

Pastor Brian ([00:09:47](#)):

All right. Well, good evening. How's everyone? How's everyone online? I can't hear you, but Okay. Well, welcome, welcome to Wednesday nights. Again just a busy, busy week. Oh, okay. <Laugh>. but so glad that you're here. We get to, we get to do wonderful things in the church. Yes. Yes. I mean, make sure this is all. Okay, good. But yeah, no, just all the things that are happening with the point and just I was just trying to think of all the things that happened in the last couple weeks from, from heart of the point to everything that happens here. Just, are you not, I mean, we have to be the happiest people on the planet. Yes. Because it is so good. Well, and then the other thing, if you're involved heavily in the point, and I'm gonna get in it to tonight you might feel a little more attacked than your usual.

([00:10:35](#)):

Right. Am I by myself? I, I don't think so. Because I tell you, if you're, if you're serving for Jesus and you're doing it wholeheartedly, you've seen an attack or two. And so we're glad that we can gather here midweek and just rest in him. Right. Amen. Well, I'm gonna I'm gonna get us kicked off with prayer and then let Johanna just seeing a message into us, and then I'll come back up here. Our Father, we thank you so much for all that you do, all that you've done. We cannot forget all the things that you've done for us, Lord, in our past, Lord, to bring us to this point. But it's where you're taking us, Lord. We, we love to know we love knowing that you've got us in your plan and you're using us mightily in the road ahead.

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You're using this church mightily in the Rose Road ahead. You're using this property, which is located specifically around a group of people that you are wanting to get in these doors, Lord. And just the mission, the goal you've given us tonight. We just thank you so much for all that you do. And I just ask you to just bless the music tonight, bless the message that you put in my heart from this series. And then just bless everyone here, whether they're at present or online. Lord, we thank you in advance for the blessings that you'll give tonight. And we just, again, we love you. We thank you for the gift of Jesus and just never giving up on us. And it is in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Pastor Brian ([00:17:06](#)):

Oh man. Amen. Gosh. Okay. I guess I'm gonna have a new intro now. <Laugh>, I tell you, I love that song. You love the lyrics to that song. Yeah. I mean, I get you wondering. Well, at least it gets me wondering why we, you know, just casual Christian comes to mind. The word casual Christian comes to mind as far as like, we're great on Sundays, but then in trouble every other day of the week. And, and it's just, I read something today about something else. And, and of course my wife starts reading the not a fan book. I read it years ago. Brans read it years ago. She's reading it now and pacing the apartment floors. You know, it's one of those that'll get you just thinking. And what it gets you thinking is where you're reading. You're like, I don't want to be that kind of person.

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I don't wanna be the one that goes, yeah, I'm a Christian. And then nothing to back it up. You know, it's just one of those things that is just a daily reminder that I think we all need. That if, if, if God is for us, who is against us. And the answer is nobody. There's nobody. So ask yourself on, on a daily basis, when, when things get in the way, things mountains come your way, obstacles come your way. Who is it that you really believe in? Who have you put your faith and your trust in? We're right back to, do you believe that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth? It's one of those things where, yes, we're nodding, we agree, but in our, when we get into that struggle and we wonder oh, what's gonna happen now? Did he not still create the heavens in the earth?

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And so, anyway, I love that song so much. Thank you so much, for. I didn't know she was singing that song. And I'm sitting there and thinking, I love these lyrics because it just reminds us that that's what we, because there's nothing in front of us, you know, nothing. Okay. That was for free. Good evening, <laugh>. So, again, welcome to you guys. I know some people came in after the welcome and those that are online we're glad that you're here. You know, life is tough and just getting tougher. Yes, I'm not alone. It's been a tough week. Okay? I had my my annual testing yesterday with a EKGs X-rays sonograms, which I didn't know guys got sonograms. I, but that's, they're just looking at the kidney. I'm not pregnant. No <laugh>, but all of that in the <laugh>. I, I tell you, you guys have no idea the quirkiness that comes out of my brain sometimes.

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But anyway, that was yesterday. That was for annual testing. And you know, all went good. All went good. I will tell you that the, the, the virus that was a part of the kidney that didn't show up until September of last year, and then with medications went away. It is back. But it's not in a major way. I just have, the only unfortunate thing is I have to go weekly for labs again. And that's just an annoying, that's, that's just annoying. That's all that is. So, it all went good. It is good. But again, like if I got there and I said, what's back? Or, or, or, what's high? Do I not believe that God created the heavens in the earth? He's got this handled God is for me who can be against me? It certainly isn't triglycerides. You know, it doesn't matter.

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God has it. So that's, that, that's my point in applying what we hear in song message, because there's great message in song. I I totally believe that. I mean, that preps my heart for this. Like I said, whole new intro. But yeah, life is tough. Getting tougher world is weird. Getting weirder. I won't even get into the news of this week. I mean, that is just it's, it's what it is. It's upsetting. Amen. Amanda saw that on a bumper sticker once or something, right? <Laugh>. So you, you wonder with all this toughness, where's my break? Where, where is my break? I'm, as I said in the beginning it is the constant feeling of always being under attack. I think it's greater than it has been in a very long time. And that is because you are a part of a, a church that's just following Christ.

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No matter what that vision is. It's, if he says do it, we're doing it. Just laying it out there and doing it. And those that are we're moving in the same direction, you will get attacked probably more than once. So yes, many times. So, so be encouraged that some of these attacks happen. And, and, and just anywhere, anytime be encouraged. Cuz God wants you to keep facing the challenges of life. He also wants you to keep getting up and moving towards his purpose for your life. So, and I've said it every week for this particular series, but God's already won the victory. Amen. God's Okay, let's pray. Let's get outta here. No, God's won the victory. Yes. But every time we meet here, at the point, I want you to take heart because of that. I want you to, to walk like knowing God has won the victory.

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I said a week or two ago, if you're saved, let your face know it. Cuz this is the, this is this. And here is the best view in the house. Cuz I get to see, okay, good mood, good mood, I don't know what's going on there. <Laugh>. So, so yes, you're saved. Let your body, your actions show it. Be excited because God has won the victory. That is not a bumper sticker. That is true life, and I love it. And I love that God keeps waking me up every day with something else to do. But God wants you to also experience a comeback in life. And like last week, it might not be what you wanted or what you expected. We told the story of Gehazi who figured out a way to get paid for what he, oh, if, if Elijah's not gonna take the money, <laugh>, I'm gonna swoop in there and take it.

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And then he got struck with Neiman's leprosy. So since we're on a series on comebacks, you probably thought, oh, okay, he's gonna go and he's gonna have his leprosy removed. That is not what happened, his comeback, that he was still of use to God in the King's presence, still as a leper. So it might not always be what you're praying for, but he has use for you in a mighty way. Just believe that, because it's absolutely true if you're one of his children. So, yes, we're talking about making comebacks. Tonight we're gonna learn what we do when we come up against a crisis where our first response, our first instinct might be fear, right? It's natural, it's normal. You might, might be fear. So I've appropriately called tonight Challenge accepted. Challenge accepted. And I'm praying you'll be encouraged to look at whatever mountains might be in your path that's challenging you.

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And I want you in turn to stare them back down and say, not gonna happen. You're not on my watch. Or, or give me your best shot. You know? So any, any out there, here online if you follow any kind of sports and, and kind of the theme with this series has been boxing. I, I used to watch boxing a lot, but I, I read this story, if you remember Boxer named Manny Pacqua, he was doing his Pac Man. Yeah. Okay. All right. If you, so if you, do you remember that back in 2012, he faced a boxer that knocked him out cold. There was no, he ain't getting up, but he was knocked out cold. And at that point in his career, he was in his thirties, and there were many that thought, that's it, he's done. That's, that's his last fight.

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He should hang it up. And he himself might have even believed that. I mean, what's the, what's your worst critic out there yourself, right? Yeah, I know. I look in the mirror, I argue with myself all the time and never win. So yeah, he probably thought, no, this is it. And knockouts tend to have that effect on people. So you, you might not have been knocked down in a physical fight. But you know, the feeling of being down and being out and just ready to give up, you know uncle, you know, as we used to as kids, you know, been your arm back give up. You give up. I'd say uncle, uncle, you know, you're ready to give up. And a knockout can change your life, but it can change it for the better if you're viewing that knockout through the right eyes, okay?

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And likewise, our life, our actions, our words can elicit. And we talked about this the last week. We, our words and actions can elicit two responses from people. It's either gonna draw them closer to God or it's gonna push them further away. You only have two. You're either gonna live in a way that goes, oh yeah, what, what? Tell me more about what's going on with this person. You know, what you, I wanna know more. And the other be, like I said before, it's the phrase I hate hearing, but that's why I don't go to church, right? We can be that kind of example. And I don't want, I never wanna be that way, which is why it's a daily struggle. You can't drift out of prayer. It's not, well, I'll, I'll get this right on Sunday. No, Satan gets, I mean, he's attacking on sun every day of the week, any day ending and why?

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That's all of them. Okay. All right. <Laugh> Should Monday, no. Okay, <laugh>. Well, Manny Pacquiao was not done. Eventually he got up from that knockout and went on to, went consecutive unanimous decisions. But my favorite part to his story isn't his career comeback. It's his comeback personally and spiritually. He turned his life, he turned his life around from drugs, from womanizing and alcohol, and is now a professed and practicing Christian. I say it that way very carefully because there's many Professor Christian called it, you know, but are you practicing? Are you putting into action what you say you believe? Well, Manny backs it up. He's quoted as saying, I'm happy because I found the right way.

Salvation. I love that just by itself. We, he says, we are required to be born again. All of us Christ said, unless we are born again, we cannot enter the kingdom of God.

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And he continues. So it is very important to me. And he says, Christ, Jesus Christ said, I am the way and the truth and the life. And this is, this is a former boxer, former wo, womanizer, drug user alcohol, all this. And he says, no one comes to file except through me. And he says, there is no other way. The only way is through Jesus. This is a former boxer saying all this. His comeback continued as later on, he was elected to the House of Representatives for the Philippines. In the Philippines. And he is a dedicated husband and father. He didn't let that crisis or his previous life defeat him. He not only got up from the mat, he got up from the beating that life had put on, that he had added to himself, but he made it through it. And he only made it through it.

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With the credit he's giving is to Jesus. He's not saying, you know, I was built, I worked out all the time. I was able to make it through. No, I only got through it cuz of Jesus. Amen. Amen. So when a Christ in our lives occur, we need to see the living God up close and personal. And sometimes it takes a crisis to get us face to face with God, right? I mean, it's not like we, we know that God doesn't go, ah, punishment. It doesn't, but things happen for a reason. You know? I needed to go through what I went through and, and sometimes many of us need to go through something because it does. It gets us face to face and points the question right to you. Who are you, Brian? And you have a chance to answer. You're face to face with God.

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Who are you when the chips are down? And so that's what happens in our scripture tonight with King Jehoshaphat. And we'll set the table. I'm gonna set the table at the first two verses from Second Chronicles 20. So verses one and two, start like this after this. And, and of course that's the previous chapter, meaning Jehoshaphat's appointments of people. He was putting in the right places and positions. So after this the Moabites, the Ammonites, and with them, some of the Mennonites came against Jehoshaphat for battle. Verse two, some men came and told Jehoshaphat, a great multitude is coming against you from Eden, from beyond the sea. And behold, they're in Hasan, Tamar that is on tomorrow, that is in Jeti. And so they're kind of explaining, you know, you got different words for different areas. They're almost saying in case you don't know where that is, it's this place.

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And so what that was is it's the south end of the Dead Sea. It was the middle of the Western shore. And it was also a common route for enemies because the mountains made them seem invisible. You know, very tactical way of attacking your enemy was to come where they couldn't see it. And that's what was happening. And so that's what you get in the first two verses. He had set up the right thing, and then right when he's doing what the Lord wants him to do, what happens? Attack. So challenge extended, right? We're talking about accepting our, so there, here's the challenge. And the king was told, you're about to have a problem. You know? So after the revival among the people of Judah that Jehoshaphat had nurtured with his appointments different people to various positions, the country discovered that not one but three armies were coming against the king for battle.

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So one's bad enough in those days. Now, now you got three and you got people coming, Hey, king you got a problem? Three armies are coming. They're on their way right now. So there you go. And we have stuff like that. Maybe not with someone report of Hey, you got a bunch of bullies coming down the street, they're gonna take you out right now. No, but it's, it is a challenge in a different way. And we're

told, so we're presented with it, what do we do with it? All right? So as in other times, the revival of the people was, was threatened against a more superior army that's over and over in the Bible, more superior army David and his people more superior army. But we see what God did. We see what God did, which is why I'm back to those lyrics again, because that's what drives us or should drive us on a daily basis.

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We believe that we sing it, we shout it, we raise our hands unless we're like the T-Rex Christians, where we only go up the halfway, but still we're, we're believing it, we're singing it, but yet when it comes down to it, we don't know what we're gonna do because we forget that he's, there's no one that can come against him. There's nothing that can come against him. Well, I don't have any money. It still isn't. He can, he can move in that arena, just allow him to move in that arena. So let's get to it. To accept the challenge, present it to us. When a crisis arrives in our life, we must, number one, understand God's plan in your crisis. Not, can I understand God's plan, like outside of a crisis? Like, can I, can I not have one? No, you're gonna have one.

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You either had one, you're gonna, you're in one. Are you going to so understand God's plan in the crisis. It's a lot what I said when I broke down a couple of weeks ago, a piece of Psalm 23. It's even though I walked through this valley of the shadow of death, I won't fear anything because why you are with me, you'll rod in your staff comforts me. I might be in the worst possible time of my life. I'm in the valley, but I'm not alone. It says right there, I walk through the valley, I'm not putting things outta my way, but God is right there with me and he's guiding me. You know, we read that just like, oh yeah, walk through the valley, the shout film, almost like it's a, something we've just memorized and just, it's my mantra, you know? No, he is with you.

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He doesn't leave you alone. So understand God's plan. Second Chronicles 20, and we'll move on verses three through six. So after he was told, Hey, you got a problem? He says, then Jehoshaphat was afraid. And why wouldn't you be? If someone says, Hey, you got not one but three armies coming this is on you, king, what are you gonna do? So he says he was afraid, and he set his face to seek the Lord right there. Great first response. What are you gonna do? I'm gonna seek the Lord. What are you gonna do? I'm gonna panic. No, I'm gonna set his face to seek the Lord and proclaim to fast. Throughout all Judah and Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord, from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord that, that's very important to us. We, I don't wanna miss that even He set his face to seek the Lord.

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Judah came to seek the Lord. That is super important in tonight's lesson, is just, are you actively seeking the Lord in anything and everything? And verse five, and Jehosaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem in the house of the Lord before the new court and said, oh, Lord, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven. You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations in your hand are power and might so that none is able to withstand you. He's praying in the right direction. So how do you know if you're really in a crisis? How do you know if you're really in a crisis, you first feel powerless? Like, I don't feel like I can do anything. You're in a crisis. When you feel helpless, powerless and hopeless, you're, you're drained. Anybody been drained. I don't mean a blood like me.

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I mean, just drained. You know, like, I can't I guess I can answer to both. Yes, I've been drained physically and spiritually <laugh>, and think about that. So, and your behavior shows it, and your words show it. So like, I, I don't have to, Hey, how you feeling? I'm only asking that because I know there's something

going on you're not feeling well. Like I usually get, oh, I'm, I'm good. I'm, I'm fine, I'm great. But yes, sometimes we can tell because our behavior shows that our word show our prayer. So our prayers can in those times will often start like, Jehoshaphat, oh Lord, our dear Jesus, I need you. And so you can see the, hear the urgency in his voice and just laying out who God is and what he's done for them. And knowing that none is able to withstand you.

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Again, we sang it. Who, who if for you, who can be against you? Nobody. and so all of us have endured our, or we're enduring, or we will endure crisis of some sort. And so many that are not walking with God will often panic. And I'm not saying if you're like, well, I panic, so am I not walking. I don't mean to imply that. I just mean a lot of times in the world that we live in that is that is shrinking the walls where it, it makes it seem like we are the crazy ones and everybody else has got it right? And so you can't help but sometimes get that on you. So yes, you might panic, but but we as believers or Christ followers that I like to say, we should be responding different in our crisis. You know a couple Sundays ago, I, I, I, I let you know that from a mom's point of view job's wife, you know, she's like, why don't you curse God and die?

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But she is a mom that had the same loss as, as as job. But that's where the similarities end. You don't wanna be like her because she gave a worldly response, curse God and die. She could have said, this is bad. I'm going through it with you, honey, but God's got us. You know, but she didn't, she said something else. So it's who you are in a, in a crisis. We should be responding different when it arrives. And so, whether it's a health crisis, a relationship disaster family breakdown we had one of those last week career issues or financial madness. All of us have felt surrounded or closed in by things that will do us harm. You know? I was getting ready to deliver the message last Wednesday night, and my kids wanted to go at it <laugh> to go at it an hour before I'm up here.

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But my beautiful wife took care of it, settled it, they apologized to each other. I didn't have to know it until afterwards, but that's the kind of thing that would put me off. You know, if I'm worried about them, I can't focus on what I, what I've been called to do. And so that's the thing. So all that it, it, it happens, right? I'm not the only one that has that. Everybody else says, oh, I hear you wanted to send mine packing kind of thing. So yes, we've been surrounded by those things that, that are trying to do as harm. So what usually comes with a crisis fear, you know, that's usually the first most common thing. The first thing in the crisis is fear. What in the world am I gonna do? What am I gonna do? And we do, we rank even Christians.

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We rank fears. I hope I never have to endure that. I think I can handle this. You know, we rank them. I know she's, she's watching or will be watching, but, you know, my mom just got a, a new golden retriever and, and he's about as rambunctious as can be. And I keep trying to give her examples like, Hey, if it gets too much, we'll take him. Well, this week, and, and if you know my mom, some of you do, my mom is deathly, I mean, deathly afraid of snakes. I mean, she's Indiana Jones, except not willing to go into the pit and face them. She will scream and neighbors come running when she screams, because it's this blood curdling scream that somebody's just died, you know? And so she texts me, I don't know, a few days ago, and you know, black snake raced in front of her.

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And, and I'll take care of this for, for my mom. If anybody comes up to her and says, it's just a black snake, she'll probably India, she'll, you, she knows it's just a black snake. It doesn't matter what kind of snake it is, she don't like it. So she goes, I wish people would keep telling me that. I said, so, I said, did



dad say that <laugh>? And just kind of, just kind of poking at her. But anyway, so it happened. And she told me, you know, I said, oh, man. And so today it happened again, happened again. Snake darts right in front of her. And and she screams and she tells me about it. And of course, I, I, I try not to laugh but I, hey, it real, that that's a real fear for, that's a real fear for her.

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And I know every, a lot of people, maybe it's not snakes, but it's something else, right? You can identify with just being deathly afraid of something. And so I, I'm still trying to get her dog. So I told her, she says, Hey, I'm just gonna let him go take care of the snake. I said, that's a great idea. I said, he's a retriever. He might bring it back to you, <laugh>. And she says, if he does that, he's your dog. And I said, deal. So the whole point is that, yes, there are things that just fear, fear can take over any one of you. I don't care who you are. And I did not know that I was gonna be talking about that when she told me twice in one week that a stink crossed by her past. Cause we've been dealing with this our whole lives.

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I mean, she's, she's not your average afraid of it. She's, I mean, it might strike her dead kind of fear. You know, she hates those things. So yes, fear comes with a crisis, and we need to cry out like Jehoshaphat, are you not God in heaven? That's, that's recognizing that God has, has supreme authority over everything. He is sovereign. He, he's not, he's not asking a question, are you not God in heaven? No. He's like, you're the God that we've been, that, that did all this force in the past. Of course, you're the God and heaven, you rule over the kingdoms of the nation in your hand, our power and might. He's understanding who God is and what God can do. And so that's us, not just you know, crossing the fingers, or, man, I'm coming to you, God, but I don't think this is gonna work.

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It's, it just looks bad. We need to cry out to the only one who can save you, right? Cry out to the only one who can save you. So this prayer model, this prayer model, and Second Chronicles can stand for us on how to respond in a crisis and give our fears over to him. Right? Easier said than done. Right? Well, this is a model. I didn't say it was, you know, it was something, okay, got it. Gonna do it. It's a model. You practice it, you work at it. So too many times we continue to kind of set trends where we don't go to God first in prayer ourselves. And so you can be a trendsetter, but you can be a trendsetter in the wrong direction. You know, don't be that just and don't be well, I'm just always that way.

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No. Branson has said it so many times before where sometimes prayer is our last resort. And, and, and we wonder why are things happening? Yes. Prayer needs to be our first re resort. So we need to go to God first ourselves. A lot of times what we'll do first is we'll post and we'll vent first, and then if our heart turns, then we go to him in prayer. But we love to go to the burn me start typing, right? And then send, and then everybody just gets to respond, whatever, you know? So I have, I have done that, and I've gotten to the type I was gonna say typewriter. I'm like, what year is this? The keyboard or the phone, and then gone, that's not right. And just deleted the whole thing. Just deleted the whole thing. But, but that's, we, we, we just, something happens.

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And our first instinct is, I'm gonna, I'm gonna vent to everybody. And then often if our hearts turn, and sometimes our hearts don't, we go to 'em in prayer, or even worse. And I, I thought of this worse. We just let others pray, or we assume that they're praying. You know, I've, I've tried to create a habit that if I say I'm in prayer for you, we're either praying right that minute or when you walk out the door, or when I get off the phone with you, I'm praying. And so a lot of times we'll just go, well, yeah, I know that person's praying for me. I'm just gonna let them take care of it. You know, they're, they're gonna be my

intercessor. No you need to go to him personally in prayer. We need to go personally in prayer. And you see that example with Jehoshaphat, it went right to him.

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Hey, you got a problem, buddy? I'm gonna seek the Lord in prayer. So we often need redirection, just like Jehoshaphat. We are sinners and we can be wicked. So was he. And we only have to go back one chapter. That's why you don't have to go like several books. Like, oh, we see where he was wicked. No. Watch this second Chronicles 19 verse one through three. Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah returned in safety to his house in Jerusalem. But Jehu, the son of Hanan the seer went out to meet him and said to King Jehoshaphat, should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord? Apparently he was, he was giving assistance and doing all this to those that were just in wickedness. And he says, because of this wrath has gone out against you from the Lord. Nevertheless, he says, some good is found in you for you destroyed the Aza out of the land and have set your heart to seek God.

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See, sometimes we can do things that we just aren't thinking. We get into the wrong crowds, or we get into the wrong circles. And like, I, I, I know people in my life that are non-believers and they're, or they're atheists or such, and I try to be myself, so they will want, I don't force 'em to go, you gotta go to church or that, you know, just kind of talk to them and get to them. But sometimes if we're not in that state of mind where we are trying to practice what God wants us to practice, we might start to drift a little like the people that we're hanging around. And so there, you see God on him. But, but, but praise God, he said, but we can. But God can see that you, you're truly intention with something that's you're seeking the Lord in your heart.

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So God's given you a second chance kind of saying. So Jehoshaphat once compromised with the wicked in order to achieve God's will. But God showed grace on him. God showed grace on everybody in here, everybody online, the entire planet. They may not know it yet, but he has shown grace. And so, why is it so hard for us to show grace, right? To others? We're like, aha, gotcha. You know, when we find somebody, we like to exploit it, but no, no show grace God showed you. And I praise God for that. But yeah, showed him grace, we've messed up two, God showed us grace. And we too, just like in this story, need to set our hearts and minds on seeking God all the time. Jehovah wasn't perfect, and neither are you. Neither, neither am I. He sinned, but his heart was turned towards God.

[\(00:44:56\):](#)

And like I said, our circles can include people that sometimes aren't talking the same language as us. And I don't mean bad language. I mean, they might be hearing you, they're watching for you to mess up, for sure. But you might be you might, let's call it an opportunity from God that you might have someone in your life that really needs to hear a, a word from God and he's using you. But if we misstep, if we step outta line, then Satan's gonna use that and push those people further away. You see what I'm saying? Yes. Okay, good. We all have to be careful with that. So the difference maker right now in your life is to begin to seek God, just like the king here, or, or, or, or say it another way or turn back to seeking God like she want, like you once did, you know, you might have gotten saved years ago and then just got away from it.

[\(00:45:41\):](#)

So he's still trying to pursue you, and maybe now he's trying to turn your, turn your life back to seeking him. It's never, it's not too late at this moment in time. It's not too late. Tony Evans has a great bible study called that. It's not too late, and he uses several people in the Bible that really, really messed up. And then God turned it around. So never feel like you're done. Like I just, I I think I've crossed that line



somewhere. None. No, God will get you, he'll pursue you, he'll capture you. He'll go after the, the one sheep. So, but many people Christians want God to adjust to them without them adjusting their life to God. So don't ever point. Well, it's that reason why I can't be great. It's that don't point to the issues. In, in our sinful nature, we don't want to adjust.

(00:46:27):

So we need to point to that, that we, we sometimes don't wanna to budge, you know, we're like, I don't wanna do that. We're, we're like little kids that need to go into the corner a little bit, but not like the corner's gonna work. But yeah, no, a lot of times he is trying to bend us and adjust us to, to see the way he sees. And a lot of times, our hearts just are, you know, we don't wanna budge. We don't wanna budge. So Jehoshaphat changed, and God heard and responded to his prayer. So a lot of times, many times all the time, we need to recognize the sin in our life and know that you can't deal with it without God that you, you, you can't. Like, I got this, Brian. All right, I, I'm available when you realize you don't. So yeah.

(00:47:08):

Let's move on to accept the challenge presented to us when the crisis arrives in our life. We must also, number two, develop a plan to your prayers. Yeah, you might not think of it, but develop a plan. I use a journal sometimes in the, in the, in the book that I studied from had an acronym called war. And it said, worship, admit your sin and then make your request. You know, worship of God. It's awesome what you've done in my life. It's awesome what you're gonna do with the rest of my life. I admit to you, I sin it this way, forgive me, and here's my request. Here's what, and then boom, go live for God. War. so develop a plan to your prayers. Let's continue from Jehoshaphat's prayer. Chapter 20, verse seven through 12.

(00:47:55):

He continues, did you not our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham, your friend, and they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name saying, and they're saying, verse nine, if disaster comes upon us, the sword judgment or precedents or famine, we will stand before this house, before you. There's their proclamation for your name is in this house, and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save. And now, behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mounter, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt and whom they avoided and did not destroy, behold they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, giving him credit once again, which you have given to us to inherit, oh our God, will you not execute judgment on them?

(00:48:52):

For we are powerless. Recognize I can't do it without you. We are powerless against this great hoard that is coming against us. I love this last one. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you. Amen. Love it. Love it. So earlier at the beginning of his prayer, he acknowledged who God is. Then he also prayed what he knew to be true about God. And then heaven had the final say to their enemy, and we're gonna see that in a bit. So using this model of prayer, the same is true for us, but we can often act like we're on our own and don't know where our hope comes from. You know, we, we can be like that. We can say, you know, I don't know what to do. Like I, I shared with, they did a funeral. They had me read a poem, and in that poem said where's my hope?

(00:49:37):

Who do I look to? And so I decided to just answer it for 'em since we'd already covered it. I want, I didn't want it to be a distraction for what I'd set up, but so we know where to turn to. We just often forget to live that way. And so, in those verses, there's also a reminder of God's previous exploits. He went back

to what God had done. So always remember what God had done, has done for you. Or if this is the first time, if, if you don't have a password, you have something, maybe this is, you can finally see what God is doing for you, so that one day in your testimony, you can say what God has done for you. And like Jehoshaphat, we're often under attack, but we know that God has already secured the victory as he promised.

[\(00:50:20\):](#)

Again, this world has no idea. Many of them, they have no idea that God's already won the victory. You know, they think, oh, we step forward in progress. It progression, it's pathetic. We are not progressing in the right way. But if they only knew that God had won the victory, their lives would change. And so you be thankful, you know that God has won the victory live like it. Another principle we can learn from these verses is for us to not only know God's word, but to have faith in it. Right? You what are we told in God's word? Even the demons know God's word. That's not enough. But to have faith in it, to rely on it, to trust in it, to trust him to trust him completely, not kind of, you know, I kind of trust the Lord. You might not say that out loud, but a lot of times our, our, our actions reveal that we kind of trust the Lord.

[\(00:51:15\):](#)

I have to do it with the head no, because it, you know, it goes with the way I say it. So God has given us many promises, but sometimes we don't claim them because we're not reading or we're not growing in His Word. Or we fail to have faith in His word. Which is why we sometimes panic first in the crisis there, those that will, that will panic first in the crisis. Another point in our prayers is that we have to admit that we are powerless. We are powerless without God. I mean, we, what's the word? Powerless mean without power. And so we don't have any power without God. And many times we don't know what to do. But my favorite part of that prayer is when he focused his eyes on God, Lord, and admit it. We don't know what to do.

[\(00:52:03\):](#)

We know what's coming, but we don't know what to do. But we know what we are gonna do. We're gonna set our eyes on you. I mean, amen. Satan likes to keep your eyes on, on, on the problem and on the crisis. And we don't know. It's that, I mean, he just subtly will say, Hey, focus on this and be like and, and if he is successful in doing that in your life, you will always be looking at the wrong thing. You'll always be looking at the wrong thing. He will throw anything and everything to keep you unfocused. If your first reaction is anger, you are unfocused. You know, , life that is always angry. Yeah, I got, I got a few of those. They're unfocused. If they would admit that. That's also say they're miserable. So let's move on to accept the challenge presented to us when a crisis arrives, we must finally, number three.

[\(00:52:54\):](#)

So we've talked about understanding God's plan in your crisis, developing a plan to your prayers. And number three, know that the battle plan belongs to the Lord. Have you ever heard that song? The battle belongs to the Lord? Yeah. When something arrives, the battle belongs to the, I'm not gonna sing to you, but second Chronicles 20:15 through 18. And he meaning the spirit of the Lord, said, listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jahaz had, so everybody says, the Lord to you, do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great hoard for the battle is not yours. But God's underline that in your Bible, if you got brought your Bibles with you, the battle is not yours, but it's God's. Now, verse 16, tomorrow, go down against him. Say he still has instructions for you. You know, you know the battle's done, he's already won.

[\(00:53:50\):](#)

But I do want you to 16 tomorrow, go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Z. You will find them at the end of the valley, the wilderness of the j Gerald, very specific instructions. 17.

You will not need to fight in this battle. And you can imagine the one, there's always the one guy you imagine, the one guy who say what? You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf. I love that. O, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid. Do not be dismayed tomorrow. Go out against them and the Lord will be with you. Then Jehosaphat bowed his head. I love this cuz this is the response to instructions from the Lord. It's not like you know, they gather together.

[\(00:54:36\):](#)

So what do you wanna do? All right. No, they bow their head, Jehoshaphat bowed his head, and with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord worshiping the Lord. Notice that didn't say worshiping and questioning the Lord like the one I have a, a question like, like, how is this supposed to work? And, and don't, don't laugh cuz you know, we're all like that. We're like, I get it, God's in it, but how is this gonna work? You know, I want to know the plan. Got it. No, it's like, so no, they just worshiped, fell down and worshiped the Lord. You know what that is? That's total faith. And believing what just got instructed to them is exactly what's gonna happen. We can't forget that because their battle, it was one thing, your battle is completely different, but it's the same instructions.

[\(00:55:26\):](#)

Listen to me. He says, God didn't take long to respond to this particular prayer. And he, through the spirit of the Lord, told the people that the battle was not theirs, but it belonged to the Lord. When you're in trouble, in your life, when you're in trouble, or your life seems like it's in shambles approach, God in faith. Why? Because based on his word, based on the history that you've learned about him, based on what you've learned about his character in your circumstances, and of course base it on his promises. That's why when you read these verses, they may not make sense from any believer or non-believer alike. These instructions don't make any sense to the average person. But then marching around the walls of Jericho or and blowing trumpets or, or washing in the Jordans river seven times didn't make much sense either did it, but, but we saw the answer.

[\(00:56:24\):](#)

Leprosy fell away. Walls fell down because they followed the instruction of the Lord to the letter they didn't mark six times ago. You know what? I got nothing else in me. He didn't watch six times and say, this is stupid. He did it and saw God's blessings. And so a lot of things from God doesn't make sense to hu to human standards. But again, he's, God created the heavens in the earth. We're right back to the beginning of the sermon, created the heavens in the earth. He can do a lot more than you infinitely more. He infinitely knows more than you and I. So the Lord basically told the people, he's got this, and he did. All they needed to do was stand there and observe what God was doing on their behalf. It's like, God's okay, get in here. Let's, let's huddle.

[\(00:57:05\):](#)

All right, here's the plan. I'll take care of it. Right? That's the plan. He's like, I, I just want you to see, but I've got it. And so that's a hard instruction for us to just stand there and watch. And many might want to hide or just not look at it, you know, whatever it may be. And when that happens, we miss or fail to witness the awesomeness of God. Can you imagine somebody standing at the shore when Moses asked for help in the Red Sea parting? I don't, I don't wanna watch 'em afraid they, they're gonna make me jump in there and, and, and nothing but can you imagine? Because they would've just missed, would've been, I hate to even use the word awesome, because there's really no word to describe the awe of what just happened. But many times we don't even want, okay, God, just take every, I don't even wanna watch and we're missing out on his awesomeness.

[\(00:57:56\):](#)

We hold onto our pain and trouble and try to figure out a way out ourselves. I mean, we do, we say, well, that's just how I am. You know well, that's the old you. Maybe, you know, the new you is a new creature, you know, and, and is different from the way we used to act. So don't ever stand. Oh, well, that's just the way he made me. Is it because we know God doesn't make mistakes? He didn't just go, oh, you know, I dropped, I messed up with Brian or something. That's why he's so whatever. No, we can't, we, we stand on that. We like to say, well, that's, that's gotta be what God made because that's the way I am. No, no, no. We've, we bought into something and then just somewhere along the line, we, you can imagine God saying, I, I didn't give you that.

[\(00:58:44\):](#)

I didn't put that in your life. I didn't put that on your shoulders. I want, I want more for you. Let's get that out of there if you just listen to me. So we all need to fall to the ground in true worship and praise God with a loud voice. So I know you're all wondering what happened next. Second Chronicles 20 22, 24. And when they began to sing and praise the Lord said, an ambush against the men of Ammond, Moab, and Mounter who had come against Judah so that they were routed for the men of Amman and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Sheer devoting them to destruction. And when they had made it end of the inhabitants of Sar, and this, you know, you say the Bible didn't have sense, a humor, look at this next, next line. And then they all helped to destroy one another.

[\(00:59:28\):](#)

I mean, when Judah came to the watch Tower of the Wilderness, they looked toward the hoard and behold, there were dead bodies lying on the ground. None had escaped. I mean, imagine that view. They're like, wow, what the spirit of the Lord told us is absolutely true. There they are. We don't have to do nothing but watch and be amazed. So not only was the victory complete, but it took a couple of days for the king and the people to collect all the spoils. And all of us have things in our life that try to pull us, pull our attention away from God. Don't let these things rule your life. And, and, and I I'm not gonna name 'em because it could, it could take the rest of the night to explain the things that kind of have rule over us where we don't like to say that has rule over us but it tries to pull our attention away from that.

[\(01:00:17\):](#)

So accept the challenge and give everything, and I mean everything over to the Lord, and to begin to live your life in victory like you serve a victorious God. I'll say it again. If you're saved, let your face know it, right? Like that person saved. Really? I couldn't tell. I don't know. I just, that's just me. So anyway, in closing are you in the middle of something right now, some kind of crisis or trouble? Do you need to come back from what looks like possible defeat? You know, the, the thought process there, there ain't no way out of this. You know we do that in movies and, and shows. We're watching 'em. Like, I don't know how they're gonna get out of this. You know, sometimes we look at our own life that way. So if, if you are if you're in need of a comeback that looks like defeat, praise the Lord, you're like, what?

[\(01:01:11\):](#)

Yes. Praise the Lord. This is an opportunity for you to magnify his name and exalt his name forever and have victory in Jesus. Amen. So, in spite of your circumstances, praise God without restraint or restriction. You know, if you're hooked up to a machine in the hospital, praise the Lord. You know, praise God without restraint or restriction. And in the middle of your heartache, bless his name, bless his name, despite any financial or health setbacks, figuratively and literally get down on your knees and honor God with all you've got, every bit of strength you've got. Get on your knees and honor even, even if you're standing mentally be on your knees. You know what I mean? And honor God with all you got,

with all of your heart, not part of it, all of it. And here's the tricky one, with all of your lifestyle, all of it, not part of it.

[\(01:02:05\):](#)

I'm allowed to devote this part of God and I'm gonna keep this, no, devote all of it to him. So even if your comeback has not arrived, even if you've been knocked down or knocked out, praise his holy name, amen. Amen. Because he is an awesome God who will do miracles and wonders. He'll do them anyway. But imagine when you trust him in faith, you get to see that, right? You get to see miracles every day. Well, you, you get the naysay. Well, show me the red Sea party. You know what, when someone is given a bad diagnosis and the doctor says, I don't know what happened, but the tumor's gone. The Red Sea just parted. Okay? So God will do miracles. Trust him in faith, and accept the challenge and trust the Lord. The issue or problem is not yours. The battle belongs to who belongs to God.

[\(01:02:55\):](#)

The battle belongs to the Lord. March outta here, believe in that, and just your life will be changed because any battle that comes your way is not yours. God's got it. We gotta believe that wholeheartedly, because this, this world is just falling apart because either Christians have decided not to stand up and do that, or they're remaining silent or they just don't know what to do anymore. But not this church, right? Right. Not this church. We will proudly say, bring it on because we've got God who's already victorious. Let's pray. Our Father, thank you so much for all that you do again, all that you're have done and all that you're doing. Lord, it's a repetitive prayer, but I pray it on repeat because I believe every word of it, Lord, that you, there's so much that we could, we could tell others that what you've done and God just what's in our future.

[\(01:03:44\):](#)

We'd love to shout. We know you're coming back to get us. But Lord, while until you do, you've given us a mission to do, and that is reach everyone, we can be the kind of example that will others say, Hey, what? There's something different about them. I wanna know what's different because I'm miserable and I wanna know what that is. And they'll see that it's your son. And living brightly in our life, Lord, we just ask that for all the people here, our entire church, all those that are online, and just help us to live that out. In Jesus' name I pray, amen. Amen. All right, well, what's coming up soon. Let's see basket basketball's still going, so that's Saturday. A few of us have some meetings here and there, but if we don't see you before then we'll see you Sunday morning at nine 30.