

“The Wall is Broken and God is Looking”

Ezekiel 22:30 (NKJV)

Pastor Mike Summers

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[Speaker: Pastor Mike Summers]

[Recording begins in midst of Mike praying]

“... You are worthy of all that we are because of who You are. We thank You this morning for Your incredible grace and the love about which we have sung that has impacted our lives for eternity through the gift of Jesus. We thank You, Lord, for Your longsuffering toward us, for Your mercy demonstrated to us; that as those who are Your enemies, we experienced Your mercy and grace and have become Your children. We pray that You would speak to us this morning through Your word. We give You our attention so that the Spirit of truth may take the word of truth and effect change in our hearts to make us like Jesus. Father, we need Your help today. I need Your help today. May You be exalted. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.”

I just want to say on the onset it’s great to be able to be back in the saddle, although this really doesn’t look much like a saddle. I feel like I’ve been absent all summer. I’ve been here, but I haven’t been here. You know what I mean? And it’s good to be here; it’s good to be with you.

I’ve been thinking a lot in past weeks about the world in which we live, and the climate in which we are called to serve God and called to minister. And I think probably because I’m dealing with a number of you in our church who have children—adults who are children, teenagers who are children, younger children—who you’re struggling with, because you don’t sense in them a heart for God. Some of them are making decisions in life that are grievous to you. Some of them are flat-out God rejecters; they hate God. They are not believers and your heart is grieved by that.

And in thinking about that and in thinking about our ministry here and in thinking about helping families, it’s given me a lot to consider. I had the privilege last Saturday to speak to the men who went on the float trip, briefly, about what I am going to be communicating to you this morning. And I believe that it’s a pertinent topic. I believe that the subject is relevant, because we live in a world where the God of the Bible has been marginalized at best; at worst He’s been scorned and scoffed and ridiculed. The fact is we live in a world where our enemy is mounting an all-out assault against God, and he is bringing his war against God to where he can have the greatest impact. And the place that he can have the greatest impact is in the church and in your home.

Peter in his first epistle stated that believers need to wake up because our—

... adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. [1 Peter 5:8 NKJV]

The apostle Paul indicated that our enemy's devices are crafty, they are wily and subtle. Paul indicates that while he may be like a roaring lion, he comes at us like an angel of light. And because of this, Paul argues that we need to arm ourselves with God's armor, so that we're able to withstand him in our evil day.

As a pastor, it is my responsibility to shepherd the church by faithfully declaring what God says. In other words, to provide an environment or a climate where God's people are able to learn and grow and worship and serve God because of the truth of God that directs their hearts to love God, and their minds to love God, and their lives to love God.

What protects the church in a climate of apostasy, in a climate of spiritual decline, is sound doctrine. It is clear, biblical teaching that exalts Christ through His word. The wall of protection that is provided by God through His word is fortified through men and women of God, who in turn respond to God's truth and live God's truth and hold to God's truth, and then pass that truth on in word and in deed to their children.

Walls and fences are good things. They are intended for protection. They are designed to keep unwanted things out. They are intended for restraint, to keep wanted things in. And we understand this. Aren't you glad when you are walking down a sidewalk, and you walk past a house where there is a vicious dog—aren't you glad that there is a fence that is designed to keep that dog away from munching on you? And when you go to the zoo, and you're looking at the animals, aren't you thrilled that there is a wall of protection that is designed to keep the large cats, the lions and tigers, from making you their mid-afternoon snack, and that keeps the large apes, the baboons and gorillas from coming and ripping you from limb to limb? Walls are good things.

In the Bible, the cities of the Bible were built with walls around them. The high walls served as a line of defense against the enemy and were absolutely essential for the cities' fortification and protection. If part of the wall was broken down, then the enemy, when it came against that city, would focus all of its attention, would muster all of its forces against the breach in that wall, and would eventually overtake the city through the gap that existed.

In Deuteronomy 28, God warned Israel that when they forsake Him and the protection that He provided through His law, then one of the many consequences they would experience because of their rebellion would be that the walls of the city would be breached, and they would be defeated by their enemies. Deuteronomy 28:52—even before they came into the land, God says,

“They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the LORD your God has given you.” [Deuteronomy 28:52 NKJV]

Walls and gates are important things. In fact, Proverbs warns that the person who refuses to govern himself, that is, to exercise control over his own life, his own spirit—that person becomes vulnerable to destruction in the very same way that a city becomes vulnerable to defeat when its walls have been broken down. Proverbs 25:28, Solomon says,

Whoever has no rule over his own spirit ... [Proverbs 25:28 NKJV]

Here’s the picture. He—

... is like a city broken down, without walls. [Proverbs 25:28 NKJV]

So God has given us a spiritual wall of protection, and He has given that wall of protection through His word. And He has positioned watchmen on the wall to warn us of the enemy. The fact is when we reject His word, we marginalize Him and we ignore His warnings, then a gap is created in this spiritual wall. And when that gap is created, then we become vulnerable and susceptible to defeat.

And Paul warns us in the New Testament that because we have an enemy that is crafty and cunning and bent on our destruction, we are to be—in Ephesians 6,

... strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. [Ephesians 6:10 NKJV]

In other words, we are to stand firm in Him; stand firm on Him and stand firm behind Him. In other words, because He is our wall and our fortress and our protection, He really is our only hope in light of the cultural, spiritual day in which we live where evil abounds.

As I look out today, I see that the spiritual wall is being breached. That wall is crumbling. That wall is in disrepair. And it’s being breached because of those who today see no need to adhere to God’s word—to those even within the church who find it unnecessary to walk according to God’s ways. Because people are seeking to live independently from the Lord and are rejecting His help and are ignoring His word and are quenching His Spirit, then the spiritual walls of protection are weakening in some cases. They are being breached.

The wall of protection is being breached in our homes, and our families as a result are vulnerable to the assaults of the enemy. The wall of protection is being breached in our church and as a result our body is vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy. The wall has been breached in our land, and as a result our country is succumbing to the attacks of the enemy. And folks, it all starts in the home. It all starts with you. It starts with me. Our nation is weak because our churches are weak. And our churches are weak because our homes are weak.

I know that's a long introduction, but I want you to turn to Ezekiel 22, and you'll understand that that is an appropriate introduction to the text that we'll be looking at today. Because what we're seeing today is no different than what occurred in Israel in the 6th century BC.

It was during this time in Israel's history that a moral crisis had infected the nation and it was at an all-time high. Their glory days under David and Solomon are now history. Israel had forsaken the Lord. She had plunged into idolatry, and as a result in 605 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon swept through Israel, and those who were of noble birth, like Daniel and Azariah and Mishael and Hananiah, were taken into captivity.

Then eight years later there were others, along with King Jehoiakim, who were taken captive. And it was during this time, during this sweep of Nebuchadnezzar, that a godly priest by the name of Ezekiel was called by God to be a prophet to warn the people of Judah. He was to warn them that judgment from God would come.

But what's ironic about this, at the same time that Ezekiel was thundering out his warning from God, there were false prophets. And the false prophets were giving a happy message. The false prophets were saying, "We've got nothing to worry about," that, "God is good and God is a God of love. And that God is certainly not going to allow this precious jewel, Jerusalem, to be taken. And God will certainly never allow the temple to be destroyed." The false prophets were assuring the people, "Just take it easy; focus on the positive. Focus on God's goodness".

But in Ezekiel 22, the prophet Ezekiel declares that God's judgment was coming, and that judgment would serve to refine the people in the same way that silver is refined in a furnace. And he proclaimed that Jerusalem would become God's crucible, and His wrath would be the fire that would blow upon them, and they would melt in the same way that a silversmith brings fire against the silver to purify it of all the impure metals.

In chapter 22, in verses 1-16 of Ezekiel, it identifies the breach that is in the wall, and Ezekiel lists the specific sins that were the cause or the impetus of God's judgment. God's people had adopted the idolatrous practices of the people around them; basically they were no different than the pagans living in the land.

So Ezekiel identifies a great spiritual and moral crisis among the people. There was idolatry and immorality and murder and religious prostitution and child sacrifice—all those sins that God's word talked about were rampant among the people. Children were mistreating their parents; they were treating them with contempt. The most vulnerable, the fatherless and the widows, were being taken advantage of by the people. And most significantly, God was being despised and God's holiness was being profaned.

And so Ezekiel's message was that God's judgment was certain, because everyone was guilty of weakening the spiritual wall of protection around Israel. In verse 26, if you'll notice, the priests were guilty. They were guilty of ignoring God's word and profaning what was holy. Here's what Ezekiel said to them,

"Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them." [Ezekiel 22:26 NKJV]

But not only were the priests guilty, the rulers were guilty of taking advantage of God's people and profiting dishonestly. Look at verse twenty-seven,

"Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, to shed blood, to destroy people, and to get dishonest gain." [Ezekiel 22:27 NKJV]

That's a graphic picture. "When you look at the politicians of the land," Ezekiel says, "they are like wolves coming in." Wolves don't just sort of pick and choose. They go in and they devour; they tear open; they make a bloody mess of those they are feeding off of. And he says that the politicians are feeding off the people, and profiting dishonestly.

Look at verse twenty-eight. The prophets were guilty. They were guilty of rejecting God's truth, and proclaiming lies. It says,

"Her prophets plastered them with untempered mortar, seeing false visions, and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' when the LORD had not spoken." [Ezekiel 22:28 NKJV]

And in verse twenty-nine, he tells us the people were guilty of forsaking God and perverting themselves. Because—

"The people of the land ..." [Ezekiel 22:29 NKJV]

he says—

"... have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger." [Ezekiel 22:29 NKJV]

Go up several verses to verse four of chapter 22. Speaking to the people, he says—

"You have become guilty by the blood which you have shed, and have defiled yourself with the idols which you have made ..." [Ezekiel 22:4 NKJV]

The people were perverse, and they had perverted themselves and forsaken the Lord. So the spiritual walls that intended to be their protection had become weak, and through Ezekiel, God is telling them there is a huge breach that needs to be filled.

I think we're in a similar condition today. Our world is marked by the same things that Ezekiel witnessed in his day. We are called as God's people to be salt and to be light in this dark and decaying world, but the sad thing is our salt has lost its saltiness. We are no longer distinctive; there's no difference between those who claim the name of Christ and those who do not. Our light has lost its brilliance. We are no longer illuminating truth in this world. And the sad thing is this is exactly what Paul said would happen in the last days. In 2 Timothy 3:1-5, he says,

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: [2 Timothy 3:1 NKJV]

Listen to this description of these days—

For men will be lovers of themselves ... [2 Timothy 3:2 NKJV]

And out of that sewer pipe, listen to what flows.

[2] ... lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, [3] unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, [4] traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, [5] having a form of godliness but denying its power ... [2 Timothy 3:2-5 NKJV]

The walls are broken. A huge breach exists. And just as in Ezekiel's day, God is looking for those who recognize the need and are willing to stand. Because of the spiritual condition of the land, God said that He's looking for someone who's willing to make a difference. He says in verse 30, and this is what we're going to look at this morning,

"So ..." [Ezekiel 22:30 NKJV]

"So ..." what? "So": because of the condition; because of the breach that exists; because of the problem with the priests and the problem with the prophet and the problem with the politicians and the problem with the people.

"So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one." [Ezekiel 22:30 NKJV]

God was looking then, and God is looking now. He is always, always looking for those whose heart is loyal to Him, so that He can show Himself strong on their behalf. 2 Chronicles 16:9—it says,

"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him ..." [2 Chronicles 16:9 NKJV]

God is looking. He is looking. His looking today for men and women who have the courage to be godly; to be valiant warriors; to be humble servants in their homes, their churches, and their communities. There is a breach in the wall, and God is looking for someone to makeup the wall and stand in the gap before Him.

So what kind of person is it that God is seeking? This verse gives us three characteristics.

First, because the wall is broken, God is looking for someone with spiritual character who will stand out and live differently for God. He is looking for someone with spiritual character who will stand out and live differently for God. He says,

“... I sought for a man among them ...” [Ezekiel 22:30 NKJV]

He indicated that He’s looking; He’s seeking for a man among them. He’s not looking for just any man. He’s not looking for just any person. He’s looking for one among them. In other words, God is looking for someone among all the sinful, indulgent people of the land. He is looking for someone who stood out; someone who was a marked difference; someone who was different than the profane priests and the lying prophets and the thieving politicians and the perverted people of the land.

You see, the people of Israel had become no different than the pagans living around them. God is looking for someone, he says, who is different from those who are living without the restraints of what it means to follow God. God had been completely cast off as the supreme authority and as a result there was no moral compass, no divine standard among the people to restrain them.

Look at verses 10 and 11. He says,

“In you ...” [Ezekiel 22:10 NKJV]

That is, in Jerusalem—

^[10] *“... men uncover their fathers' nakedness; in you they violate women who are set apart during their impurity. ^[11] One commits abomination with his neighbor's wife; another lewdly defiles his daughter-in-law; and another in you violates his sister, his father's daughter.” [Ezekiel 22:10-11 NKJV]*

You see, when God as the supreme authority is cast off, anything is possible. Everything becomes fair game. And the problem is God says, “I’m looking for someone who’s different. I’m looking for someone who is under a different manager.” He’s looking for someone who is different than the sensual, self-seeking, success-oriented, prosperity-obsessed crowd who’s bent on living their own way, refusing to follow God. And the same is true today. God is looking for someone who is distinctive; someone who is different than those who are in the

world around them living only for success, and looking for satisfaction everywhere except in the Lord.

In other words, He's looking for someone with a different spiritual orientation. He's looking for someone who knows Him. He's looking for someone who is not seduced by the distractions of the world; for someone whose life is surrendered to Him—to someone who is filled with His Spirit, and not controlled by the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life. He's looking for someone who has been crucified with Christ. He's looking for someone who's a living sacrifice. He's looking for someone who is holy, whose life is acceptable to God. He's looking for someone who puts God first, and who lives God's way.

God is looking for someone who adheres to His words; someone who delights in God's law according to the inner man, and who orders his life by God's statutes. He's looking for someone who's a doer of the word—someone who is directed by what God says—someone who marches to the orders of his supreme commander without questioning, without wavering, without hesitating, without flinching. He is looking “for a man,” He says, “among them” who is different, who has spiritual character, who will stand out.

Secondly, because the wall is broken, God is looking for someone with spiritual courage who will stand in and labor decisively with God. Someone with spiritual courage who will stand in and labor decisively with God. He says,

“So I sought for a man among them ...” [Ezekiel 22:30 NKJV]

Notice the next phrase—

“... who would make a wall, and stand in the gap ...” [Ezekiel 22:30 NKJV]

And God saw Jerusalem—pictured Jerusalem—as a city with her spiritual wall broken down. By the way, at this point in history the physical wall in Jerusalem was still intact. God says—concerning the spiritual wall, the spiritual protection for the city—that wall is broken. God was looking for someone to make up this wall and stand in the gap that existed.

You know ours, today, is the time I believe of great spiritual crisis. But because it's a time of great spiritual crisis, it means it's a time of great spiritual opportunity. Men and women are needed today who have the courage to submit to God, and to stand in the gap and to rebuild what has been broken. Walls are intended to provide protection, but the walls of protection that we need today are missing.

We see that there are few men today who are consistent models of what it truly means to be a man of God for our younger boys to look to and to follow. And we find today that there really are precious few women for our younger girls to look to, to see what it means to be a godly

woman that they can follow. And as a result, I believe that we're raising a generation that is vulnerable. There's a breach in the wall. God is looking for someone who's got the courage to stand in and repair that breach.

Listen. God is looking for you to do what no teacher, what no pastor can do. He is looking for you to make up the spiritual wall in your home. Godly men and godly women are needed to model what it means to walk with God; men and women that are passionate about spiritual things. We need men and women today that model spiritual character, whose lives reflect strength and stability; men and women who have the kind of spiritual courage to labor and to stand even when it's hard.

God is looking for those who have the courage to provide spiritual direction for their homes. I asked the guys this the other night. I said, "Men, who's going to lead your children. Who's going to say, 'Follow me as I follow Christ.?' " Your kids are looking to you for direction. It's tough. Yeah, it's tough. Get over it. It comes with the territory. We need those who have the courage to set limits and guidelines and boundaries for their children so they can be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and be protected, so that an environment can be created in the home where God will be exalted.

Now I know that you cannot change your child's heart. No parent has the capacity to make their children believe anything. That's God's business. But my friend, God has given us the responsibility to create an environment that is conducive for nurturing them in Christ. The sad thing is many dads, many moms have taken their hands off, and they said, "That's someone else's job."

One father shared with me about two months ago. He said, "I feel that my home is dirty. I understand," he said, "that my kids are going to experience being in the world, but when they come into my home, what they ought to see is something different." And he said, "It's not, and it grieves my heart."

What's the condition, the environment in your home? If a part of a city's wall was broken down, it was critical that that particular breach be defended, because that gap was the weakest point in the wall. And it was the place that most needed defending, because that's where the enemy would gain access to the city. And so if you were going to be in a physical gap in a physical wall, you would have to be pretty courageous because that's where the full-out assault of the enemy was going to be presented.

It's no different in the spiritual wall. You've got to stand in, but it takes courage. God is looking for someone with the kind of spiritual courage that is going to enable him or her to stand. You can't expect somebody else to stand in the gap. It's your duty. It's difficult. It's dangerous. It's

lonely. It's a gap. It's a vulnerable place. Yeah, that's exactly right! You've got to be in the gap to prevent what has the potential to harm your family.

Are you courageous enough to stand in the gap for your family? Are you courageous enough to make it clear to your home that "as for me and our house, we will serve and follow the Lord"? This is the kind of person God is looking for; someone with spiritual character who will stand out and live differently. He's looking for someone with spiritual courage who will stand in and labor decisively.

Finally, because the wall is broken, God is looking for someone with spiritual confidence who will stand up and look dependently to God. Again, verse 30—

"So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap ..." [Ezekiel 22:30 NKJV]

Notice the next phrase—

"...before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it ..." [Ezekiel 22:30 NKJV]

Hey, you know what? It all boils down to this, basically. God is looking for an intercessor. He's looking for someone who will stand in, between the need and God, and intercede. What God is looking for is someone who has enough spiritual confidence in Him to stand between God and the people of the land, and to intercede for them in prayer. He's looking for someone, basically, who will pray.

He's looking today for those with character, with the courage and with the confidence to stand in the gap and pray—someone who will be an intercessor—someone who's willing to plead with God, to cry out to God and to beg God in prayer. He's looking for men and women who take God seriously, who believe God enough to stand in that gap and experience all the full-frontal assault of the enemy and plead with God on behalf of the people as an intercessor.

Let me ask you this. If you are not praying for your children, who is? Who is?

I told the men yesterday in our men's institute—I said, "Men, if you're not praying for your wife, who is?" Wives, if you're not praying for your husbands, who is? If you're not praying for your church, who is? If you're not praying for your nation, who is? It all comes down to me having the courage, having the confidence, having the character to stand in that gap, and to look to God, and to pray to Him for the needs where the breach exists.

It was in the mid-1800's in the state of New York, and there was a man named Jeremiah. And he decided that he was going to have—thought it was a good idea—going to have a one-hour prayer meeting for businessmen, and he scheduled that for September 23, 1857. And as he

met at that place, for the first half-hour nobody showed up and he prayed alone. But the second half-hour, he was joined by five other people. Five people prayed. Those five people decided that what they were going to do was meet the following week, and twenty men came out and prayed. The week after that there were forty guys who came out and prayed. And then you know what? Those forty men decided that what they were going to do was to meet daily for prayer. And those daily prayer meetings grew to over a hundred men. And after three months the daily prayer meetings grew to a thousand. Now this prayer meeting was the very beginning of a work of God in which two million people came to faith in Jesus Christ. And you know how it began? The intercessory prayer of one man. That's how it started. That's how it started.

God calls you to stand with Him. He calls you to look to Him. He calls you to cry out to Him, to plead with Him, to do all you can to stand in the gap before God on behalf of your family, on behalf of your church, on behalf of your community. And the question is will you be that kind of person?

You say, "Well, I'm just one. What can one accomplish?" Listen to what James says one can accomplish. He says,

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. [James 5:16 NKJV]

It doesn't take a whole crowd. God's desire is for you to pray.

God was looking for someone to stand up and intercede for the city; that He wouldn't have to destroy it. By the way, do you know what happened? You know what happened? No one responded. God said,

"... I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it ..." [Ezekiel 22:30 NKJV]

And here's what God said—

"... but I found no one." [Ezekiel 22:30 NKJV]

Found no one. No one was willing to stand in the gap before God. Because the spiritual walls are broken and because no one stood out or stood in or stood up, it was in the year 586 B.C. that the city of Jerusalem was taken and the temple was destroyed, and the people were put through the refinement of God's wrath. And you know what? Four hundred years later when God sent His Son, those same people rejected His Son. And you know what? They are still today experiencing the judgment of God. As God said earlier—I believe it was in verse six—He would scatter the people. They would be dispersed among the nations.

So let me ask you a question. If you don't stand, what do you think is going to happen in your home? Mom, listen to me. If you don't stand, what is going to happen in your home? Dads, men, if you don't stand, why are you any different than the people God is writing to in Ezekiel 22? If you don't stand, why do you think that the consequences will be different? What are you thinking? You're holding on to Proverbs 22:6 that says, "Well—train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it". Are you holding out hope that when your kid is gray and old, that he's going to return to the Lord? That's not what that verse is saying. And by the way, what kind of hope is that anyway? Stand in the gap.

Teenager, what are you doing? What are you waiting for? Now is the time for you to stand up, to stand in and to stand out. Now! What do you want? To go through a bunch of destruction in your life? Do you think that you're any different? You want to go through a period where you can just go ahead and try to live life apart from God. Live it your own way and throw off those restraints, and that you're going to get some different kind of outcome? You're going to get destruction in your life! You're going to get heartache! God's walls of protection are designed for your benefit. God's not trying to be a killjoy. He's not trying to keep you from enjoying life. God is giving you protection so that you can experience life to its fullest.

What do you think is going to happen in our body if we as a church don't stand? You know what? You look at church history, you can see it. Churches started out great. You know what happened? It was a breach in the wall. The wall crumbled; business went on as usual. God was marginalized, and those churches died. Oh yeah, lots of people. Lots of dead people with no truth. Why do you think we're any different? What makes you think that we are going to escape that, if we don't stand in? What do you think is going to happen to our country, if churches don't stand?

Let me just give you this by way of closing; this challenge: Have the character to stand out and live differently for Christ. Have the courage to stand in and labor persistently with Christ. And have the confidence to stand up and pray fervently to Christ.

Bow your hearts with me, please.

As I close, I want to talk to different groups and I want you all to have your heads bowed, and I want you to be talking to God. I want you to pray for your heart to have the character and the courage and the confidence to stand. I want you to pray for your family. I want you to pray for our church. And while you're praying, I just want to talk first of all to the men.

Men, I'm going to call on you to stand up and to stand in the gap, and to stand out among them. I want you to be the kind of men that are the —that ring the bell that lead the way, that chart the course for generations to come. Do you even want to be that kind of man? If you don't, ask God to break your heart, because that's the kind of man that God wants. Ask Him to

crush you, to humble you, and to bring you to the place where you see that you need God in your life, and cry out to Him. Will you be that kind of man?

Women, we live in a day where our daughters, our young women do not see godliness modeled by women. They see women in the church who are no different than women in the world. They need to see women who love God and find joy in being a woman of God, and can model for those younger women what it is to love God with all your heart, your mind, your soul. Are you willing? If you're not willing to be that kind of woman, you need to beg God to crush your spirit, to break you of your pride and your stubbornness and your rebellion; that God would have mercy on you, because it is unacceptable to Him.

Teenagers, I want to talk to you. For far too long, too many of you have just been skating in the shadows, just kind of gliding by without taking a stand, without being different. You've been trusting in your parent's relationship with God. You've been trusting in the fact that you're part of a church youth group. You know what? That's going to get you nothing. You need Jesus Christ, and you need to be the kind of young person who will stand up and say yes to Him. And saying yes to Him may mean you saying no to some things that are painfully precious to you right now. If you don't have that kind of heart, you ought to cry out to God to break you, to crush you of your rebellion and your stubbornness and your pride, and to come into your life and to make you a new creature in Christ, because He's calling for young men and young women and old men and old women to stand for Him.

"God, we need what You're looking for today. Make us the kind of men, the kind of women, the kind of teenagers, the kind of church that is in that gap. The walls are weak, and we see that what is on the outside has penetrated, and now is on the inside. We know that it grieves Your heart. It defiles and profanes Your holiness. And it's a poor representation of You to a world that is choking on its own vomit. They need to see holiness and righteousness. They need to see grace. And they will see You in us as we're conformed to Your image. Make us that kind of church.

"God, I pray for the husbands, for the wives, those who lead the home: that You would get a hold of their hearts. For the decision-maker in each home: that things would be different because he gets a glimpse or she gets a glimpse of who You are and what You desire and what You're looking for, and who has the courage to stand. I pray for that teenager who has settled for middle of the road for far too long; who has been playing a game, who's been pretending; who has been like the chameleon who changes its colors no matter what environment it's in. Get a hold of their hearts, God. Break them. For those who need Christ, I pray You would speak to them today. May this be their day to stand. Bring revival to our homes. Bring revival to our church. For Your honor and glory we ask this. Amen. Amen."