

Well good morning Grace Hills.

Good morning.

I always get just a little bit of sadness on the last week of a series. I know you guys may not experience that but for me it's like I've spent nine weeks preparing messages for this series, and I've been amazed at some of what I've heard that God has been doing in people's lives. And it's just thrilling for me. So it's always for me, a little bit hard to move on. In other words, I hate to wrap it up. There's still more I want to share and say. But we have some big things to say today to kind of nail down all that we've learned in the last eight weeks out of this Healing series. And then next week, I want you to know where we're going. We're going to spend about four Sundays walking through the 23rd Psalm. A message series just called Fearless. Because when you look at that psalm, it's like one reassurance after another that whatever you're going through in life, good bad or ugly, that God is with you and will not leave you. That he is a good shepherd that walks alongside us. So I can't wait to jump into that either. I'm sad and excited at the same time.

But we're going to wrap up today this message series called Healing. And I want to take you back to the very beginning for a second. At the beginning of this series, the very first Sunday of the Healing series, I kind of laid out that we usually have a goal of wanting to be happy in life. And, I believe that God's goal for us is the same. He also wants us to be happy. But our understanding of happy, and God's understanding of happy are not always the same. And that our pathway to happy, and God's pathway to happy are not always the same. That we as human beings often tend to seek happiness first. And then if I can find happiness, then I will seek to be healthy. And if I'm able to get there, then I'll be able to become holy. And we kind of go at it from that pathway. And that God does it in reverse, just the opposite of the way that we usually do it. That God seeks my holiness. That he wants to make me whole, and he wants to make me holy like Jesus. And out of that, out of helping me to be conformed to the likeness of Jesus and to grow spiritually and to be whole on the inside, that leads me to living a life that is healthy.

And when I lead a life that is healthy that produces the kind of joy and happiness that God wants, that sort of abundance that Jesus brings is the result of Him leading me through holiness and healthiness. And the problem is that oftentimes, holiness and healthiness come through pain and repentance. Happiness can come lots of different ways. It can come very quickly. Happiness can come in a moment. But a lifetime of being joy-filled the way God intends is a hard pathway. Because God takes us through some hard things on the way there. And he uses all the hard stuff. We have spent the last eight weeks talking about that pathway. Talking about how do I become my holiest, healthiest, happiest self? And so we've talked about repentance. We've talked about owning my brokenness. We've talked about acknowledging my hurts, my habits, and my hang ups. Confessing my sins to God and other people. Forgiving people and asking forgiveness from people and repairing relationships. We've walked through all kinds of things, and what I want to do today in this sort of wrap-up message is to ask the question, "What is God's long-term goal for your life?" In other words, we're going to talk today about how to stay healthy for the rest of your life. How to stay healthy for the rest of your life.

I was reflecting this morning on this membership that I have that I've been paying for for a long time to a particular gym in town. And it's, I won't name it but it's one of the more popular ones on the planet. I get to realizing this morning that the entire business model for this particular gym is built on failure.

Now it's not a criticism of the business, it's a great business model but it's built on the idea that let's sell

as many memberships as we can. To as many people as we can. Way more people than could ever actually fit in the building. And then most of them won't come. And we'll collect all these memberships and that sort of thing.

And then I had a friend recently, I was talking to about this, and he runs a different kind of business, where he coaches people in their fitness and their health. And it costs a lot more, but he said my business is based on success. If they don't keep showing up, I don't get paid, and I get results or not. And I think that some of us in life, we sort of have an approach to the Christian life, that's very much like that first business model. It's there when I need it, and it doesn't cost me a lot, and I can just sort of coast through and not really notice. But what God wants us to move into is an understanding that he wants to work powerfully in my life to change me, to shape me. And to bring results and a sort of successful kind of spiritual growth. And God invests in me in a way that if I will tune into that, and respond to that, doesn't just help me feel healthy for a moment, for about the first two weeks of January or so. But instead helps me to be healthy throughout my life.

So I want to talk about that. How do I get spiritually healthy. We've spent eight weeks talking about that. How do you get healthy spiritually. And then I want to wrap up today just seeing how do you do that for the rest of your life. How does this become a long-term thing? Because a lot of us have gone through moments that are intense with emotion. That are filled with movement and meaning and we feel something very significant and a moment of change and a moment of transition, a moment of healing. A moment of salvation, a moment of redemption. But the question is, what effect does that have for the rest of my life? How do I stay healthy? How do I keep on growing? So I want to tackle that today because I think that for many of us, we boil it down to now I got to keep on trying. I got to keep doing. I got to make myself holy. I got to keep making myself acceptable to God. And that's not really God's pathway. And I want to look at a couple verses here in a moment. But first let me just share this big truth with you that we're going to get into today.

God wants to use your whole lifetime to make you into the healthiest, holiest, happiest version of yourself. He wants to use your whole lifetime. Not just a Sunday, not just a weekend, not just a period of your life. He wants to take your entire life. And use your whole life and all of the time and all of the timeline of your life, and all of the events that you will ever walk through, and he wants to use all of that to shape you into long-term, the holiest, healthiest, happiest version of you that you can be. The you that looks like Jesus from the inside out. The you in which your character models and echoes the character of Jesus. The way you make decisions starts to look like the way Jesus makes decisions. And the way that you handle pain and suffering starts to look like the way that Jesus handles pain and suffering. Because a lot of us wound up in our brokenness because we didn't respond correctly to pain and suffering and brokenness. We internalized it wrongly, we told ourselves false stories about it, we got sort of tripped up spiritually along the way. And we wound up in a state of brokenness. But what God wants to do is use the rest of your life. The rest of your life to make you into the believer that he wants to make you into.

He's got this plan and this purpose and he's working it out. So I want to talk about two different aspects of this. A lot of us think that this is kind of active thing. In other words, that I need to keep getting myself to church, and I need to keep reminding myself to handle everything wisely, and I need to find the strength and the ability to walk through all of life's situations, good, bad, and indifferent. In a way that grows me, that I need to remain acceptable to God. That I need to keep making my life into what God wants it to be. But I want to reverse course and just say that any amount of health, or holiness, or

Christ's likeness, or even true rich joy that is in your life is going to come from God as the ultimate source. That I on my own don't make my life holy, healthy, and happy. I don't do that. I've proven my inability on my own to make things right. And to make things well. And to make things healthy. And so if we've learned one thing throughout this series, it's that I must remain dependent on God to get involved in my life and to do something that only He can do. Something that I can't do on my own.

So I want to read a verse out of Philippians, and just make this big point. I want to talk about two aspects of living a healthy life. And the first one is all about what God plans to do in you. What he plans to do in you. And Philippians 1:6 says this: "I am certain that God who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Jesus Christ returns." So he says what God wants to do in you is this great work that he's been involved in. The word work, we get the word energy out of the word that's translated work here. And so God is expending energy in your life. He's doing something in you, actively, whether you're fully aware of it or not, whether you've tuned into it or not. Whether you've responded to it or not. That God is actively doing something that the moment that you met Jesus as your savior, the moment you began a relationship with Christ, the moment the Holy Spirit moved into you, He began in that moment a certain work, a certain amount of energy, he is producing something. He is doing something. He is shaping you. And that God is the source of that.

That there are things that God does in me, and through me, and around me that I could never accomplish on my own. That I could just never do in my power. I could never do in my ability. That I'm dependent on him getting involved. And the thing I want you to notice about this particular verse, is that there are three different sort of time phases to it. There are three different tenses that are expressed in this verse. He says first of all, God who began the good work in you. So who originated your healing? Who originated your salvation, your redemption, your path to holiness and healthiness? Who started this great trajectory toward Him instead of away from Him? Well it's 100% God and His power and His ability and His wisdom and His truth. It's God who started it. When I look in the New Testament at verses that talk about salvation, almost every single time, and we're sort of unpacking this throughout the day. But almost every single time, my part is a response to what God is doing.

That I don't initiate this. I didn't choose myself, I didn't sanctify myself, I don't glorify myself, I don't redeem myself. Instead, God gets involved and He draws us and He regenerates us and makes us brand new. When I'm born again it's a work of God. That from the outside God steps into my life and He gets involved and He totally renovates me from the inside out. And He spends the rest of my life sanctifying me and setting me apart and making me more like Him. That it's a work that God began. I did not initiate it. Jesus said we love him why? Because he what? First love us, right? And so He started this great work. It comes from Him. I want to thank the six of you that helped me complete that.

So He begins this work. And I don't get credit for starting this great work in my life. I don't have the power, the ability in myself. I'm dependent on God to begin it. But then He says He will continue His work. He'll continue His work. So it's a present active kind of work. And for a lot of us who may be grew up in a certain Christian tradition, we might have gotten the impression that salvation is all by grace through faith. And so we have to come helplessly and receive Jesus and he saves us, and it's through no effort of our own and through no goodness of our own. But we also grew up with the impression that after that moment, now it's on me. And so he saves me, and that totally by grace. And all I can do is just trust in him. And receive what he's done. And from then on, I got to work really hard. And I got to make myself good. And I got to follow all the rules and I got to get all the rituals right. And I got to act

Christianly so to speak. And so what I sometimes do with this verse is I go, "God began a great work in me and I'm really trying to continue it."

But it doesn't say that. It says God who began a great work in you, He will continue his work. He is working in you now, and He will be working in you tomorrow. And your response to Him is what matters. And we'll come back to the response in just a moment. But there's not a moment at which you take over. There's not a moment at which the power used to come from God and now it's going to come from me. This is not like He teaches me how to be right with Him. And then He takes His hands off and sets me free. No, He continues to work. And then it says He will continue it until it is finished on the day of Jesus Christ's return. Until it is finished then. So God is an initiator. God continues and God will finish His work. That He has this purpose and this plan for you to make you more like Jesus, to heal you of your brokenness, to not only forgive you of your sin but also to spend the rest of your life cleansing you from the effects of sin. And removing the power of sin from your life. And then eventually the presence of sin. And God has committed Himself to finish what He started.

And it's one of the great spiritual truths. Sometimes I think you need like a sermon boiled down to a single phrase, right? And so the phrase to remember is this, "What God starts, he finishes." Say that with me. "What God starts, he finishes." I remember the day when I trusted Jesus Christ as my savior. And I know that for a few years thereafter I was growing and sort of understanding certain things and then I think about a season of my life where I wasn't as close to God and where I wasn't as aware of what God was doing in my life. And then there's this sort of coming back to him. And he is faithful through all of those seasons to keep growing us and using us and so from my perspective, I can look back at seasons of failure. At seasons of distance. At seasons of my life where I wasn't pursuing Christ as much as I needed to be. But He remains faithful through all of that because He made a commitment to me. He committed the resource of His son. He said that my son is sacrificing his very own life for you. So you're bought with a price.

And what God has paid for with the price of His very own son, He's going to claim. He's going to keep. And this work that He starts in us when we repent and we receive Christ and we're born again, that work is going to keep going and going and God is going to keep working. And God is going to be faithful and He's going to continue his work and He's going to finish it. Now I don't understand how I'm ever going to be finished. You ever feel that way? Like man, I really think I make progress, and then I look and I mess up in some way or I see how far I have to go. Something highlights for me. Wow, I've really got a lot more growing to do. And I don't understand how God's going to get this done. And sometimes I have to tell Him that. "God, I don't know what you're going to do with me." Right? I'm a mess, and I think I've gotten cleaned up from something that I used to be, but then I look and I go, "No, there's still a big mess here. Still a lot to work with." But God is committed to starting and continuing and finishing a great work in you. And your holiness, and your healthiness, and your happiness will never depend on your effort alone. Not ever.

It will always depend on what Jesus has done for you, on what the Holy Spirit wants to do in you, on how God's Word instructs you, on how His community of people surround you. You have all this help. And so if you're going to continue to be healthy over the long haul for a lifetime, it means leaning into what God is already actively doing in your life. It's joining Him in what He's doing. About a year and a half ago we walked through a whole series of messages called The God Experience. And it was all about this truth that God is always working in, around, and through you. And your responsibility is to join Him in His work. It's to respond to His work. And that brings us to the second angle from which we're looking

at all this today. Another verse from Philippians says this. But this is about what you do in response to God. So God is doing something that is beyond your control and beyond your ability, but he also speaks to what we do in response to what God does for us.

And Philippians 2 says this. "Work hard to show the results of your salvation. Obeying God with deep reverence, and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him." So he gives us in this verse, in these two verses, our proper response to what he's doing in our lives. So He gets involved. Who redeems me? God does. Who heals my brokenness? God does. Who makes me holy? God does. Who sets me apart and helps me to progress and grow? It's a work of God. The power of His Holy Spirit, the wisdom of His Word. All of that combines in my life and the source of my growth is God. The source of my progress is God. It's not from me, I don't have it in me, but God has been willing to save me and help me and cleanse me and forgive me. And so God is doing all these things. But he does give me, here's how you can respond to what God is doing. Here's what you can do in light of what God is doing.

In other words, let me make this really clear. This is not a statement about the energy that you contribute to your salvation. It's not about the energy that you contribute to your salvation. Instead it's a statement about God's energy having accomplished your redemption, and you're simply responding to that. Simply joining in with what he has already completely done. So when it comes to this energy equation, it's not as though God did 70% of the saving of Brandon, and I do the other 30%. And in our Christian life sometimes we think it's that way. Well God, he's doing the first half of making me holy. And I got to do the second half. No. God is 100% responsible for your redemption, your salvation, your sanctification, your cleansing, your growth, your progress. For you to become a mature Christian, who gets 100% of the credit? God does.

But he gives us a response to that. What do I respond to God by doing? What do I do in order to join in and reflect what he's done in my life? And he says here work hard to show the results of your salvation. In other words, I've been redeemed. I've been cleansed. I've been forgiven. I've been empowered. I've been instructed. I've been set apart. I've been put on a trajectory toward eternal life with Jesus in heaven. And what I need to do with my life now is not make that happen more. Because God's completely done it. What I need to do instead is before the rest of the world, put on display the results of what God has done. I need my life to reflect to other people the gracious work of God in my life. So He does the work, and I respond to what He's done by putting on display what is it that He's done. And then he goes on and says obeying God with deep reverence and fear for God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. So a lot of times I wind up in a conversation with someone who is struggling to get over something or to heal from something or to stop doing something that they wish they weren't doing anymore.

And a lot of us battle this belief of, I just can't do it. You ever come to that place in your life, those low moments, and maybe you're there now. Maybe you haven't been there in years. But you've hit that spot where you go, "I just can't overcome this. I just can't seem to defeat this in my life. I keep doing this over and over and I don't know why. And I'm just helpless. I can't do it." The fact is, you can do it. But you can only do it because of the promises that God has issued about you. So when he says God is working in you, same word. He's expending energy in you right now. He's continuing His work in you. And what is He giving you? The desire and the power to do what pleases Him. So when you come to the conclusion in your life, I just don't think I have what it takes, you're wrong. You're flat out wrong. You have what it takes because it's been given to you.

You have the ability. You have the power to please and serve God, because God has given you that ability. You have the power and the ability and the energy and the desire and the will to please Him, because God has given that to you. It doesn't come from you, doesn't come from within, it comes from God having moved into me, and giving me these things. Now I want to simply that and say okay, what does that mean? What does that look like in a practical way in my life on a daily basis, how do I do this? How do I stay on a healthy track? And I want to give you just two brief statements that kind of sum up our proper response to what God is doing. And the first is this. Align with God's purposes. Align with God's purposes. So he says in this verse, He is giving you the will and the desire. The desire and the power to do what pleases Him. So the goal in the verse is what pleases Him. The end product is a life that pleases Him. So it's a life aligned with His will and His desire for you. So if I want to align with God's purposes for my life, that means me asking the question, "What pleases God?"

And as I obey, God gives me the will and the desire to keep on doing what pleases Him. So when I start to align my life with His purposes, and I look at my life and go, Does this fit? Does this align? Is this relationship making me healthier and holier and more like Jesus? Or is it pulling me away from him? Is this commitment, this job, this priority, I'm chasing this or I'm chasing that. Does that make me more like Him, or less like Him? Does it align with his purposes in my life or not? And I can start to make decisions about my life based on this kingdom principle that I'm going to put Him first, His will, His desires first. And when I want what God wants, and I ultimately have the motive to live a life that pleases Him, when I commit to that, He gives me the will, the desire and the power to keep on going. So just align with God's purposes. Every single day wake up with this intention. God, show me your will today. I want to align with it.

Show me your desire, I want to do what pleases you. So when I replace my motives with the motive of bringing God pleasure, of pleasing Him, of honoring Him, of doing what worships Him, what exalts Him, when that becomes the driving motivation of my life, when I start living with heaven in view, right now, and I stay on that trajectory, I align my life with God's purposes, then God really begins to work in my life in a powerful way. So align with God's purposes. Again, God's doing all the energy. He's doing all the work. He's doing these great things. What I need to do is respond by saying okay God, I want to get in line with that. I want to get in line with that.

It's like, I remember the very first job that I ever had. Was working at this little department store. And so I desired for at least a few minutes to really climb the ranks within that. I thought maybe this is a future for me. And it didn't last long thankfully because it just wasn't a fit and I would have been terrible at it. But I remember thinking in that moment, I'd eventually like to manage a store. And so if that's my goal, if I'm going to manage a store someday, then there are all these steps that I need to work through and talk through. And that's true with anything in my life. It's true with your education, when the goal is the degree. You take all the classes necessary to get the degree. But when your goal is to run the company, you do whatever it takes to move toward that.

You've got this goal in mind in the end. God's goal for you eternally is that he's going to finish you out to look like someone who is holy and healthy and happy. That is His goal for you that pleases Him and so when you start looking at your life going okay, I want to make decisions every day that align with that goal, then you start asking, is this decision healthy or not? If not, I don't want it in my life. Is this reaction holy or not? If not I don't want it in my life. I'm going to stay aligned with God's purposes. It's just a response to what God is doing. And then here's the second part of the equation. Allow God to do His best work in you. Allow God to do His best work in you. So you get the final goal in mind, and I catch a

vision for Brandon as holy and healthy and like Jesus. And so I can align my life with that picture of what God wants me to become. And then every day along the way, it is a matter of allowing Him to have His way. It's a matter of yielding.

Surrendering. Giving up. And I think sometimes we underestimate the power of surrender in the Christian life. That it's not just about me actively doing and getting better and out of my self effort trying harder. But instead it is about taking my hands off the wheel so to speak and allowing God to do His work. To allow Him freely to show me every single day what it looks like to live a life that pleases Him. To get there a little at a time. There's something I want to point out about the verse. I need to align with His purposes, and I need to allow Him to work, but something I want to point out is the connection between obedience and the power that I need. The connection between my obedience and the desire that I need.

And so a lot of us tend to think without intending to that if I do all the right things, if I feel the right way, if I feel like it, I'll go. And so one of the reasons why I brought up the gym membership earlier is you know, we've moved away from that gym. So now instead of going to that gym, I don't go to any gym. And so there's this difference, right? And so I sometimes think I will go to the gym when I feel like it. When is the next time in my life that I'm going to wake up and go, yes. Let's get there. I can't wait to get to the gym and feel some pain. How many of you just wake up in the morning... Now, if you raise a hand, we need to talk about your sin of lying. Because the reality is, you might like the results of it. You might like the way you feel afterward. You might like the feeling of satisfaction, accomplishment, you might like the long term feeling of being healthy, but I don't know of anybody that just says, "Bring the pain, I love pain."

So we don't necessarily embrace the process. And so a lot of us live life as when I feel like it, I'll do the right thing. When I feel like it, I'll serve God. When I feel like it, when it's easy, when it comes naturally, I'll do the right thing. But in this verse we've looked at, there's a connection between obedience and receiving the power and the desire from God. So he's saying when you take the step to align with me, I'm going to respond by giving you exactly what you need in order to grow. Obedience starts in, so here's this last big statement. When you obey God, he will continue to give you both the desire and the power to live out his purposes for you. When you obey Him, when you commit to obey and you start to obey and you take the step of obedience, and you go okay, I'm going all in I'm making this decision, I'm aligning with His purposes, I'm embracing His will, I'm giving up my will and giving my will over to God, I'm not just going to live out my desires, I'm going to take His desires for me. I want to please Him, that when you obey, God gives you the energy and the will and the power and everything you need to successfully grow as a holy, healthy, happy person.

In other words, God does all the work. He does all the saving, He does all the redeeming, He does the filling. He pours all of His energy, I shouldn't say all of His energy. He pours all of the energy necessary for our salvation into it. He accomplishes it without my effort, without my contribution, it is a work of God in my life that I am saved, that I am sanctified, that I grow. That is 100% the result of what God is actively doing. But my response to what He's doing is to obey, to commit myself to obey. And the very instant in which I make the decision to give up my will and my comfort and my convenience and I decide to obey, in that moment, he gives me the power and the desire that I desperately need. And so, in other words, a lot of times once I start the workout, then I start to feel like working out. Once I start to make the healthy decision, then I feel like making the healthy decision. That once I take that first step, and

respond to God's promise of power, his promise of desire. Once I step toward that, I then feel this infusion of ability that comes from God alone.

If you want to become the holiest, healthiest, happiest version of yourself, it means that you're going to depend completely on God alone to do it. Out of His energy, out of His power, He's going to make it happen. And if you will say yes to that, if you will respond to that, and obey that, and believe that, and trust that. Then you're going to experience the influx of God's power into your life. And a lot of us want the feeling first, and then we'll commit to act. Or we want the power and the desire first, and then we'll do the right thing. But God says when you're willing to die to self, and to do the right thing and to choose His pathway, and to embrace His will and to say God, I want your way not my way. That in that moment, He gives you the will and the desire and the power to do what pleases Him. So if you want to grow over the long haul, it's a matter of responding in obedience to what God is already doing. It's responding in obedience to what God has already committed Himself to do in your life.

And what God starts, he finishes. And what God gets involved in changes in my life. And where God is taking me is going to happen. And I don't understand yet how God is going to finish me. How He's going to finish me. My grandfather was a woodworker. A carpenter. And he would build things. I have things in my house that my grandfather built. I used to watch him in his shop. He would cut pieces of wood, and he would plane them down. He would buy old barns that had collapsed. He paid money for collapsed barns. Because they're made out of oak a lot of times. And so then he'd plane the oak down, and I've got a table that's made out of a barn in my house. And I used to love watching my granddad. At the very end of the process, when all the planing and the joining was done, and it was all glued together and it was all made solid and then he would stain it. And then he would put the coats of poly on it. At the end of that I'd watch as he would move his fingers along every inch of that piece of furniture looking for any kind of flaw and he'd sand it, and he'd do it more. And then he'd sand it, and he'd polish more.

And what was really funny to watch was after he had, he used to throw away all his safety equipment, because that just gets in the way right? And so he lost several finger tips but he would still run, we would laugh at him because he'd still run the nubs along the edge of the wood. And he'd look for the flaws in our lives, right? Or look for the flaws in the furniture. And he'd sand it and then he'd polish it some more. I believe that's what God is doing in you right now. He just keeps looking for the rough spots. The rough edges. And it's not as though He's not aware of them. But that God keeps highlighting those things in my life. You know what highlights those things a lot of times? Pain. Stress. Temptation. Unhappiness. Those are things that highlight the flaws in my character that He then wants to sand out. And that's a painful process, isn't it? But He says if you will just allow me to put my hands on you. If you'll allow me to just work on you. I'll make you into something you have not even begun to imagine yet. An absolute masterpiece of the handiwork of God.

And you will show the rest of the world, you'll be like a trophy of what the grace of God can do in a life. But I need you to do one thing, decide to obey. Decide to obey. And when you decide to obey, I will give you the will, the desire, I will give you the power that you need in order to keep moving to the finish line. So it's just a question this morning of, we've walked through all kinds of steps in the last eight weeks. And a lot of those steps you've got to repeat over and over throughout your life. When do you get done confessing sin? Well when you stop sinning, right? So I got to keep working through and repeating and trying again a lot of those steps. But for the final question of how do I keep doing this long-term in my life, it's committing to obey. And then allowing God to work in my life around me and through me. Just yielding control to God. Now let's bow our heads.

Father I'm asking you, right now to keep on doing this great work in us. I've seen you begin it. You've begun it in my life. You've begun it in the lives of so many. We witnessed last week, God as you began that work in several lives. People who stepped forward and said I want to trust Jesus. I want to receive him as my savior. And some people baptize on the spot God in response to that. Yes Lord, I am all in. Going all in. God in response to that, I'm asking you to show us how you're working. And Lord I know that it's not about us feeling like it. It's not about us being happy enough to make healthy choices. It's not about us feeling happy enough to make holy choices. It is about us obeying, obeying your instructions. And then you'll give us the desire and the power to do what is holy and to do what is healthy. So Father I pray for that. If you're here this morning, and you've not taken the very first step of obedience, and that is trusting Jesus as your one and only savior. The New Testament calls it obeying the gospel. Obeying the good news. That if you would respond to that right now and just cry out to Him from your heart and say Jesus, I'm saying yes to you today. I'm saying yes to you. I will give my life to you.

I will give up control and trust you. I will give up my will and trust yours. I will give up my desires and trust yours instead. Maybe you're a Christian, you've been serving Jesus for a while. But you're discouraged and your tired and you need power and you need desire and you're not sure where it's going to come from. It always comes from God. And if you will say in this moment God, I will keep obeying you. Then God responds with the desire and the power that you desperately need. Father I pray you'd just remind us of that. God, keep finishing us off. Keep sanding away all the rough edges and corners. Keep polishing us to be trophies of what your grace can do. God we love you. Because you first loved us. We trust you'll finish what you start. We believe it in Jesus' name, amen.