

# It's Time For A Home Run

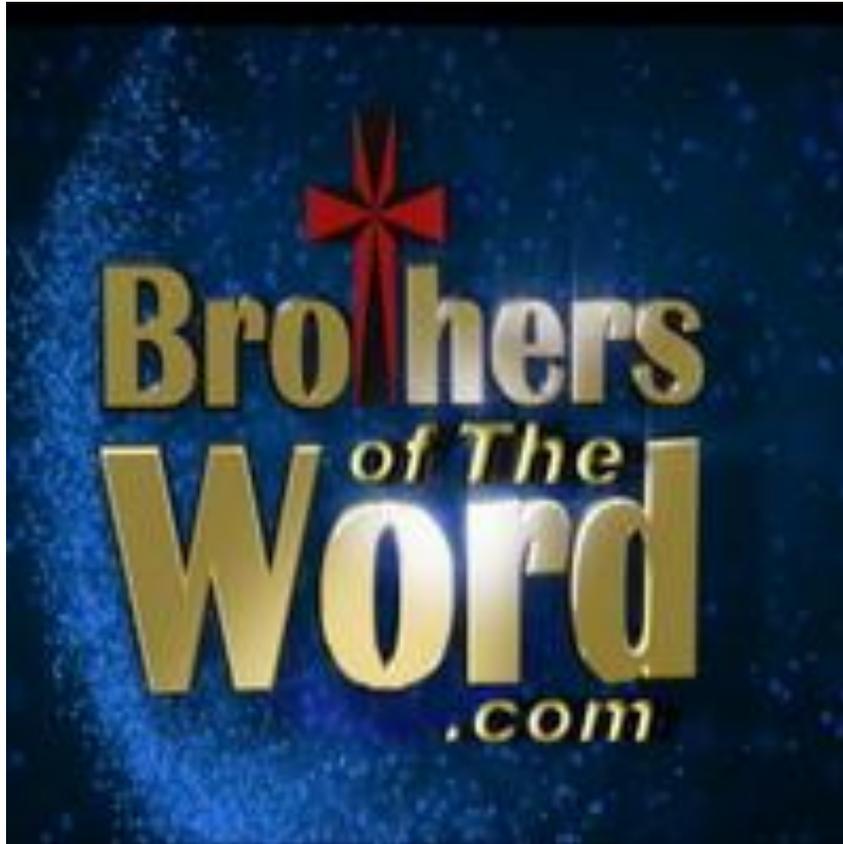
Sermon Title: **It's Time For A Home Run**

Sermon Number: **6529**

Speaker: **Dexter Harden**

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Dexter Harden: If we want God to do something for us, we can't just sit and do nothing,

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And now for 6529, "It's Time for a Home Run."

Dexter Harden: Welcome to Brothers of the Word because, brother, you need the Word.

Alleluia.

And just bow your heads for another quick word of prayer. Father, we thank You right now for Your presence, oh God, for gracing us, oh God. We thank You, God, that You are in this place, oh God, and we thank You for meeting us here. Oh God, we ask You right now that You come in, oh God, and move like You have already moved God. Even the more, oh God, touch our eyes that we may be able to see with Your eyes, oh God, touch our ears that we may be able to hear and receive the Word that You have for us today. Oh God, we adore You, we love You, oh God. We thank You for providing, oh God, we thank You for provision and we thank You, God, for You loved us so much, oh God, that You gave Your only Son, oh God, to die on the cross for our sins. Oh God, we ask that You forgive us right now, that You forgive us of our sins, make us pure, make us whole, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen. Amen.

How many of you know God is here? He's here. Amen. If you would, turn with me to the Book of Ecclesiastes 9th Chapter, amen, 10th through the 11th Verse, amen. And I know God has something great for us this evening because I caught it. This tablet was cutting up, my computer was cutting up, amen, and I was like, "God, I need You to help me." And so eventually, my tablet started to work right and I did not know and I was not aware that my tablet has a voice over where I can just speak it and it just types sentences and paragraphs and it worked so much smoothly at that point, amen because I didn't want to try to type

with my fingers on this small tablet because my computer stopped working on me.

Ecclesiastes 9th Chapter, 10th through the 11th Verse and when you have it, say “Amen.” Amen. And it reads, “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest. I returned and saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favor to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.” Amen and we’re going to just stop there for a moment, amen, and we’re going to take on a topic this evening, “It’s Time for a Home Run,” amen.

Look at your neighbor and say, “Neighbor, it’s time for a home run.” Amen. Briefly, we’re going to talk about the game of baseball. How many of you know about the game of baseball, raise your hand. Amen. And I’m going to just give an overview.

So if you’re looking for instruction on baseball, you need to look up baseball on Google, amen. But this is going to be an overview. We’re going to post a question to you this evening. The bases are loaded, you are in the batter’s box. What are you to do is the question? If the bases are loaded and you are in the batter’s box, what would you do is the question, amen.

Baseball is a game played with a bat and a ball by two teams consisting of nine players each on each team. One team is batting, meaning they are on the offense. This is representing us as Christians, when we declare war against Satan’s kingdom, we’re actively working on the offense. Examples of this is in a session, ministering, this type of ship, soul-saving revivals, healing services, God heals, witnessing, outreach, spreading the Word of Jesus Christ.

00:05:00

Also, operating the gifts of the spirit, word of wisdom, word of knowledge, gift of healing, gifts of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits. Look at your neighbor and say, “Neighbor, there is a war going on. It’s time for a home run.”

When you are the other team, you are in the outfield and you’re on defense, this is a representation of what we, as Christians, are

doing such as fasting, praying, watching, practicing the fruit of the spirit which is love, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. See, when you're on defense, when you're in the outfield, you're already praying. So, you're not actively pursuing but you're praying, you're meditating, amen. You are building a wall for yourself as a Christian and for your Christian faith, amen, strengthening yourself.

Ephesians 6:12 says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Amen. This is similar and baseball is similar to this. The game of baseball is played on the field containing four bases, arranged as a diamond. This represents a spiritual battlefield that we're fighting, we're fighting a spiritual battle and we are on the battlefield for God. This represents spiritual warfare, amen.

A player must make a complete circuit on the bases in order to score a run. This is equivalent to faith without works is dead. If we want God to do something for us, we can't just sit and do nothing, but yet we have to stand, work, and build. Look at your name and say, "Neighbor, get off the stool of do-nothing and be about it about it." Be about your father's business, amen. We just said the team with the most runs wins.

How many of you know that it takes effort on this journey? It takes work on this journey. If Jesus just poured out upon us, infinitely, without us doing anything, without us lifting our hands, praising Him, thanking Him, how good and effective it would be for the Kingdom? I pose that we would not be effective at all, that most of us would just sit and receive, walk around with attitude, not caring about anyone else, having no self-control, no patience, no kindness, no gentleness, no love, no peace, no joy, alleluia.

So, God has a way to bring us in, he reels us back in. So, in baseball there is something called a base hit. How many of you have ever played baseball or softball? Okay, the majority of you. In order for a player to get a base hit, he has to be focused and steady, waiting on the right pitch to swing and make contact, am I right? A base hit is defined as a successful hitting of the baseball by a batter so that he at least gets to first base without the help of an error or without forcing out one of his teammates.

How many of you know you're not in this alone? We have a team. This team here is our team, amen. So, you are not by yourself. You don't have to get up there and swing for the fences each and every time. Just get on base, that's all it requires of you, get on base. If you get on base and your neighbor gets on base, your sister gets on base, your brother gets on base, God is already building it for you. You're already accumulating runs, amen. So, if you see someone struggling, help them up, help them get on base, so you can make a run, amen.

There is something called batting average. So, batting average shows the percentage of times that a player gets a hit. This equation is the number of hits, times the number batted, then you take that number and move it three decimal places. That's a batter's batting average.

Now, look at your spiritual batting average. This is the number of people you have witnessed to, times the number of who accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Now, move that number three decimal places, what is your average? Ask yourself, what is your average?

00:10:00

Ask your neighbor, have you done your job as a soldier? But first ask yourself. We are soldiers in God's army. Some of us get nervous, afraid to launch out, so we stay in the bullpen for a long time. We sit right there in that seat, each and every Sunday, Thursday, any time the door is open, we find our seat, we never move.

Now, nothing necessarily wrong with that if you're playing on the defense, meaning you're praying, you're watching, amen. You're seeking God, you're meditating, the things I spoke of earlier. So, if that's what you're doing then that's great, we need that. You got to have a strong wall, that's building a wall for yourself and your Christian believers. Now, if you're sitting at that seat, looking at your email, looking at Facebook, tuning into Facebook Live to see the pastor preach and you're sitting in the audience. To see if you are on the camera.

Let me move on. So, we stay in an area where substitute players warm up because we don't want to get in the game. This game is

more serious though than runs scored, but rather it's a game of life or death, heaven or hell, so we have to be prepared in this game.

Let me tell you a story about a man who had everything and was standing in the batter's box. Put yourself in that position. I'm going to tell the story about this particular man, but you can substitute yourself in that batter's box. This man was standing in the batter's box. There was a runner on first base. There was a runner on second base. There was a runner on third base. The bases were loaded. The man had experienced failure, but this time, he had an opportunity to succeed. In this life, there is disappointment sometimes, but on the other side of disappointment is your peace. How many of you need some joy and peace in your life? How many of you need some of God-paid love in your life? Amen.

Many times, we depend on man for our deliverance but when we know who our umpire is -- who is your umpire? Jesus. My umpire is Jesus. Hopefully, Jesus is playing and judging your baseball game. He is your umpire, hopefully. When we have Jesus as our umpire because He's going to call a fair game. When Jesus is your umpire, He's going to call strikes, He's going to call balls, He's going to call box. He's going to be fair about this game because this game is your life. Aren't you glad we serve a fair God? A righteous and just God, who's going to be fair each and every time we are up to bat. Not going to judge us about what we did in years past as long as we've come back for forgiveness. He's not going to bring it back up to us that, "You know you didn't pray yesterday," because He's a loving Father. He's a gracious Father.

But the story goes on as the bases were loaded, I heard somebody say in the background, probably a spectator, a naysayer, a backbiter, a ditch digger, a witch doctor, somebody who's been talking about you, cheering the game, but rather each and every one of our teammates were saying, "Give Him praise, give Him praise, give Him praise. Give Jesus all you have." But all of a sudden, the game announcer comes over the intercom, "Look at here now, there's a new pitcher on the mound and his name is Lucifer. He's known for striking men out, striking women out. You better watch out for his fastball, watch out for his curve ball, watch out for his screwball. If the fastball or the curve ball doesn't get you, the screwball definitely will, but only if you're not covered under the blood of the lamb and filled with the Holy Ghost."

The announcer also mentioned, "But there's another pitch that Lucifer throws and it's called a foul ball." When the foul ball is thrown, it brings in much temptation to get us to take our focus off of Christ. The foul ball brings in temptation to let us think that the grass is greener on the other side. But how many you know everything that looks good isn't good. Everything that tastes good is not always good for you, but whatever God gives to you is always good for you. If God gave it to you, it must be good.

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I heard the Lord say, "Everything, everything, everything that I have made is good. Everything I give to you is good." The man in the batter's box with the bases loaded struck at one of Lucifer's pitches as he threw the ball across home plate. I heard the umpire say, "Strike one." Now, remember, this is Jesus, so He's fair about it, rooting for you at the same time, but calling a fair game. The pitcher Lucifer was making preparation to throw the second ball. The second ball came across home plate. The batter made a swing at the ball. He missed the second time. I heard the umpire say, "Strike two." The pitcher made preparation to throw the third pitch. He threw the ball across home plate. I heard the umpire say, "Strike three, you're out."

The batter struck out with all the bases loaded. He had not trusted Jesus, did not have the Holy Ghost with him. The first strike was against the Father, the second strike was against the Son and the third strike was against the Holy Ghost. The umpire calling the game was Jesus and He is the umpire of all umpires. But see, this game wasn't the end for the batter, but just the beginning for our God has grace and mercy. We may fail or we may fall down, but He gives us the opportunity to get back up, dust ourselves off and try again.

Revelations 2:4 to 6 says, "Repent and do the first works or else I'll come against thee quickly and remove the candlestick from out of its place, so get up, dust yourself off and try again. 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess with our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." It's time for a home run. Give God some praise. Amen.

So, that same batter had another test. As the story goes, he was due back in the batter's box in the ninth inning. The announcer

once again began to speak over the intercom system, “This is it for all the marbles. The game is on the line.” Your game of life is on the line right now. Time is definitely running out and the pitcher Lucifer is still getting stronger. The announcer who is also known as the spirit of confusion, spirit of frustration. He was definitely biased towards Satan, towards Lucifer. But once again, the batter is back up in the batter’s box. This time he has a runner on first and a runner on third and his team is down by two runs. The batter this time decided to put God first before he batted. How many of you are going to put God first before you do anything?

Matthew 6:33 says, “Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven, and all His righteousness; and all things shall be added unto you.” So, the batter decided, I’m getting excited now, you all here? The batter decided to give God praise and worship. He put his hands together, thanking Him for keeping him through the storms and trials. Thanking God for sending Jesus to save, to heal, to set free, to deliver from the hands of the enemy, to deliver him from his infirmity, to deliver from his sickness, disease, financial despair. Whatever you’re going through right now, God will deliver you. Hallelujah.

He then began to pray, Romans 10:9, to God to forgive him of his sins. He asked the Holy Ghost to dwell within him. He prayed, Romans 8:9, “He who are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” How of you know who you belong to?

So, the batter went on to explain to God he needed to put on a new uniform. Ephesians 6:14 through 17: The batter proclaimed, “I’m going to stand therefore with my loins girted about with truth.” He put his groin cup on, you all. “I’m going to put on the breastplate of righteousness.” He changed uniforms. His jersey was clean, pristine, ready to move and pure. He said he was going to put his feet and cover them with the preparation of the gospel of peace. He had some new cleats on.

00:20:04

He was ready for it. Above all, he took the shield of faith, which was his baseball glove, had already built up his faith, so he put it to the side because it was eternal. Now, he admitted that, “God,

I'm going to be able to quench all of the fiery darts of the wicked. Then I'm taking the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit." That was his bat. He was prepared. He had his word in his hand. He had his bat ready. Now, the batter was ready in the batter's box for he had completely sold out to God. He put his full trust and faith in God that no matter what the task, he would succeed.

I can imagine in my mind that the batter thought about the old hymn which says, "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus Christ, my righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name, on Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand when darkness fills his lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace; In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within His veil. His covenant, His blood, support me in the whelming flood; When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found; In Him, my righteousness, alone, Faultless to stand before the throne." Amen.

The batter was now prepared as he stepped into the batter's box. The announcer spoke, "Lucifer, he is ready. He's coming aggressively to win the game." The first pitch was given. It was a fastball. The batter swung and missed, strike one. The announcer said, "Strike one." You've already gotten down in the count, trying to put that doubt in your mind. Lucifer was ready to deliver the second pitch. He threw another fastball. "Strike two," the announcer said. The batter looked back at the umpire to see if he was still there, standing with him. He asked the umpire for a timeout. He stepped out of the batter's box. He wanted to question whether the second pitch was in the strike zone. How many of you know sometimes we question God whether that situation was fair? We thought we did all we should have done, but we had a negative outcome in our mind. He began to doubt Jesus was with him. He doubted his salvation. He doubted the Savior, but God. Look at your neighbor and say neighbor, "But God, it's time for a home run."

So, the Holy Ghost began to speak to the batter, "I'm with you. I would never leave you nor forsake you." The batter's faith was reignited. As he stepped back in the batter's box, he began to proclaim and declare, "The Lord is my Banner. A present help in the time of trouble." The announcer spoke again, "Lucifer is ready

and here he comes.” The pitcher, saving his best for last, he delivered a screwball and there immediately was a sound that had not been heard during this game. That was the sound of thunder. The batter made contact with the ball. The announcer, in disbelief, sounded, “Home run! Home run! The victory belongs to Jesus. It’s time for a home run.”

Come on and give God some praise. Come on and give Him some praise. Come on and give it to Him. Hallelujah. Glory, glory, glory. Come on. God is here. God is truly here. God is our umpire. He’s our judge. Hallelujah. He has angels in the outfield. Hallelujah. It doesn’t matter what it looks like. It doesn’t matter what you’re going through. You’re not alone. You have somebody. You have friends and even when your friends get weak and they turn their back on you or they don’t do what you think they need to do for you, you have Jesus.

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And Jesus is all you need for this game of life. He will keep you. He will comfort you. He will protect you. He will provide for you. He will heal. He will destroy the hand of the enemy for you. He will give you that power to hit that ball. Each and every time obstacles come your way, He will give you the strength, but if you don’t put your uniform on, you have to put it on. You have to be prepared for that fastball. You have to be prepared for the curve, for the screwball, for the sinker, for the foul ball that the enemy will send your way. That may smell good on the outside. It may look good on the outside. You may think it tastes good, but it’s not good for you. While you’re standing, ask yourself, “What is my foul ball? What is hindering me from seeing Christ’s face? What is stopping me from where I want to be, whether it be relationship, whether it be not giving God enough time? He’s here. Leave it here at the altar, whatever you’re standing for, whatever the issue is.

Now, step in the batter’s box. Put on your garments. Put on your uniform. Gird yourself. Cover your loins. Put on your breastplate. Put on your cleats. Put on your shoes that God has prepared for you. Put on your helmet. Don’t lay it down. Don’t lay your salvation down. Take your worry with you everywhere you go. Be prepared to get into the game. Don’t sit down in the bullpen, but be ye also ready because we don’t know when the time comes that we may have to step up to the plate, that all our

teammates are depending on us for a word that God may give you, for some comfort that God may send you to someone who's going through, someone who's been depressed, who's been battling depression, battling suicide, struggling in their finances. Be ready to hit that home run. You may not hit the home run, but you can shoot for a base hit. Shoot for a double. Shoot for a triple. Eventually, as you progress, you'll hit that home run. None of those fiery darts. None of those baseball pitches will be able to hinder you, will be able to stop you because you know who your umpire is. You know the game is fair even when it's not fair, it's fair because your umpire is Jesus Christ.

Come on and give God a praise. Hallelujah. Hallelujah, come on. Hallelujah. God is good, God is good, God is good. (00:29:24). Our Father loves us. He's good. He's mm-mm good, He's mm-mm good. Hallelujah. We thank you right now for you are up to bat. You are in the batter's box and your next swing will make contact. Your obstacles will have to move out of the way, in Jesus' name, amen.

00:30:04

Hallelujah. Thank You, God. You may come across the aisles. Amen. Join hands with your neighbor, let them know that you're beside them. We are on the same team. Our batting average may be different, but we can all work to a better batting average. Your strengths may be different from your neighbor's strength but we can encourage each other. We can build each other up and not tear them down.

In Jesus' name, Father God, we thank You right now. Oh God, we thank You for this place, oh God of worship. We thank You for joining us here, oh God, for meeting with us here, oh God. We thank You, God, for each individual represented in this place, each family represented in this place. Oh God, we thank You right now, God, and we thank You that You are present with us, that You're going to be with us, oh God. We don't have to wonder if You're beside us, we don't have to wonder if You are here because You are living within us and You will go with us each and every day on this game of life, whether it's baseball, soccer, football, hockey, boxing, whatever that game may be, monopoly or just the game of life. This game of life, oh God, we owe to You and it's in Jesus' name we pray, every heart say, "Amen, amen and amen."

We thank you for joining us here today at Brothers of the Word. If you want to look at this message in its entirety or view it or listen to it, just go to [brothersoftheword.com](http://brothersoftheword.com), pull it up, "It's Time for a Home Run." Amen. We thank you again for joining us, because brother, you need the Word. Come on and give God some praise.

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