

I am a Disciple of Jesus Christ!

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[0:00] Let's go ahead and clap our hands and love the Lord here for a moment! Hallelujah! Thank you, God. Come on, lift up your hands and lift up your voice. Lift up your faith right now.

God is in this place. Come on, He deserves a little bit of faith right now. He deserves a little bit of worship right now. Why don't you extend your faith? Why don't you extend your worship? Come on, He's worthy. Come on, there's no moment where we should be stopped worshipping. We should be worshipping Him in spirit and in truth. Come on, lift up a hand. And lift up your voice. Come on, shout with the voice of triumph.

We are a triumphant people. We are more than conquerors. We have the victory because we serve the victor. In the name of Jesus. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

If you're excited to be in the house of the Lord tonight, shout hallelujah! Amen, amen, amen. Thank you all so much for inviting me this evening. I give honor to your pastor, Pastor Eccles.

[0:57] I'm so grateful for the family. I think I know this family really, really well. So much so where I taught, I was Taylor's youth pastor.

And I was Trevin's Sunday school teacher. And so a lot of history in that family. I love the Eccles family very, very, very much. And so honored you invited me to be here this evening.

Give honor to my pastor for allowing me to come. And he, last minute we were at the table. I'm finishing up eating. I'm about to get dressed. And he goes, I'm going to come with you. And I said, okay. I should have notes then.

I'm just kidding. So grateful our pastor's here. I apologize that my wife and my kids are not here this evening. I valued your banner way too much for my kids to come and destroy it.

No, I'm just kidding. My wife has been ill for the past couple of days. And so keep her in your prayers. But I thank God for all of you. And I thank God for all of you to be here.

[1:55] I know all your faces. I've seen your faces walking through the series church and here today. And I just felt prompted in the Holy Ghost to extend this mission statement, if you will.

And that is keep coming. Keep coming. There's going to be a day where you're all going to be surrounded by lots and lots and lots more people just like you.

In a much, much bigger building. Probably this building that you're going to own. Maybe bigger. And you're going to wonder, where did it all go? Because at one point you were here.

But it's going to get there if you stay here. I know that doesn't make sense, but let me say it one more time. You're going to get there if you continue coming here every Sunday, every outreach, every Bible study.

This is what we call the core. You are all the core. You love your pastor and pastor's wife. You support them. And I'm asking you, I'm begging you, keep on doing that. Keep loving them and keep showing up.

[2:53] I'm encouraging you, keep showing up. You may be seated. I'm not going to do a typical introduction. I just hope to talk to you for a little while today and share my heart with you, what God placed on my heart.

Are you guys comfortable? You guys okay? I've preached a couple of church plants, so I'm not intimidated by where we're at. I've preached in living rooms.

I've preached in school cafeterias and places where I came early to set up and I left late to tear down. And so I'm very familiar with this. And I'm comfortable.

Mostly also because I know all of you. You're all family. You're all family. And so I'm grateful to be here. But I wanted to preach for a little while on a very, I'm not going to be deep today.

I want you all to know that. I'm not going to be deep. I'm not a very deep person in general. Quite simple. I work in marketing. You can be simple working in marketing. And as I'm reading scripture,

kind of getting my mind and my heart ready for today, the Lord brought me to Peter.

[4:03] And in Acts chapter 4, if you want to turn there, we're going to read a story about Peter in Acts chapter 4. And you know what?

This part of Peter's life, he's stressed out. I want you to imagine for a moment with me just thinking, putting yourself in the sandals of Peter. He just got done watching his Savior being crucified and rose again three days later.

He got to see his Savior ascend up into heaven. Shortly after, he had a day of Pentecost revival. 3,000 souls won to the Lord. Shortly after, he went to the gate called Beautiful and noticed a lame man on the side of the road.

And he helped that man get up on his feet and watch right before his eyes by claiming the name of Jesus, a man being healed. And approaching Acts chapter 4, there's a lot going on in his life.

There's a lot going on. He's stressed. He's got pressure. He's got eyes on him. He notices that the day of Pentecost revival and these healings is starting to bring in a crowd.

[5:15] He's got a target. And Peter, knowing Peter, we all know who Peter is. He's that guy that speaks before he thinks. And so knowing Peter in stressful situations like this, he's comfortable in.

He knows what to do. His adrenaline is on high. He can think really quickly on his feet. And so Peter's not intimidated by this pressure. He's not intimidated by stress.

But here in this part of the story, he's reached about 5,000 people in this revival. That's what the scripture says. And right when he got done healing that lame man at the gate called Beautiful, and it brought in a crowd, that's when some men were not very happy with him because of what he had done.

Or better yet, what God had done through him. And so Peter, dealing with the stress, dealing with the pressure, and then him and John being taken captive by all the men, the Sadducees and everybody, the captain of the temple, the priests and everybody included.

He didn't really know what to do other than preach what he knew to preach. And so let's look into this. In Acts chapter 4, we read further down starting in verse 7.

[6:33] And they had asked him in the midst. They asked, by what power and or by what name have you done this?

So now they're interrogating him. Now they've got him, imagine, interrogation room, that table with the hanging lamp above him. He's sitting at the chair. And they're asking him, by what authority are you doing this?

What name or what power are you healing these people, bringing in thousands of people into a crowd? And then verse 8 says, and then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, rulers of the people and elders of Israel.

I'm going to back up a little bit for a second. And Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost. This wasn't normal Peter. This wasn't fisherman Peter. This wasn't Peter before Jesus.

This wasn't even really Peter during Jesus. This was Peter filled with the Holy Ghost. So what does that mean? That means a boldness kind of struck up in him.

[7:37] Something different shifted in his spirit. Something different shifted in his ministry. In that moment when they interrogated him, asking him, why are you doing this? And by what power are you doing this?

And it wasn't just Peter in that moment. It was Peter filled with the Holy Ghost. If you've got the Holy Ghost in this room, let me tell you, there's power in you. There's power in your body.

There's power in your words. There's power in everything that comes out of your mouth. In fact, Jesus was the one that said to himself, ye shall receive power after the Holy Ghost comes upon you.

And you will be witnesses unto me. Somebody is here today as a witness. And Jesus is looking for a witness that's filled with the Holy Ghost. He's not looking for somebody that just has the normal job that he can walk around his job site and do his normal thing.

He's not looking for somebody to fill a pew. He's not looking for someone to lift a hand and say amen every now and then. He's looking for someone that when his back is against a wall, he can be filled with the Spirit.

[8:38] And filled with a higher power. Not by his own flesh. And not by his own might. But by his Spirit. Spirit. And so if you're here today and you've got the Holy Ghost, that means you've got a power greater than your own self.

And if you are here today and you do not have the Holy Ghost, you ought to get the Holy Ghost. I don't know if you all watched the live stream this morning.

And I apologize to the Lopez family if I'm breaking the bad news. But Atlanta got the Holy Ghost this morning at Hope Church. And there's power in her. There's a Holy Ghost stirring up in her right now.

And I believe if you are here today and you have not spoken in tongues yet. You have not received the gift of the Holy Ghost. Today is your day. Acts chapter 2. It was after the ascension of Jesus. Peter was approaching the upper room. And all the disciples were in the upper room having a prayer meeting. And Acts chapter 2. And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all in one mind and one accord.

[9:38] And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind. And it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as a fire.

And it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the gift of the Holy Ghost. And began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them.

I'm talking to somebody that they need to get the Holy Ghost today. I don't care what kind of environment we are in. I know it's Sunday. But today you can get the Holy Ghost. Reading down further.

Peter starts preaching. For these are not drunken as ye suppose. Seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel.

And it shall come to pass in the last day. Sayeth God. And that's where we're living today. I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. All flesh meaning you and me.

[10:37] All the past. All the frustrations. All your flaws. Everything you are and everything you wish you would be. All flesh. The Spirit is to pour out. And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.

And your young men shall see visions. And your old men shall dream dreams. And after preaching that powerful Pentecost message. Peter looked around. And the men and women had questions. They were pricked in their hearts. And they asked what shall we do. And then Peter with all the Holy Ghost power in him. And with the Spirit dwelling inside him.

And with the anointing falling all over him. He said repent. And be baptized every one of you. In the name of Jesus Christ. For the remission of your sins.

And ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. I know what kind of church I'm in. I know this is a oneness. Apostolic.

[11:35] Baptism in Jesus name. Holy Ghost filled. Tongue talking church. I know what church I'm in. And so today if you're wondering what you should believe in. And you're wondering what you should buy into.

Buy into this. Come on. Buy into the Holy Ghost. Buy into oneness. Buy into apostolic authority. Buy into Pentecost. Buy into it. You don't have to beg for it.

You don't have to plead for it. Let me tell you this morning. When Elena was praying for the Holy Ghost. She was praying. And praying. You could still see the fear on her. But then Bishop Mark Morgan pointed at her.

And said let go of every fear. Enjoy the Holy Ghost journey. I want you to try again. And within seconds pastor. Her head lifted up. And she began to speak in other tongues.

In such a bold way. You don't have to plead for it. It's a gift for you. It's a gift for your children. It's a gift for all those that are far off.

[12:35] So how do we get the Holy Ghost? There are three easy steps when it comes to getting the Holy Ghost. In my opinion. Your pastor can correct me if I'm wrong. First you got to repent. You got to get right with God.

I know you're not perfect. But we should strive for perfection daily. I know we're human. I know we're flesh. I'm a flesh myself. I've got to repent of my sins every night before I go to bed.

Lord forgive me for what I've done today. Forgive me of the thoughts I had. Forgive me of the things I did to pull me away from you. We've got to repent of our sins daily. Number two.

You've got to commit. You've got to say Lord this gift is not for me just to have a one night off. God this gift is for me to have power to go beyond what I thought my limitations were.

This gift is not for me just to have a good Sunday. But this gift is for me to be like Peter. And be out in the streets preaching and teaching to people. And bringing them to Sundays at DOJC.

[13:32] This gift is not for me to just enjoy my today. But to me to have dominion for tomorrow. And have dominion for the next day. Your Holy Ghost is not just for a one time Lord.

I'm giving it to you. It's Lord I'm giving everything to you. And number three is you must believe that it is for you.

It is for you. It is a gift that he has ready to hand you. Amen. We're going to give you an opportunity at the end of this message to pray.

And if you don't have the Holy Ghost. I encourage you to pray for it today. Repent of those sins.

Commit your heart to him. And believe that he's got it for you. Peter being filled.

Imagine being filled with the Holy Ghost in that moment of pressure. In that moment of stress. He's referring to the lame man.

[14:33] The paralyzed man at the gate that was healed before. By what means he has been made well. Let it be known to you all.

And to all the people of Israel. That by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Whom you crucified. Whom God raised from the dead.

By him this man stands here before you whole. Everything happens by the name of Jesus Christ. I know your stresses may come.

And I know pressure may come. But have you ever thought to yourself for a moment. When was the last time I just cried out Jesus. I don't know what situation you find yourself in today.

But I'm encouraging you. If you were to lift up a hand. And throw your head back. And just say Jesus. I encourage you. God can do a mighty work. A man was healed at a gate.

[15:30] Because there was a name called out. Blinded eyes were healed. Because a name was called out. My daughter was healed. Because a name was called out. It is by that name.

It is by that name. Philippians 2.9. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him. And given him a name. Which is above every name. That at that name of Jesus.

Every knee shall bow. Of things in heaven. And things in earth. And things below the earth. And that every tongue should confess. That Jesus Christ is Lord.

Somebody lift up a hand. Why don't you cry Jesus for a moment. Come on. Claim Jesus out of your situation. Come on. Claim Jesus for your healing.

Claim Jesus for your miracle. Come on. Jesus is in the place. Come on. Cry out Jesus for a moment. Thank you Jesus. Thank you Jesus.

[16:29] Thank you Jesus. Thank you Jesus. Thank you Jesus. If you know that name. You can claim it at any moment. You have access to that name.

There's power and dominion. On that name. And you see Peter. Peter. He knew who he was up against. In that moment.

You ever have that co-worker. That just no matter what you say. They're going to disagree with you. They're going to be up against you. They're going to give you some pressure.

No I did not send that email. I didn't read that email. I know you sent it. But I did not read it. You can argue about the weather. And it could be right outside. There's a window in front of you. You can argue about the weather. You see Peter knew who he was up against.

He was up against people. Men. That would disagree with every act. That he would say. Everything that he would bring up to them. He can quote prophets. He can quote scripture.

[17:26] But they would never agree. To what he was saying. Why? Because they did not believe. In the power of the name. They believed in the power of the law. But they forgot.

Who walked on the earth. After who is the law. And that is Jesus. If they would have only known. Oh if they would. I bet you Peter. With such a heart. Had such a heartfelt moment for them.

If you only knew. The power of the name. I'm trying to speak to you. If you. This man is healed because of a name. If you only knew. How many of you in this place.

Have neighbors. Where you just wished. If they only knew the name. Of Jesus. If they only knew. Some of you have co-workers. If only my co-worker. Knew the power. Of the name.

Of Jesus Christ. Let me tell you what. Peter was preaching to these men. This is the stone. Which was rejected by you builders. Which has become the chief cornerstone.

[18:21] What was he saying? He was saying. This was the one thing missing in your life. And because you rejected the name. The cornerstone. Was missing from the building.

And so I'm asking this church family. Of DOJC and Houston. Where is somebody in your life. Where you've got to give them the chief cornerstone. And share with them the power of his name.

Rather than trying to debate. Rather than trying to fight. Rather than trying to pull them away from God. Why aren't we getting them closer to God? I'm not interested in fights. I'm not interested in arguing. I am interested in sharing the name of Jesus. I'm interested in showing them who God is. I'm interested in showing them. That there is one name that can heal them. And his name can break my chains. His name can bring me hope. His name can calm my storm. And if you're in the building. And you have a storm. That name can calm it.

[19:19] It is only by his name. For there is no other name under heaven. Given among men.

Which we must be saved. Now when they saw. And this is what the Bible is saying. From the perspective of the Sadducees. They saw.

The Bible says the boldness. Everybody say bold. Bold. Bold. They saw the boldness. Of Peter and John. And perceived.

That they were uneducated. And untrained. Imagine that. You're trying to share a gospel with someone. You're preaching the word.

You're talking to your co-worker. Talking to that family member. Only be told. You sound untrained. You sound uneducated. But you're bold.

[20:17] That's what the. The perspective of these men. Of Peter and John were. Was. Because of their language. They don't. They don't talk like us. Because of.

What they're saying. They don't. They're not using words. That we're used to. But have followed up with this. That these men marveled. And they realized.

That they had been with Jesus. That powerful statement. Might. Be scammed. By. Be scammed over. By most people. But for me. It resonated.

Because I don't care. If I'm looked at. As uneducated. I don't care. If I'm looked at. As radical. I don't care. If I'm looked at. As crazy. As long as I'm looked at.

And I'm assumed. He must be with Jesus. That's what matters. To me most. I know we don't have. Any high schoolers. In the room. But if a high schooler. Was known as radical.

[21:14] For Jesus. Rather than radical. For worldly things. That makes me happy. If I'm at work. And my co-workers. Look at me. And they know. He's radical. For Jesus. Rather than radical.

For the bar. Or the local night out. Or the whatever. Or knowing what's on. Pop culture. Or knowing what's on the news. But man. He's radical. About Jesus. That's what matters. To me most.

I don't care. I apologize. Brother Eccles. I don't care. I don't care. If it looks like it's perceived to you. As radical. As crazy. As whatever. As long as they know. You're with Jesus.

That is what matters. Most. To me. I may be unlearned. I may be uneducated. But as long. As I'm with Jesus. As long as they can feel him on me.

As long as when somebody walks by me. Or talks to me. Can sense the love of God through me. That is what matters. Most. If you're going to reach Houston.

[22:08] You've got to know how to be with Jesus. If you're going to reach Houston. You've got to understand the power. Of having God so on you. Being so close to him. That people will recognize you from a mile away.

They'll start looking at you as the crazy Pentecostals of Houston. And that's okay with me. Because I don't care if I'm crazy. I have got Jesus on my side. I'm close to him. I might be uneducated.

I might be ignorant. But I'm bold. I'm bold. I know what it's like to be close to him in prayer.

I know what it's like to cling to him when times are low. Oh, but brother Josh, I'm such a mess. God can turn that mess into a blessing. Oh, but brother Josh, I might get close to him.

But I'm nowhere near. I'm so uneducated. I'm so unlearned. There are no throwaways in the kingdom of God, church family. He can turn your downfalls into a testimony to lift someone up.

[23:12] He can make a preacher or a teacher out of anybody. You are worth more than what you could ever imagine. You don't need to memorize every scripture in the book. You don't need to understand what every theologian has to say.

You just need a good grasp of who Jesus is. He's looking for your availability. It's the knowledge of who Jesus is.

And then reading further in the story in verse 14. And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them.

They had to emphasize that the man that was healed was standing with them. The man that was known as the guy on the floor by the gate asking for money.

The man that was known for begging for alms because he was paralyzed. And he had to get carried to and fro. They saw him standing.

[24 : 16] A miracle right in front of their eyes. Standing with them. And the Bible says they could not. They could say nothing against it.

Nobody can doubt your testimony. Oh, they can doubt history. They, people can say their opinions about this book.

People can say their opinions about scripture, about theologians, and about what this, and thus, and that says. And what this verse and that verse means. And what, they can say all they want. But they will never be able to doubt your testimony. They could say nothing against it. Nobody has the right to speak against your testimony. Nobody has the, you're standing here today, that's a testimony.

Well, Brother Josh, I don't have a, I don't have as big of a testimony as Sister So-and-So or Brother So-and-So. Any testimony is just as big as the next one because it's still a testimony from God.

[25 : 19] It's the same God that healed you just like the same God that healed the paralyzed man. And there were probably many other testimonies in that room. And so these men saw that testimony.

They were able to doubt Peter. They could have probably quoted every Moses scripture. They probably could have quoted every prophet in the Bible. But they were marveled when they saw that paralyzed man standing there.

They were confused. They had every scripture in their mind memorized. They had every scroll probably in the back of their minds. They could argue every mathematician, every scientist. But once they saw a paralyzed man that was once on his floor was now standing, they could not do anything to fight against that.

They could not fight against the testimony. And so the Bible says when they had been, they had commanded them to go aside out of the council.

They conferred amongst themselves. They said, It's gone out.

[26 : 54] The word is out. Somebody already posted it on Facebook and boosted it. It's out there. And so they knew after that moment when they said, It's evident to all that dwell in Jerusalem.

And we cannot deny it. The enemy cannot deny what you let out into the streets. The enemy cannot tear down what you build up in your community.

The enemy cannot taint what you put out for all of Houston to hear. I'm here to tell you.

I'm here to tell you. I'm here to tell you. If you get the word out to everybody you know and you show up to every outreach, you show up to every Bible study, you knock on every door you know possible, and you get the word out there to everybody, that means it's more evidence that the enemy cannot take away from you.

I'm here to encourage somebody today.

[28 : 20] The more you get out there, the more you get out there, the less the enemy can deny. I'm a changed man.

There's things in my life that I dealt with, I struggled with as a young man. I'm sure there's more testimonies out there, but things that I've struggled with that I can't even tell you all the evidence stacked up against me to be standing here today.

But I'm here today because of a testimony. And you're sitting there today because of a testimony. Your pastor has a testimony, and he gets to start this amazing church starting from the ground up because of a testimony.

And someday him and his family are going to reap all that they're sowing because of a testimony. You're still here, and you're going to continue to be here because of a testimony.

Your family's going to walk him through those doors because of your testimony. Lives can be changed because of your testimony. Don't ever delinquish the power of a testimony. There's so much that can go forward with your testimony.

[29 : 30] In verse 17, but so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severally threaten them. From now on, they speak to no man about this name.

That's nasty. We don't want the word to get out anymore, so we're going to tell them, you are not allowed to preach the name of Jesus.

We're taking away the mission. We're taking away the message. We don't want this word to go out anymore. So lower your standards. Lower your doctrine.

Lower your expectations. Take the message out of your mission. They wanted to silence Peter and John. Quit preaching about the name of Jesus.

Quit talking to people about who Jesus is. Oh, you can do other things that we might approve, but this Jesus thing, keep it out of your language. Verse 18, so they called them and commanded them not to speak at all, nor teach in the name of Jesus.

[30:40] But Peter and John, and with the boldness, and I'm sure the Holy Ghost dwelling up in them, answered and said to them, whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.

They're putting the ball in their court. Whether you think it's good to listen to God or to you, I'm going to let you decide that. This is your own demise. But they didn't stop there.

For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. How radical do you think you have to be to get threatened but then respond with, I can't do anything else but get people to this church.

You're asking me to take off my Bible study. Now, I can't do anything else but go to Bible study. You're asking me to take a Saturday off to go outreach. I can't do anything else but go on outreaching on Saturday.

You're asking me to take a Sunday off and sleep in. Well, it's 4 p.m. That's sleeping in pretty late. But you're asking me to take off. I can't get anywhere else but the house of God. You're asking me to put my Bible down for a morning because I cannot do anything but put my Bible up in my face.

[31:59] You're asking me to take a day off from prayer. I can't do anything else but pray every day. I wish somebody in this church would get radical for a moment. That when the enemy tries to tell you to slow down and the enemy tries to tell you, you know what, Sundays are a little bit difficult.

Why don't you take off a Sunday? Or, hey, this isn't going anywhere. Why don't you just take it off? I wish somebody would get stirred up and say, I can't do anything else but get closer to him.

I can't do anything else but build this church in Houston. Teach another Bible study. Show up another Sunday. Show up another outreach. I can't. I wish somebody would get stirred up in their spirits.

I can't do anything else but get closer to him. And I'm going to come to a close.

If everybody could stand. I've got one sentence in my notes that the Lord directed me to in the closing of this message.

[33:02] I wouldn't call this a prophecy because I'm not a prophet. I wouldn't call this a call. I would just simply call it a call to action.

But the words that kept coming across my mind was, Hewson is looking. Hewson is looking.

I didn't give you a title but I wrote a title in my notes today and that is simply this. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. Peter displayed what a disciple of Jesus Christ looked like in this story.

He was bold. He preached the name of Jesus. He was filled with the Holy Ghost. And he responded to the enemy saying, I will not but speak anything else but the name of Jesus.

And so God is asking someone today, Will you go? Hewson is looking. Will you be that disciple I'm trying to send? Hewson is looking for a bold Peter.

[34:04] Will you be that bold Peter? I said in the beginning of this message that this is the core of the church. And I'm asking the core right now to get stirred up about something.

If you want to get stirred up, get stirred up for Hewson. If you want to get bothered by something, get bothered by Hewson. If you want to get bothered by the empty pews in the room, why don't you go fill them?

If you want to get bothered by the lack of Bible studies, why don't you go teach a Bible study?

Come on, God is looking for a bold young person. A bold married couple.

A bold individual to step out of that comfort zone and decide in their hearts, I'm going to be bold, filled with the Holy Ghost. And I'm going to go all in because I am a disciple of Jesus Christ.

I'm not asking for music. I'm not asking for any preliminaries. I'm just asking you to find a place to pray for a moment. I'm asking you to go ahead and step out of your pew. If you want to come to the altar, if you want to go out on your pew, if you want to walk the sanctuary, whatever you want to do.

[35:09] But I believe God is calling somebody. God is calling somebody to be more radical. I believe that the spirit of comfort is resting in some of us.

And I'm asking you to get uncomfortable for a few moments. I'm asking for someone to step out and get radical saying, I'm going to be a disciple.

I'm winning my community. I'm getting bold. I know I may be uneducated. I know I may be illiterate. But I'm going to be bold no matter what.
I'm going to reach my community. And I'm going to reach my city. Come on, somebody look at her voice. Houston is looking.
Come on, Houston is looking for someone. He's looking for a man. He's looking for a woman. But I agree. It's going to step out. Come on, keep pushing.
[36 : 13] I know you're weary. I know you might be weary, but don't let go. Keep holding on. Keep holding on. That's what I'll be.