

The Intervention of Angels

by Bayless Conley

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Are you ready for the message? All right. My prayer today is that God opens our minds and our hearts to His Word. That it literally is an epiphany, a revelation that you and that I have the sense that God is speaking to us. That there's something beyond just this physical natural thing of sitting and listening to someone speak going on. Jesus said, "The words I speak to you, they're spirit and they're life." He said, "When you know the truth, you'll be set free by that truth." I want to talk to you today about the intervention of angels.

Heavenly Father, we ask You for what the Bible refers to as the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Your Word. May it dawn upon these hearts of ours. May it touch our minds. May unseen chains be broken. May liberty come to the people that are here. To that one that is grappled with oppression, to the one that has been ground down by worries and concerns, may they find great liberty in Your Spirit here today. Lord, we love Your Word, and we thank You for giving it to us, in Jesus' name.

Angels were involved in almost every aspect of the Christmas story. In fact, without the angels, we don't have a Christmas story at all. They made announcements. They brought promises. They provided guidance and protection before, when, and after the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ, was born.

Just think of the events surrounding His birth. In Luke 1, we have the angel Gabriel appearing to a priest named Zacharias. He and his wife, Elizabeth, were godly people. They loved the Lord. They prayed, but they were up in age, and she'd never been able to conceive. She was barren. Zacharias is in the temple, and one of the most glorious angels in all of the kingdom appears to him. Gabriel, who stands by the very presence of God in heaven. This glorious being suddenly appears to Zacharias. The angel said to him, "Zacharias, your prayers have been heard. Your wife is going to conceive and bear a son. You're going to call his name John, and he's going to be the forerunner. He's going to prepare the way for the Messiah, for the Christ."

Zacharias, I'm going to paraphrase, but he basically said, "You've got to be kidding me. Do you realize how many times our hopes have been dashed? Do you realize how long we've dealt with infertility? Don't play with me here." Gabriel got mad. He said, "I'm Gabriel, that stands in the presence of God. And because you didn't believe my words, you're going to be mute. You won't be able to speak a word until this thing has come to pass." Zacharias exited the temple, and he wasn't able to speak. He didn't speak until after John was born. Six months later, find this also in Luke 1, the same angel, the same glorious angel, appears to a young virgin named Mary.

She's engaged to a guy named Joseph. Says, "Mary, you've found favor with God, and you are going to give birth to the Son of God." Mary says, "All right, I've never had intercourse with a man. I'm a virgin. How?" Now, that wasn't the language of unbelief. It was a desire to be further instructed. The angel pointed her to the Holy Spirit and to the Word of God as the answer. The angel's response to how you, as a virgin, are going to conceive is, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you." He ended by saying this, "For with God, nothing shall be impossible." Quite literally, this is what Gabriel said to her. He said,

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“For nothing that God says, nothing that God declares, or promises will be impossible.” He used the Greek word *rhema* when speaking to her. It means “a declaration that is made, a promise that is made.” The Passion Translation Luke 1:37 puts the angel’s words like this,

³⁷ “Not one promise from God is empty of power. Nothing is impossible with God!”

“Mary, here’s your answer. The Holy Spirit and the promise of God coming together.” Mary says, “Okay, be it to me according to God’s declaration. I accept God’s Word.” When she set herself in agreement with what God said, even though in her little teenage mind, she would’ve never understood how that worked, she set herself in agreement with what God said, even though it seemed to be crazy. And the miracle happened, she conceived.

Then we jump over to Matthew’s account, and her fiancé Joseph works out after a while that she’s pregnant. The Bible said he was a just man and didn’t want her to suffer public humiliation. He’s trying to figure out a way to quietly end their relationship so that Mary won’t be disgraced. While he’s trying to work this out in his mind, an angel—everyone say “an angel”—an angel appears to Joseph and says, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She’ll bring forth a Son. Call His name Jesus. For He will save His people from their sins.” Then we come back over to Luke’s Gospel.

An angel—everyone say “an angel”—an angel comes to shepherds out in the field and announces to them the birth of the Savior. Then a whole myriad of angels appears, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest. And on earth, peace and goodwill toward men.” Then Joseph, a little later, after Jesus is born, is warned by an angel. The angel said, “Herod’s going to seek the young child’s life to destroy Him. You need to flee. Take His mother, take the little boy, and go into Egypt.” He does. He obeys the angel, and he’s there until the angel appears to him later on and says, “Now Herod’s dead. It’s safe for you to come back into the land of Israel again.”

Now, interestingly enough, just as in the Christmas story, we see the ministry of angels manifested on the behalf of God’s people throughout the book of Acts. We find guidance, strength, encouragement, and protection all coming through the ministry of angels. In Acts 5, the apostles were put in the common prison. An angel released them from prison and said, “Go stand in the temple and speak all the words of this life.”

In Acts 8, Phillip is in the city of Samaria, having a great revival. And an angel—everyone say “an angel”—an angel said to Phillip, “Go south toward Gaza.” Of course, that’s where he met the Ethiopian eunuch that he led to Christ and whom he baptized in water. In Acts 10, an angel appears to Cornelius and says, “You need to send to Joppa for one Simon, surname is Peter. He’s at such and such a house. He’ll tell you words whereby you and your household shall be saved.”

In Acts 12, Peter’s in prison. Herod’s sharpening the axe. He’s going to kill him just like he has James. An angel breaks Peter out of prison. In Acts 27, Paul is on a ship in the middle of a storm. And an angel appears to him, says, “Don’t be afraid, Paul. You must stand before Caesar, and God has granted you all those who sail with you.” Angels help guide, protect, and encourage believers in many different situations and in many different ways. Today is no different.

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The hour we're living in is no different. The writer of the book of Hebrews goes to great lengths to show the superiority of Christ to angels. Then he says this in 1:13–14 NKJV. He says,

¹³ But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? ¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Now, think of it. The writer of Hebrews says of angels, "They're all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation." My friend, that's us. That's you. That's me. Other translations say, "To care for those that inherit salvation." Others say, "To minister to." Others say, "To assist. Others say, "To help."

The angels are ministering spirits sent forth to help the heirs of salvation, to assist the heirs of salvation. They assist us. They care for us. They help us fulfill the will of God. They help us obtain promises. They help us find guidance. They're very much at work in the world today among God's people.

Janet and I—I was an assistant pastor—we've just been married a little while. It was a full-time job, but it didn't pay enough to meet all of our obligations. So, I worked on the side as a glass man. I was a glass installer. I'm working as a glass man. I actually got paid \$300 a month full-time job as assistant pastor at the time. It was a few years back.

After about a year of working in the church and working as a glass man, we had a week off. We were going to take our very first vacation together. It was interesting because I've owned a few Volkswagen vans in my life. This was the second one. It was maybe a '78, something like that. The back made into a bed. We were going to just drive up the coast highway, all the way up California, up into Oregon. We were just going to camp out. That's going to be our vacation. We're super excited. And we worked it out that for gas, food, everything with money left over that it would cost us \$400. We didn't have \$400. In fact, I don't even think I had \$10.

We'd been praying for the money. We said, "God, we need \$400." We put it before God in prayer, and then we packed up the van. It's the day we're going to leave, and I get a phone call. Now you can tell that I'm older. I say phone call. I don't go like this. Yes, I got a phone call, okay? Anybody goes like this when they're talking about a phone, you know they're old. Yes. Young people, I got a phone call. Phone call.

This guy says, "I understand you guys are going on vacation." I said, "Yes, we're leaving right now." He says, "Would you mind swinging by my house real quick?" I said, "Well, all right, but we've got it planned. We want to be in such and such place so we can't hang out." He says, "No worries." I get there; he's waiting outside of his front door. Comes up to me, hands me an envelope, and says, "Have a good vacation." I get back in the car, open it; there's \$400 in there.

We're excited. We had a high time. In fact, still, I think our favorite thing was that smoked salmon we had up in Oregon. That was so good. That was 41 years ago, by the way. Anyway, we're driving back. Janet is asleep in the back of the van, and I'm driving up the grapevine late at night. That van didn't have a lot of power, so when you drove up a hill, you had to grit your teeth and lean forward. Otherwise, it would kind of go the wrong way.

I'm driving up the hill in the slow lane. I'm listening to a cassette tape. Listening to a guy that's teaching, and I suddenly have this burden to pray come on me. Unmistakable. I pop the cassette tape out, and I start to pray. I don't know what to pray about, so I start praying

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in the Spirit. For about 20 minutes, I'm praying in tongues. And I'm just praying, praying, and then all of a sudden, the burden lifted. I just knew that whatever it was, I just had a sense of joy and victory, and I just knew I'd prayed through whatever it was. And as soon as I got done, I felt a hand on the side of my face. Grandparents, you ever have your little grandchild go, "Grandma, look at me. Grandpa!"?

As real as that, more real, I felt a hand on my face. Turned my face, and I looked over. I look across the lanes, across the center divider, across the lanes on the other side, and there's a service road down there. And I see an ambulance parked down on the service road. As soon as I saw the ambulance, the hand left my face, and I thought that was strange. About 30 seconds later, a car jumped the center divider going about 70 miles an hour, heading straight for us. Missed our car, I'm going to say, by inches. I look in the rear-view mirror. There's a semi behind us. Head-on collision with the semi.

I pull over on the side of the road. I said, "Baby, get the flashlight." I ran back there. There's the semi-driver, he's hysterical outside of his truck. He said, "I killed him! I killed him! I killed him!" I grabbed him, prayed for him, and he kind of got his right mind back. And I said, "What about all this fuel?" He said, "Don't worry, it's diesel. It won't ignite like gasoline." I didn't know that. Revelation to me. I said, "Good."

I walk out to the car, and it's on fire. The engine block is in the backseat on the driver's side. I go around to the driver's side. And I'm looking for a hand or something that's sticking up underneath this engine block that's in the backseat on the driver's side, and there's nothing there. There's no one there. The whole car is crushed. It's on fire. It's crushed like an accordion except for one small place on the passenger side. The driver was there, and he's semi-conscious. Somehow, he got from the driver's seat to the passenger seat.

Then other truckers start stopping, and this trucker comes up, and he kind of wants to be the boss and take over. I said, "Stop." I said, "I want you to get in your truck. A quarter mile down the road, you're going to find on a service road, there's an ambulance. Go get it." He looked at me like I fell up a tree. I said, "Go now." In 10 minutes, the ambulance was there. And they had the guy on a stretcher and had him on his way. Now you cannot tell me that was not an angel that put his hand on my face and turned my face.

When I was a brand-new Christian, I moved down to Mexico. I was involved, doing some crusade work down there. Listen, I'm raw; I'm brand-new saved. I still got feathers in my hair. I got feathers hanging off my guitar. I got a long-braided beard. I was a specimen. Oh yes. I'm doing what I can to help. There's an evangelist preaching. It was actually in a Colonia above Ensenada. It was called Piedras Negras.

They'd carved out the whole side of a hill, and they had all these boards with cinder blocks. They would seat 2,000 people out there. People, by the hundreds, were getting saved every night, and there were outstanding miracles and healings taking place. One day I took some friends that I'd made, and we go down to the beach. We're there in the morning, and I still remember there was a guy sitting on the rocks, and I felt like I was supposed to go talk to him. In broken Spanish, I gave him my testimony, and I gave the guy some money.

I remember when I turned to walk away from him, a voice spoke to me. It said, "Drive south." That's all I heard. An angel told Phillip when he was in Samaria, "Go south." I heard, "Drive south." I told everybody, "Everybody in the van." They said, "Why?" I said, "Just get in the van." They get in the van, and I start driving south. They said, "What are we doing? We were having

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fun at the beach.” I said, “Just go with it.” We’re driving for about 10 minutes. This maniac comes up next to us, honking his horn, waving his arms, almost pushes me off the road in his car.

I finally pull over; he gets behind me. His name was Sostenes, and he said, “I stops you because I saw the bumper sticker on your car.” I had a bumper sticker that said, “I’d rather be with Jesus,” on the back of my van. Anyway, it turns out Sostenes is a pastor in this town, a little south of Ensenada, called Maneadero. We go down to Maneadero with him, and he’s got this beautiful compound and a church building. We spent a couple of hours with him. I remember we prayed for his son, and then I said, “Look, Sostenes, great to meet you. We got to get back for the crusade.”

We get back about noon, and we’re there, and the evangelist, the guy leading the whole thing, comes up to me, and the people with me says, “We just got a visit from the police, and they’ve shut the crusade down. They said, ‘We’re practicing medicine without a license.’” Because they were praying for the sick and said that was the basis they closed the crusade down on.

The Holy Spirit just told me to come talk to you because you have the answer. I said, “Well, it just happens that we met a pastor named Sostenes from Maneadero just a few miles down the road, and I bet he’d be happy to carry the crusade on his property. We got a hold of Pastor Sostenes, and the crusade went on that night and lasted for many more days. Hundreds more people got saved, outstanding miracles.

Listen, it wouldn’t have happened without the ministry of angels. They’re sent forth to minister for those who are the heirs of salvation. I know someone will think, “Well, hey, my angels are doing a pretty bad job. They’re not guiding, protecting, helping, or assisting at all, as far as I can tell.” Well, first of all, they’re probably much more active than you think, and there’s probably been a whole lot of things that didn’t happen to you because of the unseen ministry of angels. They’ve been working in your life unaware.

Yet, I think that’s a pretty legitimate question. Why are we not experiencing more angelic intervention? Well, first, because they work according to God’s laws. We can’t violate God’s principles and laws and have those angels help and minister and guide. Jesus, during His time of temptation, the devil took Him up on a pinnacle of the temple, and the devil quoted Scripture to Him. Yes, the devil knows Scripture, quoted it out of the context, quoted it partially, but he says, “Hey, jump, Jesus. The Scripture says,” he quotes Psalm 91, “that the angels will bear You up in their hands lest You dash Your foot against the stone.”

Jesus said, “It’s also written, you shall not tempt the Lord your God.” If He would’ve jumped, there would’ve been no angelic intervention because He would’ve been tempting God. You can’t just climb out on a limb, saw it off, say, “Well, God’s going to rescue me.” No, you’re going to find out what gravity’s all about. God’s not obligated to help us in our foolishness and in our presumption. Then as well, I think we don’t see as much angelic intervention because they’re activated by what we do and what we believe. In many ways, we are inviting their cooperation, or we are keeping their hands tied by what we believe and what we say. Consider this. This is Psalm 103:20. NKJV It says,

²⁰ Bless the Lord, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word.

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Angels heed the voice of God's Word. In Hebrew, that literally means "to be spoken aloud." When God's Word is spoken aloud, the angels get busy. They bring it to pass when it is spoken aloud. Just like Mary, there's no way that teenage girl even understood, didn't hardly grasp what the angel had said to her. Just that the angel said, "This is what God says is going to happen. The Holy Spirit is going to come upon you because there's power in every promise, in every declaration of God." Mary said, "Okay, be it to me according to your word. I accept your word." It came to pass. We must come into agreement with God's Word. Amos 3:3 KJV, how,

³ Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Now, obviously, the angels get busy when God speaks, but they also get busy when God's people speak His Words. Remember, they're all sent forth to minister for, to help, to assist the heirs of salvation. My friend, that's you, and that is me. My wife and I have some friends. They live in another country, and we've known them for probably three and a half decades, something like that. His wife, this was before they knew one another; she's in a Bible college. She's out some afternoon with a guy friend of hers, and they have a flat tire, and it was in a bit of a seedy area of town, and so they popped the trunk.

Thank goodness they've got a spare tire; pretty good for Bible school students. They're usually starving and don't always have all the amenities. They've got a spare tire, they've got a jack, and they've got a lug wrench. We're in high cotton here. So, the guy gets out, gets the little lug wrench, puts it on one of the lug nuts, and can't budge it. They're frozen. Either somebody put them on with an impact hammer, or they were rusted shut. He tried everyone, couldn't budge it. I think he even stood on that lug wrench with all of his weight going up and down, couldn't budge one of those lug nuts. He said, "What are we going to do?" And our friend said, "Well, remember the lesson that we just heard today about angels?"

He said, "Yes, angels." They took hands right there and prayed, "God, Your Word says 'You're a very present help in time of need.' We're in need right now, and You said, 'The angels have been sent forth to help the heirs of salvation.' God, send Your angels and help us." Just then, a guy walks around the corner. Now somehow, in their mind, they actually didn't associate him with their prayer because it happened so quick. This guy walks up and says, "Hey, you guys, having a bit of trouble?" They said, "Yes, lug nuts are rusted on. We can't move them." He said, "Do you mind if I have a go?" They said, "Sure."

He takes the lug wrench with one hand goes, takes all the lug nuts off, just like nothing, like he was almost doing it with his little finger. He says, "I'll change the tire for you." He loosens the nut, jacks the car up, takes the tire off, puts the spare on, and they're just stunned. He walks back around the corner, says, "See you all later." They go, "Oh, we didn't even tell him thank you." They go, "Come on; we can catch him." And they go around the corner, he's walking across the street, and he walks through these glass doors of this building. And so they go, "We're going to go in and tell him." They come up to the building, they realize the building is abandoned, and they look at the glass doors, and there's chains around the doors, and they're padlocked shut. The guy walked right through those glass doors.

The hair stood up on the back of their necks. They said, "God sent His angel, and we didn't even know it." They're sent forth to minister for the heirs of salvation. Now it's interesting, if you look in Exodus 23, 33, and 34, God repeatedly tells the Israelites this. He says, "I will send My angel before you into the promised land to drive out the inhabitants of the land and to help you possess the land. I'm going to send My angel before you." But in one of those references, God

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says this, "I'm sending the angel before you. He's going to drive out the inhabitants of the land, but do not provoke the angel." What an interesting thing to say. "Don't provoke the angel."

You know the story. Moses says, "Okay,"—they're on the border of the promised land—said, "Let's send 12 spies in, one from each tribe." They sent the 12 spies in to spy out the land. They come back. Joshua and Caleb, two of the spies, said, "Look, God said He's given us the land. Every place the sole of our feet treads, He's given it to us. Let's go at once. We're well able to do this. Their defenses have departed from them. They're bread for us. Let's go." But the other 10 spies say, "No, we can't do it." The other 10 spies said, "The people are too strong for us. We saw giants in the land." They basically said, "It doesn't matter what God has promised; there's no way this can happen."

The entire congregation agreed with the 10 spies. What they said and what they continued saying was not just out of harmony with what God had promised them. It was absolutely contrary to what God had said. That kind of language will provoke the angels.

Think about Gabriel, there with Zacharias. "Zacharias, God's heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, is going to get pregnant. You're to call him John. He's going to be the forerunner of Christ." In the Message Bible, this is how Zacharias responds, "You expect me to believe this?" In the Living Bible, he said, "But this is impossible." And Gabriel is so angry, he says, "Okay, you won't be able to say another word until this happens. This thing is too important. The salvation of the whole world is resting on this. The forerunner has to come, things are in motion, and if I let you keep talking, you're going to mess it up, Zacharias. You're saying the wrong things." That angel was provoked.

And the Israelites had provoked God's angel through their stubbornness and through their unbelief. Yet later on, they presumptuously decided to go into the promised land anyway. Moses said, "Don't go, don't do it. God's no longer with you." They went anyway, and they were soundly and miserably defeated. Their angelic protection was no longer in operation. In the book of Hebrews, it tells us to not follow in their example of unbelief. Do you know that? It gives that story.

They spoke contrary to God. They believed contrary to what God said. They believed what their eyes told them and what their ears told them. They said, "Look, we don't care. It doesn't matter that God said that. It can't happen. It can't happen." They no longer had that angelic assistant. Then the Scripture says to us, "Don't fall after their same example of unbelief."

I had a dream a couple weeks ago. In the dream, sort of a bit of an open setting, there was a guy standing there. And then off to right behind him, there's a whole bunch of— they all look like a bunch of men to me, just standing there quietly, just with their arms down. They were all inactive. Different sizes, some were tall, some were short. They all had different clothing on, different garb, different colors.

They're all just standing there quietly like they're waiting, all of them. It was a bit somber. I intuitively knew that this one guy was the spokesperson for all the others. I walked up to him and I said, "What's your name?" He said, "Angel," and I woke up. I knew he was speaking for all of them. I immediately understood what the dream meant. All of these angels that have been sent forth to minister for, to care for, to protect, to assist the heirs of salvation, they're inactive. They're not working because God's people are believing and speaking contrary to His promises.

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No, they heed the voice of His Word. When God's Word is spoken aloud, the angels get busy. Honestly, I have thought about that so much. This whole message is born out of that encounter I had. It was a God dream. I believe there are many people that are listening to me right now in this house. You have angels assigned to you, assigned to your case, assigned to your cause. In many cases, they're just idle. They're inactive. Their hands are tied, so to speak. It's important to think about. Psalm 34:7 NKJV says,

⁷ The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.

That literally means the angels form a circle of protection around those that fear God, and they protect them. The Message Bible says,

⁷ God's angel sets up a circle of protection around us while we pray.

Especially when our prayers are based upon God's Word and when His promises are interwoven and in harmony with our prayers when they're working together. When our beliefs and our speech are contrary to God's Word, the hands of the angels are tied. Now, I'm going to ask you just for the next few minutes to give me just really undivided attention. I don't want you to miss what I'm going to share with you. It's an interesting verse of Scripture, Proverbs 15:4 NKJV. It says,

⁴ A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

Isn't that interesting? "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit." The Hebrew word wholesome literally means "cure, healing, deliverance, wholeness, repair, restoration." A wholesome tongue is a tongue that's speaking, healing, cure, deliverance, wholeness, repair, restoration. In fact, the word is a derivative of their Hebrew word "Rapha," as in Jehovah Rapha, the Lord, our healer, the Lord, our physician.

According to 1 Timothy 6, the New Testament tells us that wholesome words basically are Scripture. "A wholesome tongue is a tongue that speaks in line with God's Word, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit." The Amplified Bible translates it this way, "But willful contrariness in it breaks or causes a breach in the spirit."

You still with me? "Willful contrariness." In other words, I speak contrary to God's Word. When I do that, it causes a break or a breach in the spirit. And the word "spirit" there, it's the identical word used for angels in Psalm 104:4. Now the angel of the Lord forms a circle of protection around those that fear Him, but when my speech is willfully contrary to the promise of God and the declarations of God, it creates a breach in the spirit. Isaiah 30, that same word for break or breach is used in Isaiah for a bulging wall that's about to break open, and a hole is about to occur in that wall. It causes a break in that angelic protection that we have. Do you see the picture?

When I systematically disagree with God's promises, when I speak contrary to wholeness, healing, cure, and deliverance, I create a break or a breach in that angelic wall of protection. We had a low wall years and years ago that went along one side of our property, and one day I noticed there was a bulge in the wall. Now, women, I'm not going to ask for an amen, but I suppose you could. Most guys are pretty good at avoiding things and ignoring things. I can step over a pile of trash every day. Janet says, "I put that there for you to take out." "Oh." Just, it's a gift. What can I say? It's a gift. There's this bulge in the wall, and I ignored it. Couple of weeks later, I noticed it's bulging more. I studiously ignored it.

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A month later, it's really bulging, I ignored it. A few weeks later, one of the cinder blocks has been knocked out. I've got a hole in the wall. I'm just pleading with you not to ignore things any longer. Some of you got a bulge that's ready to break through in your wall. Think about your speech. Think about the things you say as a habit of life. Do they harmonize with the promises? Are they harmonized with what God has said about you? Are they founded upon the Scriptures? Or are you speaking in a contrary fashion? It's important because the Bible says in Ecclesiastes 10:8, "Whoever breaks through a fence or a wall, a serpent will bite him."

Friend, when there's a break in the wall, the serpent can get through. Now, do God's promises seem outlandish to you? Impossible? Whether it's a promise of healing, deliverance, material supply, a promise of finding a way to victory, a promise of restoration. I have a question. Do you think it's harder than a virgin birth? You may not understand how. I'm going to tell you how, the Holy Spirit and the promise.

The Holy Spirit can come upon you. The Holy Spirit can come upon your situation. When you engage with the promise, when you set yourself in harmony with the promise, angels are released to work on your behalf. That's how it can happen. Friend, whatever magnitude you might register your problem at, it is not at the magnitude of needing a virgin birth. Set yourself in agreement with God's Word, no matter who thinks you're daft or extreme. It will release the angels to work for you. They're sent forth to minister for the heirs of salvation, for those that inherit salvation.

I have a friend; he's a preacher. His oldest son, not loving God, not serving God, not interested in God, just living a very pagan lifestyle, very immoral, very loose lifestyle. Not too long ago, and I'll tell you, Daddy and Mama prayed for him a lot. Not too long ago, a few months ago, that boy had a dream. In the dream, he saw the whole sky filled with names. The whole horizon, as far as he looked left, it was filled with names. As far as he looked in the sky, you could see names.

They just disappeared in the distance. He looked from the bottom of the horizon to the top. Names and written above it all, it said "The Book of Life." Then suddenly, a strong angel appeared in his dream. And we'll call the young man John. It's not his name, but we'll call him John. The angel said, "John, I can't help you because your name's not in the Book." Then he felt himself going down, being sucked down, down, down, and he couldn't help it. He was terrified and began to scream, "Jesus, help me. Help me. Jesus, help me." He woke up. Well, immediately, he gets on the phone, calls Daddy. Drives to Mom and Dad's house, repents of his sin, and gives his life to Jesus. Now he's in the ranks of those that have inherited salvation. Friend, the only way to get written in that Book is to give your heart to Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "I'm the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." If you're here today or you're listening wherever you are, I'm not playing. It does not get any more serious than this. The truth is every one of us, some sooner, some later, our lungs will take in that last breath of air, and we will expel that breath, but it is not the end of us. You're an eternal being. You will spend eternity somewhere. It is true. The only way to guarantee an eternity with God is to put your trust in His Son, Jesus Christ.

There's no other way. It's an eternity with Him or an eternity separated from Him. The Bible says, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." God is rich in mercy to all that call upon Him. Confess Jesus Christ as your Lord, and you will be saved. As we said earlier, it's not about rituals and ceremonies. It's about having a walking, talking, living, breathing relationship with your Creator. It's what you are made for. It's what your heart longs for. You'll

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never fill that empty place with sex, won't work. Go get yourself a new boyfriend. Go get yourself five. Go get yourself five new girlfriends. You're still going to be empty on the inside. It'll never fill that empty place. Drugs and alcohol will not fill that empty place.

Money and things will not fill it. Religious rituals will not fill it. Good works will not fill it. It's a God-shaped vacuum. You are made to walk with God. You are made to walk with Him and to know Him. He sent His Son Jesus to die. Jesus gave up His life on the cross when He became our substitute, and God's punishment against our sin fell on His own Son. Jesus willingly took my place and took your place. The claims of God's eternal justice were satisfied. Jesus was raised from the dead. The Bible says, "If you'll accept that, if you'll believe it, God will bring you into His family." It's called salvation. It's called becoming an heir of salvation. I just want to lead you in a simple prayer.

Wherever you are right now, watching this. You may be sitting in your living room, in your pajamas, with a cup of tea in your hand. You may be in a hotel somewhere, and you were just with someone that is not your wife. Whatever's been going on in your life, I want to tell you God loves you. He wants to have a relationship with you. I'm going to lead you in a simple prayer. If you will tie your heart around the words and be sincere, God will hear your prayer. It's what He looks for is a sincere heart. Maybe just put a hand on your heart. I'll give you the words. If it helps you to close your eyes, you can. Prodigal, this is for you too. Time for you to come home, prodigal son, prodigal daughter. The Father's not mad, but you need to come home. Would you pray with me? Say,

Oh God, I come to You right now. With all of my heart, I believe in Jesus Christ. I believe He died on the cross for me. I believe He paid for my sin in full. I believe He is alive. Resurrected Savior, I put my trust in You. I call You, Lord. Jesus, wherever You lead me, I'll follow You. My life is no longer my own. All I have and all I am, I put it in Your hands. Amen. Amen.

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