

The Sacrifice that Becomes a River - August 25, 2026

Kevin Diggs All right. I had a feeling tonight was going to be a good night. Do you feel good? Do you feel that victory inside of you? Yes. You know, I tried to imagine the people of Israel when they were circling around that town. People don't realize that we're seeing upwards of two to three million people, because in the census, they only counted. The men and the men were counted to be about seven hundred and fifty thousand. But for every man that was a wife. And so that puts it close to one point five million. And when you count children, there were over two million people just kind of walking around. I gotta be honest, if I was a stronghold, I'd probably get out of there too. But that's what's happening. But then Jesus Christ showed us something different. He showed us the power of the one. And the Lord said, it's not about numbers, it's about the weight of my glory. And tonight, your prayers brought the glory down. And I'm here to tell you, you walk in victory knowing that whatever's in your life right now. Whatever's preventing you from taking that next step of glory, it is broken in the name of Jesus. It's broken in the name of Jesus. Well, I guess the only way to do it is to get started. But I want to welcome you tonight to Mark two twenty two. And tonight we're going to read several verses, but we're going to focus on just a couple. But I got a lot to tie together. So make sure you have your ears open, your hearts available, your minds ready to receive. We're going to read some familiar scripture, but I think we're going to take a different dive into it and go a little bit deeper and really try to focus on what God's trying to tell us. Amen. Amen. So open up your Bible, Bibles, if you would, to Romans chapter twelve, Romans chapter twelve. We're going to read verses one through twenty one. Pray for me. You know how I get by like verse fifteen. And we're going to read from the New Living Translation. And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice, the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning. Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. Just as your bodies have. Many parts in. Each part has a special function. So it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. In his grace. God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If you. If your gift is to encourage others by. Be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble and keep on praying. When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you and don't curse them. Pray

that God will bless them, be happy with those who are happy and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other. Don't be proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people and don't think you know it all. Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scripture says, I will take revenge. I will pay them back, saith the Lord. Instead, if your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads. Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good. You know, I don't know if we're going to get out of this series because we're trying to return to a book of acts church. But the title of tonight's message is The Sacrifice that becomes a river, the sacrifice that becomes a river. Lord God, I thank you for the word that you have provided tonight. Lord God, you are a good God and you have proven it over and over and over again. Heavenly father, if you don't do another thing, it's enough. But Lord God, you love us so much. That eyes have not seen, ears have not heard, nor have entered into the heart of man. What you still have for us. So Lord God, we praise and give you glory for the word you have provided. And it's in Jesus mighty name we pray and everyone said Amen and amen. As I just read the entire chapter of Romans chapter twelve. The chapter is really an image of what we've been studying in Ezekiel chapter forty seven. And so I can't escape Ezekiel forty seven in the vision that Ezekiel received. And so while I was studying for the message tonight, I kept seeing that vision. And I kept waiting for the Lord to provide to me what he wanted me to talk about tonight. And yet he just proceeded to let me read and read. And so I read almost the entire book of Romans yesterday, thinking, Lord, we'll eventually get there. And so the Lord said, I want you to start by recapping so the people fully understand what I'm trying to tell, not only the people of Mark two twenty two, but the people who are ready to receive God's new glory and what he is pouring out today. Can you put up the image? This is not a very good image. Um, I wish I had a better one, but, um, I actually created this image. I thought it was. I thought it was okay. Yeah, actually it was, but it's just kind of far away. But it's an image of Ezekiel forty seven and I'll try to explain it. You see the temple as we studied in Ezekiel, seeing the temple and the water is flowing. And as the water flows, you'll see in the bottom, it gets increasingly deeper. But I want you to see what's happening as it extends out further in its depths. You begin to see living things. Trees begin to blossom up. And it said that these trees are good for eating and the leaves are good for healing. And then the waters begin to change the water of the Dead Sea, where fish come back to live again. And it says that fishermen line up around the shores and they fish for the. They fish for the the fish that have now come to the Dead Sea that were never there. Now I want to leave this up there because I want you to see. Now, after studying this for weeks, what I see. I see a temple up there that contains the presence of God. But I'm looking at temples here that contain the presence of God. Yeah. I see a river flowing. That was always there. But in this vision, Ezekiel decides to get in it. I see temples that carry the presence of God, who have made the decision to jump into the living waters. These living waters. With each step, get deeper and deeper as we understand that the vision says, at the first it was ankle deep, then it was knee deep, then it was waist deep. Then it came up to his chest and then he was swimming. Now I want you to understand something about what he's saying. We talked about it, but you cannot escape this. He can walk in ankle, he can walk in knee, he can walk in hip. And although the currents are getting stronger, he can

still walk. And he gets up to his chest. But then something happens. He begins to swim. And now the confidence that he had in his feet that was in the water is no longer there because he cannot touch the bottom. And so now he is beginning to surrender more. And when you see this surrender with a greater amount of journey in length, you start to see living things. This should be telling you something. Then what begins to take place in the minds and the hearts of a believer is when you allow that current to take you where you give up all control. You can imagine what's at the end of that river. It's a never ending flowing of life. Life. Now, while I was studying Romans chapter twelve, I started seeing what Paul was telling the Romans. He was saying. That the prophetic vision here is now available to everyone. Because of the power of Holy Spirit that came down on the day of Pentecost. And so Romans chapter twelve began to become a picture for me of what the church body is to look like. Yes. If the church body can begin to look like Romans chapter twelve, you're going to see people get delivered. You're going to see people get healed. You're going to see salvation. You're going to see strength rise up in people. Generational curses, principalities come down because God's living waters never fail. Amen. So now I want you to see the correlation as I'm reading this. And believe me, it took twelve chapters to get there. The Lord said, now see, see what I'm calling not just Mark two twenty two, because I am not arrogant enough to think this is about a brand, right? We happen to attend a church that's called Mark two twenty two. The church belongs to God. The entire body of Christ belongs to God. No, I will probably not have membership ever, because the only membership you need is the one with Christ.

Speaker 3 Amen. Amen. Amen.

Kevin Diggs And so the way I feel about it is if God adds to our numbers, he's adding to our numbers and he's probably adding somebody else's numbers. And we're all one body of Christ. And as soon as every leader can look at it that way, then we might have true unity.

Speaker 3 Yes.

Kevin Diggs But I want you to see the correlation between the two chapters. Romans chapter twelve and Ezekiel forty seven have it in your mind as we read, because we're going to focus on two parts, just two verses. Now, if you're like me, you guys know I'm a coach and I love breaking things down. I'm just that guy. I don't just show you how to block. I break down the left foot, the right foot, the hands. Right. Blake. Yeah. I take time to break things down. So I'm breaking that that vision down for myself. And I'm asking myself. How do I become living waters? How do I get deeper knowing that nothing in the kingdom is by effort? It's by God's grace and mercy. We are gifted, but it still begs the question, right? I began to think of James. Faith without works is dead. Show me your faith without works. And I'll show you my faith with my works or by my works. And I began to realize that the works he was talking about was a level of surrender. So I asked myself, how do I get deeper? How do I what role do I play to the depths? I believe it's found in Romans chapter twelve. Turn, if you would, the. Romans twelve one again. This time I'm going to read the new King James Version. Because I think you're more familiar with this. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies as living sacrifices, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. It starts off with Paul telling the Romans that everything begins with an appeal. It's an

appeal to what God has already done. I beseech you, I appeal to you, I urge you, I urge you by the mercies of God. Now, what you need to understand, that is, he's not urging them or appealing to him by Paul. He's saying, I'm appealing to you. I'm urging you. I'm beseeching you by what God has already done. You see, what you need to know about Romans is the first eleven chapters. God tells us what he has done for us. This is what Paul says. He says from chapter one through three. It was a fallen humanity, and he begins to tell us how far, how far her humanity had fallen. And he tells us how we cannot rely on the law. Then in chapters four and five, he reminds us of the faith of Abraham and the promise that he made. And the promises of restoring Adam back to his rightful place in chapter five. Chapter six, he begins to start talking about Jew and Gentile. And in chapter seven he talks about the struggle with sin. And in chapter eight he gets into identity, but all of it as he progresses through. Nine and ten and eleven, it's all about mercies of God, mercies of God, mercies of God, mercies of God. And now Paul gets to chapter twelve. He says, I beseech you therefore not therefore to the chapter you just read, but therefore out of everything I've told you for eleven chapters, that's what I'm appealing to. I'm appealing to that great mercy.

Speaker 3 Amen.

Kevin Diggs Now I want you to understand something. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice. right now. Watch this. He's looking for them to respond. You have to respond. The response he's asking for is not an attempt to earn God's acceptance. Hear me. It is our response to having already received his mercy. Do you see it? Do you see it? See? I'm not making it about works. It can't be about works because God granted the mercy before he acts for the response. Do you see it? He's saying it's your rightful service of worship to respond to what's already been given to you. So he's saying, I appeal to you by the gift that God has already laid at your feet, that you respond a certain way.

Speaker 3 Yes.

Kevin Diggs The question. Romans twelve one answers. Why should I respond? The answer is simple because of God's great mercy. Now, the only acceptable response, according to Paul, is to present your bodies. Present your bodies a living sacrifice. Notice that Paul doesn't say, bring God something. He says, present your bodies. God is isn't asking for a portion of us. He is asking for all of us, our desires, our will, our ambitions, our appetites, plans, possessions, relationships, and everything that makes up who we are. This is what he means by present your whole body. Think about it. What do you really control? What is the one thing you really. Michael, you don't control anything. But what are you kind of control your own body? It's about the only thing you can. You can decide to walk in or walk away. When you think about it, it is the one thing you can control because God gave you choice. You see, you can't control other people. You can't control the weather. You can't control circumstance. Consequences can't control those things. But you can decide for yourself what you will present to God. And God is saying, you see that one thing you can control, I want that. That's what I want. He's saying, I want now why, why, why bodies? Why bodies? See, it confuses people, particularly new Christians. My body. It's weird. Think about it. It's the one thing you control. And it's the one

thing that gets us all. It's the flesh. He's saying, I want with that flesh wants. I want you to give me that I want. When the flesh says, you want that, give me that. When you desire that, give me that. When you have an appetite for that, give me that. You see, it's only once again, what does it say? Reasonable for God to ask for your body when he gave his body?

Speaker 3 Yes.

Kevin Diggs God isn't asking us to sacrifice something. He's asking us to sacrifice self. And this is where sacrifice becomes something. Watch. It becomes surrender. Let me show you something. Throughout Scripture, we see that God has never been concerned merely with what is placed on the altar. He is concerned with the heart of the person placing it there. Remember Cain and Abel?

Speaker 3 Yeah.

Kevin Diggs They both brought sacrifices, but one was considered to be greater than the other because of the faith that Abel had. Remember Ananias and Sapphira? Think about that one for a minute. He's asking for everything. Ananias and Sapphira sell some land. When they get the proceeds from that land, they go and give a portion of those proceeds to Peter and all the church, the believers. But instead of saying they gave a portion, they said they gave it all. Watch this. They are both struck down, dead. You know what happens. Now wait a minute. They sacrificed. They gave some money. In today's church society, particularly in westernized America, they would be applauded. They would get the first chair. They would get recognized. These people are great givers. But in God's eyes, it was never about the gift or the amount. What he saw is that they couldn't give everything. Did you see it? We gave you this much. But it wasn't everything. The lady who gave two mites gave everything. God is saying, I'm not worried about how much you gave. What did Peter tell Ananias? It was yours to keep. Yeah, you could have kept it. The Lord was never concerned with the amount. He was concerned about them. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourself. And they had just lied to the Holy Spirit, not presenting themselves, but posturing themselves as something they were not.

Speaker 3 Yeah.

Kevin Diggs And this is what was taking place with the sacrifice. One more. The one I believe we still deal with the Pharisees. Think about the story in Mark two. When they asked Jesus, they say, Jesus, why do you sit with sinners. Why do you eat with tax collectors? And he looks at the Pharisees and he says, it's not the healthy that I have come for, but the sick. But watch the irony. Do we not all fall short of the glory of God?

Speaker 3 Yes.

Kevin Diggs So what God was really saying is that there's nobody healthy. I've come for everybody. But if you think you're healthy, sit over there.

Speaker 3 Yeah.

Kevin Diggs So what he was saying was, you're not willing to sacrifice and present your bodies. You're not willing to give it all. You love to be religious with me, but you don't want to be sacrificial with me. How many of us suffer in the church body today where we're religious with God, but we're not sacrificial with God. I watch a lot of rich people put a lot of money up and say, isn't that a lot of money? And it's measured to someone who don't have money, but it isn't everything. And I watch somebody stick five dollars and that's a struggle for them. And God says, well done, my good and faithful servant, because God is looking for a heart posture that says, I'll give you everything. I trust you. And this is what Paul is saying. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of what God has already given you, to present yourselves as holy and pleasing sacrifices. All of it. All of it. It was never about the amount. It was about all of this. That's the difference between sacrifice and surrender. He got a million dollars. Sacrificing one hundred ain't no big deal. That's not a. That's not a sacrifice. God's not looking for that. He's looking for a surrendered heart. Well, you gotta trust a little, O Lord, that you want to take that step. Oh, can I tell you something? Look, I love y'all. I love you, I love you, this is love. Love. Okay. But I got some experience now, okay? Not an older person, but I'm definitely middle age. That one's for my dad. But watch this. Every step the Lord has asked me to take, they're uncomfortable. I love when people say, I got a vision. That's so great. I had a dream. It's so great. I'm like, I don't know what God you're serving because my vision is like, oh, I'm like, that way anywhere but that way. And my wife's like, yeah, it's that way. Boom. I've been knowing it for two years. God requires trust. A surrendered sacrificial heart. God isn't looking for people who are willing to sacrifice something for him. He is looking for people who are willing to surrender everything to him. Now Imma say it again. God isn't looking for people who are willing to sacrifice something for him. He is looking for people who are willing to surrender everything to him. And in my favorite part of this first line is present yourselves. Present, living, present living shows you that it's present tense. It never goes away. It's continual. Right? See, the mistake we make in church today is we think. We walk down, we repeat a prayer, and when the prayer is done, we receive salvation. And we did it. We sacrificed. We're done. Yay! Blessings all out. Hand em out. You get a car, you get a car, you get a car. That's not the way it works. Then you get to start your journey. Why? We're not teaching people this, I don't know. No, no, no. See, when you do the first sacrifice, you enter the altar to be a continual living sacrifice. Present tense, die to self every single day saying, Lord, today is Monday. I give it all. Oh man, Monday was so tough. God. Tuesday I give it all. Tuesday was so Wednesday I give it all. And the Lord keeps saying, I know it's tough. I know it's tough. But I love that you keep waking up every single day and you keep giving all to me. That's what the Lord is saying. That's what the Lord is trying to teach you. I told you earlier in the service, there are things in this world that are preordained to be done through man. God has called us to work alongside of him. We're sitting there waiting for God to do it, and God's waiting for you to do it, because God's saying, I called you out to do it. But the thing is, we want to give up on the hard stuff and what God's trying to teach us in our faithful walk, and all our trusting and all our surrendering. And God is saying, I'm building you, I'm building you. Because when you get to that moment and you're about to step on the threshold and you think it's big, you're really just stepping into your calling. And this is what God is saying. When you learn to be a living sacrifice, you just walk around me in a living sacrifice. How can I help you? How can I serve you today, God? Oh, it's a person at the gas station. Oh, let's get him. Person at target. Oh, let's get him. Oh, it's not

Sunday. Oh, it don't matter. That's it. I'm picking them off, you know. We'll start a Christian body count. Souls saved, demons killed by. Right. So now let's read it again. I want you to read it again. Let's read it again. I beseech you, I appeal to you therefore. Therefore, all the things I told you for eleven chapters, the great mercies of God. That you present. Present tense. Your full body. Everything that you are. The one thing that you control. Your choice as a living sacrifice. Daily. Every day. Live at the altar. Don't go and come back. Don't go and come back. No matter what you do. Take the altar with you. Just be in it. Be in it all the time. Holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. Because that's exactly what Jesus did for you. He didn't just die for you one time. He's up in heaven, sitting at the right hand of the father, forever in intercession, praying for you. So he didn't stop. He kept going. So if he goes every day, don't you think you should go every day? If he sacrifices every day, don't you think you should sacrifice every day? The only holes in heaven are the ones in his hands. He's constantly reminded. Shouldn't you be constantly reminded? This is what God is saying about sacrifice. Completion of verse one. I gotta be honest, I don't. I don't know how pastors read and go Done. Like there's so much it's dripping. Dripping. Just when it didn't get deep enough, the Lord goes. Insert verse two and do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Do not be conformed to the ways of this world. Rather be transformed. Don't be conformed. Be transformed. Don't be conformed. Be transformed. Wait a minute. Conform. Transform. See the choice. There's a choice happen here. See? I see it differently now. I see Paul showing us the battlefield of the mind. Do not be conformed to the ways of this world. Rather be transformed by the renewing of your mind. See the battle ahead of you. Church of Romans. There's a battle ahead. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourself a holy sacrifice. Why do you present yourself as sacrifice? Because you need to surrender. Why do you need to surrender? Because you need to be transformed. Otherwise you will conform. Yes, this is what he's saying. What makes this interesting is now I know why God made me read all those chapters. Because I don't want. Oh, God, you got it right here in Romans seven. Romans seven is an entire chapter on God's law and how God's law pointed out our sin. But how? The power of the law wasn't strong enough to break the power of sin. All it did was point it out. And so Paul uses an example. He says, let me show you the example. He says, there's a woman who's married, and if she was to cheat on her husband, it would be adultery or get remarried, he says. But if the husband dies, she can remarry without worrying about that law. What he was saying is, when the laws came, it pointed out my sin. But you see, that man died. The husband died. So the woman was no longer obligated to the law. You see it? And what he's saying is, when Jesus Christ came, you died to the law, and now you live in Christ. Just like that woman did. But then he says something even deeper. He says, but don't think that the law was wrong. The law was holy. It was spiritual. He was not condemning the law. He was saying the law was good because the law showed me the contempt of my heart. Yes, he said, but when I saw it, he said, something developed inside of me. It was a sinful nature. And he said, in the sinful nature, took the law and twisted it, and said, don't you want to break that? Remember, Adam and Eve, you can eat of all of the trees except that one. And over time they couldn't focus on all they had. They only focused on what they couldn't have. And that's what the enemy does. He takes the laws and he bends it. And so Paul says, it's not the laws that are wrong. It's me. It's my sinful nature. I'm not strong enough to abide by this

law. But let's read let's read Romans chapter seven, verses eighteen through twenty five. And I know that nothing good lives in me. That is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what's right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong. It is the sin living in me that does it. Do you see it? I want to do what's right. I want to follow that law. But that sinful nature has twisted with the law was supposed to do for me, and now I can't do it. So now the law is only pointing how bad I am. I have discovered this principle in life love, Paul. Paul is a genius that when I went to do what is right, I inevitably did what was wrong. He's talking about Self-effort. He's talking about Christian behavioral modification. Yeah, you can't do it. Five steps to being a Better Husband. Six steps to be in a better parent. Seven steps to be in a better child. Eight steps to be in a better Christian. Eight steps to be a prophetic like no, no, no. You can't do it. Listen, listen. All right. Stop. You can't. I don't care what they say. There is no self-help book in Christianity. Right, right. One helper, one name we could call about. But it's been given to man. Jesus. Watch. He's saying it. I can't do it. But there's another power within me that is at war with my mind. The power makes me a slave to sin. That is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am. Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God. Yes. The answer is Jesus Christ our Lord. If you are not in a Christ centered environment all the time, get out. And I'm not talking about people that just say Christ all the time. I'm talking about fruit. Yeah. Amen. So you see how it is in my mind. I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature, I am a slave to sin. Clearly, Paul is pointing to us the battle for the mind. But he also reveals the answer is Jesus Christ. We begin to understand that this battle is not ultimately carnal, but spiritual, and that victory does not come through our own strength. The battle belongs to the Lord and Christ is our champion. As Paul transitions from Romans seven, this is so great. I challenge you to read it. After this, he transitions from Romans seven. Woe is me! Sin is kicking my tail. He goes to Romans eight and he begins to show us how the battle is fought and ultimately won, not through strength of flesh, but through the power of the Holy Spirit. Not by power, not by might, but by the spirit of the living God. Now watch. So now there is no condemnation for those who belong in Christ, no condemnation. God's not the one condemning you. What I talked about last week, always quick to point out error. This Christians an error that Christians an error. They speak in tongues out loud. He's in error. He's in error. Well, it's funny you act like Christ like, but you're always pointing out error. And God didn't do that. Yeah. Take your self-righteous self just. Alright, God, I. And because you belong to him, the power of the life giving spirit has freed you. The life giving spirit from the power of sin that leads to death. The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. The law was never wrong. It was us that was wrong. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. Do you see your reasonable exchange? And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving His Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this so that the just requirements of the law would be fully satisfied. Watch this. This is. Watch this. Fully satisfied. For who? What does it say? Fully satisfied for us. Why are we always saying that Christ needed it? I mean, God needed atonement. God had to punish Jesus because he's just. And he needed his laws to be recognized. And people preach like that. Yeah they do. But John three sixteen says, God so loved the world that he gave. Because of love. And he said that he justified us from the law for us. God didn't have a problem with sinful nature. It was us. And out

of love he took care of that. Now, do you see the approach? It doesn't come from approach of correction. It comes from approach of love. You're messed up, I love you, you're a mess, I love you, you're broken, I love you. Now, how should Christians be acting for. Those who are dominated by their sinful nature? Did I skip something? No I didn't. Maybe I did. Those who dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things. Remember, do not conform to the ways of this world. Rather be transformed. Okay. Those who are dominated by their sinful nature think about sinful things. They conform. But those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the spirit. They transform. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. For the sinful nature is hostile to God. It never did obey God's law and it never will. That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God. The power of the Holy Spirit. Wall transitions into chapter eight and begins to show us how the battle is truly won. Victory comes through the life fully surrendered to the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who gives us the power to overcome the sinful nature that so easily seeks to dominate our minds. You should see the beautiful connection between what he's saying here and second Corinthians chapter three, where the spirit of the Lord is Lord, there is freedom. He's saying, when you make the spirit Lord of your life, you are free from your sinful nature. When you are free from your sinful nature, you begin to transform. You are no longer conforming. But when you do not surrender to the power of the Holy Spirit, when you surrender, let's say to your programs or your systems or what you gotta do to run church. C e o of church, you become something else. You are surrendering to the wrong thing. And so now you are conforming to the ways of this world. No wonder why churches look like businesses, right? Yeah. There you go. But the Lord is saying something different. He's saying, but if you yield to the power of the Holy Spirit. Oh, but wait, people start jumping around. They start praying. If you yield to the power of the Holy Spirit, you will no longer conform. You will transform. This is why I continue to tell people, stop acting like the modern day Western Christian Church in America knows what heaven looks like because it doesn't. Yeah, I said it once. I'll say it again. There are creatures all around creatures, creatures. That's what God calls normal. And we call normal. We come before you, God. Man. God wants people shouting. How do I know? Because it's in the Bible. God wants people falling down. How do I know? Because it's in the Bible. God wants people prophesying. How do I know? Because it's in the Bible. I see things in the Bible and I'm wondering, where is it? Now I want you to see the connection. I told you I was going to connect this. You've been waiting. Watch it come full circle. Do not conform to the ways of this world. Rather be transformed by the renewing of your mind. The renewing of your mind comes when you surrender to the power of the Holy Spirit. Then Jesus comes along and says, if any man thirst. Have him come to me, and I will give him living waters. And out of his belly will flow living waters. victory from his sinful nature, victory from what he once was. I will restore the renewing of his mind. He will no longer conform. He will transform. And because of his transformation, things will begin to live around him. Life starts to take place. There's fruit over here and there's leaves for healing, and there's fish everywhere. And people go, there's something about that lady. There's something about that man. I just gotta get around them. And they don't realize it's the living waters that has transformed you because you surrendered. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to surrender yourself, because God surrenders himself and do it every day and

surrender to the power of the Holy Spirit. And if you do that, you're going to transform. And when you transform, it says in second Corinthians chapter three, for one measure of glory to the next, and it might be ankle, and it might be knee, and it might be waist, and it might be chest, but you're going to get there and something's going to start to happen. Amen. Give God some praise in the house. My favorite part about this when I was praying to the Lord, man. I don't deserve. I'm changing. I don't, I don't care about half the things I cared about anymore. I hope that all of you start churches and have a thousand people. I'll stay here, I don't care, that's how much I don't care anymore, I don't care. I only care that God's glory is poured out on all flesh. Yes. The Lord said the surrendered life becomes the. The surrendered life becomes the channel through which the river flows. And wherever the river flows, life follows. Amen. I have a things in my life that frustrate me and there are times where I still conform. But it's becoming less. I might have a week or so bad. I'm hoping that turns into a day and in an hour, and then maybe a minute, and that'll be my progression. But I'm not what I once was. I don't know what if I'm floating down the river. Maybe days I'm floating, maybe days I'm swimming. Maybe some days I'm just walking in my knees. But I know that God is good and I know that. I know he's forgiven me of a lot. But that's not the best part. The best part is after I give him my forgiveness, what he's doing now. And that's what I long for. I long for you. I long for you to see what happens beyond salvation. What happens in the perfecting process. When living waters begin to flow from you. Would you stand? There's something special about you people. I'm serious. You know, a lot of people will say, you know, there's something special about that church. Church is a building. There's something special about the people in it. You are special people. Amen. God loves you with the same measure of love that he has for his Son, Jesus Christ. And when you begin to recognize that you will begin to walk in the identity and the authority that God made you to walk in and out of all of your bellies will flow rivers of living water. I'm going to tell you what I long for. I long for the miracle that I saw last week. I saw our friend Shawn. What a smile in her face. A smile of victory. And all I want to tell you now. Shawn is now go fishing because you've been healed. I long for the day when you no longer come to this altar for something you need, but you come to the altar for something someone else needs. I long for the day when you leave this place equipped and said, time to go fishing. Time to bring people into the same measure of glory that I'm swimming in. I'm telling you right now, something's getting ready to happen. Each and every one of your lives. Get ready. It may not look like what you thought, but it's exactly what it's supposed to be. All right. I'm going on vacation next week for a little while.

Kevin Diggs We will be here Sunday, though. But Pastor Howard's going to be teaching, so I'm taking a little break, and I'm going to. I'm going to break, but I'm I'm going to walk with the Lord because I, I want I want to know what's next. But I know this as long as he's leading. We're. We're good. We're good.