

May The Force Be With You

Sermon Title: May The Force Be With You

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Speaker: Charles Houston

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Charles Houston: God shows you things for a reason and sometimes there are things you don't want to believe that God is showing you but you need to believe it.

Female: You are listening to BrothersofTheWord.com. This is the Sermon titled, "May The Force Be With You" by Charles Houston. This Sermon is number 6554.

(Music Playing: 00:00:16 - 00:00:24)

And now for, "May The Force Be With You".

Charles Houston: Welcome to Brothers of The Word because brother, you need the Word. Praise God. Hey, man, I'm excited to be here and I'm going to go ahead and get into my word for the evening. My main scripture text come from the Book of Philippians 4:8 and 9. Philippians 4:8 and 9. And it reads, "Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me, put it into practice and the God of Peace will be with you", Amen.

And before I give you the title of my message on this evening, I just wanted to say that I prayed about the message and I've really been blessed by Pastor Nathaniel's Success Forces Series. He's preached about 19 messages on Success Forces, I'm on number 10, which is the Power of Focus, praise the Lord. I've been listening to those as I get my evening walks and trying to get some exercise, lose some weight, so that my fine wife doesn't fall out of love with me, praise God. And it's also been an awesome time of self-care. Walking through the neighborhood and meditating with God, but when I prayed about what to call this message, the Lord focused or honed in on the forces part of Success Forces in my spirit. And in conjunction with that, I'm a huge Star Wars fan, all nine movies, and so the title of this message is "May the Force Be with You".

Look at your neighbor next to you and say "May the Force Be with You", Amen, Amen. Force means strength. Force means energy. Force means an attribute of physical action or movement. Some synonyms for force are strength, power, energy, might, potency, impact, pressure. In Verse 9 of Philippians 4, our Lord and Savior tells his disciples, he says, "Whatever the things that you see me

do or hear me say, if there's any virtue or any praise, think on these things. If it is noble, think on these things," and so a lot of us are doing things, but we're not necessarily doing what the Lord told us to do. Somebody say, "Amen."

Male: Amen.

Charles Houston: I want to share with you some things that I've had to overcome in doing because all of Pastor's messages have to do with doing something. So, look at your neighbor and say, "You got to get up and do something. If you don't do something, you won't get the benefit from it." And so, these are three enemies that I deal with that hinder me from my doing process and God speaks to me in acronym, so he gave me the acronym PAL and I have a PAL that hinders me. He is really my flesh. Somebody say, "Amen." And your PAL is connected to your flesh, but my friend is the one I'm supposed to be following, that's a whole another message. But the P in PAL is procrastination. I'm too close to my PAL at times. Procrastinating not doing things when God calls me to do them all the time and delayed obedience is disobedience, Amen.

And so, I've had to fight off the enemy of procrastination with the PAL syndrome. The A has to do with afraid or being afraid -- being afraid. Fear is a huge tool that the enemy uses to keep us from doing, to keep us from obeying God, to keep us from moving in the things that we need to move in and the things that he's asked us to accomplish for him in his Kingdom. The L is for laziness -- laziness. Sometime I'm just lazy. Can I just be 100%? Pastor's honesty is amazing, Amen.

You know, Pastor keep it 110, you know, he just say what it is it just, hey, you can like it, lump it or whatever else, he going to speak the Word, praise God. And so, sometimes, I'm just lazy and I have in prayer meditation recognized even in my marriage at times when my wife has an issue with me and she's right most of the time. I can trace back my issue to one of these three, my PAL, procrastination, fear of something, being afraid or laziness.

00:05:05

And so, God has given me a helpmeet to help me work those things out, Amen. And I'm appreciative to her and I'm appreciative to all those who keep me accountable which I believe is part 18 if I remember correctly, Amen. We need accountability.

So, this is the antidote to my PAL. The bHoly Spirit said to me, "You have to get MAD. You're not Mad enough yet," and that's another acronym. The M in MAD is motivation -- motivation. You have to be motivated to change. Bishop told us years ago -- my Bishop Dr. Dale C. Bronner, he said, "If you keep on doing what you've always done, you'll keep on getting what you've always gotten." So, if you want something different, you got to do something different.

Jesus requires us to do something for Him, for His father, Amen. And so, the M is motivation. You got to be motivated. The A is active or activity because you can be motivated mentally and still not get up and do something, Amen. So, you have to be active, there has to be some activity. The D in MAD stands for determined because motivation gets you going, activity keeps you going, but determination and perseverance will help you finish. The last three words that Jesus said on the cross was, it is finished. Not in the process but He had accomplished His assignment because He kept doing something.

I'm very grateful on today. I just received in the mail my graduate degree, my Masters of marriage and family therapy came in and I was so thankful and blessed. Four and a half year of doing something, Amen.

And so, you can accomplish anything until you make up your mind. Look at your neighbor and say, "Make up your mind, you've got to do something, you've got to do something." And so, when the force is with you, you have to speak something, you have to move something, you have to learn something, you have to make something, you have to believe something, Amen. Because planning and setting goals passed to Nathaniel talked about setting goals, I believe in two of his first three messages. Another one of those was Daddy's home, Amen. I got them all back here. But he talked about setting goals. Planning and setting goals create preparation, doing and executing create power. It creates the force that you need to accomplish what you need to accomplish. And so, we need to remember to do something. Look at your neighbor and say, "Do something, do something". You got to do something and don't do it tomorrow, do it now.

When you hear his voice, do what he has called you to do and do it now. I actually have a movie clip that I believe the AV Ministry

has is that Queued Up(ph). Can you get and play that for me now?

(Movie Clip Playing: 00:07:51)

Luke: We'll never get it out now.

Yoda: So certain, are you? Always with you it cannot be done even nothing that I say.

Luke: Master, moving stones around is one thing. This is totally different.

Yoda: No, no different. Only different in your mind. You must unlearn what you have learned.

Luke: All right, I'll give it a try.

Yoda: No. Why not do or do not. There is no try.

Luke: I can't. It's too big.

Yoda: Size matters not. Look at me. Look at me, not my size. Do you? And where you should not.

Luke: You work the impossible.

00:10:00

I don't believe it.

Yoda: Luke, that's why you fail.

(End of Movie Clip: 00:11:27)

Charles Houston: Somebody say, "Amen." That's three Sermons right there and that one three-and-a-half-minute clip from Empire Strikes Back. First thing I want to make note of was that Luke was angry. He was frustrated. He was tired. He had an attitude and basically, when you watch the different movies and they talk about the force and the energy and it's everything that moves around us, the Jedis teach that anger and frustration are of the dark side. So, you're not to access those things in your doing. That's exactly where Luke was. And so, he wasn't focused. Again, I told you I'm

going to pass this power focus. You have to stay focused. So, I want you to lift your hand like this like you're lifting the ship. If you're in here just -- I want you to meditate on that. Sometimes, when you get frustrated at home and you have a task whether it's at school or at work or in ministry, or even with your health, I just want you to close your eyes and just do this, and just see the ship lifting up. See the bird in lifting up, see the weight lifting up, Amen.

And so, Yoda had to be patient. The Force is only with you when you're patient, because we only inherit the promises of God by faith and patience. You can't just have faith without patience, and you can't just have patience with no faith. And so, Yoda had to teach Luke about patience. Secondly, Yoda chastise Luke for trying. Remember that? Luke said, "I'll try", Yoda said, "No. No try. There is no try. Do or try not." That's a mindset. That's a perspective.

When I started going to grad school four and a half years ago, it was not my intention to go part of the way. It wasn't my intention to do well my first three years. It was my intention to go all the way through by His grace, with His help and a help from a whole lot of other people including my Bishop, Amen.

And so, Yoda criticized him. We have to change our mindsets. Stop trying things. Sometimes, when I counsel people, they say "Well, you know, we try in this marriage thing," and I'm like, "Stop. You can't try marriage. It's not a pair of shoes. You can't put it on and take it off when you feel like, it and if you are that's why it is not working. It's not working because you're not working for it. You got to do some stuff. You got to be patient. You got to love. You got to forgive constantly. It's not situational, it's a way of life."

And so, Yoda said, "No. No try. Do or do not." He said, "Lift the ship out of the water," now, I'm paraphrasing, "Lift the ship out of the water or go sit down." And that's what God is saying to us a lot of times, "Do what I told you, the way I told you, when I told you or go sit down," that's something that my mother and my grandmother used to say to me. My family call me Charles, Jr. They say, "Charles Jr., go sit down somewhere," when I got silly and you know, stopped being productive and act like I didn't want -- "Go sit down somewhere until you come to your senses and remember who you're dealing with."

Thirdly, Yoda rebuked Luke's lack of belief. The very last thing that Luke said when the ship was out of the water. He came up and said, "Master Yoda, I don't believe it." And what did Yoda tell him? "That is why you fail." He said, "I don't believe it", you can't serve God as a Christian and not believe Him.

My spiritual father, the Bishop, taught me and taught our congregation, "If God has a need, His need is to be believed. Believing God is not an option, it's mandatory. It's a requirement and He deserves belief, He deserves our faith, He deserves our trust."

00:15:01

It was faith that got me and my family here tonight through, it got to be a hurricane going on after you all. It got to be a hurricane going and I was praying the whole time. And listen, God, He was testing my patience because we didn't leave when I wanted to leave.

And so, I had to -- the Lord said, "Breathe Charles. It's okay. It's okay." Amen. He has to calm us at times, but we have to believe God. We've got to trust Him. We've got to trust Him. In order for the Force to be with you, you must operate in the Success Forces that Pastor is teaching you, Amen. Those are principles of life that God is giving him.

Each and every one of those things is blessing my soul. Are you all being blessed by that Success Forces? I know I am, Amen. And just thinking about different ones that He's been talking about I believe I'm on 10. I believe 11 has to do with staying away from the crowd if I remember correctly. I think, it is. You have to get away from the crowd because the crowd doesn't have your assignment. You have to get away from relatives and people who don't really know who you are in the spirit. You have to get away from the PALs in your life. Anybody else who got a PAL beside me? Amen.

And so, you have to operate in those Success Forces. So, you have to stay in the presence of God, stay in the presence of God. In His presence is fullness of joy and his right-hand pleasures forevermore. There's nothing that we can do until we get in his presence first. His presence is a precursor and preparation for

success. Getting in his presence. Jesus left his disciples on different occasions to go and get in the presence of His daddy, because if He didn't get in the presence of His Father, He had nothing to give His disciples. So, we have to get in the presence and stay in the presence of God.

Thirdly, we have to obey the Holy Spirit. When you hear His voice, obey what He told you. This is something God did for me some years ago. I am the type of person that doesn't like to believe negative things about people. You know what the Bible says that "the pure, all things are pure," I don't know so much about the purest thing for me, but I like believing the pure and the right and the holy in other people. And so, some years ago, the Holy Spirit chastise me. He showed me something about someone, and I ignored it and He said, "Stop doing that," and I said, "Stop doing what Lord?" He said, "When I show you something, I'm showing you for a reason. I'm showing you so you can pray and take inventory and beware and be prepared for my next instruction."

And I apologized to the Lord, I repented. And so now, I take that stuff in and I utilize it, not to judge, to continue to love and pray for people. But God shows you things for a reason and sometimes there are things -- this is for somebody -- there are things you don't want to believe that God is showing you, but you need to believe it because it's going to serve you well. Amen.

Jesus said, "Whatever you have learned, or received, or heard from me, or seen in me, put it into practice." Another version says, "These things do and the God of peace will be with you." That's your litmus test. Do you have a confidence in your heart and a peace in your spirit? Amen.

Look at your neighbor and say, "May the Force be with you." Keep doing, keep doing, keep doing. Look at your other neighbor and say, "Don't give up and don't quit." This is not a season of quitting. This is a season of equipping. Amen.

Let's have a quick Word of prayer. Father, we thank you in the name of Jesus for this Word I pray that you would bless the hearers Lord God, I pray that in the name of Jesus, You would empower them to do the things You've called them to do. Thank you so much Lord for this house. I pray that you would multiply blessings back into this place Lord God. May Your grace and Your glory rest in here at all times Lord God with your people Lord God. Show them things they've never seen, take them places

they've never gone. And at all times, may they feel you, Lord God, feel you, feel your presence, feel your peace, feel your empowerment Lord God, and may You bless them to continue to do exploits for you. We thank You, we honor You, we praise You, we lift up. It is in Jesus' name that we do pray.

And we just want to thank you if you tuned in on tonight and we want to say once again, thank you for tuning into the Brothers of The Word because brother, you need the Word. Amen. Amen.

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