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## Thank You Notes

### Part 1 – Thanks for Always “Batting a Thousand”

Shay Robbins

I'm excited. We just came through an amazing series and we are fixing to start up another great one. We are calling it *Thank You Notes*. Over the next month and a half, there will be five sermons taught on 1 Thessalonians. First Thessalonians is a book that was written by Paul. We find out in the Book of Acts, starting in Chapter 15, that he sets out on his second missionary journey. He takes a guy named Silas with him and, along the way, he picks up a young man named Timothy. They go on to a place called Philippi where they received the beat down of a lifetime with rods. They're thrown in prison and they are facing tremendous persecution. God throws open those jail cell doors and many come to faith.

The next stop on their journey is a city called Thessalonica. In Chapter 17, Paul describes his normal progression when he comes into a new city. He would go in to the synagogue and he would reason from the Old Testament scriptures. When he moved into that routine, he had several people come to faith, many of which were God-fearing Greeks. As a result, the Jewish elite got upset and they worked up a mob to try to chase them out of town. In fact, they took their host, a guy named Jason, and took him into custody and held a bail bond over him. Paul and his missionary crew had to run and get out of town. So Paul, being a pastoral father, heads to a place called Athens. In Athens, he sends his young apprentice, Timothy, to Thessalonica to check and see how the church is doing. From there, he moves to Corinth.

Throughout their travels through Greece, he's hearing word about the faith and the testimony of the Thessalonian Church. Then, sure enough, Timothy shows up and he brings a good message, an encouraging word that the church at Thessalonica is growing. In fact, their faith of Jesus and turning away from false gods has been a testimony to everyone that they come into contact with. So, as you can imagine, Paul's fatherly heart is just elated by this great news. So he writes them a letter from Corinth of 1 Thessalonians. It's a letter of encouragement. He starts off in Chapter 1 and he just begins writing. "I thank God for all of these things that are coming out of your faith." I kind of picture him like a head coach. It's almost like he rallies in the Thessalonian Church and he encourages them. He says, "You guys have done a great job in the first half. You got out of the gate strong; now here's a few sharpening points and some encouragement and some clarifications along the way." They break the huddle and they send them out.

Throughout this Thanksgiving season, we are going to be diving into 1 Thessalonians together as a church family which kind of reminds me. I've actually been out on the road this week with camp. We've been traveling, recruiting college staff. Spike White's influence on camp is still around and we like to write thank you notes to the people who bless us along the way.

As I mentioned, our series title is *Thank You Notes* and the title of the message today is *Thank You God for Always Batting a Thousand*. For those of you in the midst of the baseball playoffs, this probably resonates with you. For those that it kind of falls short on, let me explain. “Batting a thousand” is a baseball term. When a batter gets up and if he were to bat a thousand times, he would have a base hit a thousand times in a row. So essentially, he is batting 100%. In baseball, if a player bats 300... so if they hit three balls out of every ten and if they do that over the course of their career, they are considered a Hall of Famer. In the sport of baseball, frankly, there is a lot of letdown. In fact, there is probably more letdown than there is success. Even when we look at the two World Series teams, the Royals and the Mets. Over the course of their season, they’ve played about 160 games and each one of the teams has lost between 60 and 70 of those games.

The idea is that we get carried away worshiping and watching and treasuring different things throughout our life and they are always going to fail or fall short. When we exalt things that don’t deserve to be exalted, they will inevitably let us down. But God, the God of the Bible, bats a thousand. He is perfect every time. Sometimes we have to wait on him, but he always comes through on his promises.

We are going to take a look at Chapter 1 of 1 Thessalonians. If you would, I want you to go ahead and open up your Bibles. We are going to read straight through the first chapter and then we’ll dive in together.

***1 Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you.***

***2 We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 3 We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.***

***4 For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. 6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. 7 And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, 9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.***

As we read through that chapter, Paul opens up with a welcome and he starts off by thanking God. He is loving what is happening in the lives of the Thessalonian believers on behalf of what God is doing, this transformational work. He’s cheering them on in this opening of the letter. As I counted out, there are about eight things that he’s pumped about. As we walk through those eight points, I want you to watch the way that they are laid out.

## **Eight Points of Thanksgiving**

1. Your work of faith
2. Labor of love
3. Steadfastness of hope in Jesus
4. His choice of you
5. Gospel came in word and power of the Holy Spirit in full conviction
6. You became imitators of us and the Lord
7. You received the word in much tribulation with joy of the Holy Spirit so that you became an example to every place your faith toward God has gone forth
8. You turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God

Of those first seven points, there are two points, numbers 4 and 5, where Paul is thanking God for his choice of you. He's saying "God, thank you for choosing the Thessalonian Church and for coming with the Holy Spirit, bringing power that was full of conviction.

For those of you who were with us in August, the last time I preached, I was sharing a testimony of something that happened at K-1. I want to recap it just because it's the perfect example of what Paul is talking about here.

We have five two-week terms in a summer. About halfway through the summer on day three... So it's kind of the very beginning of the term at 10:00 in the morning. It's the first time we rally all these little maniacs, 6 -11 year old boys, and we give them a little spiritual charge and then we send them out to fun and games.

That morning, we just kind of almost flippantly decided to share the gospel with them. It had no drama or there was no leading up to it; it was just simply that we decided to share the gospel. Something amazing happened that morning. God decided to choose. Thirty-three young men made a first time commitment to give their hearts to follow Jesus. That was extraordinary. It isn't extraordinary that kids come to faith at camp. In fact, by God's grace that's something that is normal. However, for them to come to faith at 10:00 am on day three is out of the ordinary.

So the following terms, we did the exact same thing. We were not going to mess this up if this was what God was going to do. We just replicated it. In those replications, we had like one or two or three kids each time accept Christ, which is nothing to scoff at; we are thrilled about that. But what it taught me was in that moment, God chose, at 10:00 am on a Monday morning, he said "I'm going to snatch up 33 hearts because it is my good will. I'm going to do it today and I'm going to scoop them up." What happened was when we shared the gospel, the Holy Spirit came with power and was full of conviction and those little hearts were stirred up to the point where they were ready to sacrifice their lives, to surrender their hearts and to follow Jesus for a lifetime. He chose them.

That's what happened when Paul and Timothy and Silas came and shared their faith with the Thessalonians. The Holy Spirit came with power, full of conviction, and their hearts were transformed.

The last point, number 8, as I've been studying through it, it's one that has really struck me profoundly. To me, it's kind of the hinge pin of Chapter 1. Again, it says ***you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.*** What happened was that God ordained... In his sovereignty, he said, "I'm going to bring these Thessalonians home." But their little shred of freewill, the part that was on them... The Thessalonians made a decision and they decided to turn away from the false idols that they had been pursuing and believing in and worshipping, and run towards the living and true God. All of those other points that Paul was thanking God for were a result, they were kind of the fruit of that turning to God. Paul is just saying, "Way to go! This is awesome news!"

In the Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew 5: 16, Jesus is comparing the believers to light. He says, "You are a city on the hill and you are light to all other people." When we turn to worship the one true God, the light of Jesus comes alive in us and it reflects off us as worshipers. God designed us to be worshipers. That's kind of the big idea this morning. We are created to be worshipers. So no matter what, there is nobody that is exempt; everybody is going to be worshipping something. The question is: "Are we worshipping a false god or are we worshipping the one true God?" We are all bound to worship. Paul was saying, "You guys are examples. Your faith, your testimony is causing other people to look at the God you serve." When we worship something, whether it's good or bad, people are going to look at the object of worship and decide whether it's worth worshipping for them.

When I was a little guy back in 1985 – 1986, when I was five years old... I was born and raised in Illinois and the Bears had their Super Bowl season. My parents bought Nick and I these Walter Peyton jerseys. It was head to toe. We had the plastic helmets and the whole uniform, with pads that were like Styrofoam cups to protect your thighs and your knees, and there were shoulder pads. We would go out in the yard and play one on one Walter Peyton verse Walter Peyton for hours on end. We absolutely loved it. To this day, I'm a Bears fan because of my daddy's love for the Bears. I saw the way that he cheered them on and how much he loved them and I got on that bandwagon.

To me, that's a healthy example of following somebody else who gets excited about something, but we also know that can be unhealthy. A lot of times, the greatest gifts that God gives us can be perverted when they are put upon a pedestal and they are exalted or they are made ultimate and put in the place of God.

In the spring of 2006, I went on a mission trip with the Kanakuk Institute and we went down to Trinidad. In Trinidad, we got an awesome opportunity to minister to a bunch of young kids. We went into a prison and down in the slums and it was just an awesome mission trip. As a part of that mission trip, our host took us to a Hindu temple. A good percentage of the Trinidad people were Hindu so we visited this temple. You could see it from miles away because there was a massive idol that stood 60 feet tall. It was this huge monkey.

As you're driving up to the temple, this monkey idol is just towering over you. We got the opportunity to walk up there and take a look at this idol. People were gathered around, worshipping, lighting incense, and leaving bananas for the monkey and little gifts, etc. We observed this and as we were driving away, I was thinking to myself how it was sad and pathetic and a little bit ridiculous. Why would you worship a 60 feet tall monkey who can't even clean up after itself or eat its own bananas?

As I've matured in my faith and particularly over the last month or so as I've been studying this, what I've realized is that I'm really just kind of an arrogant, foolish American. As I look at my life closely and I look at the idols that have been worshiped by me in my life, I realize they are far dumber than a 60 feet tall monkey. So for me, it's kind of been this humbling process to begin honestly looking at myself and what it is that I worship, what it is that I live for, what it is that drives me on a daily basis. To kind of open this up, I want to go to the Ten Commandments and read through them. This is found Exodus 20.

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not worship idols.
3. You shall not use the Lord's name in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

These are the Ten Commandments. Martin Luther, a great historical theologian, said this: If you keep the first two commandments, if God is the one true God and he is the focus of your worship and you have no other idols before him, commandments 3 through 10 are naturally going to fall in line. You are going to keep those commandments if you keep commandments 1 and 2. Conversely, if you fail in commandments 3 through 10, it's likely that you are missing on commandments 1 and 2.

Let me give you an example. Adultery for example. Sex is something that's good. It was given as a gift for marriage. It's from God; it's his idea, his creation. He rejoices over it. But when we take God off the throne and sex becomes ultimate rather than God himself, we get it twisted. Our worship is taken away from God and we find ourselves failing morally in commandments 3 through 10.

Romans 1 helps explain it. It says that God will use the foolish things of this world to shame the wise. When we trade the truth of God for a lie, we begin to worship the creature rather than the creator. Do you see how that works? We are all susceptible to falling into these traps.

So today, we are going to kind of pick up a mirror and stare at ourselves a little bit. Frankly, it's going to be a little bit painful and nobody is exempt. We are all broken and we are all going to have to look in this mirror at ourselves and do a little business.

My daughters have long blonde hair. It's very thin right now and so when they get out of the tub, if they haven't used conditioner, it's a real struggle to brush through their hair. There are screams and tears and it is a brutal experience. And so it is with our sanctification often times. If we want to get the rat's nest out of our head, we've got to sit down and take that brush and pull it through to straighten out that hair until it's smooth and beautiful and as it should be. I think that's kind of the process that we are walking through this morning if you're willing to be honest with yourself and if you really have a desire to serve the one true God in your life.

I'm going to start off with what we call surface idols. Surface idols are kind of, like it says, at the surface. They pop up and we see them, but there is something greater going on, something even deeper beyond that. Surface idols are something that we need to be aware of.

For example, one surface idol might be **image**. Somebody who struggles with the surface idol of image would stand in front of the mirror on a daily basis and when they would look at themselves, what they saw and how they felt about themselves would determine their self-worth and how they would go about their day. In fact, if they look in the mirror and feel a little bit chubby, it might change everything about their day. Or if they felt as if they were not pretty or beautiful, it would cause them to be depressed or a cloud to hang over them. That would be an image idol.

The next one is **work**. Work is something all of us can get swept away with. We tie up our identity in how we perform at work and the kind of value we bring to the team, company, ministry, etc. When we make work an idol in our life, we begin to sacrifice relationships, family, marriage; we'll begin to cut corners and it can become ultimate for us.

The next one is **helping**. A lot of people feed a fix or an insecurity off of helping people. Their ability to help other people, in kind of a co-dependent relationship, will determine how good they feel about themselves.

Another one is **materialism**. If you are consumed with what you do and don't have and it drives your actions throughout the day, you might struggle with a materialism surface idol.

Finally, an **individual person** idol. This is a little bit different from a helping idol because there is a single person in your life and you're only doing as well as they are doing. A lot of times, parents can fall into this trap. If you have an older, wayward son or daughter who is going off the deep end, your entire countenance, the feeling you have about your day, your happiness, your sadness is all contingent on how they are doing. That's what we would call an individual person surface idol.

As I was thinking through a way to kind of break this down and to separate surface idols from what's really going on deeper, this goofy analogy popped in my head. It's probably because I've worked with teenagers for so many years. You know when teenage boys' first mustache starts to come in? It starts with a little peach fuzz and then the next thing you know, there are like five black hairs hanging over and tickling their lip. The girls are all grossed out by it. So you shave that bad boy off and in two weeks, they are back. The reality is that while those hairs are heinous and they are an atrocity and they are unattractive, there is something more sinister, something deeper going on called pubescence.

That's kind of how surface idols are. They are not attractive, they don't look good, the people outside of you don't like them, but the reality is there is something deeper that has to be dealt with before you are rid of surface idols in your life.

We are going to look at four source idols. I learned this from a guy named Matt Chandler. Matt Chandler gives credit to Dick Kauffman. There have been a couple of books written about it: *Counterfeit Gods* by Tim Keller and I think Daren Patrick has written on it as well. It's kind of becoming common

language within Christendom. I think the value of the common language is that it helps put it out there in front of us, again, placing that mirror in front of our faces and having to be honest with where we stand. With that being said, we're going to kind of cruise through these four source idols.

**Comfort:** *Life only has meaning, I only have worth if I have a particular quality of life, experience and pleasure.*

- A. They seek ease, comfort, lack of stress, privacy and freedom
- B. The price they are willing to pay: reduced productivity
- C. Their greatest nightmare: stress and demands
- D. Their problem emotion: boredom

To my dismay, in college, this was actually one of my source idols. I was a bum in college. The thing that would kind of throw people off is I've always been very passionate about things, but in college, all the things that I was passionate about really didn't matter. It was like sports teams and arguing about who is the best and this and that. It just flat out didn't matter. I had no drive to my life. The shame of it was and what killed me is that I had no passion that was driving each day of my life. There was nothing that was fueling me up, giving me purpose. It was a constant struggle.

For those who struggle with a comfort idol, they are constantly soothing themselves. I would try to soothe myself. A lot of times, we soothe ourselves with good things that have become ultimate so it might be food for you or alcohol or Netflix. But somebody who struggles with a comfort idol doesn't like to get in too deep with people because it causes them to deal with their junk.

I was kind of a social butterfly and people would have seen me as being good relationally, but the reality was I was a social butterfly because I was always on the run. Whenever somebody would try to get deep, I would bail and it was because it made me feel uncomfortable. A lot of times, any kind of a discipline is going to feel crushing for someone who has a comfort source idol.

**Approval:** *Life only has meaning, I only have worth when I am loved by \_\_\_\_\_.*

- A. They seek approval, affirmation, acceptance, and belonging
- B. The price they are willing to pay: independence
- C. Their greatest nightmare: rejection
- D. Their problem emotion: cowardice

The way I kind of visualize this in my mind is folks who have an approval idol are always trying to get their gas tank filled up with approval. Approval is the only thing that makes them feel better, the only thing that gives them energy and vitality. The problem is that the approval that they seek is only temporary; it doesn't last. It always leaves them running on empty.

That problem emotion of cowardice... When somebody is desperately seeking approval, it removes their ability to speak their mind and have an opinion of their own and to celebrate their own freedom and individuality. What they end up doing is stroking whatever the individual is that is the source of their affirmation. They find themselves overstating, over promising, and generally just telling people what they want to hear in order to fill that desperate need in their hearts.

They are literally ready to give up their freedom if they can cash it in for some approval.

**Control:** *Life only has meaning, I only have worth if I have control over my life.*

- A. They seek control, self-discipline, standards, and certainty
- B. The price they are willing to pay: loneliness and spontaneity
- C. Their greatest nightmare: uncertainty
- D. Their problem emotion: worry and anxiety

For control folks, I kind of picture Peyton Manning. When Peyton Manning walks up to the line of scrimmage, he takes over; he literally controls everything. If you are on offense or defense, it doesn't matter what role you have in his life, he is in control. He's almost like a puppeteer and that's what made him such a great quarterback over the years. The only problem is that somebody who has a control source idol, unlike Peyton Manning, they have the inability to call an inaudible. When the schedule gets thrown off, their whole world goes spinning out of control because their expectations, which provide them the power and control that they need, are thrown into disarray. A lot of times, the anxiety and the worry, those problem emotions, will surface when there is any kind of uncertainty or schedule change or financial crisis or not much money in the bank account. These people literally turn into a worrying mess and their lives are controlled by it.

**Power:** *Life only has meaning, I only have worth if I have power and control over others.*

- A. They seek success, winning, and influence
- B. The price they are willing to pay: carry the burden of responsibility
- C. Their greatest nightmare: humiliation and inadequacy
- D. Their problem emotion: anger

If I'm honest, if there was one that could creep in on me, I wrestle with this one. When I'm in my flesh as a leader, I find myself trucking people. I'm just running over them, having these lofty demands. When people fail me, they feel my displeasure, they feel my disappointment and that is such a shame. These folks get so caught up with their identity of being a winner... In fact, much of their fear and their lack of health has more to do with not losing than it does with winning. People around them often get hurt, broken, and they feel used and abused. As I've mentioned, there are a lot of the things like approval and comfort and competition... Those are all good things in the right proportion, but we have all seen these dads and coaches on the side of their sixth grade football teams losing their minds because they have a power source idol.

I think it was last week there was this awesome video that went viral on ESPN. It was a bunch of these little rascals. They had to be probably seven or eight years old. It was during the halftime of high school game. They are all lined up and they're getting ready to snap the ball when the whip and nae nae song comes on. When the ball is snapped, all the boys look up when they hear the song and they just start whipping and nae naeing. I'm thinking to myself that there has to be a dad with the power source idol who is just losing his mind right now. You would know if that's you that you have issues, bro.

This door up here... The doorframe represents Jesus. Jesus said in John 14: 6 ***"I'm the way, the truth, and the life. No one come to the Father but through me."*** So for mankind, God provided a way back



into right relationship with him and the only path that we have, literally the only option, is that we walk through the doorway of Jesus into relationship with God the Father. We can't go around it, we can't climb up over it; there's no way to burrow underneath. There is literally one doorway to God and that is Jesus.

I need to kind of step back and talk to two different people right now. One set of people are those who don't have a relationship with Jesus Christ. They might even say that Jesus is God, but he's not the Lord of their life. For those people, there is a wall that is preventing them from coming into relationship with God and it's preventing them from spending eternity with him in heaven. As I said, there is nothing you can do to go to the left or the right or burrow underneath it; it is a wall and there is nothing you can do to overcome that. It's standing between you and the one true God.

Now for the other group that I'm talking to... I'm talking to believers. When we give our hearts to Jesus, we walk through that door and we have a relationship with God and that relationship cannot be broken. When it comes to your eternal salvation in heaven, it cannot be taken away. But what you can do is take God off the throne during this lifetime and you can make other things ultimate. What happens in regard to your relationship is your ability to go in and out of that intimacy or that inner room with God is blocked because of the idols in your life.

In either situation, the walls need to come down. For many of you, you've been banging your heads up against the wall for years. I want to tell you today that honestly for those walls to come crumbling down, it's a pretty simple step that you need to take and it's called repentance. Frankly, I don't think we talk enough about it; I don't know that you could. Repentance is recognizing or agreeing with God that "I am broken and you are not on the throne right now. I am a worshiper, but I have taken something that is not worthy of worship and I've put it up on the throne. I recognize that it's failed me, that it's fallible, that it's broken and I repent of that, Lord. I want you to take it off." In that repentance, in that humility, God offers forgiveness that he promised.

In the physical realm... On your knees in your living room or in your bedroom, it is a very tender, soft, maybe tear-filled, broken moment, but in the spiritual realm, there is a powerful reaction going on that's breaking down those walls.

So for both situations, whether these walls have never come down or you've never walked through the doorway of Jesus into the arms of God or if you've allowed idols to build a wall between you and God, in repentance, that doorway is opened up and the walls are broken down and you can walk back into that intimate relationship with God and it's available to every single one of us.

I want to close with this story. There's kind of this critically acclaimed foreign film called *Three Seasons*. It's about a couple of characters post war in Vietnam. I know that many of you are probably thinking *Shay, I didn't know that you watched foreign films*. Well I don't. I watch Avengers. But I read about someone who did. This story is so cool. It's the story of two characters: Hai, a young man, and Lan, a beautiful young girl.

Hai was a cyclo driver. He's one of those guys who rides a bicycle with the little carriage in the back. Hai had these big aspirations; he wanted to do something more with his life, but he was kind of stuck living in poverty.

Lan was this girl that he was in love with. Lan lived in grinding poverty; it was brutal every single day. She had become a prostitute in hopes of this lifestyle setting her free from this grinding poverty. The thing with Lan was she worked in these elegant, beautiful hotels, but she never got to spend the night there or lay in one of those beds and enjoy the comforts of that elegance. She would always go back to the slum from which she came.

Hai set out one day in a cyclo race and won the race. He won this big financial prize so he took the prize and he purchased one night with Lan. They went into this elegant hotel room and to Lan's surprise, instead of taking advantage of her sexually, he sat down in a chair and invited her to lie down in the bed and enjoy a night of peace and quiet and sleep all by herself.

Lan's reaction was one of "How could this be?" She pushed back. But she realized that this act wasn't an act of control or trying to manipulate her, but rather one of service done out of love. That act of service done out of love began to transform Lan's heart. Grace began to set into her heart and it changed her. As she was transformed, it prevented her from ever returning to that life of prostitution. For the first time in a long time, she had tasted her freedom.

The reason I tell you that story is that in the scriptures, Jesus is described as the bridegroom and we are described as his bride. It's a beautiful word picture of the type of relationship that we are supposed to have with our Savior. But when we have false idols that we worship that have taken that position of prominence in our life, we become prostitutes. We are harlots that are prostituting ourselves out. We are cheating on our lover. Throughout the Old Testament, that analogy is used for God's people. When we look at what Jesus has done out of his great love for us, that he humbled himself and he died on a cross to pay the penalty for our sins, it was an act not of control, but rather one out of love, grace, and mercy to call us back to himself.

I want to remind you that we are all made to be worshipers and when you worship something that's not worthwhile, it's going to let you down over and over again. But the God of the Bible, the God that we serve is a God that bats a thousand. Each time he steps up to the plate, you can expect perfection. Again, you might have to wait. You might have to be patient and it might come in a way that you didn't expect, but God delivers 100% of the time.

Thank you, God, for always batting a thousand. So I lay it out to you today and I'm with you. I'm right here with you, holding up the mirror and looking at my life, asking the hard questions and being honest with myself. What I think you will find will happen is when you begin to worship the one true God apart from any distractions, all of those things that Paul was rejoicing in, all those awesome fruits of their faith are going to begin to roll out in your life and people are going to see that and go "Holy smokes, what is this guy or gal worshipping because whatever it is, I want to know about it!"

I want to thank God for all of the faithful people in this congregation that are doing just that. We're proud of you. I want to close in prayer and ask that God would choose today and that the Holy Spirit would move in power and full of conviction.

Lord Jesus, we thank you so much for the truth of your word and for being worthy of our praise and our worship. God, I pray if there is anything that is tainting your awesomeness, it would be removed in the name of Jesus that we might see you clearly as an amazing, awe inspiring, loving creator and God. I pray that as we worship you, our lives would bear great fruit and it would be a testimony for all those we come into contact with. It's in the mighty name of Jesus we pray... Amen.