The Darling and The Sugar

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Links to audio sermon – Windows Media Version is best, MP3 is 2nd best:

TheOnLineWord.com and AirJesus.com

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PASTOR NATHANIEL: You can never figure out what God is going to do. No matter how hard you try, you just don’t know which direction He is going to turn.

Bow your heads.

Dear God, I am especially going to need Your help this morning. So, help me. Amen.

(Applause.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: I will be taking my text today from three verses. You don’t have to turn there, but you can reference them later if you choose.

The first one is Job, Chapter 8, Verse 21. I will read you this very quickly: “He will yet fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy.”

The second one is Luke, Chapter 6, Verse 21: “Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.”

And Proverbs 17:22: “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine, but a broken spirit drieth the bones.”

God told me several weeks ago that upon this day, He said simply, “Make the people laugh” … “Make the people laugh.” Do you know it is difficult or almost impossible for a spirit of depression, of dejection, of inadequacy to be on you while you are laughing? There is something about laughing. The Bible says, “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine,” and that is even confirmed in medical science. William Fry, a medical doctor, a psychiatrist and a professor at Stanford University, documented physiological changes from laughter similar to intense aerobic exercise. He stated that 100 laughs are equal to 10 minutes of aerobic exercise.

Laughter can also help the immune system. Research at the Department of Clinical Immunology at Loma Linda University School of Medicine has demonstrated that the experience of laughter lowers the level of certain stress hormones and stimulates the immune systems by increasing the number of activated T cells and activated T-helper cells. In addition, laughter enhances the activity of natural killer cells that play a crucial role in preventing disease.

So I tell you this morning simply to just let go and laugh, because the Bible says, “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.” I had to dress this morning to even look the part, because some of the folks before I even opened my mouth just started laughing.

(Laughter.)
PASTOR NATHANIEL: Sometimes, people, it tells you, we have to let go sometimes. We are sometimes so sophisticated, so uptight, so proper and so this and that. The prophet was talking about how he went to my mother’s house to eat and how everyone was eating so proper; but after everyone left, they had some oxtails and they just went to work on them, because you cannot eat oxtails with a knife and a fork. You see, sometimes, people, there are some things that you just have to eat and you have to be casual, because a lot of times you cannot even enjoy a good meal when you’re wearing really expensive, sharp clothes, because you worried about getting some barbecue sauce on your suit!

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: So you just have to learn how to relax, just let your hair down, take your shoes off and simply learn how to laugh.

I am naming the title of this message -- and it is a message, because the message is simply laughter -- I am naming the title of this message after my two sons. Those of you that are here, you know that I have two sons, aged 4½ and aged 1½. My father always had a habit that he called his sons really not by their names, but he gave us all nicknames. I had a nickname. C. Elijah had a nickname; if you want to know what it is, you will have to ask him what it is, because it is rather funny. But all of us had real funny nicknames, and my father would always call us nicknames and I am kind of in the same image as my father; so naturally I named my sons and I call them nicknames. The oldest, the 4½-year-old one, I call him the Darling, and that is his nickname; it is simply the Darling. Then the young one, the 1½-year-old, his nickname is the Sugar. So I titled this message today simply “The Darling and the Sugar”.

Now, for those of you who have children, especially, stuff first of all changed with my wife Puddin’ and me when the Darling first got here. The Darling came on a early Sunday morning. I had to miss church, because my wife’s water had broken and she said something was happening; so I had to rush to the hospital, and there was really the beginning of the Darling. From that point, things just changed. I was there almost all day, because the Darling did not get here until much, much later; but before my wife went into labor, I was hungry and I had been there all day long. So there was a little place, and I went around and got a veggie burger, had it piled high with onions and cheese and all the extra stuff. I got back to the room, and my wife a couple of hours later started to deliver, and the Darling started to come. We had gone and taken Lamaze lessons, you know, that teach you how to breathe. My wife when that baby started coming just lost all sense of reason. She started hollering, she was mad at everybody. She was mad at me for getting her in that situation to begin with. She was just mad at everybody, and no one could say anything to calm her down. I was trying to tell her as the baby was coming out, I

(Laughter.)

**PASTOR NATHANIEL:** So Puddin’ just went through one thing after another, and Puddin’ simply told the doctor “I don’t care what you have to do! Get that baby out of me now! I don’t care what kind of shot you have to give me. I don’t care if you have to give me some morphine; I don’t care if you have some heroin there to give me! I don’t care what it is; just give me something to get this pain out of me, or either you get this baby out of me right now!” The baby’s head finally crested, and Puddin’ was just hollering, “Get him out now! Get him out now!” because she could not wait another two minutes.

So even when the Darling got here, the Darling was an experience. I worked with Puddin’ as much as I could; but Puddin’ would look at me and say, “Don’t breathe on me again!” I worked with Puddin’ as best I could to get the Darling out in one piece.

And, see, when the Darling came out, the Darling was wide awake, because this is the first time I had really ever literally seen a child born in person; and I thought when the babies comes out, they are hollering and all. When the Darling came out, the Darling was just as wide awake. He was just as quiet, just looking around, and he hasn’t been quiet since.

We brought the Darling home, and Puddin’ went about the normal chores of handling a baby and taking care of a child. You know, children are something else. They are a full-time job! So Puddin’ would be with the Darling, and it looked like all children do is cry, eat, sleep and boohoo; that’s all they do.

(Laughter.)

**PASTOR NATHANIEL:** So there Puddin’ was, day-in and day-out, feeding the baby, taking care of the baby, changing the baby’s diaper. And one day Puddin’ said, “Look,” she said, “you need to learn how to help me change these diapers. You need to learn how to help take care of this baby and help me with some of this work dealing with this stuff.” I told Puddin’, I said, “Look, okay. I will be glad to help you with this. I will get the next one; I will get the next one.”

(Laughter.)

**PASTOR NATHANIEL:** So it wasn’t long -- it was a couple of hours later -- until the Darling’s diaper was just loaded, and Puddin’ brought him to me. She said,
“Here he is, here’s the next one. You get it.” I said, “No, no, no.” I told Puddin’, I said, “No, Puddin’, I did not mean the next diaper; I meant the next baby.”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: See, I really did not understand fully what my wife went through with the Darling and the Sugar, because a lot of times, you know, men do not understand that. I would call home from work oftentimes in the middle of the day several times, and my wife would say, “I cannot talk now. The Darling and the Sugar just got into something, I have to go!” Click! And I would say to myself, “They’re only two little boys. I mean, I handle fifty people under me; I have two big companies that I run. She has two little boys. What can be so difficult in a day that she can’t even talk on the phone, and all she has is just two little boys?” And every time I call home, “The Darling and the Sugar are into something, I have to go!” Click! I just couldn’t understand that.

So one day I was at work, and Puddin’ asked me, “Look, I have to go somewhere and I need you to take the Sugar with me.” She said, “Can I just bring the Darling by and leave him at your office for a couple of hours?” I said, “Yes. That’s not a problem. You haven’t said anything with that.” I said, “Do you know who I am?” I said, “I have a chemistry degree, I can figure out all kind of molecular structure, I can engineer virtually anything; and you can think that is going to be a problem for me to handle, one little boy in my office for a couple of hours? That’s no problem!”

So Puddin’ brought the Darling by the office. The Darling had never been in my office that long by himself, and there is a natural curiosity about children. The Darling was younger at that age, and the Darling was just full of energy; and the Darling was into everything! I would try to sit the Darling down, and the Darling would not stay seated. I would say, “Darling, stop this” and “Darling, stop that.” She had brought the Darling something to eat; she brought him a little fish sandwich with some french fries and some ketchup and all of that, and he ate that in the room; and he was just all over everything!

Finally, Puddin’ called me about an hour-and-a-half after the Darling had been there. She called and said, “I am just calling to talk to see how you are doing.” I said, “Puddin’, I can’t talk now!” I said, “The Darling is into everything! I can’t work, and I can’t talk!” And I said, “Whoa, whoa, wait a minute. Oh, my goodness!” I said, “The Darling is putting some ketchup in the fish tank, I have to go.” Click!

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: So I learned that children are no easy task to deal with, and sometimes men will take for granted the difficulty that women will have with children. One day I came home in the evening, and I mean the house was just in a
wreck. It looked like a tornado had gone through it. The children were running all over the house, and toys and books and papers and dishes and stuff was just everywhere.” I said, “What in the world!!?” Food was all over everywhere, diapers. I said, “What in the world is going in here!?” I got concerned. I said, ”Maybe something has happened to Puddin!”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: I went looking for Puddin’, because that’s what I was thinking when I saw what looked like a blizzard had just gone through the house, I went to find Puddin’ to see what in the world had happened. I thought Puddin’ might have been sick or something even worse, I just didn’t know. I went in the bedroom, and there’s Puddin’ lying up in the bed with the light on, reading a book and watching television.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: I said, “Puddin’, what in the world has happened in this house?” I said, “It looks like a tornado has been through here. The children are all nasty, the room and everything.” I said, “What in the world has happened in here!?” Puddin’ said, “You know when you came home last night and you asked me what I did all day long?” I said, “Yeah.” She said, “Well, today, I didn’t do it.”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: So it gave me a greater appreciation of what women have to go through sometimes. And sometimes when I think about spiritual things and I think about God’s Commandments and how gracious God really is to us, I thought to myself, suppose God would just instantly -- just suppose, for example, we couldn’t lie. And suppose every time we told a lie, a horn went off from Heaven to let folks know we were lying. Have you ever thought about something like that? Do you know, we need to be thankful that God even gives us some grace sometimes and we don’t always have to tell the truth. Suppose every time we lied, a horn went off from Heaven. I mean, it is just like sometimes I’ll go places and have to speak or have to be at an engagement, and you know the first thing that everyone always says the minute that they get up to speak is? “Well, I really am glad to be here.”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: Suppose that happened. I mean, you know, every speaker at every occasion that you ever go to, the first thing they will tell you, “I really am glad to be here.” Now, just suppose you had a horn going off every time you told a lie, because you know good and well every place you have to go, you are not really glad to be there. I mean, I am glad to be at the places most of the time; but I will be
perfectly honest with you, I am not glad to be there all of the time. Sometimes if a buzzer buzzed and you had to tell the truth after each buzzer, do you know it would change everything of what you say? “Yes, sir, I really am glad to be here today.” (buzzer) Well, to tell you the truth, I really did not want to come here this morning.”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: “I made this appointment two months ago, and when I made it, it looked so far, I thought I would never have to show up; but to tell you the truth, I wanted to go play golf and watch TV this morning. I really didn’t want to be here this morning.” That would be what would happen if we had to tell the truth every time we said something. Even when we are dressed up, “Everybody is looking so good this morning.” (buzzer) Do you know we would have a problem with just even that? You’d have to say, “Well, most of you are looking pretty good; but I am going to tell you the truth: some of you are kind of rank this morning.”

So we’d have to deal with that, and truth is something else. If we had to tell the truth every single time we opened our mouths, I mean, just like even when we walk outside and a drunk or a wino comes up and says, “Brother, can you spare a quarter?” and you say, “No.” (buzzer)

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: And you’d have to tell him the truth: “Look, I’ve got a quarter and, yeah, I can spare a quarter; but I’m just not going to give you a quarter.”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: Sometimes you’re walking around and you see someone you haven’t seen in a long time. You run up, shake their hand, “Oh, I sure am glad to see you.” (buzzer) You are not glad to see him, because if you wanted to see him that bad, you would have found him and called him. You did not want to see him; but it is just something you always just say, “I sure am glad to see you.” You are not glad to see him worth a hoot.

So suppose the buzzer went off every time we told a lie. Men would be in deep trouble with that.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: I mean, we’d be in deep trouble. I mean, do you know what trouble we’d be in with our wives if a buzzer went off every time we told a lie? I mean, especially women for some reason will ask a man how they look. Now, men
won’t ask women. Women have to tell the men how they look. They will correct a man and say, “Wait a minute. Don’t you go out in that. Your pants are too short.” “Wait a minute, don’t go out in this. They’re too tight, they’re too wrinkled.” See, women will tell men; but women will always ask a man. And they will ask a man questions, and thank goodness there is not a buzzer from Heaven. One of the questions that they will always ask men, “Do I look fat in this?” and you say, “No, you don’t look fat in that.” (buzzer)

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: Now, suppose we had to tell the truth every single time, and you had to come back with the absolute truth: “Not only do you look fat in that, but you look fat in everything else, because, you see, it hasn’t got anything to do with the clothes. I mean, if you look fat in one thing, you are going to look fat in the next thing.” But that is a question that all women would always ask a man.

Then they will get into asking about every single body part, and all of you know I am telling the truth. They will ask the question “Is my stomach big?” You said, “No, it isn’t big, Shuga’.” (buzzer) Her stomach will be poking way out there and all hanging over everything, and you said, “No, it isn’t.”

Then they will ask you the question, “Does my behind look big?” and you’ll say, “No, Shuga’, you’re fine.” (buzzer) You’d have to go back and correct yourself through all that. I mean, suppose we had to tell the truth. Men would be in a mess, because sometimes the women will ask you, “Do you ever think about your old girlfriends?” “No.” (buzzer)

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: I mean, you’d have some problems with some of that stuff. You’d have some real problems if that truth buzzer went off every time you told a lie.

“Were you looking at that woman just then?” “What woman?” (buzzer)

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: We would have some problems with that. “Were you listening to me?” “Yeah, I was listening to you.” (buzzer) So we would have some real, real, real problems if we had a truth buzzer straight out of Heaven.

There’s one particular problem I want to address in the church that I have noticed, not just in this church, but in virtually every church that I’ve gone to. This problem is serious and this thing needs to be addressed and it needs to be addressed right
now. We have a massive sleeping problem in church, and it is not a new problem. I mean, back in Acts, Chapter 20, Verse 9, it said, “And there sat in the window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead.” They had problems even with the mighty apostle Paul with folks falling asleep in church, and we still have that problem right now. I have been noticing that problem in churches all across the nation. I began just to analyze it, and first of all, there are seven stages of church sleep that folks go through. You need to understand these stages, so you can learn how to deal with it. You see, the first stage is, the head gets still. Now, you will notice that normally out in the audience, the people’s heads are moving as they respond; but, see, the first stage of church sleep is, the head gets still. If you ever notice and if you look at another person and their head is just still, it isn’t moving, neither left nor right nor forward or backward, their head is just still, that first stage of church sleep is upon them.

The next stage is, the eyes stop moving. First, the head gets still, and then they get this stare that just glazes over their eyes, and no matter which way the preacher is moving, their eyes are just staring straight ahead. Their head is still, and their eyes are just staring straight ahead. That is the second stage of this church sleep.

The third stage is, the ears close. They really are there and the sound is beating on their ears; but it just gets lower and lower and lower. Their head is still, their eyes are fixed, and the sound of the preacher is getting lower and lower and lower.

Then the fourth stage is when you realize that a sleep demon has gotten ahold of you, and then you start fighting the demon. I mean, all of you know you’ve had a sleep demon on you before; some of you have a sleep demon on your right now. You know you’ve had a sleep demon on you before in church, and you can feel it. Now, see, that is what happens after you hit that fourth stage: you realize that the demon is trying to get ahold of you, and you begin fighting the sleep demon.

As you start losing the fight with the sleep demon, after your head has gotten still and your eyes have gotten fixed and your ears start closing and after you have been fighting the sleep demon, you get into the fifth stage. That is, your mouth drops open. You can see a person. See, you are all right as long as you can keep that mouth closed; but then you will notice after a while …

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: … that mouth will start dropping open. Whenever you see someone in church like that, they are in the fifth stage of the sleep demon getting ahold of them.
The sixth stage is that you realize that you are losing the battle, and you try to combat it by either reading or praying. Do you know how that is? I mean, you know the sleep demon has gotten ahold of you, and you see you are losing the battle. And after the mouth has dropped, you say, “I am not going to make it through this. Let me open my Bible here, and let me see if I can just ease down and hopefully I can get about three minutes; maybe I can get some strength back, and they are going to think I am just reading my Bible or praying.”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: All of you know you have done that, because I’ve seen some of you out there reading the Bible, and I was not even talking on that. I was in the New Testament, and I could tell from where it was open that you were in the Old Testament; so I know you weren’t reading the Bible.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: You were in the sixth stage of the sleep demon.

And finally in that seventh stage, their head sinks down. I mean, it is like somebody has put five or ten pounds worth of bricks on the back of your head, and their head just sinks right on down, and that is the seventh stage of the sleep demon. I really believe that is a real demon that gets on folks, and I am going to talk about some of the kinds of demon. We sometimes when we look at some kind of demons, we recognize them; but there’s a lot of subtle demons out there, and that sleep demon is one of them. And I tell you, people, see, this is one of those kind that Jesus was talking about that only comes out through fasting and prayer. And you say, “Well, Preacher, how in the world?” because, see, first of all, that was a deaf and dumb spirit. When that sleep demon gets on it, you see, you can neither speak nor hear. But the sleep demon will come on you, and the only way to get those out of there is really -- now, I am taking a slight bit of liberty with some of the truth this morning, because this is about laughter. So everything may not be 100% totally accurate.

But anyway, when the sleep demon comes on you, the only way to get that sleep demon on is by fasting and prayer. That is why sometimes some folks will stand up in the middle of the service and say, “Hallelujah!” Now, see, a good “Hallelujah” will shake up the sleep demon. That sometimes is what you may need to do.

Sometimes you have to just stand up and just wave your hands and just do whatever you have to do. You’ve got to shake that sleep demon. And I can tell some people that it is not just necessarily they are moved by the spirit; they are battling the sleep demon, because I have had it myself. Sometimes if I go places -- and to be honest, I am just as susceptible to a sleep demon as anybody else; but the problem is, I cannot go to sleep, because folks know me as a preacher. I’ve got to stay awake,
so I have learned how to deal with that sleep demon by fasting and praying. Sometimes in the middle when I feel that seventh stage working on me, I'll just hop up with a “Amen!”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: And folks in the back think I’m filled with the spirit, but I am battling a sleep demon.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: I never will forget, C. Elijah and I were at a ministerial conference, and I was in the third stage of that sleep demon, because there was just somethings about it; there was a spirit of sleep over the place, and I was battling it as hard as I could battle it. I said, “Whoa! This thing is getting the better of me.” I said, “Lord, have mercy. Let me look over there at C. Elijah and get me some inspiration,” because, see, sometimes if you can just look at somebody vibrant, then their spirit will get on you and it will help you out. So I said, “Let me just look over to my left at C. Elijah, and that will give me some strength to get through this thing.”

I looked over at C. Elijah, and his mouth was open.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: I said, “Oh, goodness!” When I saw C. Elijah’s mouth open, his head still and his eyes glazed over, I knew then that I was in some deep, deep trouble!

(Laughter and applause.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: But, people, that is why I say a sleep demon can be cast out through that fasting and prayer, because as I looked over at C. Elijah and he was in the fifth stage of church sleep, all of a sudden I heard his stomach grumble, and the minute I heard his stomach grumble, he instantly snapped awake. Do you know, as I thought about it, you’ve got a stomach-rumbling demon; but they do not get along together. See, the sleep demon and the stomach-rumbling demon, they don’t get along. The minute the stomach-rumbling demon comes in, the sleep demon leaves. All church folks do not get along, so why do you figure all demons get along? See, you know it’s a demon, because if you ever listen to the stomach, it sounds just like that thing in “The Exorcist” (growling).

(Laughter.)
PASTOR NATHANIEL: It sounds just like a demon. And the minute your stomach goes to grumbling, you are not going to fall asleep, because you are too embarrassed about somebody hearing your stomach rumbling. So you sit there and try to tighten your stomach. I do not know what in the world folks think tightening the stomach is going to do to stop it from rumbling; but you have sit there and just hold your stomach in and hold your breath and hold it real tight, trying to keep your stomach from rumbling; but you won’t fall asleep.

So if you fast, see, that is why the stomach-rumbling demon does not like the sleep demon; but the sleep demon and the full-stomach demon just love each other. If you get a full stomach, I mean, that sleep demon will hop on you so bad, whoo, whoo! I mean, especially if you’ve got an overly full stomach, you are talking about something rough to deal with, an overly full stomach on a warm day with a long sermon.

You see, I am going to tell you, people, the sleep demon even in the church is responsible for a lot of our illnesses, and we don’t understand that. Do you know that 40% of all Americans have severe problems in their lower back with pain? 40% of all Americans have back pain and neck pain. That is because of the sleep demon. And you say, “You’ve lost your mind. Now, what in the world does the sleep demon have to do with back and neck pain?” I am going to tell you, because all of you are getting whiplash in the church.

(Laughter.)

You see, whiplash occurs, and most of us think of whiplash just in terms of when a car hits us from behind. Let me show you what happens when a car hits you from behind. Well, when a car hits you from behind, the car immediately accelerates; but the body has a tendency to remain still. So as the seat accelerates and your head remains still, it snaps the head back like this. Then when the head snaps back as far as it can go, it’ll snap forward like this. And that is what you get whiplash from. Let me demonstrate it again what happens.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: That is what happens when you get a whiplash when somebody rear-ends you in a car.

I see the same thing happening with the sleep demon with folks in church, because what happens again, first they go through with that head still, their eyes fixed, their mouth falling open, and then finally their head will go to dropping. But there is something about it. You see, the inner ear has an inertial guidance system that immediately will send information to your brain to let you know that your head is falling too fast, and it immediately wakes you, and this is what happens.
PASTOR NATHANIEL: And all of you know that you have seen people under the influence of that sleep demon. They’ll sit up in church all day long …

(Pastor NATHANIEL: … and their head would drop, and then you’ll come back with a great deal of speed and force and go all the way back, snapping. That is putting a strain on your neck, putting a strain on your back, and it’s causing whiplash in the church; and that is why 40% of Americans have back problems and neck problems: because you’ve got the sleep demon on you in church and you’re getting whiplash from all day long, just bobbing.

(Pastor NATHANIEL: See, the thing about it, the bigger the head is, the bigger the whiplash.

(Pastor NATHANIEL: So, big-headed people really have a major problem with whiplash in the church.

(Pastor NATHANIEL: There is nothing wrong with having a big head. See, that is why, people, you have always got to understand truth, and don’t let anybody make you feel bad because you’ve got a great, big head, because when you think about it, there is nothing in the head but brains. I mean, what else is in there? I hope there is nothing else in there. But there is nothing in your head but brains. So if you’ve got a big, old head, that just means you’ve got a head full of brains; but people with big, old heads have to be very careful when they are dealing with the sleep demon, because they are more prone to a stronger case of whiplash than people with a little bitty peanut heads.

(Pastor NATHANIEL: So there are so many other demons that we really deal with in the church every day; a lot of demons that we do not even recognize. See, you’ve got the buy-me demon. Some of you have the buy-me demon on you right now. The minute you get the check on Friday and you go to the mall, there is this demon that hollers out from all of this stuff, “Buy me. Buy me.” See, you can always
tell a demon, because a demon first of all forces you to do something against your better knowledge and wisdom. And how many times have we gotten the buy-me demon on us, going out in the mall and just saying, “Charge it,” knowing your credit card is almost up to the limit and you can barely pay the minimum. But the buy-me-demon has gotten ahold of you.

You’ve got the tell-me demon. Your best friend will give you some juicy gossip, “But whatever you do, don’t tell anybody about this.” Do you know when somebody gives you a good, solid, hot piece of gossip like that, that thing comes with the tell-me demon, because, see, they’ve just gotten the tell-me demon off of them. That is why you had that transfer of the spirit. They got the tell-me demon off of them, and now the tell-me demon is on you; and you’ve got this good, hot, juicy piece of gossip, and it has you almost shaking, wanting to tell somebody about that thing.

That demon is a go-to-the-bathroom demon. Do you know sometimes you just have to go to the bathroom at the oddest time to disrupt everything? And I really believe that even in the church, the go-to-the-bathroom demon gets on a whole lot of folks to interrupt the service right in the middle of the service to go to the bathroom. And, people, you know it’s a demon, because once you get about ten feet from the bathroom, the thing speeds up. Here you’ve been holding it for a whole hour with no problems, and all of a sudden, right before you get to the bathroom, all this pressure hits you and you’ve sure enough got to hurry up then.

That is why you’ve got to learn how to cast these demons out. I know sometimes I will be driving along, you know, and that go-to-the-bathroom will get on me. I’ll pull in the gas station, and as soon as I open the door, it will just hit me. I’ll rush to the bathroom, and the door is locked.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: You’ve got to learn how to cast that go-to-the-bathroom demon out of there! You need to just stand and just cast him out. But while you are casting him out, make sure you go get that key … just in case your faith isn’t strong enough.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: You’ve got a don’t-want-to-be-bothered demon. You ever get that demon on you? You just don’t want to be bothered. Nice people all around you; but for some reason, you just don’t want to be bothered. Better cast that spirit out of you so that you can become sociable and friendly, because the don’t-want-to-be-bothered demon will just get on some folks sometimes.
You’ve got a wear-me demon. Do you know, sometimes there is a demon that just gets on folks and just make folks wear certain things? And, people, let me give you exact, positive proof that you know it is a demon, positive proof without a doubt. How many times have you seen somebody walking by in something so tight that it is sprayed on, and you know at that time you say to yourself or say to whoever you’re with, “What in the world possessed her to wear that?” That is a wear-me demon that possessed her. And sometimes there will be a demon that will just hop on folks and looks like it just gets folks to wear things that haven’t the good sense to tell them they have no business in the world wearing; but they got the wear-me demon.

Now, people, let me caution you as a pastor: if you see somebody that is under the influence of a wear-me demon, don’t go up to them talking about “Let me cast these pants off of you” ...

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: … because if that is the case and you cast the pants off them, they may have also had, before the wear-me demon got on them, a don’t-wear-me demon could have gotten on them and there may not be anything under there; so don’t cast the pants off!

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: You’ve got a laugh demon that can sometimes hit you at the most inopportune times. Sometimes you’re sitting in church and you’ll see something funny. We had a situation like that a few days ago. We were at a service, and there was a singer that had come and the pastor called the singer up to sing a song, and when the singer got up, let me show you what happened. He said, “Lord, I am just thankful to be here today, because I was not supposed to be here, because the doctor told me that I was not supposed to be here because I got this bad virus; but I told that virus I was casting that virus out and I was coming on anyhow! I didn’t care about a virus, and I don’t care what the doctor said about it; I am here anyhow, and this virus isn’t going to get ahold on me!” I mean, he was just a’spitting all over the microphone.

Then when he got to singing, he was singing all up in the microphone. So when the evangelist got up to preach, and this was a Holy Ghost-filled evangelist; I have no question about that at all. But when the evangelist got up to preach, he took his handkerchief out, and he preached the whole sermon with his handkerchief over the microphone like this (laughing).

(Laughter.)
PASTOR NATHANIEL: I mean, we were sitting back there, and the laugh demon was working on us. We could not even concentrate on the Word ...

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: ... because the evangelist was there with that handkerchief over the microphone, just a’preaching (laughing). I mean, our stomachs were about to burst; but you can’t be courteous, because if we had burst out laughing, it would have made the evangelist feel bad; it would have made the singer feel bad. So we were back at the whole service, wrestling with the laugh demon.

So there are many different types of demons that will sometimes get over us, and sometimes even the devil will appear himself. One Sunday morning in a little bitty tiny town, everybody in the town got up early and went to church. And before the service had started, all the people were there in church, and they were just talking with each other, getting ready for the service to start. The minister was there, all of the choir was there, and the ushers were there. All of a sudden, out in the middle of the aisle, the devil just materialized. He stood there about eight or ten feet tall with big horns on him with smoke coming out of his nostrils, long fangs and teeth and everything. I mean, when folks saw that red devil, I mean that church cleared out. I mean, everybody in the pews got up and ran out the door. The choir got out of the choir stand, and they ran out the back door. The ushers beat the other folks out the door and did not even hold the door for anybody. And the preacher, he was out of the door in a flash! The devil cleared the whole church. He looked around, and there was one old man sitting in the pew who wasn’t studying the devil. The devil walked over to him and said, “Do you know who I am?” He looked up at him, “Yeah, I know who you are.” The devil said, “Aren’t you scared of me?” He said, “No, I’m not scared of you.” The devil said, “Why in the world are you not afraid of me?” He said, “Because I’ve been married to your sister for 25 years.”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: So sometimes even the devil gets in churches and gets in these homes.

So many times, we get varying church experiences. A man once went into a department store to get his wife a bra, and the salesperson asked him, “What type of bra?” The man said, “Type?” He said, “I didn’t know there was more than one type. What do you mean, ‘type?’” He said, “Well, there’s more than one type. There are three types. Since I can tell you are a good Christian man,” he said, “actually, you’ve got the Catholic type, the Salvation-Army type and the Baptist type.” He said, “Which one do you need?” He said, “Well, what’s the difference between the Catholic type, the Salvation-Army type and the Baptist type?” The salesman said,
“Well, the Catholic type supports the masses; the Salvation-Army type lifts up the fallen; and the Baptist type makes mountains out of molehills.”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: We get a lot of different experiences in church, even the Darling and the Sugar. The Darling and the Sugar are something else. I’ve had to learn a whole different type of engineering with the Darling and the Sugar. When you are in church or when you are in a public building, your whole focus is trying to make things more acceptable; but with the Darling and the Sugar, that is absolutely opposite, because they just figure out stuff. We have two knobs on our door going downstairs. We had to get a special knob put way up high, so the Darling could not open the door going downstairs, because the Darling had figured out how to open the door and the Sugar was learning real fast how to open it. So we put two knobs on it, so the Darling couldn’t reach. When he gets up, he will pull a chair, trying to open the top door; but his arms are not long enough to reach the bottom knob at the same time. You’ve got to learn how to figure out, because they learn what I call the Law of Assisted Elevation early. You think you put something up high enough out of the Darling and the Sugar’s reach, and they learn how to pull chairs up there and go right up and get it.

But, you see, the Sugar will pull up a chair and he will go and get something that he knows that you have put up from him; and he’s got this little thing, he’ll turn around and say, “Heh” ...

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: ... as if to scoff at you and say, “You thought you were smart enough to outsmart me” and he will go right up there and get it, pull a chair up, turn around and say, “Heh.”

And the Sugar knows where the cutoff button is on everything. Did any of you have that problem with your kids? They know where the cutoff button is on everything. He cannot talk, can barely walk; but he knows where the cutoff button is on everything -- and not only does he know where the cutoff button is, he knows when exactly to cut it off to create the most damage.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: We can be sitting in the den watching television, and the Sugar will walk right over by the television and stand right there until the good part.

(Laughter.)
PASTOR NATHANIEL: Won't touch it until the good part. Right when the good part is coming up, the Sugar will reach right over and turn the TV off and then look around and say, “Heh.”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: He got that from his mama.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: He got that from his mama, because sometimes whenever I am doing something and I am really focused on it, she knows right at the very moment to come in and ask you something right when you are focusing on what you are doing.

But, men, let me give you some advice. You have got to learn the art of what is scientifically is called multiplexing. Multiplexing is simply this: an FM-radio signal comes over the air in stereo. It is two separate channels, the left and the right channel, but it is all on one frequency. And the way they do it, they alternate left and right in microsecond amounts and then time them back up, and it’s the law of multiplexing of allowing two things to come on the same channel.

I've got that down solid with Puddin' now. So if I am working on something, I can still keep doing what I am working on, and yet I can keep a channel open to Puddin'. And Puddin’ sometimes questions whether or not -- and, men, women will always ask you this when they think you are not listening to them. They will say, “You are not listening to me.” I'll said, “Yes, I am.” And they always ask you this fundamental question: “Well, what did I just say?”

(Laughter and applause.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: Am I the only man who’s got that? She'll just say, “Well, what did I just say?” But, you see, I've got my multiplexing down. And I am able to multiplex now about three levels deep, because the minute I rattle off to Puddin’ what she just said, that upsets her. So she'll say, “What did I say before that?”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: And then I’ll rattle off that, and that gets her more upset; and then she says, “Well, what did I say before I said what I said then?” And then I’ll rattle off that, and then she’ll go one more level deep. She’ll say, “What did I say before I said what I just said before I said what I said?” I’ll say, “Puddin’, I cannot go that deep, because you do not even remember that yourself.”
LAUGHTER.

PASTOR NATHANIEL: Sometimes ministers do have some real serious experiences. There was another minister -- actually, a priest in this small town -- and often in that particular church they have confession. So one morning the priest got up and said, “Look, I am tired of all of this adultery going on in this church.” He said, “If I get one more case of adultery, I'm quitting!” So all of the congregation got together, because they really loved this preacher and they didn’t want him to leave. They said, “Look, we’ve got to develop something here, so he does not leave. One said, “I’ll tell you what. This is what we are going to do. When we make our confession, instead of saying that we committed adultery, let us just use a code word. Let just say we’ve fallen.” So everybody agreed to that.

The priest stayed on for years and years and years, and finally he retired and a new priest took over. After about three weeks, the new priest stormed into the mayor’s office of this town. He said, “Mayor, we’ve got to do something about the sidewalks in this town, because folks are falling everywhere in this town. They have fallen on Main Street, they have fallen on Broad Street, they have fallen on Elm Street -- folks are just falling all over the place. Mayor, you’ve got to do something about these sidewalks!”

Now, the mayor, see, knew about the code word, so the mayor just doubled over laughing. He was just a’laughing, and it made the priest kind of mad. So he pointed his finger at the mayor and said, “I don’t know what you are laughing about, because your wife fell through three times last week herself.”

LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE.

PASTOR NATHANIEL: So sometimes indeed we have trouble with the Darlings and the Sugars. There was one time some parents, and they had a little Darling themselves; and he was in the fourth grade, but he was having a real problem with his math. So the parents said, “We’ve got to do something. This boy is failing everything in math he takes. We are going to send him to one of those rigorous Christian schools and see if that will help him.” So they went and enrolled him in the Christian school.

The first day that the boy came home, he went straight into his room and went to studying. He would study all through dinner. He stopped watching all of his favorite television programs. He had his math book, and he just really read it. His mama and daddy said, “What in the world has gotten into him? He is just a fanatic about this math.”
Finally when his report card came, he had straight As across in every one of his math subjects. They said, “We’ve got to find out what in the world happened to change our son so much that he loved and studied his math so diligently.”

So they went to ask him. Daddy said, “Look, Son.” He said, “What was it?” He said, “Was it the teachers that got you?” He said, “No. It was not the teachers.” He said, “Well, was it a different textbook or something?” “No. It was not the textbook. They use the same book as the other school.” And they went through thing after thing, and finally they had to ask him, “Look, what was it that made you take your math so seriously?” And the boy said, “I knew that school took their math real serious when the first thing I saw when I walked in there was this guy nailed to the plus sign.”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: I want to just give you this quiz, this kind of math-oriented quiz. If you got a pen and paper, just take it out real quick and see if you can figure this out. There is a part of it you’ve got to think real fast and you’ve got to follow through with it, and it is just something that I just want to show you real quick even dealing with math. I will go right ahead, but I want you to see how quick you can think and how perceptive you are with this.

All right, here it goes: You are driving a bus that is leaving from Pennsylvania and ending in New York. Now, to start with, there are 32 passengers on the bus. At the next bus stop, 11 people get off and 9 people get on. At the next bus stop, 2 people get off and 2 people get on. At the next bus stop, 12 people get on and 16 people get off. At the next bus stop, 5 people get on and 3 people get off. Now, this is the question that I want you to answer to see how perceptive you are and how good your math skills are. What color are the bus driver’s eyes?

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: How many people know what color the bus driver’s eyes are? That’s right, heh (laughing)! That’s right. I began by saying, “You are driving the bus”; so whatever your eyes are, that is what color the bus driver’s eyes are. That just lets you know sometimes we miss the whole point, focusing on stuff that has nothing to do with the real solution.

Once there was a little boy who was afraid of the dark, and one night his mother told him to go on the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy told his mother, “Look, Mom. I don’t want to go out there, because it’s dark.” His mother smiled at him, reassured the child and told him, “Look, Son. You don’t have to be afraid of the dark. Jesus is out there. He will look after you, and He will protect you.” The little boy looked at his mama real hard and said, “Are you sure Jesus is
out there?” She said, “Yes, I’m sure. He is everywhere! He is always ready to help you whenever you need Him.” So the little boy thought about that for a minute, and then he went out to the back porch and looked into the darkness. He cracked the door open and peeked his head out there and said, “Jesus!” He said, “Jesus, if You’re out there, will You please hand me the broom?”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: Sometimes we are scared to go out in the dark, and we are waiting on Jesus to hand us the broom. Even now, there was another preacher who had retired from his church after preaching for 40 years, and he moved back to the country to just enjoy his life and really to practice his hobby of taking care of the yard. One day his lawnmower gave out; so needing a lawnmower, he went into town to buy one.

While he was going to buy a lawnmower, he saw a sign in a yard, “Lawnmower for Sale”. So the preacher went to look at the lawnmower; the engine was running fine and everything, and the boy only wanted $25 for the lawnmower. So the man cranked the lawnmower, sped it up, mowed a little and it worked fine; so he gave him the $25.

Well, he went back to his house, and he could not get the lawnmower started.

The little boy came by and said, “What’s wrong, Preacher?” He said, “I can’t get this lawnmower started.” He said, “How in the world do you get it started?” And the little boy said, “Well, in order to start this lawnmower, you’ve got to cuss it.” He said, “Cuss it?” He said, “Yeah, you’ve got to cuss it.” The preacher looked at him all indignant. He said, “Young man, I don’t cuss.” And he said, “Even if I ever did curse -- and I’m not saying that I ever did, but even if I ever did cuss -- I have forgotten even how to cuss.” The little boy looked at him with a very wise look and said, “Preacher, you stand out here long enough in this hot sun, pulling on that rope, it’ll come back to you.”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: You know, kids are so inquisitive. The Darling’s favorite word is why. He will ask why about virtually every single thing, and sometimes the things are kind of deep.

I never will forget one time when we were at home. Now, the Darling sees me get out of the shower a lot, and he sees Puddin’ get out of the shower. The Darling’s mind is very perceptive. The Darling looked at me, and then the Darling would look at himself, and then he would look at Puddin’. So one day the Darling had just been scratching his head about that -- this is a true story -- and the Darling was just
scratching his head about that. So one day the Darling came up to me as my wife was coming out of the bathroom, and he pointed to her and said, “Dad,” he said, “Why’s Mama broke?”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: And that was a real deep question. I had to tell the Darling, I said, “Well, Daddy is going to work on fixing Mama tonight.”

(Laughter and applause.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: And that is how we got the Sugar.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: Now, see, the Sugar cannot talk yet and the Sugar has only a one-word vocabulary. The only word the Sugar knows is “bove”. That is all he knows is bove, B-O-V-E. It means “move”; but he can’t say “move”, so all he can say is “bove”. And whenever you are sitting in the Sugar’s spot or whenever Sugar wants to get somewhere, he will come up and he will push you, and then he will say, “Bove, heh.”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: So both Darling and the Sugar have their favorite words. I remember even as preachers, Billy Graham once tells a story early in his career. He went to a small town to preach a revival, and he has to mail a letter; so he asked a young man that he saw on the street where the post office was, so he could mail his letter. And this was a boy, and Billy Graham said, “Look, young man. Are you going to come to the revival tonight? I’m going to tell everybody there how to get to Heaven.” The boy said, “No, I don’t think I’m coming.” He said, “Why not?” The boy said, “I don’t think you can tell me how to get to Heaven. You don’t even know how to get to the post office.”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: So indeed we get some real situations that come up in the church and even when we get to Heaven. There was even a story of a case once where everybody on Earth, at the end of the world when everyone died and all of the people that were going to Heaven went to Heaven, and God comes and says, “I want all the men to make two lines.” He said, “I want one line for all of the men that were dominated by their wives; I want them to stand over here in this line. All the men who were dominated by their wives and just whipped, all of you stand in this line.” And then He said, “I want the other line. All of the men who stood up and
who are the head of their households and who took charge, I want you to stand in this line.” The line where the men were dominated and whipped was about a hundred miles long, and there was one man ...

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: ... in the line where he was the boss. God got mad and said, “You men ought to be ashamed of yourselves! I created you in my image and look at you. All of you are just whipped, standing over there in that line. You ought to look at this man over here and take his example. Learn from him!” So He walked over to that man and said, “Tell Me, My son. I want you to give this wisdom to all of these men who were just dominated and just whipped and just scared. You, My son, you tell them how you stood up and you stood up in My image and you were a man. You tell them how you got to be standing in this line.” The man said, “I do not know. My wife told me to stand over here.”

(Laughter and applause.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: There was once a farmer on a farm, and a friend of his came to visit him. As he was getting out of the car, heading for the farmer’s door, he noticed a pig that had a wooden leg. He asked the farmer, he said, “Fred, how in the world did that pig get that wooden leg?” Fred said, “Well, my friend, I’m going to tell you. That is a mighty special pig.” He said, “A while back I was back in the woods, and a wild boar attacked me while I was walking in the woods; and that pig came up a’running and went after that wild boar and chased him away, and that pig saved my life!” He said, “Oh, so that is how the pig lost his leg, saving your life from the boar?” He said, “No, the pig was fine after that.” He said, “But a bit later we had a fire. The fire started in the barn, and it had engulfed all of the barn and was headed towards the house, and that pig started to squealing. He got all of the animals out of the barn and saved all of the animals. He came in squealing and woke us, got us out of the house, and we were able to put it out before it got to the house. That pig saved all of the animals, and he saved our lives and all my family’s lives!” He said, “Oh, so that is how he lost his leg, in the fire, saving the animals and saving the whole family.” He said, “No, he was a little winded; but he didn’t lose leg in that.” Then he said, “Well, I was also out plowing the field, and my tractor hit a rock and rolled down the hill into a pond, and that pig came in and swam in there and pulled me from under that tractor, and he saved my life a third time.” And he said, “And is that how the pig lost his leg, swimming under there to save your life, pulling you out from being trapped under the tractor?” He said, “No. That is not how he lost it.” He said, “Well, then tell me: how in the world did the pig lose his leg?” And the man said, “A special pig like that, you just can’t eat all of it once.”

(Laughter.)
PASTOR NATHANIEL: Sometimes even when you make hospital visits, there was a minister that went to visit this old lady in the hospital, and as he was there the old lady did not have any teeth. She could just gum, but she didn’t have any teeth. As the minister went there, he saw a bowl of peanuts there on the side of the bed; so he just started eating the peanuts, and after he had eaten all of the peanuts, he told the lady, “Oh, I’m so sorry. That was so inconsiderate of me. I’m sitting here eating all these peanuts in front of you, and you can’t even eat any of these peanuts because you don’t have any teeth.” He said, “That was so inconsiderate of me.” She said, “That is all right, Shuga’, because I’ve already sucked all the chocolate off of them anyway” (laughing).

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: And as I wind this down, some of us sometimes need just to take a vacation. There was once an elderly married couple, and they were getting ready to head on a cruise; but they figured they’d better go and get a medical checkup before they headed out on the cruise. So the man went in first, and the doctor checked him over and he seemed like he was fine and everything; and the doctor asked him, “Well, you have any kind of problems at all, anything?” He said, “Well, I’ve only got one little problem.” And the doctor said, “What is that?” He said, “Well, the first time that I make love to my wife, I get all hot and sweaty; but the second time, I get all cold and shivery.” And the doctor said, “I don’t know what that is.”

So finally the wife came in. He examined her, and she was in good shape. The doctor asked her did she have any medical problems, and she said no. Then the doctor said, “Wait a minute. There’s one little thing I want to ask you about about your husband. He told me that whenever you are intimate, he said the first time he gets all hot and sweaty; but the second time, he gets all cold and shivery.” He said, “Do you have any idea why?” She said, “Yeah, I know why.” She said, “Because the first time is in July, and the second time is in December.”

(Laughter and applause.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: And, women, we need to understand even about those long lines about all the men on that side that were whipped and dominated. A lot of it is because of the women’s liberation movement. There was a conference up in Chicago that three women from Atlanta went to. One from Buckhead went, one from the Cascades went, and one from Bankhead went. They went there and listened to the speaker, and the speaker told them, “You women ought not to take all this stuff off these men. It’s time for you all to rise up. When you get home, I want you to tell your man you are not going to cook breakfast anymore for him, he is going to wash his own clothes, and he is going to clean up his own mess around that house.”

(Laughter.)
So the three women from Atlanta were riding on the plane together, and they made an agreement that they were going to meet three months later, just to see how well the woman speaker’s advice had worked when they told their husbands this.

So they came back together three months later, sitting at the restaurant, and the one from Buckhead went first, and she said, “I told François. I told him that he would have to prepare his own breakfast, wash his own clothes and clean up his own house. And when I woke up, I could see that François had prepared me some delicious Belgian waffles with eggs Benedict and a hot cappuccino.

Then the lady from Cascade, said “I told Julian. I told Julian he would have to fix his own breakfast, he was going to have to wash his own clothes, and he was going to have to clean up his own house. And when I woke up, I could see that he had prepared me a beautiful breakfast of buttermilk pancakes and scrambled eggs and toast and had some fresh-squeezed orange juice.”

Finally, they got to the woman from Bankhead, and they said, “How did your experience go?” And she said, “When I got home, I told Rufus. I said, ‘Rufus, you’re going to have to cook your own breakfast, you are going to have to wash your own clothes, and you are going to have to clean up your own house.’” And she said, “When I woke up, I could see a little bit out of my left eye ...”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: “... because Rufus just doesn’t stand for that stuff.”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: Even with the Darling and the Sugar, there is one thing about the Darling and the Sugar and about children that are small, and married couples know this. It puts a little damper on your intimate life, because you just can’t get with it while the children are up. You know what I’m talking about; if you’ve got children, you know exactly what I’m talking about.

But I figured I’m smart, and Puddin’ figured she’s smart. So one day I told Puddin’. I said, “Puddin’, look,” I said, “I’m just not going to let the Sugar control my love life. I’m just not going to do it.” You see, we put the Darling down, the Darling is usually asleep by 8:30; but when you’ve got a 1½-year-old, they don’t go to bed. You just can’t put him down; he’s going to go to bed when he gets good and ready. So the Sugar was still up with still plenty of energy, and I told Puddin’, I said, “Puddin’, I am not going to let the Sugar determine when we can get together like that.” So I said, “This is what we’re going to do.” Now, this is a true story.
(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: I said, “Puddin’, this is what we’re going to do. We’re going to get one of the Darling’s toys with the batteries in it to run around on the floor, and we are going to put the Sugar on the floor, because the Sugar was too small to climb up on the bed. So we are going to put the Sugar on the floor, we are going to turn on the toy and let it run around, and that will take care of the Sugar while I take care of you.”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: So that’s what we did. I said, “We’ll just pull the covers up, so that Sugar won’t know what’s going on.”

So we put the Sugar on the floor, cut the Sugar’s toy on, and the Sugar started playing with the toy, and then Puddin’ just grabbed me.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: So there we were, and all of a sudden I looked over and I heard something grunting over on the other side of the bed; it wasn’t Puddin’, there was another grunt. I heard something grunting on the other side, and I looked over and there I saw a foot on the edge of the bed, trying to come over the edge of the bed.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: I said, “Puddin’,” I said, “that looks like the Sugar’s foot.” Puddin’ said, “But the Sugar can’t get on the bed; he is too small.” I said, “But, Puddin’, the Sugar’s got his ankle over the bed.” Puddin’ said, “The Sugar can’t get on the bed.”

A few more minutes, I kept hearing the grunting over there, and I looked over there again, and the Sugar’s knee was on the bed. I said, “Puddin’, Sugar looks like he’s coming on this bed.” Puddin’ said, “Don’t worry about the Sugar. The Sugar can’t get up here.” She said, “I know the Sugar, I’ve been with Sugar a year-and-a-half; Sugar can’t get on this bed.”

I heard another grunting, looked over there and Sugar’s behind had just rolled up and rolled on the bed. I said, “Oh, my goodness!” And Sugar crawled over to where we were, and we had to stop because Sugar was up there. And Sugar looked at me, and then Sugar looked at Puddin’. And Sugar looked at me, and then Sugar looked at Puddin’. And then Sugar looked at me, and Sugar said, “Bove! Heh!” (laughing)
(Laughter and applause.)

**PASTOR NATHANIEL:** And that’s a brief story of the Darling and the Sugar.

I hope this laughter as of this day has lifted some things off of you. You see, while you were laughing, you forgot all about every problem that you had. There is something about the spirit of laughter that lifts and propels you up higher.

God told me upon this day, “Make the people laugh.” And actually, I’m really only about half-through’ but you all have laughed enough for one day. And even now, you can feel some tension that was there is no longer there. There is something about it that you even feel lighter and you feel fresher and you feel more energetic, just from having spent an hour laughing.

“A merry heart doeth the body good like a medicine.”

Bow your heads.

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You upon this day for the mirth that You have brought forth, for the laughter of Your people; and, dear Father, as they laughed and as they continue to laugh this day -- and, people, I’m hearing God right now tell you, “Get a tape, and you’ll even laugh more.” And as you laugh, there will even be some healing that will go on, just in your laughing. Make sure that you get a tape of “The Darling and The Sugar” and listen to it again, and you’ll laugh some more. And with the laughing will come a divine release.

Dear Father, I thank You for the direction that You took me in this day. I realize that it was strange, that it was unusual, and that most people in most congregations have never seen anything like this; but You have many strange and miraculous ways of moving, and it was one way of taking the burdens off of the people and putting a spirit of joy into their hearts, and I thank You, dear Heavenly Father. Let them continue to laugh.

And from this day on, God is saying that in some of you, He is even going to birth a spirit of laughter, and you will be able to laugh at some things that you used to cry about. From this day forward, you will be able to laugh where you used to cry.

Let this be medicine to our flesh and bring healing and hopes. In Thy Son Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

Amen, amen and amen.

(Appplause and music.)
PASTOR C. ELIJAH: Lord, we thank You for this day. Thank You, Lord. We know that Your ways are not our ways. We thank You, oh, Lord, for even Your foolishness this morning, which is wiser than the wilderness of sin. You cover us, oh, Lord, that as we go from situations in life, oh, Lord, that what has some people pulling their hair out, oh, Lord, we thank You that with Your Holy Spirit, oh, Lord, we’ll be able to look the devil in the face and laugh at him. We thank You, Lord, for what You’ve demonstrated in this place. We thank You for the healing, Oh, Lord, that has taken place and the (inaudible). We just ask, oh, Lord, that that joy will increase, oh, Lord, across the planet and in the hearts, and everyone down in the lower ranks will hear it, oh, Lord; that they will lift their heads and laugh and enjoy the moment, even as they look at the fields and their problems and think about things that are going on in their lives. We pray, oh, Lord, that Your Spirit of laughter will continue past this day. In Jesus’ name we pray this day, amen.

(Music.)