

## **LIVING IN A HIGHER PLACE** (for private use by TWC members only)

If you have your Bible there, could you turn to the second book of Chronicles, chapter 1:1, *Now Solomon, son of David, established himself securely over his kingdom, and the Lord his God was with him and exalted him greatly.*

*Solomon spoke to all Israel, to the commanders of thousands, and of hundreds, and to the judges, and to every leader in all Israel, including the heads of the fathers' households. And Solomon and all the assembly with him went to the high place, which was at Gibeon, for God's Tent of Meeting was there, which Moses the servant of the Lord had made in the wilderness. However, David had brought up the Ark of God from Kiriath Jearim, to the place he had prepared for it for he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem. Now the bronze altar which Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur had made, was also there before the Tabernacle of the Lord, and Solomon and the assembly sought it out. And Solomon went up there before the Lord to the bronze altar, which is at the Tent of Meeting, and he offered a thousand burned offerings on it. In that night, God appeared to Solomon in a dream and said to him, "Ask what I shall give you."*

If I had a title for this morning it would be "Living On A High Place." It is interesting to me that this high place at Gibeon already has a history. In Joshua chapter 9 it was the place where, when Joshua was invading Israel, all the guys at Gibeon realized what was going on and got pretty smart, and they dressed in old clothes and rags, and old shoes on their feet, and they took water bags that were empty and chewed through with holes in them. They even took bad food with them, and they made out that they were coming from a far off place, and they were coming to make peace with Joshua and Israel because they knew that nobody could stand before them. Joshua and the guys never asked the Lord what was going on, and so they got conned into making a covenant with Gibeon which was actually just a couple of days' walk away. Pretty smart, huh? So they were forced into making a covenant that they had to keep because they had made it in the name of the Lord.

I find it fascinating that a little while later, God comes into that place of deception and makes a covenant of His own. I love the fact that the Tent of Meeting is here, the Ark of the Covenant is here, the bronze altar is here, because when it all comes down to it, God chooses to make a covenant in the place of your most grievous mistakes. Isn't that what He is like? So incredibly beautiful and trustworthy. He comes into the place where you screwed up, and you lost it, and He makes a covenant in that place.

Let me just explain some of the key symbols in this narrative. A high place, a height is always associated with the quality or the power of something. Isaiah 57:15 says, *God dwells in a high and holy place. He is the Most High, as the heavens are higher than the earth*, so is the presence of God, so is the love of God, so is the loving kindness of God. Height in Scripture is always concerned with transcendence. It is always concerned with going beyond our current limits or our current range of something. It is about surpassing any previous experience we may have had. So like the Mount of Transfiguration in the Gospels was Jesus showing the disciples who He really was and taking them outside their own natural boundaries of life and faith and relevance, put them into a whole new place. That is what the heights are all about.

A high place is where heaven touches earth. A high place is where a greater vision unfolds. A high place is where worship is lifted to a whole new realm. It is interesting that all the songs of ascent in the Psalms (Psalms 120-134) are written in a high place for a high place lifestyle, like Psalm 121:1 says, *I will lift my eyes up to the hills from whence my help comes*. In a high place you get to lift your vision to a higher place so all your perspective is drawn from that place and not from a place beneath you.

A high place is about authority and command. A high place is about supremacy and power. A high place is about ruling and reigning. A high place is about being lifted up and away and out of something. A high place is a place of exultation, favor, and influence. A high place is where you get to experience the greatness of God's unique presence and especially His loving kindness, which is as high as the heavens.

A high place denotes an upgrade. It is a declared place from which to experience life in God from a whole new place of intimate connection. In that place here, we have a Tent of Meeting. A Tent of Meeting signifies God's mobility amongst His people. It is His mobile presence, and His desire to live amongst His people as they process life through transition into a better, and a greater, and a wider place.

The Tent of Meeting represents God's intense desire to walk with you no matter where your journey takes you. Here, too, we have the Ark of God, which is always kept in the Most Holy Place. It's like it's the footstool to the throne of God. It is the symbol of God's very presence. It served two important functions in Israel's history. First, it was evidence of God's leadership of His people during their time of transition, and also it was always taken by the army into battle. So it always, too, represents the presence of the Divine Warrior who is Himself the God of breakthrough, like a mobile battle standard.

The bronze altar is the focal point where people lived before God in covenantal allegiance. It is the place where we have the pleasure of removing our impurity. We have the absolute pleasure of repentance, thinking again, turning around, moving away from something that is damaging us towards something that is wonderful for us. It is the place of repentance and restoration. It's the place where we choose to sacrifice the next part of our life that God is asking of us. We choose to enter into the next phase of saying, "Yes, Lord!"

The great thing in the New Testament is that Jesus is our altar, He is our sacrifice, and He is our High Priest. Only God could think up something like that, eh? Jesus Himself is the memorial of the New Covenant and God's absolute willingness to do miracles and bring the revelation of the Kingdom into the earth.

All those together at the same place at the same time signify something of high drama occurring, and the fact that all of Israel was present from every leader of significance in the nation to the head of every family, it is a huge moment, and people have come specifically to seek out the altar of sacrifice, the altar where they can come before God and know they are accepted. It is the place where they can do business with God for the next stage of their life and their journey. I like that, coming deliberately to remove present impurities so I can declare a fresh covenantal relationship with God and move into the next phase of my inheritance. What a great picture!

Into this set of circumstances, the Father drops into one man's heart a dream in which the Lord invites him, "Ask Me to give something to you!" If you don't know that God is hugely desiring to give you the next piece of your inheritance, then you are walking with a poverty spirit. God looks at you and He says, *I know the plans I have for you, plans for your welfare, not for your calamity, to give you a future and a hope.* Right now, here, in this place the Lord is wanting you to know what is the next portion of your inheritance because it is time you stepped into it.

Some of what I am going to tell you has come about from talking to people on my travels around the world, talking to people who have lived at high altitude. I spent time in Nepal around Kathmandu, and you talk to Sherpas there who regularly go up Everest, it's their job. These guys are interesting dudes. In that region they have blood unlike any other person on earth because of the height that they live at. Some of it comes out of my own experience in some mountainous places where I didn't do terribly well, but it also comes from thirty years' experience in the prophetic, in warfare, and particularly in living and waiting on God.

Do you know at high altitude everything changes about how you move, how you see, how you perceive, how you think, how you respond. High altitude demands a complete change in how you live, move, and have your being.

At high altitude you think like a child and you move like one. Mentally and physically your movements are restricted by design. You can't take big steps, but you must deliberately learn a different

way of walking so that you take lots of smaller steps. In one of the biographies, I can't remember which guy who was one of the first guys to climb Everest, he said you go from striding to shuffling, and you have to condition yourself to take lots and lots of small steps. He said the higher up you go, the more baby steps you take, one step at a time, one moment at a time, one hour at a time, one day at a time.

Brilliant picture of the childlike simplicity you are going to have to grow into if you want to live with God at altitude because at high altitude you must learn to walk at a pace that you can actually sustain. At high altitude you have to do everything for yourself. So high altitude, spiritually, becomes solely about your personal sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. No one can do it for you. It has to be your walk. It has to be your worship. It has to be your faith, and it has to be your relationship with the Holy Spirit. You can't borrow stuff from other people like you did in the valley because the way life worked in the valley does not work on the mountain. It has to be you.

At high altitude, people cannot handle complex issues. There is a rarified atmosphere which means that our brains do not work in the same way as they do down below. Mountaineers will tell you they do not take complex books when they are on a big climb. They take easy reading. Why? Because their brain cannot think in the same way it does in a lower altitude.

Spiritually it may mean that we might read the Gospels or the Psalms, or the book of Acts, probably not Romans, and definitely not Leviticus. I have nothing against that book. I just don't like it! God allows us our preferences. He doesn't allow us our prejudice. I stopped just the right side of the line!

So in this time of coming into high altitude, maybe it is a good time to memorize the sayings of Jesus. Study Jesus afresh and how simple His Gospel was to Him. Break it down to, "I only do what the Father is doing." (Note to self!) "I only say what the Father is saying," the Gospel in a nutshell, absolute sensitivity to the person of the Father. Jesus went up into a mountain to pray because a mountain is about communion and intimacy. I love the fact that here is Jesus stealing private moments to be with His Father. I love that.

So living at high altitude is about childlike simplicity, and it is about your sensitivity to God. Do you know that at high altitude your emotions are always in a state of flux, they are always changing up and down? You can be in a state of peace one moment and panicking the next. Sounds like life in the Spirit, eh? When you come into a new place, "Is this going to work? Have I made the right decision? Is this really God?!"

You can't be on a mountain on a climb and have any fear or anxiety in your person. You have to eradicate that. If you are going to live in a high place, you simply have no choice. You must live in the perfect love of God for you. You have to know who God is for you, and you have to get lost all over again in the depth, and the bigness, and the hugeness of the love of God because where we are going, fear has no place, anxiety cannot live in that place.

There are so many things to adjust to when you come into a high place. It seems like fear is almost a constant. Well, if fear is a constant initially, so is love. You are just going to have to choose, guys. I mean really choose like once and for all. "I am fed up with being scared. I am going to move away from that place of fear, and I am going to inhabit this place where I choose only to think of myself within the love of God and no place else because I have no room, I have no time to be scared."

When you travel, when you climb at altitude, it's about overcoming yourself. Love has to be the sole reason that you are welcome in a high place. God loves you, and He has chosen you. Therefore, it is not about your performance, but it is about your permission to be there. God spoke to us about latitude and indulgence. We have permission for where we are going. Can we just pick up the speed do you think? Can we just move a little faster? We are moving right now at the speed of a striking tortoise. Can we pick up the pace a little bit?

You have heard of that hymn, eh, "Like a Mighty Tortoise Moves the Church of God, brothers we are treading where we have always flipping trod," words to that effect anyway! It's probably just an English hymn, and probably just reflects us in the UK, or them I should say now! Yeah, I know. Scary thought for everyone concerned!

But it is so important that you revel in the fact that you are chosen, and you are invited, and you are welcome, and you are here because God wants you here because you have permission to be here, and everything will be worked out in that context. It is not about how good you are, it is about how amazing you discover Him to be for you right now at this time. None of us deserve anything from the Lord. That is what grace is all about. There are tons of grace here right now. You should take a chunk home with you!

Live your life as one chosen to do this. Do you know the great thing about being chosen? It causes all your inadequacies and insecurities to surface. That is so normal, it's (yawning) ordinary.

How many times have I said this, guys? We are learning the joy of turning our weaknesses into joyful vulnerability. Make yourself vulnerable to the goodness of God because there isn't any safer place on the planet than the loving kindness of God that He has over your life.

Do you know at high altitude you can be prone to euphoria one moment and depression the next? You talk to any serious mountaineers who have been on the big places, the really high places, and they all say the same thing to you: You have to find the joy in climbing because just the altitude, the rarified air gets to work on you and you will be euphoric one minute and depressed the next, and the difference between life and death is joy. You have to constantly smile. You have to constantly say, "I want to be here. I love being here," because the moment you allow any negativity to come in, you could die. So joy has to become instinctive and intuitive.

Do you know at high altitude you are convinced you made a right decision one minute, and then equally as convinced that you shouldn't even be there! How many of us have done things in the last few months and thought, "This is the Lord! Is it?" It's like, "I know this is the Lord, isn't it? Do you think?" Welcome to life in the Spirit, eh?!

If you don't choose the positive on a climb, you are going to die up there. This is absolutely vital. When you hear the Lord, the two things we are going to need in this next season of our life are we are going to need to trust the Lord like we have never trusted Him before, and we need to learn obedience because He is going to ask some things of us which will be beyond us; they are supposed to be. We are going to need to learn to trust the Lord, take a big gulp, and say, "Yes, Lord."

Obedience is hard fought for. Many of us in churches in the west practice "delayed obedience" which is a subtle form of disobedience. You miss out on things when you delay obedience. Obedience has to come from the heart, which means it is a quick response. If obedience comes from your head, your head will always kind of like, "Well, let's just wait a while. Let's just think about this. Maybe it is not quite that. Maybe we don't need to do that. Maybe we can actually..." and your head always wants to scale it down to manageable proportions, and you lose something in the transaction.

When it comes down to it, Beloved, you have to rise up and say "No!" to your bad self. Rise up and say "No!" to the old you that doesn't like climbing, and "Yes" to the new you that loves climbing! You have to trust your new self in Christ. As long as we are all being new together, we can help each other, eh?

You know, good leaders on mountain expeditions have to know the mental state of people on their team. Very often they will go climbing for weeks and months on lesser peaks around them. What they are doing is they are gauging the fragility of someone's mental capacity, "Can they really do this?" because at the end of the day you are going to be roped with these dudes together, which is not funny if they are not up for it mentally.

If you don't know how to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, when push comes to shove you will step back from something. There are times in a climb when you have to take calculated risks. You are roped together. If one person's mental state deteriorates, they need to go back down or they will kill somebody.

It requires weeks of acclimating to stay and operate on a higher level because high altitude is a hostile environment to certain things. You cannot be negative and go into a high altitude place. You have to get your thinking straight. You have to be renewed in the spirit of your mind. Your mind has to be comfortable in following your heart. High altitude is a hostile environment that is mostly overcome from within.

Many people have tried to climb Everest. Thousands of people never made it because they didn't have it within themselves. There is no disgrace, just didn't have it.

Listen, high altitude is a hostile environment to lack of trust and negativity. That is why you have base camps on a climb like Everest because at each camp, you have to actually make a fresh decision to go on. You have to get acclimated to stay at that level, and then make a decision to go on to the next level. At each camp you have to break out of your comfort zone to go to a higher level, and it takes a while. You don't just nip up Everest in a weekend. It takes weeks and weeks to go through all those stages.

I think that is where we are right now. We are going through this process of being acclimated to a new level of the Spirit, but you can't go up there and be negative.

It is interesting, one of the things mountaineers will tell you, one of the things they are hot on in the team is that they will be hot on people in the team who have any sense of pessimism, or cynicism, or negative thinking. That has to be broken before they will even let you put your boots on. Why? Because you can't have that when you are up there.

You need a new mindset if you are going to go to a high place. You need to know who you are in Christ. You need to have a mindset about where you are going. You need to have a mind set on the Spirit. Otherwise, ach, you just won't make it up there. If there is any negativity in your system, it will be exposed.

So what are we learning in this period of being acclimated? We are learning confidence. Confidence in God, confidence in myself, confidence in the people around me. I am learning confidence. You have to become acclimated to confident living. We need training and development to go to a place of confidence and trust and remain there, abide there, dwell there, not allow yourself to go back into a lower place of thinking.

So to live on a high place you need childlike simplicity, you need sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, you need the love of God and to know that you are loved, you need to know that you are chosen for this gig, you are invited. You need to know that your life is now going to run on trust and obedience, and the Holy Spirit is with you to develop confidence in God and in who you are. We have to be renewed in the spirit of our thinking. What worked down below is not going to work up above. We are walking differently. We are subject to a new methodology that does not have its root in logic and reason, but it has its roots in simple trust and obedience.

We are coming into a place where we don't need to see in order to obey. We don't need to understand everything in great detail in order to say, "Yes, Lord, I trust You." When you got saved you didn't know everything. You got saved on a fragment of the truth, and we are coming back to that glorious tradition of saying "yes" to the Lord with minimal instruction.

We hear with our hearts, and we agree in our minds, the two together, but head must follow heart at high altitude in the Spirit. We have to explore this major change in focus for living. We have to explore

new perceptions, new ways of thinking. We have to learn to talk a different language. We have to learn that it is always going to be about being before doing.

A high place has to get into your blood so that you can live there with no discomfort. It is fascinating talking to the Sherpas in Nepal. Many of them have their fathers and their grandfathers who went up on that first climb where they made it to the top. These guys have a tradition. They can tell you all about certain climbs and why it didn't work out. They can tell you at base camp 1 whether you were going to make it to the top. They would have almost the last word with the team leader at base camp 2 who should go down from that point, and even in some cases if certain people were going to go ahead, the Sherpas would say, "We are not going because we are not trusting ourselves to this person at this next leg of the journey because they are demonstrating that they are not ready for it." Wow!

We are learning to develop the internal capacity to live in a place that is far above the current norm. That is why God is taking great pains here to develop a different atmosphere and a different environment in this place.

Do you know at high altitude you must accept a certain level of hardship in order to fulfill the dream of being up there? Apparently climbing Everest is not easy! The hardship is in the acclimation process, developing that internal capability in relation to the Holy Spirit.

Funny thing about dreams, eh? Dreams are always received in comfort, but they are birthed in adversity. In fact, the degree of difficulty is directly linked to the new level of comfort that you must receive from the Holy Spirit. When life gets difficult, it is always about relationship with the Holy Spirit. He is our helper. Hello?! He is our comforter so He is there for those days when it is difficult. He is our helper and our comforter, and you must develop a relationship. That is the only reason you have days of difficulty. You must have them. You need them. They are like problems are to faith; you cannot grow in faith without a problem. I know, I wish it wasn't true either, but it flipping well is, so there! It's true! You can't grow in faith unless you have a problem, and you can't grow in your relationship with the Holy Spirit as your comforter without days of difficulty.

So what is the attitude we need to have at that level? It is to welcome days of difficulty because of what they are designed to do. They are designed to bring us into a deeper, closer, more abiding relationship with the Holy Spirit as our comforter. You get to know stuff about Him when you are up against it. You get to know the incredible cheeriness of the Holy Spirit. He is so cheerful, it will knock your teeth out on days. So cheery, so "Yeah, we can do that! Yeah, I'm good at that. Do you want some help? You know, that's My specialty. I am so good at that. You want some help? I'll help you! You need help with that? I'm great at that!" He is so confident. He is so cheerful.

Sometimes His comfort will be to wrap His arms around and give you a hug. Sometimes, I don't know, He might just tell you a few Pharisee jokes or something. He will make you laugh or He will make you feel great, but He will make you feel that you can do it simply because He is with you. You have to learn that. You have to learn how to walk with Him on days of difficulty, and He will turn a difficult day into something quite more. He has a talent for it, but we must develop a greater relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Here is a thought: All permissible adversities are primarily concerned with our relationship with the Holy Spirit as comforter. I'll say it again in English so you can write it down: All permissible adversities are primarily concerned with our relationship with the Holy Spirit as our comforter. God allows in His wisdom what He could easily prevent by His power. Why? It is a relational issue.

You must accept a certain level of hardship in order to realize the beauty of God's nature. To see how beautiful God is, you first have to get His perspective on how lovely you are. That messes with our kind of evangelical mindset, eh? "I am not lovely. Look at all this stuff!" Well, when God looks at you, He looks at you through Jesus so get over yourself!

Our conflict as evangelicals is always about our true identity. When we see ourselves from a flesh perspective we have no sense of our own worth, but when we see ourselves in grace through Christ, the truth of that sets us free. So we are learning to see ourselves, and one another, in the Spirit. When we see who we really are in Christ, we discover the nature and the beauty of God, and we are undone by love.

It is your pleasure in this life to be undone by the greatness of the love of God for you. It is your joy. You don't become a new person by changing your behavior. You discover the person you already are in Christ, and you behave accordingly. The Holy Spirit is a genius at that.

When we discover the real nature of God, it is so much harder to be exhausted, \_\_\_\_\_ (or frustrated? or fragile? =Audio track 7, at time 5:30). I mean, you have to really work at it. Why? Because there is a level of peace and rest and joy. David put it this way. He said, *I would have fainted unless I believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.* He knew it was the goodness of God that energizes people. The beauty of God is energizing. It is exhilarating. It is thrilling. It is stimulating. It will take your breath away.

When you see God as He really is, you come into a greater place of rest and cooperation with the Holy Spirit about yourself, and it is never about what you are not. It is always about who you are becoming. Anytime the Holy Spirit points out something you are not, you know it is because He has a substitution ready. He has a divine exchange to give you. It's like, "This is what you are not, but this is who you are. Why don't you give me that, and I will give you this?" It is the nature of God that is your salvation.

Mountaineers will tell you at a high altitude, you get to a point where you almost have to go through a wall. There is this physical wall that comes down, and you are convinced you cannot go any further. Altitude affects your energy. You can feel listless. You can feel sick. It is normal to have periods of sickness, tiredness, and lethargy.

It is interesting, just being around this church in the last few months, and in myself and people around us, we have all had to fight sickness off of one shape or form. We have all come down with stuff. What's that about? Where did that come from? We just hit a wall, I think. What is the solution to that? It is the beauty of God. It is one of the reasons why, for me, I wanted to start these Thursday evenings because we have to get into a place of worship where we see the beauty of God. Why? Because there is an energy, there is a power that is going to come upon us and in us and work through us that is going to propel us up to that next level. We are going to worship our way up into a higher place. You can't afford not to be there, in my humble opinion! The only way to beat that tiredness, that lethargy, that listlessness is to condition yourself to overcome. Worship is a key. Rise above. You rise above yourself when you worship someone who is more important than you.

Jesus said, *If I be lifted up, I will draw people to Me.* There is something in worship you cannot any longer afford to ignore. Every one of us in this room must come this year into a better place of worship, thanksgiving. It is really important that we give ourselves to moving into a new place.

High altitude affects your motivation. Don't wait until you feel better or you will want to go back. Sometimes the signs that we are in a high place are that one week we feel great and really positive, and the next we are really unsure about ourselves and we are shrouded in negativity. That's normal. It is motivational. We are learning how to press into who God is for us.

One thing you can absolutely guarantee, even more than death and taxes, is that night is always followed by day. Take small steps. Just keep moving. Don't wait until you are sure. Press into a place that is prepared for you.

In a walk of faith, confidence is always ahead of you and certainty never walks behind. Don't wait. There is never a good time to do anything. There is never a right time except now. *Now is the accepted time.* Now is the only flipping time most of the time! Don't wait. There is nothing that needs to catch up to you; you need to catch up to something!

How many times in your life, either as a child or a teen or an older person, have you been walking with someone in unfamiliar territory? You don't really know where you are going. You have no map. You haven't been there before. You have lots of questions, and not many answers, but there is one thing that you do know: I can't afford to let this person out of my sight right now. You may go bitching and complaining, but you will go because you don't want to be left behind and because you don't know how to get back to where you were from here!

All of my mentors always had this one thing in common: None of them waited for me! Swines! None of them waited for me. What's that?

"You're supposed to be my mentor!"

"Yeah, well, keep up!"

"Everything is tough!"

"Yeah, well, you are supposed to get tough."

"But I need more time!"

"You got all the time you are going to get."

"I'm tired!"

"Suck it up."

"God!"

The thing is they knew this: Questions are answered only as you go. They knew that trust is mobile, never stationary. They knew it was a walk of faith. They knew that confidence is always ahead of you, and they knew it was about pressing in and reaching out.

Still didn't stop me hating them!

Deuteronomy 9:1-3 says, *God is with you and He is ahead of you. He will drive out your enemies and cause you to inherit and possess what He has got for you.* You are in the business of pressing in behind what God is opening up. *My Father works, and I work*, that was Jesus. When God is active, so are we. What are we doing? Well, we are doing what He is doing. We are pressing in behind what He is up to. Confidence is always ahead of you. You step into it all the time.

Another thing that mountaineers will tell you is that cuts do not heal at high altitude. If you cut your hand at 20,000 feet, it will not stop bleeding. Cuts don't heal at high altitude.

What does that mean in the Spirit? You had better make sure you are not wounded, you are not grieved, and you are not offended by anything or anyone if you want to live in a high place because that stuff doesn't heal. We don't have a right to be wounded, we have a right to be healed. We need to exercise the proper right. Every time you exercise a right to be offended, you just put yourself on the wrong side of God and the wrong side of humanity. In the end, you are the one that will pay for that, nobody else.

The valley is the place for healing, not the mountain. When we come up to a mountain we need to be clean, and we need to be whole. There was a point in Israel's history when only Moses could go up Sinai. The people were instructed not even to set foot on the mountain. Why? Because they weren't wholehearted. A high place exposes your frailties, but it also reveals your true identity in Christ.

I love the Holy Spirit. I love the way that He reveals Christ to our weaknesses. It's like He takes Jesus right up to your weakness and introduces you. "Jesus, have you met this? Have you met Graham's inherent ability to be a lunatic? Well, here it is!" The Holy Spirit reveals Christ to your weaknesses so that you can put on Christ and be transformed.

A high place is a place of deep truth about who God is for you and what He wants to be for you. It is the most exhilarating thing that you can ever experience when God tells you, "This is who I am for you. This is what I choose to be for you now in your current circumstances."

When God invites you into a high place, you cannot live there as you have lived in the valley. It is a different life. You are now subject to a higher level of favor. What a great thought that is, eh? You are

subject to a higher level of favor. Our thinking, our seeing, and our responding must rise up to the level of God's intentionality.

Just take a moment, think through the significance of that statement. You have been taken out of the ordinary and put into a wide spacious place that we know as latitude and indulgence. You know, the best relationships are always the ones that are thought through. What is the ongoing significance of latitude and indulgence for you? Some of us have stopped thinking about it already. Going to find where you live, come round and beat the snot out of you!

Some of you have not even made it to base camp 1 yet. You are still thinking about going up. Guys, don't just experience only a bit of the favor. When God says there is latitude and indulgence, you have to let your mind get out there and explore that whole thing. What does it mean for you to be subject to a higher level of favor? I look at people around me and I wonder what does it mean for them? What does it mean for Dano to be subject to a higher level of favor? What does it mean for Bill and Carol? What does it mean for us? What does it mean for me? I'm thinking about it because contrary to what people have been told, I am really not stupid! I am thinking about it! Why? The rest of my life depends on it.

We are being exposed to the elements of heaven. What's that? Outrageous grace, overwhelming love, abiding joy, incredible favor, absolute confidence. This means our thoughts, our beliefs, and our language must take on a new quality. I believe it has to take on a dream-like quality.

Finally made the bridge to what I really wanted to say which wasn't any of that! It is this: Ephesians 3:20, *Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we can ask or even think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be the glory.* Now we come to the point of the high place. It is this, that God wants to bring you to a high place because He has a question to ask you: "What shall I give you?"

You have got to think about this now, eh? Do you want to live in a high place with God? Are you prepared to work with the Holy Spirit to get acclimated to walking in a different environment of favor and faith? If that is you, I want you to put everything down, stand up, and just come down here and present yourself to the Lord. In this season, we need to be constantly responding to what the Lord is saying to us. There are times when you get a word and you respond to it once or twice, and there are times when you get thee word, and you have to keep responding to it because God is not prepared to let it go.

In times past we have heard stuff and we have joyfully responded, and then somewhere between the altar and the street we have lost the anointing. We have let things go. Many of us know, I know myself, I should be further on than I am right now. No blame, no shame, no condemnation. God doesn't do shame.

Why are we not further on? Because we have a history of letting things go. We have a history of not following through, and as Dano has always taught us, there is no breakthrough without follow-through.

This is our time, Beloved, to break through. It is our time, but we have to follow-through on what the Lord is saying because He is not letting us go, and He is not letting us go off this place. So we are going to keep coming back here, and it is good for us to come back, but please can we come back and not have to go over old ground? The next time we come out to respond, and there will be other times, it will be to come out to respond to something more not to respond to it, "Well, can we please catch up?" Can we make an agreement on that?

Many of you already have said "yes" with your heart, and what you are struggling with right now is your head response because life has to catch up with your "yes" and we are in that place. Many of you are experiencing some of the roller coaster that I have been describing, so I hope you are relieved to understand that it is normal, and God is with you.

Over these next few days and weeks, return to the promises that God has given you. Many of you have got prophecies. It would be a good time to get them out and look at them, eh, because they will have clues about what is happening right now. It is important to learn to respond in the present in line with the person that you want to become in the future. Don't respond in line to the person you have always been. We are responding to the person we want to be. There is a Graham Cooke out there, you will be pleased to know, who is better than the one here. "Thank God!" say all of us! I want to respond according to the person that is emerging, not the person who is scared and wants to go back. We respond in line with the person we want to be, not the person we always have been. That is our discipline. Don't respond as you have always lived.

While we are in the process of learning something new, it is so important that we keep short accounts about our response. We are going to find ourselves doing this more often. Why? Because we need to keep doing it. As things open up, we need to keep saying "yes." This is the season that we are in. Let's not try and pretend otherwise. We are in this season of learning how to have magnificent responses to a magnificent God.

So we are going to keep presenting ourselves to God so that our response is always current. Sometimes when something huge is offered to us, we think we have all the time in the world to go there, but it is offered to us within the paradigm of divine acceleration. That means our quick response and fast movement. We are all learning to respond quicker and move faster because that is what you do when there is a quickening spirit around. You pick up the pace of something.

Beloved, we need to pick up the pace. Please? Can we pick up the pace? Can we pick up the pace of our response? Can we pick up the pace of our "yeses" because we are supposed to go to another level of intentionality.

This is the law of the Spirit that the Holy Spirit is committing us to: When the opportunity of a lifetime comes, you must make sure you fully act within the lifetime of the opportunity. Windows do not stay open forever. You cannot slow the process down to suit yourself. You cannot procrastinate. That is what we are learning. You cannot have a measured response and expect fullness to occur. That would be unreasonable.

Beloved, windows do not stay open. This is a time for us to go in under that word of latitude and take every piece of territory that is on offer. Stake your claim. You don't have to build your cabin just yet, but go and stake a claim. Go and stake every bit of ground you feel the Lord is offering up to you. We can build on it later on but right now we need to go into those places and especially you need to go into those places where you have always lost it or never had it. Get something back! Go into those places where you have always been defeated, always been deceived by yourself or the enemy. Stake a claim in those places. That is payback!

Here is my appeal: Please could we stop being lazy about latitude and indulgence when God is incredibly intentional. Don't stop to celebrate a few gains that you have made. It's the time to take huge areas of territory. We have received a measure so far but it is fullness that is being offered to us. This is a time for us to develop childlike simplicity, sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, to really come into a great place in the love of God, to understand you are chosen, you have been invited. That is why you have made the trek to this place. That is why some of you have stayed here against all the odds. You need confidence now. We need to renew our thinking. These are the disciplines the Holy Spirit is going to help us with because He is our comforter and our helper.

But the one thing we are going to learn is trust and obedience. Trust and obedience gets us out into the territory that God has got for us. You are going to trust the Lord like you have never trusted Him before, and you are going to have to obey the Lord in ways that right now might terrify you. It doesn't terrify Him, it makes Him smile.

*(Note: The following portion is contained only on CD, not MP3 version)*

I am going to play you a song written by a friend of mine. Just open your heart, listen to it, and do what seems good to the Holy Spirit and to you.

"I Will Obey"

If You ask me to walk where angels fear to tread,  
I will obey You, I will obey.

And if You ask me to climb this mountain up ahead,  
I will obey You, I will obey.

And if You ask me to give a drink to my sworn enemy,  
And if You ask me to love when love is not returned,  
If You ask me to shine when my lamp is growing dim,  
I will obey You, I will obey.

If You ask me to speak when the words I have not,  
I will obey You, I will obey.

And if You ask me for silence in the multitude of thought,  
I will obey You, I will obey.

And if You ask me to give a drink to my sworn enemy,  
And if You ask me to love when love is not returned,  
If You ask me to shine when my lamp is growing dim,  
I will obey You, I will obey.

If You ask me to live on a less travelled road,  
I will obey You, I will obey.

And if You ask me to die the death of saints of old,  
I will obey You, I will obey.

I will obey.

I will obey.

And if You ask me to walk where angels fear to tread,  
And if You ask me to climb this mountain up ahead,  
And if You ask me to speak when words I have not,  
And if You ask me for silence in the multitude of thought,  
And if You ask me to live on a less travelled road,  
And if You ask me to die the death of saints of old,  
I will obey, I will obey.  
I will obey, I will obey.

There is a piece of territory out there that has your name on it. It has got your name on it, and you need to explore it. There is a grace in God's heart for you so huge that it gives you permission to be the man or the woman that God always intended you to be, and you must discover it in this life.

There is a latitude and indulgence that I have never seen in thirty years of prophetic ministry, and it is here in this place. I don't know why, I just know that it is. This is a place where we have permission to dream. This is a place where dreams come true, and it's important for us to have a dream about God and a dream about ourselves. You must dream about who you want to be in God, and you must know that He has a dream about you, and He will not let you go.

We are in this season. I don't know how long but my plea is please do not waste this time. We have to go after something together, as well as individually, as well as in families. We have to go after something, and the Holy Spirit is wanting to apprehend you for the path that He has got for you. Yeah, it's scary. But you know what is more scary? Living all your life and never knowing what you could have been or what you could have done, or to get to heaven and the Lord says to you, "I had all this to give you, and you only took this from Me." That's a scary moment.

I think it is a scary place not to have a dream, or a passion, or a hunger, or a desire that never makes it to the point of passion or obsession. Am I obsessed with this thing? You bet your life! I have waited all my Christian life to be in a church like this. We are going to that place if I have to kill you and drag your corpses with me!

This is a time for us to move quickly. There is a grace on us to move quickly. We don't need full-blown explanations for everything; we have trust. We don't need to know everything, we just need to upgrade our obedience. We can go there! We will get information as we go. God will tell us stuff as we get going, but can we please get going?

We are in a season of divine acceleration, Beloved, and we need to move faster than we are moving. I would like to say Thursday night is not an option, but there is just too much grace in my heart to say that. But I'd like to say Thursday night is not an option! I think it is a necessity. But that's just a part of it. It is what goes on between your ears 24/7. It is what you are hearing about yourself right now, about you making a list of all the stuff you'd like to overcome in yourself and going there because we have permission to go. It's about us moving quickly into a place of territory long since set aside for us. It's about experiencing something together as a company of people that marks us out as extraordinary.

This is a high place. Let's learn to live at altitude.

This is the question the Lord is asking you, "What shall I give you?"