

# My Godly Father-in-law

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## School of Prayer

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*Father, thank thee from our hearts that we, as thy children can be here in this convention. Thou art good to give us this privilege where many multitudes across the world would do anything for once in their life to have such an atmosphere with God's choicest people all fellowshiping and talking of God and bowing before God and praying through, dragging their families to have fellowship with other children from godly homes. Oh, there are multitudes across the world that would do anything for one occasion in life ever to have a weekend like this, let alone the occasions we have, Lord. But we bless thee for this time together, this lovely convention center which is an awful cost of the Maranatha Baptist Church to lay out. And we bless thee for that, their vision, their willingness, everything from the food held out to all the love in that kitchen, all the love in every room, prepared so lovingly, every preparation, every brochure with the program, everything of the equipment, the recording equipment, everything even on the stage here that someone put these flowers here, Lord, that loved... that that was all they could do, but oh, they did it well. And we thank thee for every one involved in this that we could come. And we ask thy blessings upon them and the congregation, thy blessings upon them as individuals, every single one that did any kindness that we as the people of God from so many states across this country could come and seek God and enjoy fellowship and enjoy all the good things held out to us in privilege. Thou hast privileged us, God. Thou art good and we worship thee and thank thee for every kindness shown to us at this convention.*

*We thank thee, our God that tonight we heard little Samuel, 15 years of age and I bless thee for my son that wanted to stand up for Christ fearful, but longing. And I ask thee, Lord, to give him such a taste of God speaking through him that he would be ruined or anything else in life once he has safe in death.*

*I thank thee for my wife and her life and her sharing everything from her soul with the ladies at this convention and the girls and for my young son Roy doing the same to us as men this morning and yesterday. Keep us as a family under the blood of Christ and safe from the hatred of Satan that we as a family want all to serve Jesus with our whole heart.*

*Oh God, please keep this little family safe, as unworthy and weak and base and despised as we are. Please protect us, anoint us and use us to the day we die, each one of us for thy glory. Come, our God, even with this message tonight and speak to every heart in such a way that we will forget about the person sitting beside us. We become conscious it is just God and me, God speaking to my heart so clearly, so directly that no one else matters now. Oh, come visit us and do something of eternal value in every single heart. Keep us now safe from all the principalities and powers and the rulers of the darkness of*

*this world against whom we wrestle. Keep us safe by the risen, resurrected power of Christ, the Holy Spirit, the angels of God. And not only us, but his whole convention center and nation, a nation that Satan is trying to destroy because it sends out more Bibles than any other nation in the whole world, more missionaries than any other nation in the whole world, more support to the mission fields than the whole world, even missions that have nothing to do with this so long as they are true to God. Oh, there is no nation on earth sending more than America. And Satan hates her and everything that is coming against this nation is Satan.*

*Come in mercy upon America, that part of her that does not love God. If the day come when the scales will reverse and the evil form this nation will out weigh the good and God would have to judge them or apologize to Sodom and Gomorrhah.*

*In mercy awaken the Christians of this land. Protect them under the blood and move in a Holy Ghost revival to set them ablaze for God with no compromise no matter what the cost. In mercy move through the Christians when they know thee and bow in such a way confessing their sins, turning from their evil ways, thy people, called by thy name. [?] their cry for their land. Come and visit this land and heal this land through them. And that is the only way thou wilt come, through thy people if they let thee before it is too late.*

*Come in mercy now to this meeting. Speak to the depth of our hearts to bring about this movement of God that we so long for and wait for in faith. In Jesus Christ's name. Amen.*

Many years ago I preached a message that God for some reason took and reached through this message to multitudes and multitudes of people across the world, countries I have never been, pulpits I have never been into and never will. But somehow God took that message when I preached in the early times of visiting your country and have met with many, many people in the way he honored that message.

I shared about my father, the things I remembered in his life that brought glory to God and that would glorify God as I said them. Someone entitled that message, "My Godly Father." And God has honored it in a way that I would never have dreamed God could honor such a message in such a singular way.

But tonight I would like to speak to you about another man. You see, two months after I was married to Jenny my father died. But God did a singular kindness to me in giving me another father from that moment that I have loved equally as much as I love my own father. I say that carefully. But to be honest, I say it. I love my father, but I love my father-in-law equally because of his godliness.

God gave me such a favor in giving me such a man of God to be a father-in-law that he is as a father to me and has influenced me to follow God as much as my own father did. And I regarded my father to this day as one of the godliest men this world has ever, ever known. Multitudes have never recovered from my father's life. But equal multitudes will never recover from my father-in-law's life, especially this man.

Oh, God was kind to me. I would like to share on his life and attempt in it—hope—that this also will be honored by God to the degree he honored in his mercy the CD and DVDs, the tapes, videos of that message, “My Godly Father.”

I would like to entitle—if you want a title—“My Godly Father-in-law,” in case you are thinking of some other title, brother. I would like that.

Family can destroy you. Family can be your worst enemies and a man’s enemies are the members of his own home because he loves Christ and they want Satan. When a mother-in-law rises up against her mother-in-law, the daughter-in-law against the mother-in-law.

Oh, David had the misfortune of having a father-in-law that wanted him dead and tried to kill him. He lived to kill him.

There was Naomi and Ruth. Thank God for that life. Her mother-in-law was so godly that all that young lady could say from her soul is, “Thy God shall be my God.” That life did that. No sermons. She wanted the God that made such a life.

I have been so privileged to have a man and woman in my father and mother-in-law that have made me seek God as I never would have had I not had their examples, their conduct and the blaze burning in both of their hearts for Christ’s glory to the degree that it is staggering, staggering.

His name is Johnny, that is short for Johannes [?] Larue. You shouldn’t say Larue. People will think you are being rude. Larue is a French name. All the immigrants of the early... and the early settlers came to America they fled Europe for South Africa also. French, German, all... well, a language came, a people came called the last white tribe of Africa.

Well, this Africana speaking man Johnny Larue was saved when he was 14 years old through a teacher. There at school—there was no home schooling—but there at school a teacher came along one year that had more burden for their souls than their academic achievement and he just brought Christ in everywhere he could, pleading with him, pouring out his heart in compassion about the gospel to these young children. And Johnny Larue was so deeply convicted, so stirred by God through this teacher’s compassion and the way he presented Christ calling on them to turn to Jesus and not to go to hell, but to find eternal life by seeking God to save their souls.

At the age of 14, through this teacher’s compassionate cry to his pupils, Johnny Larue knelt down before this teacher. He knelt down with his teacher and he sought God from his soul as a boy of 14 to save him from hell through the blood of Christ and to come into his heart and to save him, make him God’s child.

God saved him, but this teacher swiftly was taken away and he had no follow up, no example, no protection, no one to nurture, no nurturing or... He was suddenly left alone

with no born again believers that knew he was born again to nurture him. And he didn't grow.

He did one thing, though. He knew he was saved. That he never doubted. And he remembered this teacher said the one main thing is never to miss God in the morning and night. And from that time he never did. He took his verses, meditating and he prayed through to God, daily, morning and night.

But he didn't grow as he ought to have, for he stood alone.

His father was up in [?] a district in Africa, in Southern Africa where the ostrich farming and industry was a great, wealthy business and many multitudes of people in the early days found a living in this time of the ostrich market with all the fashions of the world with ostrich feathers and everything else. It really was something.

But it collapsed and all the thousands that evacuated this town and went across Southern Africa and other parts to try and find a means of survival in the days of depression across the world.

This father took this family of five boys and a girl down to what they call the Gamtoos Valley and he tried to start farming. The Gamtoos Valley is in the eastern cape of Southern Africa. You shouldn't say Gamtoos valley, by the way. You have to say Hamptuse Valley or the Boer War will break out a gain. The Boer's don't like you to take their words and anglicize them, so you say Hamptuse. Of course, you don't say that in America because you think something is wrong with me. Anyway, there I have learned to say Gamtoos you are in trouble.

Well, they went to the Gamtoos Valley and this man with nothing but these five boys, a young girl, he began to work so hard it didn't matter what it cost them until he began to get each of these sons a farm. He established them as boys. Each one had their own section of land that he worked like a slave to acquire down the Gamtoos Valley.

It was tobacco farming, but that was what they found there and that is where he had come for hope of making some sort of a living and a future for his children in the hard times of Africa that were faced at that time.

He taught those boys to stand together, not just to look out after themselves, but if one thing went wrong they all came to their brother. He taught them to farm together as one body, as one family, though they each had their own lands. And they did. And they enjoyed each other and they stood together.

And one day on his acquired land of tobacco farming he was standing with his brothers and he looked over to the farm next door over the fence and they were Angles, English. And he saw something that changed his life forever. He saw a girl on a horse riding down the valley and the wind was blowing her hair and something happened, of course, that he went to pieces. I don't know if he had ever noticed a lady before or a girl, but there he

was, this fellow, teenager looking and all his brothers saw him just start gasping at this way.

Well, you know what happens.

And there he was falling to pieces. And, of course, they began to laugh and mock him. So he looked at them and felt embarrassed. He said, “Look. Look at her. I am going to marry that girl. That is my wife. Don’t doubt it.”

That is the sort of man he is, by the way. Well, she became conscious that he was after her and she got scared. She wasn’t so keen on him. And one day in her despair—because everybody noticed this fellow was just desperate to get her attention—she turned and said, “Johnny Larue, you will never get me unless you seek God with all your heart and become a man of God. Until then I won’t let you near me.”

That is something.

He said, “But I am. I am a Christian. I gave my life to the Lord when I was 14.”

She said, “No, no, no. You come to the conventions where the full revelation of God’s Word, the standard of God’s Word for Christianity is preached. You come attend with my family, my mother. I don’t want to go through what my mother went through with an unsaved husband. I am not going to face that Johnny Larue. I don’t want to weep for years and want to serve God while a man doesn’t want God. I don’t want what my mother went... and I want someone who will be the priest of the house, the head of the home and a man of God. That is what I want. So if you want me you come and you start attending the conventions of the godly.”

So he went along. He had never been outside of his church which was the Dutch Reformed Church which most people go to in South Africa. So he comes along now to this big convention where the godly go now. And he sat there in the AV convention, the AV is the mission at which we are in, Jenny and I and Roy. And people from all over came and he saw the godly from all these areas coming and he sat under one of the godliest preachers in our land’s history [?] and then Ethelbert Smit, men who staggered South Africa, staggered that land to reach so many multitudes.

They stood in that convention and he trembled and he despaired at what he had missed, the atmosphere, the blaze of the full revelation of God just burning in his heart, coming from the pulpit of the years he had never heard or grown under the light, just blaze. He thirsted, but he trembled in the blaze of the full revelation of anointed preaching through a man of God such as that.

He began to thirst for God. He began to seek God. He began to go to prayer meetings. At the end of one... of every convention and eventually Enid Jones—oh, that is English—she said, “All right. Now you can marry me.”

So they got married. They were young, by the way, but they got married.

Well, bless the Lord that that happened.

Johnny Larue then found something as he pursued these meetings. He heard a message that Andrew Murray preached, the most singularly used man of God in South Africa's history and one of the five most—I would say—used over the centuries, over the years ministries in this world's history was Andrew Murray.

He heard of a Christian having to come to a place of absolute surrender. He had never heard that before. And he heard how Andrew Murray's message cries out that unless a child of God comes to a place where he comes to the end of himself, unless a child of God comes to a place where he has a personal Calvary and dies to self, unless he comes to a place—though he is born again—of absolute surrender like Jacob, wrestling with God, fighting with God over issues in his life and God didn't win the battle. So God struck him. But he came to the place of absolute surrender and gave in the fight and clung to God confessing his true faith. Though he was a child of God, Jacob clinging saying, "God, have thy way. I will not let thee go unless thou dost... have they way. Have thy full way with me," a yielded confessing, clinging, desperate man for God to meet with him and make him what he ought to be because Jacob's life, though God was still with him was not on the altar and brought him into much shame and hurt until absolute surrender when happened at Peniel where Andrew Murray says, "Unless a child of God like Jacob comes to a place where he gives in the fight of all the light that he has been given, that he yields to God and lays his life on the altar of God as Paul cries out, 'I beseech you brethren, I beg you, brethren, brothers, by the mercies of God that ye present, you dedicate your body as a living sacrifice, holy H O L Y which is acceptable unto God.' He says, 'Your reasonable service acceptable unto God. And be not conformed any more,' in its translation, 'be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds that you may prove what is that good and perfect and acceptable will of God.'"

There has to come a place of dedication in a Christian's life. God will consecrate only what you dedicate. God can't dedicate. You can't consecrate. But when you dedicate your life as a child of God according to Romans 12 verse one and two and three, God consecrates. You will be filled with God the Holy Spirit at absolute surrender when you come to a place where you have a personal Calvary, where you die to self and lay everything on the altar. You don't die physically, but you die and God has you on the altar of sacrifice, a life totally on the altar of sacrifice for God.

And then God comes.

Oh, Andrew Murray says, "Unless this happens in a child of God's life he will become a grief to God and man beginning in the home."

Unless this happens to a child of God, though you are saved, unless a child of God comes to a place where you have a personal Calvary and die to self and have an absolute

surrender and seek God to cleanse you through and through and through and through—that is Andrew Murray’s terms—with the blood of Christ, not just from the guilt of it, but God cleansing you. They were filled with the Spirit. Their heart has been cleansed by faith and God fills you with the Holy Ghost.

Andrew Murray says being filled with the Spirit isn’t like a glass of water half filled. And now they empty and half gets filled. No, the Holy Spirit is a person. He can’t be half in you.

So what does it mean to be filled with the Spirit? He is in you otherwise you are not saved. And that grief that you feel of your failures and inconsistencies and lack of growth and compromises, that is his grief driving you to despair to come to a place where you are desperate like Jacob. God has to have everything.

But I am saved. I am his child. What does it mean, then, to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Well, that person in you just takes full control, but he can’t do that unless you are absolutely surrendered. You have to do that. He is in you. He has saved you. Your life has changed, but there is so much crying out that just makes you despair and come to a crisis moment.

Hudson preached it. William Booth preached it. John Wesley preached it. Charles Finney preached it. You could go on and on and on. The fullness of the Holy Spirit, the absolute surrender, being filled with the Spirit is not something about gifts. 1 Corinthians tells you gifts are obnoxious and not of God unless you have the fruit. And all that happens is when you yield and he takes control, that’s all. Being filled is just to be taken control of by the Holy Spirit. All that happens is that from that time on which spontaneously—not by efforts of your own—the fruit of the Spirit, the evidence of the Holy Spirit is in you. You react with the fruit of the Spirit. Love suffereth long and is kind. You can’t do that by a set of rules and laws saying I am going to live the standard and so thou shalt not so you don’t. I must love...

No. it must be a spontaneous reaction, not an effort of yours. And only when God has taken the [?] filled you will you find that the fruit of the Spirit is there when he has taken full control because of an absolutely surrendered life and spontaneously you will react by the fruit, the evidence, the reaction, the response of the Spirit being in control. You will react. You will suffer long and be kind. You will be able to find the ability to love your enemies, to bless them that curse you, to do good to them that hate you, to pray for them not with... not pray for their death, but pray for their good, that despise, persecute you.

Oh, this is why we have to come to that or we struggle to it saying the standard of the New Testament. I have not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it. How? By putting you under the bondage of a whole lot of laws again? No. Are you using your yielding your life and me living it through you?

You can't live it yourself. You will never. You will despair until you die trying to live the standard, the full standard in the light you have been given. You will never know perfection ultimate until you see Jesus.

But what you do know, Andrew Murray says, instead of a life of ups and downs suddenly from yielded you will see a consistent growth into more and more of the image of Christ as more light is given to you and you continue... But there has to be this initial yielding, this initial dying of self, this initial person of Calvary, as it were, whereby you yield all on the altar.

Well, my father-in-law was so staggered by this message as it came and he saw his need. He saw his inconsistencies. He was the scaring of his failures though he knew he was saved and loved God. But he knew he was grieving. God had so many levels.

That message made him kneel before God and say, "Everything, everything is on the altar. Take everything no matter what it costs. I want the full light to be my life."

Well, he stood up. From that time the next thing he did was the first thing he ever did as a Christian that staggered the world. From the time of absolute surrender, the first thing he did staggered his world, everyone who knew him. Before that, nothing had staggered anyone for Christ and Christ's glory though he was saved.

He went home. He called his father. He called his brothers and he said, trembling, still young, married though, "This tobacco is sin. I have to stop. I am going to over to vegetables. I know it is profitable, it is money and it doesn't seem there is money in vegetables, but I cannot have liberty naming the name of Jesus with tobacco. I am plowing it in to the ground and I am planting potatoes."

Well, they laughed at him. They laughed and they laughed. The father was angry, but the brothers were laughing. The father was shocked, but the brothers were laughing. Others laughed. Oh, the news went by. "This fellow is plowing his tobacco with all the profits of tobacco farming in this area that is tobacco land and this irrigation system with this rich, wealthy soil. What is he doing?"

He became like a joke.

Eventually there were even people protesting that this is tobacco land. You don't change the whole system. Everything functions with tobacco. Don't you start bringing...

There was so much reaching about this and so much of the valley aware what he did, this single man.

But let's remember something, beloved, God honors them that honor him. And he cannot deny himself. He said he will honor you if you honor him. He so prospered, he so prospered that others began to just plow their tobacco in and start planting vegetables. He out prospered the others. He so prospered that he got into the newspaper of the Eastern



Cape, the main newspaper. Now I know that newspaper is something... the whole of South Africa knows the name of that newspaper, it is... He had got an entire... they called him the potato king of the Eastern Cape he so shook what happened in his business and his farming.

Then his brother also followed God and Opie, the younger brother that loved him and followed the Lord with him, at the beginning he plowed all his tobacco in the land his daddy had gotten him and he planted tomatoes and he became known in the paper as the tomato king.

I am glad they don't call me a potato king. That doesn't really sound wonderful, but anyway that is what they called him in the secular world.

God honors you. God honors them that honor him. Now at that time God did something very, very unusual. He sent a young missionary from the AV. Many of our young workers went through Africa. Many died. Many came home to die in their early 30s and 40s of diseases, worn out for souls in times when it was very difficult to survive in the African continent. But they went out.

But they sent to the Gamtoos Valley, our mission in those early days, they sent a young lady. She was so small. I knew her in her old days, Annie Nevote. Now that is hard for you to pronounce, but Annie is like Anne and Nevote is like new wood, Newvote, yeah, I think so.

Anyway, this little lady was brave. She had a braveness that few Christians on earth would ever know, trust me. This is the testimony of multitudes. That little lady was sent a young lady, not great experience, but one qualification. She was ablaze for God and she just wanted to burn out for God and she just wanted the privilege of winning souls to God.

She went into the Gamtoos Valley, they became conscious of her, Johnny Larue and Enid and the other few Christians around. And this woman's braveness for God as she went from farm to farm telling them why she has come. Not a Jehovah Witness, but she had a Bible. She was dressed in a godly way. And they let her in and farm upon farm turned to Christ, the children.

People just began to turn to God. Down the valley farm after farm until everyone was speaking about this woman. You know, she couldn't drive a car. Until the day she died she couldn't drive a car.

So they said, "Well, you can't walk from farm to farm."

Johnny Larue and a few others said, "We'll give you a horse. You can't drive, we'll take a horse."

So she took this horse because she felt obligated, but she never rode it. She just walked with the horse. They said... they all used to stand there watching. What is she going to do?

And the rivers came and she would take her shoes off and walk the horse through.

Oh, well. She was famous for her horse then. When you see this little lady coming with her horse, run, because she is after your soul.

Well, one old farmer, she is a big man. Many of the farmers, the Boer they call there, the Boer, they are farmers and they are big. You want to see their hands. I got a hold their thumb, that is about all I can reach, you know, because they are so big and strong fellows.

Well, this one big old farmer heard about Annie Newvote. Everybody is talking. When she comes along she wants your soul for God. She comes to your farm and this old farmer got up and said, "You are never getting my soul. No, not this I E B sick that comes along, you know, wanting this rubbish and telling us all, I [?]. I have got my church. Do you want to come here and talk about a soul. You won't get my soul. I will take my [?]," he says in Afrikaans, this big long whip that the farmers had for the animals. He goes and grabs it from behind the door.

"[?] I will kill her."

He was an angry old man and a big man.

Well, they told Annie Newvote about this farmer what he said. It got back and she said...

Well, lo and behold, what does she do? The next day she takes the horse and goes to this farm.

Now this man was inside and they all ran, the family and different people and said, "Annie Newvote, the one with the horse, the one who comes for your soul. She has come. She is going to... she wants us to... she is going to..."

He goes, "Not me. She will not get my soul."

He gets his whip. He runs off and sees there standing at the door with the horse a the bottom of the steps and he stands and he starts cursing and swearing and even blaspheming. And this poor lady—everybody else was trembling—and she looked at this big man swinging the whip. She looked at him. It was so funny because she just started laughing and she started crying. She saw this as [?] the way this... pig.

But what does a big man do when a little lady is screaming, crying with laughing at you at your worst efforts to... your best effort, I mean?

Well, he looked. Everybody else is looking at her and looking at him. Oh, the... everybody know...

So he walks down the steps and he looks at this little lady. He throws down his whips. He kneels down. He says, "Take my soul."

She brought him to Christ. And, you know, he really got saved. Can you believe such a testimony?

Well, her braveness shook the whole valley in the end. The whole valley—and this is a long and wide... it is amazing how long the miles and the miles and the farms of some of the richest land, soil for farming and this irrigation scheme of the Gamtoos Valley, the great Gamtoos River.

Well, so many came to God, but this lady, this young, this small lady full of boldness for God that nothing to fear in her heart. She just went to every soul that she could find and she stood. She turned the world upside down, that little lady.

This made Johnny Larue change course forever. He thought as he watched her: If such a little woman God can use as she is so brave, I am going to witness.

He started witnessing. It set him ablaze. He copied the way she would speak, you know, the way she would witness. And he began to witness to every single soul he came near. I can't say all the others did, but he did. He began to witness as people come on the farm and they would come, all these business people to try to get the farming business, you know, with the implements and all the things for the crops. Johnny Larue became know as the man that if anybody comes for business for the farm, especially such big farms, such farms that are prospering he would say, "You have come for business. Good. Come in. First there is a more important business as yours. Then I will speak to you. Your soul."

Oh, people became scared, you know. This is a business man, even these people who are salesmen. They knew. This word got around. There is a man that just confronts you about... he spoke to everybody with such compassion, with such amazing compassion almost a desperation that they have to listen. They have to listen to the bitter end of everything there is. There is a heaven. There is a hell.

All down the valley, everywhere in the towns all surrounding, Johnny Larue became a name.

I was sitting and having my haircut in what they Humansdorf, it is about 40 minutes drive from the farm, one of the towns there in the valley. And I was sitting there and the man was saying, "Where are you from and what are you doing?"

And I said, "Well, I married a girl who... a farm girl and..."

“Oh, which farm, who, which family?”

I said, “The Larues, Johnny Larue is my father.”

And he stopped cutting my hair and he went and stood in front of me. “You are Johnny Larue’s son-in-law?”

“Yes.”

“Oh. Johnny Larue is the only man in my life that ever, ever talked to me about salvation. No person in my life before or since has ever told me I am going to hell, quoted the Scriptures, told me I can find eternal life by grace through faith in Christ [?]. The only man in my life that ever...”

You walk past people, brethren. They think they know the way. You might be the only one that came near them that could have and should have, could have and should have.

Oh, he began to weep. Eventually they started to preach. Him a lot of the other young Christians, they took the preaching and they asked to preach and, oh, every opportunity, whoever they could gather, the workers, the laborers, just bring them in lorry loads and fill out the buildings and the sheds and just preach out their hearts. And souls started coming to God.

Eventually God so anointed him he started preaching in churches, in the pulpits. And as the years went by into some of the greatest conventions in the whole of South Africa where ministers of high academic qualifications and theological seminaries would just flock to sit at the feet of a man who has never ever been in Bible school, but in the school of God has a ministry so practical, so compassionate that they don’t want to miss it. And he became loved and revered for the way he so longed to be used of God.

I first heard of Johnny Larue through a man called Rusty Fenter. He was a missionary, actually the superintendent of all the young missionaries. And he would get them organized and I first heard of Johnny Larue through this man when he was driving me when I was very young in the faith to go help in a big convention in the Gamtoos Valley. And he said, “There is a man here called Johnny Larue. You are going to meet him. I know no man in my life like this. He is so ablaze for God. And there is no man in this whole state, this area that stands at the work of God like Johnny Larue. Everything is just for God and you are going to be blessed by him.”

He said, “You know, Keith, in 1968 the floods came.” There is books written on the Gamtoos Valley, the taming, the trying to tame, when they thought they had tamed it, it just smashed the whole dam wall and went down as the dam just collapsed. Hundreds died, hundreds, the farms swept, destroyed all the crops, all the implements, hundreds just swept away. What that valley... the hundreds and hundreds of lives that have been swept away.

Jenny's great grandfather was given an award from the King of England for his braveness in going out in his little dangerous thing trying to rescue people hanging on to trees, all the lives he saved. And he was godly.

And he said to me, Rusty Fenter, "The floods came, the river came, the farms were swept, the houses, the people, lives lost. The radio said the bridge is one kilometer with... the bridges are washed away. There is no crossing. There is no way of getting to them. Now way they can come. And I knew that most of the godly have lost everything in life. There is nothing left. They have lost everything they have in life. And my buren was for them. And then eventually the newspapers, the news on the radio says there is a mote being developed where they bring all the cars and the vehicles who want to get across. There is chance now. They pull with the ropes as all these vehicles now can get on a mote and cross over because there was no possibility of repairing the bridges swiftly."

So he went. He thought, at last I can go and see the godly and find comfort and encourage them and pray with them because I know they have lost everything in life. People were attempting suicide, some did. They lost everything they knew. They could never get on their feet again. They never ever could recover. They had lost everything.

He went to the burdened hearted and they saw the mote coming across with the cars and the vehicles and there was a face. And as it got close to you, you recognized it was Johnny Larue. And Johnny Larue recognized him, this missionary. And he shouted, "Hallelujah!"

Hallelujah? Boy, boy, the man has lost everything in life. How can he shout Hallelujah?

Not a word of grief, not a word arguing against God for the injustice, not a word just praising God in joy.

I looked at him. I could hardly speak. I come to comfort him and he is now speaking to me. God is speaking to me?

No murmur. Not the slightest, not one word negative about what has happened or [?].

Come. We will go back and we will with you to visit all the farms you want to, all the Christians.

As he went he said he became aware of something staggering. Johnny Larue took hold of farmers that were suicidal many of them, sitting there, given up. There is no hope. He said, "You get up." He took his own workers, any implements they could find. He didn't go on his own farm. He went from farm to farm first to others and said, "Get up. We are going to stand together. We are going to get going."

And he got them going, getting on their feet. His life gave him the right to witness as never before because that message went that that man didn't give up and he got up and he got out of everywhere he could because of his faith in God. And they got going again.

Well, years went by after that first meeting when I just stood and looked at him, didn't gather too close to him, further than that. And one day I met his daughter and that was the end of my life.

I don't know if Jenny is here. Perhaps I had better be careful, but anyway she might have fled by now. Nonetheless I was in the ironing room of a Bible school. It was a big convention. She was at Bible school. Twelve years of age she stood up and said, "I want to be a missionary for Christ." That is all she had ever dreamed of. And here she was now just left school into mission. She is in the Bible school now preparing for any way God wants to send her.

Well, at this convention they took over this big Bible school and all of the facilities and the grounds. They are very conservative, very strict. No girls are allowed anywhere in rooms with men.

I was in the ironing room with some brother and ironing my shirt and we were talking away you know and suddenly the door opened and two girls rushed in and there was Jenny, of course. And all I heard was, "I am sorry. The meeting is starting. We stood outside for so long that you go on and on. We have to iron our clothes or we can't go to the meeting. Sorry. We have just got to take..."

And then... they don't look at us. They are just suddenly ironing, you know. And I never ever saw anything so beautiful in my life.

Well, smoke was coming up. I was burned... the iron was on my shirt and so I didn't lift the iron up. I just got rid of the smoke and I was doing this, you know. And the brother was saying, "Keith, what is wrong with you? The shirt is burning."

And he pulled it away.

I saw Jenny looking up and wondering, "What is wrong with this man. He must be a little bit... You know, smoke all over the place."

Of course, I was blood red in embarrassment. I was gasping at her. I had never ever seen anything so pure. It wasn't another beauty that perhaps in my unsaved days I noticed. It was something so pure that I was staggered. I was staggered by the integrity and purity that shone through this whole face [?].

Well, she didn't seem to notice me in the same way, but I could hardly sleep. The convention was over for me. The messages all I was doing was looking around where is she, you know. Every time she came down a passage I said, "How am I going to stop her?" But she seemed to be everything [?] walk past, you know, didn't want to see me.

There was no hope, but God did something wonderful.

I will tell you this story one day, but anyway, one thing led to the other and she began to notice me and at least I think God began to put something in her little heart to say, "This is the one I have kept you for all these years you waited and prayed for him."

The AV did something staggering. They decided right then to send me to the Eastern Cape to the Gamtoos Valley area. She went on holiday from that little convention. I was placed there and I was given a few days off and they said, "Go and stay with Johnny Larue."

Oh, I was on the farm and I was in love and all I looked in the sky and I looked at the clouds and I just saw Jenny. I looked at the moon and I saw Jenny. I couldn't get her out of mind, you know, Now I am on the farm she is in. Now I am sitting at the table and suddenly, I mean, how do you hide it?

Her father, I saw him getting pretty earnest because I was trying to act normal, but I would look at her and I would just melt. And, of course, they saw it and I saw his eye looking at her and looking at me and said...

He didn't look to happy. But from the moment he saw me looking at his daughter he started preaching at me. He preached. Whole sermons were worked out for me from that day to this day. He has never stopped. He works on whole sermons. I mean, it is unbelievable. His wife even said on two occasions over all the years as they all sitting around the table, Johnny is so obvious this whole message has been worked up for Keith.

Have you no shame?

Well, I look at him, you know, when I see him and I just say, "Please, let me preach. I am ready you know." Even the appeals. Everything is of me. He [?] from the moment he saw me look at his daughter this man is going to not fail us or fail my daughter. I am going to keep him on the road ever from the day he saw me looking at her.

Well, bless God for that. Anyway, it was lovely. It was precious and Jenny and I got more and more conscious it was God and men were praying for us.

And then, of course, one day I asked her if she would marry me and she was in hospital at that stage lying in quite a state and she said, "You do choose the right moment, don't you?"

She said, "You have to ask my father and mother because I am young."

So I went and I went to the mother and said to Aunt Enid, "I have never ever been in love before in my life. I never knew love. I was infatuated. I was attracted, but I never knew what I know now. I have never ever known what has happened in my heart. I want to marry your daughter and I do believe it is God's will."

"You will have to ask Johnny. Don't ask me. Go. Go find him."

That wasn't very encouraging so I am walking down and out to the shed and he is down there with all the things and the machines and the workers and he is, "Oh, come in the office. We will have a cup of tea. I will take a break."

So we sit there and I said, "Look. I came here for one thing. I want to marry Jenny. I love her. I won't fail you. I can't promise to be perfect, but I will love her with my whole heart until I die if you will let me."

He stopped smiling, sat back. He looked at me for at least four minutes without blinking and I was unnerved waiting. I didn't say a word.

He said, "Keith, I want you to do me a favor. I want you to look at Jenny's mommy carefully. I want you to look at everything about Jenny's mother because that is what you will have 20 years from now exactly, her conduct, her standard, the way she speaks to me, the way she has raised her children, the way she runs her home, her reaction to me and everyone else. I want you to look at Jenny's mother because, Keith, that is what you will get. In 20 years that is all you will have. Is that what you want, Keith? Don't answer me. Pray first."

And I did pray. And I said, "I think she is lovely, your wife. And you look so happy. I would love to know your happiness for the rest of my life."

Well, that was the right answer because he smiled.

He said, "All right, then you can marry my daughter. But I am watching you."

Only he could have said it the way he said it so I can't even tell you what it meant the way he said it. But, anyway, well, we courted. We had to wait for a good while. And they began to preach all the time in every way. You can't...

Well, they didn't have to. Their lives were a message. I was sitting in the car with Jenny's mother in the front seat and Jenny was sitting in the back and her two sisters and we had just come back from Port Elizabeth the big city with Christmas shopping and everything else. And we need the food in it.

And so we are now driving back and I am driving and we get back to the farm and we are talking and talking and we are sitting outside of the farm at the gates there, at the garages. And Jenny's mother after a long time says, "Keith, do you want to know why we are sitting so long in this car talking like this?"

"Yes."

"Because I was brought up that a lady doesn't leave a car until a gentleman opens the door."



I suddenly realized it wasn't my good company and I felt very bad. I says... I got out and opened the doors and they all got out and I just looked at... and I thank God she told me that, you know, because I didn't do that before. But from them would I open the door for my wife.

Their lives were their message. They didn't have to preach. Their lives, their conduct, I mean the love they had in that home without any... So I was trembling at times. They so loved each other it was...

One day when Johnny, her father, now a whole lot of preachers, a whole lot of Christians are [?] and suddenly he jumps up. "Keith, quickly come."

And he is running so I... "What is wrong? What has happened?"

"My wife has come home."

And he runs, "With Jenny. Come on."

Tell me, do you run, sir? [?] funny. Does your wife know you run you so love her still when she comes home? He runs. It wasn't for me. He didn't moan at all the things she bought, the packets of [?] and all. It was a wonderful... I looked. Every time she comes home he is out there. Oh, she is...

When she has got a... you want to see the occasions on the farm, the tea. It is an occasion. Oh, quickly, quickly. Johnny is coming. Thy are coming up. And the capes and the lunch it is an occasion. She is excited. Her husband is coming off the land. [?] and I can't believe the way they set that table. See [?] it is like an occasion. They love each other. They are excited, the tenderness, the love that is there not for us. It just flows out of them.

I don't believe you grow less out of love and attraction and excitement at each other's company once you get married. If you stay right with God it becomes more. But do you honestly think God wants it to become some evil monotony? The thrill of being together, the excitement, that they look at each other. She matters more than anyone else at the table, her opinion.

Is that not what God wants in marriage or do you think that was left behind when I fell out of love when she got a loss of perfection afterward? Is that Christian love? There is something more deep in God's love, brethren, than that. That is the world's love when it is just [?]. Our love is different. It is holy. And it is as holy as you are.

One of the greatest men of God in America said, "I can tell you holy a man is by the way he speaks to his wife, [?] and I have never been wrong, Keith."

Oh, the blessing of their life. They just were such an example. Well, eventually we got married, Jenny and I for which I bless God for my soul. It was like a meeting that people said they can't even remember in their lives attending a church meeting or conference

which was so blessed by the presence and the glory of God resting upon us at that wedding.

People came from across the whole land, godly and, oh, it was just precious that wedding and I do thank God that I was married into this lovely family.

Well, God didn't stop speaking through him, his example. He just kept on, God keeping on, staggering my life to this day.

I remember on one occasion I was sitting in a meeting like you are and the preacher in the pulpit began to attack me from the pulpit and everyone in that meeting knew who I was and my father-in-law was in that meeting at that convention. This man somehow just lost all control. Somehow the devil had so told him things about me and this was his moment. He just forgot and he started attacking as if he wanted to destroy me forever the way he stood there in that pulpit. Have you ever... Imagine a man from the pulpit could name you, single you out and just attack you, my integrity, my motives, the true fruit of my ministry whether it was of God.

I just trembled. I don't know if just being absolutely surrendered and filled with God the Holy Spirit means you can't be hurt, but I was hurt. I was grieving. I was grieved. Tears just welled up in my eyes. This man is destroying me. Will I ever recover from such a public attack, such a disgrace thrown out with such venom and anger that somehow the devil had gotten into this man's heart.

I trembled. I trembled. I trembled.

And then the end of the meeting came and I thought I have got to get out of this room. I have got to get out of this building before anyone speaks to me. I have got to get alone with God. I can't face anyone.

So while they were praying I was trying to get past the seats, trying to get out of the rows. And suddenly the press stopped and I was caught before I could get out the door and people all looked for me and I saw tears in everyone's eyes. Everyone was grieved at what he did. The whole convention atmosphere was crushed. Oh, what a terrible thing. People just put out their hands to me. A godly man just in front of all people as they were holding me, just touching me said, "Don't you worry, Keith, boy, he has destroyed himself. He hasn't touched you."

But I still wanted to get away. And tears were coming down my face and I was trembling. It wasn't easy. I walked out of that building eventually and I found myself outside just pushing past people who were all turning to want to speak to me and comfort me, encourage.

I got out of the building and about two or three preachers stopped me. They wouldn't let me past and they began to talk of their anger at the cowardice of this man, the unethicalness, the breaking of every... the destruction of the whole convention, destroyed

by what he had done. There is no hope of blessing now. It was such a failure. People were angry at the cowardice of taking advantage of the pulpit what he should have perhaps spoken alone.

And then just as I was about to speak because a whole lot of people had gathered listening to these men and they wouldn't let me pass, just as I was about to express what was going on in my heart and my grief, I heard a voice.

“Keith.”

And there was my father-in-law, taller than most and the passage way just opened over all these 30, 40 people standing around me and he just walked. And he had tears in his eyes. It hadn't been easy for him as a father nor to hear what was said, what happened there, the wrong of it, to hear all those things as accusations. And there was silence and he put his hand there and he looked me in the eyes and said, “Keith, my boy, listen carefully.” And he said it loud for everyone listening. No one moved. “I hope you know what this is all about, Keith. Listen carefully. In the school of God every one faces tests, exams, just like secular school, the standard, the grade you were in. You call it grades, standards over there. You have to face tests in every standard, every level. And if you fail the exams that you have to face, you have to go and face them again until you pass. It is the same in God's school, Keith. Before you get to the next level, no matter how many times you go to those exams you have to face the same exam. Keith, it is the same in God's school. Nothing happens that isn't the school of God if you are a child of God. Listen carefully, boy. This is a more difficult test than most of us have had to ever face, Keith. And I don't know why God is letting you face such a difficult test, but, it is a test that if you fail you are going to face it again. I guarantee you in the school of God I have learned it, Keith. You passed the exam, Keith, or you are going to face this again. Do you want to face it again? Pass the exam in God's eyes in such a way and men's eyes—and men are watching you—or you will face this again, Keith. Trust me.”

And he turned and walked away and suddenly without a word everybody just disappeared, no one dared to speak after that.

Suddenly everything was different. The whole perspective changed. I found a peace flooding my heart. I started talking to God without negativeness. The next day the convention, they announced something. We are all going to go as a convoy, all the cars, the vehicles, the humvees, the vans, every vehicle available is going to take the whole convention, conference to another conference center like mind that was uniting and we were going to stand in one single meeting with this whole other effort and we were leaving at a certain time in the afternoon. Everybody has to be out of the building in all the available cars and we all leave together so you don't get lost on the way. We all know somebody leads us to where these people are gathering in other facilities.

Well, I, of course, suddenly realized I was late and I suddenly found everyone is gone. I am the lost one in all these buildings and so I ran outside. The cars are all revving and they are idling their engines and everybody looks and saw here comes the latecomer and

it is me. Everybody is sitting and so I am trying to find a place, a car, not one car had a seat available. They are crammed up.

Can you believe it? Eventually, well, he is looking. What are they going to do with it?

So there is right over, the other side of all the parking, all the cars and the vehicles and there is one seat, one seat in the whole convoy. So I am running now. I am keeping everybody waiting. And as I got to the car and they saw who was coming I just saw despair. And as I looked in the car, the only seat available in all those vehicles was next to the man who tried to destroy me.

You see, that is what happened. That is God. Let's face it. That cannot just happen. That is God.

You are in a school. You are going to face tests, brother, every single thing. Even when things are going right. That is the hardest time to face the exams, by the way. I am learning.

Pastors, God wants you when everything is going right and you don't have to cling to him.

Oh, I looked at that car. I looked at that seat empty. I looked at that face. He was white. Everybody, the driver he just looked down. So, of course, I'd keep it. I get in. I sit next to him. They shut the [?] door and now we are driving and there is dead silence. And I saw the man diving, his eyes in the rear view mirror looking at me. And I looked around. Everyone is looking at me.

What am I going to do? This poor man beside me trembling. He was under such conviction. God by that time had shown him the wrong, shown him how wrong he was in what he... he knew he was wrong now, completely... he was in a state. He was white, sitting there trembling. His eyes as I just looked at his face. You know, welling up of tears and his little lips. He was in a state.

And we are driving. So I look out the window and I prayed, oh God, give me the grace I don't have. I just don't have it, but give me the grace I don't have to pass this exam in God's eyes and men's eyes.

And then I watched him in such a way... let me pass in such a way I will never have to face it again. I don't want to face it again. Please, let me pass. Give me grace now.

And I turned and looked at this man and he looked at me and everyone in the car looked. And I put my hand on his arm and I said, "Sir, I want you to know that I love you. I love you and I am going to pray for you, your life, that God will honor you and bless you. I am going to pray from my heart for you to be so blessed by God and honored by God and I saw something in his eyes that will treasure for eternity. I saw respect from a man who so hated me that the night before he wanted to destroy me like no other person I have

ever known in my life wanted to. In one reaction he respected. He didn't just hope things would come right. He was so staggered, he respected me. That look I will treasure. I could have given him back what he gave me and never ever seen that treasured moment.

Beloved, no matter what circumstance you face in life, no matter how hard it is that you look to God for grace to pass the exams, he is obliged to give you that grace. There is no circumstance that you will be tried above that you are able to bear. God promises and he will give you. He is obliged. He wants it more than you. He has promised it.

You have to want it, though, so much that God lovingly reaches out and gives you that grace and discernment.

There is nothing you ever face in life that isn't an exam and you either pass it or you fail. And if you fail it, brother, sister, you will face it again whether it is financial, whether it is tragedies, whether it is hatred and bitterness, whether it is a person who tried to destroy you with every bit of venom a human could possibly do in a situation that you really can't recover. But that is an exam that you either pass or fail.

Nothing happens—I have learned this and I mean it—that isn't a test to pass or fail and face again and again until you pass in God's eyes and men's eyes.

Oh, I bless God he was in that convention or probably a preacher full of bitterness and anger and fear of man and wounds would still be walking around trying to preach to the same. Thank God for such a man with such words that no one in that whole other convention center would have said to me but my father-in-law. Oh, thank God he gave me such a witness, such an influence, such an example.

I stood with him one day, the night the storm was so bad, it was so severe the house, I don't know how it stood. By the morning I hadn't slept one moment. The wind, the rains, the hail, the force, that whole building and I mean they had not wooden buildings, they had big bricks. I didn't know how we were still...

Early in the morning the winds had subsided. It was still raining and I went downstairs and there he was putting his boots on.

“Oh,” he says, “Come with me. Let's see what is left.”

We walked out. There was nothing. Ostriches lying dead everywhere, just dead. We walked. Just devastation. We walked. The shed, the roof blown off, the implements just washed away. You couldn't believe it. There was nothing left, just devastation. How the house... [?] the neighbor's house the wind just swept the roofs off. As we go up I saw tears in his eyes and now he comes to look over the lands where they had plowed every bit of money they had because it was new lands in new areas, barren. They had never farmed them. It was all soil there to start from scratch. It wasn't the right place to start farming they suddenly found. This was their end. But they had gotten to such debt to

keep this and keep plowing hoping suddenly they would get to turning. They were in such debt.

And now to lose everything they were bankrupt. They lost everything in life.

He comes to the top of the hill. He looks at all this. There was nothing, not a blade of the crop standing, everything... just smashed. You couldn't believe what I... I just had tears running down my face. God, they will never ever survive this. They have lost everything in life. I know they are in terrible debt. They have kept the... with all the things against them of the weather in this area down to the bottom of the mouth of the Gamtoos they... not the right place to farm.

And he looked. I saw the tears, but a smile and then a groan. It came from somewhere that most people their voice doesn't come and he cried with a groan, "Oh." And he lifted his hands and tears flowing down his face wasn't for me. The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

And I said the words God was writing in heaven in his records, the words that were written after Job said that when he lost his children, his wealth, everything in life in one day. I just finished it off.

In all this Johnny Larue sinned not, nor charged God foolishly. And don't doubt that God was also writing that in the record books of the lives as he records in this book of every life, even their failures. He didn't deny this book.

By the by they were declared to be bankrupt. The banks with all the money owed said it is finished. And when you do that you don't walk off the property with anything. Your furniture, your vehicles is not yours. You lose everything.

They were on their knees. Just before the day that it was a total bankrupt declaration and open to public auction, just before a knock on a farm door. A strange face, an American multi millionaire passing the farm by the by.

You must think this is wrong, but my wife looked at this house from down there in the streets passing and she said, "I want to live there. I want you to try and buy that farm house. This is where... would you be willing to sell this house?"

My father-in-law looked out and said, "It is not a house, it is a farm and it is a farm that has faced a lot of devastation."

"I am not interested in the farm. I will buy the farm, but I want the house. Would you sell it? I will give you anything. Name the figure. I will do it this... I want to get my [?]."

"Come in."

"Well [?] talk for a while. We owe the bank all this. We didn't want to owe. We had to."

Farmers get in that state in Africa.

“We owe all this. We have got to... Then we have got to get other farms where we come from when we shouldn’t have left anyway, get all the implements, everything... we have got get...”

They just asked for everything, all our debt, all we will need for the farms up there, everything.

But you will never get it. Ask.

So he goes to him and he says, “This is what we want.”

“Fine. Get the lawyers. Get your people.”

And so they go up the valley where they come from, they bought three farms out of debt.

Brother, do you honestly think your darkest moments God has forsaken you? But your darkest moment in the school of God is necessary because in your darkest moment you will ever face in life God is doing his greatest work in you and your children. If you don’t know that, you have just got to keep your eyes on God.

He cannot fail. He cannot fail.

My son Roy who preached this morning and last night, yesterday morning, Roy did something very silly. He nearly died in his final year at school. He is just like that. He decided he has to be the best, he has to get the highest... he doesn’t want to prove anything to anybody, just himself. He is like my daddy was that he had to do everything perfectly and nobody could come inside the way he nearly died. Daddy nearly died just... and my father climbed to the top of the business world in our country just to throw it all away when he got saved.

But Roy decided he is going to do well. He is going... and I said, “Roy, you are killing yourself. Nobody can study right the whole night and then expect to face an exam. I mean you won’t stay awake. You will just sleep.”

He said, “Daddy, this is my last year of school for the rest of my life. Please, just let me have the right to do my best. I don’t want to hold back anything.”

So then after he studied, now go to bed.

“No. Now I am going to have my quiet time.”

I said, “Roy, God doesn’t expect you to spend an hour with him now after a whole night of studying. It is two in the morning. My boy, go to sleep. You will die.”

He looked up at me and repeated what I said to him years before. “If I miss once, Daddy, whatever the reason, it will give me a reason to miss again. I don’t want to miss God, Daddy, even at this time of the night.”

And he spent his hour with God. And then got up [?] and then went off to... He went through all these weeks to the degree that he nearly died. When he was finished he had pains down his arms, pains streaking through his body and headaches and he looked like death.

I said, “I warned you, look at you.”

Now he wants to go to Glenmore Bible College, finish... I said, “You are not going to [?]. You will die the first term. I mean it is not easy there. You go on the farm to grandpa for six months. Mommy and I have been thinking about it. You go on the farm. You love the farm. You are just like a farmer and you just sleep late, go for walks and go with grandpa and farming. You just go there. Do nothing. No studies, no pressures, no time, nothing. Just get over there.”

We even got people spending medicines to try and get the pains all spiraling or whatever it is. I don’t know. People all worried about Roy never going to recover.

Well, he went on the farm for six months before he went to Bible school. And praise the dear Lord he did very, very well in his exams, extraordinary. I wish I could look back and know that I had [?]. But Roy did well. They offered him even Oxford, a chance to go to Oxford University as a [?] whatever it is or what is the word, I don’t know, where they... what is the word [?]? Anyway. Scholarship.

So we were blessed. We couldn’t afford, but everything offered because he was so achieving, but that nearly killed him to achieve. They didn’t know that.

And he said, “Who do I... why do I want to go to a university? Why do I want to go to Oxford for? I want to be a missionary. I don’t want to go to [?]. What do you... I couldn’t waste my time. The Lord is coming back. I want to win souls.”

So I said, “Thank God.”

Imagine stooping to go to such a place if God has called you to be a missionary.

Well, here Roy now goes to the farm. And on this farm granny got cancer. They tried to operate, the blood is spreading into the lungs. She lost her use of her body. She was virtually paralyzed, told she couldn’t walk again. She would never be able to dress again. She will never be able to help herself a bath again. She will have to be helped out of bed. She couldn’t do anything. She won’t walk again.



So Jenny hears this and she comes into her mommy and said, “Mommy, the doctor has told me that you will never walk again.”

And her mother lying in the bed said, “No, the doctor is wrong. He has made a mistake. God has just said, ‘I am the Lord that healeth thee.’”

Well, isn’t that precious?

You know, that lady wasn’t... and I don’t want to lie and be sensational and say she was healed. She had to go through therapy, but in her determination though she was told, “There is no hope. You will never walk again or be able to clothe yourself again or help yourself even bathe again. You will have to be helped.” That woman walked in these therapies, these baths, when she was supposed to take her steps. She took two or three and soon she could take four. She staggered the specialists until she could walk without any help.

So she could clothe herself. Of course, she walks like this... that everybody knows something that is terrible has happened, but she walks. I would love to say she is perfectly... but her faith and her determination, she did something that staggered the specialists. She walks. She can clothe herself. She can help. She can cook, clean up. Oh, bless the Lord.

But now the wonder of it is she never once complained. Not one word of complaint against God. Not one grievous word of murmuring.

Now Roy was on the farm. He said, “Daddy, I watched granny fall and hurt herself as she humbled and rolled. And all she would do is just praise God. It could have been worse.”

He said, “Daddy, I was standing with granny [?] and I forgot to hold her on this last section where the security gate was and I just left her to open the security gate and she fell and she started rolling. This dignified lady is rolling until her body, her legs are smashed and she was wounded. She was hurting.

So Roy just burst into tears [?]. “Granny, what have I done? [?]”

She said, “Did you forget your old granny?”

She smiled.

“Oh, granny, please forgive me.”

“Oh, it could be worse. Praise the Lord I am not dead. I am... Don’t worry. Just help me up, you know.”

He said, “Daddy, you can’t believe it. Granny never, ever has murmured. She just praises the Lord in no matter what she is facing since the day I arrived here. I haven’t heard her do one without gentleness and joy in her eyes and peace in her eyes. There is not one complaint. And, daddy, I need to tell you something. I made a mistake. I told you once that grandpa is the godliest person in the world that I know.” He said, “Not you, daddy, but grandpa.”

I didn’t feel threatened. I agreed. I said, “What a wonderful testimony that a grandson could say that his grandpa...”

He said, “Daddy, I made a mistake when I said that about grandpa. Grandpa isn’t the godliest person in the world. Granny is. And, daddy, I mean it. She is, not grandpa.”

I told grandpa those words. I went to him, Johnny, and I told him what Roy had said and tears welled up in his eyes and he turned around and he looked at me and he smiled and he said, “It is so. I doubt that anyone else is more godly than Enid in this world. Roy is right.”

What made this man so stagger my nation as he has? What made this man so stagger his community, the towns upon towns? What made this man be so used across our land that without any academic achievement... what made him be so loved that people throng and preachers with great academic achievement and degrees, theological, flock to hear a farmer who has no degrees? What made this man’s walk so stagger that his own son-in-law and grandchildren look upon him with such reverence and awe because of his example in all circumstances that have changed our life because our consciences wouldn’t allow us to be the same when we watched his life? What made him so different? Does God not want to...?

I think of three things that made God able to bring such glory to his name through one man. Three things. Firstly, he wasn’t just saved. He had a personal Calvary and from that day he staggered the world the next day, his world, till this day.

Secondly, he never missed his quiet time. His grandchildren know it. His children know it. And anyone who knew anything of that home know that from the day I went to that home to this last time I went after all these years of marriage, at four o’clock in the morning you hear that man walking down the passage. I have never ever been in that house that I didn’t hear it at four o’clock in the morning. He is big. The farmers are normally big. And you hear this boom, boom. And he doesn’t do it to be heard. He has to make that noise down the wooden passage.

He goes to be with Jesus every morning at four o’clock for two hours and I have never... and his family, his children, have never ever known that that man at four o’clock doesn’t walk down the passage to his prayer room to devour the Word of God and to pray to his God and commune in intercession.

In the nights, after the family devotions which was a long occasion of him preaching and then everyone praying, the others have all their things. But that man walks to that closet and spends another hour with Jesus and sometimes two. I have watched through the years. His grandchildren have watched. He never misses God. From the day I walked in that home to this I have never known him to not go down to be with Jesus at four o'clock in the morning and to not leave the company when everything that is done at fellowship demanded of him as the head of the home to get alone with Jesus for his hour before he goes to sleep.

He had a personal Calvary as a young Christian, sparing all the failure and inconsistencies where he laid his life on the altar of God and absolutely surrendered and trusted God for a heart made clean by blood.

The theology of Hudson Taylor, John Wesley and probably 90 percent of every name you will ever name that was used mightily of God. Different terminology, but basically that is it including Andrew Murray were in absolute surrender where God filled them with the Holy Spirit, took control and anointed that life to live a... a life that gave you the right to testify to every soul including your children that they couldn't doubt you had the right to testify.

He had a personal Calvary and absolute surrender and was [?] with God taken control of the Holy Spirit as he laid his life and God shook the world from the next day through him to this day. He never missed his quiet time. He never missed God, not once, to anybody's knowledge that knew him.

And, thirdly, he never neglected a soul that came near him that he could have witnessed to. He never has been known to neglect a soul on any occasion when he could have witnessed.

I have been with him on many occasions for many years. His children have. His grandchildren. No one knows an occasion that he neglected to take full advantage of the minutes, whether it is a waiter, whether it is sitting next to someone on the plane, whether it is a worker, whether it is some one in the gutters that he somehow can speak to, a drunk. He doesn't bypass a soul. He never fails to witness from a young Christian, especially from when he was filled with the Spirit and saw the example of Annie Newvote. All these years, now 76 years old, he never has been known to neglect a soul he could have witnessed to.

Those three things. Is that your testimony? Have you ever staggered your world once because of those three things because I can't think of another thing as to why he is what he is and why God shook his world everywhere he went, that is, to him.

Those three things. Have you had a personal Calvary? You never miss God not for anybody on earth no matter what you [?]? And do you never neglect to win souls? Just ask God now. What is left of your life can be that if you let God do it for you.

And I want to ask you from my soul tonight, every one of you who know God is speaking to you in the little moment left that you can be. Oh, you should be. You can choose, though you are saved, to say yes or no to that. I want everyone in this building, whether you are a child, whether you are an old man, whether you are a preacher, that knows that you have never come to a place of absolute surrender where you had a personal Calvary and laid everything on the altar, a living sacrifice acceptable to God, to prove what is God's perfect will. I beg you to do it, Christians, Paul said. I beg you tonight. Come dedicate everything. Absolute surrender, seek God by a work of grace through your faith in the blood of Christ for such a deep cleansing, such a thorough cleansing through and through of every faculty of your being and by a work of the Holy Spirit to take complete control by faith as you... not a physical form, put yourself on a physical altar, but on the altar of God in your heart. He says, "Yield and let God take control, full control."

And then determine in your heart you will never miss your quiet times again, not for anything or anyone to devour the Word of God and soak yourself in the Scriptures until the day you day and in prayer morning and night as your greatest priority in life. And you, by God's grace, will witness as you ought to by his anointing and never neglect a soul again you can't witness to. Your choice to not be taken up with all the hours that you get wasted with these things. This is your first priority.

I want those of you tonight that know God is speaking to you, you are saved, but look at your life, you haven't staggered anything. I want those who desperately need to say, "God, everything is on the altar tonight. I lay it. I absolutely surrender. I want thee to work a personal Calvary in my life, God, and I want thee to fill me with thy Holy Spirit. Take complete control no matter what it costs. I will obey thee come what may. But, oh, God have thy way now. I will not let thee go except thou bless me."

Oh, God, please do it. I want those who desperately—and they know God requires and wants this of them more than they want it and will not deny them such a prayer if they want it with them. I want those who desperately need God to do that work and who will let God and seek God to do it now to stand right now and say, "It is me, God. It is me, God that thou hast spoken to tonight. It is me God in this moment left of life is thine. Take it. Have it completely. I don't want it, God."

I want all who are standing to come stand in the front. Let's make this an altar. There is no altar here, but come let's make this an altar of God. Come, let's make something special here. Come stand.

Just move your way past those who are sitting. They are praying for you. They are not judging you. They want this desperately for you for they have found it. Come. Just let's stand as close as we can to give everyone some opportunity, somehow to stand together before God. We are all just going to bow our hearts and heads and seek him. And I want you to know in your heart that God will not turn his face away. The devil will tell you, but can you honestly believe that God will look at you if you mean this from your heart and say, "No. I don't want your whole life. No."

Don't listen to such things. God will be. He is so holy he has to. That is not irreverent. It would be irreverent to say could turn his face away. He is so perfect in integrity and longing for your welfare, for you to be used of God, for you to walk in truth, in victory. So don't doubt that God will answer this, but he doesn't look at the words that proceed out of the mouth. God looketh at the heart from whence they come. So though these words come from your mouth I want you as best as you can—and can't get anything more than that or expect—as best as you can there you are saying these words led by a man, yes. But, God, these words are from my heart. Let God see that and he will look at those words. He won't turn his face away.

I want you all to pray as best as you can for God hears only, sir, because no one else matters now, just God.

I want you all to pray aloud with me that are standing.

*Oh my God, forgive me for all of the grief and failure, inconsistencies, compromises, neglects of the things I ought to have done, but denied thee through my folly. Wash me in the blood of Christ from all my sin though I am saved I need the blood desperately tonight for forgiveness and things I have forgotten to even confess, only the blood of Jesus Christ. Wash me clean from every failure, every un Christ likeness, in every reaction, in every thought, in every word. But let me have a clean thought by being cleansed in the blood of Jesus Christ from all sin. Let the blood go deeper. Wash me through and through and through and through and through and through. Create in me a clean heart, oh God. Renew a right spirit within me, a consistent, steadfast, uncompromising, unyielding walk with God by thy grace. I absolutely surrender my life, every faculty of my being no matter what it costs.*

*I ask thee that by thy grace through the blood of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit thou would work a personal Calvary in me right now. Fill me now with thy Holy Spirit. Take complete control. I don't want gifts. I want fruit of the Spirit to be seen in my life spontaneously no matter how trying the circumstances if I look to thee for grace day by day no matter what comes against me. I want Christ to be seen beginning in my home, to my worst enemy, to live out his life through me by the Holy Ghost controlling me.*

*I cannot vow, but I ask for grace that from this day to the day I die I will never neglect thee to be alone with God morning and night as my greatest priority, my most treasured moments, my most guarded hour till the day I die. Give me that grace never to miss the quiet time where I will soak myself in the Word of God, meditating day and night as my greatest love and commune with God in prayer and by thy grace enable me to not neglect a soul that I can witness to. Help me not to offend, but to expect God to create circumstances where I can speak. And when God does to not let me fail, but speak boldly and fully the gospel of Christ to every soul God brings near me expecting [?].*

*Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. I dedicate my life to thee on the altar of God. Consecrate me now for service of the King of kings in this moment left called*

*life. In Jesus Christ's name, in faith, in hope, in longing to glorify him and him only I ask these things from my heart. Amen.*

Bless you. Don't doubt God now. Don't wait for feelings. Don't wait for gifts. God gives to whom he will what he wants. You want to seek him for anything particular, seek to be used of God with the handling of his Word. That is the greatest gift. Study to show thyself approved, a workman that can handle the Word of God aright that needeth not be ashamed. Prepare yourself for ever soul, every [?]. Equip yourself and go out in faith longing for God to give you souls and he will. He will. He will. Don't doubt it.

Thank you for seeking God. Oh, thank you for seeking God tonight.