

(Continued from Part 1)

We leave the New Testament. Now the question is: did any more of those kinds of men ever materialize? And the answer is yes. The Roman Catholic Church has made heroes of some of these people. I'm going to skip the Roman Catholic story because they have a lot of heroes who aren't all that good...some very devout men. Also, Bernard of Clairvaux is supposed to be one of the most pious men who ever lived, and I think he sanctioned the Albigensian crusade, and a lot of people were slaughtered.

Okay, we're going to start with the pre-protestant era. I think everything I've talked to you about, I want you to keep in mind that I have visited most of these places, I'm sorry, places when I was younger than anyone in this room. I have stood in places where Christians were drowned, burned, and imprisoned. Sometimes one or two, and sometimes places where it was massive. But I want you to look at a few of these people and also at the "para" movements that followed them. You've never heard that term before. So let me define it. The Lord is doing something, and alongside it comes another movement. So, I just called it a para movement: that which is alongside what the Lord is doing.

Wycliffe. Where do you get a man like that? Same kind of person. No roof to his comfort or stress. He took on the entire English theological system, the government, wrote a paper, and was the first man in history to defy and condemn transubstantiation and immorality. He came up with an idea that people had never even defined, which was so closely woven: that the church and state should be separated. Where's Scott? Scott, you might help me just a little. If there's anything you want to say here, please volunteer it. Wycliffe did not get the idea of having a New Testament until almost the end of his life, and it finally dawned on him that maybe we should have a Bible or a New Testament to back up what we're talking about. But there were no printing presses, so about 200 were made. We know almost nothing about where or how they were made. All we know is he died in 1384, and John Purvey took over the work.

I think there's only one reason we know the name John Wycliffe. It has nothing to do with the New Testament. Those would have eventually been destroyed. It was the Lollards whom he started, and here is where you find those people who are...the Bible talks about "sticking by the stuff." I don't understand where these kinds of people come from. What is there in an Englishman's blood that does this? He started the Lollards, and that's something that should have been killed off very soon thereafter. It was the Lollards who ensured those New Testaments were handwritten. It was John Purvey who defied the church. He died in 1414? They passed a law that anybody who put out a New Testament without permission from the church was to be burned alive. Well, they had already been burning people for a long, long time in Europe, but the British had not done a whole lot of burning at the stake until then; but boy, it opened the floodgates for another 200 years.

I've never been to Smithfield, England, and I feel like it's one of those places I've missed. There are four cities where you were tried and sentenced. One was for treason against the king. Another one is theft. Another one was something that you would do against the church, and the fourth one

was if you're a heretic. We do not know how many people were burned alive in Smithville, England, but it has to reach into the thousands. There is a pub in a town in England that I cannot pronounce. They have names like that, y'all. The pub is called the Lollard's Pit, where 200 men were burned alive. Lollards standing by and preaching all over England the message of salvation, and this thunderous gospel of John Wycliffe. All this was done after he was dead, and he probably never saw one of those New Testaments. I don't know. Scott, have you got any insight into that?

**Audience:** I think so. The New Testament, but I don't know if he saw the Old.

I'm sure he never saw the Old. The Old Testament did not appear until 1394, long after he was dead, and that was something Purvey put out. But I'm sure he didn't see the two or three hundred that were made. The Lollards, against all opposition, kept up that fire until the Reformation. There is a possibility...I have been told...I have never seen the proof... that the Lollards raised the money that enabled William Tyndale to print the first New Testament in 1525. That's a long time after; that's a hundred and...somebody figure it out...a hundred and some odd years they were still around. The number of people who tried to kill them off: it became an English sport to turn in Lollards and kill them. But when you read it, you think, okay, they started something wonderful, and somebody picked it up, and they were faithful.

Now, Tyndale is a close friend of mine. I guess I've been reading about his life on and off ever since I was saved. In 1517, when Luther nailed his thesis to the Castle Church in Wittenberg. In Smithfield, England, in 1517, a farmer, his wife, and his children were burned alive in Smithfield, England, for having taught his children the Lord's Prayer in English. We cannot understand the depth of the darkness of those days.

I'm going to introduce to you the name of a man named Erasmus who, before Luther's 1517, was putting together and successfully put together a New Testament in Greek. Nobody even knew those things existed until early on...when...I don't tell you when, I want to get off on that. He put one out in 1516. It was terrible. Put another one out in 1518, which Luther got his hands on, and then Erasmus put out another one in 1522, which was really good. It was the keg of dynamite that started the reformation. People began to read the New Testament in Greek, and they were astonished. One bishop said either this book is not true or none of us are Christians.

In 1522, Luther was excommunicated, which meant that if anybody found him and killed him, he would be a hero. That's the way it was in those days. Well, fortunately, Luther had the largest army in Europe to back him up and keep him safe. Frederick the Wise had the biggest army in Europe. It's amazing how that affected the Pope's feelings about what to do with Luther. We did not have a reformation without the army. Luther fled to the town of Würzburg, and the story is, and I wish somebody could help me here, that he translated the New Testament in three months, and the other one is that he did it in 11 months. Well, I've been working on one for 20 years, and I've just now gotten to 2nd Thessalonians. I don't know how he did something like that, and he had it printed, and this was history beyond history. Here is the first time the New Testament is in a language other than Latin, and it's in German, over a thousand years later. It's called the German New Testament.

And there's a young man in England who asked for permission to make a New Testament in English. Otherwise, he would be burned alive for doing it. Well, he got tired of waiting. So, he went to Europe, and he met Luther in Wittenberg. Almost got himself killed in Cologne, Germany, because the printer who was printing his New Testament made a remark: I'm making a German... Luther's New Testament...in English. Tyndale's life was saved by about 10 seconds. He came in the front door, grabbed one sheet of drying paper, got to the back door as the front door opened, and he fled. So he went to Worms, which was even safer, and there he put out his New Testament. The New Testament was first printed in April of 1525, and in 1526 it reached England. The Germans really wanted this New Testament; they sacked it up with books. They put the New Testament in sacks. 6,000 of them, but the archbishop of Canterbury, I think his name was Wolsey, was so determined to make sure that they never were circulated. Does anybody in this room know how many of those 6,000 survived? 5,998 of them were burned. One of them survived because it never left Germany. You can see it in Stuttgart, Germany, and the other one belonged to the Queen of England. Her name was Anne Boleyn. I had the privilege of going to the Grenville collection, and they've got the Wycliffe New Testament, the first edition of Martin Luther's New Testament, the Gutenberg Bible, and the only surviving copy of Anne Boleyn's New Testament.

I spent a whole day there just staring at those things and more blood than you and I could ever imagine. There were 100,000 Tyndale New Testaments eventually printed. Eight survived. Eight survived. All the hell and hatred that England could afford went into Europe to find that man. He moved sometimes every day, sometimes every week. He finally ended up at a place called the English house, and there was an understanding that no one in that town would be protected. He was in Belgium. And now you'll forgive me; I bring to you the greatest villain that I can think of. I don't like this man. The only reason I don't hate him is that I'm a Christian. I'm told not to, but I dislike him intensely. So intently, you can hardly tell the difference between my dislike and something else. He made friends with Tyndale. He came to Tyndale one day at the English house and said, "I'm about to go bankrupt if someone doesn't sign a note for me." Tyndale said, "I will sign it for you." He said, "You'll have to leave the house." Tyndale said, "Fine." went and signed the note for the man and was arrested. 500 days in the bottom dungeon of a prison in a castle. Nicole has been reading about his life, and she said, "Gene gets so angry." She said, "Everybody talks about Tyndale and his New Testament and how much he loved the word of God." She said, "This is simply not true." She said he put out that New Testament because of his passion for Christ.

For 500 days, after collecting his reward for catching Tyndale, he sat outside the dungeon door right there so that any visitor who came to him afterward would have to spend time talking to Henry Phillips, who would undo anything that might be said positively to or from Tyndale. For 500 days, he sat outside that dungeon door. Before going into Europe, Tyndale met with a group of men at a pub... still there... in England called the White Horse Inn. 21 men... all of them... were part of what is called the English Reformation. Every one of those men went out and took a public stand. Preached, preached everywhere they could, passed out New Testaments all they could. They kept on finding those New Testaments for about 50 more years and burning them. 21

men who met every week at the White Horse Inn: 20 of them died at the stake. The 21st was Coverdale, and he is the man who put out the first total Old and New Testament printed in the English language. He carried out and finished the work of Tyndale. And there are the Lollards backing Tyndale's Bible for 150 years. Did anyone figure out the exact days from the time he died? John Wycliffe died until the day of the New Testament? You've got 1384 to 1526; that's got to be some number of years.

What I don't understand is...it was...I just wrote this last week: when mapmakers made maps, they went as far as the explorations allowed them to go, so they couldn't make the map any further. They'd write out on the map - beyond this, there be dragons. From 1517, for another 60 years beyond this point, there be giants. This letter survived. Has anybody here ever read it? Have you ever heard it? This is right before he's executed. I'm looking for a voice I know that'll carry across the room. Jerry, you've got a good voice. Oh, would you mind? He wrote that to the local bishop. This was sent to me via fax. Anyway, go ahead and take a minute to look at it, Jerry.

They took him out from the castle in Antwerp, Belgium, and they stacked the wood up to his neck, put him up against a stake, and then mercifully strangled him. Now he was in Europe, and the king of England was rejoicing in the fact that he had been caught and was going to be burned alive. He was Henry VIII. They strangled him to death. They lit the fires, and William Tyndale regained consciousness. It can't be any more dramatic than this. While the fires burned and smoke billowed, they heard him cry out from the flames, "Lord, open the eyes of the King of England." The King read the New Testament, which Anne Boleyn had, and he said, "This is a good book" - that old miserable buzzard. I don't know if you know anything about him: He's got to be one of the worst people who ever walked the stages of English history. If you don't know that, then you just read him and challenge me on that, on anybody, on that subject. Anyway, two years later, in what was actually the only authorized English-language version of the Bible ever approved, he authorized a Bible. It was basically Tyndale's and Coverdale's Bible that came out two years after that. It's called the Great Bible. You got it? The letter he wrote to the bishop soon before he died. The way he ends that letter is just unbelievable. And get a little bit of a view of what it must have been like in that cell.

Now, you may think I'm going to tell you what happened next. No, I'm going to tell you something else. The para movement. Here are men being burned at the stake. Here are people going to prison all over Europe. It's happening in Italy. The Reformation never took root there. In Spain, there was a reformation, and they were all killed out. In Spain and France, the story is too long to tell. The Reformation was causing the greatest upheaval in the history of Great Britain and Europe, religious-wise, but there was another movement at the same time by religious people called the humanist movement, also led by Erasmus. It was there to talk the reformation to death. Anything but involvement. Anything but blood. Anything but Paul. Philosophers, hundreds of them, humanists, the humanist movement there to talk the reformation out of its power. Anytime the Lord ever does something, there's another one of those things. Always. Now, one of the things that's going through my heart and has been, where do these people come from? Sometimes my

heart cries out. Well, you Henry Phillips kinds, you Woolsey kind, you Sir Thomas More type, Augustine of Italy against the Celtics. Some guy whose name was Henrique or something against the Priscillianists. They're always there. But boy, they have been there ever since the reformation because before that, you had a religious monopoly. I think it was the Duke of Savoy who spent his entire life killing Waldensians. You've got to watch out for people like Peter Waldo and the Waldensians. They sent people out two by two all over Europe, and they even turned around and went down south into the very villages of Italy, preaching an evangelical gospel. Did you happen to find that sentence that I'm trying to locate? Go ahead, read it.

**Audience:** This book is less a history of Waldensians than an account of those men and women who remained true to the ideal lived in anxiety and under suspicion, often fearful and sometimes in blind terror. Theirs is a tale of people, great and small, proclaiming their faith timidly yet with an astounding, sometimes dogged tenacity. They hold a mirror to us today.

That's not Paul's and Peter's; those are you. Now, the Waldensians moved up into the valleys. History says, but not strongly, that they fled up there into those mountains under the persecution of Nero. If that's true, then they're older than the Roman Catholic Church. They used to claim that, too, but they went to the seminary and learned that they couldn't make statements without strong verification. Saints, there was one crusade after another, army after another army after another army, for 400 years, trying to liquidate, and they were never accused of heresy. They were known to be evangelical Christians adhering to the core of Roman Catholic theology, but their heresy was...and this is why they were trying to do genocide against them...they would not obey the Pope. I love this statement. "Fearful and timid but steadfast." Just downright bullheaded in their quiet and gentle way.

Okay, we'll go forward. Wesley's movement. I've already mentioned the humanists. Have you ever heard of the Oxford movement? Wesley, almost, you know, Wesley, this is in the late 1700s, helped end slavery, all sorts of things. All sorts of English people got saved to the point that the English church was about to reform itself, and the Oxford movement started: a group of men who would not get their hands dirty, nor spill their blood, nor preach the Gospel, but would sit there in their armchairs and talk it to death. It was called the Oxford movement. During the reformation, it was, and I have to back up one, it was actually the Council of Trent. The Council of Trent met for 14 years with its great theologians and philosophers. They had only one decision to make: whether to reform themselves or stay exactly as they were. And for 14 years, they sat in chairs, philosophized, and then decided they would do absolutely nothing.

I have lived through two revivals. When Billy Graham came to the fore, the theological world was shaken to its foundations. I had the privilege of turning on my car radio when Billy Graham... and I must be the only person left alive who remembers this... was on a program in which Nemer and an entire group of philosophers were seeking to talk the revival that I was saved in, to death. To make sure it didn't happen and do it, you know, and Billy Graham had nothing but a college education, nailed every one of those men to the wall. It was one of those moments when a man

spoke beyond himself, his abilities, or his understanding. I've been in a second revival - 1968 to 1972, which scared the socks off the established church in the United States. So, they started a counter movement because these kids had literally left the institutional church. This never happened in America. I think I told you there were 2,000 Jesus houses. That's when there were half a mile of hitchhikers in Santa Barbara, all on drugs. Everybody was hitchhiking. We'd go out there, and we'd start on this end to the other end, and we'd lead those people to the Lord. You could say Jesus saves, and 15 people get saved. It was unbelievable.

The institutional church had to do something. So, something called "Renewal" started. Now you can't imagine Renewal. They had meetings, and they had conferences, and they had rallies, and the church is going to renew itself. So, there was one meeting somewhere within driving distance; it was supposed to be the leaders of Southern California who would attend this meeting and Renewal. This is that which is alongside what God does. This is the answer to ensure nobody has to spill blood or enter the arena. I went to it. (Excerpts from that meeting) - Well, now I'll tell you what I feel about this... You know, someone else. Well, you know, according to Kierkegaard... Yes, but don't forget what Pascal said... All of them Christians, all theologians, all quoting somebody and trying to put the Jesus revival in its proper category so that we could understand it. Council of Trent, the humanists, the Oxford movement. I don't know how Nemer got his name on this, but whatever Nemer was doing... and renewal. At that time, the British had never had a national magazine like we have Christianity Today, so they named their magazine Renewal. This is a copy from about 5 years ago. The cover of it is Baan's Pilgrimage.

Saints, I rest my case. Not only do they have the foolishness of God is higher than the greatest wisdom of men...Baan's Pilgrimage...it never had fire. If you don't have fire, you don't ever have anything. I will not tell you this man's name because I don't want you to find out who he was, but let's just put it this way: he was one of the great movers and shakers of the 1900s. He said, "You philosophers define the age you're in, but the point is to change it." Okay, now I'll tell you who he was. His name was Karl Marx.

I have one more thing I want to read to you. This is the one I want to leave with the church. Before I read it to you, I want to tell you a few stories, and I may have to ask for one of them to be cut off. Look, I'm not Bakht Singh. I'm not Prem Pradhan. I'm not Watchmen Nee, but I did live in this century, and I have been outside the institutional church. When they arrested Watchman Nee, and this is a terrible story to tell, but it makes a point. The Christian missionaries hated the man and were glad to see the communists arrest him. They put him in a room, made him face the camera, then brought in a group of unclothed women, took a picture, and published it on the front page of their national paper. They hung Watchman Nee in a cage in the city square of Shanghai so that the crowds were supposed to come by and be derisive and yell at him and all that stuff. He stood there in that cage and sang Christian hymns to the crowd. I had the privilege to live among the men who were Watchmen Nee's age, the men who had been imprisoned, the men who fled, the men who lost everything. I keep asking, where are those people? And the sisters who gave their lives full-time to back those men? I lived among those people.

In the Philippines, I lived with two Chinese women who had been the servants in the house where Watchmen Nee lived, so that the people there could have all the time they needed to serve the Lord. Beta Sheirich was in that house. Miss Fischbacher, Mary Jones, and Miss Rabbacher were all there on Hardoon Road in Shanghai backing that man. According to Mary Jones, he did not die in prison of a natural death, but I saw her just before she died. She said, "Gene, that's not true. He kept winning people to the Lord," and they told him that if he wins one more person to Christ, they're going to take him out and shoot him. Well, they took him out and shot him because he wouldn't stop.

Hated by the Christians, despised by the government. T. Austin Sparks was probably the most disliked minister in England up until his health failed. Someday, will you make me tell Prem Pradhan's story because it reaches beyond any of those? Now I can speak firsthand, and I can tell you that that man and I were probably closer to one another than anybody else in the world that either one of us was close to. He told me a story that when he got saved, there was nobody else saved in Nepal. So, when he came out of prison, all of his people in prison would come out with him because each one of them had to spend a year in jail if they got baptized, and they'd go out and start church, and then they went out and preached the Gospel, and they made about \$75 a year. I'm going to get off the subject just a little bit.

You've never heard of a gentleman named Sunga from Thailand, and he was in my home, and Prem was telling about how they had their conferences and riverbeds and how they did this and that they brought all these people in, and Sunga kept saying, "How do you do that? How do you do that?" There must have been about 50 or 60 people in the room, and we're all white men. We have no idea what he's talking about; we're Americans, middle-class. "How do you do that?" Prem understood perfectly. He said, "Oh, brother, all year long we raise chickens. We go to the market to sell chicken. All year long, we raise pigs. We take pigs to market and sell them in Kathmandu. We take millet, we grow much millet, and we take it to market, and we sell it. And then we take all the proceeds we sell, and we give it to the Lord, and then we buy more millet, and we eat millet with what we got from chickens, and that's how we have conference."

When Prem was in one of those times when he wasn't in prison, he started a fellowship of Christian workers. He had led every one of them to Christ. The second time he got out of prison, there were people there who were called Christian "Presence". Does that word mean anything to you? You are a missionary who signs a document that you will never utter the word Jesus Christ in public. You will not preach the Gospel, but you will do your humanitarian work, and they were beginning to get in there. I'm okay if I get angry; you just forgive me. So, they, the missionaries, began telling the Prem Pradhan story, and it got in the newspapers here, and it got in the churches, and the missionaries came home, and they talked about wonderful Christians, Prem Pradhan, who went to prison and these people he led to the Lord. Listen to Prem's own words to me. "Gene, they raised \$1 million. They build hospitals. They build schools," I said, "Prem, what did you get to carry on your work?" "Nothing. Maybe I will get a front sofa. I got some old rotten vegetables." That's all. That's the way he said it. No, I don't like the institutional church. You don't think they do things

like this nowadays? I'm talking about American missionaries, friends of yours, friends of mine. Don't take that personally. He got out of prison, and the missionaries had taken over the fellowship of those Christian workers. Bought them off, and Prem went to the meeting, and the missionaries met him and said, "You are not allowed to be part of this fellowship of Christian work."

He went back again and again to prison. He didn't have a stress level. He didn't have a comfort zone. He didn't have a place where he wore out endurance, and he was like that the day he started. I have been one of the most honored men in the world because, as far as I'm concerned, what Prem did outstrips anybody ever anybody ever did except Paul, but he matched him. You've never seen a man with scars so deep in his wrists and in his ankles. Nothing would grow there. He wore it for so many years. Come out and start churches, get thrown back in jail. I think I told you the day I met him; he had spent half of his Christian life in prison. As dear as a man who ever lived on this earth, the most choice servant I think I ever knew. He almost died right here in this town, right here. He came and stayed at Mike and Carisia's home, and I said, "Mike, did y'all prepare a bedroom for him?" Well, brother, we had some other guests there. Didn't you put him in a room? Please tell me this isn't true. He lay on the living room floor with a pillow under his head. I said, "Mike, you can't do this." He said, "He won't sleep in a bed." I went to Prem asking for forgiveness. I wanted to be shot. I wanted to die. "Oh, no problem. I always sleep on the floor. Floor and pillow. All I need."

Where do you get men like that? Bakht Singh raised up the greatest work ever done by a Christian in all of Christian history, unless you can find somebody else who started 6,000 churches and had over half a million people at his funeral. But I'm going to tell you something. When it came to the work, Prem Pradhan was meaner than a stick, meaner than I could ever hope to be. I can tell you why you have to be. And Bakht Singh is just unbelievable. He ran that thing because he was Bakht Singh. Of all of those men, by the way, only one of them knew how to drive a car. Did you know that? And that was Bakht Singh. He had an old truck that he drove all over India. Temperature 180 degrees...or whatever it is. I'm serious. Check it out. It's humidity.

I have a story I need to tell. I think I'll tell you a little about it. I don't think you can understand in our day and age how, in a little town like Santa Barbara, how ruthless the institutional church can be. Now, I want you to know something. We're innocent. We didn't do anything in this world but meet. We didn't say anything ugly. We were just there. I walked into a Logos bookstore and bought a book. This man started warning me about Gene Edwards, and he started rattling off this and the other, how horrible he was and what he had done, what he had said. I handed him my card, Earl E. Edwards, and he kept raging against Gene Edwards. I asked him one question. Have you ever met him? "No." I said, "Do you ever hear him make any of these statements?" No, but I've heard about it. So, I got in the car, and he came out and said, "You forgot to sign your credit card." I went out there and wrote my name. There were people all over Southern California who knew my name. There was an entire chapter written about me concerning the Jesus movement and what was going on in Santa Barbara, and I thought it was one of the most wonderful compliments a man

could ever get. They called me a mystic who had raised up a church that was a group of Christian mystics.

Now, here we were, people who could holler and scream. They heard us 10 blocks away and depicted us as mystics. We were stopped on campus; someone set our meeting place on fire. The police said, "We got one truckload of dynamite hidden somewhere in this town. We don't know whether it's to blow up the bank or to blow you up." By the way, that dynamite was found later, and it was wet, and they couldn't blow it up at all. It was dug out...it was out there in one of the vacant lots. It had been hauled in there. We still don't know what it was for, but that was the kind of thing that we had going.

I had an experience there of Christians who would join us, and this is the kind of thing that none of those other men would ever tolerate. I remember a guy's name, believe it or not, was Tombstone, and yes, he made tombstones. Now, maybe he changed his name, and he said, "You people, this is the most wonderful thing in this world, but you've got to get rid of Gene Edwards, or he's going to ruin this whole place." You're supposed to laugh, saints. I was responsible for that group of people, and I was holding it together, but there would be somebody like that who would come in, gather four or five people, talk to them, leave, and take them. Nothing ever happened.

We had a brother who was so Christian and so religious, and he took about 10 people out of the church, moved to some town in California, and was never heard from again. The people who followed him really thought they were going to follow another Watchman Nee, but that man had no stress level whatsoever. Every time there has ever been someone attempting to split the church, I have always let them do it. The reason I say this is that Christians get in their flesh under a lot of pressure when there are a lot of lies and rumors going around, and I have never sat in a room in my entire ministry where Christians went at one another. Not for one second in my whole life ever. And to avoid it, I've always let them have the church. Now you stand on the horns of a dilemma. You do everything you can to make Christians strong, stand for their church, read the riot act, if necessary, but quietly, to those who would damage or split the church, and then people get hurt. Or you can let them split the church, and people get hurt.

Let me explain. Every time anybody has ever tried to divide the church, and they do it by gossip, and they do it by this and innuendos, and why we could do it better, and so on, they never understand that they can't get a unanimous vote on that. When they begin drawing people to themselves, the other half is destroyed. If I step in and prevent it from happening, the group that was trying to split the church gets destroyed. I'm not Solomon, and I don't know how to resolve this, but I have backed away and turned it over to those very people who are my enemies to prevent ever having a clash, and it's destroyed one half of the people, sometimes more than half. There's been no exception to this, and every time, without exception, these have been men who felt they could do more and better than I. And except for the one I just told you, which went on to become a denomination without exception, all the rest fizzled out—totally fizzled out. You know why? I've told you why for the last two hours. Can you explain it? Would you give it back to me,

somebody? Their stress levels are too low. Their comfort zones are too high, and their endurance is almost zero. In St. Cloud, a brother moved in, and you could tell within a day of his being there, he came to split the church, and he did. He went door to door with this great big vision. By the way, he's the man who said, "I've only read one book in my life, and by the way, it was a book I wrote," and he had this great vision. This is what the church ought to be. I let him have it. Boy, half of the people were just so crushed, but they were so angry at him. He lasted three weeks because he had one tiny little problem, and that was the people who were not happy with him. People who were there in the Gene Edwards crowd. He didn't know how to deal with it. Three weeks later, I got a letter from his wife blaming me for all of it.

That's the next thing I want to tell you: I don't care how I do it, I get blamed. I think the most noble thing I've ever heard in my life is a man who let his enemy take over his church in order to keep from having the flesh. I think that's beautiful, Gene. I commend you for doing that. Thank you very much for helping...that's never happened, one bit, and those people don't know what they're talking about. They don't know what they're doing. When I began with you, I went through the Old Testament, and what people do. I've just told you what they did to Tyndale. I forgot to tell you what they did to Wycliffe. Evil is there. It is always present, and there are always those with a better answer, but they don't have the stress level or the void of a comfort zone. They cannot eat fire and brimstone for breakfast. Here it is. It is not the critic who counts, nor the man who points out how the strong man erred, or whether the doer of deeds could have done it better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena. Whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood. Who strives valiantly though he errs frequently. Comes up short and again and again and again. Comes up short because there is no effort without error and shortcomings, but who actually strives to do the deeds, who knows great enthusiasm, great devotion, who spends himself in a worthy cause. Who, at best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat. Teddy Roosevelt.

I don't have a comfort zone. I got a very high stress level...or a low one. I don't know which it is, and endurance. And you should understand that if you follow me, some of the blood may get splattered on you. Cindy, some of the dirt might get on you. Some of the stress might come your way. Now, I'm going to make a statement I never thought I would, but I always enjoy doing something. I really swore up and down. I'd never do it. This is going to be recorded, and I have a notion that I'm going to catch it. If some soul who has a better idea begins trying to lead this church in some direction other than what you and I are going, and if anybody tries to split the church for the first and only time, I'm going to stop it, and I'm going to let him and his followers suffer and be bitter. My record is clean; it's perfect, but I have never been able...I never got a single credit for it ever. So I'm asking you to do something, and that is, decide whether you want to follow somebody who doesn't have a stress level, and doesn't have a comfort zone, and whose whole life has been one of constant conflict, which is exactly how it should be and you may say that it's all Gene's fault; well, it was Watchman Nee's fault too and it was Prem Pradhan's, and it was Bakht

Singh's and it was Tyndale's and it was Luther's. It was T. Austin Sparks, and it was Paul's and all of those.

There is so much to restore, so much to keep. Yes, I wouldn't mind having your help. I want to find somebody who has already proven, before I met him, that he can chew fire, walk through the very boughs of hell, and come out drinking ice water. They don't come very often. So, I now end with one more word. I'm going to cuss. Today we have another para... whatever... well, what I believe is. They will never get into the arena. They will not spill blood. They will not have their life threatened. They will not have people hating them. They will fall off the fire, and that's all they will ever do, and they are the Oxford movements, the Humanists, and the Renewals. I would really urge you to go join them. I'd say they have four to five years left to exist, and I will tell you something else. There'll come a day when they themselves will destroy because it is the nature of men. They will.

Oral Roberts preached a message that worked, and every Pentecostal preacher in America started raising money the way he did. There's a gentleman named Mueller who ran an orphanage, and he went around saying, "We never let our needs be known." And then he tells all these stories about how their needs were met, and we never let our needs be known. We live by faith. We live by faith. We live by faith. We live by faith. We never let our needs be known, and they had an orphanage choir that sang, and everybody cried. On the day he died, he was one of the ten richest men in America. When Wesley died, he was one of the five richest men in Europe, and I'm sorry, they were both in Europe.

People copy things, and if something gets successful, it's going to get copied, but I'm going to tell you something else. If it gets successful, it gets cruel. It gets fleshly, knows squat about the word of God, and has never paid one minute's price. At the end of this sentence, when I have finished this sentence, I will utter two words, and those are my two cuss words. Are you ready for those words that come at the end of this sentence? Emerging church, and I recommend that you take its spirit, its ecumenicity, its philosophy, its unwillingness to get into the arena, just like all the rest never were, and go join them, but don't come here with that garbage.

Now, saints, I guess that's been about as honest as I know how to be with you. I think you should decide something now, but I'm not going to tolerate disunity in this church. If it starts, I'm going to stop it. I'll probably stop it in a meeting by calling names. Gene, that's terrible. I learned it from the best. In the meantime, I have called it quits to my stroke, my bad leg, my blinding eyes, my deaf ears, and my other diseases that I have acquired over the last few years. If you would like someone else to be your worker, ask him... no, observe one thing. Has he already proven his stress level and his comfort zone, no matter who it is? That's one.

The second one is, and always ask this question, and ask it again, again and again and again and again and again and again: What is your worldview? Your worldview, and he'll look at you deadpan, having no idea what you're talking about. Every man who's ever been driven has been driven by revelation, by call, and by worldview. When I was 24, I entered a contest called "How

to evangelize the world in one generation,” and I won. I got \$1,000 for a trip to Hawaii. I presented it to Bill Bright, Campus Crusade for Christ, a long time ago, to evangelize the world. Ask him what his worldview is. Observe his comfort zone. I don't want to, but I will disturb your comfort zone, and I apologize ahead of time, and I won't do it deliberately. It's just who I am.