

Real Security in a Threatening World

By Brother Emerson A. Wilson

**This message (Real Security in a Threatening World) was preached in 1986 by the late Brother Emerson A. Wilson. It has been transcribed with minor alterations in an attempt to preserve the original burden of the message.*

Transcribed and Distributed by the Zanesville

Church of God
3064 Coopermill Road
Zanesville, Ohio 43701
Print Date: December 2020

First Peter 3:10

(10) *For he that will love life, and see good days,--- and I believe that is the true desire of every honest heart---let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:*

(11) *Let him eschew---turn away from---evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.*

(12) *For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.*

(13) *And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?*

(14) *But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;*

(15) *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

(16) *Have a good conscience; that whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed, that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.*

I want you to look at these words. These words are quotes actually, especially verse 13-15, from Isaiah the eighth chapter. Most all of the gospel writers, the apostles, of the New Testament, got their thoughts for what they wrote from the Old Testament, the only book they had at that time. Peter was certainly thinking about Isaiah 8:13 when he wrote these words. If I had a subject [for the message] it would be "The Christian's Real Security in a Threatening World". Isaiah 8:13 says *Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.* Sanctify the LORD of hosts Himself, let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread. I can add to that: If you will sanctify the Lord Himself in your heart and life, thank God, you don't have to fear other things. You don't have to have the dread of the things lots of people are dreading today.

If we study the context of Isaiah's position, he was surrounded by conspirators that were against him. He had already prophesied of the coming forth of the king of Assyria. About that time, the voice of God spoke to him and encouraged him and the people saying, "Sanctify the Lord God. Fear Him. You don't have to fear the Assyrians. Sanctify the Lord God. Fear Him. Let Him be your fear. Let Him be your dread." I hope you can catch the message. Peter was in a similar circumstance. Peter and James' writings were to the church when they were in trouble, persecution and early days of martyrdom. There was a surrounding force of the enemy against the people of God. Peter, evidently, had been studying in Isaiah where God spoke to the prophet when circumstances were bad. He begins to pen the same words: *Sanctify the Lord in your hearts and be ready to give answer to every man that asketh you for the reason of the hope that is in you.*

Hallowed Be Thy Name

You may ask how you can sanctify the Lord God. He is already holy. He has already been set apart. You read in John 17 and he says, "I sanctify Myself." When Peter wrote this, the word *sanctify* is taken from the same Greek word that is translated in Matthew 6, in what we call the Lord's Prayer. It's translated *hallowed be Thy name*. Another translation says, "Hallow the Lord God in your heart." We sanctify One Who is already holy. This has nothing to do with God's holiness. We merely recognize his holiness and we honor what we recognize. This is what Peter was saying. He tells us that if we do that, it will be a stay and security to us.

"Sanctify the Lord in your heart" means to set Christ in your heart on the pedestal and pinnacle that really belongs to Him. You get the essence of the message real quick: **If you will sanctify the Lord God, you'll let Him be Lord. You'll let Him sit on the throne of your heart. You'll lift Him up. You bring everything in obedience to Him. Let Him direct your life; you don't have to fear what men, devils or what powers can do to you. You have nothing to fear because Jesus Christ is the Lord God of your life.** I don't know if I can get to you the encouragement that God has got to me more than once out of this text.

Peter told them that they were troubled and fearful about many things. You're troubled about what is going to happen to your bank account, your job and the nation. The message is: Put the Lord in His rightful place in your life and you've got nothing to fear. This is the true security of the Christian in our day and time.

There are too many today, just like some in the morning church, who are careful and troubled about too many things. If you will be submissive, give Christ His rightful place, give Him what is due Him, let Him have the true love of your heart, as well as the thinking of your mind, you will rejoice about old fashioned salvation. You know what salvation does? It not only changes your heart, it renews your mind. Read Romans 12. When we present ourselves to God, we get our minds renewed as well as our hearts. We don't think like we used to. We used to think in terms of what we thought about things and what we wanted to do about things. But when we get our minds renewed, we start thinking, "What does the Lord think about this? What would the Lord have me do?" He has to have His rightful place in our minds as well as in our hearts. Get it straight: If He is on the throne of your heart, He's got your mind. Why? Your tongue operates and your mind thinks according to the heart, when it comes down to it. When he says, "Sanctify the Lord in your hearts," it's an individual message to each of us.

There is a security that God wants us to have. There is a greater peace that He wants us to enjoy. There's a tranquility that Christ has brought and is ready to work in our lives. If we will sanctify the Lord in our hearts, give Him the right place, put Him on the high pinnacle, make everything else bow in our hearts to Him, we can have a security! Thank God! We can be everything God wants us to be; live as long as God wants us to live. It makes no difference how

the devil fortifies himself against you: you can still march right on and be what God wants you to be. This is the reason the devil fights this point. If he can get you to hold out on any one point, Jesus Christ is not Lord----unless He is Lord of all. My text said, "Sanctify *the LORD God* in your hearts". Some may say that won't bring them any help, but it will if you obey it.

In our hearts and our minds, we must recognize Him as Lord. You can't love Jesus too much but you can love Him with too little of reverence. There needs to be an old fashioned reverence come over the hearts of the people. What do I mean? Reverence Him for Who He is. He is not only Lord, He is judge. He is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. Some may say He was manifest in the flesh as our brother. He was also manifest in the flesh as God almighty---our Creator and our Redeemer. Sanctify Him! As Isaiah said, let Him be your fear. How we need a baptism of old fashioned, reverential fear for Jesus Christ. Let Him be your fear; let Him be your dread. You won't have to fear anything else.

Somebody may say, "You don't know what is happening." Well, I do know what is happening. Thank God, I'm telling the Lord on you. He'll take care of you. He promised a long time ago. I told Him; as late as today, I reminded Him, "Lord, You said You would fight my battles." Let Him be your fear! Let Him be your dread! I repeat, there are too many who can't be out and out Christians because they are afraid of this and they dread that. Brother, you need to get to the place where you sanctify the Lord in your hearts, where you hallow His name. *Hallowed be Thy name*---until He has that name that God has given Him that is above every name that is named. He puts names on circumstances but He is high above every circumstance. Thank God! You read in Ephesians 4:8, when He raised Him from the dead, He raised Him up above principalities, powers, and every name that is named---not only in this world, but in the world to come. Let Him have that place! Sanctify Him! Put Him on the pedestal of your heart. Make sure that everything else comes down to Him. Let Him be your dread. Let Him be your fear. Somebody may say, "Do you think it will work?" The morning church took hold of it and it worked for them. It will work for us.

How Do We Hallow Christ?

How do we hallow Christ? How can we sanctify the Lord God in our hearts? I'm glad you asked that question. We cannot hallow Christ, we cannot sanctify the Lord in our hearts unless we absolutely confide in every word from His lips. I want to say that again. You cannot hallow the Lord Jesus Christ and hold Him in His rightful place, unless you confide in every word that He has spoken. Amen! You don't believe He is Lord unless He can bring to pass what He said right here in His word. You just think He is One among many; it's according to how the circumstance is worked out for you to consider it worked out or not. You cannot sanctify the

Lord in your heart or hallow His name, unless you absolutely confide in the words He has spoken.

I don't know if you realize it or not, but to not trust in Jesus Christ is to blaspheme and profane His holy name. Amen. To hallow Him and to sanctify Him is to say, "I believe *every* word that He has spoken." How much do you believe it? I'm ready to risk my life on it---lay my life right on it. It's easy to say, "I believe He is Lord of everything." It is something else to lay your life on it. The Psalmist said that they that know His name will put their trust in Him. We want to call Him Lord and then do what we want. That doesn't bring any power into our lives. We are afraid of this, afraid of that. We dread this, we dread that. All that is needed is to sanctify the Lord God and let Him be your fear and dread. If you fear Him in the right way and dread Him in the right way, you don't need to fear what man can do to you or devils because He is the Lord. When He is the Lord, there can't one thing happen to you! What did Peter mean in the thirteenth verse? *Who is he that will harm you if you be followers ---or true lovers--- of that which is good?* Somebody may say, "As long as you are doing right, nobody can harm you." Read the text again. If Jesus Christ is Lord of your life, nobody can harm you because He is Lord and nobody can do a thing to you unless He says so. And if he does it, it will do good for you and not harm you. Romans 8:28 says, "*We know that all things work together for good...*" We get so earthbound that heavenly things are clear out of sight. The devil would like to scare you to death. Some people cannot enjoy life today because of fearing this and fearing that. With true Christianity, Jesus didn't only come to save you; He came to keep and bless you: financially, physically, every other way. He is the answer. He is the Lord if you turn it over to Him. He's the Lord! I turned my finance over to Him a long time ago; He hasn't run out of money yet. When I used to run it, I ran out; but thank God, since I've turned it over to Him, I haven't run out yet. He knows how to run a business. He knows how to take care of finances. Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts. Let Him be your fear and dread. You may think what I'm preaching is strange but I'm enjoying it. I'm glad I learned this portion of Truth. I quit living with divided affections. I quit trying to get Jesus to run part of the business and me to run the rest. I just turned it over to Him. I'm just the steward; I just work for Him. My fears and dreads are all turned towards Him. I only have one fear. I don't fear that I'll get sick or die. Death can be a blessing to you. I fear that I might fail God and He might leave me. That's the only fear I have. If you'll live with that fear, it will cause you to live carefully before God. It will help you to get rid of a lot of attitudes people have. I'm telling you, it will knock the independence out of you. You won't feel so important when God gets done with you. Nobody gets in the kingdom unless they become as little children. I know God wants us to mature and have spiritual understanding; in a lot of things He wants us to grow up. But in other things He wants us to be as children: when it comes to depending on Him, trusting Him, and leaning on Him. He

doesn't want us to ever grow up. He wants us to come after we've been around for fifty years with childlike faith, "My Father, how I need You." There is more in this text than I can get to you. Sanctify the Lord God in Your Hearts.

We need to come to the place where we believe every word that He has spoken. I not only believe it but I am ready to risk my life upon the veracity of it. I believe it is true. I believe when Jesus said He would keep me, He will keep me. If I keep myself in the love of the Lord, He'll keep me. I believe if I honor His word, God will fulfill His word in my life and bring me what I stand in need of. He had done it, and done it, and done it; time and time again. He's not going to quit.

Distrust is dishonoring. It actually takes the honor and glory that is due His name. Peter went on a little farther: *Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts*. The heart in the Old Testament and in the New is spoken of as a center point of personal self. He is telling us to put Christ deep down in our hearts. Let Him be Lord and your life will be pure. There is no one---I know I am battling against a religious world where they cry sin more or less---but there is nobody who can put Christ on the pinnacle of their heart and live anything but a pure life. The reason these other issues are coming out from the heart is because Christ, the Lord God, is not sanctified there. He isn't set apart in the high position that God ordained Him to hold over our life. If we sanctify Him in our hearts, it's impossible to work division. Let Him be your fear and let Him be your dread.

If we hallow Christ, we take care that no foul things get in our [human] sanctuary. We dishonor the indwelling deity, Jesus Christ, with lusts, foulness, meanness, worldliness, passion, sin, bitterness, hatefulness, envy, strife, and division. When Christ comes into our heart, He drives out. He gave us a lesson on that. He still drives out the money changers and things that hinder true worship in the heart. He not only drives them out but Paul said in II Corinthians 7:1, *Since we have these promises, let us purge ourselves; cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the sight of God.*

What am I preaching on? Sanctifying the Lord God in your heart. It will clean up your life. Not only God will work to clean it up, but you will work to clean it up. When you and God both get working to clean it up, it will get cleaned up pretty fast and pretty good. Too many people hold onto things and allow things to work in their heart and life that are not conducive to real Christian living. Then they wonder why they live with such a lack of faith. *If you abide in me and My words in you...* then you can ask. I want you to see that there is a completeness, a proposition, and a place that we can step into where we can ask God---freely ask, whatsoever we need or desire. "Oh, Brother Wilson, it can't turn you loose like that." It can if you sanctify the Lord in your heart and keep Him there in that position. You won't ask anything that is contrary to His will. You won't ask anything that is not good, conducive or helpful to your life.

How do you do that? He said, "If you abide in Me and My word abides in you..." That is the catalog: don't ask for things you can't look up [in His word]. "Ask according to my Word." This is where the promises are cataloged. Right in these promises is how we get faith. Faith comes by hearing---reading and understanding the word of God. Sanctify the Lord in your heart.

High Places

There is a more blessed experience than too many have found in Jesus Christ. Sanctify the Lord God in your heart. Let Him have the throne; put Him on the high pinnacle. You can't put Him too high. He is worthy of the highest place you can lift Him to in your life. When you have lifted Him to the highest place, He is more worthy than that. Tear down all the other high places. Didn't God start that in the Old Testament? He let them know that He was a jealous God. You're going to have to tear down these other places. There are too many high places in people's lives. Some of those high places are a husband or a wife. When it comes down to doing what God wants to do or what the wife wants to do, we find the wife holds a higher place than the Lord. We have women today, who will just tell you right out what they are going to do and what they're not going to do. They never let it come out of their mouth, "If the Lord be willing." They have it fixed; they'll tell you what they are going to do. You can invite them to go with you and they'll say, "I'm not going! I'll tell you that right now. I'm not going." There is no thought if the Lord wants them to go. "I'm not going!" They think they are first class Christians. Children hold high places. There are lots of high places. God told Gideon, "We're not going to do anything with these Midianites until you tear down these high places." That boy meant business, at least in the beginning. He ended up bad. This is what makes me fearful: you don't read the Old Testament but what you find many people who were warriors, used mightily of God, ended up in a bad shape and went to hell when they died. This is a sad picture. God said, "You have to cut down the groves and the high places." Well, he started out. His dad had some fine oxen. So he started out that night. He used the plow for a fire. He meant business. He was letting God see that he was what he said. It didn't matter if it hurt dad....hurt mother, brother, sister. There aren't too many who are living this way. No, they want to be pampered and petted. "Oh, you can't preach that way!" Jesus said that everyone that forsaketh father, mother, houses, land, children, wife....this is the standard. We have to come to a place where Jesus Christ is Lord. There is more in this text than I am going to get out. Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts! Isaiah said, "Let Him be your fear and let Him be your dread."

In I Peter 3:13, he says, "Who is he that will harm you if you be followers---the Greek says ardent lovers---of that which is good. We are in one of the most trying and deceitful times. Preachers tell you different than that, and they have a right to say what they believe. I've never

seen the devil work in such an underground and deceptive manner to knock people out as he has today. Peter is telling us, if we want to take it, how to be victorious amid the trial and test of the enemy. We must have a passionate love for goodness. Who will harm you? The Greek says you'll be put in a place of safety if you have a passionate love for goodness. Verse 10 says He that will love life and seek good days, let him refrain his lip from evil and let his tongue speak no guile. Let him eschew evil and do good. Peter said God will see to it that no man will harm you. No man will harm you if you have a passionate love for goodness. To too many, goodness is a burden and a bore. It is something that individuals vaguely desire but they are not willing to pay in terms of effort. Everyone is not going to be good just because Jesus makes you good; it takes some real effort on your and my part to be good. Nobody gets saved without real effort on their part. This is the trouble now. There is no lack in God's power but it is hard to find people who are willing to do what it takes to dig deep and get down to the solid rock and get a real experience in their hearts. After you get it, it takes real effort. I have to pray to stay holy. I know some of you don't think you need to but you're not holy. You have to follow after, and love, goodness. You have to go after it with a passionate desire. To boil it down, anybody can be good if they really want to; they don't have to be bad. The good message of the Gospel is that God is ready if you are. Too many live in a spineless way and allow the devil to twist them around. They don't live for God for a week before the devil comes in like a flood and they just get swept away and say, "I just couldn't help myself." You can live for God if you are ready to put forth some real effort. It takes real effort to pray, study and meditate. Don't get the idea that preachers, who stand and preach the Word of God and interpret it, just sat somewhere in a chair and God poured it out on them about a quarter of seven. It takes real effort to preach and feed the Church of God. I've done a lot of hard work but this is the hardest work I've ever done in my life. Not just here but in the study. I sweated today; sweat poured off of me. Not just while I was preaching here; I went home and took those wet clothes off. I went home and got soaked again in the study. That's why many congregations today are not being fed anymore than they are: the preacher is not willing to put forth the effort that it takes to study to get a hold of God like God wants you to get a hold of Him. That's the reason, whether you want to take it or not. It takes effort. You have to follow after goodness. You have to love it with a passionate love.

Before I left the movement, they tried to get me to sign up to a program where they would send me messages a month ahead, two messages for every Sunday. "We're going to help you; we're going to take a lot of the work out of your ministry." Needless to say, I never sent for it. Read the eleventh through the thirteenth verse: *Let him eschew evil and do good. Let him seek peace.* There would be a lot more peace if people were seeking it. Why isn't there more peace? You just sit back and wait. "When they want to come to me, I'll receive them." Seek

peace! Put forth an effort for peace. Really labor at gaining peace. *For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and His ears are open to their prayers. And the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. And who is he that will harm you if you be followers ---ardent lovers--- of that which is good?*

Be Zealous

The word for *ardent lovers* actually means *zelotes*. It is a Greek word from which our word *zealot* is taken. This the point Peter was trying to get to the church. There has to be more zeal in this. If everyone in this congregation would get real zealous for good, what a revival would break out. This is what he is talking about. Jesus was zealous. You may say that He didn't say the church had to be zealous but how about Revelation the third chapter? "Be zealous!" Jesus was saying to the church. Have a greater zeal for good. Who was a zealot? Zealots operated in Peter's day and he used this thought to stir the church. A zealot was fanatical patriot who was sold out to help his native land by every possible means. He was willing to take his life in his hands, sacrifice ease, comfort, home and family; they had a passionate love for their country. God is speaking to us through His word: we need to have that zeal like a zealot. We need to have such a love for Christ, love for good, love for righteousness, love for the promotion of the church that we are willing to sacrifice ease, comfort, and some part of family life. This is what he means when he says to have a compassionate love for that which is good.

No heart is pure that is not passionate. If your heart has not come up to a boiling place and you are passionate about the things of God, there is impurity and things that need to be boiled out there. When your heart is definitely pure, you'll love Christ, you'll love truth, and the church with a passion. You mark any man that did anything in any period of time, whether he was an apostle, a reformer, or whatever he was. How did he make a mark? He had a passionate love burning within his heart that would not cool off. He was willing to spend himself and be spent to see that which he loved go forth. In too many cases, that ardent love for good is not there like it needs to be. The heart is not pure if it is not passionate. No virtue is safe if it is not enthusiastic. We are going to lose these God-given virtues if we don't get more enthusiastic about them. We are going to lose our message of the church. We are going to lose the position God has lifted us to, unless we are more enthusiastic about it. All it takes is a cooling down and a cooling off, a folding of the hands. Read it in the Bible. It doesn't need to happen but it does and it can and it will.

God doesn't have to put up with us. There are other people that will love Him. There are other people who will have zeal in the things of God. You get the idea just like the Jew. "What can God do? We are His people." I'll tell you what he can do: He can get some other people that have a passionate love for Him and the cause of God. Don't ever get the idea that we can still be the church of God and lose our fervency, lose our real burden or lose that passionate love. Take

it in the natural. There is no young man that truly loves any young girl unless he loves her with a passionate love that causes him to drop everything. He has one thing in mind, to win that love of the individual. When he reaches that place, his love is pure toward her. He is not flirting around or playing around. He loves her with a passionate love. God help up to see it. It is only when a man falls deeply in love with goodness that wrong things lose all their fascination. You know why you are having trouble with wrong things fascinating you? You don't really love goodness. You open your mind to the devil's trash.

I preached on TV earlier this week. God laid it on my heart. I showed them Samson eating honey out of the dead carcass. "Ah, this is sweet. This is good." It's coming out of a dead carcass. That thing is a dead work. I cannot habitually sit in my home and watch a late movie, with all the filthiness, corruption and exposure of bodies and love good. No, no, no, no, no. You men can't go down to the factory and flirt around with the girls, because your wife isn't there, call them honey, pat them on the rear end and love goodness. No, you're a liar. You don't love goodness. You're corrupt. Amen for all you folks, wherever you are. I may not be able to see so good physically but I'm getting some eyesight spiritually. I know what is going on. Too many people do not love goodness. You don't follow after goodness. It isn't too long until someone is coming around, "Brother Wilson, doesn't So-and-So preach out there?" "Yeah." "You ought to see him down at the factory." You don't love goodness. You go to work a half hour late and leave 20 minutes early, you don't love goodness. You are a crook. You need to gather up some money that you beat them out of and take it back to your factory. That's one reason I quit Owen's. They wanted to give me another job and put me in another department. I said, "No, I don't want to work for this company anymore." He said, "Why?" I said, "For over six months, I've had different foremen ask me to ring them out so they could go play golf in the afternoon." I never did it. I finally got so bored with it that I said I refuse to work in such a corrupt place. Dog- eat- dog. That still goes on. I still hear about it. You think you're real smart because the company doesn't know about it. There is a God that knows. His eyes and face are against you. Read in the twelfth verse. There is something more to loving goodness than people are getting a hold of. When we really love goodness, wrong things lose their fascination. We hate them. We don't want any part of them.

Reason of Hope

Let's look at that fifteenth verse. You may say that I'm just going after you. Listen. I may be combing you with a fine-toothed comb but there won't be any lice show up unless you have some. I'm afraid some are lousy. *Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and be ready always---every circumstance at any time--- to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.* The one who has sanctified the Lord God in heart is always ready.

Be ready always to give an answer of the hope that is in you. People come around when you live like I'm preaching and ask, "How can you be so sure of yourself? Don't you know that we are living in a world of tragedy and perils? Don't you know we are living in a day where there is suffering, misery, and heartache? How can you be so sure of yourself?" I give everyone of them the reason for the hope that is in me. "How can you hope for deliverance everytime?" What's the reason for the hope that is in you? Jesus. Just one reason...he said give them *the* reason. How can you do what you do? How can you cry out against sin? Don't you know that you may fall? How can you have such hope for the future? Jesus. Thank God, I've sanctified the Lord God in my heart. He is Lord! Since He is Lord, no one can touch a hair on my head unless He says so. No sickness can come on me unless He wants it to come for His glory and my good. I'm going to live until I die---whether you want me to or not. When death comes on me, I have a hope within my soul, brighter than the perfect day. God has given me His Spirit and I want the world to hear it. All my doubts have passed away. Sanctify the Lord God. Let Him take over and truly rule and you can always be ready. You don't have to fix it up or study it out. You can always be ready to give anybody that asks you for the hope you have. Thank God!

I've had people ask how I do it: strangers, sinners, some that have an idea of the work I follow [as a pastor]. They ask how I can keep going and how I can bear other people's burdens and still have my own. I'm glad to give them a reason for the hope that is in me. Thank the Lord, it is not me. I've sanctified the Lord God. He is Lord of my life and every circumstance. His grace is sufficient. His strength is made perfect in my weakness. Glory be to God!

In Romans 5:5, Paul talked about people being justified by faith and said hope maketh not ashamed. Come on, now! If anyone asks us a reason for the hope that is in you: hope maketh not ashamed! We don't have to be ashamed of any hope whatsoever. Why? The love of God is shed abroad in our heart by the Holy Ghost, and hope maketh not ashamed. Thank God! Anything that the word of God would give me grounds to build my hopes on, I don't have to be ashamed to claim those hopes and look for them to happen. If Jesus and God are the supremacy of our life, our relationship to God and Christ is life's... greatest...value. Nothing is as valuable as my relationship with God and Jesus Christ. When you've moved to that place of highest value and given up all for this experience, who or what can harm you?

Strength in Weakness

Psalm 27:1 *The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?* Jesus said in John 14:1, *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.* It will take away the troubled heart and the fear that the heart is under. Truly believe in Jesus. If you give Jesus that unique place in your life that He desires to have, the most precious thing to you is your relationship to God and Christ. When that is the most precious thing in your life, nothing can take it from you.

Why? Everything else is less. This is why Jesus taught if we are going to be His disciples, we have to give up all: houses, lands.... Put them in a subjective position where beside your relationship with Christ, they don't have much value. My relationship to Christ is the most valuable thing in my life. When you get to that place, the devil can't use any of these others. You truly sanctify the Lord God in your heart and life. If you have that real experience (I'm not talking about professing) with Christ and God, it costs you more than your house, wife, children, job, or anything you can reach out to take a hold of. Everyone that really has it, would not trade it for anything in this world. That is the best thing you can use on the devil when he builds his proposition and fabricates ideas. Just look at it and say, "I'd rather have Jesus. You'll have to come up with something better than that. And that. And that." If you keep right on sanctifying the Lord God in your heart, the devil will never come up with anything that is precious.

If we value, sell out, pay the price, and put forth the effort to have that definite experience with Christ (I repeat that Jesus told us to give up all), Christ will be all in all, according to Ephesians 1. Oh, how I would love to preach a message on that right now. Christ will be *all in all*. When? When you give up all. Jesus will be all in all! You'll find the preciousness that you wouldn't trade for anything in the world. This is the very point that Jesus asked for. When this happens, when we reach the place where Jesus is all in all, that is exactly what He will be to us. No matter what the circumstance is. I see Paul in II Corinthians 12 when he prayed three times, just like Jesus did, for that thorn in the flesh to be removed. "It's hurting me. Take it away." What did God say to him? "My grace is sufficient. I'm made strong in weakness. My strength can take you through." From that point on Paul said, "I glory in my infirmities." He didn't rejoice because weakness and infirmities come. What did he rejoice in? He knew when the infirmities came, the power of Christ was going to rest on his life. Just according to your weakness, the power of God will be given to you. Just according to your circumstance will the power of God be given to you. Paul said that when he was really pressed, he could rejoice. Why? The power of Christ rested on Him during those times.

II Corinthians 4:17-18, *17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment (You might say that yours has gone on for years. Put beside eternity, it is just a moment.), worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen (with the natural eye): for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen (with the natural eye) are eternal.* Who in the world would not trade off temporary things for eternal things? Who would suffer an infirmity, a hard place or trial if they could trade it for a great weight of glory, something that is eternal and everlasting? It will not only bless you here but you will be able to draw on it throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. The text said to sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and if you'll do it, you'll be ready always.

Always covers every circumstance. People will say they can't understand how you can act that way. You'll be ready always to give a reason of the hope.

I was reading about one man during the days of martyrdom being burned at the stake. His hands were tied behind him. Finally, the fire burnt the ropes and his fingers off. He lifted the stubs praising God. I want to help you right here. Medical science has you so sold on the idea that there is no way to get released from pain unless they give you dope or something else. You've forgotten something. There is a God Who can take every pain that you have ever suffered. You don't have to look to dope. I'm afraid of it anyway. My wife read to me from the front page of the Columbus paper that something like 60% of the doctors under fifty years old are living on dope by their own confession. I don't want them working on me. I'm still standing on the Rock. I serve a God that can stop the pain. I broke my shoulder and left half the ball in the socket. The doctor had a time getting it back in. He told me to get ready to suffer great pain. He gave me a bunch of pills and I handed them back. I said I didn't want them and the Lord would take care of me. When I went back the first time to get him to look at it, after I had preached a campmeeting out in Oregon, he asked if I had suffered pain. I told him, "Not a bit. I haven't felt the first one." He asked if I took the pills that he gave me. I said, "Not the first one. I didn't even take them home with me. I left them at the hospital." He looked at me and said, "I had a shoulder broken like that. Don't look, for 6 months, to be able to get your hand over your head." I said, "I can do it now." I like to worry my wife to death. I had my arm in a sling and was preaching a campmeeting. They decided they would get a motel since I couldn't shower without my wife helping me (She is supposed to. She is my help meet). Anyway, she was so careful to take the sling off and tell me to be careful and not move in any way. But night after night, I would wake up and my arm would be under my head and the sling was off. I would say, "Look where my arm is." She would say, "Ohhh, don't do that! If you jump that out here, what will I do?" It hasn't ever jumped out yet. Amen. You go take all the dope you want but you don't have to. There is a pain Reliever. There are 90 million martyrs who can stand up as a witness that Jesus can still take the heat out of the flame, take the pain out of the knife or whatever they use! Amen! I know you're not going to believe that. I can see the unbelief on your face. But it is for you, if you will sanctify the Lord in your life and let Him be Lord.

God will help you if you are honest of heart. Remember the brother who was a medic and fire chief? He got saved and he told me right out, "Brother Wilson, I know God saved me, but you are going to have to give me a lot of time on that divine healing." I said, "God will give you understanding." You know what happened. He fell off that wall up there and hurt his leg. He knew it was broken and the nurses that were there said it was. It was knocked right out of the side. They said he was in bad shape and needed to be taken to the hospital. I said, "Brother,

if you don't mind, wait until I pray for you." What happened? Healed it right there. He took a run; the people were eating supper and he took a run through the dining hall and back, praising God. Sanctify the Lord God in your heart and He will work in your body.

I read about that martyr who clapped the stubs of his arms after his hands burnt off. He was praising God and all at once, he went to laughing. The Roman emperor who was standing there asked, "What are you laughing at?" He said, "I see the glory of God." That's what happened to Stephen when they brought the rocks down on him until they crushed the life out of him. Thank God, he looked straight into Heaven. It's according to where you look, friend! He looked straight into Heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus, standing on the right hand of the Father, reaching out over the banisters of Heaven.

The Hope in YOU

Sanctify the Lord God in your heart and be always ready. I want to read this text again. *Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and be ready always to give an answer to every man who asketh you the reason of the hope that is IN YOU.* Why aren't we doing better today? Our faith must be first handed. Our reason must be first handed. It can't be second handed. Give a reason of the hope that is in YOU. I endeavor to teach what the Bible says. I know that everyone doesn't believe it. I still believe it is wrong to wear shorts anywhere, whether it is a basketball floor or anywhere. You wear them down the street where only one or two will see you. You wear them on a basketball court where there are several hundred watching. Now I'll just tell you, if any ask you a reason of the hope in you, you tell them the answer. Don't have them call Brother Wilson. What kind of a soldier are you? Basketball coach at the high school called me last week. He said, "You got two young men in your congregation who want to play basketball. They are good ball players but they say they have to wear sweatpants and they can't wear shorts." I'm just telling you what he told me. He said, "They said it is just an idea of the preacher. So I'm calling you." I said, "You got it all wrong. I don't govern anyone else's children. I preach the Word. I preach the word, then it's up to the individual parent to carry it out in the home with their children. You call their father and mother." "Well, while I've got you, Reverend, why don't you want people to wear shorts?" I said, "Because it isn't modest." I started back in the Old Testament and let him see how God covered the priest. "Well, what's immodest?" I said, "Anything above the knees." He said, "Thank you, that sounds reasonable. I wanted to get it from you." I said, "You come and sit in the congregation and you can get it right from the horse's mouth. You'll know exactly what I preach." I want to make it plain again, you need to sanctify the Lord God in YOUR heart. You need to know Truth for YOURSELF. You're not going to get anywhere with anybody with a second hand deal. "My pastor says you shouldn't....our church..." Come on, this does away with Rome's dogma. What is the Roman

Catholic Church governed by? The teachings of the church. We are not governed by the teachings of the church. You sanctify the Lord God in your *own* heart. And *you* give a reason for the hope that is in *you*; not in the church or preacher. In you. Sanctifying the Lord in our hearts is the starting place. If we will sanctify Him, bring everything else down and let Him have that high position in our life that is due Him, and let Him be Lord of everything, He will be Lord of everything. He will be Lord of the sickness and the depression. Someone may say, "Don't you know that before spring we will have an awful depression?" Could be but I've sanctified the Lord God in my heart and He is Lord of the depression, recession, and lay-offs. I've got the guarantee, and the Bible will back me up, if you people will straighten out and let the Lord God be sanctified in your heart, He will see to it that you have employment so that you can bring finance in to carry out His work. You don't have to worry about what economics says. I know some of you are wrapped up in humanism. You just have to face facts. Well, when He is Lord of all, He can change facts. God wants His church to prosper, if we will be His church. He wants you to prosper and be in health even as your soul prospers. Sanctify the Lord God in your heart and be ready always to give answers to those who ask of the reason of the hope that is within you.

*My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame But wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

*On Christ, the solid Rock I stand.
All other ground is sinking sand.
All other ground is sinking sand.*

*When darkness veils His loving face, I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil.*

*On Christ, the solid Rock I stand.
All other ground is sinking sand.
All other ground is sinking sand.*

*When He shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.*

The Solid Rock

