



Ecclesiastes 8:1-9

“Keep the King’s Command”

9/11/2022

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Anaheim Hills, CA | RockCC.com

22:37

So I thought I'd do something a little different this morning and begin with a question. I know it's early but the question still applies.

22:50

How many choices have you made today? How many choices have you already made? It's only about a little after 10, but how many times today have you chosen to do something, say something, or think something?

23:06

Some researchers have estimated that we make a choice about every two seconds that we're awake. So that comes out to about 1,800 choices or decisions per hour. Assuming we get about seven hours of sleep, that means we make over 30,000 choices per day.

23:27

No wonder we're so tired. But here's the big question though. Of those 30,000 choices that we make every day, how many of them are good choices? How many of them are the right choices? In our passage today, God is going to reveal to us the best choice we can make every moment of every day.

23:54

But the problem is it's a choice that all of us tend to resist. Let's pray together. Lord, we just thank You, Father, that Your Word is so clear, but our lives are so cluttered. Your way is right, but our path is full of distractions that can lead us the wrong way at any time.

24:15

Please help us focus on Your, the Word You have for us today so we can just find that rest, that hope, that peace, that direction in life that You meant for us to have. We ask this in the name of Jesus.

24:29

Amen. Our passage is Ecclesiastes 8 verses 1 to 9, and the title of this message comes directly. It's a quote from verse 2. It says, keep the King's command, keep the King's command, which ultimately means obey God.

24:49

Obey God. Obey. That's a tough word, isn't it? It's a little bit like hearing the word no. We don't want to hear the word no, and we don't want to hear the word obey. Doesn't come easily for us. You know, in the beginning when God created the human race, He created us to willingly love Him and be dependent on Him, but because of sin, we are all rebellious.

25:16

Sin makes us prefer to be our own boss. Because of sin, we don't want anyone, even our Creator, telling us what to do. Sin actually makes fools out of all of us. Sin makes us chase after the wrong things that we think are the right things.

25:38

Sin makes us believe we can control things that we just cannot control. Sin convinces us that we're okay when actually we're heading for disaster. Because of sin, you and I, we can come to church every week to worship God and then walk out the door and leave God here and live the rest of the week as if God does not exist.

26:06

We suffer from so much indecision, stress, anger, frustration, and confusion in our lives when we fail to do the best thing we can possibly do 30,000 times a day, and that is choose to obey God. Let's read God's Word for us today.

26:31

Ecclesiastes 8, 1 to 9. Who is like the wise and who knows the interpretation of the thing? A man's wisdom makes his face shine and the hardness of his face is changed. I say keep the King's command because of God's oath to him.

26:47

Be not hasty to go from his presence. Do not take your stand in an evil cause, for he does whatever he pleases. For the word of the King is supreme, and who may say to him, what are you doing? Whoever keeps a command will know no evil thing, and the wise heart will know the proper time and the just way.

27:07

For there is a time and a way for everything, although man's trouble lies heavy on him. For he does not know what is to be, for who can tell him how it will be? No man has power to retain the spirit or power over the day of death.

27:21

There is no discharge from war, nor will wickedness deliver those who are given to it. All this I observed while applying my heart to all that is done under the sun when man had power over man to his hurt. Did you notice that our passage opens with a question?

27:42

Don't you think all good messages should begin with a question? Our passage actually opens with two questions. That's even better, right? Let's look at Ecclesiastes 8:1 again. Who is like the wise and who knows the interpretation of a thing?

27:58

A man's wisdom makes his face shine and the hardness of his face is changed. Given all the things we have already read in the first seven chapters of Ecclesiastes, we could paraphrase this first question like this.

28:11

In a world where people can be rich, powerful, successful, hard-working, religious, smart, talented, popular, creative, and clever, who can compare to the person that is wise? This is a rhetorical question.

28:28

It's not meant for us to answer verbally. It's meant to make us think. It's a question meant to help us realize that wisdom, wisdom is the most valuable thing on earth. Nothing compares to wisdom, nothing.

28:45

Let's look at the second question. Who knows the interpretation of a thing? The word interpretation means solution. So it's asking who knows the solution of a thing? What thing? Life. That's what the book of Ecclesiastes is all about.

29:05

Our passage is asking who is like the wise person and who can solve the puzzles of life to find the purpose of it all? Who can look at all the little pieces of all the little things that happen in our life and see the big picture?

29:25

Do the wealthy, powerful, successful, hard-working, religious, smart, talented, popular, creative, and clever people of the world know what life's all about? They do not. But the wise do. So we need to ask, wise in what way?

29:41

And to find the answer, we look in God's word, Hosea 14:9. Hosea 14:9 says, whoever is wise, let him understand these things. And whoever is discerning, let him know them, for the ways of the Lord are right and the upright walk in them.

29:59

That means obey them. There's that word, obey. But transgressors stumble in them. So if you and I, if we are wise, we will understand, we will understand that God's ways are always right and true without exception.

30:20

Without exception, God is right every time. And we will understand that God knows the interpretation. God knows the solution, meaning, and purpose of everything. And He shares His wisdom with us in His word.

30:33

So if we're wise, we will devote our lives, just like Pastor Dew was saying a few minutes ago, we will devote our lives to learning everything we possibly can from God's word. And then at the same time, learning how to look at the things that happen in our life, happen in the world in the light of God's truth.

30:51

We will look at Him through the lens of Scripture. And we will learn how to trust and obey God in all the situations He places us in life. But if we are unwise, we will look at God's

commands as intrusions, as obstacles that get in our way, as we stumble from thing to thing, trying to find the peace, trying to find the happiness, trying to find the answers, trying to find the purpose that nothing but obedience to God can give us.

31:25

I've been thinking the last few days about all the ways we can hurt ourselves. There are so many ways for us to hurt ourselves in this life, but the worst way we can hurt ourselves is believing that we know better than God what is right, and that we know better than our Creator what we need to be happy.

31:52

Let's turn to the end of the book of Ecclesiastes because we haven't looked at it since last week. And I don't, for me, I don't think I can read this enough. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, the end of the matter, all has been heard, fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole duty of man.

32:11

For God will bring every deed into judgment with every secret thing, whether good or evil. So here is the bottom line of real life on planet earth. God is real. God is real and His judgment is inescapable.

32:29

So if we are wise, we will fear God and we will understand that our duty, our entire purpose, our highest priority in life is to obey what God says. Let's look at Ecclesiastes 8, verse 1, one more time.

32:51

Who is like the wise and who knows the interpretation of a thing? A man's wisdom makes his face shine and the hardness of his face has changed. Here we see another wonderful, wonderful benefit of wisdom.

33:05

Wisdom gives us a really good facelift. It does. Wisdom relaxes our jaw. Wisdom unwrinkles our brow. Wisdom smooths out all our worry lines. Instead of a frown, we wear a grin. Wisdom makes our face beam with contentment.

33:28

In the Old Testament, a shining face usually speaks about God's grace and favor shining on and in the person that loves and obeys the Lord. And you may have noticed that our worship leader, Bill White, uses the phrase, may God's face shine upon you as his usual word of blessing at the end of our service.

33:50

So if we are wise, we will understand that obedience to God never brings us down. It never limits us at all. What it does is it frees us. It lifts us up. Now the next few verses give us an example of obeying an earthly king to help us visualize the wisdom of obeying the king of kings, obeying the Lord himself.

34:13

So before we read these words again together, please do yourself a favor. Who deserves a favor more than you? Do yourselves a favor and try to imagine yourself living in ancient times when Ecclesiastes was written, and imagine that we all live under a king's absolute authority.

34:29

Okay? Let's read now verses 2 to 5 of Ecclesiastes 8. I say keep the king's command because of God's oath to him. Be not hasty to go from his presence. Do not take your stand in an evil cause for he does whatever he pleases for the word of the king is supreme and who may say to him what are you doing? Whoever keeps a command will know no evil thing and the wise heart will know the proper time in the just way. We have to remember every time we see the word king here, just substitute God's name right there for it.

35:03

So if you and I were living in ancient times, and if you and I wanted to live long and prosper, we would know the right thing to do at all times is to obey the king. Only a person with a death wish or a person looking for some serious dungeon time would dare question the king or disobey the king.

35:26

Never do it. And if we lived in ancient times, every one of us in this room would know beyond a shadow of a doubt. We would teach our children and we'd teach our grandchildren that the king has complete power over everything and everyone.

35:38

Again, remember when you're thinking about the king, think about the king of kings. King has absolute power. If the earthly king wanted something we had, the king could take it from us without compensation.

35:50

If we questioned or plotted against the king or disobeyed the king in any way, the king could have us arrested or put to death with just a wave of his hand. Now because verse 2 immediately follows what we read in verse 1, the writer of Ecclesiastes is basically telling us this.

36:08

Do you want to really be happy in your life? Do you want to keep that content grin on your face at all times? Here's what you need to do. Keep the king's command. Obey the king. Obey God. And why should we keep the king's command?

36:26

It says, keep the king's command because of God's oath to him. Okay, do we notice our verse here did not say keep the king's command because we like the king. Didn't say that. The verse says obey the king because God put that king on the throne.

36:49

That's why you obey the king because God put that king on the throne. Verse 2 can also be translated as, keep the king's command because of your oath to God. Now this means if you are a child of God, then you've already given God your oath.

37:04

You've given God your promise that you're going to obey him. So this verse is saying, then obey the king to keep your promise to God that you will obey the leader he puts over you. Let's take a minute, this is interesting, to look at the harmony between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

37:21

Hundreds of years after Ecclesiastes was written, let's look at what the Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans. Romans 13:1-2, Paul wrote this, let every person be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God.

37:39

And those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed. And those who resist will incur judgment. Let's also look at what Peter wrote around that same time.

37:56

1 Peter 2, 13 to 17. Peter wrote, be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

38:12

For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

38:25

Then verse 17, honor everyone, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the emperor. The word of God is so clear and it consistently teaches us, it consistently commands us to obey the leaders that God puts in authority over us, including the authorities that we do not adore.

38:51

By the way, just for a little history. When Paul wrote, be subject to the governing authorities and Peter wrote, honor the emperor, they lived under pagan Roman rule. And that included some really corrupt emperors including Nero himself.

39:10

So let's make sure, let's make sure we understand exactly what God is telling us. And here it is, here's what we need to understand. Whether the person in authority over us deserves our obedience is not the point.

39:27

The point is God deserves our obedience in all things and in all times. Let's look at verse 3. Be not hasty to go from the king's presence, do not take your stand in an evil cause, for he does, the king does whatever he pleases.

39:46

Do not be hasty to go from the king's presence means don't, don't you go looking for ways to shirk your duty to the king. And don't look for opportunities to avoid serving him well. This is true of the king, it's true of every authority over us.

40:05

And it's even true about our boss. Let's look at Colossians 3, 22 to 23, and if by any chance you have a boss in your life or a supervisor, pay close attention to this. Bond servants, that's you and me if we have a boss.

40:24

Bond servants, obey in everything, those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye service as people pleasers, but with sincerity of heart fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily as for the Lord, not for men.

40:43

If we are wise, we will obey God and give our very best, the best that we have every day on the job, not for the boss's sake, but for the Lord's sake. Let's look at verse 3Ecclesiastes eigh8e more time.

41:03

Be not hasty to go from his presence, do not take your stand in an evil cause for the king does whatever he pleases. Do not take your stand in an evil cause means don't rebel against the king. And do not join an evil plot against the king.

41:21

Why? Well, for a really practical reason. We don't need to get overly spiritual here, it's just a really practical reason. The king has all the power, you don't have any. So plotting against the king is a fatal mistake.

41:40

It's a fatal mistake. And even more so rebelling against God can be an eternal mistake. Let's look at verse four4r the word of the king is supreme and who may say to him, what are you doing? The word supreme means absolutely superior at all.

42:01

The king's word is the strongest, most important, and most powerful voice in the kingdom. So if it's foolish to question the word of an earthly king, how much more foolish is it for us to question the words of God?

42:23

Romans 9 .20:2aul writes, but who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Well, what does molded say to its molder? Why have you made me like this? This verse, this verse is not talking about the person that comes to God with a humble heart, with real questions about his or her life and comes to God to seek answers in God's word and in prayer.

42:48

This verse is talking about the arrogant heart that is rebelling against God's authority. In the book of Isaiah, we find a similar verse. Now, Isaiah says that a little softer than Paul did, but let's look at Isaiah 64:8.

43:02

He writes, but now, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay. You are our potter. We are all the work of your hand. God is our Father. God is our Father, and he is the potter, and we are the clay.

43:21

God is our Creator, and we are the creation. We need to understand this very simple organization chart, this very simple chain of command. We did not create God. God created us. We are not in charge.

43:38

God is. Just like the king, but even more so with God. As the clay in God's, in the potter's hand, it's a really good idea for us to obey the Lord and fully cooperate with our potter as he brings things into our lives to shape us, into the people to accomplish the purpose that he has created us to have in this life.

44:04

We need to cooperate. A few years ago, my wife, Joanie, and I had the opportunity to learn how to do a little pottery making. Joanie made some really beautiful bowls that we still use. My clay, I must have got a hold of some sinful clay because it did not want to cooperate.

44:27

I was trying to make the same kind of bowls Joanie was making, but my clay just went flat on the wheel. It wouldn't obey my hands at all. So guess what? Instead of becoming a beautiful and useful little bowl, that clay became a sad, undersized plate with very little purpose.

44:50

There's a life lesson in there for us, isn't there? You want to be a useful bowl or a small undersized, have-no-purpose plate. Wise clay cooperates with the potter. If we refuse to obey God, we only hurt ourselves.

45:10

Now we need to pause here just for a moment to address two important facts. Fact one is we all have a sin problem that makes it impossible for us to obey every command of our Lord. But then there's fact two, that our loving God fully understands our sin problem so He has interceded.

45:32

He has intervened on our behalf. 1 Corinthians 1:30, wonderful passage of encouragement for us that says, and because of Him, because of God, you are in Christ

Jesus who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness, and sanctification and redemption.

45:53

God the Father sent His Son to save us from the penalty of our sin and the penalty of our disobedience. In Christ with the Holy Spirit, we receive the most valuable thing on earth, wisdom, godly wisdom. We cannot have godly wisdom without Jesus.

46:12

It can't be done. So when we fail to obey God, we do not face God's condemnation because when God looks at us, He sees us covered by the righteousness of Christ. The blood of Jesus washes us as clean of all our sins.

46:27

That's how God sees us. In Christ we are sanctified and redeemed. Sanctified means we are set free to set free or we are set apart for God's purpose. Well, God's purpose is to make us everything He created us to be so He will not give up on us when we disobey.

46:49

And redeemed as a word in ancient times meant to purchase a slave's freedom. Jesus gave his life to purchase our freedom from the penalty of our sin. So instead of God's wrath, we have God's complete acceptance as his sons and his daughters in Christ forever.

47:07

When we disobey God, we don't need to make excuses, and we don't need to try to hide or run away from God. Instead, we can run to God, just confess our disobedience to Him, and know, know for certain that He loves us, and He forgives us, and He will continue to work for us and in us.

47:29

Let's look at verse 5, Ecclesiastes 8, Whoever keeps a command will know no evil thing, and the wise heart will know the proper time and the just way. Whoever wisely obeys a command from the King, and even more so from God, will not find trouble.

47:50

You're not going to find trouble, but instead will be blessed by receiving even more wisdom. Note to self, we should all write down, obeying God is always the right thing to do. Obeying God is always the right thing to do.

48:11

The wise heart will know the proper time and the just way. The heart that is devoted to obeying God is a heart that will be able to discern the right thing to do at the right time. Wouldn't it solve an awful lot of problems in your life and my life if we always knew the right thing to do at the right time?

48:37

The wise heart will even know how to respond the right way to an earthly King that gives us an ungodly or evil command. Well, what's the right way to respond to a King like that? The right way is the way that does not disobey God in any way.

48:57

Let's look at an example of someone who responded to an ungodly command in the right way. About 600 years before Jesus was born, the kingdom of Judah disobeyed God again, and the Lord allowed Babylon to conquer the kingdom of Judah and take their people away in captivity.

49:16

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon commanded that the brightest and most handsome captives be fully educated in the Babylonian ways so they could serve the King, and this

included Daniel and three other Jews who, as part of their education, were told they must eat the King's food and they must drink the King's wine.

49:41

Okay, on the surface, this doesn't sound like that bad of a command, does it? I order you to eat everything the King eats and drink everything the King drinks. Okay, doesn't sound so bad, but there was a problem because the King's food and drink were not prepared according to God's law, so for Daniel and the three others, they considered this food to be unholy, to be unclean.

50:06

So what did Daniel do? He didn't want to disobey God and he didn't want to disobey the King, so what did he do? Let's read what he did. It's a great passage. Daniel, chapter 1, verses 11 to 16. Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Test your servants for ten days. Let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then let our appearance and the appearance of the other youths who eat the king's food be observed by you and deal with your servants according to what you see. So he, the steward listened to him in this matter and tested them for ten days.

50:46

At the end of ten days, it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter, that means healthier, in flesh than all the youths who ate the King's food.

50:55

So the steward took away their food and wine that they were to drink and gave them vegetables. When the King's officials saw Daniel and the others were healthier and stronger when they obeyed God, they let them continue.

51:12

Now Daniel had a lot of ways he could have reacted to the King. He could have reacted in anger or been defiant or been fearful, and all those ways would have ended very badly for Daniel and his friends and would have dishonored God in the process.

51:27

But Daniel responded with godly wisdom and the Lord really blessed him. Let's look at Ecclesiastes 8:6 and 7. For there is a time and a way for everything, although man's trouble lies heavy on him, for he does not know what is to be, for who can tell him how it will turn out or how it will be.

51:47

Verse 6 goes back to what we all read together back in chapter 3, if you remember, that God, it's God who appoints the time and the purpose for every single thing, every single moment happens in your life and my life, including who is in authority over us.

52:03

This means that God, God has a perfect plan for the world and a perfect plan for your life and my life, which God always follows. Problem is, we don't know, we don't know the details of that plan, do we?

52:22

And we cannot see how things are going to turn out, so our problems can really weigh us down, can't they? Do you ever feel weighed down with worry and with your problems? We can't see God, we can't see God, but we can see our bills piling up, we can read a bad health report, we can watch our work situation go from bad to worse, we can look at a relationship that's important to us and see how it's struggling or failing.

52:58

Our problems, our problems are so visible that they can easily dominate us and overwhelm us. So what can we do? What can we do? Here's what we can do. We can

stop meditating on our problems and we can start meditating on the goodness and power of God.

53:28

The word meditate means to think deeply and focus our mind for a period of time. If we're honest, we usually meditate, we usually think deeply about our problems and we focus a lot of time on them, don't we?

53:44

What if? What if we meditated on the faithfulness and goodness of God instead? What if we did that? How would our outlook on life change do you think if we spent more time thinking about God than we did thinking about our problems?

54:01

How do you think your day would look to you if you actually spent more time thinking about the goodness and power and faithfulness of God than you did about whatever trouble you're facing? We should not deny our problems.

54:16

No, we don't need to deny our troubles, but we just don't need to let our problems dominate our thoughts. Because when our problems dominate our thoughts, what happens? Those troubles just keep looming larger and larger, don't they?

54:31

And don't you feel like you just keep getting smaller and smaller and God just seems further and further away? And we just keep feeling that weight weighing us down. There is a wonderful health care provider I get to see every month at the USC Norris Cancer Center.

54:54

And this dear woman wears a simple little bracelet on her wrist with three words on it that say, God's got this. Every time I see those words, God's got this. I feel the stress leave my body and I feel a grin form on my face.

55:16

God's got this. God's got this. Can there be any better news in the world when you're dealing with cancer? And can there be any better news in the world with whatever you're dealing with in your life?

55:28

God's got this. Whatever you're facing today, whatever you're carrying with you today, God's got this. Fear may be our default emotion. It is. But we don't have to let fear dominate us. We don't. We can let the truth of God dominate us.

55:48

We can let the truth of God dominate our thoughts and our lives. That's real wisdom. When the love, power, and faithfulness of God fills our mind, it protects us. It protects us from becoming paralyzed and just becoming overwhelmed and weighed down by our problems.

56:08

God is always bigger than anything and everything we fear. God is always bigger, way bigger in every way. Let's think deeply and let's think often about that, okay? Let's acknowledge our problems, but let's meditate on all the reasons why we can trust God.

56:29

God in His perfect wisdom doesn't share all the details of His plan with us, and God doesn't give us knowledge of the future. Why is that? So we can learn to trust Him in all things and be ready for changes at all times because we know wisdom has taught us that God is in control of it all.

56:47

What a way to live. No wonder we grin. No wonder we have a facelift if we live like that. Let's look at verse 8 of Ecclesiastes 8. No man has power to retain the spirit or power over the day of death.

57:03

There is no discharge from war, nor will wickedness deliver those who are given to it. Okay, now sometimes we might think we're pretty hot stuff, but we read a passage like this and we realize when it comes right down to it, you and I, we don't have power over much of anything.

57:18

We sure don't have power over death. Death comes for all of us, and none of us can stop it. None of us can escape God's timetable. And there's no discharge from war. Our world and our history is full of war, isn't it?

57:33

And even when there's peace, we are still at war with sin and with death, constant war is an inescapable reality for us. We can't get out of it. Nor will wickedness deliver those who are given to it.

57:46

This is really powerful news. Nor will wickedness deliver those who are given to us. This is telling us whatever we choose, whatever we choose to do rather than obey God will fail us. So, whatever that thing is we're doing instead of obeying God is guaranteed to fail us, guaranteed.

58:06

Absolutely certain it will fail us. Do we see why it's wise to always obey God who never fails us? Never? Let's finish with verse 9. All this I observed while applying my heart to all that is done unto the Son when man had power over man to his hurt.

58:26

The writer of our passage applied his heart. This means he devoted his life to thinking about and doing everything under the Son, and he kept really good notes for us to share. And his last note seems to be tying back to what he already said about the power of the King.

58:43

So, here's what we can see. In ancient times, just like in our time, sometimes there are unrighteous leaders that abuse their power. But, that fact does not cancel out our duty to obey the leaders that God places in authority over us, doesn't it?

59:05

If we are wise, here's what we'll do, okay? If we are wise, we will trust and we will obey God even when it hurts. The commands of God are not our enemies, they are our best friends. Let's look at how David described the law of God in Psalm 19, verses 7 to 11.

59:26

Just an absolutely incredible Psalm. Highly recommend you go home and read it this week in Psalm 19. This is how David viewed the commands of God. The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

59:43

I'm so grateful for that. I don't know if you think of yourself as a simple person, I sure do, but I love this. The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. Thank you, Lord. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.

59:56

The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever. The rules of the Lord are true and writes us all together. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold, sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

01:00:11

Moreover, by them is your servant warned, in keeping them there is great reward. My brothers and sisters, I love you and I hope I can say this to you, okay? If you are a child of God, if you are a child of God, then please hear this.

01:00:33

God's word, God's commands are not just one aspect of your life. Obedience to God's word is your life. It is your life. It is to be what your life is all about. The word of God is our window through which we must look at absolutely everything.

01:01:01

Every decision, every problem, every situation in every moment. We have 30,000 opportunities every day to obey God or not. Is the Lord your king? Is the Lord your king? If your answer is yes, then be wise.

01:01:25

Be really wise and be blessed and keep your king's command. Our prayer team will be over here to pray with us at the end of the service. Let's pray together. Father, our problems can just... Just be a beast in our life, and you can just really weigh us down.

01:01:46

Help us, please, to stop meditating on all the troubles, all the what-ifs, all the confusion, and just start meditating on your absolute goodness, faithfulness, and power. God, you've got this. You've got us.

01:02:02

Help us always remember you are in perfect control of everything, even when everything looks out of control to us. Please, let your word not just be one aspect of our life, one of the things we do, but let your word and obedience to your word be our life.

01:02:20

May your word, may your faithfulness, may your power, may your love, may your purpose for us dominate our lives instead of our troubles. Lord Jesus, we love you, and we need you, and it's in your name we pray.

01:02:32

Amen.