

Whoa Big Boy

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Nathaniel Bronner: And if you would open your Bibles to the Book of James, that's towards the end of the Bible right after Hebrew comes the Book of James right before first Peter; James, the third Chapter in the Book of James.

In several years ago, I was leaving a church and I stopped to put gas into my car. And as I was pumping the gas, I noticed the price of the pump and the price of gas had recently escalated and it was extraordinarily high and as I stood and I watched the dollars and the dimes and the pennies tick(ph) on the counter, ticking so fast that you couldn't even see the numbers. They were blazing away so fast because the price of gas had skyrocketed. And as I stood at that pump pumping the gas, I was fussing. Look at the price of this gas. This stuff is so high. This is ridiculous. What in the world that they plan to do with it and I was sitting just the pumping and just the fussing.

And I heard the word of God come into my spirit, just as clear and just as strong. And I still remember those words because they are now blazed into my mind, and even now, the price of gas has again gone up, and as I stand pumping, I remember those words that God spoke to me and the two that are most dominant, He said simply this, "Shut up." He said, "You earn multiples of what most people earn and they have to pay the same amount for a gallon as you. You are blessed beyond measure but yet you sit here complaining," He said, "Shut up." Sometimes God doesn't deal with you (00:02:18).

If you read your Bible, you'll understand that. Sometimes God is just not our God. He can be wrath. I mean He can -- and see, that really was a mild thing, but it may sound wrath because we may think that God simply speaks to us all the time, "Oh Thy holy child, My son." No, God just says -- simply telling He was praying off the street. God said, "Shut up." And sometimes God will have to bring His message down to a level that we can understand. He could have put it more eloquent than that. He could have said, "My child, you need to adjust the way that you are speaking and you need to refrain from speaking such a negative connotation of words upon your situation." He could have said that way, but I wouldn't remember it that way. But when He's spoken and when He spoke those two words, just "Shut up." I never forgot it and I never complained at a gas pump again.

And even upon today in James Chapter 3, the second verse reads this way, "For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man and able also to bridle the whole body." Let me read that from the New Living translation. "We all make many mistakes. But those who control their tongues can also control themselves in every other way." The Bible says, if you can control your tongue, you can control yourself in every other way. If you can just control your tongue you can control yourself in every other way. Do you know that tongue is hard to control? I mean, the tongue is an extremely hard thing to control. The Bible puts it to bridle the tongue and a bridle is a --

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--the dictionary definition of a bridle is a hairnet consisting of headstall, a bit and reins fitted about a horse's head. I used to ride horses every day where my house is now. It used to be a horse pasture and a horse trail and I live about a mile away and every day I would ride my bicycle over and you pay about a dollar and a half and you could ride for about an hour, and I used to ride horses every day. And the bridle went on the horse, it was a muzzle that went over the whole hair which strapped it and went around the back and the bit was a thing that went in his mouth and your head reins which was nothing but a rope or cord on each side, and if you pull the cord this way, it yanked the horse's head and he would have to turn this way. If you pull back on, it will pull him back this way and he, therefore, stopped. And the bit that was in the mouth if you could just control that mouth, wherever that mouth went --

I didn't ride ponies and rode horses. These were big old things, someone had to lift me up to swing to be able to sit at the horse. Remember that camel, you won't feel that, it was not quite as tall as that camel, but it was tall. But this was a big half time creature and I was a boy about 13 to 14 years of age. But yet, even though this animal was multiples of my weight and multiples of my strength, because I had control of the reins and because I could pull something that controlled his tongue, he has to do whatever I told him to do and I was riding in the car with my mother on last week and my mother was making a comment about how God had told her to bridle her tongue, and God spoke to me then and He said, "That's what I want you to talk to the people at The Ark about next week."

And as I would sit upon this big (00:07:36) of horse, and whenever I got ready for him to stop, I would pull those reins back and I would say to the horse, "Whoa! Big boy." And that's that title of my message today. Turn to your neighbors just tell them and say, "Whoa, big boy!"

You see, if we can learn to just bridle or control this tongue, we can say, "Whoa! Big boy," and we'll be able to turn our whole world around just by being able to bridle our tongue. Again in that same Book of James, flip back to the first chapter, in the 26th verse and the Bible says something here, James 1:26 says, "If any man among you seem to be religious and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." I mean, again, let me read that in the New Living translation with a little clearer. Says, "If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you're just fooling yourself and your religion is worthless."

See, if you cannot control your tongue, if you can't say, "Whoa! Big boy," when that thing starts to get out of control because, see, tongue is not really a very big organ (00:09:35) thing and actually medically, it's an organ. It's not an appendage. See, the hand is an appendage. The tongue is medically considered an organ. It's a vital part and there's a whole lot that a tongue does, but if you cannot control your tongue and the Bible says, "If you can just control your tongue, you can control your whole body."

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Because it's the most difficult part of the whole body to control. And He says, "If you claim to be religious but can't control your tongue, you're just fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless."

One of the prime areas where we lose control of our tongue is when we get mad. I mean some folks, when they get upset and they fly off the handle at the drop of a hat. And when they fly off the handle, all kinds of stuff will come out their tongue. You know, sometimes people that are just so nice and they're just so nice and they look so nice, but you make them mad and (00:11:02) you say, "Where in the world it --" An anger causes his tongue to become unleashed, and as a result, you get all of

these stuff spewing out and the problem is when all of the stuff spews off the tongue, you can't get it back. You can't take it back in. There are some things that can roll off this tongue and do permanent damage, whatever, and you cannot really back in. And there are sometimes in which -- and some of us are more prone to this than others especially when we think we're right. Turn to your neighbors and tell him, "Especially when we think we're right." I mean when we think we are right, we can get some folk told. I mean, just tell them all. Blessed them now, curse them up and down. I mean, we can really get some folk told(ph) when we think we are right. But the Bible says, "To control your tongue and an anger so much destruction comes in our lives simply because we get angry."

The Bible over in Proverb and you heard, "A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger." When someone is starting to make you mad, just say, "Whoa, big boy," because you can feel that horse gets rearing up like stallion getting ready to buck, you got to ride him in. And if you can rein his tongue in, you can control that wild anger. You can control all of the stuff. If you can just reel the tongue in and understand that a soft answer turneth away wrath. The problem is when we have wrath coming at us, we send wrath back. And you see people, that's why it takes higher spiritual evolution to be able to deal with someone coming at you with wrath and you have to answer with a soft answer. I mean somebody coming at you just fussed(ph) at you, telling you all kinds of getting all up in your face, sticking a finger all up in your face.

I mean if somebody's coming out -- Jesus tells us to turn the other cheek when we're struck. Most of us can handle a finger. Can he touch you? But I mean just a finger in your face. Just had slapped you. Now, if you can't handle a finger, how do you think you can handle the slap. But just a finger in our face starts our blood to boil, and and when the blood starts to boil in, the tongue gets unleashed. A soft answer turneth away wrath. And you will be surprised what will happen -- these proverbs, they are real, they work. And if you can just say in your mind the next time you see the finger, just say, "Whoa! Big boy! Whoa!" And then you talk softly. "Well, I understand your point, and you have a very, very valid point."

There's something about a soft answer that turneth away wrath. When Jesus said turn the other cheek, He meant show the folk another side. If they're coming at you, you'll be surprised. Even in most of our marriages and sometimes one of the people had a hard day, both of them had a hard day. So, they come in and all it takes is one snap. What do you going to -- you ain't take out the garbage." You're absolutely right because what happens in our natural flesh, we don't give a soft answer. We give a harsh (00:16:01) and when that happens, it tears us up (00:16:10) because now you're gone into a full scale war all because you could not control your tongue. It's not an easy thing. For man can control his tongue, he can control his whole body.

Again, in that first chapter of James, he said this, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear," and you've heard this countless times. Slow to speech, slow to wrath. Listen fast, speak slow, and get angry slow. That's what God -- He says, be quick to listen. Do you know folk would catch you off right in the middle of what you say in there? But the Bible says, it says, be quick to listen. Sometimes with people that are angry and they're upset, all they want to do is just get if off their chest. And if you just say nothing, the situation would dissipate and go away. If you just say nothing, quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath. You got to be able to say, "Whoa, big boy!" and reining in all of the anger.

In James 20, following He says, "For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." The New Living translation says, "Your anger can never make things right with God." Very, very rarely would anger ever make stuff better, but you got to be able to control the tongue. You see, even if you get mad, if you don't say anything, the situation is just a whole -- if you're mad, if you can just hold your tongue, if you can just say, "Whoa! Whoa, whoa," even if you're mad. Turn to your neighbor and tell him, "Even if you're mad." You see, I like to teach them practical stuff, but I will be honest with you. It's hard sometimes not to get mad because folk would do some stuff and in that stuff and sometimes, you see, there are some things that, to be honest about it, it's very difficult to control and you getting mad is one of those things that -- you see, that's an emotional thing and sometimes you cannot really control the emotion. Sometimes you just can't do it. But the physical reaction, you can control it.

See, you might not be able to control if someone just makes you mad, but you can control how you speak. That even have absolute control over and you can respond with that soft, calm answer and not let them get you all upset and all out of whack. And you see, as I realize the truth of this, when I've heard some older people say, "They just made me lose my religion and that's exactly what happened. That's why the Bible says, "If a man cannot control his tongue and he claims to be religious, his religion is in vain." When they let them lose their religion, they made them so upset that they lost their religion.

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It was in vain because here you are, a child of God huffing and puffing and all out of whack, where is the spirit? Where is the love of Christ? Where is the ability in the effect of the Holy Spirit that allows you to deal with a tough situation where someone not in Christ cannot? Don't let anyone make you lose your religion. Don't let anyone. I've made it a philosophy of life that I give no one the power to take away my peace because you have to give them that power. They can make you mad unless you allow them to make you mad. But folk will do some things, but if you can just control your tongue.

Proverbs 16:32 says this, "He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city." The Bible says that the person that slowly gets mad is better than the mighty, and He said it is better to rule your spirit than the whole city. Do you know in God's sight, it's better for you to rule your spirit than to be mayor? It's better for you to rule your spirit than to be president of the United States, and see oftentimes people, we have all of these ambitions. I want my child to grow up to be president of the United States. What about having your child grow up ruling his own self? But your child would never grow up to where they can rule themselves unless they could see mom and dad are ruling themselves?

I've seen this over and over, and I see it in my own house. I'm sure they will be just like their mom and dad. So, we want our children to grow up, and as I see it, I'm going to even change what I want my children to be. We always look at it as external things. I want my children to grow up to where they can control themselves. Not other folks – themselves. And if you can

control yourself first, you'll automatically be given power over others. If you can just control yourself -- a man that controls his own spirit is better than a man who rules a city or even an entire nation, if you can just control your own spirit.

Proverbs again in 29:8 says, "Scorners set a city aflame, but wise men turn away anger." When a wise man has a controversy with a foolish man, the foolish man either rages or last and there is no rest. Sometimes even when you just talk to a fool. You know, when you even talk to a fool, a fool will either laugh or get mad. They'll think that what you are saying is absolutely silly or they'll get angry. And see, so even when a wise man had a controversy with a foolish man. Sometimes people, there is a wisdom to even know whom you'll change. There's this old proverb that goes, "Never try to teach a pig to sing because you will waste your time and you make the pig mad." And sometimes it is important to know when you are dealing with a foolish man or a foolish woman. Sometimes it's important to even know you -- that's why Jesus said, "You can't even cast pearls before swine."

Sometimes you've got to even know when you can even give them pearls of wisdom or you may just be able to give them just a little bit and sometimes you can say nothing, but you can always live by example, and sometimes it will take years to keep watching you. And you see people, what a fool watches for is that they watch for a break in your arm, and they watch to see that which you have been proclaimed, and all this time, breakdown in your own life. That's what they watch for and that's all they're looking for. All they want to do is "Hey, you're always preaching by the Lord and look at, look at, look at the way they're acting.

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That's what a fool wait for. And your best ministry sometime is not with conversation because you cannot convince them on a logical basis. Their minds already made up. But when they see over and over and over and over again, you walk in peace in the midst of all the stuff going on around you. When they see it over and over, it may take a while, but sooner or later, sooner or later, it will have an effect upon you, and then all is within the power of the tongue because even people -- even when stuff goes haywire in your life, the only way that people really know is wreaking havoc in your life is about what you say. Even when

they see it on the outside of your body. The only way they know is really wreaking havoc in your life is by what you say. Even if they see you get your car repossessed, the only way they know is wreaking havoc in your life is about what you say. "You know, I heard they towed your car in the last week," And sometimes it's so glad to hear, "I heard they towed your car last week." "Oh yeah, they towed the car, but thank God, God has given me these great seats. I've been walking everywhere. Oh, I'm feeling so much better. I'm getting so much more exercise. Glory, hallelujah!"

I see it that the victory is all in the power of the tongue and no matter -- there are very few things in life, very few, and part of it really only two. He said, "Having food and raiment, be content." So, the only reason that you have reason enough by biblical standards to complain about anything in the material is if you're hungry or naked. That's only two reasons that He gave you really reason enough to complain anything else. Do you want to be able to see the beauty in the thing and to rejoice because all of us are going to go through some stuff, but see it's the power of the tongue and if you can just control that--

Yeah, your money gets short sometimes. Everyone's money gets short sometimes, but Lord, Hallelujah. Hallelujah, I'm full. I got food in the bed. Lord, Hallelujah. Yeah, I may be running a little behind on my house, but Lord Hallelujah, I got this. Lord, they had just cut the electricity off, but Hallelujah, we got some candles and it's bringing the best. I didn't need to watch that much television anyhow.

You see, it's the power of the tongue, and however this thing goes, that's the way your whole body goes, and when you really walk in Christ, it's the -- I don't know where the verse is but when Jesus -- He sent the disciples out with all this -- with no money, no extra clothes, no wallet, no nothing. And when they came, Jesus asked them this one question, He said, "Have you let anything? I sent you out here with nothing but have you let anything?" And when we really stop to think about life, we really not let anything. We want the most (00:28:42). He didn't ask if you want some. He said, "If you lack anything." When we really stop to think about the things, we really lack nothing. And it's all in the power of your tongue, and when you start to see that you really lack nothing, you talk different and it will control your whole body because you have some situations. No

questions about that. You'll have those, but if you can just control.

One man put it like this. He says he handles his tongue in the same manner that he handled high explosives. He said he handles his tongue in the same manner that he handles high explosives because he knows if he let that tongue get out of hand, it will blow his whole world completely to bits. He's delicate with it because he understands it.

Proverbs 17:28 says, "Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding."

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The Bible says when a man just shut up, he is considered to be wise. You know, sometimes if you just look deep. Sometimes we just look deep. Even a fool when he shuts up and holds his peace. Now, the verse just even took on a new meaning. It literally says even a fool when he holdeth his peace, any man who can hold his peace automatically ceases to become a fool. We become a fool when we give our peace away, but you are wise men when you're holding on to your peace. And whenever you see a man holding his peace, the world will esteem him or count him wise.

Not only is the tongue like high explosive. The tongue is a true weapon of mass destruction. We are over in Iraq right now looking for weapons of mass destruction. We carry them on. The tongue is a weapon of mass destruction. You can cut up some stuff with this tongue more than any guns, more than atomic bombs, you can tear up some stuff. The tongue is a true weapon of mass destruction and if we can just control it. Anger is the main thing that gets most of our tongue quacking and the root of our anger when you boil it down by 95% of it is rooted in pride. We get mad because someone hurt our feelings. Somebody has said something that has hurt our pride. We have the spirit of offense. We have become offended, and when we become offended, we lash out and the tongue is unbridled.

Proverbs 13:3 says this, "He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction. Let me read that again in the New Living Translation so you

will understand it clearer. It says, “Those who control their tongue will have a long life. A quick retort can ruin everything.” The Bible says over in Proverbs and it backs up over in James. He says that you can control your tongue, you can control your entire body. Do you realize that a man that can control what he says, he will extend his life? Because controversy and anger and strife and conflict, all that stuff will make you sick. Do you all know that? That stuff will make you sick. But if you can get your tongue under control of what you speak and what you say and don’t let those harsh words come out of your mouth, oh, the Bible says you have a long life. And we’re trying to get all this other stuff, trying to make sure we get good health insurance and all that kind of stuff. I’m not dependent on good health insurance for me to have a long life. I want to think that God has this. There was no health insurance in the Bible. The health insurance in the Bible was to walk in God’s Word; to control that tongue, to control what you say, and when you control what you say, it will control what you do.

The other thing that gets us into so much trouble with unbridling the tongue is in Psalms 15. You don’t have to turn that for the sake of time. It says simply this, Psalms 15:1, Psalm of David, “Lord who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly and worketh righteousness and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbite if not with his tongue nor do with evil to his neighbor nor take it up a reproach against his neighbor.” In Psalms 15:3, that’s the main verse, I may read this on another translation. It says, “Those who refuse to slander others or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends. If we could just control our tongue with that juicy gossip, that’s all backbite news, and that’s all speaking evil against your neighbor and against your friends.

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And here, David says that “Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell on the holy hill?” And he said, “He that walketh uprightly and speaketh the truth in his heart, and he that done gossip nor do with evil to his neighbor nor speak evil against their friends.” Do you know it’s hard to control your tongue when you got some good, I mean showing a juicy gossip on somebody? I mean I’m not kidding people. I mean when somebody calls you up and tells you who they just followed with

who, and before you can put the phone down (00:35:48). Sometimes, we don't even put the phone down because that takes too much time. We just hit the flash button, so that we can dial somebody. Well, it takes too much time to put the phone down.

(00:36:06), I'm just talking real. I mean when you find something some really juicy gossip on someone, even the holiest of saints, I think it itches to tell somebody. I mean, can anybody relate to this? I mean you just want to tell somebody just like the person who called you. They had to tell somebody and you just want to tell somebody. If you can just control the gossip and the backbiting, and the backslapping, and all of the slander, and all of the messy stuff, when that stuff comes into your world, if you can just say, "Whoa, big boy," and that's not easy to do. See, everything is just some hard stuff folk to be able to stop that tongue when this kind of thing comes into your world, just gossip. It's not just women, men do it, too, but it's hard to control the tongue.

And the next thing, Proverbs 21:23 says this, "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles." The New Living Translation puts it this way, "If you keep your mouth shut, you will stay out of trouble." Most of the things that we do that are contrary to God's word, we have to speak the thing to make the thing come into being. You cannot commit adultery without speaking it. You can't pantomime that. No, no, it won't work. You got to speak it. I mean you can't just go to the most. You got to speak this thing. You got to go out with somebody, you know you've given the "Hey," and you know (00:38:50) "Hey!" You know that 'hey' is not the kind of hate.

If we just didn't speak the things, the all wrong actions begin with wrong words that have begun with wrong folks, and sometimes, to be honest about it just like the emotion, sometimes until you become extremely well disciplined and trained and even after, then you struggle with it. You just can't stop the thought. Even with the issue of adultery, sometimes you just can't stop it. That's just the truth. You just can't stop it. You don't have to hang up, but you can stop from (00:39:28) across your mind. But you do have the power of controlling the tongue, and if you never speak it, if it never comes out of your mouth, if you never say a word to get the thing going, if you can

just control the talking, and there'll be situations where you want to -- you can't (00:39:55) without speaking it.

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You can't go up to the pusher and just -- You can't go to the pusher, you got to speak the thing. You can't tell the pusher what you want without telling it. So, if we can learn to control our tongue and just say, "Whoa, big boy." When all of these urges hit us about all of these things in life and if you can't control your tongue, you can't control your whole body. And if you can control your whole body, you can control your whole world because even if you don't change the world, you'll change you in the world. And if you change you, that's all you need to do because you basically can only change you. I am the only person in the entire world that I have the power to change. That's all. And this mainly comes through controlling the spin of a (00:41:10) rider, the rides upon our life. And it's not easy to control this tongue. A little bit organ, but if you can control it --

And Isaiah 6 beginning at the first verse says this, "In the year the King Uzziah died--" I remember that verse someone sounds so grand about in the year that King Uzziah died. But it says, "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim, each one had six wings: With two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one fly to another and said, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of host. The whole earth is full of His glory!"

And the post of the door was shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So, I said, "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips." Now, this is Isaiah, the great and mighty, one of the major prophets. This is Isaiah and he is saying, "Woe is me for I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips. For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of host."

Then, one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged."

Isaiah says, "Woe is me. I'm a man of unclean lips," and then one of the seraphim took a live coal. Do you all know what live coal means? When you have a barbecue then when the coal gets so hot, it turns red thus live. Isaiah said the seraphim had to take some tongs and grab the coal and he brought it and he put it on Isaiah's lips and he said, "Now, your iniquity is taken away and your sin is purged." Now, I thought about that thing. It sounds grand and eloquent, but you got to listen to what Isaiah is saying. He says, "The angel took a red hot coal and put it on his lips, to unclean lips, and then after that, he was purged."

Some of us have to go through the fire to get cleaned. We have to go through the fire to get purged. Isaiah's description sounds eloquent, do you think about the thing? A red hot coal pressed against your lips, and you know how -- I mean I couldn't imagine a smoke in his pit popping up your lips blistered up. But that's the way it looks in life when we have to go through the fire. I mean I live the -- could you imagine what your lips would look like after you had a hot coal pressure? That's the way some of us look after we've gone through some of this stuff in life, but we have to go through it to get purged.

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I am a man of unclean lips and I will be honest about it. I would rather start to get my own lips cleaned up than to have that seraphim put a hot coal on it, and you've got a choice. Turn to your neighbor, and say, "You got a choice." Now see, you can start working on it and clean it up far before the Lord yourself or you can have the angel come and put the hot coals on it. I don't want to put a hot coal because having to go through the fire -- and I see we have to go through the fire because we refuse to purge some things ourselves and if we recognize this stuff and get this stuff out of our lives and get cleaned, and it began from simply those three words, just "Whoa, big boy." If we can learn to control the tongue. And most of you before this day ends will have an opportunity to control that tongue. Before the day ends, the situation will come up and you have to say "Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa." But it is far better to control that tongue and have to go through the fire. Whoa. If a man can control his tongue, he can control his entire body.

Bow your heads. dear Heavenly Father, we pray that upon this day that we gain control of this organ of speech and the words

that we speak shall be in line with Thy will and with Thy word. Dear Father, we pray for the wisdom and dear Father we pray right now that if we can't glean the wisdom from this, give us the understanding of the hot coals. For it is better for you to put a hot coal on our lips that we burn for a season than You leave us unclean and we burn for it. Give us the wisdom and the discipline to change, and if we (00:48:08), give us the understanding to understand the purpose of the fire. Whoa, for I am man of unclean lips and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips, but You have sent the washer(ph) to make that which is unclean, clean. And I simply pray, dear Father, that we hear and hear that which you have spoken unto us, upon this day. In Thy Son, Jesus His name, we pray. Amen. Amen. Amen.

00:49:17