

Three R's For Renewal – Session 3

By Keith Johnson

Ron Hafer:

Man, Well, pretty exciting. God in his grace is doing lots of good things, and we thank him for that. We're on day two and it's pretty exciting. It's interesting, you know, when you're a theologian, you pass along ideas like Keith did yesterday, only one area where he had to be corrected. And I'm glad there were two freshman theologian who helped us with that. You know, he didn't know, he didn't have a chance to come to Talbot or Biola. He went to another school. By God's grace. It's OK. He's he saved anyway. But, you know, he said, he said he didn't know it was an honest error. He said that Nehemiah was was the shortest man in the Bible because he was knee high Miah. But then, of course, one of the freshmen theologians said, no, no, the the shortest man was Bildad, the Shuhite, but still, but still there needed to be correction because the greatest freshman theologian said no, the littlest guy was the Roman centurion who slept on his watch. Now, that's a little spud, right? That is a little guy. But it's OK. It's good to correct these things because, you know, this is the place where the word of God is taught. You know, this is a man, this is a man that does not know retreat. This man who is about to open the word of God only knows charge. You were here yesterday morning. I was thinking, as I introduced Keith, what would happen if I said, Bugle Boy, blow that horn. Keith Johnson.

Keith Johnson:

Man, I'll tell you what, I told, I mean, this has got to be California, I mean, you all are so slick out here in California. I mean, you got it together and it is it, man. I'll tell you what. Last night I

was so blessed when I saw the young folks that are here that are saying, listen, I want my life to be completely in line with the Lord and I want my life to be clean. I want my life to be a life that can be used by the Lord. I want you to know that that's how revival starts. Amen. Revival starts by individuals standing up and saying Jesus and Jesus alone. And this morning, I'm going to share just a little bit about that wonderful name of Jesus out of the book of Nehemiah. I started by talking in Nehemiah in chapter one and that we need to learn to be people that would respond for the time is now and after, where people that learn to respond, we learn to rebuild because I believe there's a lot of brokenness that's out there. But of course, the third R, if there's anyone here, is going to be thinking, well, what's the third R? You respond, you rebuild. And the third thing would be... You don't know? I win. I win on that one, okay, the third one is, to restore. To restore. And if you read any of the dictionaries, they would say restore means to give back, to bring back, or to put back. Nehemiah does a lot of this throughout the book. Now you all, obviously, with a book of this size. I'm not going to be able to go through and do exposition on the whole book. I really wanted to give you some of the nuggets from Nehemiah that you might take the opportunity to read the book for yourself and reflect on the book yourself and ask how God might be calling you also to do the same thing that Nehemiah did. I am so appreciative of Ron inviting me out here. I understand he went out and listened to tapes. It's so great. I had other people preach on those tapes and fooled him, and now I'm here, so Amen for that. And of course my friend B-House, B-House, where are you at? Would you just stand up, B-House?

I mean, I must say, when I first heard his name, I was concerned. But this is a great guy. B-house, just stand right up. That's B-House. Amen. I'm also thankful to my wife and three little boys for allowing me to come out here for this long period of time, usually I wouldn't come for

this period of time other than California, where the weather is nice. But I'll actually be here through Sunday because I'll be preaching on Sunday morning at my brother's church. Tell me your name again? Andy? Andy. And he's been leading worship. He's a good man. I'll be preaching at his church on Sunday and then, of course, going back to Minneapolis. But I have these three great little boys, Taylor, Kyle and Andrew. Taylor is going to be 12 in a couple of weeks. Kyle is 11 and Andrew is 6. But he's the politician of our family, so he's probably really about 12 himself. Great little boys. And my wife, who is a teacher at a school, and they have been very gracious to allow me to come out here. And so even though they're not here, I would like to give thanks to them as my family for coming to Biola. So would you all give a hand to them real quick? Thank you. You'll understand that as you get a little older, time is so important and it's just a blessing to have a family that's willing to stand behind the call that God has given me to share the gospel. And that's, in fact, what I want to share this morning with you. I know that we've already prayed, but I'd ask you to take your hands if you'd put them like that. You don't even need to stand up. Just put your hands like this to say that you're ready to receive, and anything that God wants to restore back to you, that you would be able to receive it. Father, we thank you in advance for this morning, not only for this morning, but for tomorrow as others come to share. God, I pray that these students would not just do this in a functional sort of way, but that they would understand that these three days are an opportunity to grow and to learn. I pray that all of them would be touched by the power of the Holy Spirit, the presence of Jesus Christ. I thank you, God, so much for what you've done for us in restoration. And as our palms are open to you, God, give back to us what you want to give us. In the powerful name of Jesus, Amen.

We're talking about restoration this morning out of the book of Nehemiah. Nehemiah was a great example of one who didn't want to just end with prayer. He didn't even want to just end with the rebuilding. He also knew that other things had to take place after the building took place and that what needed to take place was restoration of giving back to the people that had things taken away from them. In Chapter five, verse 11, it says that he helps the poor. Chapter five, verse 11. And I'm going to tell you all right, now, I'm going to be going through the book and highlighting different verses here, and then we'll bring it all together. Chapter five is really about Nehemiah helping the poor. Verse nine, so he continued, What are you doing is not right. Shouldn't you walk in the fear of the Lord to avoid the reproach of your Gentile enemies? I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let the exacting of usury stop. Verse 11, chapter five, give back to them immediately their fields, their vineyards, their olive groves and houses, and also the usury that you are charging them. The hundredth part of the money, grain, new wine and oil in chapter seven, verse four. Again, Nehemiah is dealing with this issue of restoration. In seven, verse four, it says that after the wall was completed, and you do need to know the wall was not completed by Nehemiah himself. The wall was completed through teamwork. And this teamwork took place with all of the folks that were there that were within the city. He called all of them in the place that they were at to begin the rebuilding process. In other words, if they lived by the Sheep Gate, start building the Sheep Gate, if they lived by the Dung Gate building, I mean, the Fountain Gate, etcetera. He told them to begin to do this together in teamwork. And then after the completion of the wall took place, chapter seven, verse four, it says this. Now, the city was large and spacious, but there were few people in it and the houses had not yet been rebuilt.

So verse five says, so my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles, the officials and the common people for registration by families. He goes on to explain what those families were. These are the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles. And it goes on with all the names, all those wonderful names. I wish I had one of those names. I don't. But there are some wonderful names in there. They go on to tell the people to come back. In other words, not only do we want you to help rebuild the wall, but we also need you to inhabit the land, to go into the land and to be there. You need to remember that when Jerusalem had its exile, they took all of the quote unquote, rich, young, educated, all of those folks who had it going on. They had them leave the city and left the poor behind. I believe that a part of our job as Christians is to be salt and light, which would include, but not be limited to the possibility of relocating ourselves into situations where there is a need for our presence, which would mean it's not just good enough for the Christian church to always live outside of where the problem is. The Christian church also needs to be within the context of the problem where the building of the wall is. We need builders. That may mean for some of you here that after you leave the citadel of Susa, the place of comfort here in La Mirada, California, that God might call you to relocate into an area where there needs to be the rebuilding of the wall. God might call you into a third world country where they need people that have hope and strength and power and wisdom to be among the people to help them build. Even though we have computers and networks, it's not going to be good enough for us just to send email to the urban areas. We're going to need to be there to be a part of the fabric of the community. Nehemiah explained to them that a percentage of the people needed to be willing to bring restoration by coming back to the city.

And that's exactly what happened. He also, in helping for restoration in chapter eight, verse one, he brought back the word of God. When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, all the people assembled as one person in the square before the Water Gate, they told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel. Not only did he tell them to give back, not only did he tell them to come back, but he also reinstated the word of the Lord. I'm telling you all that this word is so powerful. If you, if you read it enough, you'll begin to see that the words actually will move. And, and sometimes when your Bible is sitting next to your bed, you actually might look at that word and it, it may be actually physically looking like it's moving. And the reason is, is that this is the living word of God. I mean, it doesn't get any better than hearing the living word of God. This word is so alive that if I read it a whole bunch here, even today, it will go forward and find your point of need, as it did last night. And it will pierce your very heart and it will separate between the things that God is not pleased with and the things that God would be pleased with. And if you read this word enough and if you hear this word enough, it will give you hope, it will give you strength and there will be change. And so in the spirit of restoration, Nehemiah also brings back the reading of the word. There's no coincidence that in the lack of the reading of the word, these people had lost their hope. There's some of you here at Biola. Maybe if have lost your hope, I would challenge you to get back to the living word of God, it will bring restoration. And also in chapter ten verse 30, worship was restored. And this is an opportunity not only when we read the word of God, but you know, there's a scripture that says, let us not give up the meeting together as some are in the habit of doing.

Now, let me just get a little personal here, if it's all right, Ron. You know, this is the Torrey Bible conference, and it's my understanding that here at Biola, you all have to put a little card and swipe it through a little machine. And after you, y'all know what I'm talking about? After you swipe the little card through the machine, it goes beep, beep, beep. And it says you were here. And so you all are hoping to get your eight times, is that right? Eight times. And how many extra sessions are there? Ten now. I'm trying to figure that out, now, can I just break away for a second? There's ten sessions, but you need only come eight times. Amen? OK, so you come in and you swipe your little card. Whip. Beep, beep, beep, beep, beep, beep. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight. And when you say good, I did my eight, now I can go and have fun. But guess what? Your God wants to do a ten fold blessing at the Tory Bible conference. Now I know you're getting a little nervous, some of you are you saying I was planning on going to the beach tomorrow, but do you understand when God says, give me 10 percent, people say, well, I want the full blessing of God, but they ain't given any percentage. God says, give me 10 percent, you give me 10 percent and I'm going to give you the blessing. I believe that these three days are an opportunity. Man, you all are looking at me funny. Why are you meddling with me, Pastor? I've only got one more session to go to. Listen, listen, I promise you something. It's my understanding that Laurie will be here tomorrow morning. Now, some of you are thinking to yourself, well, I've already done my eight times, but listen, God ain't through until after ten. Some of the best stuff is going to happen tomorrow. Can I get an Amen, Biola? All right. Now, now, listen, the tradition would say I've done my eight times and that's good enough. The Bible would say, let us consider how we might spur one another on toward love and good deeds and let us not give up the meeting together as some are in the habit of doing. But let us encourage one

another and all the more as we see the day approaching. Hebrews chapter ten, twenty four and twenty five.

When that word works in your belly, it will begin to make a change in your life. Some of you have already decided, well, I'm just going to do the bare minimum. But my God, God wants to give you the maximum blessing. The maximum blessing this week is ten sessions. Amen. Amen. Nehemiah -- that was a little side, bear with me. Nehemiah says, listen, not only are we going to restore the word of God, we're also going to restore worship. If we want to deal with restoration in our lives, we're going to need to have the word of God and we're going to need to have worship. As I mentioned yesterday, with all of this, there are going to be battles when you decide to have restoration, but God is a god of restoration. Now, I'm going to tell you all something. I'm just going to give you a little secret. I started out by talking about Nehemiah yesterday, responding, and last night we talked about Nehemiah in terms of rebuilding. But let me just give you a secret. If you know anything about me, I'm going to eventually get to the gospel. And you know what the gospel message is? Jesus was in the citadel of Susu. What are you talking about? He had a good situation. He had an, y'all, in the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God. In fact, in the Hebrew, it says [reads John 1:1 in Hebrew]. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth. It's no coincidence that the first letter in the Hebrew scripture is B, the second, you know, ABC, you know, [unintelligible], B which is the second Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Even in the beginning of the Old Testament, beresheet. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. We also know, in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the word was God. Now, who was the Word? I'm gonna

let you give me the Sunday school answer. If you give the Sunday school answer nine times out of ten, you're going to be right.

Who was the word of God? Come on now. Sunday school answer. I mean, y'all about Sunday school, don't you? Who rode on the donkey? Jesus, who walked on the water? Jesus. Who is the pastor at the church? No, you're wrong there. Listen, nine times out of ten, you're going to get it right if you say Jesus. Now, in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And what is his name? Now listen, y'all, he was in the citadel of Susa. He had a good situation. His retirement plan was already figured out. Jesus was sitting back with God, having a good time, and all of a sudden Jesus heard something. How are things on Earth? He asked Hanani. Hanani said, Well, the walls have been broken down and the gates have been burned with fire. Eve and Adam have bitten of the apple, sin has now gone rampant in the world, and somebody somewhere is going to have to help the people on Earth. Jesus thought about it for a while. He wept over it. He mourned, he fasted, he prayed. And then he went to the king, who is God, and said, Daddy, listen, there's a problem on Earth. The walls are broken down. The gates are burned with fire. I want to go down there and walk around for about thirty three years, figure it out and do something about it. Can I get an amen. Amen. Now, I don't have a handkerchief up here and I feel like I'm about ready to preach. All right. Now I'm getting very warm up here. Is there anybody that has a handkerchief or a napkin for the pastor? You shall be blessed. Man, you, now, listen to me, Nehemiah is nothing but a shadow of the Messiah. Bible lesson. This is nothing but a shadow of the one who really responds, the one who really rebuilds, and the one who really, really restores. Jesus Christ was in the citadel. You need to know something. Jesus

didn't have to come and rebuild our lives. It was his choice to give us back life and to make it abundant.

Jesus left his place of comfort, came down to earth and walked around for 30 years, just like Nehemiah spent some time and walked around and saw the situation. And then after Jesus walked around for 30 years, he went to the people and he said, Do you not see the trouble that we're in? Come let us rebuild together. And just like Sanballat tried to stop the work of Nehemiah, Satan tried to stop the work of Jesus, but Jesus could not be stopped. Oh, you might be able to cause a little pressure here and there. Oh, you might be able to spit at him a little bit and try to cause controversy. And it says that even the people tried to kill him. But until the appointed time came, they couldn't touch Jesus. But when the appointed time came, they got a hold of our Lord and our savior. They accused him. They beat him, they slapped him. And it's my understanding that they told him to carry a cross. And as he carried that cross, they they called him all sorts of names, made all sorts of accusations. And then they took my savior and they put him up on a cross. And they took his left hand and they took an old nail and they and they put it in between his hand and bang, and then they took his other hand and took a nail and put it in his hand and banged it some more. And then they took his feet and crossed them and put it into the wood cross. They took the thorns and put it on his head, made sure it went into his flesh and the blood ran down. Now, remember, this is Jesus who had it good in the Citadel. He and God and the Holy Spirit, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost had a good thing going up there until they decided to create us. And after they decided to create us, Satan came with everything he could to deceive us. But when Jesus heard about the trouble, he said, even if it means I have to die, I love her so much. I love him so much. Even though I see the walls are

broken down and the gates have been burned with fire, I love him and her so much that I'm willing to not only pray about it, I'm willing to do something about it.

And so they put him on the cross, and after they had nailed him to the cross, they took a spear and put it through his side. And the blood rushed out. You know, it's interesting, there's only really one man-made thing in heaven, there's only one man-made thing in heaven right today. You read your Bible, you'll find out what it is. Only one-man made thing in heaven. And it's the scars of Jesus. They say that even though he's there, when Thomas and all of them saw him, they saw the scars on his hand. Those scars are a reminder to Jesus that he did it for you and he did it for me. Oh, yeah, they killed him. What a mistake that was, because God decided to raise him from the dead. God restored Jesus's life and Jesus now restores our life. You can go through the book of Nehemiah, and actually you could call it the gospel of Nehemiah. You can go through the book and read chapter one about responding and you'll be reminded of Jesus who didn't have to leave his place of comfort. You can go through the book in chapter two and read about the inspection and the call to change and you're reminded about Jesus. You can go through chapter six and hear about the blasphemy and you'll be reminded of Jesus. Chapter eight, the call back to God and the reading of the law. You'll be reminded of Jesus. Chapter nine, chapter ten, chapter eleven, and you'll be reminded of Jesus. Might tell you something about my Lord. I want to introduce you to him. Now, on the count of three, I want you to say your name out loud. One, two, three. I would like to introduce you to Jesus. Sometimes I call him the re-God. You think, now what are you talking about? Sometimes I call Jesus the re-God. You see, Jesus is always giving back the thing that is broken. He's always fixing. So who do you think rebuilds? Come on, work with me now. Who do you think rebuilds. Who reclaims, who recreates, who redeems.

Who refuels us. Who rehabilitates us. Who rejuvenates us. Who renews us. Repairs us. Restores us. Responds to us.

Who's going to return to us, who can revive us when your walls are broken down and your gates are burned with fire? Ultimately, there's really only one who can do it. And his name is Jesus Christ. You see you all, when he was put on the cross and died, he actually went down to heaven, ah, hell, and stole the keys of death from the devil. And that's why when we begin to talk about that name, that most powerful and wonderful name, all of hell gets nervous. And that's why if they can keep you focused on everything else, they're okay. But when they find that you're proclaiming the name of Jesus, the name that is above all names, hell gets nervous. The spirit of Jesus Christ is in this room. The Spirit of Jesus Christ visited us last night. For those that said, listen, I'm Hanani. I need help. But there might be some that are here that said, oh, yeah, I'm a Christian, but they really didn't understand what they were saying. I'm going to go so far as to say there may be some here at Biola University who are sort of like the seven sons of Sceva. You see the seven sons of Sceva went out and said to the demon, We come against you in the name of Jesus, who Paul preaches. And the devil said, Paul, I know. And Jesus, I know. But who in the heck are you? And don't you know them demons beat up the seven sons of Sceva so bad that they ran out with their beards torn and their pants off, because the devil doesn't recognize people who are not intimate with Jesus. Some of you say I come to Biola in the name of Jesus, whom my parents preach. Some of you say I come to Biola in the name of Jesus, who my pastor referred me to. But you don't really know him yourself. You don't really have an intimate relationship with the one who left his place of comfort so that you might have restoration. Jesus Christ was to give back to you what the devil stole from you.

Some of you have low self-esteem because the devil has been beating you and stealing from you and taking from you for so long. You do not understand who you are. But when you're in a relationship with my Lord and Savior Jesus, Satan doesn't see you anymore. You know who think sees when I walk in here, he didn't see the man that grew up in a divorced home. He didn't see the man that used to run the streets of south Minneapolis and be chased by the police. I don't want to embarrass myself, but he doesn't see him anymore. He doesn't see the man that has broken eleven of the Ten Commandments. Hello. You know who he sees, doggone it, he says, if that Keith would just one time get from behind Jesus, I'll take him out. But I've learned that I have one hope. The bottom line is, when I stand before heaven, God is going to say, Keith, why should I let you into heaven? Now I'm going to talk to God just for a minute there. I'm gonna say well God, you know, I uh, I messed up. Did some bad things. God, even though I went to church every once in a while, I wasn't always really living the way that I should live, and, but I almost want to say to God, you know, you got to let me in. I hear God's eyebrow raising. What do you mean, I got to let you in? You got to let me in because you hold to your word. You got to let me in because you're true all the time. You got to let me in because in your purity, you cannot deal with sin, and so you sent your son Nehemiah, I'm sorry, Jesus, to Earth to fix my broken walls and my gates. And I'm now in relationship with Jesus Christ. So, God, you really don't see my sin. All you see when you see me is the blood of your son. So, Daddy, you got to let me in. You got to let me in. Now, I want to ask the question right now. It's very, very, very simple question. Can all of you say right now, absolutely, for sure, you know, you're going to get in?

Are you going to get in because of who you are associated with? Are you going to get in because of what your church preaches? Are you going to get in because your parents want you in a Christian university? Are you going to get in because you are in relationship with Jesus, who is the Christ who came and died so that you might be restored? Now, I know we had a little thing happen last night, and this morning I have to ask the question, are you in relationship with Jesus? Does he see you as his friend or do you see yourself as just an associate? Jesus would call us today to relationship. Jesus would call us to be in relationship with him because of his love for us. He loved us so much, he did something about it. Oh, he rebuilds. He restores. He recreates, he redeems. He refuels. He rehabilitates. He rejuvenates. He rekindles. He renews. He repairs. He restores. He responds. He returns, he revives. And he loves, Jesus loves you. And so today I want to lift him up. He says, if I be lifted up, I'll draw all of Biola to me. And so I want to lift him up. Oh, I talked about Nehemiah, but really I'm talking about Jesus, the one who loves you enough to do something about it. And so this morning, I'm not really sure who all is here. I know there are some of you that have associated with the church for a long time, but today is your day. Today is a day of newness. Today is a day of opportunity. Today is a day for you to declare. On the twenty third of October, nineteen ninety seven, all the old things shall pass away. Behold, the new shall come. That was hope in the people in the book of Nehemiah. When Nehemiah came they said, You mean you're really going to help me? You mean you're going to walk through the process with me. You mean that you associate with me so much that you don't say you and me, but you say we. Jesus comes to say 'we' today to Biola.

Somebody here may be ready to no longer just associate with Jesus from afar, but be in relationship with Jesus. The first real Nehemiah who came, who did something, and who even

now prays for us on a daily basis. He's calling Biola University to relationship with him. And so I'd like you to bow your heads, if you would. I'm one of those old fashioned preachers like Brother Torrey, those folks who knew that in the end it wasn't going to matter about what you did, it was going to matter about who you're in relationship with. You know, you all, I hear the bells ringing on the campus right now. Those bells that were in the middle of Los Angeles, they say they used to ring those bells. But I hear the bells ringing, bells that are calling for restoration in Los Angeles. Bells that are calling for rebuilding. And renewal, I hear the bells ringing. Now, some of you here can respond to the bells because, you know, you and Jesus are all right and you know that you can't do it on your own, but he will do it through you because you're in that kind of relationship. But there's some of you that, oh, you so desire to do right. Oh, you so desire to be in a position to make a difference. But you're not in relationship with God through his son, Jesus. Oh, you said Christian, but you're like the seven sons of Sceva. The devil doesn't know you. Oh, he doesn't see you in relationship with Jesus. He sees you as an associate inconvenience. This morning I would ask the question. Are there any here that need to be in relationship with Jesus, you need to come to a place where Jesus knows you and you know him and all that he has done for you and all the 're' that he is about, you want that in your life? I'm not talking about those that are struggling with issues. I'm talking about those this morning that would say on this day, I want to make a new commitment to a relationship, which is a seven day relationship, by the way, 24 hours, 365 days a year until he gets back, a relationship with Jesus.

Is there anyone here while heads are bowed and eyes are closed that would raise their hand and say, yes, I'm ready, I'm ready. I'm ready today to be in relationship. I'm ready. I see your hand. I see your hand. I see you. Ready to be in relationship with Jesus, amen. I

see your hand. I see your hand. He sees your hand. Now y'all, we're we're doing something very special right now because today these people are saying, listen, I know I'm at Biola. I know that I've been in Bible class. I, I know that you all have me reading and and I know that I come to chapel. But today I, I need to know that I am in relationship. Those hands that were raised. I'm going to ask you to do what I ask people to do all the time, and I won't tell you why I'm going to ask you to do this. I'm not going to ask you to do this that you might be embarrassed in front of people, but I'm asking you to do this to make a statement and a stand before God and also to declare to the devil that you're going to hide behind Jesus. Hands that have been raised, I want you to come forward. I want to say a special prayer with you just very quickly. Don't be stopped by the evil one. Come on, real quickly. Come forward real quickly. Come on. Hurry up. Hurry up, hurry up. Come on, come on. Come on, come on. Come on. Restoration, restoration. Jesus wants to do restoration. Amen. Amen, these are people that are saying they want to be in relationship with the re-God, relationship and as some of you are saying, but I just saw her at Bible study and I just saw him in my class. But guess what? These are people that are saying, look, I don't care about what you see. I only care about what God sees. These people are here to say they want to be in relationship. Move closer over here now. Over here. Come on. Come on. Close right around here. Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. We're going to do the old fashioned salvation prayer.

Now, is there anyone else that would say, listen, I I'm not really sure, I'm, I'm just not sure that I'm I'm in that relationship? Is there anyone else? Because today God is, he's going to do a new thing. Anyone else? Anyone else? There are some student leaders that are here. I don't know who you are, but you, you are sure and confident of who you are in Christ. You have been praying for

salvation for some time. And I would ask brother Ron to come with a few and just to give a little half circle of support for them, those student leaders that are here that would stand up and say, I'm not ashamed of the gospel. It is truly working in my life. I am about making a difference. Brother B-house, I want you to come forward, any other student pastors that are here, any that are trained in this come forward, anyone that would say, listen, I'm just going to stand with these people, amen. I see you brother, any others come quickly though. Amen. Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. Grab hands with Ron all the way across here. Amen. Those that are here, praise the Lord. Amen. OK, y'all grab hands around these folks. Just grab hands. Get these people back here. Amen. OK, that's good. That's good. God is good. God is doing restoration at Biola University. Praise the Lord. Those of you that have come forward, I want you to repeat after me nice and loud, that all these might hear, that God might hear and that the devil himself might hear these words. And now pray after me saying, Dear God, oh, no, I can't hear you now. Now, dear God, I'm sorry for my sin. Dear God, I accept your truth and your light through Jesus Christ into my life. God, I need you. God, I want you, God, I want to be in relationship with you. So today, at this moment, I accept the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. For me, I say no to the world and I say no to the devil. And I say yes to Jesus. Now, Jesus, grab my hand. Hold me, touch me where I need to be touched. I thank you by faith that today I am in relationship with you and I look forward to spending eternity with you in heaven.

Now, God, I thank you and believe it to be done. And it is done. I am new in Jesus.

Today, praise the Lord, you all, the angels are rejoicing in heaven, you can rejoice, too. I mean, come on, give God praise. Give God praise. Glory to God, glory to God. Glory, glory, glory.

God is good. Come on, give him the praise. Give God praise. Glory to God. Hallelujah. Hey, now listen. I heard that Biola had a good basketball team and I heard that when they're down by three points and there's only seven seconds left and they steal the ball and shoot the three and they go into overtime, I heard that the gym rocks with excitement. I heard that y'all get excited about basketball. But guess what, Jesus, there was only seven seconds left. Stole the ball from the devil and shot the five pointer and won the game. Give God some praise. Come on.

Hallelujah, hallelujah. Oh, Lord. Amen, amen. Amen, amen. Okay, y'all grab hands with someone out there, we're going to sing an old fashioned song and I want you to believe it. You all stay right here. You all that are in the back. Make sure that you get next to someone in here, grab someone's hand. Come on.

Make sure that they're singing this old fashioned song. They used to sing it in church. And I want you to know that today that this song is true. That because of Jesus' love for you and me, he has done something, and if you're not absolutely sure by the end of this day, you find someone and make sure that you're sure that you're in relationship with him. It goes, Jesus loves me, this I know sing it for me brother. And you all sing along with him.

[worship band sings "Jesus Loves Me"]

Sing it one more time and believe it to be true.

[worship band sings "Jesus Loves Me"]

Amen. Ron, I'd like you to come forward if you would. It's been a blessing for me to be here during these sessions. Of course, we've got electives today at ten thirty, three electives at ten thirty today and then tomorrow at ten thirty. I just want to ask the question. This is just a little radical. How many would here say they're willing to make the ten percent commitment that they're willing to be not at eight sessions, but ten. I know. I know some of you have already decided you're going to the beach and some of you have already made your plans. But I just want to know, I just want to know how many would say, I will be at ten sessions this week.

Oh, that's not enough hands. We ain't going nowhere. Oh, no. Oh, no, no. Now, yeah. OK, let go of the hands of the people that in that reason you couldn't raise your hand was because you were holding on, somebody was holding your hand down. That was the reason. Let me just ask the question one more time. Listen, y'all, I promise you, this is not happening in schools around the country. Biola University is blessed, beyond blessed. I want to ask a question. How many of you would say I'm going to make ten sessions, just raise your hand. That's better. Praise God. One more time round. I get an extra fifty bucks if I do this. Now, listen. All right. Compromise, compromise, compromise. You can't make ten, but tomorrow morning we're having a wonderful person, well, well-known person that's coming. Tell you what, God's going to do a special one-time deal for y'all. He's going to give you the 10 percent blessing, but you only got to come to nine sessions. I just want to know how many would say, OK, Pastor, listen, I'm willing to make a commitment that tomorrow morning, let me tell you it would be just so terrible to have her come all the way here and to look, he said to me tomorrow, it'll be like the rapture came. I don't believe it. I bind that in Jesus name. I'm looking at Biola turning out for

tomorrow morning. So how many would say, okay, I won't be at ten pastor, but I'll be here tomorrow morning at eight thirty. Real quick, raise your hand. Give God praise. Yeah, all right.

Hafer:

I like this man. God's gracious, isn't he? How wonderful. We thank him for his grace and what he's done. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. You are dismissed. We have plenty of time to interact, to pray together, to encourage one another. Those of you who made decisions, of course, would love to have a chance to interact as you would like. But we're here all the time, so we're welcome to do that.