

Missions Conference 1996 Evening Session By Ed Silvoso

Announcer:

Father, we thank you for tonight and we thank you for this Missions Conference. And we pray especially for the speaker that you would give him the words to say. We pray that our hearts would be open. In your name, I pray. Amen.

Tonight we have a gentleman who hasn't been here yet for Missions Conference, so it'll be new to all of us. He just flew in from Singapore. He's a little tired, but I'm sure he will have a lot in store for us tonight. He's a native Argentine. Ed is recognized as a strategic thinker in the areas of evangelism and church planning. He's a true visionary with a heart for the lost and a commitment to the entire body of Christ. So I please give your attention to Ed Silvoso.

Ed Silvoso:

Well, good evening, everyone. May the Lord richly bless you. I'm so pleased to be here tonight. We have been praying for your conference. And then tonight and tomorrow morning, I have the privilege to share with you and I want to give you some good news. At the very outset, we have in Argentina praying for you at this very moment, 1300 men, they are interested in for revival to come to Los Angeles and to America. And that has been topped by 3000 people in Brazil that are praying, 500 of them women that are praying 24 hours a day.

And I'll be talking a lot about prayer today and tomorrow. And I hope I can encourage you, those of you that are involved in prayer, you know what I'm talking about. And those of you that like us, before we rediscovered prayer, we thought it was so boring. We hope your eyes will be open to that reality.

Let me tell you, where we come from, prayer is such an exciting thing. It's the best show in town. If you have the traditional idea that prayer is you and God, it doesn't make any sense. That's why it's so boring. You know? I mean, me telling God what to do and he knows what he's going to do and he already knows what he already did because he can see the picture. Doesn't make any sense. Me telling God, would you please bless Bill Clinton? Remember, you let him become president. Now watch over this, over that. It's like my granddaughter advising me on how to file my tax forms on April 15. It doesn't make much sense.

But if you change the picture and you have not just you and God. But you and God and his angels. Satan and his demons. The church and the lost. Now the picture becomes very exciting because you are standing on the word of God. Speaking the word of your testimony to the devil while pleading with God. Resisting the enemy and interceding on behalf of situations that reflect the violation of the will of God. Then now it becomes very exciting.

And that's why tomorrow, 110,000 people will pray 2 hours for Biola and for Los Angeles and for revival to come to America. This prayer meeting is so huge that you cannot fit the people in a building. So what they do in the city of Goiana, Brazil, for 2 hours, they tune into the radio and somebody leads the prayer meeting from the radio and they say 2 hours.

But last week they were pledged to Hong Kong 4 hours after the prayer meeting was supposed to be over. We couldn't make contact with the people. They were still praying. So I want you to be encouraged. There's a lot of prayer going up. And if you're a normal Christian, I'm sure before you came in, you left a pile of problems that gave you like an hour and a half break.

And they said, Go, just try to enjoy the meeting. When the thing is over, we're going to be here waiting to make your life miserable again. Well, that is not the gospel. You see, the gospel is good news, not good advice. And there's a big difference between good news and good advice.

Good advice is what your banker gives you the day he forecloses on you and gives you a list of homeless shelters in town. That's good advice. But good news is when that banker, the day he was supposed to foreclose on you, invites you to an expensive restaurant to explain that something unusual happened that day that somebody walked into the bank, pay your mortgage in full and left \$1 million for you to spend as you wish. That is good news.

So we are going to pray down for good news. And don't let the enemy tell you that you have to cope with your problems. Praise God, not once that word "coping" appears in this book. The biblical equivalent is overcoming, overcoming, overcoming.

So I would like, before we do anything else, for us to pray and pray a la Argentina. When we pray in Argentina, we blame everything on the devil. When people make fun of that, say, well, you're not being responsible, you're blaming on that. He's the only enemy I have. He may use people, he may use teachers, he may use roommates, he may use family members. But those are puppets. The master puppeteer is the devil.

And Revelation 12:11 tells us exactly how to kick him in the teeth. He tells us that we defeated the devil through the blood of Jesus. That's a perfect thing once and forever. But the second component is the word of our testimony, not our testimony. You see, your testimony is like an undercover policeman. I mean, nobody knows who you are. It's the word of your testimony. It's coming out in the open and telling the devil, freeze because of the blood of Jesus. I'm not going to put up with this. And then we engage him. And at that moment we despise our lives even unto death.

So when we pray, we like to tell God for the devil to hear who we are. In Christ. So I suggest that we pray a la Argentina. It's very simple. Would you stand up and hold hands with people next to you, please, across the aisles.

Also, we're going to get a little bit close tonight and I will lead in a prayer and you will repeat this prayer. Now remember, you are telling the devil who you are in Christ because of his blood. So don't be a wimpy anemic pushover policeman saying, I hate to say this, Mr. Satan, but I may need to tell you that you're under arrest.

No! Speak with authority. In the name of the Lord. Amen. So let's all pray together as I lead out loud. Father, God, in the name of Jesus, name above all name. We declare that because of the blood of Jesus, you are our God, you are our Father, you are our protector, you are our provider. It is written you will never leave us, never forsake us, even if we are unfaithful, you choose to remain faithful. Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done. Bless the person on my right. Bless the one on my left. Touch them, bless them, heal them, anoint them, set them free. Let your kingdom come. We stand firm against the devil and his schemes and his lies. And we declare the lordship of Jesus over our lives, over our family, our home, our neighborhood, this gathering, our city. Let Jesus belong. And we declare that it is written yours is the kingdom and no one else. Yours is the glory, all the glory. And yours is the power forever. Amen. Give the Lord a hand over that. Hallelujah. Amen.

And believing that the Lord has given you something, multiply it by giving it away. Look at somebody in the eye and tell that person I bless you in the name of Jesus. And due to that person, whatever they let you do, hug them, kiss them, do something. But you see, the gospel is supposed to be it is good news. And sharing good news is the right thing to do. When you're sharing good news, people smile. They are happy. So I blame it on the devil and just kick him around as much as we can.

But let me tell you, I have just some time left. So let me tell you what I would like to do. First of all, I want you to meet our team, my wife Ruth, and Rhonda Hughes, our associate next to her.

And Gary Allen hasn't at the back there. Gary, would you wave your hand? That guy, that tall guy there, he wants you. He wants you to go to Argentina with us this July. And I'm going to be talking about some things.

And my prayer is that God will give us a team from Biola. If we can get ten of you, if we can get ten like Stephanie Bush, we could fulfill the Great Commission two years before the year 2000. Some of you are on fire. Some of you have a call of God on your lives and quite talk about missions when you can enjoy it, quite bait and mannequin when you can go with a real person on a date. Why talk about the thing and you can go and do it?

And that's why I'm an implementer. I like good ideas. I like to get hot under my collar when I preach about it. But I like it better when we say boy, this is the way it is. God is a good God. And I was asking the Lord, Lord, what should I tell the people besides what is already written and what the Lord told me to preach on? And basically the Lord told me to remind you that you are beautiful, that you are beautiful and that he is pleased with you and there is nothing between you and Him because whatever could be between you and Him, our sins, Jesus already took care of that.

The devil is busy all day long accusing us and reminding us of how wrong we are and how much we messed up and so forth. But in so many times, you see, the devil cannot deny scriptures, but he twist them like he did with Jesus. So that we read the scripture, but it has a spin on it. And the Bible tells us that Jesus came and he was and is full of grace and full of truth. Now listen carefully. Faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God. He's first full of grace, then full of truth. What the devil has done has caused us to read that in a dyslexic manner so that we read that Jesus is first full of truth and then if you accept the truth and repent, he'll give you grace.

That's not the Gospel, because the truth without grace is devastating. The truth without grace tears down. I don't want you to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth about it, because I don't have a chance. But if you introduced me to Jesus that when I was a sinner, he died for me and Jesus, that came in response to the love of God for the world and he shed his blood when I didn't know Him. If you tell me that he already paid for it and now he wants to explain to me what happened, now I get to the truth through grace.

So don't let the devil do a number on you tonight. Don't let the devil condemn you with evidence that hasn't been filtered through the truth so many times. He does that. And when we are studying, it's even worse because the focus is so much on truth and performance and reaching certain levels that we miss the point that our Lord is our friend. And if we don't realize that grace comes first, truth becomes a weapon in the hands of the devil rather than a weapon in the hands of the church.

The Lord Jesus said that the law and the prophets came all the way up to John the Baptist and that since then, the kingdom of God has come and many people are violently trying to get into it. Why is it that we don't get people actively trying to barge into the kingdom of God? One possibility is that the church doesn't preach the kingdom. It preaches the law and the prophets. And who wants to get into the law and the prophets?

When I was a little boy, my father, who was a strict disciplinarian, told me never to play soccer in our inside patio because we have some beautiful stained glass windows. But to tell in Argentina not to play soccer, it's like telling a bird not to sing. And one day I tried to obey, but I came out and I saw a ball there waiting. And I know exactly how Eve felt when the devil pointed to the tree, because I couldn't resist it. I saw a football and I began to kick in. And before I knew it, I heard the crushing sound of windows being broken. Well, that day I left home. I was eight

years old, and I said I'll never come back. I packed a few clothes, a few things, and I said, Never come back because the truth is devastating. I knew what I have done and I knew the consequences. And I know how painful they were going to be.

So I left and I hid in the field by the Catholic Church there and I stayed there till 10:00. And then my mother came and said, I talked to dad and he agreed to forgive you. You are forgiven. Now, he needs to talk to you, but you can come home. You are forgiven. What was she telling me? Your dad has chosen to be first full of grace. And then he will sit you down and tell you what is wrong with you, but not to destroy you, but just to help you understand what happened.

You see? So listen to the Lord. Now. The Lord is here. The Holy Spirit is here. The world is about to be open. There are angels all over the place here, securing the perimeter. Let the Holy Spirit tell you how God sees you. You are beautiful. And if the devil is telling you, what about your sin? Let me tell you, sin is what qualifies you to be an applicant for grace.

You cannot ask for grace unless you have some sin in your life. And our God is a God of grace. So let the Lord bless you now, let the Lord minister to you. Let the Lord make you feel at home, not like a POW or like somebody at the rescue mission where you have to hear a boring preacher for 45 minutes before they give you a hot plate of soup.

I mean, he doesn't bring you here to hold you captive to give you something. You are in his presence. You are in his house. He's your Father. He loves you. There is no combination between you and Him. So much so that Judas tell us he's able to keep you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of his glory, blameless and with great joy. And that even though the consummation of that is in eternity, that is the truth today through the blood of Jesus.

So would you put some skin on that intangible truth? And would you turn to somebody next to you? And as if we're speaking for the Holy Spirit, would you tell that person you are beautiful? Tell that person that. Tell that person, yeah, touch them. Don't be afraid. Touch them. You are beautiful. Good. Praise God. You see, folks, look how we are smiling. This is what Missions is all about, folks. It's preaching good news and going to people that are lost, telling them you are found. People that are messed up, telling them already, clean you up. This is Missions.

That's why I want you to come with us to Argentina and date a real person. Don't just read books about it. Don't go for the mannequin, go for the real thing. And that's why we brought Rhonda and Gary. And I'm trying to recruit Jenny and Stephanie to lead the team to Argentina.

Now, with that in mind, I don't have the time, but tomorrow morning I have a second shot at you. So hopefully I'll have an opportunity to elaborate further. But I will say that the essence of Missions is reaching our city for Christ. First, this is the opposite of what you hear in Mission and Conference because you're told to go to the end of the earth. And tomorrow I'll run more on that. But the Great Commission has reinstated in Acts Eight, tells us that it begins with our city.

And this is one of the areas where the devil has exploited the generosity of the American character that is always giving, always going to the rescue, always providing and sending missions to the end of the world when we concede La Mirada or Los Angeles to the devil. And it's so inconsistent because we will lay hands on people that are going to anchor a turkey, a secret mission, and we tell them without a flicker of doubt, go there and reach the city for Christ. And we believe it.

And at the same time, we don't believe we can reach our own city for God. So faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God. What I'm about to share, you need to understand what my role is. I am not your teacher. I am the teacher's aide. The teacher is the Holy Spirit. He's here

receiving things from Jesus that he wants to pass on to you. I'll keep you on the right page, but he's the one who's teaching you. So from time to time, I will tell you. You don't tell the Holy Spirit. Now, what does that mean? Show me that. Because I can share information, but I cannot impart a spiritual truth.

Only the Holy Spirit can do that. Now, in Argentina, when God began to move this happened 13 years ago. Our churches were very small, very relevant, very divided. We literally hated each other. Now, we didn't hate it actively, but we hated each other passively rather than hatred. We use indifference, you see? So we didn't go after each other to hurt each other, but we just withdrew. And indifference is as little as murder. Because when somebody murdered somebody with that person, that causes that somebody to cease to exist. I don't want to deal with you. I'll kill you. When you use indifference, that's what you do. You ignore people.

But then God, in his great mercy, began a movement. We still don't know what to call it, to call it a revival in anointing a blessing. I don't know what it is, but I'll tell you, it's fun. And it all began with a preacher, a lay preacher who had the disadvantage of not being theologically educated, but had the distinct advantage of not being theologically educated, which meant in one hand that he could get in trouble because he didn't know how to exercise the text.

But he had the distinct advantage that he could believe the whole book because nobody told him what not to believe. So he will just open the book, read it, believe that this is the word of God and preach it. Very responsible, the guy. But he began to do that. And in his first Crusade, he saw 40,000 people make a public decision for Christ. We have never seen that. And when we heard that, there was some discussion whether this is from God or from the devil because our churches were so small and shrinking rapidly with very little church growth, that we have subscribed to a hyper-dispensationalist theology. And what applied to us about hyper-

dispensationalism is that each dispensation must end in failure. So you have the first dispensation of innocence, it ends in failure. Adam and Eve sin, you have the following dispensation all the way up to the dispensation of grace. And this one must end in failure with people rejecting the Gospel, with evil increasing, the church shrinking.

So we look at that and say, Great. We are doing great. I mean, we are failing all over the place. Very few people are coming to the Lord. Churches are splitting, false prophets are rising. The truth is being compromised. Boy, we had an incredible time just believing that we were right on track until this guy who was not one of us, who didn't follow us, who we didn't know where he was from, he comes and he produces 40,000 decisions.

Well, some people thought that that couldn't be from God because narrow is the path that leads to salvation and 40,000 people require a broad way, not a narrow way. Other people felt that the devil was diluting the quality of our church through quantity, which doesn't make any sense because you may have quality, but if you don't have enough quantity, that quality is a prototype than that. And we were debating whether this was from God or from the devil. This guy moved on to the next city and led 92,000 people to a public decision.

Now, my brother in law is Luis Palau. I have a great deal of admiration for him. And I wrote the manual for mass usage that we used in those days. But this guy violated every tenant in the manual. Everything I say should be done. He didn't do it and he got results.

And so he moved on to the third city, got 700 people, the fourth city, 550 people. And unlike our converts that we had to bribe them to come to church, we have to set up a system to spot them, take them to the crusade and tell them they are going forward and then come there with my face and then knock on the door and then offer them a ride in the mission car and a free Bible and a picture with the evangelist. And even so, we only got 3% of all the conversions. His conversion

love to go to church, many of them. So when the crusade was over, he told them, okay, next Sunday, go to church. God bless you. Bye.

Now, if you think that's a blessing, it could be a very perplexing blessing because here you have a church of 30 members where everybody has known everybody. Sister Maria has sat on that chair for 25 years and nobody will ever challenge her for the next 30 because that's her life expectancy. And then next Sunday morning she comes to church and there are 2000 sinners saved by faith all over the place.

And that could be very shocking because these guys don't know the hymns, they don't know what an organ is or they play guitars and drums. They have these two by four type of songs that they sing. So some churches went into shock. In fact, one particular church, three others were weeping and crying and saying oh, it's much better before. Now we are running out of everything from toilet paper to paper cups. The Sunday school teachers, this is a crisis. But other churches will empty the furniture of the church and just pack people standing up like sardines and then they will leave maybe 20 chairs up front for the senior citizens. The problem is that they had 20 chairs and 200 senior citizens. So they have to tell them that every ten minutes they should rotate. So here you are preaching and every ten minutes you see this wave of gray hair going down and coming up and you know how you are doing with your time by how many changes of the guard took place where you are preaching. So church began to move into multiple services, not only on Sunday, Saturday, Friday and Monday, and so forth.

So much so, that a year and a half ago, one church in Buenos Aires, down in the capital, claim a membership of 150,000 members with 13 service seven days a week. The first service began at 1:00 A.m. And the last one ended at midnight. And then, of course, they got a break between midnight and 1:00 A.m., and then they went again. And because they couldn't fit more people

into the building because they run out of hours and days in the week, they have to have a public baptism in a soccer field every so many months, baptize a couple of thousand people and farm them out as satellite congregations.

So, my friends, when I say we are praying for revival, we are praying for this. So the question is, do you want it? Do you want it? Amen. Say it. Do you want it? Yes. It's going to change your life. Now, I don't have the time to elaborate on this, but when the breakthrough came, we decided to try these principles in a city of 4000 people that only had about 5300 believers who met in 70 churches, 68 of which were the result of a split.

As you can see, the city was a disaster. I mean, the church was a disaster. And we took these principles there, but now it's known as prayer. Evangelism began to work with the pastors. Seven of the 70 began to pray together. And as they began to pray together, one day one of the servants stood up and said I'm guilty. I'm guilty of the opposite of love, not hatred, indifference, and I need your forgiveness. And another one, I stood up and said, Can I wash your feet? And another one said, could we have communion? And they wash each other's feet. They had communion, they affirm each other. And then they discovered that one of the seven with whom they have been prayed for weeks hasn't had a salary in a long time.

So they took an offering among themselves and gave him an offering. And that day they shattered three significant strongholds over the city. Stronghold of peace, unity, stronghold of apathy, stronghold of selfishness. As they reported this to their congregation, a similar thing happened with people repenting. And eventually all seven churches came together to ask forgiveness of each other. And the group grew until 37 churches rented the stadium and one at a time as forgiveness of the other 36, until all 37 have done it.

And then they all partook of communion. And they proclaim Jesus as the Lord over the city, the Lord over the church. And they call on the name of the Lord. And that day, the balance of power shifted from darkness to light because the church did what Jesus told us to do. And then the Lord gave us the insights that now are in this book that none should perish that deal with the issue of pre evangelism. And the church grew immediately. 102% and two years later 500%, the governor became a Christian, the mayor became a Christian, 507 judges became Christians, the whole city was changed. And today there are 158 cities all over the world that are being reached very quietly without any big budget, any big fanfare just by the church that is already there.

In fact, Ruth and I just came back from Hong Kong where the evangelicals and the conservatives got together as forgiveness of each other and they decided to launch a movement with the first 1056 houses of prayer leading to 20,000 houses of prayer by March of 97. So that come June 97 when Hong Kong reverts back to mainline China, 6 million people would have been touched by the power of God.

So very quickly I want to address the question is it biblical to reach our city and other cities for Christ? And I want to walk you very quickly through three verses in the Bible and I need to do it quickly, but I encourage you to get a copy of the book and you will have the more reflective presentation there, the one that your professor will approve of, okay? So don't give him the tape, give him the book if you want to make a stronger case. The first verse, all three are in the book of Acts is Acts 18. Jesus told the disciples you shall be my witnesses. When the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you shall be my witnesses. First in Jerusalem, then Judea, Samaria, all the way up to the end of the earth. 2000 years later we have romanticized adverse we get this idea that the disciples were dying to hear Jesus say yeah, sure, let's go back to Jerusalem. But Jerusalem was a

dreadful place. That's where they killed Jesus, where the Romans were in control, that's where the Pharisees were running the show. I mean to be sent back to Jerusalem.

Jesus was telling them once I'm gone and you are without me, of course there will be a substitute teacher by the name of Holy Spirit. You haven't met him yet but he's good. Then I want you to go back into the city where they killed me and I want you to do what apparently I haven't been able to do that I'm being sent to Baghdad with a one way ticket with a commission to reach Saddam Hussein and the elite Republican Guard to Christ. And once you are done with that move over to Tehran and lead the Ayatollahs to Christ. And once you are done with that, move over to Mecca and launch a revival center across the street from the mosque that has the same effect.

Act 1:8. Mission Impossible. But God always tackles the most difficult first so that the rest looks easy. So we go to Acts 5:28 and they. Are the leaders of the opposition concede by saying you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching. How do you feel a city house to house? What are they saying? Everywhere, in every home, the teachings of Jesus are present. What does that mean? As far as the Great Commission you have reached, the most difficult city on the face of the earth was reach for Christ.

But in Antioch, Samaria following Antioch, in other cities until you get to act. We are told that all who live in Asia this is, as you know, the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Gentiles. I ask you, how many people in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord? How many does the Holy Spirit lie? Never. Can he exaggerate? Never. So what is he saying? That all the people that live in that province heard the word of the Lord?

And so that some hyper-dispensationists will not say, well, all actually in the Greek doesn't mean all because it has to be seen in the proper context. And all could mean, who knows? Maybe all

the people that being predestined were in attendance at one of the meetings where Paul may have happened to be present. No, it says, Both Jews and gentle folks don't fool with the text. That's what it means, all. Which means that the 800,000 people of color heard the word of the Law. Not all were saved, but all heard it. Only the 300,000 plus of offices did the same thing. Now, you may say, Ed, you are building too much on just one verse.

Okay, I'll plead guilty to that. And I'll refer you to Romans 15:19. As you know, Paul wrote romance from Corinth, which is in Asia Minor. And he tells them in verse 19 that in the power of signs and wonders in the power of the Spirit. So that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum, I have fully preached the Gospel. What Paul is saying is that word fully means I'm done. There's nothing else for me to do, because he's saying, I never go to a city where the Gospel has been preached. So we know where Jerusalem was, but where was Illyricum? Well, Illyricum is former Yugoslavia, right there on the border with Italy. So Paul is saying, from Palestine all the way to Italy, I have fully preached the Gospel. And then he tells them in verse 23, but now with no further place for me in this region. Did you hear that? He is saying, as an apostle, I have become unemployed. I cannot lay down new foundations for the church anywhere because every city has been preached too. And if you need further proofs, go to one Thessalonians, chapter one, verse eight.

And look what Paul is saying. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you. He's telling the Thessalonians who live in Asia Minor, not only in Macedonia and Acadia, which are neighboring areas, but also in every place of faith where God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. Brothers and sisters, faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God. We are dealing with unimpeachable evidence that cities were reached to the point of Paul having to say, I have no more room here, or let the Lord speak to you about your city, let the Lord speak

to you about your Jerusalem. Let the Lord tell you that you don't have to choose either your Jerusalem or the ends of the earth. You begin in Jerusalem and keep going until you are done.

Now, the question is, how did they do it? Well, I'll tell you how they didn't do it. They didn't use radio, television, to be quite honest. They didn't have the book the way we have it today, so easily available. They didn't have seminaries the way we have them. I'm not saying those things are wrong.

I'm saying they didn't have those things. So I want to leave you with one thought tonight. Could it be that the early Church knew how to do greater works than Jesus and we don't? And because we don't know how to do greater works, we are limited to lesser works. And those lesser works keep us busier. But we don't reach the same results if two airplanes are overflowing La Mirada and each one is carrying a million dollars in its cargo bay, but one is carrying it in pennies and the other in \$1,000 bills, and then they drop the cargo. And then we divide ourselves into Team A and Team B. And at the count of three, we're going to hit the street and see who can gather a million dollars. First, however, Team A is restricted to picking pennies, team B to \$1,000 bills.

Now, I ask you the question which team will be busier? Noisier, take up more space, be more frustrated and fail to reach the goal, the one that is picking pennies. So could it be that we have limited ourselves to doing lesser works? That we don't know what the greater works are? That if we knew what the greater works are, we would have done what the apostles did all over Asia?

Well, to answer that question and to attempt to answer that question, we have to go to the classical passage in John 14. And in John 14, verses twelve through 14, Jesus tells us, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, shall he do also, and greater works than this shall he do because I go to the Father. Well, here is the promise. The question is, what are these greater works? Well, I have heard every imaginable explanation. It has to do with geographical scope.

Jesus never traveled farther than Egypt. We just go around the world. It has to do with numbers. He never preached to more than 20,000. We preached to millions. It has to do with hours. He never preached more than so many hours.

But let the Bible speak for itself. Look at the text you shall do greater works. And then verse 13 tells us what the greater works are prayer. You shall do greater works than this because I go to the Father and anything you ask in My name, I will do it so that the Father will be glorified in the Son. So I submit to you that the greater works has to do with prayer.

But not just prayer, but prayer for those that don't believe that Jesus is God, in order to prove to them through an answer to prayer that Jesus is alive. He said Well, Ed, you have reached a very sweeping conclusion from a text that doesn't seem to say that. Where is it? Well, let's agree that greater works has to do with prayer. According to verse 13, whatever you ask in My name, that's prayer. But the key word here is the word glorified. I will make sure you get an answer to prayer so that the Father is glorified. That word glorified after 2000 years sounds religious, but actually it has to do with evangelism. Because the earlier mention to the Father is in verse two in my Father's house there are many mansions and I want you to move in.

That's evangelism, isn't it? I want you to move in with the Father. Well, Thomas raises a very pertinent question. Lord, we don't have a clue how to get there. Jesus says in verse six I am the way, the truth and the life come to me. You come to the Father, no problem. So far, until Philip seems to be saying Jesus, I have no problem believing in the Father, but I have some doubts about you and the Father being the same.

So I wonder if you could show us the Father directly. You see, Philip's problem is the problem you have in LA, Tokyo, Singapore, Buenos Aires, most of the people believe in God, but lost of the people don't believe that Jesus is God.

So Jesus said, But Philip, all these years I have been with you and you still don't believe it. And then look at verse eleven. Jesus is saying if you don't believe my words, let my words, my miracles convince you that I am God. And then the implication seems to be and one day when you are preaching out there and people tell you that Jesus is not alive and that he is not God, you will do the same things I did to convince you. In fact, you will do greater things, because by then I will be glorified and I can talk to the Father in a different manner. And I will make sure that that prayer is answered, so that the people that like you don't believe that I am God, will become convinced that I am God in answer to prayer. And what we have in this verse is for the first time the identification of prayer as evangelism.

We have used prayer as a support system for evangelism, but not as evangelism. But Jesus is saying look at verse eleven. Let the results of my ministry prove to you that I am God. And so what I understand he's saying here is when people don't believe in me, you simply prove it to them through answers to prayer that convince them that I'm alive. Think of an unbelieving neighbor, I'm sure you have more than one in a moment of crisis, total desperation, drug addiction, shaky marriage, who knows what going to jail. You go to them in that moment of crisis and you tell your neighbor oh, I'm so sorry you're going through this, I would like to pray for you. And they said, Well I don't believe in prayer. Oh it doesn't matter because you are not praying. I believe in prayer, I'm praying. But I don't believe in Jesus. Oh, don't worry, you will once I'm done. And now you pray for a miracle. God gives you a miracle. They see the power of God will they come to you and ask you more about Jesus or not? Yes. Now that sounds too easy, but so is salvation beside of heaven, you raise your hand and you are safe.

Now, is there any biblical basis for this? Yes. When Jesus deputizes the first 70 evangelists, he gave them a strict instruction how to proceed. He told them first before you get into a house from

the outside, you [inaudible]. Then you give them an answer to prayer and then you preach the gospel.

We have reversed the order. We knock on doors of people with whom we have no credibility and we tried to convince them that they are going to hell, which probably we could, but then we need to convince them that we are going to heaven, which is almost impossible. And then they shut the door on our face. But if we do the way we did it in resistance in other places where you begin to walk your neighborhood and you begin to speak peace to the people. Because the problem is not the people, the problem is the devil blinding the people.

I think one of the greatest disservices to the cause of Christ is being done by armchair Christian sociologists that explain to us all the hardship in the human heart when in reality the problem is not the people, the problem is the God of this world that has blinded the people.

Now you begin to walk your neighborhood. If 1% of the city are Christian and they do this and each one blesses 100 neighbors, you are blessing 100% of the city. And when you do that from experience, I cannot say from scripture at this point, but from experience we know that we upset the kingdom of darkness, that the forces of evil that are blind in the people cannot take that impartation of peace. They lose control. They are like chess players that get upset. They don't know what the next move should be. And now people come out of that blockage in which they are. They share their felt needs with us. And as they share, we pray for them. And when we pray for them, God answers. And when God answers, they say now it's very easy to tell them, by the way, the kingdom of God is near you. That's why you got an answer to prayer.

My time is almost up and I'll pick up tomorrow morning when I leave it today. But let me bring it to a point where we can all find it. You have a passage in Luke 10, five and nine that tells us what we should do.

You want to bless your unsafe people? Speak peace to them, bless them, don't curse them. I mean, don't tell them everything that is wrong because what you are doing is building a case for the prosecution. You're an intercessor, you're not a prosecutor. Bless them, then give them an answer to prayer. Prove to them that Jesus is alive through an answer to prayer. It doesn't have to be healing necessarily, it could be something else. And then introduce them to the Gospel.

Two thoughts, two things for thought, two things I would like for you to chew on for tomorrow. A valid question is, if this is so, why in the Bible is not so clear? It is, except that there is money in selling Bibles and we have altered the original text. We call this the Bible, but in reality this is not a Bible. This is a Bible study with the original text incorporated. But the Bible Bible didn't have chapter division, didn't have verses, didn't have commentaries, didn't have subtitles. And the classical passage I want you to read is 1 Timothy 1:15-2:8. There you will see that Paul is saying if you want everybody to accept the truth that Jesus came into the world to say sinners, you need to keep a command.

And that command is to pray for everybody everywhere, because God wishes everybody to be saved. And Jesus died for all. That's the textbook for reaching a city for Christ. But the other one is, and I close with this how can God bless the unsafe before they are safe? What? That's what the Bible is all about.

The parable of the Good Shepherd doesn't tell us that. The good shepherd sends a messenger to the lost one and say, when you repent, maybe I'll take you back. No, he leaves the 99 alone to go after the lost one, to prove to the lost one that he cares. That he cares in a deep way. Our Lord is always blessing people to prove to them that he cares. He does it with us all the time. All the time.

And there are two passages in the Bible where Jesus guarantees an answer to prayer that we don't get it. One is Matthew 18, and the other one is John 14. Why is it that we don't get anything that we ask in prayer? I submit to you, and this is a very provocative conclusion, that the reason that those two promises are given exclusively in the context of unbelievers, that God will answer prayers, anything, anytime.

When you pray for the lost sheep like in Matthew 18, or can you pray for unbelieving Philips to prove to them that Jesus is God? And that was our surprise in resistance when we did it. So let me close with a prayer and listen. You are in the presence of the Lord, the Holy Spirit is here. If what I'm suggesting tonight is true, grant me that possibility until tomorrow morning. If this is true, wouldn't this change our lives? Wouldn't this change our neighborhoods and unsafe relatives? I mean, within this truth revolutionize us to the point that we will see multitudes coming into the kingdom of God.

And that's why the heartbeat of God is for the lost, for the lost to come to him, because that's the only reason why he lives, you and me on this earth. So I would like to close with a prayer.

Would you please join me? Father? God faith comes by hearing and hearing your Holy Word. And Father, we have read your scripture and we confess that the word is true, even if our presuppositions tell us that there is another interpretation. Lord, your word is always true and you love the whole world.

And Jesus gave himself in ransom for all, and you wish all people to be saved, and you wish everybody to come to repentance so that perish, o Holy Spirit, break through, we pray. Break through deep into our hearts. Touch us all over. Pull down the strongholds of unbelief and complacency and spiritual apathy. Oh Holy Spirit, you are beautiful, you are here. Touch us and

convince us like only you can do it, so that the fire from heaven will come and touch us and consumers.

And we will say like Paul, woe to me if I preach, not because I'm the bearer of good news.

Father, bless everybody here today. Those that are in pain, bless them. Those whose hearts are broken, men them. Those whose souls are spent in entire, restore them. Those that need provision, Lord, not tomorrow, not a week from tomorrow, tonight, give them the provision. I pray those that are sick, Lord, heal them in the name of the Lord Jesus. Those that are in trouble, touch them and set them free. And we put a hedge of protection around them. Oh Lord, we are in your presence, and in your presence there is plenty of joy.

And this is what we confess tonight. Prepare our hearts for tomorrow morning we pray in Jesus powerful name. Amen. God bless you.