

40 Days

Sermon Title: **40 Days**

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Nathaniel Bronner: And this message upon this day, is in many ways a continuation of the last message, not just on the last message that I preached two weeks ago, but even upon the message that was preached upon last week. If you were here when I preach the sermons two weeks ago called issues. Issues was rough and after that sermon even my mother was telling (00:00:33) about that message and she said, "You know, I preach at a church in Chattanooga on the very day that I preach issues. And you know, she said, "I preached virtually the same thing." And she said when I preached that sermon, a chill went over to church. It was as cold as ice, because it was the kind of sermon nobody wants to hear. And you have to understand some things that even we called our revivals prophetic revivals, if you have ever read the prophets, most of what the prophets had to say to people didn't want to hear. So, if you're ever dealing with the true prophet, you go deal with a good portion of the stuff folks don't want to hear. It (00:01:20) because, you see, we want often the things that make us feel good and there's nothing wrong with that. We need to feel good. But every now and then, we need to hear some stuff that makes us feel good.

And oftentimes that feel (00:01:32) to the normal (00:01:36) It's stuff we don't want to hear and I knew that sermon issues it was a rough sermon, but yet it was a sermon that we needed to hear. And it dealt with the woman who has the issue of blood, who has five issues in her life. She was sick, she was suffering, she was broke, she had no man, and things were getting worse. There were these issues of that day but yet and still they're issues of this day too.

And last Sunday, Sister Stephanie brought the message and I knew before I asked her that she would have a word of revelation for it. And she spoke from subject of what's in a name, but it had to do with Cain and Abel and the sacrifice. It also had to do with an issue of blood. It was all about the sacrifice and even the first words that I had spoken in the revival had to do when we got ready to take off at the office. And I told the people then, I said, "Look, if you are not in-covenant, if you are not in obedience and we had many people here from other churches. I said, if you're not in obedience with what the leader of your church says about (00:02:55) in life. People still didn't even obey that. And they

still pile at the (00:03:04). I guess they say, (00:03:05) I'm going to put my dollar in.

And it was a thing that God even had to open my eyes as my brother James, he told me, that he said, "Did you see all of it?" The envelopes that (00:03:17) He said, "They will not even be obedient in the sacrifice even when God tells them don't put it in. They still won't listen." It was the same thing that Sister Stephanie brought last week about the issue of blood and sacrifice. That no matter what you tell the folks to do. They still wouldn't do it. They won't do it if you tell them to put it in. They wouldn't do it if you tell them not to put it in. They're going to do what they want to do. And therein is the essence of why we have so many issues in life and why we got all of this stuff (00:03:55) and you trace this back, you will find an issue of disobedience to what God has said. That's why God says, the curse (00:04:03). Every time I deal with a person, I look into his/her situation. Whenever, I thought healing was in the inside (00:04:13) disobedience to the Word of God. So, the curse is not (00:04:18). So, if you got a curse on your life, you need to find the (00:04:22) and get ready to go. God said (00:04:25) These messages are never easy because they're not appealing to my emotion, they don't make me shout with joy and they kind of make you – a matter of fact, these are the kind of messages that make some folk leave the church. If you really want to know the honest truth about it, when you start preaching these kinds of stuff, folk will get uncomfortable especially if they have no intention of change. And whenever you get uncomfortable on a situation, there's something about the inner spirit that if you look – let me out of here, let me get to somewhere where I can feel good.

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I am not changed, but I'm feeling good. And I'm trying to teach you and take you into some areas and some arenas and bring you some revelation that will bring change in your life so you can get rid of some of the issues, because some you, you got all (00:05:15) than even more and it's getting worse. It was worse than it gets than you were last year and stuff coming on the horizon. I even stopped by the grocery store to pick up something this morning and I went in (00:05:29) and they have four automatic checkout (00:05:32) that had no

cashier. And I went to it and everything was totally automated. You scan your stuff, you put it in the bag and weigh how much it was supposed to weigh and it even knew if you took some out of the bag. The thing about it, they had no cashiers to get rid of jobs. And it was coming (00:05:53) something is getting worse and if you don't open up your eyes, if you are dealing with something spiritually sensitive, you'll be in worse shape next year than you are now. And some of you in better shape now and it was getting worse. So, how do you deal with the issues people, making you feel good is not going to them go away because if you feel good while you're in church, you get out of here at one o'clock, about 1:30 all the issues will start (00:06:23) and then you need another fix. That's all it is. It's drug treatment. So, you need something that's going to get rid of those issues in your life, but matters universally is always (00:06:34).

There is no (00:06:37) left period. Whenever you are sick. All medicine and some medicine may taste palatable because they got so much flavor and there's sugar in it. But the real essence of the thing, all medicines both spiritually and naturally is bitter. To get yourself in some spiritual shape, take some bitter medicines sometime. Do you know even when Jesus (00:07:01) revelation, you know even Moses his disciples left him. The Bible said (00:07:06) and they left because the stuff Jesus was telling them, it was so rough, it was a bitter pill. Even Jesus had the bitter cup. You can't get around it. But, yet sometimes it will take some bitterness to bring sweetness into our life and if we don't take some medicine, you forever remain sick. God wants you people free. He wants you free from them issue and he wants you in his glory and in his joy, not turn down when all those issues getting worse. But how do you deal with it and what do you do? How do you plan to form your mind, spirit and circumstance to where you can get over the issues of life?

And I'm going to tell you some things today and my mother will tell you that some of the prophetic stuff that has come about me. She said, people, the prophet said that your son is going to say some stuff that folk have never heard and (00:08:06) God will put some words on their mouth. You're going to hear from her here today. But that's alright. It may make some uncomfortable and they have to leave, but that's alright, because my job is not to make them comfortable. My

job is here to make you better and make (00:08:24) not making you comfortable. Go to the movie to get comfortable. It is to take us to a better world and to a better life. And sometimes, we don't understand it. Anybody who's ever had a good father (00:08:36) when I think about even all of the teachers that I remember from school (00:08:42) I don't even remember the (00:08:45) Everyone that made an impact. I remember (00:08:49) and they were the two roughest teachers I ever had. But they shaped, they changed me. They have my interest at heart.

Even when my son goes to school, they got a teacher that everybody is lining outside to get in her class. You can't get in that teacher's class. And I watched her the other day and the way she was handling it. She rough (00:09:10). She has told me you had to go in there and (00:09:14). So, that's my kind of teacher, but that teacher would make a man out of him, she will mold him. My Sunday school, I only remember one teacher, that was Mr. Jennings. Mrs. Jennings was rough. I can't -- I didn't even know her name. Anybody else (00:09:36) I remember one teacher and that's all. She was rough but the lady shaped me. She didn't take any stuff. She told me the truth just like it was and if we didn't do right, (00:09:48) But she's molded us. She didn't kind of make us feel good all of the time, because she knew we would face the issues of life (00:10:02)--

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--rule your life, for the rest of your life. I'm going to read some scriptures; I'm going to fly through them so you don't have to turn that.

Genesis 7:4 "Seven days from now, I will send rain on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made."

Genesis 8:6 "After 40 days, Noah opened the window he had made in the ark." Exodus 24:18 "Then Moses entered the cloud as he went up on the mountain and he stayed on the mountain 40 days and 40 nights." Numbers 13:25 "At the end of 40 days, they returned from exploring the land." 1 Samuel 17:16 "And the Philistines drew near morning and evening, and presented himself 40 days." Matthew 4:1 "Then

was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil and when he had fasted 40 days and 40 nights, he was afterward and hungered.” Acts 1:3 “To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them 40 days and speaking of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.”

All the verses have one thing in common, the period of 40 days; he gets rained 40 days to kill all the living things on the earth, the children of Israel spent 40 years in the wilderness, for 40 days they (00:11:31) the promised land and because God said they grumbled during those 40 days, he said “I must have spend a year in the wilderness for everyone day that you have grumbled. Then was Jesus led up into the Spirit; Jesus even spent 40 days in the wilderness. Elijah fasted 40 days. Moses went up on the mountain 40 days and 40 nights (00:12:01) symbolism of the period of this 40 and my topic for the day is simple “40 Days.”

You see 40 days; it is the biblical period that was required to make massive changes and to kill something. That’s why, even in the law, you read where they received several times 40 lashes day one; 39 lashes or 40 lashes was the limit and if you went over that, you will kill the man. There was something about 40 that if you can ever make it through the 40 days, something in your life changed.

And I’m going to talk to you today in those 40 days and call within this Church for a 40 day fast. Now, don’t be all excited, (00:12:51) come up, going without food, so that’s not the issue. But you need to understand some things and will need to understand people, there are some things and we are going to need to do to get rid of some of these issues in our lives. And every instance where God (00:13:11) something even (00:13:12) even when Jesus heal the folk they had to do something. But what did they have to do? They were following down mountains (00:13:18) he wants. They had to go through something and there are some things that you need to go through in your life that you will have to do.

This all command you to do some things. I’m going to take you through some of these biblical principle so that we can get some of this stuff out of our world and start getting some of these issues that we’ve been dealing with, dealt with and

we got to begin with them but sometimes the medicine is not sweet. Sometimes it has a bitter taste to it, but it is necessary and we're going to have to deal with these 40 day to get some of these issues out of our world.

Turn to Mark chapter nine and we will read through that and show you different general principles about some things and explain to you why I'm telling you to do this and where we are going with this and the revival was just the beginning as we really get our lives revived, get our situations revived, get our bodies revived, get our relationships revived, get our finances revived, get our spirits revived. We need to have revival still going on but how do you do that preacher? What do I do in 1:30 after I've left service? All of the choir, this beautiful singing is moving. What do I do when I can't hear the music? What do you do in your midnight hours when you go home and you're looking at all this stuff? What do you do when in one of the most places in the city (00:14:50)? What do you when you go -- oh? This is what I want to do because this is where the issues are. You don't have no issues in church.

00:15:01

You're feeling good in here. You come here to forget about your issues, but you pick them up when you walk out of the door. What do you do when you go home? This is what we want to deal with.

Mark chapter nine, beginning at the 14 verse. And one of the multitude who answered and said, "Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit;" When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, "Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him."

Skipping down until the 26th verse. And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was one as dead; insomuch that many said, he is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up; and he arose. And when he was coming to the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could not we cast him out?" And he said

unto them, "This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting."

People, we've got this stuff that only is going to come out by prayer and fasting. Some of those issues that we have in our life that they're only going to come out by prayer and fasting. And then, now, what kind of spirit was this? See, the man when he brought his son, he said "I got my son is dumb." Now, we understand dumb to mean that he could not hear or speak. That's where deaf and dumb mean but dumb has another meaning. When you call somebody dumb it means that they just don't have (00:17:02). They don't have common sense. You know common sense is really not that common.

When you call someone dumb, most of our issues in life when we really look back on the thing or what caused the issue and really stepped back out of the issue and really objectively look at what caused me to get in this thing, 99% of the time is going to be because we did something dumb. One (00:17:37) want something that's normal intellectual (00:17:43) and one (00:17:44) mom and dad would have told us to do. When we look at most of our issues in life, it was because of a dumb spirit. And that's why Jesus said, let those that have eyes to see and ears to hear -- we were deaf and dumb. The evil spirit that will sometimes come around us and garner us and make us do dumb stuff; just dumb. And here comes the daddy with his son. "Jesus, I got a dumb child, can you help?"

The disciples came to Jesus "Lord, why can't we cast him out?" There is some things that only come out by fasting. Now, fasting; you must understand it's not just the act of (00:18:41) food. Fasting is the act from any particular thing that you are fasting from. And oftentimes in the issues that we have in life, we have to call a fast from the things that are causing those issues. And I declare you today that that period that we'll need to call that fast to 40 days.

We've got so much stuff, so many issues. How do we deal with them? When I spoke to you on sermon of issues and the prophet (00:19:36) on that night on two nights (00:19:37). I didn't understand it and I told you that I didn't understand it. Why does she keep calling because she didn't

understand, but she kept saying and I don't know why. It was pretty every word (00:19:55) and I have to go back and read over and over and over and understand and early in the wee hours of this morning. God even gave me a different revelation on the Pool of the Pharisees.

00:20:05

And you see, people weren't healed at the Pool of the Pharisees. There were two of them that were healed. First, was the person who got healed when the angel came down during the 30 seasons, one person got healed. Second was the man that Jesus healed that has reigned at 30 A.D. But a thing hit me and I had always wondered why didn't Jesus heal all of the other people around the (00:20:32). Even a different revelation, you see sometimes people when a spirit is hardened, when eyes are closed and when ears are stuck up, you can't heal a person. Even Jesus went on the same day. He said because there's no faith there's nothing he could do.

So, sometimes in an instance where you got a situation where the people will not listen, you can't heal them and that's not an unusual thing, because do you know, even God couldn't heal most folk since Abel. They wouldn't listen. They were too disobedient and now I begin to see a picture of Jesus coming into this pool where all of these folks were and none of the folks were going in. And there was the one man who had been there so long and do you know even with the children of Israel that has been in Egypt that God had to heal all of those folk that had been reared up in slavery because it was so deep in their system they couldn't get the Egypt out of them. And I had a maiden revelation this morning as I was laying there in bed just thinking. Do you remember what happened to the man after he left the pool of Bethesda walking? Jesus found him the chapel. Do you remember the words that Jesus spoke unto him? He said unto the man, "Go and sin no more, lest a worst thing befall you." He didn't just heal the man at the pool of Bethesda unconditionally, and the only place in the Bible where he makes that particular statement.

Do you remember the woman that they accused of adultery that they were about to stone? Jesus came in and he told

the crowd, "Let those among you that have no sin cast the first stone." And he told that woman, "Go and sin no more," but he left it at that. This man he said, "Go and sin no more, lest a worse thing befall you." And as I thought about the little words that Jesus said and took it at face value, first of all, did that man sin again? That's the question and I ask you now, did he sin again? Sure, he did because all of us sin. Every person in this church that leaves it, you going to sin again. So, the man sinned again, if he sinned again what happened to him? He ended up back at the pool of Bethesda. Jesus was trying to tell you something even with that. That's why God couldn't save all those folk that have reared up in Egypt because they wouldn't let old ways, so they've been there too long; it had been too ingrained. Some of you don't have issues for so long you don't feel comfortable without your issues. You've been in it so long you don't get comfortable without issues. Lord I've been this way so long, you don't even know how to even speak without the issues. All those children of Israel that were so long they were crying in captivity; "Lord, our taskmasters are so rough. Lord, please get me out of this." First of all, they were in captivity because of a curse in their understanding. James preached a sermon on it because they (00:24:36), they sold their brother into slavery and it put the whole crew involved.

So, when you understand the history they weren't in slavery for no reason. There was a reason when you know the history, but even while they were there, they cried unto God for all those years, "Lord, get me out of this thing. Lord, free us. Lord God, get them out! And still on the way out through the wilderness it would have taken them 90 days had they had walked straight, but if they died in the wilderness because they still could never make a change and they went back to sin. They went back to the longing for the stuff of the slave master.

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They were not comfortable without issues.

I believe that man that Jesus healed at the pool of Bethesda went right back to the pool of Bethesda because he sinned. And every man is going to sin, so what Jesus was trying to

say in a nutshell, was when you got some time -- if you don't -- you see the other thing about it, Jesus didn't teach the man. The other people had been following him to the -- he taught them. This man he just walked up, and the man even had an attitude when he walked up to him. He asked him, "Will thou be made whole?" But I have no man to carry me to the pool with. He came up with excuse after excuse after excuse. Every time the water bubbles, someone jumps in front of me. This, that he had one excuse after another why he could not get rid of his issues. And as I made the block that sometimes with our issues that we have, we got excuses after excuses and they got excuses. They weren't excuses (00:25:58) man, they were valid. They weren't just excuses, they were good excuses, but they kept him at the pool, they kept him lame, they kept him paralyzed on a poor mat because he would not take the opportunity that was being presented to him. He was so comfortable in his issues and that's all that he knew, he couldn't even open his eyes. And I have found that even -- I understand why God does not take the children of Israel out of Egypt and he could not take Egypt out of them because sometimes, people when we have been speaking that stuff for so long, we're uncomfortable (00:26:37) and that's the first change of mind that must be done. God cannot free you until you really want to be freed. He can't take you out of your issues. I've seen it happen over and over and over and over and over. I've seen situation after situation that even I decide to personally step in. I had provided for. Done this and without -- if you don't change that spirit they're right back at the pool of Bethesda. Jesus says, "Go and sin no more, lest a worst thing come upon you." But you know the man is going to sin, because that is a human nature and there would have been no way for him -- and so, basically what Jesus was saying, "If I had not taught this man, if I had not changed this man's spirit, if I had not elevated this man's conscience, if I had not made a change on the inside -- the body is whole." I found that even -- actually one of the issues that the lady who was sick and one of the reasons why you have a healing, a laying on of hands, it will always be crowded and the same people with all this conflict, you know, even when folk are healed, if they don't change what makes them sick in the first place, they fall right back because the cause has not been eliminated.

So, I understood and I had seen it. I had gone in and helped folk financially, put them on a solid footing but I had found if I don't change stinking thinking, give it a month. And I had a situation, I was talking this over with my brother James. I had a lot of stuff just poured on me this morning. And I was telling even my brother James, I said there were three men that I had even helped out financially, that were in a serious financial situation within the last 30 days, one of them even was a minister. And each one, James had come across a business opportunity that would help those that really wanted to get out of a certain situation. It would help and each one of them I exposed and trained them, paved the way into the opportunity, everything. Talked to them about it. And I talked to James and I said, "James do you know the three folk just desperately needed, that needed the most have absolutely done zero." Everybody, the folks, that James talked to that didn't need the money, doing awesome. The very folk who needs it, I couldn't understand it and I was laying up in bed this morning and I was even just thinking about that situation and God spoke to me. He said, "The poor you have with you always." And I begin to understand that thing. You made my folk out of that kind of thing, you can't put enough money on it to change it. If you cannot elevate the spirit, you'll never ever be in condition. Because condition and mentality and spirit would even take a million dollars and it'll slowly gradually slowly put it right back down to where it was. And even if you take a person out from the pool of Bethesda and you have not changed the thinking and the spirit within them, they will sin and they will go right back to the pool of Bethesda in a worse condition.

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And I am just (00:30:05) so if the situation was you have to even make a choice, do you even want to get out of it, do you want to change it, do you want to make the sacrifice, do you want to get well from the issues of life? And they are real and I have never seen that, never thought it, and I know there are a lot of different angles on it (00:30:27) He meant by go and sin no more. He just meant, you know, stop all the major sin. I'm going by exactly what the man said. Without interpretation, just pure literal and by the literal of what Jesus said, that man was going to end up back at the

pool. And it was the only case when he said that. So, he was trying to tell us something. That though I went and pulled him out of that situation, I didn't teach him. I didn't elevate his mind and spirit. I made his body whole. I paid up all the bills, out him on solid financial footing. You can do all you want. I give you three months. Give it three months. If you don't change the mind, he's going to be right back where it was, just a matter of time. That's why God does not want this place as the pool of Bethesda. He don't want you lying around, lying sick, impotent, complaining and whining about all these issues of life. God wants to put (00:31:34) you, to get you up on your feet. Everybody has got some kind of issues. I don't care who you are. I got issues. Everybody has some kind of issues, but the (00:31:51). I got issues but I don't have all the issues, because there are levels of issues. Don't nobody fool you by that. There are levels of issues. I've got issues and I've got things that I have to deal with simply because I cannot stand still. I got to keep going up and up and up in everything that I do. I cannot stand still because if you stand still you die. But the difficulty of continuing to be evolve and the progress it becomes more and more difficult in each level you got issues dealing with each one of those level. And really it is that this issue that the lady had, that's the one that really need to ask yourself about the most. And the Bible says and it was getting worse. Is your situation getting worse? See it's either doing one or two things. It's either getting worse or getting better. It's not the same as saying that nothing stagnates. It's either getting worse or getting better. That's all it is (00:33:04). Some of the basic, your physical body, the beginning of what lay ahead and once you are sick. You're either getting better or you're getting worse. She was suffering. You're either feeling better or you're feeling worse. She was broke. Your money situation; your bank account is either growing or it's (00:33:26) And even if you think (00:33:29) and I don't got no money now, I didn't have yesterday, I don't have it tomorrow because it's getting worse because you're getting older. Your earning potential is decreasing. There will come a point where you can't even do the things that you do now to even earn your money, so it is getting worse. It's not standing still, everything even with no relationship it's either getting better or it's getting worse. Are you closer together or are you getting more distant. So, that's the first

question that you need to ask. Which direction (00:33:58)? Are you getting better or are you getting worse? And always in the getting better scenario, there are things that we always need to do to get our lives better and to get it in track.

First thing you need to do, is to understand that spirits are contagious, even dumb spirits are contagious. Do you know if you are around dumb folks it startles your thinking? Now, I don't mean to (00:34:33) I'm just calling it just like it is. If you are around dumb folk, it startles your thinking. My brother James said, "Hey, come over to my house, I was having a problem with my computer network. Come over to trouble shoot it and see what was wrong. I couldn't connect (00:34:48)" And as he was there working on the wires, I was telling him. I said, "Look James." I said, "That wire goes there" and I said, "This wire goes here. You need to do this." And James told me, you know, he said, "Shut up."

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He said, "You got the thing where it's not working. So, whatever you did, it's not working." He said, "I had this straight in my mind how to fix it, but you telling me about all these wires and it sound like you may be right." He said, "If I keep listening to a fellow who had the say it's not working, this will (00:35:25) my thinking." So, he just said, "Shut up and let me figure it out. Don't muddle my thinking." See, if you are around confused and spirit (00:35:37) intelligent, smart, wise spirits are contagious and dumb spirits are – spirits are just contagious. That's all it is to it. And just like when you are around a person stinking and you're close to him long enough, you'll start stinking. It's the same, spirits are no different.

It's like if you hug a woman who has some sweet-smelling perfume, how do you smell? The sweet-smelling perfume gets on you, so good or bad? Spirits are contagious and one thing we have to even learn about handling our issues we got to even get around and start associating with the spirits that are where we want to go. It's what I always tell people. Look, if they are going somewhere, get around somebody that's where you want to go. Don't get around somebody – I mean and it speaks again. If you got to take yourself -- well,

I preach to help some people, but sometimes you can't help a man if you're drowning yourself. You cannot help another person, but you first get yourself on (00:36:39). That's a sign (00:36:42). You can have all the mercy in the world, you can be just as compassionate -- if you just have even resources and ability then you can help. (00:36:52) compassion all day long. You can't help anybody with compassion, you got to have the resources.

So, you can't do a thing. I mean you can't just do a thing. Somebody on the street, they feed me and may need (00:37:10). I left my wallet, I need some money, I find a bum on the street. They say help me. I need some money to get some resources. So, in order for you to even help people, you got to first of all get on the (00:37:20) So, of those first (00:37:28) dealing with issues, is you got to get out (00:37:30) of issues because the spirit gets on you. And (00:37:37) and that's number one that's going to go against your flesh because light has a tendency to draw light. So, it's going to go against your flesh. Pastor are you telling me you became (00:37:49) yeah. That's exactly what I'm telling you. Same thing, your mother told you. That's why momma always wanted to know who you're hanging around with. Momma has some (00:38:04) because some of you are just missing the mothers you've been in good shape. Yes, I'm telling you that. You can never -- that's why the lady with the issue of blood understood she had top trust somebody that was healthy. The virtues could not have gone out of Jesus unless he had it in him. You can't trust nobody (00:38:25) and get well yourself, just a basic principle.

So, there are some that we first of all have to understand, that's why even with the people when they went on these periods for those 40 days, they separated themselves. Moses could have never got the great revelation God had he had stayed with the folk, because every one of them had issues. Moses had to go up on the mountain all alone, just he and God, and when he came back, the folks had even gotten worst.

There are some things that we need to understand because God wants us to be free. Forty days; there is something about this timeframe that if you can make it 40 days (00:39:20) I can't scientifically explain. I just know that it is.

Something happens. My first experience was a 40-day experience. I was still a single man. I was young, I was in (00:39:37), lived alone. My problem or challenge me (00:39:45) It is not unusual, I was a typical man, and I was a good man, but the problem is, people, the typical man is going to hell. That's (00:39:54) the typical man, maybe I was a nice man, I was a typical man; the typical man going to hell, even the typical Christian going to hell.

00:40:10

I was a typical man yet there was something on the inside of me that at least had some kind of sin, I was dumb. I was controlled by a lust of a flesh but I was dumb. And something inside of me said "Look, you have got to break this thing (00:40:31) on physical (00:40:33) you got to break this thing."

First of all, I said "You will never be happily married if you can't break this thing." Second problem, you're causing too much hurt and pain. And I mean I've danced around every way I could think of. First of all, I was as honest as they came. When I thought (00:40:51) I said, "Look, I am not going to marry you, I'm going to tell you that right up front." And I did, I said (00:40:57) I wasn't even beyond typical. I was as honest as they came. I said, "I'm not going to marry you, I'm going to tell you right up front, I'm going to leave you." I told them up front because at least I said it's not going to be on my hands when they get hurt because I knew they were going to get hurt.

From the things that have happened over and over and over and I saw no matter what you (00:41:23) you can't control the heart. That's why women, you all need to get the (00:41:28) issues and you need to listen to it. You can't control the heart and I saw it happening over and over and over, and I said to myself, "I just can't keep causing all this pain. I got to do something about this (00:41:40) to have grip on it." So, what do I do?

And it's (00:41:46) that some type of (00:41:47) grip on you too (00:41:49) grip on you right now. You're looking at me like I'm crazy. You got somebody (00:41:54) grip on you right now. I'm just telling you like this, I've always been a straight talking

man, (00:42:01) have a grip on me. And something about it as I had gone to Bible study and I had that 40-day secret in my mind. Somebody said, “you know, if you can just go without a woman for 40 days” and I told my friend. I said, “That’s what I going to do.”

You know what they said? They laughed at me. They said, “There is no way in the world you’re going 40 days with no woman. There’s just no way on the high heavens you are going to make it, no way.” But I knew that something on the side of me said I got to do this thing. I was not nearly as spiritual as I am now. I wasn’t hearing from the voice of God, I wasn’t reading my Bible everyday. I was (00:42:47). I was typical, (00:42:51) typical. I was typical but there was something on the inside of me that would not allow me to continue to cause this pain. It wasn’t because of a biblical reason, it was because I just didn’t want to hurt (00:43:07) and I saw it happen over and over and over and over. I said, “I can’t do this because I know the destruction that it causes.”

I got to change (00:43:14) grip on me. Issues gripping people. They hold you fast, and they hold you tight and even when you try to get away they say “Come back here (00:43:28), you are not going nowhere.” They have a grip on you and I said, “I have got to do this, I’ve got to (00:43:36) 40 days.” But I said, I called up all the girlfriends, I said “Look, I’m not going to see you, I’m not going out with you, we’re not going to the movies; we’re not going to dinner, you all can’t come over here. I’m going 40 days without (00:43:52) and they laughed, said “You can’t make it.”

You see, people, many of the times the things that are around you will laugh at you when you say “I’m getting ready to get out of here. I’m getting ready to make a change.” And all of the folks that have been with you (00:44:10) will look at you, “Are you crazy? You can make it.” I didn’t make it the first time. I didn’t make it the second time. I didn’t make it the third time, it took me four times. You see, people, even with (00:44:33) is never failure. It’s only a failure when you quit trying.

That’s one of the things that I try to explain to folks when they try to go into business or try a new endeavor, I said, “Don’t you understand that every successful businessman has failed four

to five times before they succeed? (00:44:49) you only fail when you quit trying. I didn't quit trying. It took me four times but on that fourth time, I was 45 days and on that 40th day, something has broken within me. I had no desire, my (00:45:06) it was gone and it never (00:45:09)

00:45:10

And the only reason at the 45th day, I (00:45:13) I had no desire in (00:45:15). Somebody called me (00:45:18) I just want to (00:45:19) and that's what happened but I had complete – it had broken (00:45:26). That's what goes right there (00:45:28) if you want to change them, you got to change who your folks (00:45:32) with because when start hanging around the same folks even when you get out, they will pull you right back into it. But I saw even within my own spirit and I can't explain it, something broke. And I was never gripped by that again. I'm as much a man as anybody. I got as high testosterone level as anybody but it broke.

There is something about the 40 days. If you can make it 40 days, something dies and the pain that has a grip on you.

It rained 40 days on the face of the earth and every living thing was killed. If you can go to 40 days, something -- the thing that has you gripped with all those issues, whatever it is, it will die. And for those of you, just know you've got some things that you need to kill in your life, you can begin that thing today.

Today is 11/11, (00:46:35). So, you're going 40 days. Today is 11/11. You'll end it on the first day of Christmas, which is December the 21st but (00:46:46) well, actually when you know the history of Christmas you'll understand it clear that (00:46:50). Christmas technically begins on December 21st. So, the end -- it ends on December 21st.

For those of you, open up your program, you find in your program, that's what I stopped by the grocery store to get this morning. You'll find an envelope and an index card. Whatever it is in your life that has a grip on you that you want to break, you need to stay away from that thing 40 days starting 11:00 o'clock today on the November 11th month on the 11th day.

Whatever it is, even some (00:47:26) God will even give some things about the things. September 11 was a big day for the nation but November 11 is going to be a big day for you. Even them two towers look like (00:47:38). So, today is your day for some of the towers that have held you captive to be brought down.

Now, this first of all, is a voluntary thing and I'm going to tell you what you are going to do with it. For all of those number ones that (00:47:56) within you spirit that you know you've got some issues, you've some things that you need to (00:48:00), some things that you want to change in your life.

Some of that stuff, people are going to go come out (00:48:04). You are going to have to (00:48:08). I don't know what you (00:48:10) there's so many areas in life, so many issues and now, don't put everything down on the car because you're not going to do everything. Put the thing down (00:48:21) one thing that you know you need to do that is an issue in your life that you want to change, whatever it is, some of you want to diet, whatever it is.

Whatever it is, write the thing down. Some of you want finance, you're spending too much money (00:48:37) whatever it is and if you can't even figure it out what it is maybe you need to go (00:48:44) with a wise (00:48:43). We even got -- we've got people that are in success in every area within this church, so if you know the general thing that you want to do and the issues that you're handling in your life but you don't know how to (00:48:56), you don't know what you need to change, you don't know what you need to fast from. Whatever it is, you've got folks in this church that are successful in that area.

If it's your health, you can talk to me, you can talk to James, you can talk to Eli. We can tell you some things about what you do. If it's about relationship, talk to my mom. (00:49:19) and she can tell you some things. If it's about finance, talk to my brother Bernard in the back. Raise your hand, Bernard. He is the richest man in the church. So, if it's about finance, I'll send you to talk to the richest man in the church.

So, if you've got -- whatever it is, you got problems in your life and you need to change them, you first of all -- and these

things have been with you for a long time, they're not new. You need to go with that 40 days. Sometimes you think (00:49:53) you can't think, it's has a grip on you but you can change it but you'll never change it until you (00:50:00)

00:50:00

And you're going to have to start with the 40 days. Whatever it is in your life. I'm not talking about a 40-day water (00:50:09). Whatever it is in your life, you got problems in your relationship and your husband and wife you all (00:50:15) you all make a commitment right now that for 40 days until December 21st, "I shall not please my (00:50:21) and I will not (00:50:22) with you for 40 days. Whatever it is, break it. Carry the pieces, (00:50:28) and begin a new route in your life right now, whatever it is. Diet problems, you got a particular food that you know you just love, starve yourself from them for 40 days. Whatever it is. I don't know your situation. You know it better than any prophet will ever know. Whatever it is.

Now, what I'm going to do is this, write it down, these are security envelopes so nobody can even see what your stuff (00:50:59). I know no one else needs to know what your thing is. Write it down, put it in the envelope. Write your mailing address on it and put one dollar with it on the outside of the envelope and you (00:51:16) "Why you want to put a dollar in there?" Because we have to buy stamps, go pay for the envelope, go pay for the index card, go pay for somebody to mail them. They are going to have about 40 cents left over that's all going to church offering.

So, you at least put a penny a day to God. If you don't leave your dollar, and what I'm going to do with these things, I am going to mail them back to you, so they will arrive by the 21st by the time you finish. So that at the end of your 40 days, your envelope will come and (00:51:50) open it up and tear it up yourself because it is not me that's tearing this thing up. It is the fast of the thing that you have not been able to get rid of because some things only come up by fasting (00:52:05). (00:52:05) why are you making us pay a dollar? Because you got to make a sacrifice yourself. I am not going to pay for it.

You have to make a sacrifice. You have got to – if you are not willing to put a dollar into your own issues, you’ll never get out of it. “But (00:52:22) I don’t have a dollar.” Borrow a dollar from somebody, but pay them back. And this is even a principle of just even seeing (00:52:31) a thing and (00:52:36). Take out your pen, take out – for those that want to do this (00:52:41), the first question Jesus had to ask that man (00:52:43) the food (00:52:44) and I know that within this church, we have people that have the ability and some of you don’t have a lot of major issues. I don’t have a lot of major issues but I have things I’m dealing with. And God has told me directly and through other prophetic (00:53:03) that I’ve got (00:53:05) to attain and to reach and I can’t do it where I am now. I’ve got to improve some things and to improve some things, for me to get the most stuff in me, I got to get some stuff out of me. That’s just a long story.

Some things in me have got to die and I’ve got to kill them. I wish I could just have somebody to lay hands on me just – Lord, take all this stuff away from me. It doesn’t work like that on the vast majority of cases. Now, sometimes it does. Is Mr. Timmons here? Is he here this morning, Mr. Timmons? He’s not here this morning. He had a testimony that – I wanted the people to hear about his testimony. You all know that we went on the fast during the anniversary and Mr. Timmons came up to me after the fast and he said “after the fast,” he said – “all my desire,” – he said “First of all, pastor,” he said, “I was a tyrannosaurus rex. I ate everything (00:54:08). He said, “For some reason after the fast, all desire from me was gone.” He came to me about three or four weeks after that. He said, “Pastor, remember I told you that after the fast I’ve been (00:54:22). I have no desire.”

Sometimes when we go (00:54:27) will be supernaturally removed but some of this stuff only comes out by fasting and don’t forget to (00:54:34). Whatever you have written down on those index cards, everyday you go and fast, everyday. (00:54:44) everyday, everyday, you go and fast. Don’t leave out the (00:54:49). There’s something about it and I guarantee you when you get through, when you go through and diligently do this, you’ll see the results and (00:54:57).

God is faithful to this work and He told me to preach this message. Two weeks ago, I knew without a shadow of a doubt, it's in divine order.

40 days of the thing that you need to get straightened out in your life and the thing that you know to eliminate in your life. I'm all right (00:55:18) all right because I've got one thing I want to have and if I could do this thing for 40 days, something about it will give me strength (00:55:28) from here on out. So, take some time, write it down specifically. Don't put the general stuff. Don't put, "I just want to do better." No. Specific. You must have specifics when you're dealing with spiritual faith. Write down specifically if you want to do better and better in what and how. "I want to start saving." How much? Two dollars per day but that's all right. We'll put – "I will save for the next 40 days two dollars a day." Is that what you want to do? Then, put it down specifically. What you want to do or what you will get rid of during these next 40 days. Write it down on that index card.

So, whatever your situation is, write this thing down (00:56:20) it's a divine thing. And you find at the end of (00:56:26) if you stick with this, you'll notice a change, some things will be broken in your life that had grips on you so that we can begin dealing with those issues in our life. Because God knows every single one of you, full of joy, full of peace, full of prosperity, full of health. Don't you understand that's what God wants (00:56:47)? He didn't want (00:56:51) but in order for us to (00:56:54), we are going have to get in (00:56:57) and we are going to have to do some fasting and prayer to get some of this stuff out of our –