



## Hope for Broken Hearts

### Part 2 – When Your Child Walks Away from God

Adam Donyes

And today's topic is specifically *When Your Child Walks Away From God*. Obviously, that is probably my greatest fear as a parent. I know that God doesn't give us the spirit of fear, but that is a legitimate fear. I have two boys, a ten-year-old and soon to be eight-year-old and I love and adore them. Nothing matters more to me than those two boys walking with Jesus when they get older. Not how many touchdowns they score, not what their GPA is. Nothing matters more to me as a dad than if they are walking with Jesus.

Now, I've had siblings who aren't walking with Jesus, and I have relatives, and it's tough, but I can't even experience or even relate to some of you with how much pain you have right now. I know that some of you have adult children that are not walking with God. They're in addiction, they're in secularism, and they have chosen not to follow what you tried to bring them up or raise them up in.

We're going to talk about that today. We're going to see what scripture says about it. We're going to see why you should stop beating yourself up if your child is making poor decisions. And that there is hope. There is always hope in Jesus.

The verse I want to start off with, which I think is really important, is ***Train a child in the way he should go' even when he is old, he will not depart from it.*** – Proverbs 22:6. Now I think it's important for you guys to know that the Bible is 66 books. The Old Testament is 39 books. The first 17 are what we would call historical books and the last 17 are what we would call prophetic books, but the five in the middle are what we call poetical books. Proverbs is one of those five poetical books, so it's really important for you to know that this is not a promise; this is a principle. So, the Books of Proverbs, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon... Those are principles. So, just because you train a child in the way he should go, this isn't a promise that they won't depart. I say that to encourage you. Don't get angry with God if they decided not to follow God, because this isn't a promise. Yes, it is a great principle to train your child up. Yes, point them to Jesus. Yes, do all those things, but the Proverbs are not a promise, they are principles to live by.

I want to show you this statistic really quick. When we talk about our child in the church... It's really important when we walk through this. I know you can't read it, but I'm going to explain it and the church is going to post this on their social media so you can go through and read this later.

It says, Seventy-five percent of kids left the church from 18 to 29 years old. Ted sent me this graphic and we text back and forth about it this weekend.

There are a couple of pieces of this that I want to illuminate. Seventy-five percent of millennials or Gen Zers leaving the church doesn't necessarily mean they are leaving the faith. I know a lot of Gen Zers and millennials that refuse to go to church but still love Jesus. For a lot of them, the reason for that is because they are seeing a lot of failed leaders. In the last decade, we've seen a lot of failed Christian leaders. Mega platforms, mega influence, making very bad moral decisions.

I want you to hear this. Ted Cunningham is probably one of my favorite people in this world. But Ted Cunningham is not Jesus. And Ted Cunningham would be the first to tell you that he needs Jesus too. Adam Donyes needs Jesus. Why I'm saying that is that even leaders will fail. So, what young people are doing is as soon as a leader fails, they say, "That's my reason for not following Jesus." Ladies and gentlemen, people standing up here just as desperately need Jesus as you do. And if I ever, heaven forbid by grace, don't, but when I make a mistake, don't let that confuse you who Jesus still is. I need him. Ted needs him. So, when a pastor fails or spiritual leader fails, they doesn't change who Jesus is, was, and will always be.

So, what's happening is so many young people are reflecting the moral failures of their leaders and saying, "See how hypocritical they are?" No, I'm not hypocritical. Listen to me. I need Jesus and guess what? I sin and I'm going to sin, so how can I be hypocritical when I already just told you I'm going to sin. By God's grace, I hope I never disqualify myself from ministry, but there's nothing hypocritical about that. I'm telling you I need Jesus. So young people say, "See, they preach one thing and live another way." By God's grace, hopefully I don't. I'm going to try my best to follow his Word, but I will fall short, as will all of you, as will Ted. So, may we give grace, may we shower grace and understand that the leaders of the church are not Jesus.

Here's why 25% of the millennials and Gen Zers (from 18-29) actually stay connected with Christ.

1. They ate dinner with the family 5 – 7 nights a week. This is one of the Donyes family's seven pillars. My two boys will tell you we cut off the technology, we sit at our table, we talk about our highs and lows, and we process the day. Tech free sit-down dinner is really hard for my eight-year-old, but he's getting better. He's like his dad; he does not sit still very well, but he's getting there.
2. They serve with their families in a ministry. This is really important. They are already plugged in. Stephanie Watson and Katie Gumm and Mackenzie will tell you so many ways that your kid can get plugged into this church with you, serving this church. There are phenomenal opportunities to be givers rather than takers.
3. They have one spiritual experience in the home during the week. So, they are talking about spiritual things, they're experiencing spiritual things in the home. Here's what so important that you guys need to understand. You can do an amazing job in your home as you can in raising your kids up in the Bible and having prayer time, and devotions, but at the end of the day, your child still has to wrestle with their faith and own their faith. Do you want to know why? God doesn't have any grandchildren. God only has children. So, your faith will not get your child into heaven. Now granted, grandchildren are God's reward for not killing your kids, but he still doesn't have an grandchildren.

You have to help them process and own their faith and let them work through things and point them toward spiritual things, but your faith can't be their faith.

I run a nine-month fellowship program. Kids graduate high school, spend a year with me, and then they go off to college or other vocations. It's crazy that every year the kids that have come from strong Christian homes; I know their mom and dad. They are phenomenal people. The kids don't understand their faith and they get with me, and they start wrestling with their faith (they believe they are Christians) and for the first time, they come to own their faith and truly start walking with Jesus.

4. They are entrusted with responsibility in ministry at an early age.

5. They had at least one faith-focused adult in their life other than their parents. That's what my ministry provides. It's another voice that's only echoing what their parents already said. Whether you agree or disagree with her, Hillary Clinton said one thing that I do agree with. She said, "It takes a village." That's Deuteronomy. If you read the Old Testament, when the Israelites got out of slavery in Egypt and went into the wilderness, they were in villages, they were raising families together. They just gave a segway to a small group or community group. It's a group. Right now, one of my boys is with one of my dearest friends because my wife is out of town. If you want to value your wife, get her out of town for two days and try to be Mr. Mom and see how that goes. So, my wife is out of town right now and one of my boys is with one of my friends that I trust. They were with my boys all day yesterday. We need villages. We need help. That's what it's saying. You need other people around them, other voices around them reassuring what you believe and speaking in the same worldview as a Christian that you have.

Probably the most relevant passage we can look at when we talk about a child walking away from the faith is in the Gospel of Luke. Some of you have heard it and maybe you've pulled some things out from it before and some of you haven't. The Gospel of Luke talks about the Parable of the Prodigal Son. This is Jesus speaking. He's giving a parable. He's about to give the parable about a child that walks away from the faith or walks away from his father. It's in Luke 15. **11 And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. 12 And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.'"** So, already we know this individual is focused on worldly things and not spiritual things. Some of you in here have children or grandchildren that are completely consumed with their phones and the world and everything else and have no inclination to want to be involved in spiritual things. So, there are two sons, and this son is completely focused on the world.

**...And he divided his property between them.** The two sons that is. So, we understand that as he did this, as he gave them their property... Attempts to buy our children's salvation or love is futile. It doesn't work. You can't buy your child's salvation. You can't make bargains with them like, "If you go to church, I'll give you gas for your car this week." Or "If you go to Bible study, then I'll..." It's doesn't work. It's a contradicting message when you try to buy your child's salvation or love because that's not what Jesus does. Ephesians 2: 8-10 says *"It is by grace you are saved, not by works so that no one can boast."* It is a free gift of God; it is grace. So, when we start trying to equate like, "Hey, I'm going to give you your share of property so maybe you'll stay with your father." You can't buy your child's salvation or future. It doesn't work like that in Christianity.

**13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.** Imagine in today's culture we would say he squandered his property in addiction. Some of you in here right now have children who are addicted to different things. Grandchildren who are addicted to things.

**14 And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need.** Now this is important to understand. Enabling poor decisions only brings more pain. I know as a parent, you want to love, and you want to do everything you can for your child. Two weeks ago, I had a parent drop their son off at my program. Their son made a really poor decision literally the night before they dropped him off. They caught him in this decision. The mom and dad were being really strong. They said, "Hey, because you made this decision, we're not going to let you have your truck for a semester. The son threw a fit, he was angry. He didn't even want to come to my program now because he wasn't going to have his vehicle.

I sat down with the three of them on the couch and I just praised them. Yes, Mom, Yes Dad. Do not let him have his truck. He's proven he's not responsible to have it. He doesn't have a job, he's not paying the gas or the insurance. He's not doing any of those things. Let's not enable him, but let's do this. If he keeps making good decisions and we get to Thanksgiving, and he's done everything we've asked him to do, and he's been honest... Not perfect – We don't ask any of our students to be perfect – but he has progressed, let's give him his truck back." Mom, high five, dad, high five, son, high five. He's in the program and he's had a phenomenal first two weeks. I'm praying he continues on that path.

Don't enable. When you enable, it only continues to reinforce poor decisions. When you continually give an addict money, of course he's only going to spend it on the things he's addicted to. You don't take an alcoholic to a bar. You don't give money to somebody who is continually making poor decisions. As hard as it is, sometimes, as parents, we've got to allow them to wreck. When you take the training wheels off for the first time, eventually they wreck, but you can help them get back on the bike when they are ready to learn and listen.

**15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. 16 And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.**

Talk about hitting rock bottom. He's eating the pods with the pigs. He's hit rock bottom. This guy has squandered everything. He's made poor decisions. He was addicted to whatever, and he is at rock bottom. So, when you see your child hit rock bottom, the easy thing for Mom or Dad to do is to beat themselves up. I want to tell you, as a parent, don't beat yourself up. Mom or Dad, Grandma or Grandpa, stop. Don't beat yourself up. It's not your fault. The reality is any child walking with Jesus... I asked two friends of mine this week that have kids that are walking with Jesus, adult children walking with Jesus. I asked both of them. They both answered the same way, and they didn't know it. I said, "How are all four of your kids still walking with Jesus?" Both of them said the same thing. "By God's grace alone." Nothing they did. Yes, they ushered them into church and yes, they ushered them into the presence of Jesus. Yes, they did those things, but at the end of the day, they both recognized it is nothing short of the grace of God.

I've seen some phenomenal parents, amazing parents, over the top parents where they are giving and they're doing mission trips and they're loving their kids and they are doing everything, and their kids are so far off the deep end it's not even funny. And those parents were amazing parents. Then I've seen some really jacked up parents that have phenomenal kids. So, don't beat yourself up and definitely don't give yourself too much credit. It is God's grace alone.

John Piper says it best – *“We all sinned. We all did less than we could. None of us prayed as much as we could. None of us fasted as much as we could. Did you fast at all? None of us humbled ourselves as much as we could. None of us were consistent in our life as we could have been. None of us was faithful to the Word of God as we could have been. None of us, in exhortation, kindness, meekness, or gentleness was as good as we could have been. It is hopeless to base our present peace and joy on the assurance that we did a good job as parents. That is building a house on sand.”*

What Piper is saying is God's grace... Just point your kids to God. Point them into his presence. Let them know his grace. And you do that by showing them how desperately you need grace. Don't ever assume that just because I'm a teaching pastor, that I don't need grace just as desperately as you do. And when I come across that way, it gives the wrong message to young people and to you.

Three weeks ago, I took my family of four on a trip. They are not vacations; they're just trips when you go with kids. We flew into Salt Lake City, rented a car, drove from Salt Lake City into Jackson, up to Yellowstone, Island Park, Idaho, and all the way back down to Salt Lake City. When you have a trip with a ten-year-old and an eight-year-old in the car and the eight-year-old already doesn't want to sit still very well, you can imagine it. “Are we there yet?” over and over. I tell them, “Every time you ask, it gets 20 minutes longer.” During that impatient traveling, hotel to hotel each night because we were trying to see all the great northwest. I got impatient with my wife and I just kind of snapped in the car. My boys are in the back of the car. You can't hide in a little Toyota Corolla.

We get to the hotel that night and I grabbed my boys. I said, “Hey, your dad blew it. I blew it in the car with Mom earlier. You heard that and you saw that. I want you know that I've already asked God to forgive me, but as her sons, will you two forgive me?” In this moment, Mom and Dad, Grandma and Grandpa, I'm showing my boys that their dad is not superman and that their dad needs Jesus. So, the more you try to act like you've got it all together and your son or your daughter can't see your shortcomings because you have to have it all together, does not show them Jesus. And then they grow up somehow thinking they have to have it all together and they have to act a certain way, and they have to look a certain way, but they know that behind the scenes, that is not really who you are. It grows this great distaste for who Jesus actually is. Humility attracts your children to Jesus. The same thing that attracts you to Jesus will be the same thing that attracts your children to Jesus. And it's not about you having to have it all together and doing everything right.

**17 “But when he came to himself...** He came to this realization on his own. It wasn't by his dad lecturing him. It wasn't by his dad berating him. It wasn't by his mom making him feel bad. None of these things. He came to it himself. So, the Spirit of God did something in him, and he realized, “Oh my goodness, what am I doing?” ...**he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!** He understood he was perishing. He understood he was

going to die. That is the most powerful thing your child will ever come to the reality of if they are spiritually dead. He understood he was going to die.

**18 I will arise...** I'm going to throw a word there that's really important. I will *repent and turn from my sinful ways ...and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned..."* Humility is so attractive. **"...against heaven and before you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."**

I love this illustration. This is a cone. There is nothing special about this cone. And there is this balloon. I think so many times, unintentionally, we try to modify our children's behavior. We say, "Go to church." (blowing up balloon) Memorize scripture. Look and act a certain way. Talk a certain way. Don't watch that movie. Don't listen to that music. Don't hang out with those people." We try to modify their behavior. And we say now come into the kingdom of God. But if I keep trying to modify their behavior and put this weight on them that they are unable to carry, eventually, if I kept pushing on this balloon, it would pop.

As a matter of fact, Matthew 7: 14 says *"Small is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life and only a few will find it."* It's a small gate that comes into heaven. And the proud don't get in there. I can never squeeze this balloon without it popping. So, when we put all these pressures and demands on our kids to act a certain way and behave a certain way that is counter to what the gospel actually is, they will explode. So, they will either run from the faith or they'll go live in secularism or addiction or whatever other choice in their own immorality and they'll go do this because the pressure is just too much for them to bear.

In reality, when they see a mom or dad or a grandparent empty themselves and completely realize they too have to empty and humble themselves and empty all their own flesh and all their own desires, that's the only way they get into heaven. It's not by works. It's not about them puffing themselves up. It's not by being better or greater. What's crazy is once you come in here, the heart transformation takes place and then the behavior follows. Then they start coming out of this cone and they grow, and it looks different. But never in my life have I seen the behavior modification lead to the heart transformation.

Jesus rebuked those that just tried to modify their behavior. He called them Pharisees and Sadducees. Jesus always wanted to get to the heart. He always wanted them to empty themselves. Get to the heart first and then the behavior will follow. Don't try to modify the behavior and expect the heart to get there. I understand at five, seven, eight years old, that's an age where you're literally control over influence. But there comes a point where you have to get to your child's heart. You've got to stop trying to make them do, be, and act. That's not Jesus. Show me where in the Gospels did Jesus say do, be, and act. He said, "It is by me and me alone. You know that because my father revealed it to you." "They condemn you, but I don't condemn you. Get up, prostitute." Wait a minute. All these pharisees are telling me I have to act a certain way and you're telling me to get up and follow you? What do I have to do? Nothing. What do you mean nothing. You don't have to do anything. I'm going to do it all for you on the cross. All you need to do is look to me, and I took it all."

**20 And he arose and came to his father.** He came to his senses. He's coming back to his father. **But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.** Mom and Dads, if you have a child that's off, let these three words come deeply in your heart right now. Never lose hope. We serve a God of hope. We serve a God that transforms hearts. Many of you are in here know because he's transformed yours. He has taken a heart of stone and turned it into a heart of flesh. You might have a child right now that has a heart of stone and doesn't even want to talk to you; they don't even want to be around you because they love their addiction more than their family just because they are not thinking clearly. That's what addiction does. It's one of the hardest I've ever gone through with my own loved ones in my life. Addiction is a tough thing. But let me tell you, never lose hope. We serve a God of hope. Sometimes that connection can be so far off.

I've got this little eight-year-old, my little prankster. My first born does everything right. He's type A, typical first born. My eight-year-old loves to mess with the ten-year-old. He loves to poke the bear and then the bear eventually bites back and then the eight-year-old wants to cry. I'm like, "Bro, stop poking the bear then."

We've got two remotes that go to the same TV. He comes in and he's like, "Daddy, does this remote control that TV? He goes into his room and starts playing with the remote. His brother is in the other room, but it's not working the TV. He comes back and he's like, "Daddy, I thought you told me this remote works on the TV. I go, "It does, but you have to be closer to the TV. If you're not close to the TV, it's not going to have a connection." He goes around the corner, hits mute and then he hides. Then he goes and turns it off and the bear starts getting frustrated.

What he didn't realize was there was nothing wrong with the remote. There was nothing wrong with the TV. He was too far from the source. The connection wouldn't work because he was too far from the source. And when I try to use something and connect to something, this remote works, trust me. I use it in my house. This isn't the right connecting that I'm trying to get to the source. You've got to connect them to the right source, and you can't let them drift too far off. And when they do, James 4: 8 says, "*Draw near to me and I will draw near to you.*"

So, what are ways to stir your child's heart's affections for Jesus without being preachy, without being legalistic? Just love them. Most of you can quote John 3: 16. "*For God so loved...*" What does love look like? It's doesn't look like lectures. It doesn't look like judgment. It doesn't look like criticism. It doesn't look like preaching. It's love. And when you love them and invite them, you allow that to get closer to the source so that it serves its purpose and its function. But when this gets away from its source, it doesn't serve its purpose or function. Then you get lost and wayward and you throw it out. "I don't know what TV it goes to." Then you try to go buy one of those universal remotes that you saw on the infomercial.

**21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.** Humility is so attractive. Moms, Dad, Grandparents, it's attractive in you. I have told you guys this a million times from up here. I've never met a humble person I didn't like. I've never been like *I don't like that person they are too humble.* I've never heard anyone say that. **...I am no longer worthy to be called your**

**son.’ 22 But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.**

What a great celebration that will be in your own heart when your wayward child or your wayward grandchild comes back to Jesus and walks in owns and is in their faith.

The program I run, there is no greater joy than when I see a young adult completely own their faith and trust and love Jesus on their own. Not because of Mom or Dad’s faith and not because somebody else said it, but because they realize and see who he is for the first time.

**25 “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ 28 But he was angry and refused to go in.** Timothy Keller wrote an entire book on this right here. It’s actually called *The Prodigal God*. He focuses the whole book on this son rather than the other son we’ve been looking at the whole time. He talks about how self-righteousness isn’t going to get you into heaven either.

**His father came out and entreated him, 29 but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you...** “Look at my works. Look at how I went to Bible study and how I went to church and how I did everything you told me to do...” No, you did it out of legalism and self-righteousness. You’re missing the point entirely. Christ will produce those works in you. So, when we show up as Christians all shiny and nice on the outside... You’ll see it in this book. It’s called *Atomic Habits*.

But do you know what? That’s not what this book is at all. As a matter of fact, if you pull the slip cover back it’s actually a book called *Spiritual Leadership* by Henry Blackaby. But we love as Christians, and we love to try to get our kids to look a certain way and to act a certain way and just do the right thing. But when you actually get into the heart of the book, this book will teach you nothing about atomic habits. As a matter of fact, it’s just a slip cover on a different book. This book will teach nothing. We’re like, “Look at me. This is who I am.” No, that’s not who your child is and that’s not who you are. This is who you are. And this is who Christ wants. He’s not enamored with this. And you don’t think for a second this matters, the entire world your children and grandchildren live in is everything about the cover of this book. Social medial, external, out front, everything that the outside looks at.

And nothing in their world is getting to the actual core of the heart of what matters. You don’t get to the heart of your child through social media, technology, and everything else. You get to the heart of your child by opening the book. This isn’t your child. This isn’t you, as a matter of fact. You can show up to church and put on a good face and act like you’ve got everything together, but I already know you don’t and I’m telling you I don’t. That’s why I’m here because I desperately need him and so do you. So, when you walk in here, you know already that I know this isn’t you. I know your junk is in here.

But guess what? Jesus said, "I want the junk. That's okay that I get into your story and there are some messy parts in your story. There are some parts of your story that you really need to clean up. But don't try to clean it up. I clean it up says Jesus. Oh, what you did when you were 22? Don't worry, I cleaned that up. Or what you did when you were 30? Before you were married? I cleaned that up too.

"But I don't want to tell you about this part, Jesus."

He says, "I cleaned that up too. I'll take all of it to the cross and you don't have to try to clean it up yourself." That's what's beautiful about the gospel. That's what's beautiful about grace. It's not about you trying to put a facade on the front like you've got it all together because I know a lot of people that act like they do, and they are falling apart.

I had two people reach out to me this week that you would never know from social media that their marriages are completely falling apart. You'd never know. You start digging and poking and you're like, *Whoa, there's some stuff in the story we have to unpack.*

***...and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him! 31 And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.*** He's like you're missing the point. Your brother just came to know Christ. Your brother is walking with Jesus. Why are you bitter and jealous. Praise with me. Sing with me. You're missing the point entirely. As a matter of fact, do you even know Jesus?" That's what's going on here. ***32 It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."***

It's a great, great story that gives all of you that may have a child that's not following God or walking with God hope. I want to leave with this verse to give you hope.

2 Peter 3: 9 - ***9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness...*** It might feel slow to you in the pain you're going through right now because of your child or your friend's child or whatever it is. It's not slow to the Lord. ***...but is patient toward you...*** Praise God that he is patient towards me. He had to give me 20 years of patience. ***...not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.***

That's his heartbeat. That's God's heartbeat for your wayward child. That's God's heartbeat for all of you. That's God's heartbeat for your relatives, your brothers, your sisters, whoever else. That's God's heartbeat. He wants everyone to know him. But he's so full of love that he's not going to force and thrust himself upon you to where you don't have a decision. That wouldn't be love at all. So, if you can't control your child's salvation, which you can't, you can usher them into places that stir their heart's affection. You can help with the graphic I pointed to and some of those things help them have a better understanding. You can be humble, you can be transparent. I think all those things help soften hearts, but ultimately you will never transform your child's heart. The reality is that it is nothing short of God's grace. It is nothing short of God's grace that if you have children in church with you today that are sitting and listening to this message with you, that is nothing short of God's grace. I don't need to polish

your halo and I'm not going to beat you up. It is nothing short of God's grace, so it is nothing but the work of God. The strongest encouragement I can give you is to pray. Instead of gossiping and complaining about your child that is addicted, pray. What if you took all the energy you used worrying and complaining and giving yourself anxiety about your child, you prayed about that child?

I'm going to do something because I know there are some families in here... especially from the response of last serve, which was overwhelming. I'm going to ask because I want to pray for you right now and I want to pray for your child, and I want to pray for your grandchildren.

If you have a child or a grandchild that is addicted or tasting the world or is in sexualism or living in sexual immorality and is so far away from God, I'm going to ask that you raise your hand. Keep them up because I'm about to pray for all of you. Then when I'm done praying, this is what I'm going to ask you to do. We have a prayer team. Come up and give our prayer team their name. That's what they're here for. The prayer team will pray for them not only today, but they will pray for them all week, all month, all year. Just watch God work. Because at the end of the day, if we're not praying, what are we doing? God will move in hearts, God will be the one to change.

Father God, we just come before you and recognize that you are the miracle worker. You are the one that will pull us out of the muck and mire. You are the one that pulls us from addiction. You are the one that pulls us away from our junk and our trash. And by you and you alone are we saved, and through your grace alone. May we not try to clean ourselves up.

I just pray for every hand in this auditorium that was raised that has a child, a son, a daughter, a granddaughter, a grandson that is just chasing the world, that is consumed with addiction, that is lost, that is wayward, whatever it may be, God. We just pray and ask that you would soften their hearts. Would you enlighten the eyes of their heart. Would you get them to the end of their self so, like the prodigal son, they would repent and come back to you.

I pray for every single hand up in here that is going through this right now that is heavy, that is hurting, that is crying out to you, Lord. Would you do a work in their child's heart. Would you do a work that only you can do. Would you help us to walk in transparency and humility and just show them you reflected in us. Helps us, Lord, we need you. Be with these children.

It's in the mighty and matchless name of God we pray. And everyone agreed and said... Amen.