

WEBVTT

1

00:00:02.190 --> 00:00:08.189

Carole Copeland Thomas: Okay, we want to welcome everybody today welcome back to Bible study I hope everybody had a beautiful.

2

00:00:08.670 --> 00:00:21.030

Carole Copeland Thomas: summer break, if you went away, I hope, it was very pleasant and enjoyable continue to stay safe and wear your masks and we're just very, very glad to have each and every one of you back with us.

3

00:00:21.570 --> 00:00:33.900

Carole Copeland Thomas: we're also glad to hear have a sister felicia wilts, who is here, I see her lovely name there and I think must be a grandchild with the picture so welcome we're very glad to have you and God bless your healing and recovery.

4

00:00:34.260 --> 00:00:51.330

Carole Copeland Thomas: And thank you man so again, I will put the information in the chat room about temple Israel and the way that we had been participating with them and without further ado, our worship leader tonight is Reverend Robert Gray, give it up for Reverend Gray, a man yes.

5

00:00:54.750 --> 00:01:03.570

Robert Gray: Praise God praise God it's good to be here with you folks it's been one of those days it's like it's been one of those years and.

6

00:01:05.100 --> 00:01:11.430

Robert Gray: And I just got back my car I had to get an installer and do some other things and I didn't know if we would make it, but we give.

7

00:01:11.760 --> 00:01:12.510

Carole Copeland Thomas: God, a man.

8

00:01:13.440 --> 00:01:18.480

Robert Gray: praise the name of the Lord Now let me give so I can see everybody here we go.

9

00:01:19.560 --> 00:01:22.320

Robert Gray: God is good all right all right it's a.

10

00:01:23.520 --> 00:01:28.230

Robert Gray: it's a pleasure really to really just to look at god's word as we begin to.

11

00:01:29.700 --> 00:01:33.360

Robert Gray: You know, for us, September is Sep Sep tember stops the New Year.

12

00:01:34.380 --> 00:01:45.540

Robert Gray: You know, and I understand about January to December, but, most people Sep tember once Somalis once teachers go back once vacations over it's a brand new year.

13

00:01:46.440 --> 00:01:59.760

Robert Gray: And, and so we're in a new year, so Could somebody just open us up in a quick word of prayer and then i'll i'm going to be obedient to the Lord tonight whosoever will.

14

00:02:05.190 --> 00:02:09.150

Robert Gray: I think whosoever will, I think that name is Joe.

15

00:02:11.010 --> 00:02:13.500

Robert Gray: You open us up to Joe now, in a word of prayer.

16

00:02:14.820 --> 00:02:17.670

JONELL JOHNSON: In the name of Jesus, we have the victory.

17

00:02:19.140 --> 00:02:25.410

JONELL JOHNSON: Tell us who can stand before us when we call that great name, let us humble the hearts in prayer.

18

00:02:26.400 --> 00:02:45.360

JONELL JOHNSON: Father in the name of Jesus, we thank you once again for being able to come together as brothers and sisters of like mine, we thank you for our Bethel church family we think for our pastors the Reverend Ray ham and Gloria white ham and Robert grey Sabrina brown grey.

19

00:02:46.560 --> 00:02:54.150

JONELL JOHNSON: Lord we just thank you for the work that's going forward to thank you for the life of chemical contaminants as she leaves the zoom.

20

00:02:54.780 --> 00:03:06.480

JONELL JOHNSON: Work on the technical part of it, and we thank you tonight, Lord that as we come together touching and agreeing all of us that there's a word for each one of us.

21

00:03:07.890 --> 00:03:17.250

JONELL JOHNSON: Can we sit in our 10 doors and we open our hearts to hear the word tonight God bless pastor I mean pastor Bob Gray, in a special way.

22

00:03:18.270 --> 00:03:25.740

JONELL JOHNSON: annoying him that he can do what you've caught him to do, and now we can receive it in the name of Jesus we pray amen.

23

00:03:26.400 --> 00:03:26.880

amen.

24

00:03:28.230 --> 00:03:33.720

Robert Gray: amen amen man, you know, I just want to share a word that God gave me.

25

00:03:34.920 --> 00:03:36.150

Robert Gray: This is the time of year that.

26

00:03:36.420 --> 00:03:39.420

Carole Copeland Thomas: we're in great do you mind getting a little closer to your microphone.

27

00:03:39.600 --> 00:03:41.430

Robert Gray: Okay well how about if I put this on.

28

00:03:41.790 --> 00:03:42.330

Okay.

29

00:03:48.030 --> 00:03:49.350

Robert Gray: Yes, yes.

30

00:03:52.380 --> 00:03:54.480

Robert Gray: and on one SEC okay.

31

00:03:55.050 --> 00:03:58.950

Carole Copeland Thomas: Even that got a little better just want to make sure everybody can hear your message.

32

00:04:02.340 --> 00:04:03.360

Robert Gray: it's gone so I.

33

00:04:04.470 --> 00:04:11.340

Robert Gray: I just want to share a couple of things today and I want to do what I want to do this presentation at this time of year i'm getting ready.

34

00:04:11.730 --> 00:04:25.110

Robert Gray: To go back to the celtics and we're getting ready to do all the things in September that September brains and I try to listen to what's God saying, but tonight, I just want to share a little bit, I want to share, about.

35

00:04:26.670 --> 00:04:29.250

Robert Gray: About tearing down strongholds.

36

00:04:30.360 --> 00:04:37.530

Robert Gray: I want to, I want to just talk about strongholds a little bit because the see invisible things.

37

00:04:38.550 --> 00:04:53.760

Robert Gray: That really jam us up it's the things that we don't see the things that we see we think we got those but there's a lot going on beyond that and I just wanted to share a little bit so so i'm going to share and then we're gonna stop and then we're going to discuss but.

38

00:04:54.900 --> 00:04:57.210

Robert Gray: You know, many of us today are at war.

39

00:04:58.950 --> 00:04:59.910

Robert Gray: And a lot of.

40

00:05:01.620 --> 00:05:18.000

Robert Gray: Well we're at war, yet we're locked into a fortress we've been captured we're really pow and we're held hostage and it's important to realize that what we're held hostage by our strongholds in our life.

41

00:05:20.130 --> 00:05:30.930

Robert Gray: Now we've tried everything and haven't been able to break free from the strongholds I don't know your stronghold you don't know my struggle, although some of them are very visible.

42

00:05:32.280 --> 00:05:40.470

Robert Gray: But for the most part they're they're strong with the things that we can start to keep to ourselves, and we try to break them we try to get away.

43

00:05:41.730 --> 00:05:51.630

Robert Gray: from them and we try it all on my end I liken it to you know you ever see a hamster in a cage and a hamster looks out and he can see all the freedom.

44

00:05:52.290 --> 00:06:06.120

Robert Gray: Everywhere, and he thinks if he gets on that wheel and runs that he's running that he's getting away that he's breaking free, but he sees the freedom, he runs on the wheel he runs faster and faster.

45

00:06:07.200 --> 00:06:13.650

Robert Gray: And he'll run for an hour straight, but he finds himself in the same place that he was the hour before.

46

00:06:15.960 --> 00:06:19.410

Robert Gray: that's that's how strongholds are in our life.

47

00:06:21.750 --> 00:06:23.880

Robert Gray: strongholds holders in the place.

48

00:06:24.150 --> 00:06:28.740

Robert Gray: The place that we don't want to be stronghold yeah you know the word stronghold it's a neutral word.

49

00:06:29.610 --> 00:06:45.990

Robert Gray: it's new the positive nor negative, because in the Bible, it talks about in in second Samuel David says the Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer my God my Rock in whom I take refuge.

50

00:06:47.430 --> 00:06:48.600

Robert Gray: My stronghold.

51

00:06:49.740 --> 00:07:09.390

Robert Gray: In my refuge my savior you saved me from violence that's what the Bible says, and the word talks about in proverbs the name of the Lord is a strong tower the righteous man's run into safety god's presence is a good place to be.

52

00:07:10.800 --> 00:07:19.860

Robert Gray: A safe place a strong place even Psalms 46 says God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

53

00:07:20.640 --> 00:07:38.910

Robert Gray: god's will you want to go to stand up to get away from the ravages of the storm I liken it like you know it's like when you're outside in the street, and this torrential rains coming down it's pouring, but if you go up on a pledge, you can stand there now you're still in the storm.

54

00:07:40.230 --> 00:07:41.310

Robert Gray: But you're protected.

55

00:07:42.420 --> 00:07:53.490

Robert Gray: And that's what God does for us doesn't always take us out of the store, but he covers us with his protection and when the Bible talks about the negative aspects strongholds.

56

00:07:54.720 --> 00:08:03.450

Robert Gray: What is it talking about well, let me give you this definition, a stronghold is a mindset that we accept as unchangeable.

57

00:08:04.980 --> 00:08:22.470

Robert Gray: Even though we know is against the will of God, even though we know that we don't think it can change it hounds you and often shows up unwanted and unannounced despite our wishes, is stronger than us.

58

00:08:24.330 --> 00:08:25.110

Robert Gray: Sometimes.

59

00:08:26.550 --> 00:08:28.350

Robert Gray: In some things that it captures.

60

00:08:29.400 --> 00:08:30.690

Robert Gray: You see no way out.

61

00:08:32.280 --> 00:08:32.850

Robert Gray: it's like.

62

00:08:34.140 --> 00:08:36.060

Robert Gray: we're on a loop in our mind.

63

00:08:37.380 --> 00:08:47.310

Robert Gray: And we keep going over the same thing it keeps your won't, let us go it keeps grabs hold of us and won't, let us go notice, he says it's a mindset.

64

00:08:49.470 --> 00:08:52.890

Robert Gray: Because that's where strongholds take hold in your mind.

65

00:08:54.270 --> 00:08:56.250

Robert Gray: you've been captured in your mind.

66

00:08:58.890 --> 00:09:05.220

Robert Gray: that's why it's really important what you put into your mind, because that controls the whole body.

67

00:09:06.090 --> 00:09:14.160

Robert Gray: What are some of the strongholds that make themselves at home in our life, well, we all know about drug addiction, we know

about cigarette smoke.

68

00:09:14.640 --> 00:09:22.980

Robert Gray: It was a stronghold how many times have we know people that have smoked for years and they've been trying to quit those are the ones that we know about these are the usual suspects.

69

00:09:24.960 --> 00:09:25.590

Robert Gray: But what about.

70

00:09:27.090 --> 00:09:29.520

Robert Gray: Seeking to please other people.

71

00:09:30.990 --> 00:09:40.920

Robert Gray: that's a stronghold and we seek to please people that aren't even here anymore people that have passed on the long gone our parents, a stronghold.

72

00:09:42.510 --> 00:09:47.400

Robert Gray: What about people that need six cups of coffee a day or else they can't do anything.

73

00:09:49.530 --> 00:09:57.990

Robert Gray: worry fear worry about everything that's a stronghold that paralyzes us anger a.

74

00:09:59.340 --> 00:10:12.210

Robert Gray: troubling memories, there are some people that can sit down in a room by themselves and go back to a place that was unpleasant for them and end up in a terrible place for the rest of the day.

75

00:10:14.580 --> 00:10:18.690

Robert Gray: that's a stronghold and they'll go back and do it again tomorrow.

76

00:10:20.700 --> 00:10:22.470

Robert Gray: doubting God it's a stronghold.

77

00:10:23.520 --> 00:10:35.640

Robert Gray: imaginations it says in second Corinthians it's a stronghold because it says casting down those things those daydreams those impure thoughts strongholds.

78

00:10:37.080 --> 00:10:43.260

Robert Gray: Those things pull us away from God, and you know strongholds not all strongholds feel bad.

79

00:10:44.640 --> 00:10:51.600

Robert Gray: Listen, when I was at the courthouse you know people don't sin because it feels bad they sin because it feels good.

80

00:10:53.370 --> 00:10:58.740

Robert Gray: We know it's not good for you, but people do it because it's it's immediate gratification.

81

00:11:00.540 --> 00:11:01.320

Robert Gray: It feels good.

82

00:11:02.880 --> 00:11:09.150

Robert Gray: people get drunk it feels good at the moment, we know it leads to all sorts of things.

83

00:11:11.100 --> 00:11:16.170

Robert Gray: But at the moment that sometimes we become comfortable in the midst of our strongholds.

84

00:11:18.540 --> 00:11:28.230

Robert Gray: that's a bad place to be we get used to them they've we call them our stronghold our these are our issues and we're very protective of those things.

85

00:11:29.820 --> 00:11:36.360

Robert Gray: But the problem is that they tend to hold us hostage in a place that God does not want us to be.

86

00:11:39.870 --> 00:11:41.940

Robert Gray: We don't really want to be there.

87

00:11:43.020 --> 00:11:54.720

Robert Gray: But we don't really want to part some time with some of those things or stronger some of those things that bring us to a place where we were where we are comfortable we're used to it.

88

00:11:56.550 --> 00:12:02.580

Robert Gray: And you know it's it's it's kind of hard to dispel the devil's than the demons you like to play with.

89

00:12:04.110 --> 00:12:05.190

Robert Gray: doesn't work like that.

90

00:12:07.620 --> 00:12:18.150

Robert Gray: So they keep us in a place that we don't really want to be just like never heard the story of the fraud that sits in the water, the cold water and then you gradually turn the heat up.

91

00:12:19.350 --> 00:12:23.160

Robert Gray: And as you turn the heat up the frog doesn't realize it and he boiled to death.

92

00:12:24.570 --> 00:12:26.250

Robert Gray: that's like our strongholds.

93

00:12:27.630 --> 00:12:34.410

Robert Gray: we're in a place where we don't want to be in the end and we're going deeper and deeper into the rabbit hole.

94

00:12:35.520 --> 00:12:38.700

Robert Gray: And you don't see what it's doing to our relationships.

95

00:12:39.780 --> 00:12:42.600

Robert Gray: To our personalities to our attitudes.

96

00:12:44.760 --> 00:12:49.050

Robert Gray: So the Bible really talks about strongholds, especially in the New Testament.

97

00:12:50.340 --> 00:12:56.010

Robert Gray: Talking about the fact that it's not a place where you want to be it's a place, you want to run from a.

98

00:12:57.240 --> 00:13:11.040

Robert Gray: place you want to get away from the Bible talks about that in several places and if he talks about for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but have divine power to destroying stronghold.

99

00:13:13.650 --> 00:13:15.030

Robert Gray: that's what the word says.

100

00:13:18.510 --> 00:13:30.150

Robert Gray: Which is, we can we can we can destroy those strongholds in our life God wants us to destroy any influence that grabs and holds our attention and pulls us away from him.

101

00:13:31.200 --> 00:13:36.810

Robert Gray: glasses destroying strongholds in life is like warfare that's what he says.

102

00:13:37.980 --> 00:13:39.990

Robert Gray: For the weapons of our warfare.

103

00:13:41.340 --> 00:13:51.840

Robert Gray: So realize the fact that strongholds happening walk when the stronghold grabs hold when you're a prisoner of wall what happened, you can't leave it's got you.

104

00:13:53.250 --> 00:13:58.350

Robert Gray: You may be able to move around, but you move around within the parameters of that stronghold.

105

00:14:01.350 --> 00:14:06.780

Robert Gray: So what I what I really work hard at getting Christians to realize is that we're at war, people.

106

00:14:08.250 --> 00:14:09.090

Robert Gray: were at war.

107

00:14:10.620 --> 00:14:16.860

Robert Gray: And we have a peacetime mentality during some of the

biggest skirmishes of our life.

108

00:14:20.340 --> 00:14:23.250

Robert Gray: We listened to the wrong voice.

109

00:14:27.150 --> 00:14:27.570

Robert Gray: So.

110

00:14:29.940 --> 00:14:38.700

Robert Gray: It says to put on put on the whole Armor of God that whole thing that fees and six well it's really setting us up for success.

111

00:14:39.990 --> 00:14:42.540

Robert Gray: But we, like the words we hear the words.

112

00:14:43.830 --> 00:14:45.960

Robert Gray: And we started like it is sort of poetic.

113

00:14:46.980 --> 00:14:58.080

Robert Gray: You know, we like the picture of Paul being in jail and seeing the Roman soldier and using the analogy of the of the of the Armor but that's for our protection.

114

00:14:59.970 --> 00:15:11.340

Robert Gray: So we have to understand the fact that that that we give into the whisper is that the whisperings and the urges of the devil that's all part of warfare.

115

00:15:12.930 --> 00:15:23.310

Robert Gray: We have to get smart, we have to realize the fact that we're in a battle and we're never gone it's like being out on the battlefield with nothing on you're not gonna win.

116

00:15:25.590 --> 00:15:29.850

Robert Gray: it's good to come to church it's good to see the saints.

117

00:15:30.870 --> 00:15:38.280

Robert Gray: it's good to do all those things that sing in the choir but the bottom line is the fact that we have to realize that we are at

war.

118

00:15:38.700 --> 00:15:52.680

Robert Gray: And let me tell you something I just with people even in my own family other in the ministry, you know I don't I with them, but I remind them, you know i'm not listen that the church doors were shut over the past.

119

00:15:53.880 --> 00:15:54.960

Robert Gray: 18 months.

120

00:15:56.250 --> 00:16:02.820

Robert Gray: i'm not I mean I i'm not that sad about that, because the Church was never shut.

121

00:16:04.680 --> 00:16:10.410

Robert Gray: The Church doors with the edifice was shut god's trying to get us to come outside anyway.

122

00:16:12.090 --> 00:16:17.700

Robert Gray: he's trying to get us to do the Ministry of the true church.

123

00:16:18.930 --> 00:16:22.140

Robert Gray: And not just of the programs of the church building.

124

00:16:23.940 --> 00:16:32.760

Robert Gray: So I mean yeah it's Nice and listen, we had the funeral for revenue, the other day, and it was good, seeing people and being back together and i'm not saying I don't enjoy that.

125

00:16:34.050 --> 00:16:41.790

Robert Gray: Well, I take issue with people that says that that that that Satan closed the door the cold virus close the doors of the Church.

126

00:16:43.740 --> 00:16:45.240

Robert Gray: The edifice was closed.

127

00:16:46.560 --> 00:16:55.830

Robert Gray: But that's not that's not the work of the church that's where we go to meet the work of the Church, should have been thriving more so than ever.

128

00:16:58.950 --> 00:17:02.790

Robert Gray: strongholds in our life this that that this spiritual.

129

00:17:03.900 --> 00:17:12.690

Robert Gray: One of the reasons you haven't been able to get rid of them we haven't been able to put them behind this is because we haven't addressed them spiritually.

130

00:17:15.750 --> 00:17:22.350

Robert Gray: that's what it you can't fight a spiritual battle using fleshy weapons using earthly weapons.

131

00:17:23.700 --> 00:17:34.020

Robert Gray: You can't fight a spiritual battle calling people and complaining about it on the telephone you can't fight a spiritual battle being mad at everybody having a bad attitude.

132

00:17:35.220 --> 00:17:40.230

Robert Gray: You can't fight a spiritual battle locking yourself away from everything that keeps you strong.

133

00:17:42.060 --> 00:17:43.170

Robert Gray: john three says.

134

00:17:44.340 --> 00:17:52.920

Robert Gray: To me, that which is born of flesh is flesh and that which is born of the spirit is spirit.

135

00:17:54.930 --> 00:17:56.700

Robert Gray: Our spiritual battles.

136

00:17:57.720 --> 00:17:58.530

Robert Gray: This spirit.

137

00:18:00.330 --> 00:18:06.660

Robert Gray: So I want you to keep this question in mind cuz i'm going

to come back and ask you what strongholds have you noticed in your life.

138

00:18:07.770 --> 00:18:14.760

Robert Gray: And what strongholds have you noticed in the life of those people that you love and that you interact with keep keep that thought.

139

00:18:16.260 --> 00:18:25.080

Robert Gray: Because what i'm going to do is i'm going to give you three things that I want you to remember that will help you in fighting.

140

00:18:25.560 --> 00:18:35.070

Robert Gray: The strongholds in your life help you to break free because you're only going to go so far, you probably noticed when those strongholds come whenever they are.

141

00:18:35.640 --> 00:18:51.000

Robert Gray: They always come in and up to time when you're starting to make progress when you're moving on when you're feeling good about yourself when things are falling into place you ever wonder why i'll come sometime God bless you and all of a sudden right on the heels of the blessing.

142

00:18:52.110 --> 00:18:53.190

Robert Gray: Life falls apart.

143

00:18:55.800 --> 00:19:00.540

Robert Gray: And you go into that place that you go to when that happens.

144

00:19:01.860 --> 00:19:07.830

Robert Gray: To you keep in mind Satan knows us better than we know ourselves he knows what makes you happy what makes you sad.

145

00:19:08.670 --> 00:19:17.280

Robert Gray: He knows what will make you curse he knows what will make you go and ovary he knows all that stuff and he whispers that stuff all those things in your ear.

146

00:19:18.120 --> 00:19:27.690

Robert Gray: And when he does that he knows just what to do to pull the trigger on those strongholds in your life, so I just want to give you three things that I want you to remember.

147

00:19:30.090 --> 00:19:36.660

Robert Gray: And then the throat, and then you can say whatever you want number one you have to remember your position in Christ.

148

00:19:37.680 --> 00:19:51.180

Robert Gray: Who, you are, you have to remember that, no matter what other other help or advice you get from friends from well wishes, if you don't remember your position in Christ then you're barking up the wrong tree.

149

00:19:53.070 --> 00:20:00.480

Robert Gray: keep in mind when people when you go to people and say look, this is what's going on in my life they're going to give you the advice, based on what they would do.

150

00:20:01.800 --> 00:20:03.420

Robert Gray: Based on their personality.

151

00:20:04.650 --> 00:20:10.020

Robert Gray: Based on the fact of the fact that they're not really in that situation.

152

00:20:11.250 --> 00:20:17.010

Robert Gray: But i'm telling you, if I was this is what I do, and some of the things they tell you they wouldn't do anyway.

153

00:20:19.650 --> 00:20:27.510

Robert Gray: So, so you have to understand the fact that that it's really all about Christ, if you don't go to Christ, and you go to everybody else.

154

00:20:27.870 --> 00:20:40.620

Robert Gray: you're never going to break those strongholds of fusion six it, what is your position in Christ fusions to six says he has raised us up with with him and seen it us with him in heavenly places.

155

00:20:42.810 --> 00:20:49.110

Robert Gray: So we're seated in heavenly places where we have access to the throne we forget that.

156

00:20:50.730 --> 00:20:55.800

Robert Gray: We want to make everything about what she speak what we can see hear smell touch.

157

00:20:58.470 --> 00:20:59.580

Robert Gray: it's not about that.

158

00:21:01.320 --> 00:21:06.480

Robert Gray: you've been elevated to a position with Christ who's now enthroned in glory.

159

00:21:08.520 --> 00:21:09.570

Robert Gray: And you're there with him.

160

00:21:11.400 --> 00:21:14.370

Robert Gray: you realize that we're living in two spheres, at the same time.

161

00:21:15.450 --> 00:21:28.800

Robert Gray: we're living in this physical place and we're living in heavenly places positionally with Christ physically you live in here on earth Now I know I can go to your House ring the bell you can come to the door, and I can see you because that's where you live.

162

00:21:30.090 --> 00:21:35.280

Robert Gray: that's where you live, some of us are blessed enough to be living in a new house, as well as of the last month.

163

00:21:36.840 --> 00:21:39.450

Robert Gray: that's where we live physically.

164

00:21:40.950 --> 00:21:47.340

Robert Gray: And we, and when we live here and we rub elbows with all the things that that entails the good the bad and the ugly.

165

00:21:49.230 --> 00:21:52.230

Robert Gray: But your real home is in heavenly places.

166

00:21:54.900 --> 00:21:59.520

Robert Gray: Real home is in heavenly places with Jesus, you have dual citizenship.

167

00:22:01.560 --> 00:22:08.070

Robert Gray: And we only we we only rely on the citizenship here what we can see and touch.

168

00:22:09.240 --> 00:22:16.530

Robert Gray: it's just like going on vacation now you know you can go on vacation as well as I gave you a trip to Hawaii and you went down, you went to Hawaii.

169

00:22:17.910 --> 00:22:31.200

Robert Gray: And you unpack you there for two weeks, because no one really goes there for one week you go there for two weeks, but two weeks, you unpack you live in a beautiful Villa you going and coming you're doing the things that it takes there you going out to eat you're coming back there.

170

00:22:33.150 --> 00:22:38.940

Robert Gray: And you've taken everything out of your suitcase and put it into the drawers that has become home to you.

171

00:22:40.500 --> 00:22:49.110

Robert Gray: But that's your temporary home because at the end of that two weeks, you have to come back here, which is a more permanent home for you.

172

00:22:51.660 --> 00:22:58.230

Robert Gray: So so so to understand how that works that you're living in two places at once.

173

00:23:00.210 --> 00:23:08.640

Robert Gray: And you have to give homage to that you have to realize that that each place has their own rules, regulations and their own benefits.

174

00:23:11.310 --> 00:23:22.950

Robert Gray: And clashing says in three one if then you've been raised with Christ keep seeking the things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

175

00:23:23.700 --> 00:23:28.620

Robert Gray: So we have another home, we have a place that has all sorts of different things for us.

176

00:23:29.610 --> 00:23:34.260

Robert Gray: But we don't see those things, except when we get in trouble, or when we want something.

177

00:23:34.800 --> 00:23:45.540

Robert Gray: So what this scripture is saying is set your mind on the things above not on things on the earth we're so in love with what we see and what we're what's going on here.

178

00:23:46.080 --> 00:23:52.350

Robert Gray: That we're we're by the time the end of the day is that we don't have any more energy to seek those things that are above.

179

00:23:53.850 --> 00:24:05.040

Robert Gray: We have too many earthly minded Christians, if your mind is set on earthly resolutions to problems, then you'll never hear God when he sends the heavenly.

180

00:24:05.640 --> 00:24:10.680

Robert Gray: Situation circumstance when, God says look, I have a solution for you.

181

00:24:11.400 --> 00:24:23.970

Robert Gray: And we're looking one way and we're so busy dealing with what we see and trying to figure out and trying to get advice from everybody that when, God sends the blessing when he sends when he's talking to We never hear them.

182

00:24:26.700 --> 00:24:36.030

Robert Gray: Because, in order to hear from God, you have to be other minded, you have to be heavenly minded, you have to put yourself in a place where God can.

183

00:24:36.840 --> 00:24:47.190

Robert Gray: Speak and because that's where you live, you have a home on high God says if i'm going to bless you because i've already told you that if you ask you will receive but we get tired of waiting.

184

00:24:50.160 --> 00:24:55.680

Robert Gray: So we have to really begin to focus on the things that God has how God wants to bless us.

185

00:24:57.870 --> 00:25:06.330

Robert Gray: You know, Tony Evans said something what's that caught my attention you can't control what comes into your mind, but you can control what you focus on.

186

00:25:09.000 --> 00:25:18.360

Robert Gray: You can't control what comes into your mind, but you can control what you focus on because we end up feeding those strongholds.

187

00:25:19.560 --> 00:25:21.300

Robert Gray: And we feed them quite well.

188

00:25:22.890 --> 00:25:36.690

Robert Gray: Because we focus on all the wrong thing you can go all day long and be blessed all day and have one thing go wrong at the end of the day when someone says hey how was your day what did people do wrong hey guess what happened to me today.

189

00:25:40.950 --> 00:25:46.980

Robert Gray: We have to focus on Christ, we have to focus on god's ability to keep us he says he can keep us.

190

00:25:49.980 --> 00:26:05.940

Robert Gray: So so so I just want you to understand the fact that that that we have to remember who we are and who we are and what he can do and where we're sitting, and the fact that, when we can't see a solution that's not the end of a situation.

191

00:26:08.820 --> 00:26:16.740

Robert Gray: So why we're remembering our position and who we are, you have to rely on god's provision.

192

00:26:19.350 --> 00:26:23.370

Robert Gray: See we gotta we gotta remember that we belong to God.

193

00:26:24.390 --> 00:26:28.800

Robert Gray: And we're joined at the hip with Christ, and we sit in heavenly places.

194

00:26:30.480 --> 00:26:33.090

Robert Gray: But we have to remember that God is able.

195

00:26:36.240 --> 00:26:44.460

Robert Gray: Remember, because you've accepted Jesus Christ, as your lord and your savior, you have the right to come to him with requests.

196

00:26:45.510 --> 00:26:46.440

Robert Gray: With praise.

197

00:26:47.460 --> 00:26:48.630

Robert Gray: were seated with him.

198

00:26:49.860 --> 00:26:51.240

Robert Gray: You have a right to talk to him.

199

00:26:52.440 --> 00:27:00.630

Robert Gray: That Satan doesn't want you to remember that fact, because he knows that if you go to Christ then you're invoking a power of Christ.

200

00:27:01.140 --> 00:27:14.940

Robert Gray: And not your own power see as long as we try to do it ourselves, as long as we let our attitudes be funky and get in the way, and you know those folks where people see you see them coming if I said oh God good look who's coming.

201

00:27:15.390 --> 00:27:22.740

Robert Gray: And everybody starts moving away where everything gets quiet Satan loves that he loves those situations where we can talk.

202

00:27:23.310 --> 00:27:34.440

Robert Gray: Talk about what we're going to do and how we're going to

do it and and and we leave God out of the equation because you'll never triumph over your strongholds in your own strength never.

203

00:27:36.030 --> 00:27:46.230

Robert Gray: Never i'm hoping to have somebody grabs hold of this because there's somebody on this call the somebody who allow strongholds to direct their life.

204

00:27:50.100 --> 00:28:03.630

Robert Gray: And sometimes even after the after it's over after this happened, and you don't you know oh man, I went a little too far, you know you hear people talking or you pull yourself away, and you know that that that that's not what please God.

205

00:28:06.540 --> 00:28:16.080

Robert Gray: So so so understand that that God wants you God wants you to understand your position in Christ, you also want you to understand that he's got you.

206

00:28:17.340 --> 00:28:21.630

Robert Gray: he's the one that has the power to break free from the strongholds.

207

00:28:23.280 --> 00:28:39.060

Robert Gray: So, so he says, while you remember your position, you must rely on God his provision don't get things twisted in your mind you belong to the Kingdom of God, but it is still God that provides gross for you, James for six says.

208

00:28:40.470 --> 00:28:54.540

Robert Gray: But he gives greater grace therefore God is opposed to the proud, but he gives grace to the humble and the English standard version I like the way they say it, because it says, but he gives more grace.

209

00:28:55.920 --> 00:29:02.040

Robert Gray: Therefore, it says God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble God gives more grace.

210

00:29:03.570 --> 00:29:07.020

Robert Gray: And I had asked God gives more grace more than what.

211

00:29:09.000 --> 00:29:12.510

Robert Gray: He gets more grace, what is it saying more than what.

212

00:29:13.560 --> 00:29:15.450

Robert Gray: More than the mess that you're in.

213

00:29:17.190 --> 00:29:22.800

Robert Gray: God gives greater grace, then the mess that you're in, then the problem that you're facing.

214

00:29:24.090 --> 00:29:27.480

Robert Gray: you realize if God gives grace to you, you can go through anything.

215

00:29:28.830 --> 00:29:30.780

Robert Gray: More grace than your fears.

216

00:29:33.450 --> 00:29:36.750

Robert Gray: what's god's grace god's grace is typically unmerited favor.

217

00:29:38.160 --> 00:29:39.330

Robert Gray: God gives you favor.

218

00:29:40.440 --> 00:29:41.700

Robert Gray: god's forgiven us.

219

00:29:42.930 --> 00:29:51.870

Robert Gray: And he gives you grace he gives you all those spiritual blessings it talks about infusions you don't deserve it and you can't earn His grace.

220

00:29:53.100 --> 00:29:55.560

Robert Gray: God gives it to us freely.

221

00:29:57.720 --> 00:30:09.360

Robert Gray: But it's something that we have to accept we got to accept it, just like I could give you a gift I could bring a gift to church, and this is for you and you can leave it right there and walk

out.

222

00:30:11.430 --> 00:30:14.490

Robert Gray: That means that you don't have what i've offered you.

223

00:30:15.630 --> 00:30:29.580

Robert Gray: it's the same with god's grace, so we have to know who we are, in Christ, the privilege, we have because of that position, and you have to rely on god's provision and he gives us grace to do that.

224

00:30:32.400 --> 00:30:33.360

Robert Gray: And number three.

225

00:30:34.950 --> 00:30:35.490

Robert Gray: Excuse me.

226

00:30:37.200 --> 00:30:48.570

Robert Gray: How do we get this provision that is greater than our mess, how do we get this more grace this grace, so that we can deal with these strongholds in our life.

227

00:30:49.620 --> 00:30:55.560

Robert Gray: How do we get it well, James four seven the very next very next verse says.

228

00:30:56.940 --> 00:31:01.890

Robert Gray: It says it all really it says submit yourself, therefore, to God.

229

00:31:03.090 --> 00:31:06.480

Robert Gray: resist the devil and he will flee from you.

230

00:31:09.360 --> 00:31:15.270

Robert Gray: submit yourself, therefore, to God resist the devil and he will flee from you.

231

00:31:16.470 --> 00:31:19.470

Robert Gray: And you know, one of the greatest enemies to this happening in our life.

232

00:31:20.490 --> 00:31:21.660

Robert Gray: Is our in patients.

233

00:31:23.910 --> 00:31:30.450

Robert Gray: With watch so much TV and we expect to say devil be God and haven't got plus doesn't work like that.

234

00:31:34.500 --> 00:31:37.590

Robert Gray: First of all, it's not our power that chases them off.

235

00:31:38.940 --> 00:31:44.100

Robert Gray: it's the power of Jesus because he's already beaten him he beat him years ago.

236

00:31:45.810 --> 00:31:55.260

Robert Gray: But the bottom line is we are so impatient that we don't wait for God and there's so many scriptures that talk about wait on the Lord.

237

00:31:56.970 --> 00:32:02.430

Robert Gray: And we hear that wait on the law that sounds good again tickles years wait on the Lord, what does that mean.

238

00:32:04.200 --> 00:32:04.620

Robert Gray: well.

239

00:32:07.620 --> 00:32:09.930

Robert Gray: Jesus waited 30 years to start his Ministry.

240

00:32:10.950 --> 00:32:16.500

Robert Gray: Most the the children of Israel wanted for 40 years that's not call that waiting.

241

00:32:19.110 --> 00:32:29.160

Robert Gray: Because I want you to understand that the minute you open your mouth, the minute you pray the minute you've set something in motion just by your prayers.

242

00:32:32.280 --> 00:32:33.420

Robert Gray: You set it in motion.

243

00:32:35.370 --> 00:32:51.060

Robert Gray: But but, but I want you to understand the fact that it takes time for God to put all the pieces in place and have all the things, how many times have you gone and you've been having a bad day and someone has come up to you, and said exactly what you need the year.

244

00:32:53.580 --> 00:33:07.050

Robert Gray: or sometimes that didn't pop in their mind, they may have seen something on TV that morning on a Christian broadcast they may have had a conversation on the way to work by the time it gets to you is exactly what you need when you need it.

245

00:33:08.490 --> 00:33:26.010

Robert Gray: So i'm quite sure that the answers to the Jewish Christians, that that that that that when when he was talking to them and telling them listen submit yourself to the Lord i'm quite sure they were saying listen, we have submitted ourselves to God we're here with you.

246

00:33:27.150 --> 00:33:35.550

Robert Gray: James were apostles to we were here we're followers of Christ well if they will, if they were that firm and content.

247

00:33:36.030 --> 00:33:45.480

Robert Gray: Then there would have been no need for versus one for Chapter four verses one through three where he says look there's conflicts and disputes among you.

248

00:33:46.080 --> 00:33:58.560

Robert Gray: Just cravings and passions are at war within you you covered a lot of different things you're not asking God for the things that you want, and when you do ask you asked to that you can be selfish with it.

249

00:33:59.790 --> 00:34:08.100

Robert Gray: And it's at the end of that list that James told him listen, you have to learn to submit yourself that's what he told the Christians.

250

00:34:09.720 --> 00:34:13.770

Robert Gray: If you submitted to God his wants to take precedent over your wants.

251

00:34:16.410 --> 00:34:19.500

Robert Gray: God does not want you to be held by any stronghold.

252

00:34:20.910 --> 00:34:23.430

Robert Gray: His wants to take precedent over your once.

253

00:34:25.350 --> 00:34:38.460

Robert Gray: I figured out a long time ago that the scripture that says that you know that if we commit ourselves to God, if we go to God and we make him the apple of our I that then then then he'll give us all our desires.

254

00:34:39.570 --> 00:34:40.290

Robert Gray: To while.

255

00:34:41.910 --> 00:34:56.190

Robert Gray: submit myself to God he'll give me the desires of my heart, but then I realized and then as life happened I realized the reason why he can do that is because, as we submit ourselves to him our desires begin to change.

256

00:34:57.270 --> 00:35:03.300

Robert Gray: The things that we want begin to change so that we begin to align ourselves up.

257

00:35:04.320 --> 00:35:06.000

Robert Gray: I watch with god's wants.

258

00:35:08.940 --> 00:35:13.980

Robert Gray: So so so realize that that there are some work that God has to do.

259

00:35:15.270 --> 00:35:16.050

Robert Gray: And God says.

260

00:35:17.160 --> 00:35:18.720

Robert Gray: I need to submit it people.

261

00:35:19.740 --> 00:35:30.120

Robert Gray: If you get up in the morning, and if you get up in the morning, you say i'm going i'm not going to do this anymore I got these habits i'm not going to do this anymore you're not submitted to God.

262

00:35:31.590 --> 00:35:35.670

Robert Gray: Why do I say that because you're telling yourself how strong, you are.

263

00:35:37.560 --> 00:35:41.520

Robert Gray: What you're going to do, how you're able to change.

264

00:35:42.630 --> 00:35:46.050

Robert Gray: If you will that strong you wouldn't need any help in the first place.

265

00:35:47.190 --> 00:36:02.220

Robert Gray: I strength is insufficient, but if we get up and say God i'm not strong enough to deal with all this, I have to give God this it's got me again what it knocked me down yesterday, and it will not be down today, Lord God, if you don't take charge of my life.

266

00:36:03.390 --> 00:36:13.950

Robert Gray: that's why it's important the moment you wake up in the morning before you put your feet on the ground to have a little talk with Jesus to get yourself right to get yourself straight even before you get them.

267

00:36:15.960 --> 00:36:22.140

Robert Gray: Now you know the word submit it's interesting that i'm going to end with this, the word submit is interesting because.

268

00:36:24.360 --> 00:36:24.840

Robert Gray: It has.

269

00:36:26.880 --> 00:36:33.420

Robert Gray: It has different parts to it, one of the parts it's the words, the word surrender.

270

00:36:36.240 --> 00:36:37.950

Robert Gray: We don't really talk much about that.

271

00:36:39.120 --> 00:36:47.910

Robert Gray: But we use when we say we want you to surrender yourself to God we use a synonym for that word called commit.

272

00:36:50.070 --> 00:36:53.070

Robert Gray: We tell people to come and come and commit your life to the Lord.

273

00:36:55.380 --> 00:37:02.850

Robert Gray: But you know something is really interesting for the word in the word submit really interesting up that that.

274

00:37:03.930 --> 00:37:09.720

Robert Gray: You can't serve you can't commit your life to Christ, unless you surrender your life to Christ.

275

00:37:11.970 --> 00:37:17.850

Robert Gray: You can't commit it because you if you don't surrender your life that means you're doing it in your own power.

276

00:37:21.990 --> 00:37:26.190

Robert Gray: See we've committed that we're not going to do certain things anymore i'm not going to do.

277

00:37:27.300 --> 00:37:28.650

Robert Gray: i'm not going to.

278

00:37:29.670 --> 00:37:41.250

Robert Gray: i'm not going to use drugs anymore i'm not going to look at pornography anymore i'm not i'm not going to the club late after dark anymore, to the hotel i'm not gonna i'm committed that i'm going to turn this around.

279

00:37:42.330 --> 00:37:49.710

Robert Gray: That sounds good, but the bottom line is you don't have the strength to do that on your own unless you surrender to the Lord.

280

00:37:53.280 --> 00:37:54.270

Robert Gray: You have to surrender.

281

00:37:56.730 --> 00:38:00.240

Robert Gray: surrender to God says, I can't i'm unable.

282

00:38:01.890 --> 00:38:02.550

Robert Gray: To week.

283

00:38:04.620 --> 00:38:08.610

Robert Gray: I can't live up to your expectations so God I surrender.

284

00:38:11.700 --> 00:38:17.730

Robert Gray: When a man surrenders in war, what happens he gives up comes up with his hands up that's it.

285

00:38:19.560 --> 00:38:27.360

Robert Gray: he's not in charge of himself anymore, when a Boxer surrenders in the ring what happens they throw in the white towel it's over.

286

00:38:28.590 --> 00:38:29.850

Robert Gray: he's at the mercy.

287

00:38:31.170 --> 00:38:38.340

Robert Gray: Of the one that the one that he lost to God says look, I want you to throw in the towel, I want you to understand the fact.

288

00:38:38.760 --> 00:38:55.950

Robert Gray: That that that that you can't do this anymore, so I can do it through you, and for you, I can take all of those strongholds that that that are holding on to you and keeping you fell of us have had those strongholds in our life for months for years for decades.

289

00:38:59.040 --> 00:39:03.420

Robert Gray: they've become our friend God that I can take those things when you surrender.

290

00:39:05.550 --> 00:39:07.080
Robert Gray: When you let God take off.

291
00:39:08.250 --> 00:39:18.240
Robert Gray: So I just simply want to share that with you tonight, if I put that on my heart the fact that we've got to get these strongholds out of it like they're not okay.

292
00:39:20.910 --> 00:39:26.010
Robert Gray: they're not okay and i've i've talked to enough people who were passing from this world.

293
00:39:27.390 --> 00:39:31.740
Robert Gray: Who will talk and we'll get in conversation and they'll tell me about their regrets.

294
00:39:33.120 --> 00:39:39.840
Robert Gray: No tell me about what they should have done they'll tell me about this strong holds how they wish it hadn't been different.

295
00:39:42.630 --> 00:39:43.560
Robert Gray: So so.

296
00:39:47.130 --> 00:39:48.990
Robert Gray: I simply leave you with the fact that.

297
00:39:50.190 --> 00:39:54.300
Robert Gray: This is a new year it's September is the beginning of our new season.

298
00:39:55.980 --> 00:39:58.200
Robert Gray: Know get serious about the Lord.

299
00:39:59.880 --> 00:40:02.550
Robert Gray: and help somebody else to get serious about the Lord.

300
00:40:03.960 --> 00:40:13.860
Robert Gray: You know, we as Christians, we, we know that strongholds that are out there, we need to start really praying for people, and I really want.

301

00:40:14.190 --> 00:40:21.420

Robert Gray: One thing I decided to start, I want to stop, and I really want people to stop telling people i'm going to pray for you, if they're not earnestly going to pray for them.

302

00:40:24.180 --> 00:40:28.980

Robert Gray: If they're simply going to say pray for you like like that's the prayer.

303

00:40:30.180 --> 00:40:39.600

Robert Gray: And when we pray sometime, we have to toilet prayer, then we have these now I lay me down this street prayers they're not gonna make it as we're going forward.

304

00:40:41.400 --> 00:40:45.240

Robert Gray: I used to I used to hear I used to hear preachers say.

305

00:40:46.320 --> 00:40:52.980

Robert Gray: and teachers also say listen when I get up in the morning, if I have a really busy day I spend more time in prayer.

306

00:40:55.080 --> 00:41:02.910

Robert Gray: Because that's what's going to help my day that's what's going to go in front of me go ahead and that's what's going to break down some of the strongholds in their life.

307

00:41:05.880 --> 00:41:20.160

Robert Gray: So I simply want to ask and leave before we go, I want to ask you what are some of the strongholds that you know they don't have to be in your life if you don't want to share that but what are the some of the strongholds that you've seen people deal with.

308

00:41:21.780 --> 00:41:29.670

Robert Gray: Some of the strongholds that you know can grab hold that can ruin a life that can come back and back and run a ship a ground.

309

00:41:31.680 --> 00:41:32.340

Robert Gray: Anybody.

310

00:41:43.980 --> 00:41:45.150
Joyce Marshall: Think our country.

311
00:41:46.500 --> 00:41:52.770
Joyce Marshall: Is polarized and people will hang on to their culture or their way of life.

312
00:41:53.790 --> 00:41:59.220
Joyce Marshall: And don't want to give that up or move in any direction from there.

313
00:42:01.980 --> 00:42:04.680
Robert Gray: So yeah so yeah the culture and.

314
00:42:05.340 --> 00:42:12.300
Robert Gray: You know something is funny you should say that something I became too became to realize and I realized it.

315
00:42:14.070 --> 00:42:18.600
Robert Gray: from the political standpoint, then I realize it from the spiritual standpoint.

316
00:42:19.680 --> 00:42:22.290
Robert Gray: I look at just say.

317
00:42:25.980 --> 00:42:26.550
Robert Gray: Some.

318
00:42:28.560 --> 00:42:33.240
Robert Gray: How they said I looked at the during during the past you and all the upheaval.

319
00:42:34.260 --> 00:42:39.090
Robert Gray: People consider themselves Republicans or over their humanity.

320
00:42:40.110 --> 00:42:51.990
Robert Gray: People consider themselves democrats above everything over their humanity Christians and even even in and even even i've seen this with black people.

321

00:42:53.820 --> 00:42:58.530

Robert Gray: i'm very proud of my blackness i'm proud of the fact that i'm a black American.

322

00:42:59.700 --> 00:43:01.650

Robert Gray: But first and foremost i'm a Christian.

323

00:43:03.900 --> 00:43:10.590

Robert Gray: And and and I have to, I have to run everything through that grill.

324

00:43:12.210 --> 00:43:13.530

Robert Gray: Even my black heritage.

325

00:43:15.690 --> 00:43:27.030

Robert Gray: Because i'm a Christian, so if something doesn't line up because, if something doesn't line up even in the midst of the blackness if it doesn't line up with the word and I got to be suspected that.

326

00:43:29.940 --> 00:43:38.040

Robert Gray: And I, I think that you know I seen people do things and say things and strong Christians and I said wow.

327

00:43:39.360 --> 00:43:41.310

Robert Gray: Because, sometimes we get that twisted.

328

00:43:44.070 --> 00:43:50.280

Robert Gray: And I really think that we need to you know, because the word talks about that every we're going to be responsible for every word out of my mouth.

329

00:43:51.630 --> 00:43:56.190

Robert Gray: We have to understand the fact that yeah i'm a black man, but i'm a Christian black man.

330

00:43:58.740 --> 00:44:01.920

Robert Gray: i'm not a black Christian i'm a Christian black man.

331

00:44:03.270 --> 00:44:18.300

Robert Gray: And I have to really understand that all every single I do my lens has to be first the first lens This is like a scope, the first lens has to be through my Christian walk my spiritual walk the second lens has to be through by blackness.

332

00:44:19.650 --> 00:44:35.340

Robert Gray: So yeah that's great yeah culturally all of that people people allow all that to become strongholds and we end up in a place that we sometimes we we don't know we are but we're on a fast track to getting there.

333

00:44:36.870 --> 00:44:39.090

Robert Gray: Thank you sister Joyce somebody else.

334

00:44:40.770 --> 00:44:49.110

De'Shawn Washington: yeah i'll chime in um I think for me in my personal life i'll say idolizing is something that I noticed that is a big.

335

00:44:50.340 --> 00:44:51.810

De'Shawn Washington: barrier, I guess, if you will.

336

00:44:53.040 --> 00:45:00.420

De'Shawn Washington: And I think mainly is because growing up, I looked up to people holding them up to a particular pedestal based on.

337

00:45:00.840 --> 00:45:08.460

De'Shawn Washington: talents and gifts that they may have, or skills that they may process and know wanting to have certain some of those things myself.

338

00:45:09.330 --> 00:45:17.550

De'Shawn Washington: In my personal life and what I found, and I think God for revealing it to me is that because we're not all perfect.

339

00:45:18.330 --> 00:45:36.690

De'Shawn Washington: I I become disappointed in those people right when they let me down or whether it's a promise that they cannot keep or cash that check back, can I cash in the bank or what have you um you know quickly I realized, and I think God for giving me is to see

that.

340

00:45:36.690 --> 00:45:41.910

De'Shawn Washington: That is not these people out in the world that I need to be looking up to.

341

00:45:44.160 --> 00:45:47.220

De'Shawn Washington: And and trying to figure out my own personal life it's Scott.

342

00:45:47.250 --> 00:45:57.180

De'Shawn Washington: Right and i'm just very grateful about that, but it's something I constantly pray about and as i'm getting older i'm starting to realize that people are beginning to.

343

00:45:57.690 --> 00:46:07.680

De'Shawn Washington: make comments about me like oh like you know i'm doing so well i'm so calm and things like that and i'm like Lord please reveal to them that i'm only human.

344

00:46:08.310 --> 00:46:16.770

De'Shawn Washington: You know, and that i'm still working on myself and that they don't fall into a place where they're trying to idolize me where i'm going to lead to disappointment for them.

345

00:46:17.310 --> 00:46:30.840

Robert Gray: mm hmm amen amen amen I always tell the athletes that I deal with multi million dollar athletes, I always tell them look, you know you're not as good as they say you're not as bad as they say.

346

00:46:31.800 --> 00:46:42.720

Robert Gray: and stop reading your own press because it depends on the day you know, there was a couple of some of you are too young to remember, but some of you, I know, remember, Jim and tammy bakker.

347

00:46:43.800 --> 00:46:50.370

Robert Gray: And they were a couple that were in the ministry very popular big time ministry and.

348

00:46:51.420 --> 00:46:58.020

Robert Gray: They felt that they fell, and it was on the news they

had.

349

00:46:59.310 --> 00:47:17.400

Robert Gray: They had you know there were 10 Jim was arrested I believe he I think he went to jail, to actually add up and then tammy and it was a sad thing, and you know that really destroyed some people's faith, because they had their focus on Jim and tammy as opposed to on Christ.

350

00:47:18.720 --> 00:47:33.510

Robert Gray: And people, people were destroyed, you know people you know they left the faith that all sorts of things because you're right, you have to be careful what you idolize and and and and if that can happen very quickly without you even realize.

351

00:47:34.830 --> 00:47:43.980

Robert Gray: You know, and you have to really, really again look at it through the focus of the Lord praise God, thank you for that somebody else.

352

00:47:45.960 --> 00:47:46.680

Robert Gray: what's another.

353

00:47:48.750 --> 00:47:54.270

Robert Gray: Another stronghold that you've seen not necessarily in yourself but that you know grabs hold of people.

354

00:48:04.230 --> 00:48:08.610

Robert Gray: Have you seen any strongholds destroying people's lives.

355

00:48:10.710 --> 00:48:12.390

Carole Copeland Thomas: Well, I will i'll um.

356

00:48:13.800 --> 00:48:21.090

Carole Copeland Thomas: i'll tell you how I handle my the demons in my life, the things that I have to deal with.

357

00:48:25.020 --> 00:48:36.390

Carole Copeland Thomas: If I have a goal, there were some things I needed to do this summer, and I was under a timeline and I knew that if I functioned only on my own.

358

00:48:36.990 --> 00:48:46.560

Carole Copeland Thomas: power that the little voice inside that I took away and don't listen to what come out and say up too much.

359

00:48:47.160 --> 00:49:09.330

Carole Copeland Thomas: You need to slow down take it easy do it tomorrow, put it off all those kinds of things that would have ultimately had me to not make my goals at all, so what I do and what I have done is I have Pandora so already set to my favorite Gospel station and I just blast.

360

00:49:10.590 --> 00:49:18.750

Carole Copeland Thomas: blast that music, particularly in the morning, it just to help me to stay focused on what I need to do.

361

00:49:19.980 --> 00:49:28.650

Carole Copeland Thomas: And it works it's certainly worth and it puts me in a positive frame of mind that then carries on the rest of the day.

362

00:49:29.310 --> 00:49:33.930

Carole Copeland Thomas: So i'm no different than anybody else but I try to counter.

363

00:49:34.860 --> 00:49:47.730

Carole Copeland Thomas: All the negativity the naysaying that I have in my head with trying to have these very upbeat fast paced Gospel songs that can just help me to plow through and help me to get.

364

00:49:48.270 --> 00:49:49.950

Robert Gray: worked amen amen.

365

00:49:51.240 --> 00:49:52.530

Robert Gray: Praise God yeah yeah.

366

00:49:53.550 --> 00:49:55.380

Robert Gray: So let me ask you this question everybody.

367

00:49:58.140 --> 00:49:58.590

Robert Gray: Is.

368

00:50:00.180 --> 00:50:03.360

Robert Gray: Can going to church become a negative stronghold.

369

00:50:09.000 --> 00:50:16.830

Robert Gray: attending church on attending truth faithfully regularly on Sunday, how can that be a stronghold a negative stronghold for some people.

370

00:50:21.000 --> 00:50:25.020

Carole Copeland Thomas: I think if if you're going to church.

371

00:50:26.280 --> 00:50:34.170

Carole Copeland Thomas: is contributing to misinformation that could be harmful for you and other people.

372

00:50:34.740 --> 00:50:50.460

Carole Copeland Thomas: And you're going to church picking and choosing your Bible verses picking and choosing your conversations that you have with people that all you're doing is fortifying a negative behavior or habit or thought process, this is not going to help you at all.

373

00:50:51.900 --> 00:50:53.160

Robert Gray: To help anybody right.

374

00:50:54.270 --> 00:50:54.990

Robert Gray: You know what.

375

00:50:56.070 --> 00:50:56.610

Cassie Quinlan: about that.

376

00:50:59.550 --> 00:51:01.830

Cassie Quinlan: is not going to church a stronghold.

377

00:51:04.350 --> 00:51:04.950

Robert Gray: question.

378

00:51:06.210 --> 00:51:06.510
yeah.

379
00:51:09.120 --> 00:51:10.470
Cassie Quinlan: yeah maybe next week.

380
00:51:11.010 --> 00:51:20.190
Beverly Williams: I think anything could be as a whole um, but I wanted to jump in on church being a stronghold is that you depend on other people that do the work for you.

381
00:51:20.370 --> 00:51:21.000
Yes.

382
00:51:24.120 --> 00:51:24.720
Robert Gray: that's true.

383
00:51:25.830 --> 00:51:27.360
Robert Gray: You know you got people that.

384
00:51:30.030 --> 00:51:31.620
Robert Gray: You know you have a see folks that.

385
00:51:31.650 --> 00:51:32.790
Robert Gray: they'll go to church.

386
00:51:32.790 --> 00:51:39.600
Robert Gray: They love to sing they jumping shout it like to play the tambourine like the dance they do all that stuff.

387
00:51:41.040 --> 00:51:52.740
Robert Gray: And then, but they then when you go out and you tell them well that's great you got a good time so so so what what was the word What did he preach about what was the topic, they can they can tell you any of that.

388
00:51:53.790 --> 00:52:04.590
Robert Gray: And what happened is they'll they'll ask you how was church today and they'll tell you well man, you know something where we say no, you know the song I like to sing we saying that and.

389

00:52:05.730 --> 00:52:11.640

Robert Gray: You know, after church, you know we we all got together and depends on what you focus on.

390

00:52:13.200 --> 00:52:27.000

Robert Gray: depends on what you focus on i've seen situations where people are in church every Sunday yeah there's somebody shows up not dressed exactly right right if somebody doesn't have someone sits in the wrong seat doesn't sit.

391

00:52:27.210 --> 00:52:35.640

Robert Gray: or doesn't stand or somebody has on our kind of happy came in and sitting in the back, and if they're not church you're fine.

392

00:52:36.780 --> 00:52:52.380

Robert Gray: Then they become a representative of the devil, because they have an idea of today them Church is a certain set of things that you do, and anything that falls outside of that set is in right.

393

00:52:53.400 --> 00:53:06.450

Robert Gray: And and people talk about I think we've all heard situations like that you know i've had conversations at Bethel about people that came and left because.

394

00:53:06.900 --> 00:53:15.510

Robert Gray: Other people have said, some things to them and about them, because they weren't conforming to everything the way that we generally do things.

395

00:53:17.730 --> 00:53:29.280

Robert Gray: And they felt uncomfortable because in their mind what's what got their mind what's holding on their mind is if you're going to come to church and if you're going to have church, this is what it looks like.

396

00:53:36.000 --> 00:53:37.530

Carole Copeland Thomas: sister Linda had her hand up.

397

00:53:38.550 --> 00:53:42.210

Linda Mells: Yes, I was commenting on on both.

398

00:53:43.260 --> 00:54:01.590

Linda Mells: Yes, it can be a hindrance, if you come to church, if there are if if you make that the only thing that's important to say yes, I came to church, but there's a part of coming to church that involves working alongside other Members in the church and participating.

399

00:54:03.570 --> 00:54:09.780

Linda Mells: and participating in everything that's not everything, but the things that you know that God has called you to.

400

00:54:10.830 --> 00:54:26.160

Linda Mells: So if you go to church and then you leave and not join a ministry or or communicate with other Members and end the church Community then that's a problem because maybe there's somebody who.

401

00:54:26.940 --> 00:54:41.010

Linda Mells: you're supposed to talk to who you can build up or you can give them an understanding of what's going on, so that's one part that may be a hindrance or a stronghold and on the other side, not coming in means.

402

00:54:42.300 --> 00:54:54.510

Linda Mells: That you're not participating we've learned over the past 18 months that we can you can participate and not come into church, but you have to participate.

403

00:54:54.870 --> 00:55:13.170

Linda Mells: In some in some way, whether it's by phone whether it's by email whether it's you know in every you know, there are different ways, but in it's it's different for each person so that's what I wanted to say, and another thing I put in the in the chat room chain, a lot of times, if you.

404

00:55:14.670 --> 00:55:23.130

Linda Mells: made a mistake or something for and and if you're not um let's say somebody tricked you or whatever.

405

00:55:24.510 --> 00:55:37.470

Linda Mells: And you feel embarrassed about being tricked sometimes

that shame can creep in and you don't access try to access to help that you need in order to move on from that place yeah.

406

00:55:37.680 --> 00:55:42.210

Beverly Williams: Right, I know, when you were talking about people working in the Church.

407

00:55:43.050 --> 00:55:43.440

Linda Mells: mm hmm.

408

00:55:44.100 --> 00:55:52.740

Beverly Williams: Sometimes that's a stronghold i've seen families break up I see relationships with children breaker husband and wife, you always in the.

409

00:55:52.740 --> 00:55:54.060

Beverly Williams: Church was doing this.

410

00:55:54.090 --> 00:56:06.390

Beverly Williams: While we've done that, and it's a stronghold the new there some people have themselves, believing that they're looking for my life, they are self medicating themselves on work.

411

00:56:06.930 --> 00:56:09.660

Beverly Williams: Right and in saying.

412

00:56:11.220 --> 00:56:16.140

Beverly Williams: Well i'm doing this for the law when they do not taking care of some underlying issues.

413

00:56:16.650 --> 00:56:17.880

Beverly Williams: Right what I.

414

00:56:17.940 --> 00:56:28.950

Linda Mells: What I meant by that was it can be a stronghold if you don't participate and for me that's the piece, where you don't communicate and connect with other people in the Church.

415

00:56:29.250 --> 00:56:35.310

Linda Mells: And there are some things that God has called us to So

for me it's, it has to be balanced.

416

00:56:36.060 --> 00:56:37.170

Linda Mells: There has to be balanced.

417

00:56:37.320 --> 00:56:43.110

Linda Mells: And cuz that's, the main thing because, for me, when I always tell people I wasn't raised in a church.

418

00:56:44.160 --> 00:56:55.260

Linda Mells: So when I joined the church I committed my my whole self to serve in a way that God has called me to serve and in the beginning, years my kids.

419

00:56:55.770 --> 00:57:06.060

Linda Mells: I was able to force my kids to come to church with me and then, when they grew up not going for similar to anything they went, basically, with their their own ways.

420

00:57:06.450 --> 00:57:15.810

Linda Mells: But I I put myself into church so much that was at church, seven days a week, and being at church, seven days a week, I was losing my whole family.

421

00:57:17.040 --> 00:57:18.450

Linda Mells: Until I remembered that.

422

00:57:18.690 --> 00:57:20.070

Linda Mells: Our first Ministry.

423

00:57:20.280 --> 00:57:25.260

Linda Mells: is supposed to be our family our families so i'm.

424

00:57:26.370 --> 00:57:36.330

Linda Mells: Mrs to beverly it's the balance, there has to be some balance balance there and we have to I don't know how we get to the place of being balanced.

425

00:57:37.770 --> 00:57:52.800

Linda Mells: But uh Well, yes, I do you have to pray and like pastor

pastor like pastor Ray said, you have to pray and you have to wait on the answer Tom you can't just pray and then just go and do whatever you have to pray and be patient.

426

00:57:54.090 --> 00:57:54.510

Linda Mells: and

427

00:57:54.540 --> 00:58:03.360

Linda Mells: My my prayer was for patients and God will do some things to you to really see how patient, you can you can be.

428

00:58:04.560 --> 00:58:06.120

Linda Mells: And i'll just leave it at that.

429

00:58:06.180 --> 00:58:07.110

Robert Gray: No yeah.

430

00:58:08.580 --> 00:58:10.950

Robert Gray: Well that's good good good good.

431

00:58:12.540 --> 00:58:29.760

Robert Gray: All of that discussion was good, so let me ask you, you both describe something regarding being in the church working at you're talking about people really giving what spending seven days in the church and people, so let me ask you something, what does it mean.

432

00:58:31.770 --> 00:58:35.640

Robert Gray: To be submitted to the Lord, what does it mean to just to surrender to the Lord.

433

00:58:37.620 --> 00:58:40.350

Robert Gray: What does that mean anybody, how would you define that.

434

00:58:42.660 --> 00:58:55.410

Beverly Williams: Well earlier David can find that as being committed to the lot and if you're committed to the law, the work will be in the church outside the Church, it could be on your job it couldn't be it's everywhere, if you're committed to the line.

435

00:58:56.490 --> 00:59:00.390

Beverly Williams: It doesn't have to be working inside the walls of the turret.

436

00:59:00.450 --> 00:59:00.780

Right.

437

00:59:02.250 --> 00:59:09.870

Robert Gray: But you like, but actually we said that you to surrender is is is different than commitment, because we tried to commit.

438

00:59:11.370 --> 00:59:13.620

Robert Gray: But even before we surrender.

439

00:59:14.730 --> 00:59:21.870

Beverly Williams: Well, white voting the way fake and say that i'm going to listen to you i'm bringing it to you and i'm going to listen to you.

440

00:59:24.420 --> 00:59:27.930

Beverly Williams: And to God i'm not talking about you know to anybody.

441

00:59:29.460 --> 00:59:30.480

Robert Gray: But when we say we.

442

00:59:30.480 --> 00:59:35.280

Robert Gray: Should we, when we when we say we need just to surrender our life to the Lord.

443

00:59:36.330 --> 00:59:36.750

Robert Gray: What.

444

00:59:38.430 --> 00:59:48.600

Robert Gray: What does that mean what does that look like what, what do you think that that that should look like in a person's life, just when he surrenders because, in order to commit.

445

00:59:49.680 --> 00:59:55.770

Robert Gray: To doing things god's way, we have to surrender so, but what does it look like to surrender, what does that mean.

446

00:59:57.240 --> 01:00:06.180

Rainelle White: I think it means giving up your will to what god's will is for your life and depending on him for every step of the way.

447

01:00:07.140 --> 01:00:14.940

Rainelle White: Because when you seek him if he says, you seek me with all your heart you'll find and God wants us to just give him everything.

448

01:00:15.510 --> 01:00:23.070

Rainelle White: he's concerned about everything every little detail of our lives so as we give him, as you said, in the morning.

449

01:00:23.430 --> 01:00:35.640

Rainelle White: We need to think about in surrender and ask God, you know show me the way direct me today, you know put your full arm around you have to depend on him and the Holy Spirit inside of us is the only person.

450

01:00:36.450 --> 01:00:40.950

Rainelle White: With Jesus and that's going to allow us to really walk alongside.

451

01:00:41.880 --> 01:00:59.340

Rainelle White: God, and you know, and I always say that you know it's like I want to be like Jacob, you know jake Jacob what we got it's almost like you know it's like you want you it's almost like you want to get so close to him, but that you know, in your will have to just align with what he.

452

01:00:59.400 --> 01:00:59.790

Robert Gray: will do.

453

01:00:59.820 --> 01:01:11.640

Rainelle White: For you, and it's not like we do it all the time, but it's if you depend on the Holy Spirit I know i'm one that really needs to really tap into the Holy Spirit more, but I know he's there.

454

01:01:12.150 --> 01:01:18.510

Rainelle White: And I know that God will lead me and guide me if I

continue to ask him and he always shows up when I need it.

455

01:01:20.340 --> 01:01:27.390

Robert Gray: Up you know the interesting thing is, you know how you have the old saying she's to say, you know that.

456

01:01:29.490 --> 01:01:35.640

Robert Gray: That God says that you know that he wants us to we must decrease, as he increases in our life.

457

01:01:36.900 --> 01:01:43.260

Robert Gray: You know how we say that well, a lot of times we want God to increase in our life but we don't want to decrease.

458

01:01:45.330 --> 01:01:49.860

Robert Gray: And the problem is that the container only hold so much.

459

01:01:52.020 --> 01:02:04.770

Robert Gray: So we want God to come, alongside and yeah it's just like that bumper sticker That said, God that says God is my co pilot no such thing god's not a Co pilot guys flying the plane.

460

01:02:07.410 --> 01:02:09.660

Robert Gray: You know you're sitting in coach.

461

01:02:11.490 --> 01:02:17.820

Robert Gray: You know you're, not even a first class coach you know and and and the problem is that.

462

01:02:18.330 --> 01:02:36.540

Robert Gray: We we want all these things that we talked about, we want the strongholds broken, we want god's power in our life but we're not willing to decrease, so that it can increase some of us have the same way in our spiritual walk that we were 20 3040 years ago.

463

01:02:43.980 --> 01:02:58.470

Cassie Quinlan: As I think about it, like sometimes you know I can be like so busy, and then the end of the day, i'm exhausted okay fine I did everything now i've done I deserved and watch TV now I desert desert desert leave the counter messy there bunch of things.

464

01:03:00.030 --> 01:03:09.600

Cassie Quinlan: The things that and so it's what i'm thinking about it, and sometimes i'll miss things and sometimes certainly don't know, maybe it's partly a little bit like what Carol said too, but.

465

01:03:09.930 --> 01:03:18.900

Cassie Quinlan: yeah when you have your goal and you've decided that you think that's what you're gonna do or whatever it means taking more breaks and maybe taking more breaks to sit and pray.

466

01:03:19.590 --> 01:03:28.110

Cassie Quinlan: and sit and rest So then, when you decide what your next step is you're not just rushing into it until you and stopping when you're tired.

467

01:03:29.430 --> 01:03:40.350

Robert Gray: mm hmm absolutely it goes the same for burnout you know when people talk about the burnt out and we can see people get burnt out, you know god's called anybody to burn out.

468

01:03:41.370 --> 01:03:52.620

Robert Gray: God says look the reason why I want you to listen to the voice of the spirit, the reason why I want to talk with you reason why I want I want you to pull away so I can tell you what to do to keep you from burning out.

469

01:03:54.000 --> 01:03:55.590

Robert Gray: The keep your head above water.

470

01:03:56.610 --> 01:04:08.190

Robert Gray: But you pile all the stuff on your plate, you know and then all of a lot of that stuff you put on your plate, you know a lot of those things become your strongholds.

471

01:04:10.110 --> 01:04:11.250

Marie Doubleday: hey oh.

472

01:04:13.230 --> 01:04:15.030

Marie Doubleday: i'm sorry I disagree with you.

473

01:04:15.600 --> 01:04:16.050

Robert Gray: Okay.

474

01:04:16.440 --> 01:04:17.790

Marie Doubleday: You know I mean.

475

01:04:19.290 --> 01:04:33.750

Marie Doubleday: This folks out there, right now, they don't have the opportunity to to take a break all right they they have to work to put a roof over their heads and food on the table.

476

01:04:34.350 --> 01:04:44.910

Marie Doubleday: Particularly now, and particularly in areas where there is no housing, you know so it's nice if you're able to take a break, but there's folks that.

477

01:04:45.540 --> 01:04:55.710

Marie Doubleday: don't have that blessing to take a break, and maybe i'm looking at things differently, but you know the world the road that I kind of go down.

478

01:04:56.370 --> 01:05:16.920

Marie Doubleday: Is you know, the whole thing is it's in god's hands, which means we don't have control over everything God has given us self determination over something's not everything and and to realize when we don't have that one is actually in god's hands.

479

01:05:18.240 --> 01:05:19.500

Marie Doubleday: My making sense to you.

480

01:05:22.230 --> 01:05:26.430

Robert Gray: I hear you cassie cassie is that.

481

01:05:27.990 --> 01:05:30.450

Robert Gray: When you said, take a break what were you talking about.

482

01:05:31.020 --> 01:05:34.050

Cassie Quinlan: I mean, I mean to pause instead of.

483

01:05:34.410 --> 01:05:34.860

JONELL JOHNSON: To take.

484

01:05:34.920 --> 01:05:41.490

Cassie Quinlan: to pause sometimes you get busy like you've done two things you worked hard on it, you didn't do your best maybe take a half hour.

485

01:05:42.900 --> 01:05:43.710

Cassie Quinlan: to step back.

486

01:05:43.860 --> 01:05:53.340

Cassie Quinlan: Maybe stop and pray maybe to stop and just you know just pause for a little bit so that you're not rushing to fill yourself up later.

487

01:05:54.690 --> 01:06:04.590

Cassie Quinlan: that's the sentence in order if there's something really important or something i'm not sure I wanted to do, or I don't want to do i'm kind of thinking now that I got to give myself, because I.

488

01:06:05.100 --> 01:06:16.200

Cassie Quinlan: All avoid stuff and you know or i'll rush out well no i'm never sorry if I rush, but if I avoid it i'm sorry later, and then I can so I need to get myself, maybe a half hour an hour beforehand.

489

01:06:16.800 --> 01:06:25.290

Cassie Quinlan: Just to do nothing and pray and be open and then you can get a better sense, whether I should go or stay home so it's time making time to listen.

490

01:06:26.520 --> 01:06:29.610

Cassie Quinlan: Instead of me charting every minute, of course.

491

01:06:31.470 --> 01:06:35.580

JONELL JOHNSON: I understand what you're saying cassie I really do I get it.

492

01:06:37.410 --> 01:06:37.650

Cassie Quinlan: yeah.

493

01:06:37.680 --> 01:06:42.030

Beverly Williams: Again I yeah movie I you know I.

494

01:06:43.260 --> 01:06:54.030

Beverly Williams: I guess that I will push back a little bit, no matter how much we are given it's it's um and I know a lot is put on a lot of people.

495

01:06:55.680 --> 01:07:03.960

Beverly Williams: But I think that if we don't pause if we don't rest and you whether you call that prayer Whether you call that reflection.

496

01:07:05.160 --> 01:07:28.110

Beverly Williams: I think it will that's the strong hope is that we won't stop that's the stronghold and if we did pause and if we did reflect and if we did play, even if it's just five minutes, I think that will be life changing even for the people that are working two jobs running behind five kids.

497

01:07:29.520 --> 01:07:39.450

Beverly Williams: it's that's a stronghold if you have to take that pause with your children and say you know I got all five of you here and.

498

01:07:41.070 --> 01:07:53.790

Beverly Williams: And we're going to sit and we're going to pray that's the past there has to be applause, and I think that God gave us enough hours in a day for us to have at least five minutes.

499

01:07:54.570 --> 01:08:17.700

Felicia Wiltz: yeah I agree, I agree, I think, and cassie, thank you for for clarifying that because I think you're right if you if you don't pause then, how are you ever communing with God, how are you ever seeking his direction, how are you ever putting things submitting to him and and.

500

01:08:17.700 --> 01:08:25.860

Felicia Wiltz: putting things in his hand, I mean the person that I know that demonstrated this most in my life was my.

501

01:08:26.940 --> 01:08:32.340

Felicia Wiltz: My maternal grandmother, who was a maid and she worked.

502

01:08:33.420 --> 01:08:48.780

Felicia Wiltz: Six sometimes seven days a week, with extreme arthritis but there was always time for her to pause and speak to God and seek his direction, because if you don't then it's almost like what.

503

01:08:49.290 --> 01:08:58.440

Felicia Wiltz: pastor Bob said you're on that wheel then just running and running and running and running and running and and not being able to get anywhere.

504

01:08:58.980 --> 01:09:17.310

Felicia Wiltz: But there has to be a time of reflection and and a time to speak to God to submit to him to seek his direction because maybe you're on the wheel running and you're supposed to be on that wheel, but you never stopped to ask to ask the direction from him.

505

01:09:18.480 --> 01:09:21.930

Robert Gray: A lot of times you're not going to find the time you have to make the time.

506

01:09:22.080 --> 01:09:24.720

Robert Gray: Yes, even if it's a short time.

507

01:09:24.750 --> 01:09:25.770

Robert Gray: But you have to begin to.

508

01:09:25.770 --> 01:09:38.790

Robert Gray: Put yourself in that place where you can begin to heal remember what we said a lot of times we pray for things and we're asking we're so busy focusing on the wrong thing that when, God, says the answer we don't even recognize so.

509

01:09:39.930 --> 01:09:47.700

Robert Gray: So yeah so so you know listen i've gone over time tonight and but I.

510

01:09:49.140 --> 01:10:01.230

Robert Gray: This discussion was rich I Carol i'll turn it over to you, but I think I I I, I hope that what you'll do is you look in your

life and see cuz sometimes we got strongholds we don't even know where they are.

511

01:10:02.670 --> 01:10:11.970

Robert Gray: And I hope that we stop and take the time to look at our lives it's always good to look at listen, I can tell you, you can go point out all the strongholds in someone else's life.

512

01:10:12.750 --> 01:10:23.040

Robert Gray: We can all do that, but we need to my philosophy is if I work on myself that a lot of those other things that I do what will begin to fall in place because i'll be where i'm supposed to be.

513

01:10:23.940 --> 01:10:34.800

Robert Gray: So I hope that what we do is we stop and we and we saw the look and we started take take personal reflection and say what's a sweater God show me the strongholds in my life.

514

01:10:35.670 --> 01:10:44.820

Robert Gray: so that I can begin to I can begin to realize the fact that, through Christ, I have the power to do something about this they're not things I can do nothing about.

515

01:10:45.420 --> 01:10:56.910

Robert Gray: And I can begin to to to to use god's provision and to really submit myself to you, so that I can get the full benefit of being the child of God that you called me to be.

516

01:10:59.040 --> 01:10:59.940

Marie Doubleday: pastor Bob.

517

01:11:00.360 --> 01:11:03.240

Marie Doubleday: Yes, someone wants to say hello to you.

518

01:11:05.910 --> 01:11:06.780

Robert Gray: Okay.

519

01:11:08.670 --> 01:11:09.750

Robert Gray: Oh okay.

520

01:11:10.560 --> 01:11:10.980
i'm.

521
01:11:12.510 --> 01:11:13.470
Marie Doubleday: Your God dog.

522
01:11:13.920 --> 01:11:14.340
yeah.

523
01:11:16.110 --> 01:11:17.190
Marie Doubleday: 13 now.

524
01:11:18.210 --> 01:11:18.720
Robert Gray: wow.

525
01:11:21.000 --> 01:11:24.690
Robert Gray: Well praise God oh my sister Carol I guess.

526
01:11:25.380 --> 01:11:33.180
Carole Copeland Thomas: A man, what a word, we had a beautiful lesson in spirituality and giving up control.

527
01:11:33.990 --> 01:11:47.700
Carole Copeland Thomas: and putting our faith in God with tearing down strongholds please give it up for Reverend Robert Gray, thank you so much for that wonderful wonderful message wonderful message Thank you so much, thank you.

528
01:11:47.760 --> 01:11:48.600
Carole Copeland Thomas: God bless.

529
01:11:48.780 --> 01:11:49.620
Robert Gray: God bless you.

530
01:11:50.220 --> 01:11:57.480
Carole Copeland Thomas: Do we have any prayer requests that have been put in the chat room sister Joyce asked for it earlier.

531
01:11:57.930 --> 01:12:09.630

Carole Copeland Thomas: Are there any prayer requests i'm just going to look down very quickly to see if there are any, you can go on and put them in the chat room or you can just shout them out to us right now, before we close.

532

01:12:14.970 --> 01:12:20.040

JONELL JOHNSON: i'm still i'm still asking prayer for Boston public schools.

533

01:12:21.870 --> 01:12:36.210

JONELL JOHNSON: wasn't public schools are in trouble the kids have been out of school for a long time they're having a hard time coming back in and settling into the academics and in my school has been a major fight almost every single day.

534

01:12:37.230 --> 01:12:46.890

JONELL JOHNSON: And it's only day number five and i'm exhausted, so my strong whole is don't stay up late tonight soon as I get off this some.

535

01:12:48.120 --> 01:12:52.920

JONELL JOHNSON: Rich fellowship i'm going to put myself into bed for the night.

536

01:12:53.280 --> 01:12:55.620

JONELL JOHNSON: get more sleep like making for the day.

537

01:12:56.430 --> 01:12:57.870

Robert Gray: amen amen.

538

01:12:57.960 --> 01:13:02.460

Carole Copeland Thomas: amen amen sister beverly Williams asks for.

539

01:13:03.540 --> 01:13:08.550

Carole Copeland Thomas: prayer for her eight and 11 year old nieces who have covered.

540

01:13:10.410 --> 01:13:10.770

Carole Copeland Thomas: wow.

541

01:13:12.780 --> 01:13:13.170
Carole Copeland Thomas: praying.

542
01:13:13.200 --> 01:13:18.300
Rainelle White: Right now, if if you don't mind, could you i'll pray for my my right hand I have.

543
01:13:20.190 --> 01:13:26.340
Rainelle White: tendinitis really bad in the in the right hand and the thumb So if you all could pray for my right hand i'd appreciate it.

544
01:13:33.690 --> 01:13:35.010
Carole Copeland Thomas: Any other requests.

545
01:13:36.060 --> 01:13:43.200
Linda Mells: Yes, i'm to pray for those people who receive refuse to either get vaccinated or wear masks.

546
01:13:43.290 --> 01:13:44.520
Cassie Quinlan: mm hmm.

547
01:13:44.790 --> 01:13:45.390
Because.

548
01:13:46.740 --> 01:14:01.740
Linda Mells: Because cove it even if you've been vaccinated you can still give cove it to you can still catch cove it and you can still pass it on to two children who are under it will pass along to everybody anybody so.

549
01:14:01.770 --> 01:14:02.820
Linda Mells: pray for those people.

550
01:14:02.910 --> 01:14:17.070
Linda Mells: Who who refuse to do what's necessary, I know that not everybody can be vaccinated, but we can all wear masks because I remember that over that time when I had my mask on I didn't catch a cold.

551
01:14:18.120 --> 01:14:20.790

Linda Mells: And and kept coven added added catch the flu.

552

01:14:21.840 --> 01:14:22.200

Linda Mells: So.

553

01:14:24.750 --> 01:14:27.090

Cassie Quinlan: that's an interesting way to say it will pray for those.

554

01:14:27.090 --> 01:14:28.440

Cassie Quinlan: People oh Lord that's hard.

555

01:14:31.800 --> 01:14:36.030

Cassie Quinlan: You have to change the change the change their mind and i'll try and pray for them.

556

01:14:36.900 --> 01:14:38.910

Linda Mells: Maybe they changed your mind if you pray for.

557

01:14:38.910 --> 01:14:39.390

Linda Mells: them but.

558

01:14:39.450 --> 01:14:42.540

Cassie Quinlan: You know that's right now it's still love them anyway that's.

559

01:14:42.570 --> 01:14:44.370

Cassie Quinlan: Part of it, the hard to do.

560

01:14:45.390 --> 01:15:00.270

Cassie Quinlan: yeah i'll just say my brother's nursing mom was closing they announced that and some of that's got to do with big buildings accident and stuff like that, like a major deal and very complicated situation, I have to face all those people and i'm like out of touch with facing people.

561

01:15:02.850 --> 01:15:09.300

Robert Gray: No that's that's what I meant a little bit when I talked about people put certain things over their humanity.

562

01:15:10.530 --> 01:15:13.950

Robert Gray: We try we we don't care about keeping other people safe.

563

01:15:14.220 --> 01:15:15.000

Cassie Quinlan: So it seemed.

564

01:15:15.270 --> 01:15:17.700

Robert Gray: You know that's not a priority.

565

01:15:18.780 --> 01:15:28.800

Robert Gray: They say I have the right not to wear a mask not to get vaccinated but then people are dying now you know who, who is getting requesting to be vaccinated people that have Kovac.

566

01:15:29.700 --> 01:15:35.040

Robert Gray: While I want to get the vaccinate once they get it they're telling doctors, I wanted Okay, you can vaccinate was too late.

567

01:15:35.250 --> 01:15:46.290

Robert Gray: yeah so many situations that people people on their deathbed saying hey you know, I was wrong tell people to get the vaccination but they're on their way out.

568

01:15:46.560 --> 01:15:47.940

Robert Gray: They had a story on TV.

569

01:15:47.940 --> 01:15:51.060

Robert Gray: The other night, where the mother, the mother and a father.

570

01:15:52.140 --> 01:15:58.290

Robert Gray: They had four children and they were pretty she was pregnant with the fifth you might have seen this on the news they both.

571

01:15:58.380 --> 01:16:01.590

Robert Gray: They both of them are going and mother died.

572

01:16:01.740 --> 01:16:02.040
Carole Copeland Thomas: After I.

573
01:16:02.190 --> 01:16:02.820
Robert Gray: gave birth.

574
01:16:02.880 --> 01:16:13.710
Robert Gray: Then the father died even five children, you know parentless all the and on his deathbed the father said, you know tell people that you know that unvaccinated to get vaccinated.

575
01:16:14.430 --> 01:16:14.970
Cassie Quinlan: yeah really.

576
01:16:17.130 --> 01:16:33.330
Carole Copeland Thomas: I, I want to lift up those who, for whatever reason, not just in Boston but wherever don't understand the importance of voting, not just in the presidential elections, but certainly with the primary elections.

577
01:16:34.740 --> 01:16:46.440
Carole Copeland Thomas: I think it is a shame to have such an important primary election in Boston and you only had 25% of the electorate to come out to vote 75% stayed home.

578
01:16:47.970 --> 01:17:00.690
Carole Copeland Thomas: And so, this is a major issue, not just in Boston it's I have neighbors who don't vote on my street, and it is a problem in this country that is going to have to be addressed, because it is.

579
01:17:01.650 --> 01:17:12.360
Carole Copeland Thomas: Translating to an imbalance of power with those who do vote are those who get an office and feel no allegiance to those who don't vote.

580
01:17:16.530 --> 01:17:25.200
Marie Doubleday: you're absolutely right, I mean the problem is, you know people come out for national elections, but for local elections, which basically in Boston.

581

01:17:25.590 --> 01:17:39.570

Marie Doubleday: that's what it was you tip you generally get a lower turnout and I know 20 25% seems low, but i've seen actually much lower down here with the with the.

582

01:17:41.430 --> 01:17:47.250

Marie Doubleday: Elections local elections, but it's still low, given the.

583

01:17:48.930 --> 01:17:53.220

Marie Doubleday: You know who was running and the scope of this election.

584

01:17:53.550 --> 01:17:55.800

Carole Copeland Thomas: It was extremely significant.

585

01:17:55.860 --> 01:18:10.920

Carole Copeland Thomas: yeah extremely yeah and system load the mail said, people had options to mail the voters their balance in that's correct they did this, I think they went from one box, where you could drop it off to 22 around the city.

586

01:18:11.250 --> 01:18:17.430

Carole Copeland Thomas: Now they have early voting as well, so there were more than one ways you just couldn't use the excuse I had to work.

587

01:18:18.000 --> 01:18:29.430

Carole Copeland Thomas: That was the oh that's the normal excuse I had to work or I had something to do because you're looking at one day you had two weeks and I just it's abysmal and I i'm sad.

588

01:18:30.210 --> 01:18:42.090

Carole Copeland Thomas: Because i'm a stronghold but i'm just voicing myself voicing my opinion because it it doesn't have to be that way that becomes a stronghold yeah.

589

01:18:42.870 --> 01:18:50.190

Cassie Quinlan: They said, one thing that said in the dropbox is they're expecting only about 3000 votes balance but they got 7000.

590

01:18:51.120 --> 01:19:02.460

Carole Copeland Thomas: Right, but you look at 400,000 people in the city of Boston eligible to vote and we had a little bit more than 100,000 that's 25%, this is not acceptable.

591

01:19:04.740 --> 01:19:07.020

Marie Doubleday: allows people to take voting rights away.

592

01:19:07.350 --> 01:19:08.730

Carole Copeland Thomas: yeah, of course.

593

01:19:08.760 --> 01:19:10.200

Marie Doubleday: get into power yep.

594

01:19:12.390 --> 01:19:14.250

Marie Doubleday: i'm going to ask you something crazy.

595

01:19:16.110 --> 01:19:16.710

Marie Doubleday: ricky.

596

01:19:18.000 --> 01:19:18.480

Marie Doubleday: The pup.

597

01:19:19.920 --> 01:19:27.720

Marie Doubleday: he's having some struggles, with his back legs he's older he's a Labrador docs and he was a rescue from Georgia.

598

01:19:28.200 --> 01:19:46.410

Marie Doubleday: was about he was going to be put down in a deal woman down here on the island actually pulled them and he is he's just a wonderful soul and he is going to the vet on Friday I know he's a dog but.

599

01:19:46.830 --> 01:19:47.880

Cassie Quinlan: he's a guide dog.

600

01:19:48.570 --> 01:20:07.260

Marie Doubleday: But he's just he's just a wonderful wonderful he's been such a joy and in an impasse rob you know your grandkids come down here and they actually came over this summer to visit him and he

loves cats.

601

01:20:08.160 --> 01:20:19.530

Marie Doubleday: You know, he loves his cats, so the kids came over to visit him, which was great and they love them so at any rate i'm just i'm just nervous about him right now.

602

01:20:21.120 --> 01:20:21.840

he's a sweetie.

603

01:20:23.550 --> 01:20:28.950

Carole Copeland Thomas: Well, I Britain down all the requests pastor Bob would you like me to close us out in prayer.

604

01:20:29.640 --> 01:20:34.080

Robert Gray: Yes, then, could you make sure you add on that list Joyce Tyson.

605

01:20:34.470 --> 01:20:35.340

Carole Copeland Thomas: Okay yeah.

606

01:20:36.930 --> 01:20:39.210

Robert Gray: Just to keep her because she's by yourself now.

607

01:20:40.560 --> 01:20:49.230

Robert Gray: we're going to Sabrina has been spending a lot of time going over there and doing stuff he wrote down for the burial, the other day and but uh you know it's um.

608

01:20:50.730 --> 01:20:57.870

Robert Gray: You know, as we get further away from Monday that's when it's going to hit her I don't even think it's really hit her yet.

609

01:20:58.800 --> 01:21:14.850

Robert Gray: ya know and it's two weeks later, that you need so so please keep her in prayer drop or a text give her a call knopper any mail, you know, a car do any of that stuff but do it as time goes on, because that we got the holidays coming up.

610

01:21:15.450 --> 01:21:17.100

Carole Copeland Thomas: amen amen.

611

01:21:18.120 --> 01:21:25.140

Carole Copeland Thomas: Well, dear Lord in heaven, we have been blessed tonight by a wonderful message by a wonderful man of faith.

612

01:21:25.620 --> 01:21:37.410

Carole Copeland Thomas: Someone who is pragmatic but also just insightful to deliver the kind of message that we need at this time Reverend Robert Gray, and his message about tearing down.

613

01:21:37.830 --> 01:21:44.610

Carole Copeland Thomas: Our strongholds that keep us back that hinder us and don't, let us to move forward, Lord we are.

614

01:21:45.210 --> 01:21:57.540

Carole Copeland Thomas: Mindful of that and prayerful that we can not just say this was a wonderful message, but we will use it as an impetus to do something different, so that we can address the strongholds in our life.

615

01:21:58.110 --> 01:22:12.900

Carole Copeland Thomas: Their Lord, we are just thankful for the joyous 31 year 32 year marriage of sister Joyce Tyson to Reverend Al Tyson and that wonderful wonderful home going service that was held on Friday.

616

01:22:13.470 --> 01:22:20.490

Carole Copeland Thomas: We pray Lord that you will continue to be with her and bless her in the days ahead, because we know this will be her new normal.

617

01:22:21.030 --> 01:22:32.640

Carole Copeland Thomas: where she will have to once again learn how to navigate her life on her own with memories of her precious precious husband we pray Lord for antwan and his cousin Jeff who.

618

01:22:33.090 --> 01:22:43.170

Carole Copeland Thomas: Unfortunately, has cancer, we pray that you will be with Jeff with the medical professionals who will be working with him taking him through this new journey in his life.

619

01:22:43.740 --> 01:22:58.980

Carole Copeland Thomas: We pray Lord for Beverly and her the eight and 11 year old children in her family who have coven now we never really thought about children catching coven, and now it is becoming more routine every day.

620

01:22:59.550 --> 01:23:07.530

Carole Copeland Thomas: Please bless and keep and protect them and the days ahead we pray Lord for sister Ray now and her right hand.

621

01:23:07.980 --> 01:23:20.880

Carole Copeland Thomas: And the pain and suffering that she has from it probably from use and use and use throughout the years we pray Lord that she will get some kind of medical treatment therapeutic treatment to help her.

622

01:23:21.480 --> 01:23:32.760

Carole Copeland Thomas: deal with her right hand we pray Lord as Linda has said sister Linda has said, talked about the anti vaccine and those who refuse to wear masks because it's their right.

623

01:23:33.450 --> 01:23:43.830

Carole Copeland Thomas: They don't want government telling them what to do, completely oblivious Lord to the the pain and the harm and the infections that they may actually share with others.

624

01:23:44.280 --> 01:23:52.260

Carole Copeland Thomas: May we continue to wear our masks to protect ourselves from the anti massacres and the anti vaccine.

625

01:23:52.860 --> 01:24:00.420

Carole Copeland Thomas: Who don't want to wear masks, which means that this is going to be a dynamic that we're going to deal with, for many, many months to come.

626

01:24:00.930 --> 01:24:05.850

Carole Copeland Thomas: We pray Lord for sister Cassie and the love that she has, for her brother.

627

01:24:06.510 --> 01:24:16.980

Carole Copeland Thomas: And the transitions that he's going to have to

make now that is nursing home is closing and we know that's going to be cassie and the rest of her family members and what they're going to have to do.

628

01:24:17.340 --> 01:24:29.310

Carole Copeland Thomas: To make this as smooth as possible we pray Lord for the non voters, the people who have lots of excuses those thresholds again Lord those strongholds.

629

01:24:29.820 --> 01:24:40.980

Carole Copeland Thomas: Where they just for whatever reason couldn't come out to vote yesterday, or in the previous two weeks God, please touch them so that in November it'll be a different story.

630

01:24:41.550 --> 01:24:50.790

Carole Copeland Thomas: And we pray Lord for marie's her love of her animals and love of ricky and his back leg that is bothering him at this point we pray that.

631

01:24:51.480 --> 01:25:08.640

Carole Copeland Thomas: Somehow the veterinarian will be able to work with him and that it will in some way be relieved, so that there will be minimized pain and suffering or these are just our individual request, we know that there are countless others.

632

01:25:09.210 --> 01:25:22.890

Carole Copeland Thomas: With our church Members with the moore's with the hammonds and others who are not with us tonight we pray and thank God for all those who are with us, both in Massachusetts and those in Virginia like brother outcomes.

633

01:25:23.430 --> 01:25:36.150

Carole Copeland Thomas: and others, Lord who just had a thought about this Bible study and will be joining us next Wednesday, thank you, Lord, for all that you continue to do for each and every one of us this we ask in your precious name amen.

634

01:25:37.410 --> 01:25:39.120

Carole Copeland Thomas: amen God bless everybody.

635

01:25:39.450 --> 01:25:39.990

All right.

636

01:25:41.040 --> 01:25:41.580

Rainelle White: Now.

637

01:25:41.700 --> 01:25:42.240

Carole Copeland Thomas: I bless.

638

01:25:42.810 --> 01:25:43.860

Carole Copeland Thomas: alrighly goodnight.

639

01:25:44.490 --> 01:25:45.270

Carole Copeland Thomas: goodnight now.