said has come true. We've discovered it. The famine that is most readily picturesque to me is the one in the book of Genesis. You remember that Joseph makes his way into Egypt and God gives him a vision. He says, "Y'all are going to have plenty to eat for about seven years and then it's going to run dry." So what did they do? They took the grain and they stored it up and on year seven, when nobody had any food, you had to go to Egypt. You had to go down there because there was no place else to get food. Well, in Amos it says there's a day coming, not a famine of physical food, but there's going to be a day where we cannot find the Word of God.

Now let me kind of unpack all this. We've made it abundantly clear that the Bible knows the best way to live life. We're to serve and not be served. We're to give, not just accumulate. The Bible said that even though we have questions and discussions and debate, if you give it long enough, we can look through telescopes, we can look through microscopes, we can observe, we can test, and we'll discover the Bible knew what it was talking about all along. Which means that Amos doesn't just say that there's coming a famine for the scriptures, it means there's coming a day, listen to this, where people will not have a clue or a guide on how to live life.

Now, for those of you that are guests and visitors, this is where it gets real, quote, family-based. This is why we're memorizing the scriptures. This is why over a thousand of us have signed up and said, "Yeah, I'll take that chapter. I'll take this section." I want to address this on two very critical levels. I've heard from many of you said, "Pastor, I'm just at a stage of life, I'm at an age of life, difficulties of life. I just, I don't think I can accomplish it." Guess what? You're still part of the family. Don't panic. It's okay. It's okay. But you know what? Right now, if you're willing to go to the website, you know what you'll discover? All the chapters that are left, are most of the chapters that we don't know about. I'm gonna be honest with you, the New Testament, gone. Book of Ruth, history. I mean all the stories that we love. Now there's still one chapter left in Genesis, but it is a 40 verse genealogy and none of y'all are welcome to get there, but there you are. Why is that important? Because would you have ever thought that Job 38 would have had a critical piece of information? Would you have ever thought that Genesis 14 could be so valuable to our lives? And I want to challenge us, there's a lot of chapters out there that we look at on the surface, you know, this week, two people contacted me, two people, and basically made this confession, "I took one for the team. I took a chapter because I wanted to be a part of it. It's not the one I wanted, but I did it anyway." And both of them said, "I had no idea how relevant this was to my life. I had no idea how much these words are communicating about what we're walking through in life." And really what this does is it tests our theology of scripture. Do we really believe that all scriptures inspired by God are just the parts we like? Do we really believe all scripture is inspired by God or just the ones that we hear the most sermons on?

So what's the product? Notice what it says in verse 22, and I'll wrap this up. It says, "Remove from me reproach." One of my favorite passages in all the Bibles in 1 Timothy chapter 2. It says that you and I are to pray for kings and leaders that are among us. By



the way, let me qualify that, not just the ones you like and not just the ones you voted for. It says that we're to pray for them and listen to this, so that we might live a quiet and peaceable life. In other words, so that we can just go about our business as we know we should. Let me go ahead and say it, church, right now, as of this moment, we have access to the Word of God. We might not in a year. We might not in five years. We may not in 50 years. I don't know when Amos' prophecy's gonna come true, but just like the other ones I talked about, it's gonna happen. And in the book of Genesis, they had to go to Egypt to get physical food. Wouldn't it be something if in the days ahead, if you needed spiritual food, you had to go to Opelika, Alabama because we had it hid in our hearts. The answer to every question, the solution for every problem is somehow somewhere tucked in these passages that we may have never read, much less memorize and they, my friends, will give us the guide of how to live life.

Let's pray with our heads bowed, our eyes closed. As we come to the close of our service today, I know we spent a lot of time on the validity and the veracity of scripture but I would be remiss at this time if I did not share with you not a verse about the stars, not a verse about the blood of the body, but a verse in the book of Romans, chapter 10, verse 13. It says, whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. In other words, we've talked about all these matters, but the Bible makes it very clear that if you want your sins forgiven, if you want heaven for eternity, if you want your soul saved, there's only one way and that's to call on the name of the Lord. Maybe today you're that person, maybe you're here in person, maybe you're watching online or listening by way of the radio, but maybe today's that day where even though it wasn't verbally voiced in the message, you know what the Bible says, the Bible says we've all sinned. The Bible says we've all gone astray. The Bible says that we've all made poor decisions. Can I quote the verse? "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." We can talk about science, we can talk about sociology, we can talk about all those things, but at the end of the day, the only thing that really matters is where you're gonna spend eternity and the Bible makes it very clear that it is our sin that hinders us from a place the Bible calls heaven and Jesus is the only answer. So maybe today is the day you cry out. Maybe today is the day that you cry out for Jesus to save you. You don't have to read a script. You don't have to say it in a certain way. This is a heart's cry that maybe today would go a little something like this. "God, I confess, Lord, I've strayed. I have sinned against you. I've been places I should have never been, done things I should have never been a part of. I have spoken words and had thoughts that are so contrary to your Word. Lord, I believe what the Bible says, the result of my sin will be in his death but also says Jesus is the answer. God, today I believe. I believe that Jesus Christ loved me so much he came on my behalf, he lived a sinless life on my behalf. God, today I believe that when he went to the cross, he was bearing the pain and the punishment of my sin, and when he rose from the grave, he actually made it possible that I could be forgiven and I could be saved for all of eternity. God, today, I don't understand all the struggles of life, the problems of life, the difficulties of life, but there's one thing I know, I got a sin problem that only Jesus can fix. In the best way I know how, I'm asking you to forgive me, and I'm asking you to save me. I just want to turn my life over to you."

With our heads still bowed, our eyes still closed, maybe today, you're that person that trusted the truth of that verse, you called on Jesus to save you. We'd love to celebrate with you. We'd love just to pray with you and pray for you. In a moment, I'm going to pray. We're going to stand. We want to invite you. I'll be here at the front as well as others. Or maybe today you say, "Pastor, I'm already saved. I'm already a believer but I need to talk about baptism. I need to talk about being a part of this Bible-believing church." Or maybe today you say, "Pastor, I don't have any, quote, formal decisions, but I'm going through a rough patch. It would be really nice if somebody would just pray with me or pray over me." Whatever it may be, we just want you to know that we're here for you, whatever the Lord has done in your life today.

*Lord Jesus, thank you, thank you that your Word was, is, and will always be true. You made it very clear the heaven and the earth are going to pass away one day, but your Word never will. And so God, today, whatever we're struggling with, whatever we're debating in our heart and our soul, God, I pray today would be the day that we would just, quote, give up and give in to you. Help us, God, today to trust what your Word says. May we act in faith at this moment. It is in the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.*