

My House Shall Be Called a House of Prayer

Jim Cymbala

Part 1

It's a real joy to be here at the Praise Gathering. I want to talk for a few moments about something so vital and yet so simple. It's so familiar to us, that that's the danger. I want our session this morning to be something that will make a difference in our lives, rather than just some kind of talk with more information about God. I pray that by His grace we can have fresh communion with God. To approach that subject, I want to give you one of the most strange and stunning pictures of Jesus found anywhere in the Bible. Of all the portraits you've ever seen painted, there is no portrait found in the Bible that is stranger. We see Christ on the cross. We know Christ as the Good Shepherd. We know Christ walking on the water. We see Christ sitting at the well with the woman from Samaria. But in your wildest dreams can you ever picture this? Have you ever wondered why God would put this in the Bible? Not just once but twice?

And so they came to Jerusalem and Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple. And he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple. And then he taught them saying, "Is it not written, my house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations." But you have made it a den of thieves. And the scribes and the chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy him for they feared him and all the people were astonished by his teaching. And when evening had come, he went out of the city.

Now, the Bible has many pictures of Jesus Christ and to me none is stranger. The Lamb of God, the one who came to take away the sins of the world, the gentle loving Jesus who as the Good Shepherd puts the lamb on his shoulders and brings it home. And yet, in this portion of Scripture, we see Jesus physically emoting in a way that is really hard for us to picture. That he would actually take tables and overturn them and throw money on the ground. That he somehow, all by himself, with no armed helpers (the disciples were passive in this) would stop people from carrying their merchandise. And just by a word of authority said, "get out of here with that, you can't bring that through the court." That he would go to those who sold the oxen and the sheep and the doves for the poor people, that he would say, "OUT!...get your business out of here!" It's an amazing picture of Jesus Christ. The loving Jesus that we know...we think that for anyone to be that irate and physical must mean they're not in the spirit...but this is Jesus Christ. And what's strange about this is, this is not the first time this has happened. I read from Mark. The Bible tells us in John the second chapter, that in Jesus' first visit to the temple (after he began his public ministry when he was about 30 years old) he did the same exact thing. In fact, the Bible tells us there, are you ready?, that he made a whip out of chords and used a chord to actually physically

thrash them out of the temple. Now its 2 or 3 years later, from there, and he's getting ready to face calvary and he comes back to the temple and he cleanses it again. Why would God put something so stunning in the Bible?

Part 2

That he would go into the holy temple of God and get so physical and so irate? And said, "you've made it a house of merchandise, you've made it a den of thieves. Get out of here! Is it not written, "my Father's house shall be called a house of prayer?" Now what's odd about all of this is the people who were there, belonged there. The people who were selling he animals had to be near the temple precincts because there was no way to offer the sacrifices prescribed in Leviticus and the books of Moses unless somebody could have those animals available for you. You couldn't be carting these animals from your home or all over the streets of Jerusalem. So those people belong there. But they had put a gauging uplift on the price. They were making money hand over fist, taking advantage of the fact that they were the ones who could assist. They were hiking the prices up so that people were getting taken advantage of. And the money changers, you had to pay the temple tax if you were a good jew. You couldn't use greek or roman money. You had to actually use the special coins that were minted in Jerusalem itself. So those money changers were there to take your money from wherever you came from, Macedonia or whatever, and you changed your money so that you could make the proper donation. But they were, once again, tacking on big time profit. And the people carrying stuff through the temple. Actually, the writers of that time tell us that instead of going around the temple they said, "let's take a shortcut" and they went through the court of the Gentiles, right through the temple carting their stuff...making the house of God a shortcut to big time money. And Jesus, with his whip made of chords. And Jesus somehow physically with just his presence and His authority just thrashes them out there and kicks them all out.

Before I get to my main point, it does remind us that all of us who are involved in singing in choirs, preaching the Gospel, pastoring churches, gospel singing (whatever the style is), and you who are sunday school teachers...because I know there's a lot of influence in this room right now. You're going to go back and a lot of you are leaders in the place where you came from. Boy does that challenge us to remember its not just IF you are doing God's work, its HOW you do God's work. For the Bible tells us that one day Jim Cymbala is going to stand at the Judgement seat of Jesus Christ and God's going to ask me why I pastored the Brooklyn Tabernacle and with what Spirit. You see, these people were in the temple but they didn't have the Spirit of the temple. They were supposed to be there to assist people to worship and to come into God's presence. They were there but they were out of sync with the whole purpose that God had for the place called the house of the Lord. They were doing it, they were doing their job, but they were making big time money and they were greedy and they had brought a secular spirit into a sacred place. They were business men. They were crass business men, coming into something that God said "my house should be called a house of prayer..you made it a den of thieves...you're getting over

on the people...out with you!" Awesome thought.

And in a day when Gospel music, Gospel preaching and Gospel work can become so mechanical or oriented toward me, myself and I, it reminds all of us as today, here at the Praise Gathering, that as we go back to our separate duties that we have to do God's work with God's spirit. We have to do God's work and approach it with God's heart. Because one day, it doesn't matter if your friends approve of you, or how many albums you sell or how popular Jim Cymbala is and if he writes a book....one day, the Bible says I'm going to stand before the one whose eyes are like fire. I can't get over on him. All of you who sing in that choir, it's not just if you're on the note it's why you are on your note. It's the spirit you do it in. Am I doing it for the glory of God? Do I really care about those people in NYC? I mean, am I preaching just to put on a show and get through another service or does my heart really radiate with God's love? Am I saying the things he wants me to say with the spirit he wants me to say them in? Why are you teaching that Christian Ed class, that Sunday school class? Why are you singing in that choir? Why do you serve? The Bible says that when Jesus went into the temple he reminded them, "this is not your house...this is my father's house and my father's house has to be run my father's way. And when you touch something sacred in a secular way, I'm going to kick you all out of here." And even though he's not walking through churches today and kicking people out. There is going to come that day when Paul says we will all stand at the judgement seat of Jesus Christ and we will have to give a review to the Lord and we will be reviewed on why we did what we did and how we did it.

Part 3

But that's not my main point this morning. But that's a well taken point for all of us. Not only on the crass business side of money...because it's so easy to make Gospel work just another way to make a living. That's what these people were doing. They weren't interested in people getting in contact with God they were making a living out of it. But, as we do God's work we must not rob the glory that is only due to Him. Whatever we do and whatever we say, the Lord wants to remind us through this, that all the glory and all the honor must go to Jesus Christ.

But the thing that really provoked Jesus into this angry tirade was this: He said, "You men don't even understand about my Father's house. You've revised and given your opinion about the temple but the temple doesn't belong to you. My father's house shall be called a house of prayer and you've made it a den of thieves." This is the first principle of religion so listen closely. Jesus said, "My father's house shall be called a house of prayer...the atmosphere of my father's house is supposed to be prayer. The atmosphere around the things of my Father must be that aroma of people opening their heart and coming to my father in worship, petition and supplication. And instead of keeping that atmosphere and aiming at that atmosphere and understanding my Father's purpose, you've made it a place just to make a buck. So out with you! My house shall be called a house of Prayer." The thing that is supposed to distinguish Christian churches and Christian people and Christian gatherings is the aroma and atmosphere of prayer. You might say, "well Pastor Cymbala or brother Jim, that's not our style, we come from a different tradition." It

doesn't matter what your tradition is, or what my tradition is, its his father's house. And his father says, "my house shall be a house of prayer and supplication." Now, we know that that temple is unlike any church. The Brooklyn Tabernacle, the building that I pastor in, is not a sacred building. Your church building is not a sacred building. There are no sacred buildings like the temple. We know that. That temple that sat there in Jerusalem, which now the mosque of Omar sits on that land, was the only place that God said the brazen altar could be put and the animal sacrifices could be given. It was the only geographical spot in the world where the holy place and the holy of holies could be. So what I'm not trying to say today, is that in our churches there is some counterpart to the temple, we know that. In fact the Bible says we're the temple of the Holy Spirit. But what I want to say to you is, that God's work, from the very beginning, is not like you and I often imagine it. God's work, God's house, the christian religion is always supposed to have the aroma of prayer. Preaching yes, but not "my house shall be called a house of preaching". Music yes, but not "my house shall be called a house of music." "My house shall be called a house of prayer." There were choirs, but it was called a house of prayer. There was the reading of the Word, but "my house shall be called a house of prayer." So the Bible tells us that when Jesus Christ died and resurrected and went back to Heaven. He began his church, which the gates if Hell shall not prevail against, he kept the same line running through the formation of the church which was in his Father's house. Have you ever noticed that the Christian church was not born while someone was preaching, but while people were praying? Have you ever noticed that in the second chapter of the book of Acts, when the church was born, they were doing nothing but just waiting on God and praying? And they were just sitting there and as they were praying, worshipping and waiting and having heart communion with God...and God's shaping them and cleaning them out, and building faith into them and doing those heart operations that only the Holy Spirit can do..the church was born and the spirit was poured out! "My house shall be called a house of prayer." In the fourth chapter, Peter and John are arrested and they're slapped around and threatened, "don't you preach anymore in that name." And what do they do? They don't go and protest, they don't go to the Supreme court, they don't try to get some political leverage. They go back to a prayer meeting. They go back and say, "behold the threat. O God, look how they're threatening us. But, Oh God, we lift our voices together to you. Oh God behold their threats and give your servants boldness that we may preach the name of Jesus in the name of Jesus." And the place where they prayed was shaken and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God with boldness. "My house shall be called a house of prayer."

Part 4

They had this instinct, when in trouble: pray. When intimidated: pray. When challenged: pray. When persecuted: pray. When you're in trouble: pray. In fact, this thing called prayer (whatever it is) is so unique...its not like what we're used to...we talk about pray, we say prayers...a lot of them are mental prayers. This thing called praying is so deep that when the Apostle Paul got converted. He was first Saul of Tarsus, this violent persecuter of the church. Jesus went to Ananias, and the Lord appeared to Ananias in Damascus and said, "go to this man, this jew, this church-persecuter named Saul of Tarsus and pray for him." Ananias said, "You know, I know about this man. This man is trouble with a capital 'T'." And Jesus said, as if this was proof that

everything had changed, “No Ananias, you can go for behold he prays.” He prays! You can go now, because he's in that room blind somewhere waiting for you because he actually, for the first time in his religious life, is offering a true prayer. And because he's praying you can go and not be afraid. It was as if that was the sign whether somebody was the real deal with God: behold he prays. And that same apostle Paul when he writes to Timothy and he wants to encourage him how to do God's work, he says this, “First of all then I want supplications.” FIRST OF ALL in your church Timothy. First of all before anything else...supplications and prayers and intercessions and thanksgiving to be made for all men. That's FIRST OF ALL! It doesn't matter what your tradition or what American Christianity says. The Word of God says “first of all then”, I want supplications. Because we got to remember, Timothy, that my house should be called a house of prayer.

Later on in the same chapter, he says, remember Timothy, I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands without wrath or doubting and I want them to pray. That's the sign of a christian church. Paul says, “Men, pray with holy hands without wrath or doubting.”

In fact, the Book of Revelation says, that when the four and twenty elders fall at the feet of Jesus, they have these golden bowls. You know what's in the bowls? This incense that is so fragrant to Christ. Its the prayers of the saints. What must prayer be to God that He keeps it in bowls in Heaven? Just imagine when you and I kneel, stand or pray seated and we really open our heart to God, somehow those things are kept. They are so precious to God. My house shall be called a house of Prayer. And we have, in the day that we live in, a lot of revisionism going on. But its not coming from Washington, its coming from the church. We are revising what a church is today. The Bible says, “and they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and in fellowship, and in the breaking of bread and in prayers.” We've revised that and said that if we can get people for one hour on Sunday morning in a building, that's the church. That's not the church. We can use every device we want to get people for one hour. And keep it early and keep it moving and keep it going because people have important things to do that day. That's not the story of the Christian church. That might be the story of my church or your church but that's not the church Jesus built. And the history of revivals down through the ages have told us that whenever things have grown crass and commercial and secular and hard and worldly...God sends a revival. What's always the sign of a revival: behold they pray. The church begins to pray. Moody goes somewhere in England and they begin to pray. Finney goes to upstate NY, and they begin to pray. The Great Awakening happens in America, and they begin to pray. Who was the fancy preacher...nobody, they prayed. Where was the great music...oh they made great songs, that wasn't the great thing about it. They prayed. Prayer preceded it. Prayer kept it going. And the minute prayer ended, the Spirit of God lifted and we got into one of those tougher times for the church of Jesus Christ. You folks, young people going to these schools...as someone who went to college as a basketball player (full scholarship) traveled around the country playing basketball. I never had the privilege of going to a school like you people are going to. The greatest thing anybody can learn in this building is how to pray.

Part 5

How to call on God so that God intervenes in a situation. "They continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine, fellowship and the breaking of bread and in prayers." That's the church. And I talk to well-known ministers. I talk to men, if I mentioned their names a lot of you would know a lot of their names. And they tell me privately off the record, "I'm dazzling them with my books and sermons but brother Jim, something is wrong. Except for Sunday morning for one hour, I can't get a soul into the church. If I called a prayer meeting, not one tenth of the congregation would come." They'll pay \$20 for a concert but Jesus can't draw them. They'll pay all kinds of money to hear somebody do something. And that's wonderful, I'm all for that. But doesn't it awaken us that if the prayer meeting was called, that nobody would come. When God said, my house shall be called a house of prayer. My house shall be called a house of prayer.

And you represent all kinds of cities. Just ask yourself that question, in the city you live in, what church do you know takes a night, a prominent night, with all the leadership there, and says, if prayer is so great and his house shall be called a house of prayer. And we have all these promises: ask you shall receive, seek you shall find, knock it shall be opened, call unto me and I will answer you. You would think the Christian church would say, "Time out! We're gonna pray because God says if we pray He'll intervene." But the truth is, in the city I live in NY and the same for Chicago and Philly...who are we kidding...more people are turning to crack than to Christ. There are more people trying crack than are getting baptized in water. That's the real deal. Preaching isn't going to do it alone. Teaching is not going to do it alone. My house shall be called a house of prayer. That's what brings God's power and grace into a situation. The proof of that is, in the past 40 years there's been more books written on marriages in all the preceding 2,000 years of church history. More books in the last 40 years on marriage but go to any pastor in America and ask him if there are not more problems per hundred marriages today than at any time...and we have the most books. We have the how-to's but what we're missing is the grace of God. My house shall be called a house of prayer. A couple that prays together, stays together. A church that prays together, stays together. There will be difficult moments, I'm not trying to be simplistic. But God's Word is true, "Call on me and I will answer you. I'll show you things you could never even imagine. Just give me a chance."

There's more books on child-rearing and quality time with your children at Nauseum. Talk to any pastor, there are more problems with children and young people in the church, per hundred young people, than at anytime previous. It's not because we're lacking knowledge, it's not because we're lacking how-to and all of that has its place. But, brother and sister, when the rubber meets the road we need the power of God and the grace of God. But listen to the promise as I come to a close. "Therefore, let us come boldly to the throne of grace, so that we might receive grace and mercy to help us in our time of need." It doesn't say, "Therefore, let us come to the sermon." We in America have made the sermon the centerpiece. God never intended the sermon to be the centerpiece. The preacher, if he does his job, is supposed to get people to come to the throne of Grace. Why? Because it's at the throne of Grace that God gives grace and

mercy. If a singer, a Gospel singer, really does its job, every Gospel singer listen to me, you're going to answer up some day. Because God's going to say to you, "did you bring people to where the action was at the throne of grace? If you just entertained them and you just tickled them and gave them a warm and fuzzy moment. Woe unto you! Because at the throne of grace, I could've changed their life! Pastor Cymbala, did you bring the people and dazzle them with your footwork and try to be clever? Or did you make Jesus wonderful? So that they could come to the throne of Grace? Therefore, let us come boldly to the throne of Grace. That's why Jesus ascended to the right hand of the father, so that he could make a way so that me with my problems could go and receive grace and mercy to help me.

That's an awesome thing. Just an awesome thought. That we've created a religion of our own, and sometimes, his house shall be called a house of prayer. In a lot of churches and services you have everything but prayer. We have talks, readings, talent, choir. My wife conducts a choir, I'm all for those things..but you get what I'm going for...if it doesn't end up with someone touching God and praying...who are we kidding?

Part 6

For someone who is so ill-prepared as myself for the ministry, seems to me that God has chosen, among other things, to make my wife and I an example of those foolish things that confound the wise. My wife writes music and directs the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, and she neither reads nor writes music. She's never been trained. She doesn't know what she's doing, she just does it. I've never been to a seminary or a Bible school. And I ended up with 15-18 people in NYC on a street that was so depressing. Our church was so depressing that I didn't want to go and I was in charge. Drugs everywhere, intercity, totally different culture than especially my wife had grown up in. I, as a ball player, had been around. Then I realized, what am I going to do? Am I going to live in this Christian fantasy about what God once did and then what God's going to do one day but then your life goes by and you never see God do anything. You can let your life pass by with that kind of talk. Remember, the worst epitaph on anybody's tomb stone will be this: *you had not because you asked not.*

Someone says, "Well, brother Jim, you understand that you don't get everything you ask for, it has to be according to God's will." I understand all of that but, we can't use little theological dodges, to get away from the fact that a lot of people don't have things that he wants you to have right now today...but over my life and possibly yours he writes, "you have not because you asked not. I want to do it for you." But God has chosen prayer to be the one conductor, the one channel for all of God's blessings. The channel is prayer. In other words, God has this table set for us and he sees Jay and Amy and he knows exactly what they need to raise that child. He has the table spread with every kind of wisdom, grace and strength that they could possibly need. But he says, the only way to get it is to pull up to the table and taste and see that the Lord is good. And pulling up to the table is called prayer. In other words, God doesn't tell us "Pray because I want my people to pray." He says, "pray because I have all kinds of things for you! And when you ask

you shall receive.” In other words, its not legalism, its not “get in there and start praying.” It's “I need thee...O I need thee...every hour I need thee. God you see what I'm facing, help me Lord.” And as we pray, He's faithful to His word and supplies.

Well, my wife and I began to learn a little about this conductor, this channel called prayer. And we began to see people's lives get changed. I began to preach and not being trained and studying on my own and building a library (which has grown quite large) and trying to stay a student. But at the very beginning it was rough. The sermons I preached at the beginning, its tough when you fall asleep during your own sermons. Not just the people falling asleep; its when you doze off. But you know, I found this, that God, when you become a christian and because of what I just said and how he blesses people through prayer, he's going to make you a woman of prayer. He's going to make you a man of prayer...you try to run and He'll chase you. But he will make us people of prayer. He knows how to order our lives to get our attention and say, “do you realize how much you need me now?” “Oh no Lord, I can handle this on my own.” God says, “alright fine...when you hit the stone wall the 32nd time, remember that you need me.” But, notice he's not making you a man of prayer so that he can say, “See I got him praying.” Its a Father saying, “I have all this and you live with such scarcity. Please come unto to me, all ye that labor. Pray, talk, spend time. What are you so rushed for? Running for what? Working with what? There's nothing in Jim Cymbala to work with. Everything that you need I have, so when are we going to talk?”

So I began to learn and we began to stress the Tuesday night prayer meeting as the barometer of our church. And this past Tuesday night between 12 and 1500 people gathered, like every Tuesday night. And since those days, we've had 14 other churches begin, all stressing that prayer meeting night. Because we found that if you can beat the devil on the prayer meeting night you'll beat him on every other level!

Part 7

And that's the way it is in our personal lives. If you can beat the enemy in prayer, you'll beat him on every level. You will read the Word, there's grace flowing through you, you'll have an appetite for the things of God. From me standing in front of 2 people on a Tuesday night, I used to do that. The first offering I took on a Sunday was \$85...tithes and offerings and I had a daughter named Chrissy about 1 year old. My wife took a second job, I took a second job. But the people began to pray.

But in closing, let me tell you some of the last lessons I learned about this wonderful truth. Because I'm not trying to preach down to anyone. I'm preaching to myself as I'm talking to you. About 8-9 years ago, my daughter who is here today, she got away from us. She got away from not only us, she got away from God and got away from our house. My wife and I went through a two and a half year long nightmare that I don't want to get into. I promised God as I was getting at the end of it, as he brought me through, that wherever I got a chance, I promised God that no matter how hard it would be (as he's my witness) I would tell people what God does in answer to

pray. You know what the feeling is to not know where your daughter is. She grew up as a model child, I have two other children. Chrissy is now 25, I have a daughter 21 and a boy 18 but at that time Chrissy was about 17-18.

It was, I'm talking, nightmare. I'm talking about getting my car and leaving my house to go to church in the intercity, where I'm going to face 10 new people who visit who are HIV positive, and a battered woman and no neat family units and everything discombobulated. I don't want to be the focus, I'm supposed to be there, Carol and I, to minister to them. But I'm crying from the minute I leave my door til I get to the church. And saying, "God my heart is broken, my nerves are shot, I've screamed, begged, pleaded, tried to use money, reasoned, cried and she's getting worse and not getting better. How am I going to minister?" We're starting other churches, renting radio city music hall, starting new churches in the city, going to South America and Carol is writing songs and making albums. But no one knows, very few people know, we are hanging by a thread, my friend. All the times I drove and cried out to God coming in and said, "God please just get me through these three meetings." We have 11, 3:30 and 7:30 services, each about 2 hours long or more. "God just get me through another Sunday." And God would just lift me and I would have the grace to get through and minister to people, even though inside I was so just shaky. And I learned that when you pray, God comes. I learned that when you have no logical way to stand, God somehow when you pray gives you fresh feet and a fresh foundation.

We have a prayer band in our church, its a more important ministry than the 240 voice Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir. There's a prayer band that not only pray through each service (about 20 of them) while I'm preaching and ministering. But now they pray, for several years now, from 2:00 in the afternoon until 6:00 in the morning. If any of you have some need, you can just mail it to our church and someone will pray for it at 3:00 in the morning. Its an amazing thing how God honors that. They began to pray for me. God as my witness, I would sense myself at night sometimes, or shaving in the morning, I would feel God's grace just come underneath me and begin to steady me and hold my emotions. And I hadn't even been thinking about God. And I would say, "Lord what is this that has just come into my life?" "Somebody's praying for you!" As people would be praying for me, God blessed them. Then my wife got ill and had to have a hysterectomy and the hormonal imbalance she ended up with. My daughter's out of the house, the other two children I'm doing the best chance I can and now my wife is not just talking about leaving NY, which she wanted to. Because the enemy had told her, "Fine! Start your churches and influence people for Christ but I'm going to have all your children. I've got one and I'm coming for the other two." And my wife believed it. My wife told me, "you can leave with me or you can stay, but I'm leaving, because he already has Chrissy and I'm not losing my other two kids. Enough with this, we can't do this." The atmosphere in the city - New York is a miserable place to be. I'm not there because I like it, I'm there because God put me there.

Part 8

And then after the operation, she's talking about, she doesn't feel any reason to live any longer. And, I mean, what do you do? Your wife is flipping out, your daughters, your preaching, your

doing all of these things..I'm just telling you, oh how wonderful it is to know, that at the throne of grace no matter what's happening, God can lift you and hold you. What a wonderful God! One November, after about two years had passed, Chrissy was away. God and I got totally alone in Florida. And God spoke to me and said, "I know you've been praying for Chrissy." The impressions I got were basically this, I don't want to sound mystical or sensational. I'm just going to tell you from my heart. "No more talking to Chrissy, no more talking anyone else, no more money, no more screaming, no more crying. Drop it. Just tell me. Let's make a covenant. You just tell me, and I'll take care of it." And I told my wife, "I'm not going to see my daughter until she's right." And that's my first child. My wife kept in touch with her. Months went by. Christmas. Sad Christmas. Who wants presents when your daughter's away? On a February night in the prayer meeting. My house shall be called a House of prayer. We were all praying, calling on God, waiting on God. Ya know, nobody in charge, no choir, no speaker. Who needs it, you have Jesus. Its amazing how wonderful He is. And someone sent a note up to me, a young lady whose sensitive to the Lord, send the note up through an usher. And the note said "I feel deeply impressed that we should stop the prayer meeting and pray for your daughter." I looked at the note, people were praying all around me. I said, "God is this really you? I don't want to be the center of attraction. People have their own needs." But I felt impressed it was. I stopped the meeting after a while. And everyone gathered together in that room, in that church and held hands, over 1,000 people probably that night. I called one of my associate pastors in the front and he began to pray. And all I can tell you, and I don't know what your theology is, and it really doesn't matter because I'm just going to tell you what happened. You know where Paul said, "I travail like a mother giving birth til' christ be formed in you." I told the people, "my daughter thinks up is down and down is up, and she thinks light is dark and dark is light and unless God visits her and intervenes my daughter is out there. And someone wants me to stop the meeting so you can pray. My associates going to come and he's gonna pray." And suddenly it turned into a labor room. Have you ever heard women when their having labor? Its not pleasant, but it has some great results. And they began to pray. I was overwhelmed by it. With God as my witness. I was overwhelmed by it. They went to the throne of Grace like, "and now Satan you will give up that girl!"

And, they prayed. I came home my wife wasn't there that night and over a cup of coffee at night, I said Carol" its over". She said, "what's over?" I said, "its over. If there's a God in Heaven, what I just experienced tonight, it is over. Finito; its over. Just about a day later, I was shaving. My wife burst into the bathroom and said, "Chrissy is here." I hadn't seen her in four months. "And you better go down." I went down the steps and in on the kitchen floor was my daughter on her knees. When I walked in the Kitchen she grabbed at my pants legs, she pulled and was weeping and said, "Daddy, I've sinned against God, I've sinned again myself, I've sinned against you and Mommy. Daddy, forgive me for being rebellious etc... Daddy, its different but Daddy who was praying for me? Who was praying Tuesday night for me??" "What Chrissy, what happened?" She drew up to me, "In the middle of the night God woke me up and showed me I was heading towards a chasm and it had no bottom. But Daddy, even as he showed me that and showed me how off I was. He put his arms around me and showed me that he loved me and had a plan for my life and Daddy I've made it right with God." And I could tell by her face that she was my

daughter again, the one I had raised. Very soon God opened a door and for the next four years she directed the music program at a Bible school. She married a man of God. They're both in the ministry today. And, God reminded me once again, my house shall be called a house of prayer. Because when you call, I will answer. In the hard cases that some of you are facing, I'm gonna tell you now, it won't come from another seminar. Seminars have their limit. All they can do is be an arrow to send you to the throne of Grace. But when you get there, watch out, because God can do exceedingly beyond what we ask or think. I'm not being emotional. I'm not being simplistic. We have too many technicians now invading the church that are into methodology. The answer is not in methodology. The answer is in the power of the Holy Spirit. The answer is in the grace of God.

Pass me not O Gentle Savior, Hear my humble cry, while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by. Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry, while on others thou art calling do not pass me by.