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God Is Amor: Biblical Teachings for House and Home, Translated from Spanish to English

Melissa Breetzke

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J. N. Andrews Honors Program

Andrews University

HONS 497 - Honors Thesis

God is *Amor*. Biblical teachings for house and home, translated from Spanish to English

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April 2, 2012

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ABSTRACT

I have transcribed and translated (from Spanish to English) a series of five video sermons by Pastor Homero Salazar to aid him in broadening his evangelistic efforts. While transcription requires structural fluency and a discerning ear, translation demands extensive conceptual consideration. Translators must weigh the tone, formality, intention, and implications of the original message and relay these concepts through linguistic equivalents in an alternate language. Some of the most interesting challenges of this project arose from changing the media from a dialogue-like video to a document for publication, requiring considerable pragmatic adjustments.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROLOGUE	4
1. Introduction.....	4
2. Review of Literature.....	6
3. Methodology.....	8
4. Analysis.....	10
5. Discussion.....	23
SERMONS—English Translations	29
1. Flesh and Bone.....	29
2. Mother—A Sacred Word.....	43
3. Lord, Teach Us to Pray.....	55
4. Live Confidently.....	68
5. Record the Vision.....	80
BIBLIOGRAPHY	92
APPENDICES—Spanish Transcripts	93
1. <i>Uña y Carne</i>	93
2. <i>Madre ... Palabra Sagrada</i>	106
3. <i>Señor, Enséñanos a Orar</i>	119
4. <i>Vivir Confiado</i>	132
5. <i>Escribe la Visión</i>	145

INTRODUCTION

According to the United States Department of Labor, approximately 23% of translators and interpreters are self-employed (“Significant Points”). This means that nearly a quarter of all translators and interpreters must actively seek out work opportunities and continually foster job connections and professional relationships. Because these language experts are not under the wing of a specific company that continually provides them with work, they must use whatever connections they are able to create in order to slowly build a steady clientele base. As I begin my career as a translator, I am always seeking to make connections with potential employers. Translation services are needed anywhere that a company or organization is seeking to reach the broadest multiethnic audience or consumer group possible. In a nation where, according to the 2007 census, nearly one fifth of all Americans speak a language other than English in their home and 24.4% of these reports speaking English “Not well” or “Not at all,” translation services become necessary for anything from multimillion-dollar contracts to television broadcasting to signs at the local grocery store (“Language Use in the United States: 2007”).

While the need for translation is not lacking, many organizations may underestimate the impact that quality translations may have for their business and many freelance translators must work the dual role of marketer and implementer of their translations, simultaneously informing industries of their usefulness and then putting that usefulness to action.

The Washington Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church (WASP) in Silver Spring, Maryland already understands the value of being able to reach out to the community in multiple languages. Saturday church services are performed in Spanish

by the lively Pastor Homero Salazar and interpreted into English by a church member. This linguistic flexibility is just one instantiation of WASP's efforts to reach their members and community where ever they are. The services themselves blend traditional hymns and practices with contemporary praise songs and new approaches to sharing personal encounters with Christ. Through outreach activities and events, they aim to attract local residents who seek the warm embrace of a welcoming church community.

While the church itself is gaining excellent evangelistic momentum, their online resources don't have the same degree of flexibility and adaptability as the church's outgoing mission entails. The website, while full of interesting links, Bible studies, and video sermons, is solely in Spanish. This renders the entire website null to the whole of the English-speaking community.

Essentially, hunting for these sorts of weaknesses is the first job of a freelance translator, who searches out gaps in companies or organizations where translation services would help to promote their mission. Once this need is found, the translator must contact the organization and offer their services, explaining the benefit to the potential employer. When I called Pastor Homero Salazar, I didn't need to do too much convincing. He was thrilled at the idea of beginning to make the online resources available to English-speaking members and directed me to a series of five video sermons that he had recorded for Hope Channel Network. It was understood that, as a university project, it would be done for free and completed before the end of the semester, thus, with the rates and deadlines clarified, the project was underway.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

While the techniques and vocabulary I had learned in years of classroom study gave me an excellent foundation for the work ahead of me, I sought out further guidance specific to this project. More than one professor directed me to a book called *Thinking Spanish Translation*, which is a corroborative effort by three authors who have written a similar book about French (Hervey, Higgins, and Haywood). This was perhaps the most influential book in my translation training as it covers nearly every factor that plays into thoughtful translating: understanding connotative meaning, monitoring code switching, social and tonal register awareness, when to use gist translation, etc. It addresses many angles and considerations for translating that are easy to overlook and that can make the translation's impact fall shy of that of the original work. This book helped immensely in teaching me a good awareness for subtle details in the communication of ideas and to help me to be highly sensitive of word choice.

In addition to this guide in translation theory, University of Surrey professor Peter Newmark's book *Paragraphs on Translation* provides several reflections on jargon, repetition, synonyms, and the imperative importance of third-party revision. The latter guided me to ensuring that my professors revised my transcription and translation. While this sort of revision is often done in academic settings and in writing circles, it hasn't been my impression that translations themselves are often edited and revised, though it seems every bit as important as any other revision process. I would speculate that the job market for translation editors is one that could see great development in the next few years as translation services become increasingly in demand in the global community.

Because the sermons were in video format I needed to first transcribe the audio into Spanish text. I had never received any guidance in transcription techniques or strategies and soon discovered that it wasn't as straightforward as I had assumed. The library assistant and I scoured the local and neighboring library databases and were unable to find any literature guiding the transcription process. Finally, through many internet searches, I was able to find a book by Willow Powers that explores the various techniques and decisions a transcriptionist must make such as whether to include every interjection ("uh," "well," etc.) and how to judge the relevance of precision in recording a speaker's accent, grammatical mistakes, and so on.

Armed with all these theoretical guides, I turned to online dictionaries to complete my toolset. The *Real Academia Española* is the respected authority regarding the definitions and uses of Spanish words. When in doubt as to what a word means or how it is used, this is the source to reference. *Google Translate* has an ample database of language correlations and is especially useful for single-word or phrase searches. While a good quick-reference source, it mustn't be regarded as a flawless authority (See Table 1 in the Analysis section). *Word Reference* is the best online translator I have found and several professors and translators have echoed my sentiments. It provides literal translations of words and also contextual and phrasal equivalencies. And at the bottom of the page you can find forums where translators can discuss the use and meaning of words. I found myself pawing through more than one forum as I searched for the most fitting meanings of words according to their context.

METHODOLOGY

The process of transforming the Spanish videos into English script involved two stages. The first was transcription, where I listened to the sermon and wrote down what was being said. An online professional transcription agency advised customers to expect it to take their professionals around one hour to transcribe 15 minutes of recorded speech, and so I expected it to take me a bit longer than that as I am not professionally trained in transcription and Spanish is not my first language.

I downloaded the videos and converted them to audio-only files that I could then upload into a transcription software called Express Scribe. By loading the audio file into this program I was able to easily navigate back and forth between the transcript and the audio through the use of hotkeys. Hotkeys are typeable shortcuts (like using “ctrl + c” and “ctrl + v” to copy and paste) that allow me to pause, rewind, and resume the recording without needing to move my fingers from the keyboard to a mouse to switch between programs. This helped to trim down precious seconds between transcribing phrases. Even with the use of hotkeys, however, I was discouraged to find that while the online agency estimated it would take them about four minutes to transcribe one minute of speech, it was taking me about fifteen.

By the end of my transcription work I was able to move much faster, but I was still being weighed down by issues such as the pastor’s grammar, specialized and regional vocabulary, interjections, and other problems that will be dealt with further in the Analysis section. After playing two to three seconds of audio, I precisely recorded the six- to ten-word phrase segment and re-listened to it to verify that I had each word in exactly the correct spot, because even using all of the right words but in the incorrect order can alter the implications of a sentence (i.e. *So, she’s small* vs. *She’s so small.*).

Then I would proceed to the next two to three seconds and stop at the next phrase-break to repeat the process. I placed in bold font any words that I felt were grammatically incorrect but that were direct quotations and made a few parenthetical suggestions for modifying the words in my later translation. I also inserted occasional time markers to facilitate finding the right spot in the audio, should I choose to re-listen to verify transcriptions.

This process took me a total of 30 hours to transcribe the five 30-minute sermons. I then asked a native-Spanish speaker (Tico Meneses, Colombia) to read the transcripts as the recordings played to check the transcript accuracy. I had marked a few phrases with the minute and second that they were said so that we could easily navigate to particular problem areas. After revising any transcription errors, I then had printed copies that I could readily work from Spanish to English. Having a transcript to work from as opposed to just directly translating from the audio allowed me to easily compare the text side-by-side with what was originally said without being concerned that I had forgotten or overlooked a word. Because it was in black and white before me, I could visually make an accounting for every word to ensure that its linguistic or semantic equivalent was represented in the English translation.

The second stage, then, was the actual translation of the document from Spanish to English. While less tedious than the first stage, it required equal exactness and care. Beyond strict correlation, however, translation required a deeper level of correspondence. It is possible for a word to be the literal translation of another but not bear the proper meaning or impact as the intended use of the original. This was especially noticeable with any idiomatic sayings or expressions. For example, a literal

translation of “ella siempre anda en la luna” would be “she always goes on the moon.”

While this is an *exact* translation, it does not accurately communicate the intended message that “she always has her head in the clouds.” To correctly portray the intended idea or feeling of the original (source) language, a translator must consider more than the literal translations of words and be able to transfer the implied message into the target (or goal) language with ample dexterity.

Once the original and translated works were completed I submitted them to my advisor, Sonia Badenas, a bilingual professor, to compare the two texts to verify their equivalence. After making the necessary adjustments, I presented the English versions to English professor, Dr. Bruce Closser, to help refine the English fluidity. I made whatever changes I could within the confines of staying faithful to the original use. An interesting discussion of whether a translated work can or should modify grammatical mistakes made in the original is presented later in the Analysis section.

ANALYSIS

The transcription and translation process necessitated five main levels of analysis and discernment: human interpretation, syntax and structure, semantic impact, pragmatic sensibility, and adjustments for altering the medium from video to text. Each of these processes must always weigh heavily upon a translator’s decisions, though they occur at different intervals throughout the translation effort.

The first issue I encountered, and perhaps the most relevant to the non-translating community, is the indispensability of human discernment. This was seen both in the transcription and translation stages of the project. For both processes there are many programs and online sites that can provide free services to do in minutes or

even seconds what I labored hours in doing. However, as with most things, you get what you pay for, or don't pay for, as the case may be. Automated transcription software can record the sound that it hears and correctly note many of the words as they were spoken, but the job will fall short of capturing much of the message that was implied beyond just the literal words.

Numerous studies report that over 90% of communication is non-verbal. While transcription software can capture much of the 10% found in the actual words, it is up to the transcriptionist to find ways to saturate the text with as much of the remaining 90% as possible through careful notation and attentive punctuation, which I shall deal with further in my notes about syntax.

In addition to being highly attentive to tone and other non-verbal cues, the transcriptionist has an advantage over automated services in that he or she can readily discern the differences between various homophones (words that sound alike but have different meanings) according to the context. For example, *It can bee vary difficult four transcription soft where two no witch homophones whirr intended*, whereas the human mind can readily select the appropriate homophones so that the collected words carry the intended meaning.

In addition to having transcription advantages, the human mind demonstrates superiority over automatic translators, too. On the following page, I have included a chart that demonstrates a few of the advantages a human translator has over an automated one. On the left is a Spanish word, phrase, or sentence. The second column shows what the popular automatic translation site *Google Translate* generated as the English equivalent. Then, in the third column, I supply the translation I find to be

more fitting. The final column contains a few brief notes explaining the differences, which I will later elaborate upon.

Table 1

Original	Google	Mine	Notes
<i>Hablando del rey de roma</i>	Speaking of the King of Rome	Speak of the Devil	Idiomatic expressions often necessitate more than literal translation
<i>Na' ma'</i>	Na 'ma' (untranslatable)	Nothing more (<i>na' ma' = nada más</i>)	Slurred or abbreviated speech requires human discernment and interpretation
<i>Entonces dijo David al Filisteo: Tú vienes á mí con espada y lanza y escudo; mas yo vengo á ti en el nombre de Jehová de los ejércitos, el Dios de los escuadrones de Israel, que tú has provocado.</i>	Then said David to the Philistine, You come to me with sword and spear and shield : but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, <u>whom thou hast defied.</u>	Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin . But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, <u>whom you have defied.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advanced software "knew" to use formal "Thee, Thou" - However, it was Inconsistent with English versions of Bible (uses both "you" and "thee") - Many common English versions of the Bible (NKJV, ESV, NASB) interpret "<i>escudo</i>" as "javelin," not shield
<i>que tú has provocado</i>	you've caused	whom you have defied	Due to its use in the Bible verse (above), this phrase would warrant additional contextual interpretation

The first row is an example of the treatment of idiomatic expressions. While "*Hablando del rey de Roma*" does literally mean "Speaking of the King of Rome" as Google translated it, that phrase would have little significance to an English speaker. The more accurate translation of the phrase has little to do with the actual words, but rather corresponds to the usage and meaning. A Spanish speaker would say "*Hablando del rey de Roma*" when a person that they were talking about suddenly appeared, the way an English speaker would use "Speak of the Devil." Thus, while the

online translator accurately translated the individual words, it still left much to be desired in the way of inferring the actual usage of the idiomatic expression.

Row two shows a non-standardized, but well-understood contraction. Much like the English terms “Sup?” (What’s up?) or “sumthin” (something), the Spanish term *na’ ma’* is a shortened version of *nada más*, which means “nothing more.” The Spanish language is especially given to these contractions and slurrings of speech. Speech detection software is hardly equipped to register all of the different accents and tones that the Spanish language is capable of. While English-speaking countries have a handful of varied word-definitions (For example, an American might toss his boots in the boot of his British friend’s car.), Spanish-speaking countries have even greater lexical divergences. While “*coger*” in Colombia merely means “to get,” in Argentina it is a vulgar term for sexual relations. And if you’re throwing a party and someone offers to bring a *torta*, their country of origin could very much impact the sort of party you’ll have, as your guest may either be bringing a cake, a sandwich, or a prostitute. Not only do words have different meanings, but the pronunciation of a word changes considerably from country to country. The pronoun *ella* (“she”) would be pronounced “eh-yah” in Mexico, “eh-jah” in Colombia, and “eh-shah” in Argentina. This wide divergence in meaning and pronunciation necessitates the discerning ear of a human translator who can mentally catalog and account for these differences.

The third row in the table is taken from the Bible, 1 Samuel 17:45. When the text was entered online, the automated translator was able to recognize the sequence of words as pertaining to the Bible, and thus generated definitions such as “thee” and “thou” as opposed to the modern “you.” However, if it were the case that the translator

ran the text through and merely found its equivalent in an English Bible, it did not use the most common English translations. The automated translation used both “you” and “thee” in the verse, which is inconsistent treatment of the second-person pronoun. It also translated the word *escudo* literally into shield, while many English translations of the Bible have translated the word into javelin. While I cannot make an accounting for this seeming incongruence, in my translating I would opt not to quibble with the original translators of the Bible and instead selected a single translation of the Bible with which to remain faithful. Thus, I find it is best, when faced with a quotation from such a renowned source as the Bible, to avoid doing my own translations of it but rather to look up an accepted English translation and parallel the references.

The final row takes the underlined phrase from the verse above and submits the phrase alone into the automated translator. Naturally, since no context is given, the translator defaults to generating the most modern interpretation of the phrase. The advantage that a human mind has over a machine is the ability to discern context and intention. Thus, if the pastor were to reference this phrase alone later on in his sermon, the human would be able to recognize the reference back to the original text, whereas the machine cannot make those inferences.

However, while the human mind can sense intention, tone, and direction, the challenge remains in communicating these matters through written word. This brings me to the second stage of analysis in my project—syntax. As anthropologist and transcriptionist Willow Powers writes, “Transcripts are shadowy representations of once-vivid speech” (Powers 11). This is the difficult truth a transcriptionist faces.

A speaker may shout, whisper, linger upon a word, make gestures, scrunch his nose or stomp his feet to clarify a point, whereas a transcriptionist must try to condense all of these nonverbal cues into the limited expressiveness of punctuation. Exclamation marks and question marks take up the role of representing voice modulations that indicated emphasis or interrogation. Periods, commas, colons, and semi-colons join the ranks to help mark various degrees of pauses or slight transitions of tone or thought. A transcriptionist must have an exceptionally attentive ear in order to discern precisely where to place each punctuation mark in order to infuse as much of the nonverbal communication as possible into the written work. Every punctuation mark bears extreme importance as it has the capacity to completely alter the meaning or weight of a sentence. Consider the following sentence without punctuation: “A woman without her man is nothing.” Now, with the addition of one set of punctuation, it becomes “A woman, without her man, is nothing.” While this sentence is hardly flattering to girl-power advocates, feminists may find that an alternate set of punctuation better suits their ideology: “A woman: without her, man is nothing.” While punctuation can’t fill the sentences with all the former color of their spoken forms, it can certainly make big steps in helping to retain their intended meanings.

In addition to punctuation, other syntactic decisions pertained to the importance of exactitude in the correlation between the transcript and the original. Naturally, a transcript mustn’t veer from what was actually spoken to insert an alternate message, nor should they omit sentences. But should minor details be retained, even at the expense of the natural flow of the transcript? In my work I decided to be exceptionally precise in the Spanish transcript portion, recording every “Um” and “Ah” and “I mean”

exactly as it was. This allowed for me to have all the words in writing so that in the translation process I would be sure to read the entire context and later be able to discern whether or not to include the interjections or verbal corrections. This distinction was made because the English documents are targeted for publication, while I considered the Spanish documents as mere reference points for forming the translations. If the Spanish transcripts were to be published, they would need to undergo some editing to tidy up the interjections and repetitions. With regards to referencing Bible verses or the names of individuals, I judged that the most important thing is to be consistent. If I were to guess that his wife's name was spelled "Suzy," every subsequent reference to her ought to be spelled as such. This creates a sense of congruency, but also allows for easy editing later because I can just search the document for all references to "Suzy" and replace them with "Susie" should the pastor correct my spelling.

Increasing in complexity from these syntactic concerns, come the considerations of semantic impact. While spelling and punctuation were the primary concerns in accurately transferring what was spoken into text, when relaying that text from one language to another one must consider the deeper meanings of those words. As discussed earlier, translation is not a matter of transferring individual words from one language to another. The words are merely the medium by which the message is conveyed. It is this message which a translator is ultimately aiming to relay, simply by means of an alternate series of words. Thus, when a translator is considering an original text, they must consider more than the words, but why those were the words

chosen, what alternative means of expression did the speaker reject, who is the intended audience, what is the speaker's tone, etc.

The stereotypical view of Hispanic people being more talkative, passionate, and colorful than their American counterparts may not always hold true, but traces can be seen reflected in the differences between their languages. Spanish takes an average of 12% more words to say the same sentences. Pastor Salazar reflected a typical Latin American approach to talking of God in his generous use of adjectives describing the Almighty's greatness, holiness, goodness, kindness, etc. While in most American households this abundance of Divine descriptors might be seen as excessive or immoderate, it is not uncommon for God's manifold traits to be thus praised on a regular basis in Spanish homes. When making a translation, therefore, I had to consider whether or not to accommodate American cultural norms by modifying the original message. Would an English-speaking reader find the long list of God's characteristics to be tedious or long-winded? This would certainly not be the impact it would leave on the Spanish-speaking audience as a whole. I decided to retain the Spanish descriptiveness because it is my belief that much can be gained from cultural interactions such as this. If it were not so, there would be no reason to translate the work at all, no need for cross-cultural exchanges. But I believe that every culture has precious insight into the world and its Creator that could greatly enhance the understanding of those around them. Thus, I opted to retain the Spanish approach to enumerating God's qualities on the grounds that it portrays potential cultural insight.

In addition to elaborately considering what God is like, the pastor often used repetitions or very slight nuances throughout his sermons. In some instances they were

for the sake of emphasizing or broadening a topic, but in others the repetitions were merely verbal cues of his returning to a topic or slightly modifying what he had begun to say. In these instances, though I recorded them precisely as they were in the transcripts, I would remove the redundancies that I felt were simply serving the purpose of redirecting his listeners back to where his original thought process had been heading, as the written work did not have the same distractions or tangents.

Finally, the last of my semantic considerations dealt with untranslatable concepts. For example, there is no Spanish equivalent to “borrow.” Instead, they say “request loaned.” Likewise, the Spanish have two different pronouns for “you,” *tú* for formal use and *usted* for informal use. Thus, when the pastor mentioned having a conversation between *tú y tú* he was implying an intimate, trusting, informal conversation as opposed to one of formality, distance, and respect that would occur between individuals who called one another *usted*. To translate the pastor’s comment literally and discuss having a “you-and-you conversation” would have none of the intended meaning. Instead, I would insert the implied meaning, suggesting that it was an intimate, comfortable conversation.

Moving even deeper into the translation process, the fourth level of my analysis dealt with pragmatics, or the practical and situational use of words. This influenced English-Spanish crossovers, word order, and word choice. Because the pastor heads a Spanish church in the United States, nearly all of the members also speak English or certainly understand quite a bit. Thus, it is not uncommon for him to make references to English terms in the midst of a sermon. I decided to render the translations entirely in English unless the replaced word was also commonly known by English speakers in

Spanish. For example, many Spanish speakers would know the English word for “Exit,” but few English speakers would readily recognize its Spanish equivalent as *Salida*. Thus, if the pastor were to say “*Ella corrió hacia la Exit*,” I would simply translate “She ran to the Exit.” However, if the replaced word were commonly known, such as “*Ella le dijo* goodbye,” I would make the double translation as “She told him *adios*” because the sentence would not lose its meaning.

Pragmatic sensibilities also played a role in selecting word order. For example, in one sermon the pastor references “*papá y mamá*” but in English it is more customary to reference our parents in the opposite order, saying “Mom and Dad.” Thus, on occasion, I would alter the word order for the sake of retaining fluidity. As long as the original had a natural flow to it, the translation should, too. The exception would be if it were standard in Spanish to mention *mamá* before *papa*, then it would be of note to consider why the speaker opted to break with the norm. These elements of translation require the development of an “ear” in the foreign language. Often times in our childhood grammar courses our teachers would tell us to say things aloud to see if they “felt” right or sounded right. This rudimentary technique is vital in catching the subtle nuances a speaker or author may use to carry even further meaning. To break with what “sounds right” will deliver sub-messages of which good translators are always wary.

Pragmatism also influences word choice. A cultural study would show that Hispanic nations tend to tolerate chauvinistic attitudes, or at least have been slower to eradicate them than the United States. This cultural vantage point can be seen even in the language because all nouns and adjectives have genders. A chair, *silla*, is feminine

and a desk, *escritorio*, is masculine. While the gender assignments of such nouns is generally arbitrary, gender superiority can be seen when groups merge. For example, a group of boys is *chicos* and a group of girls is *chicas*. If the two groups come together for a party, the collective group is called *chicos*, the masculine term. When women and men are in mixed company, they are always verbally addressed in masculine terms. The affect of this is that the pastor often calls upon his *hermano* or *hermanos*, brother or brothers, without ever addressing females. While this treatment is accepted without question in most any Hispanic context, it is generally frowned upon in English to fail to acknowledge both genders. Thus, where the pastor referenced his *hermano*, I have broadened it up to be “brother or sister.”

Word choice was also affected when accommodating already-existing translations. This matter was briefly discussed in the Methodology section in relation to Table 1. The literal translation of a word found in the Spanish verse was translated as something else entirely in English versions of the same verse. While I cannot account for this seemingly jolting disparity in translations, I have elected to concede translation authority to the Biblical scholars who made the translation, assuming that perhaps the original word allows for the dual translations. I faced this same issue with the Spanish word *Jehová*. While the literal translation is, as it would appear, Jehovah, this is not always the contextual use. In the passages where the pastor cited *Jehová*, the English equivalent used was LORD. The reason for this is that the original Hebrew word at the root of these sentences is what is known as the Tetragrammaton, or YHWH. So, while Hebrew-Spanish translators chose to interpret YHWH as *Jehová*, the Hebrew-English translators chose to render it as LORD. Thus, while English-speaking pastors will

reference the name Jehovah as a matter of emphasis or poetic impact, this term is as common in Spanish-speaking sermons as the word “LORD” in English. After doing considerable Biblical research on such matters to verify the origins of the divergence, I found that it was best to remain faithful to the scholars’ interpretations of words as opposed to making modern translations.

The fifth and final element that greatly influenced my translating processes was the factor of transitioning between types of media: the original presentation was in video format, whereas the final English copies were in print. This alteration of medium affects the tone and word choice. This was especially noticeable in three aspects of the language: when the pastor made a reference contingent to being on video, when the words spoken were coupled with gestures or other visual cues that added to the meaning, and when the pastor’s tone or grammar was that of considerably informal nature.

Pastor Salazar took full advantage of delivering his sermons in video format. At various intervals he would tell his audience to listen closely or close their eyes to better imagine a scene. He was very conscious of his time constraints and by the end of the sermons would often reference “these few minutes that remain.” At one point he even began singing and promised to bring in his guitar for a later sermon. While these elements added colorful dimension to the video sermons, they can impede the fluidity of a written document. If a reader were to obediently close their eyes, all communication would be lost. And unless the notes are written on the page, his melodious songs will have little effect from a sheet of paper. In the first drafts of the translations I remained as faithful as possible to these concepts in so long as they didn’t interfere with the

communication of the message. As I reviewed the translations later, however, I found their retention to add little to the document and trimmed several such references out.

Other media-related challenges involved the decisions on whether and how to re-saturate sentences with meaning that was formerly delivered through tone or gesture. An example of this would be the exclamation, “He was this big!” The term “this” is a verbal reference to some sort of gesture the speaker is making in conjunction with the statement. By itself, the comment is ambiguous. It is an accompanying stretch towards the ceiling that clarifies that the man was very tall or a pair of rounded arms around the torso and puffed up cheeks that would imply the man’s rotundity. Without these visual cues, the sentence’s meaning is greatly impaired. Because a translator’s job is to transfer meaning, I feel that adding words to clarify the implications is not unfaithful to the original message. However, because the words were never actually said, a translator has to be exceptionally sensitive to precisely how the speaker would have wanted the message conveyed. While the rounded arm gesture implies obesity, it is hardly the same to say “He was exceptionally overweight” versus “He was a huge fatty.” When in doubt regarding the speaker’s original intentions, it would be best to contact them and ask, if at all possible, otherwise, it is always wisest to err on the least offensive interpretation.

The third and most challenging aspect of translating between media arose as I began to deal with the informal tone with which the pastor spoke. This casual, conversational approach served marvelously in the videos to create an engaging, entertaining, and comfortable dialogue. In the transcription portion of my work I hadn’t needed to give the tone much consideration because I was merely replicating it word-

for-word. However, as I transitioned into the translation half of the project, I realized the dilemma I was facing.

Pastor Salazar's enthusiasm and excitable nature led him to abandon some sentences midway or swerve off onto abrupt tangents. This sort of thing isn't uncommon in spoken language, as we have no backspace button to retrace the steps that we wish to change. As we speak, we merely cut ourselves off and re-establish the stream of thought on the preferred track. In written language however, the sharpness of one's abandonment of a concept is less readily perceived. A reader can be left wandering through a series of confusing or disconnected ideas until they forge their way back into the author's stream of consciousness. A reader has little time or patience for hazy or inaccessible ideas and would just as soon begin another, clearer document than try to follow a disjointed argument. Thus it becomes necessary to tidy up the false starts and tangents so that the written document might retain the same welcoming and comfortable approach that the very conversational tone engendered in the videos.

In addition to tangential comments and verbal corrections, the general grammar structure and word choice often beckoned further attention. The pastor's familiarity and ease before that camera led him to use Spanish terms, slang, and phrases that one might use in the animated banter with a friend where language itself is merely a means for transporting an informal and intimate conversation. This is the sort of tone where, in English, we might hear words such as "ain't," "gotta," or "sorta." The dilemma arose as I had to weigh how important was the precision of the retention of the pastor's voice. The tone does change slightly in transferring "gotta" into "got to" or "must," as the latter words represent less informality. However, if the intention behind the inclusion of such

words in the video was for the sake of familiarity and comfort, adjusting those terms to a more standardized tone helps make a document more readily accessible and thus accomplishes the same goals through different words. Ultimately, I tried to remain as faithful as possible to the pastor's tone while not forsaking fluidity and comprehensibility. Again, the goal is to translate the ideas, concepts, and feelings that were presented, even if the literal words must take on varied forms.

DISCUSSION

Ever since there were languages there has been translation. Whether through brutish gestures, isolated words, or eloquent speeches, intercultural communication is daily sought after. As the world shifts and reorganizes to encompass a global community, it becomes increasingly necessary to be able to communicate with ease as technology renders geographical borders irrelevant.

American society has a history of undervaluing the necessity of understanding multiple languages. Why bother? The United States has been among the most dominating economic and military powers in the world for decades and its influence has infiltrated other cultures to the point where English has become the lingua franca both in business and in entertainment. With so much power and influence, why not just let the other cultures come to us?

The fact of the matter is, they are—but they aren't leaving their heritages behind. As of the 2010 census, there were just over 300 million people living in the United States, a third of which did not label themselves as "white." Of that third, nearly half consider themselves Hispanic. With a population of 48 million Hispanic people, the

United States has the second largest Hispanic community in the world, second only to Mexico. ("Language Use in the United States: 2007")

With such a large Hispanic community, it becomes possible for older generations to live in a Spanish-speaking bubble, going to Spanish grocery stores, visiting Hispanic friends, and attending Spanish churches. In fact, in the 2007 census, the United States published having nearly 281 million residents over the age of five, 19.7% of whom reported speaking a language other than English at home. Just over half of these claimed to speak it "very well," leaving nearly 9% of US residents lost in translation ("Language Use in the United States: 2007"). Once the children are of learning age, however, they are sent to English-speaking schools where they fully integrate and become links between their parents and grandparents and the rest of American society.

These bilingual children represent the possibilities that intercultural exchanges can afford. They link the two cultures, sharing with each the benefits and wisdom of the other. At the Washington Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist church (WASP), these children fill the pews as their parents and aunts and uncles listen attentively to the enthusiastic and animated tones of their Spanish-speaking pastor and the clever and charismatic interpretation of a bilingual church member. These church services are designed to reach the Spanish-only generations, the bilingual youth, and the visitors who speak only English. The church knows that its warm, welcoming environment can nourish hungry souls and seeks to reach out to the community in whatever language will touch their hearts. In keeping with this mission, I proposed a translation project that would help to give the church's Spanish website similar linguistic openness.

As I began to translate the Hope Channel video series, I found myself heavily relying on the tools and tactics I had been taught in my classes. Much has been written on the methodology and techniques of well-executed translations, although I would like to see more literature on the psychological and intuitive processes that must take place in order to disassemble another's thoughts and then faithfully reassemble them in an alternate language.

I found that a major benefit I gained from working on this project was the development of those skills. An extensive amount of analysis of intention and underlying meaning is required when rendering a translation. Though I also greatly benefitted from applying the classroom techniques into a real-world project, it was the psychological training that was of greatest service in preparing me for a future in translation. Best of all, all of that learning generated a series of five sermons that are ready to be published and can help promote the engagement of a multilingual church community online. These sermons could also be sent to other publishers or church organizations to help share some of Pastor Homero Salazar's unique insights.

The transcripts, however, are not as readily publishable. As I used them solely for the sake of having a text copy of what was spoken, I did not smooth over or edit any of the sentences. These texts would require editing before publication, further expanding the work which I have begun. This could open up the beginning of a process of translating all of the website's contents, making even more of the church's resources available to all of the community they so readily embrace.

The translated sermons do not represent the only possible translation of the videos. In a classroom full of over 20 students, a single phrase might yield over a

dozen translations, all of which could be considered “correct.” What marks some as more accurate than others is the contextual interpretation and the fidelity to the original tone. These elements require careful attention to detail and psychological inference. There is a good deal of creativity and instinct involved in translating and as such I cannot claim that my translations are infallible. I studied the sermons, weighed the pastor’s tone and past assumptions and statements, and considered his country of origin and the intended audience as I made my decisions. Translation, like any work of art, can always be modified, fixed, enhanced, or reworked.

This project has helped me to find my interpretive approach and to practice the skills and techniques that will make me an excellent translator. I look forward to delving into further works of translation and engaging deeper with the psychological subtext that pervades all communication.

Throughout the project I became increasingly aware of the limited resources available to me as I began transcribing. Even the most rudimentary of tools I found myself having to discover on my own. I downloaded my own transcription software to speed the transition from playback and typing, I had to ask around to find how to transition my keyboard into Spanish symbols, and avoided the decisions of transcription fidelity by merely typing exact copies of the recording without smoothing anything over because I didn’t feel I had enough literature or guidance to ensure a fair transcript if I were to begin tweaking things.

Transcription technique and decision-making is a topic that I believe warrants further exploration in the language and communication fields. Both international language students who hope to work as translators and journalism students who will

need to type up transcripts of their interviews could greatly benefit from learning even just a few of the techniques I forged along the way. However, if a segment of their classes could be dedicated to training them for this very job-relevant task, it would help prepare them for their future careers.

Because the literature was so limited in this field, I believe this project leaves room for such a study as another future thesis topic. To gather what resources are available such as Willow Powers' book mentioned in the Review of Literature section and then to assemble further research and techniques into a unified document outlining transcription practices would be a substantive resource for language and communication students.

Finally, this project opens up an interesting topic that will continue to gain relevance as public use of mass media continues to grow and develop inter-media translation. In a world that is filled with a plethora of means of communication, the translations of said communications ought to show similar flexibility. I would be interested to see further study on the guidelines and standards that should direct translation efforts that cross over media types. How should the tone of a news announcement be altered as it is published in a magazine? What treatment should a book review receive in a television commercial? I have not yet encountered much literature that considers the effects of forum on the tone of communication and whether that tone ought to be altered if the forum shifts. This would be an excellent topic of study.

In the end, this project has not only benefitted the church that it was done for, but also my own understanding of transcription and translation processes in addition to

opening up several new possibilities for further exploration. Translation is an art that is susceptible to all the changeability of language, psychology, and technology. It is an ever-growing, stretching, adapting science that helps to connect people and ideas. This project marks the beginning of many further pursuits.

SERMON 1—Flesh and Bone

The following program is presented by the Hope Channel Network.

“Sharing the Truth”

“Flesh and Bone”

How’s it going, friends? We’re here once more on “Sharing the Truth” and I would like to take this opportunity to mention that in this little topic, in addition to two others in their time, we will be studying from the word of God some principles that deal with the home and family. And so, as I understand and know that it is a topic that many hope to see from their houses or to be able to receive at least this support, this biblical orientation, we have decided to do this for each of you. We would also like to mention that in the Bible we have a lot of information with relation to the topic of the home and family.

How is it that a man and a woman can form what, according to the word of God, is a marriage, I would say, a sacred family? And so, this point, and others, will be what we are developing. At this moment I would like to ask God for his blessing so that what we touch upon today might be of great help for each one of you. Let us pray for a moment:

All-powerful God, I give you thanks for this wonderful opportunity and let us deliver a clear and Biblical message to the hearts of many people who are seeking answers. There is no better thing than finding those answers in your holy and divine word. Thank you for the presence of your Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, amen and amen.

Alright, we're going to study the word of God and I would like to explain to you something in relation to this. I want to talk to you that if you are looking for answers with relation to the home, the family. And how is it that a home and family starts? You know that the home and family start with two people, two individuals, who at some moment meet by the will of God—and sometimes the will of the man, right, or the woman. The general principles for such—the formation of a marriage and, later, the family—are found in this precious book.

The world can't give you any more accurate information regarding what the home and family are then you'll find in the Holy Scripture. Therefore I want to mention to you that if you are seeking answers for what the roles of the man and woman are within the formation of the home, of their marriage, and also their family, well, the only source of true information is here in the Holy Scriptures.

I'd also like to point out that marriage was of divine initiative. The word of God says so in Genesis 1:27. This is very important for you to know; it says this: "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female he created them." When I tell you today that it was "divine initiative," I'm saying that the ultimate cause of the matter, Who created man and made him in His image and likeness, was God.

Therefore, if He is the Creator, if it was He who gave form to the man and the woman, then He must have all the principles for this marriage, this couple, to be happy. From this point of view, it's also very important that you know that if God is the Creator He is the sustainer of the marriage.

By the way, the word “matrimony,” for those who would like to know where the word was born, is a word composed of “matrix,” which is a Greek word, and the word “mono,” also in Greek. “Matrix” and “mono” would mean “a single matrix” and from there we understand marriage (matrimony) to be heterosexual between a man and a woman.

God created man and woman so that they could be happy and God’s promise was to sustain them so that they could live happily on this Earth. Now, if marriage was made by divine initiative, that means then that we can turn to Him as a source of information to know what the principles are—what should I know as a father, husband, and priest? And I think that each of us should try to concentrate on this role in a very clear manner regarding marriage.

God created it and He created it from the beginning as a heterosexual relationship between a man and a woman. Unfortunately, things aren’t like that today. Unfortunately, since around 1970, it has become normal to see this great awakening relating to the topic of that little word that is the enemy of marriages, and I’m referring to divorce. But also in these last years there is a broadening acceptance of what are known as homosexual tendencies or inclinations or practices. Well, I want you to know that Biblically, these practices, these tendencies, are not considered normal within the divine plan of creation. I also want you to know that it is very important that you understand the Biblical principles that are practically laid out in the first three chapters of the book of Genesis.

I would also like to point out something else. Beyond knowing that God is the beginning, God is the Creator, God is the One who created us in His image and

likeness, man and woman He created us. I would like to point out that God created marriage so that we needn't die in solitude. God has given man the opportunity, because man is a social being, to be social in a very special way with one person whom the man chooses as his wife. And what is it that the word of God says? In Genesis 2:18-22, look what the word of God says:

The LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.' Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

This is glorious. I sometimes imagine what that special moment might have been like when God gave this gift to Adam. Darwin can't tell this sort of thing. Evolution can't tell it. This is a Biblical story; this is a story of Biblical truth. Evolution requires faith, and this too requires faith.

Now, what the Bible is telling us here, these texts that we have read, are texts that help us to understand that the God of Heaven who took the initiative to create us also gave us the opportunity to be happy and not die of loneliness. I talk of dying of loneliness because that happens to me sometimes when my wife travels or when I

travel for some engagement or evangelistic crusade—sometimes I feel alone. And this loneliness—well, of course we are with Christ and we're accompanied by angels and we have the protection of God—but here on this earth God has given us the opportunity to have a dear woman, a “suitable helper,” and in a very special way I'm talking about my wife whom I love with all my heart.

So then it remains to say that God not only creates man out of divine initiative, but He also solves a problem for man. “It is not good for man to be alone.” If you had to imagine that moment of the encounter of Adam and Eve... The Bible is concise, of course, because if it weren't, can you imagine? The account would be so long! (John at some point wrote, saying of all the things that Christ did, that if they were all to be written down, there wouldn't be enough books.) But God has given us a tremendous example of love and romance. If we had to imagine the encounter of Adam and Eve—what would that moment have been like?

Poor Adam, certainly tired from naming all the animals, below a tree, realizes that he has no partner. And there the Lord finds, beneath that tree, the sad Adam. And God, as loving Father, makes him sleep, because God has realized that it is not good for man to be alone.

And do you know why it's not good for you to be alone? Because God intended it to be that way. Because God has made us social beings. He has given us the opportunity to pair up and multiply in this world, to be happy, and to participate with God in the creation process. And I definitely think that's why God wants man's happiness. And one of those things is that man not be alone.

I don't know if you've already found your partner, if I'm talking to a youth. I don't know if you've already found your partner, if I'm talking to a woman, whether you've already fulfilled that part of your life or if some people have become accustomed to living in their singleness. And perhaps as they live out that singleness, they're fighting a loneliness that's killing them. There are so many singers today that have sung precisely about that loneliness that so often kills our peace.

But God has created woman and man so that they might be one (and we'll talk about that in a moment), but I want you to know that God wants you to find your partner. It is very important because God has determined it to be so. When Adam met Eve—can you imagine the beauty? Can you fathom the happiness? Right there when Adam met Eve, God gave man happiness.

And here is another very interesting principle that we can also discover in the word of God: and it's just that—God has created man that he might be happy. So it says in Genesis 2:23, look at what the word of God says: "Then Adam said, this is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called woman because she was taken out of man." Now, imagine: Adam meets Eve. I don't know if he woke up at that moment, I don't know how God arranged that moment, but the point is that they met each other.

I don't know if you remember—when you first met, those who are married, and fell in love with the woman who would become your wife, or when you, ladies, fell in love with the guy—how it was, how much excitement there was in your heart as it beat and you said "Wow!" And you dreamed of him and saw him everywhere. Well, this happened to me too. I think Adam and Eve's meeting was also something special.

Once Adam saw that woman, he overflowed with joy. And then he said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called woman.”

See, I think this is the first song, the first shout of victory, of happiness, of joy, that was heard in heaven. Or perhaps it was maybe even the first special power that was sung in heaven. Can you imagine? I would like to imagine... (singing) “This is now boone of my boones, fleesh of my fleeeesh...” Well, I don’t know what the melody would have been like, but how wonderful to realize that she forms part of you. God gave man the possibility to be happy. The first love song that was heard in heaven— What would it’s title have been? “Bone of My Bones”? “Flesh of my Flesh”? “Woman”? Whatever it was, God gave man the possibility to be happy.

And here I will make a brief parenthesis because here, too, enters the sexual element. The sexual element, when in the holy state of matrimony where one person loves another and they complement one another, is very important. And God created man and gave him sex so that he could be happy—happy! But there are many people who suffer and don’t know how to enjoy their sex lives within the Biblical parameters and principles. God gave us sex so that we could be happy. In the first place, it’s the only way in which we can completely complement and unify each other as man and woman. And that’s why sex makes us one—one—one in emotions, one in spirit, one physically. And God gave us sex to enjoy. We’re one, and second it’s pleasurable. God set up this holy and pure pleasure so that we could enjoy it in the framework of the holy state of matrimony. But God also gave us marriage so that we could be co-participants with Him in the creation. When the husband puts forth his seed and the wife hers, what happens? A little baby is born, a child, and the word of God says that

“children are a heritage from the Lord” (Psalm 127:3). Therefore, God has given us marriage so that we can be happy. He created it, He solved our loneliness problem, and He, according to His holy word, has also granted us marriage so that we might be happy.

Another important point that I would like to highlight in the space that remains is that for you to be happy you have to respect the Biblical principles regarding marriage. And I’m not going to use many texts right now, I just want to show you one Biblical text that helps us to understand at least three principles that make a marriage happy and that do so by complying with the will of God. Look what the word of God says here in Genesis 2:24, look what it says (and note what I have underlined): “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” Here you find three important principles that you should have in mind in order to have a happy marriage.

The first principle is in the word “leave.” He will “leave his father and mother.” That means when it says leave it means *leave*. That means you must cut off, not the relation in its entirety, but rather the dependence that you have on your parents. There are many youths and many people who start their marriages and they aren’t able to sever that relationship. And there are also parents who aren’t willing for that relationship to end. From the moment that the man decides to get married, decides to choose a woman as his wife, well, all other relationships take second place. And this has brought many struggles to marriages. Perhaps today someone who is reading this might be saying “Yes! This is the problem that I have. My husband continues to depend on his mom and dad.” Or perhaps the husband is saying, “Yes. This is the

problem that I have—my wife is still depending and whatever they say is what must be done.”

This is a very delicate topic. It has produced tremendous divisions when the parents meddle in their children’s marriage in order to continue the education, guidance, and dependency of their children. When you are mature enough to get married, you must first think of this principle: leave all other relationships as secondary. Your relationship with your friends becomes second; your relationship with your parents becomes second. Your parents become your extended family. Now your first priority is your wife. Or if you’re the wife, your husband. If you haven’t understood this principle, if you fail to fulfill any of these principles from this single text, you will have tremendous problems. God—He who created man and woman, He who gave us marriage to solve the problem of loneliness and so that we may be happy—God has said: “He shall leave his father and mother.” Are you willing to leave? Please, think about this. There is much more that I could say about this but there just isn’t enough time. Nonetheless, think about this and evaluate yourself to see if you are truly doing things as they ought to be done.

The next principle that we find is essential. It says “and he will be joined with his wife.” I’m trying to study a bit this word “joined” in the Hebrew verb. The Hebrew verb is *dabaq* which could mean the following, look what I noted: stick or adhere, stay together, remain firm, carry on with firmness, persevere in, take, catch amid persecution. *Dabaq* is the verb that appears where it says “joined,” but I really like the idea of *dabaq* that appears in the New Testament as sticking, as if it were glue. But there’s something more. The expression could give the idea of sticking, of unifying, as

in welding. Do you know what welding is? When you weld something and these two irons join, they come together. Well, that's *dabaq*- sticking.

Now, focus on what I'm going to say here. When you are *dabaq*, when you are joined as in welding, when you separate one metal from another (and this has been a problem since 1970 with relation to divorce in this country of North America and all the contagion that North America has brought to our countries, the fashionableness of divorce, the destruction of marriage through divorce), when you get divorced you are breaking metal. And you know something, the metal is united. And when it breaks, the damage is on both sides of the metal. So, divorce is not a solution to marital problems. There are cases when the Bible presents an exception for divorce due to adultery. Even so it is a decision that people make consciously and individually. But divorce is not a solution. I believe that the Holy Spirit of God has been given so that we could find a way to salvage our marriages and not induce this pain that divorce causes on both sides.

And now my friend, pay special attention. Now I want to talk to you about the third principle. There is much more to be said about the topic of being united. And you know about the physical, emotional, and spiritual union where the husband and wife come to an intimacy such that the husband would never scoff at the thoughts or ideas of his wife, and vice versa. There is an intimacy there, they have come to a level of communication. But there is a third word that I would like to mention in this last bit that is very important. Note what it says, the principle is "and he will be joined to his wife and they shall be," what does it say? "One flesh." And here there are many men who say "Ah, this is the best part about marriage." Yes, this is the part that we like best

about marriage, of course. But this part doesn't only imply sexual union. This part implies emotional union, spiritual union. You know something, the world doesn't operate on these principles, brothers and sisters. These principles are completely biblical.

If you had to seek advice from the world today regarding marriage, they will applaud divorce, they will applaud homosexuality. Today the world would tell you that if you have a sexual preference for a man and you're a man, marry the man. And if you're a woman, marry a woman. And now there are clerics who are marrying people in this way. At some point laws will want to legislate in some way. On one hand the concept of marriage has changed and they are now saying that everyone who lives happily with someone else can form a family. And so I wonder about the tremendous conflicts when two homosexual people adopt a child or want to have a baby. I want you to know how dysfunctional problems arise for the coming generations. This dysfunction is destroying the Biblical concept of marriage and it is destroying humanity. Today you don't see it, today you don't understand. You see any person of that level on TV. You see any person of X sexual preference promoting him- or her-self. But I will tell you one thing, it is not normal. It is not what God created.

Yes, they have rights, of course they do. And they have the right to salvation. But it isn't normal. It isn't what God created. We don't understand that sin has damaged our race and we are little by little destroying this marvelous concept, the marvelous principle, the marvelous creation that God made in the heterosexual marriage between a man and a woman. Today we can't see the consequences, but

later we will see the terrible consequences of this situation of choosing to divert from the Biblical principles that God has left in His holy and divine word.

I'm speaking as a father, as a husband, as a pastor, as a preacher of the gospel. My friend, no matter what your sexual preference, the Holy Spirit is the power of God that transforms people from the inside out. And you have the chance to draw upon that Holy Spirit. He has the power to transform you. He has transformed lives—prostitutes transformed, homosexuals transformed, collapsing marriages transformed. The Holy Spirit has the power to do it. You need to draw upon this spirit of God and you need to return to the principles that God set forth. Give Him your desires, give Him your feelings of guilt, give your life to Jesus Christ and you will understand and be able to see and perceive that He has the power to transform even sexual preferences.

But when marriage was created, my friend, it was created by God. God knows the principles and God knows that each marriage should be a faithful reflection of the vision that God had for us to be happy, to bless society, and to make our world better. I doubt you would think that the world is better because we have strayed from the will of God. If you think the world is better because we have wandered from the will of God, you are totally wrong. You don't know reality.

Therefore to sum up, I would like to simply remind you that God is a God of love. And He doesn't want for man to get divorced. Look what Proverbs 6:32 says: "Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; he *who* does so destroys his own soul." And I want to finish with this, with Ephesians 5:31-32. Look what the word of God says: "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." And it goes on, "This is a great mystery, but I

“speak concerning Christ and the church.” Friend, God has done something special, He has done something special for you. He has given you the biblical texts that set out the principles for a happy marriage. I ask you, Will you return to the arms of God? Consider this. And, please, live happily fulfilling the will of God. God bless you.

SERMON 2—Mother—A Sacred Word

The following program is presented by the Hope Channel network.

“Sharing the Truth”

“Mother—A Sacred Word”

How are you, friends? Thank you for giving us yet another opportunity to keep in touch through “Sharing the Truth.” This is a great opportunity and today is a very special day and I’ll explain why shortly, but we’re going to open the Bible. Today we’re going to share the word of God with a topic that I’m sure you’re going to enjoy in a very special way: our moms. So then, if you’d let me, I would like to pray with you before opening the word of the Lord:

All-powerful God, I thank you for this wonderful opportunity to be gathered together with our friends, each one, Lord, in their place, whether it be at work or at home, listening to this program. Not only guide them, but also inspire them to live in your presence. Thank you for giving us this wonderful opportunity to share the truth with them. Bless the study of your word this hour, we ask in the powerful name of Jesus Christ, Amen and Amen.

Very good. I would like to set apart this lesson to talk about that woman who you likely just saw passing by carrying a plate or with a broom or dusting the shelves or, perhaps, with a basket of clothes to go wash. I’m talking specifically about “Mom.” It’s a beautiful word, isn’t it? How do you feel when you hear the word “mom”? Or “Mother”? Or “Mommy,” as some say. What comes to mind when you hear that

beautiful word? You know, to my mind, it's a sweet word and, in a way, I could even say a sacred word.

There's a poem out there that said that there's only one Mom who with kisses bathes us, who sings to us in the cradle, who never deceives us—a woman that is all sweetness and gentleness. Well, I am going to talk about mothers today. Obviously I'll be speaking about women in a very special way—the majority of them either are mothers or want to be mothers. But it's not Mother's Day today, so why am I talking about moms? Because I believe that within the home, within the concept of being a functional and happy home, not only the father has a huge responsibility, but the mother, too, has a huge responsibility. And there's much to be said in respect to that, but the time simply won't allow for us to cover everything. But I do want to say, brothers and friends, that God loves mothers and God has a special concern for them. If you're a mom and you're listening somewhere and you're going through hard times right now, suffering because your children don't understand you, your husband doesn't understand you, or you have a disease that's consuming you from the inside and maybe you're lying sick in bed—I want to tell YOU, sweet mother, God loves you. And God hasn't forgotten that you exist. And God has an answer for your prayers.

And now, woman, prepare yourself because the first text that I'm going to use is talking about you. Look what the Word of God says in Proverbs 14:1, look what it says; “The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.” Did you understand? “The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.” Here the Bible is presenting you with two types of women. One of them uses wisdom—and you may be wondering “and what is

wisdom?” I’m going to tell you some things that wisdom might be. Wisdom is common sense. Wisdom is emotional maturity. Wisdom is that ability to discern between good and bad. There are many characteristics of wisdom; there are many characteristics of a person that is spiritually mature or emotionally mature. By the way, the Bible talks of spiritual intelligence. Today they talk a lot in psychology about emotional intelligence, but there can be no emotional intelligence without spiritual intelligence. And a woman needs that wisdom. And of course there are many women, as I said in an earlier program, who aren’t functioning correctly because the values that were projected upon them since they were little aren’t the right values. Or because the society that they lived in didn’t transmit the important values and they are suffering because sometimes they don’t know what to decide, how to act, or how to direct and educate their children. But you know what, the wise woman, the woman who is spiritually mature, who is emotionally mature as a result of her spiritual maturity, builds her house. But the woman that is not wise, the foolish one, destroys hers.

About this aspect I want to say that there are important things for a woman to have in mind regarding motherhood. I could have titled today’s topic, “Wife, Mother, and Priestess.” I could have done it that way, because the woman is wife first of all. The woman has, as her primary function, like her husband, to love her spouse. To love her husband, to disassociate from the rest (the man shall leave his father and mother, the woman shall leave her father and mother), and all other relationships go second because the primary relationship for a wife is her husband.

And now that wife who is wise, that wife who has developed wisdom, by the way, doesn’t think she’s all that. The only way to develop wisdom is through what? Through

the word of God, through the reception of the Holy Spirit in your heart. The Holy Spirit is what will help you understand that your husband must come first for you—after God, of course—in your set of values. So it's important that you develop that wisdom in order to fulfill your duties as a wife first, later as a mother, and finally as a priestess of your household. The sweetness of a mother is very important. The projection of appreciation, of affection, and of the warmth of a mother towards her children is very important for the building of her home to be a complete, full, and harmonious construction. But the foolish woman doesn't take these elements into account. The proverb says that the foolish woman destroys, practically demolishes with her own hands, her own home.

I want to tell you women that when the Bible speaks of you and specifically of mothers, of wives and mothers, it uses many beautiful texts that I'm not going to be able to share with you today, but I want you to keep in mind that the word "mother" is very meaningful in the Biblical context. For example, grandmothers are also called mothers. "Mother" was also used to speak of the mothers of the cities. The principal cities used the word "mother." Also, in Revelation you see Jerusalem as the mother of the cities, but Babylon as the mother of the lost cities.

Now, it's also very important to understand regarding mothers that they don't just fulfill important household duties, but rather that mothers are also an essential element for their husbands and children. The mother who stays on the path of God, who continues to live beneath the lordship of Jesus Christ and the wisdom of God, is a mother who, by transmitting her values to her children, can harmonize, educate, and

build the characters of her children so that they too might be functional people in this world.

The mother of whom I speak, the mother of the Bible, can come to be a “virtuous woman.” There is a proverb which is Proverbs 31 that begins by saying, “A virtuous woman, who can find?” And some of you might be thinking, as a one of our brothers once said to me, “I have found her, pastor!” Yes, well, there are virtuous wives that can be found. And there are some beautiful characteristics in these virtuous women, they are fearful of God, they don’t use everything up, and they don’t delight in wasting time and killing time, but rather are dedicated to building themselves up in order to project values for their children. They’re also dedicated to projecting the love and sweetness and tenderness for that mind, that child, to grow up healthy.

How many virtuous women do we have around us? Perhaps you have a virtuous woman in your house. And you see this virtuous woman that you have in your house pass by or maybe you have to call her up to tell her today, “Mom, look, I heard the message by Pastor Homero and I’m calling to tell you that I’m happy that you’re my mom because you’ve given me this, you’ve given me that, I value this, I value that...” And there’s a proverb, Proverbs 31, where in the last part it says that when a woman acts with wisdom it says that, “Her children rise up and call her blessed.” And do you know who else praises her? Her husband. The children and the husband rise up to praise this woman.

Now, my friend, you might be saying, “Could it be possible that my children and my husband would praise *me*? But if I have this character... look at the character I have. Look what happens with me. I get angry quickly. I’m not the organized woman

my husband hoped I would be. I didn't prepare myself either—I don't know how to cook delicious meals and I'm not properly nourishing my children....” Another woman might be saying, “But look, I'm working because the world is pushing us both to be out working and I can't spend large amounts of time with my children. Someone else is raising my children and I am so sad. I have a lot of burdens of guilt because of it. What can I do?” Look, women, the wisdom of God, the wisdom of God is not something that just happens overnight and suddenly you're wise. Throughout the course of life there are many things that will teach you so that you can be a wise woman.

Remember your first role: you're a wife. This is a very important element. And as I once explained, as a wife you need to make time for your husband. It's important that you, with tenderness, with love, dedicate yourself to him. It's important that you show him your affection. It's important that you be attentive to your husband. You're not a slave. You weren't taken from the feet so that your husband could walk all over you. But neither were you taken from the head so that you could think you were the maximum authority, the head hauncho, of the house—no! You were taken from the ribs so that you could be a suitable helper for your husband. A “helper” is the same word (*ezer kénégo*) that is used to describe God as our sustainer and helper. You are a woman who can develop in your life this capacity to be a companion for your husband.

I have found women who say “But it's just that my husband doesn't talk. He just comes home, sits in front of the television, and doesn't converse. To get him to say a word you have to pull it out with a corkscrew!” It's true. Not all husbands are the same. Not all husbands are extroverted. Not all husbands are affectionate, attentive, and full of good words. And perhaps there are even, as an old evangelist said, husbands of just

one word: “I said I loved her the day I married her” and her never tells you again. There’s no flowers, no roses, no affection. You might say, “I live with a man like that.” Look, the true love of God can help you learn how to live with him. It’s true. There are many men that aren’t even going to change their attitudes, but God says, “My daughter, I am at your side. I can help you understand with wisdom and accept that we aren’t all the same.” Sometimes you’ll say, “But he has to change!” And of course he can change, if the man also predisposes himself to receive the power of God, he can change. But you can’t suffer for this and blame yourself for it.

You need to trust in God and slowly, with tenderness, with prayer, with intercession, you’ll help your husband to begin changing his attitude. But above all, there is something special when a husband sees his wife in prayer. There’s something special when a husband sees his wife kneeling before the Lord. There is something special seeing the wife guide the children, too, towards godly things.

You can’t end up being infected by the world and being a permissive mother who, when your husband sets some sort of norm, you don’t follow it or when you set a norm your husband doesn’t follow it—there must be harmony between the two. You have to get past the childish phase because you’re parents now. And you have to agree to do it. “Yeah, but my husband won’t even agree with me.” You need orientation. The church gives orientation. Seek out moments, look for places where you can go together to build yourselves up in order to better educate your children. There is a lot of literature, many great books, that orient Christians. Our church produces Christian books that orient you so that you can improve yourself in that way. But above all else, the Bible provides orientation. I think you should consider this in order to overcome all

these things. And understand that many times our frustrations come when we want everyone to be that same as us and it's not that way. You get frustrated because the other isn't living according to your expectations. When you understand that we're all different and when you receive the power of God's love, then you will be able to understand that your husband may have this way of being because of his temperament, or his character, or because he suffered as a child and is projecting that, but the power of God transforms those things. With time and tenderness and with affection and your dedication to God, your husband can be transformed by the Lord. But, please, you have to act with wisdom. You can't be like that foolish woman who, with her own hands, goes about destroying her house. Although you won't believe me, you'll say, "Pastor, come on," this is so important that I want you to, please, to go back over this sermon. Maybe you will, maybe you won't, but whatever you choose, you now know the Biblical principle: the virtuous woman is praised. Proverbs 31 will tell you the whole thing, but she is praised by her children and husband.

There's something more that I want to share with you in respect to the virtuous woman. The virtuous woman, who is a responsible woman, projects her values to her children. She is a woman who also, how shall I say, produces virtuous women. There's a Bible text that I admire very much from the experience of one of the youngest pastors in the Bible—Timothy. And I want to show you here how the power of being virtuous women passes from generation to generation. Look what the word of God says in 2 Timothy 1:5, look what it says: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also." Are you reading this? Timothy was a young pastor whom the apostle St.

Paul chose to be able to send to pastor some churches. But this young man was raised since he was young—note the connection—by his mother Eunice. But Eunice, who transmitted her spiritual values of faith to her son, was raised by a mother who was Lois. Lois passed on her values to Eunice and Eunice passed them on to Timothy and Timothy became a minister for the Lord, guided by the Holy Spirit. Why? Because these values were passed on from generation to generation. And here is a principle, here is a principle: A wise woman builds her house, the foolish woman destroys it with her hands. The virtuous woman is praised by her husband and by her children. But when a woman receives the blessing and power of the Holy Spirit, that woman passes on her values to the generations that come. And the transmission of values bears fruits and these fruits are learned and perceived by a child and thus they go on being projected from generation to generation.

Now, what happens when a woman doesn't know her role? When a woman doesn't understand these elements? What a woman lets herself be carried away by the world and its pleasures through this or that habit or custom that just help her kill time? What happens when a woman doesn't develop her character from the point of view of building herself up in order to later project. What happens?

She's a woman that is dysfunctional. She doesn't function. And that projection of values is going to be more like anti-values than values. A woman like that is practically destroying the next generation. My dad, although he wasn't a particularly "well-lit" man in the spiritual aspect, once wrote a poem that started like this: "Forgive me, mothers, for what I'm about to say, forgive me for what this spring chicken thinks," said part of the poem, "but there are mothers with rough looking faces who couldn't be

bothered to put make-up on.” He said that and I don’t know if it ended in verse or prose but the point is that there are many things that women miss out on for the sake of passing on good values to their children. Time and make-up: there are many people who dedicate too much time to make-up and very little time in orienting and passing on values to their children. TV shows: TV shows are another way to kill time. It’s the same drama, the same story as always. And one hour, two hours, four hours and “don’t you touch my TV show because if you do I’ll get angry and I’ll be upset with everyone in the family.” Woman, TV shows don’t put food on the table. TV shows aren’t going to build up your character. If you continue using your time to watch all these programs and movies and series, they are probably conditioning you to act like they do in those shows. Because there are women who, in a fight with their husband or a situation with their children, act as if they were being filmed! And maybe they’re there and they act and go and move and this and that and they aren’t realistic! Why? Because they’re living in a surreal world, taking up attitudes taught to them by the television.

So what happens with these women? These women are being instruments for what? For destroying the harmony with which their children should be growing up: the spiritual harmony, the emotional harmony, the physical harmony, and the physical nutrition of their children. And why not? They’re not preparing their children to face the society that’s coming. So, woman, you have in your hands the wisdom of God. You have in your hands the word of God that shows you how to do things and what your role is, first as wife, then as mother, as protector of your children, and, why not, also as a spiritual woman who fulfills her priesthood within the home.

I am one of those people who would have loved to see my parents grow old walking about the center square in the neighborhood or city where I live, as I so often saw when I passed by the plazas. I saw little old people holding hands, and I wanted—I dreamt of—that idea. But unfortunately my home was destroyed. It was destroyed by foolishness. Foolishness. To a large degree, my father didn't take his responsibilities seriously. He didn't pass on values. So we were practically abandoned by our father, orphans in a way, although he was still alive. He died when he was 47 and left us orphaned and our mother widowed. And she did all she could, she always did the impossible to see her children emerge from all this. I can tell you one thing: If I were to tell you that I have met a virtuous woman, that woman would be Clara Luz Elena. I'm speaking of my mother. My shining-faced mother, as I called her. My beloved mom: sweet, tender, capable of the divine wisdom, the divine wisdom to take on the roles of both father and mother in the most difficult times when we were entering adolescence and how terrible I was. I was terrible—as a son I made her suffer greatly. Someday I will tell you all these stories, but this little mother of mine, my mommy, that mother who suffered much but never loved anyone else even when my father didn't act as he ought to have done. She loved him to the end and now the two of them are buried together, both in the same place, because she said, "Not even death is going to separate us." She loved him so much, so much, my friend, but she also projected that love onto us. She loved us and spoke to us with tenderness, with sweetness. When she needed to be firm, she was firm. Because the last time she let me have it I was 19 years old. I was a military man and everything. And you're thinking "A military man getting it..." but

there was Mom. She was still a mom. But all the same she was sweet and tender with me. That is why today I'm paying homage to my mother.

Maybe you don't have the same experience. Maybe you haven't had a mom, or you were orphaned at a young age or maybe the mother that you have isn't being the virtuous woman that the Bible speaks about. Please, if this is your reality, pray to the Lord. It was my lot to have a wonderful mother and I remember her and I love her. Maybe that wasn't your experience; maybe you don't have a mother like that. Please, pray to the Lord. Cry out to God. Tell him, "Lord, grant my mother wisdom so that she might be a virtuous woman and learn." But you know what, above all else I recommend that in some way, whether you're Christian or not, you understand that there is only one way that God can transform someone's life, a mother's life into one that is holy and pure. If you don't have a Christian mother, this is your opportunity. I think that the next great gift you can give her is to buy her a Bible. And if you have a mother that is Christian, please call her on the phone and tell her, "Mom, you are a virtuous woman. I have a virtuous woman in my life and it's my mother." That's what you can say. Please, and if you are a mom, be careful not to neglect the gift that there is within you. God wants to bless your life. God wants you to be a holy mother, set apart for Him. God bless you.

SERMON 3—Lord, Teach Us to Pray

The following program is presented by the Hope Channel network.

“Sharing the Truth”

“Lord, Teach Us to Pray”

Hello, friends, how are you doing? We’re here once again on “Sharing the Truth” to grow. Grow—that is what truth does for our hearts—it makes them grow in Jesus Christ. In this opportunity we’re going to discuss a topic that is very beautiful and special, very sweet. And so I would like for us to open this moment, as we are accustomed to doing, with a prayer of blessing. Let’s pray. Bow your head where ever you are.

All-powerful and eternal God, we give you thanks for this great opportunity to be in your presence and to be able to share the truth with those that are anxious to know it. I pray, Lord, that your Holy Spirit can be with us so that as we open Your holy and divine word we might be filled with that bread of life, that spiritual nourishment, that strengthens our hearts. Thank you for Your presence, in the name of Christ Jesus, Amen and Amen.

Alright, I would like to take this opportunity to pause to talk about something that has to do with the Christian life. There are many lovely things in the Christian life and I’m sure you realize that we can live the Christian life joyfully, happily, enjoying it to the maximum because Christ has given us that liberty, the marvelous liberty of the grace of Jesus. But we would also like to pause to consider an important element regarding what it means to be a happy Christian, what makes us happy Christians. And what I

want to share with you is one of the huge characteristics (and that's saying a lot)—huge characteristics. Do you know what we're going to talk about? Today we're going to talk a bit about prayer, communion with God. And I know that many religions and many idealists and philosophers have demonstrated, or have wanted to show, that the best way to live and enjoy life is through meditation, through entering in zones where one can transcend towards the metaphysical, towards the "ohm," those sorts of things. I'm not talking about that. I want to talk to you about simple prayer, which is so sweet, so ours as Christians, which helps us to live victorious and powerful lives in the Lord. And so we're going to set aside a little bit of time to talk about this. Of course, I understand that you already know that reading the word of God is what strengthens our spiritual lives. And of course sharing it with others, sharing the truth with others, is the projection, the result, of living a life of communion and of reading the word of God—of having a constant giving of the word of God. But today I would like to talk to you about prayer in a different dimension. And that's why we're going to open the word so that it can show us some things. We're going to learn something today.

For example, you recall, Jesus once arrived at the home that he so often visited because he found dear friends in that home. And surely you'll remember the home of Martha, Lazarus, and Mary. On that occasion, Jesus did beautiful things in that home. That's why Jesus was the friend of Martha, Lazarus, and Mary. This little village of Bethany that was just a few kilometers from Jerusalem was where Jesus found a place to lay his head. And Jesus also found friends there who received him with joy and happiness. (I often ask myself, "How have you received Jesus in your home?") I am happy that the Bible has a place as special as the home of Lazarus, Martha, and Mary.

The Bible only mentions the three of them. The Bible doesn't mention the parents of Lazarus, Martha, and Mary that they may have had. But whatever the case, that's a whole topic in itself, talking about Lazarus, Martha, and Mary.

But there is something that happens one day when Jesus comes to visit them. And you know that the Bible says that Jesus arrives (he was already their friend) and in a moment's notice they are welcoming Jesus inside and, Jesus being there, Martha says, "Master, I'll fix you something delicious." And so she goes to the kitchen while Mary, already accustomed to touching Jesus' feet (that's another huge topic—the feet of Jesus), Mary, accustomed, goes and looks for a vessel to wash Jesus feet. And Mary stays by Jesus' side. And you recall that Martha and Mary, that in the moment, Martha and Mary listened to what Jesus was explaining to them. Martha and Mary listened to what Jesus was telling them regarding how the Pharisees and Sadducees and Samaritans were treating him; how they had rejected him. And we're talking about just a short time before Jesus was taken to Calvary. Then Jesus needed communion, he needed to communicate what he was feeling to his friends.

And the Bible says that Jesus sat down there to talk to them, Mary listened, and Martha listened to him for a while, too. But Martha was stressed as she made the dough for the bread that she had promised Jesus. And then, as would happen, I imagine Martha couldn't find the salt. And when she couldn't find the salt she started to get uptight. You know how Marthas are, they're very snappy, very annoying sometimes: they do good things, but you'll pay afterwards. And what did Martha do next? She was looking for the salt and didn't find it, surely, and so just got upset. She stopped listening to what was happening in the other room. So she got upset and

certainly went to where Jesus and Mary were, and Jesus and Mary were talking. And I think Mary was more listening to Jesus than anything else, but what's important is that they were in communion. And why is this moment important? Because Jesus is going to teach us something that has to do with prayer. And this is awesome, you know why? Because Martha comes directly to where Jesus is and says to him, "Lord, do You not care?" She's asking Jesus to pay attention! "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." That's awful. Sometimes Marthas can step out of line in some things. But now I want you to see what the Bible says here in Luke chapter 10, look what verses 41 and 42 say, look how Jesus replied to her: "But the Lord answered and said to her, 'Martha, Martha, you worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary.'" Look, I want you to underline this part: "Only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her." Now, my brother or sister, hear me out, my friend, listen to what I'm saying: After this event (where Jesus is saying that this part won't be taken from her because Mary has chosen the better part) is where this beautiful chapter about prayer, chapter 11, is introduced.

And that is what we're going to talk about now. Yes, it's about the "good part" that won't be taken from us, that not even God can take from us. What is it that we can learn? What can we learn from Jesus—the expert in prayer? From Jesus, He who talks with his Father "cara a cara," face-to-face, the expert in prayer? Look what the Bible text says now in chapter 11, according to St. Luke, verses 1-4. Let's read what the word says:

Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, *that* one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.” So He said to them, “When you pray, say:

Our Father in heaven,
 Hallowed be Your name.
 Your kingdom come.
 Your will be done
 On earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us day by day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our sins,
 For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.
 And do not lead us into temptation,
 But deliver us from the evil one.”

Now I want to point out this detail. We’ve read these first four verses, but I want you to see this detail: the prayer doesn’t end there. In Matthew the prayer says something more. The final part says, “For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory.” But in this prayer in Luke where it’s reciting “The Lord’s Prayer,” something very interesting comes up. The prayer is cut off. And do you know what Jesus is going to bring up in this prayer? He’s going to introduce a parable. And this is the detail that I want to spotlight today, learning to pray as Jesus taught us. Look at the detail of this parable and we’re going to see now in verses 5, 6, 7, and 8; look what the Word says:

And He said to them, “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine

has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.

And now we've seen it, we've read it completely. You've seen the well-known "Lord's Prayer," and now the parable is inserted. Why does Jesus do this? Well, the disciples are restless; they want to learn; they're like children who are seeking answers. And why do they ask? Why do they want to learn? Because they've seen him pray. They've seen Jesus pray, they've seen, they've heard his prayers and surely the disciples have compared prayers. His prayers aren't tedious and long like those of the Pharisees. They're not the prayers of the pagans, filled with agitation and murmurings and unintelligible shouts. It is the prayer of Jesus Christ to his Father—moments of communion, from the expert of prayer, from Him who is going to teach us how we must pray and, more than that, at the end I am going to tell you something secret that has to do with prayer. To truly follow Jesus for the disciples was something wonderful, it was like being in a fairy tale. When did they ever imagine they would see so many miracles? When did they ever imagine that they were going to see the sea calm itself? When did they ever imagine that they were going to see the dead rise? Jesus has something much, much better than Wonderland. To follow Jesus, to them meant to learn to live the Christian life with the strength, with the joy, with the happiness that Jesus lived it.

My friends, we find something special in the prayer that Christ is teaching us. And I think that here in this point, in this detail that we're studying, we're going to see that Jesus' intention in introducing this parable is specific. What is it that Jesus is trying to show us with the parable of a friend who is visited by another and that goes to the house of this father? Now, orient yourselves a little; let's go to this father's house. He goes to this father's house and knocks on the door—*bang, bang, bang, bang* at the door and says, "Friend! Friend, please! Open the door, help me! I need you to give me bread because I don't have any to give to a friend who came to visit me on a trip." He insists and calls and calls. And how many of us have put ourselves in this same position? We're there calling out as if God didn't hear us. And the answer that we hear is shocking. We just read it. It says that the father of the house says, "Look, I can't get up to give you anything." Why? "Because I'm already in bed with my kids. I can't. Quit being so troublesome." And sometimes in our position it feels like we must pray and pray and plead and plead and we start insisting, insisting, insisting, insisting, and we think that that's the prayer life that we need to have. We believe that that's how to get God to respond to what we want or ask. But you know what? God listens to our prayers. What's more, he knows your need before you ask of Him. But upon listening to the prayer, God takes time to think about what you are asking. You know, not always, not always do we ask for what's best. And sometimes we don't receive what we ask for, says the Bible, because we ask poorly. And how many of us in our prayer lives, in our lives of communion, don't exercise or don't have the wisdom to be able to ask God truly what He wants to give us. What's more, what's more, what's the limit of faith? Accepting God's will for us. But in the Christian life, prayer, communion, fills an

important role. And we have to understand this important role in this part of the parable. It seemed like praying to God is something like trying to pry a favor from Him even though He doesn't want to give it to us. And that's the position that we often take in the type of Christian children that we are. Look, it's like a child. The child asks for something and gets impatient when you don't give it to him. And sometimes in our impatience that only thing that we accomplish is to distort the image of the father. And sometimes it seemed that in this parable the father, or the person that has to answer that's inside the home (so, the father), seems even to answer unwillingly. And there in the word of God we find that he answers, "Look, I can't get up! I can't give it to you."

But there's a verse that appears afterwards. Look what the following verse says. Let's read verses 9 and 10. Look what it says, "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened." See, this Bible text says that even though the father didn't want to get up for the friend with terrible timing that's knocking at the door at that late hour of the night, he's still going to answer him. And you know what? Many of us stop right there. We're left thinking, Is that how the Christian life is lived? We ask things of the Father and expect that He'll respond to us because we've been untimely and insistent? Well, in reality what Jesus is wanting to show us is that this parable is the way we mustn't relate to the Father. "Come again, pastor?" This parable has been inserted in "The Lord's Prayer" to show us how our relationship with the Father doesn't need to be. And you might be saying, "But, Pastor, what is it you're trying to say?" Look, what I'm trying to say is that

what we have read is showing us that the relationship isn't from father to son, but rather from friend to neighbor.

Hold on, hold on, hold on. What? Note the positioning. Here is where I want us to learn something from this parable that was inserted into the prayer. Watch. Do you remember, what was it that the father said? The father said, "Don't bother me—" Why? "—because my children are with me—" Where? "—in the bed." Are you getting it? Someone outside is knocking. He's knocking desperately. And now it happens that the father replies saying, "My children are with me." In this part of the parable Jesus is showing us what our position is. Those that are friends, that are outside, the impatient ones who can't wait for an answer from God, are going to plead, they're going to knock, they're going to interrupt. And that's the feeling you get when you aren't a son. But here's the detail, here is the detail: Who are in the home? The children. The children. What was the father's answer to the neighbor who came? "Don't bother me." Now I wonder, how would Jesus reply to His child sleeping by Him in the bed? How would He answer? How would Jesus treat him? Would the little child need to shout? Would the little child need to make a big scene so that his father would hear him? Would he need to do that? No. A whisper is enough for the child. A whisper is enough. The father would give him whatever he asked.

Now, I have three sons. When my middle son, Victor, was younger he always got down out of his crib (he was already able to get out, he already walked) because sometimes at night he would get thirsty. And my little son came to where I was. I was sleeping. You can imagine a father sleeping; some of us fathers, well, some of us Peruvians at least, snore a lot. And I was breathing heavily when all of a sudden I felt

this little air in my ear. And you know who it was? It was my Victor. My little son Victor had gotten down from his crib, left his crib, came to my room, and went to where his father was, and came close to my ear to tell me. “Daddy, Daddy. I’m firsty.” Well, let’s talk in English. “Daddy. Daddy. I’m thirsty.” Now, he merely whispered in my ear. And do you think I got mad with my son? Do you think I said, “Hey, why are you coming to wake me up just when I’m about to stop snoring?” You think so? No! He’s my son. I love him, he’s my little one. My little child is thirsty and comes to my bed to wake me. And so, at the sound of a whisper, what did I do? Obviously I got up, I hugged him, I picked him up, I went to get a glass of water for my baby, and I carried him to his crib. Did he shout? Did he make a scene? Did he stammer on about things? No. My son spoke to me as a child to a father. He knew that his father was going to supply his need. He needed nothing more than to come close to me and whisper his need.

Now, my friend, this topic, this simple topic of prayer, has to help us understand that the parable isn’t placed there to tell us, “Insist, insist, insist!” It’s not talking to us about insistence. When you are a child the only thing you need is to whisper to your father whatever your need is. Whisper to him. I like to look at this parable as if I am not a friend or acquaintance of God. I’m not the person that people often think I am. When you are a child, your place is not outside the house. Your place is inside the house. Your Father is inside the house. He will provide for your every need. And that’s why the prayer that Jesus taught us doesn’t begin with “My Friend that art in Heaven...” It doesn’t start with, “My Neighbor that art in Heaven...” The prayer begins, “Our Father.”

And here is what surprises me about this whole chapter 11. The last verses again point out what my condition is, as in Matthew. In Matthew, too, Jesus teaches us

other details about prayer: that we should enter into our prayer privately, that we need to talk to the Lord “*cara a cara*”, face-to-face, looking upon Him with eyes of faith, but in private. And the Lord says in Matthew 6, also, to “pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.” In this part of the prayer I love knowing that I am the child that is inside the house with my father and that I can whisper in his ear and tell him, “Daddy, I need this. Dad, please help me.” And I know that my Father is able and I know how He works. My Father often remains silent and doesn’t answer me instantly. Sometimes my Father gives me the opportunity to wait. And please, don’t despair in waiting. Because the only thing that happens when you despair in waiting is that you distort the image of our Father. God is good. All the time. He loves us. And that’s why these last verses of the chapter say what they do. Let’s look at verses 11, 12, and 13. Look what it says:

Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?

You know, my friend, there is something very important in these verses we just read. What’s important is that it connects us again to “The Lord’s Prayer.” It doesn’t say “Friend,” it doesn’t say “Neighbor,” it says “Our Father.” And this father, the Father of the heaven, *does* know how to give good gifts to His children. The Father of the Heavens has marvelous things to give you. The most wonderful thing in Heaven, the most beautiful gift of Heaven is what, according to the closing of this paragraph that

we've read, He is willing to give you: His Holy Spirit. And you're going to say, "Pastor, but we're talking about prayer—what does the Holy Spirit have to do with it?" My friend, all who have been called by God and have accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior have been sealed with the Holy Spirit. A person sealed by the Holy Spirit isn't just anyone; you and I have a power through the Holy Spirit that no one else has. No one who doesn't accept Christ can have this power. The Holy Spirit is the best blessing that God in Heaven has been able to leave for us. It is the Holy Spirit that fills us with power; it's the Holy Spirit that makes us remember the things we've been taught. It's through the Holy Spirit that you and I can come to be people who enjoy the abundance, the happiness, the peace, the hope that there is in Christ Jesus. It is the Holy Spirit, through Him, that we can come to the throne of our Father, talk to our Father, and tell our Father everything that is in our hearts. The Holy Spirit is the greatest gift, and you can receive it from the distance, from the simple distance of a whisper of prayer.

You know, I think this is a good opportunity to ask God to give us His Spirit. It is the Spirit that awakens in our hearts the recognition of our sins and our need for a Father, an all-powerful God who is willing to help us. That's why, my friend, in "Sharing the Truth" we have wanted to show you this new dimension. From this moment on don't look at yourself as a neighbor or a friend of God. If you are a child, if you are a child of God, call home, please. Talk to your Father. He is waiting for you.

In this short time that I have, I just want us to say a prayer. Bow your head. Pray with me. Pray with me to our Father. Let's talk to Him.

Beloved Father, wonderful Father, Jehovah of the armies, all-powerful God, your immense love has reached our hearts. And the only thing we want is to live with you:

You—our God and our owner, us—your children. Bless us each day, Lord, and, please, hear our prayers always. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Please, don't miss out on our program. Each time we come to you with the Bible it's to share simply what the Lord has left for us, that you too can discover. The truth sets us free. And that truth fills us with the power of the wonderful Spirit that has been God's gift, that He left to us, here in this fallen world that will soon receive Christ in glory.

SERMON 4—Live Confidently

The following program is presented by the Hope Channel network.

“Sharing the Truth”

“Live Confidently”

How’s it going, friends? We’re here once more on “Sharing the Truth.” And so, for today’s talk I’ve been thinking a lot in these last few days about a beautiful psalm that is known as the “Restorative Psalm.” I’m referring to Psalm 27. So in a moment we’re going to open the word of God in this special program to see what it is that this psalm has to teach us at this time. What do you say we have a short prayer asking God for his blessing over the study of His word? Let’s pray.

I thank you, Lord, for this great opportunity. Once more we want to open your Word and we want You to teach us. Oh, Lord, it does us so much good to learn about You. Bless us so that Your Holy Spirit guides us and gives us the necessary wisdom to understand the message that you have for us, this message of truth that sets us free. We ask for Your presence in the name of Jesus, Amen and Amen.

Alright. Let’s get introduced to Psalm 27. It’s a beautiful psalm and you will see why I say it’s a beautiful psalm. I want us to read the first verses, 27:1-3. The Word of God says the following:

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread? When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, my adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell.

Though a host encamp against me, my heart will not fear; though war arise against me, in spite of this I shall be confident.

Do you realize? King David signed this. King David is telling you that you can live the Christian life confidently. You're going to say, "Pastor, but what is it that motivated David to write this?" What didn't motivate him is the question. To live confidently. Have you ever imagined how many people in this world live in mistrust? Have you imagined how many people every day live their lives destroyed on the inside because they can't trust in anyone—nothing and no one? Well, this psalm is a psalm that is going to help us understand and also we're going to see how it is that the man of God came to be a man that confidently trusted in Jehovah. He had his downfalls, sure. He had his moments, like all humans, he had them. Sure, in some moment his sin distanced him from God, it distanced him. That they had to call his attention, that some prophet had to make him see the bad path that he was on—it happened, as with every human being.

But there is something that you have to know. David was a pleasing man in accordance with God's heart. Live confidently. Where did David get such great confidence? They say that faith is confidence. Where did he learn to live confidently? Look what it says in verse 13 in the last part of the psalm, it says, "I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living." Did you understand? "I would have, or rather, I was practically crushed, thrown to the ground, you would have to pick me up with a spatula, if I hadn't believed in the presence of Jehovah in my life," says David, "and in this land of the living."

Therefore my question is, where, how did David learn to be a man dependent upon God? This will help us to live our Christian lives.

Some think that this psalm is actually two psalms because from verses 1 to 6 King David is talking in third person and from verse 7 to 14 he starts to talk in second person. Incidentally, this is interesting, right, because he talks in third person and as it is he is presenting to the God of the heavens that is his friend and it is He who gives security. And talking in second person is like the relationship that he is having with that God.

Whatever the case, I am going to analyze the psalm in a different way: I'm going to go in what I have called logical regression, that is, we're going to analyze from the end to the beginning. The question is real: How did David come to have his confidence? Obviously there are many things that we can talk about regarding confidence in the Lord that David had. For example, confidence is what helps you overcome fear and it says so here. Confidence drives out fear, according to David. That's why he also said, "My heart will not fear. I will always be confident." Confidence gives him strength and he has the strength of the Lord which is what defeats the enemies of David. And, of course, confidence gives strength and keeps you from tiring. In the end, confidence in God gives David many options for victory in his life.

But we're going to analyze a bit from the end towards the beginning. What produced this confidence? And the first thing I see that produced this confidence is in verse 11. Let's read verse 11. Verse 11 says, "Teach me Your way, O Lord, and lead me in a level path because of my foes." My friend and brother or sister who is reading

this, David came to be a man who trusted to live confidently, who lived confidently, because David based his confidence in the first place on the Word of God.

You can look for any piece of literature, you can edify yourself with many beautiful books that exist in the world. There are very beautiful books, there are books that give advice, that help us understand how we can live in the family, how we can live as couples, how we can live and enjoy life through health. All these books, including many philosophical books by tons of philosophers from the basics—Plato, Aristotle, Parmenides, Hippocrates—and if you want more Frenchmen you have Montesquieu, Rousseau, Descartes, and all those people. But none of them has shown you the power that this book has. The Bible has a tremendous power to teach us to live Christian lives. Only the Bible. Can you tell stories of people who have been transformed by one of Plato's books? Can you tell stories of people who have been transformed—they found an upright life, a pure life, a life of fullness, a life—reading a book of Montesquieu? Of the French philosophers? By the way, what we have is a world that has practically dismissed God from our hearts. These forms, these scientific paradigms of explaining this have wanted to dismiss God from our way of living and precisely because of this, people have lived without God for a long time, or always lived without Him.

Now, when David says “Teach me,” there's the secret. To live confidently means to learn from God. And to learn from where? Directly from the Word of God. “Your Word is a lamp to my feet,” David once said, “and a light to my path.” In the Bible we find everything we need, God's eternal principles, so that you and I can be happy. David learned from the Lord and in this learning from the Lord the Bible demands,

saying, “Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me in a level path,” or rather, “I want to be a person who does what is right. I want to be a person who looks for the good wherever I go; that my children see in me a good person; that humanity sees in me a good person; but, above all, that You, O Lord, see a good person in me. Teach me your ways, O Lord.” Therefore David’s confidence in the first place needed the disposition to learn, the disposition to learn from the Word of God.

The whole book of Psalms is a beautiful book that we can rely on in our intimate lives of communion. Reading the Psalms helps us to grow in faith in the Lord. A man who learns from Jehovah, a man who is submissive and obedient to Jehovah, a man who seeks the teaching and guidance of God, is a man who learns to live with wisdom. The wisdom of God, the spiritual intelligence that God gives you, and this wisdom, my brothers, gives us freedom to be able to face life. You know, this wisdom so pervades our hearts and our minds and our subconscious, these principles of the teaching of God are so deeply rooted in our subconscious, that when we face things where we have to make decisions, our conscious goes directly to our subconscious and looks for those eternal principles of God and it brings them forward. And so when I have to make a decision before temptation or before some bad deed that I may find the opportunity to do, my conscious seeks from my subconscious those eternal principles of the Bible, of love, of faith, and then I can face the temptation with power.

David learned this wisdom. How many of us have been surprised as we read these beautiful psalms; Psalm 23—“The Lord is my shepherd—“each one of these psalms where he praised the God of the heavens? Why did he praise Him? Because he lived confidently. Because God is the center of his life. Because God is the axis that

moves his life. He learned to walk with God. And he learned from God the most marvelous, the eternal law of God, the commandments of God that the Lord gave to us, written with His own finger—David had them on his heart. Did David mess up? Yes, like a human. Did David fall? Yes. But David lived all that he tells us in the Psalms. It's even when he writes psalms where he explains how he felt when he fell in some difficult situation but how God lifted him up. God lifted him up and here the psalm is perfectly clear: "My head will be lifted up." "My enemies will stumble...but I will live confidently." Therefore, the first thing you need in order to live confidently like David is to learn from the Lord, his holy and divine Word.

But there's something more. David not only lived and learned from God, learned from the Holy Word, and listened to the teaching of God, but rather there's one element more that made David a man of faith. Do you know what it is? Communion. In one program I already taught you about how to pray, about what our position is in prayer, but look how interesting it is how David describes it. Let's go for a moment to verse 7 so that you can see in this verse what he's saying. Look what it says: "Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice, and be gracious to me and answer me." "Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice, and be gracious to me and answer me." What is David saying to us with this? He's saying that he is in communion. He talks to God *cara-a-cara* (face-to-face). I said it in Spanish for any of my Spanish readers. He is talking with God, he had a communion. But it's not just that. Look what it goes on to say; "When You said, 'Seek My face,' my heart said to You, 'Your face, O LORD, I shall seek.'" Do you know what it means to seek the face of the Lord? It is through prayer. It is here where we are talking in second person, where some say that the psalm is different

because it talks in second person. David is talking about something personal. He has said to the Lord, “Teach me,” and he has also said “I want to talk to you, you and I, just the two of us.” It’s a conversation; prayer—it’s that. It’s the one-on-one, the Lord and I, you and the Lord, alone—“My heart said to You, ‘Your face, O LORD, I shall seek.’” In reality God said “Seek my face,” and the heart of David is saying, “Your face, O LORD, I shall seek.” “Do not hide Your face from me, Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not abandon me nor forsake me... For my father and my mother have forsaken me, But the LORD will take me up.”

Hey, can a human being have that kind of confidence? David is showing us that we can. How many of us have been victims even of our parents abandoning us? You know, parent abandonment isn’t only a physical and literal abandonment—I abandoned you, Dad left, Mom left, and you raised yourself as an orphan. How many people are there in this world who raise themselves like orphans? But, you know, my friend, there is also an abandonment where even though the mom and dad are present there is no communion. Even though the mom and dad are in the house, there is no dialogue, there’s no conversation. This world has made us all so automated that communion between father and mother practically doesn’t exist anymore. That is why sometimes it is difficult to understand the subject of prayer because if you don’t communicate with your dad, how are you going to do it with God? But there is something that I want to tell you: that whether your father and your mother abandoned you (physically or psychologically) I want you to know that there is a God. There is someone who loves you profoundly and who wants to have a communion with you, one-on-one, just as David learned. Do you know why David lived confidently? Because he learned from

the Lord, he learned from the Word, but not only that, but David also did what? He lived out what he learned. What is the first thing that he learned? That you and the Lord have to walk together. We must walk with the Lord. And the only effective way to do so is when there is communion. When there is communion we can live confidently because He is our Father, and we His children; the hand of God is together with ours.

There's something more that I'm going to highlight in the next minutes. David not only teaches us to live confidently because he learned from Jehovah, but also because he maintained a constant and permanent communion with his Father. But there's something more. And this is a detail that I'm talking very seriously about, because some of you that are reading, yes, you live confidently, yes you read the Bible once in a while, and yes, you have a bit of prayer on occasion, but something else that will strengthen your life as a Christian is that you have to stop being a solitary Christian. You need this third element that in this regression, this application, I am showing you. Look what verse 4 says, Psalm 27:4 says this: "One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to meditate in His temple." Do you see? That means, then, that this too is an important element for living confidently. This point doesn't just end here; look what the next verse says. Why? "For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; in the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock." What is David telling us? He is telling us this: "And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, and I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD."

This whole section that we just read is showing us one more element that can help us live confidently. Have we learned about Jehovah? Yes. Have we learned to pray and live in communion? Yes. But to live confidently you also need to congregate. David is telling us that this is a request, the request, perhaps the most important request that he is making in this process of his prayers, in this process of writing the psalms. He is telling us that we need to congregate, to be in the house of the LORD. When we are talking about dwelling in the house of the LORD perhaps we should refer to living in the presence of the Lord. Of course. There aren't any tabernacles today, tabernacles, well, the temple veil tore in two, it tore in two. And where are we going? Well, we have to gather with the rest of the believers, with those who are praising, glorifying, worshiping the name of God. We have to look for those who are loving God in spirit and in truth. And King David tells us that we can't put off this point in order to live confidently. We are not only going to see the beauty of the LORD (as the psalm says, I go to the temple "to behold the beauty of the LORD"), but it also says that we go to meditate, to inquire, to learn from the LORD in His temple. Friends, the church is open. Friends, the church wants to receive you as a disciple of the Lord. You aren't the only disciple in this world. We have many disciples in this world that are glorifying, announcing, and praising the name of the LORD. But there are many of us who have not placed this among our priorities. And so we go about like hermits, like islands from here to there without identifying with the keepers of God's law, without identifying with those on this Earth who are obedient to God. We need to do what David did. Part of living confidently, my brothers and sisters, is precisely the power of meeting each time the people of God are

gathered together. God has many peoples on this Earth. You can form part of that people. The psalm says we should live serving the Lord.

There's something more that I want to tell you with respect to this. How can you live with someone if you don't know them? That's why it's important that you can take advantage of these programs that help you to know more about God and what He expects from us as we are His children. I couldn't live with Suzy if I didn't know her. Well, I should say that Suzy is my wife. I love Suzy with all my heart, I love her. And I know her perfectly. And I walk with her, she is my "suitable helper," she's my companion. We aren't perfect, we each have our deficiencies, but we love each other, we know each other, and we walk, and we like to be together. Now, when you love God you, too, want to be with Him in His temple, together with those that love and worship the name of our God. And the result, then, what is the result then of learning from God through His word? What is the result of living a life of communion with the Lord? What is the result of being able to gather together in the congregation where the Lord is blessing His children for being obedient, faithful keepers of His commandments? The result is a life of confidence, it's a life where you can enjoy it to the fullest, a life where you are going to find wonderful things not just in the study of the Word, in the communion and in the answer that God gives to the prayers of the righteous, but also in living together with our friends and our brothers in the faith. How beautiful.

I like going to church. "Yeah, well, you have to go to church, you're the pastor!" Yes! But one thing is being a pastor in a church out of obligation and another thing is that you go to enjoy the Presence with your brothers and sisters. Look, I'm a musician. I love doing not only what David does—I see that because David prays, he studies the

Bible, he goes to the temple, and it says here “I want to praise you with jubilation, with praise.” But, like David in this case, I am a musician. I love to play piano, to play guitar. Some day on one of these programs I am going to play my guitar and I am going to sing a song so that you can see... I have composed songs, I have declared my love to the Lord through music. And this fulfills me. If some Sabbath I don't go to the temple, if for some praise service I don't go to the temple, I feel like I have some need that I haven't satisfied—my fullness and my joy. That's why I need to go where my brothers are that worship our same Father. And it's a joy and a delight to share with each one of them. One learns so much from that interaction, one learns so much in that dynamic life of faith, one learns so much from the experience of others. That is why I definitively believe that the final result of being able to learn from the Lord in His Word, of praying to the Lord, and of gathering together is a life of confidence in the Lord.

And I want to repeat again just that last part because King David says it with so much emphasis. He says, “Though a host encamp against me, my heart will not fear; though war arise against me, in spite of this,” David says, “I shall be confident.” Confidence in God doesn't only free us from dangers, it doesn't only free us from fear, it doesn't only free us from the different types of fear, it doesn't only free us from fear of the future, fear of loneliness, fear of death, but confidence in the Lord also gives us a special joy and a special fullness. Therefore, my friend, this is a great opportunity. Do you want to live confidently, as King David lived confidently in his God? It's in the Word of God that we have found this counsel. It's in this wonderful truth of the Word that we have learned that, as David, today you and I can live with confidence, confident in our God. What is it that brings you shame and sadness? What gives you insecurity? You

are building your house on the sand. For many years you have built upon sand. For a long time your heart has been virtually living in that anguish, in that stress, in that severe depression of fearing what will happen in the future. I am telling you something. The only safe place, the only rock where there is salvation, the only open door where we find security and peace is in Christ Jesus. I believe in Christ Jesus. And I am just as human as you, I believe you too can accept Jesus as your Lord and your Savior and so begin to live a confident Christian life. Confiding fully in Him, confiding fully in Him, please, open your heart. Don't dismiss Psalm 27. Remember it always. Although your enemies camp all around you, you will declare, as kind David declared, "I will live confidently." Doesn't this seem like a wonderful truth that we cannot forget? May God bless you and on another opportunity I'll see if I can play my guitar to sing praises to God with you. May God prosper you in all your ways is my wish as minister and as pastor, and also the wish of this program, "Sharing the Truth." Until next time, God bless you.

SERMON 5—Record the Vision

The following program is presented by the Hope Channel network.

“Sharing the Truth”

“Record the Vision”

How’s it going, friends? I am thankful for another opportunity to be with you with this simple but profound program of “Sharing the Truth.” So we are going to take this opportunity to study the Bible because that is where the truth is, as you know. And we want to share something very special, but before we do so, perhaps what we ought to do is speak to the Owner of the truth, if you permit me a simple prayer before opening His Word and studying it in this moment:

Father, we thank you for this great opportunity. Thank you because you permit us to share the truth and we want to do it directly from this wonderful book, Your holy and divine Word. We ask for Your presence and the anointing of Your Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Alright. We are going to take this opportunity to go to a text that is little-known and read but I think that we are going to take away a great teaching from this text. I am referring to Habakkuk chapter 2 verse 2. The Word of God says this: “Then the LORD answered me and said, ‘Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run.’” Perhaps you’re thinking and saying, “Alright, today we’re going to study prophecies.” Not necessarily, although Habakkuk was a prophet of the Lord. This text can help give us a starting point for what we want to share today. And this that we want to share today has a lot to do with what we live through every day, what we

face daily in our lives. You know, one of humanity's biggest fears is the future. People are afraid of the future. I am not talking specifically about the apocalyptic future, or the eschatological future; I am talking about the future of your own life. There are people who live in fear of death, there are people who live in fear of winding up alone, there are people who live in fear that some disease will attack them and start destroying them from inside and this fear impedes them from setting positive and good goals for their futures. Nonetheless the Word of God is telling us here that there is a secret for being able to run towards that future that the Lord has prepared for us. And Habakkuk said clearly, "Record the vision," the LORD said to Habakkuk, "Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run."

This can also show us a principle that has to do a lot with what people and big companies, in particular, are talking about. That principle is the principle of setting a goal for yourself, of setting up a vision, of having a future vision for your life. And here is where I would like for this Bible text to support us in relation to this point. You know, I personally believe that a goal is a dream that you have; but this dream, to achieve it, has a timeline. Therefore you have the privilege of being able to record your goals, your dreams about the future. When you write down your goals and your dreams about the future you are, in a way, trying to be the architect of your own destiny. Now, note, if Habakkuk had to record what God revealed to him through dreams and visions, if we had to apply that idea to dreams, to desires, to the visions that you have for your life for the future, where would you be, have you thought, in five years? What would your character be in five years? Or on a professional level, at the home level, at the level of your future if you're a single man and you want to get married and you're looking for a

wife—where do you want to be in five years? Or ten years? Have you ever started to record on tablets where you want to be in the coming years?

In Habakkuk chapter 2 there is a little word that is important; that is why this text is important. It says, “Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets,” What for? “That the one who reads it may *run*” (**Italics added**). There’s something special when you record your goals. There is something special when you write down what you want to do. You know, it is good. It’s good to write down your goals. And when you write your goals the act of having written them will make you run, as the Word says. To run means that you are going to start to look for a way to not turn back or lose time in the achievement of your goals. There are many people who love to kill time. There are many people who have a big problem with killing time. And you know, I am not against, but neither am I in favor. I am referring specifically, for example, to those people who kill time watching TV series. There are people who kill time watching movie after movie. And afterwards when it comes to crunch time in life they say, “Oh, oh, I didn’t have time.” How many people would like to learn guitar, for example, such a simple instrument, to learn guitar and they say, “I don’t have time, I don’t have time.” Of course you don’t have time. One, you didn’t set the goal. It isn’t a dream for you. But if you were to write this down as a goal for your life you would run to it. I always talk about the time saver which is the ability to say “No” to many things that make you kill time and saying “Yes” to the things you would like to accomplish in your life: talents that you haven’t been able to develop, a profession that you would have liked to have reached that often times you lose because it gets mixed up in all the other things that aren’t positive in your life. Record the vision. Inscribe it on tablets. You know, there is a special power in writing

something on paper. And that can start a fire, we can start fires in our lives on the inside with just a little piece of paper. And this is very important. The key word, then, *run*. When you record something, this will make you run towards that goal, certain of that which you should be aiming at when you have proposed something in your life.

Look what Proverbs chapter 24 verses 3 and 4 says. Proverbs says this: “By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; and by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.” What does it say? It says “with wisdom.” Or rather, you can’t run towards a goal without wisdom. Or rather, it is necessary that you be intelligent to reach your goals. It’s necessary that you have the chance to develop emotional maturity. Which, by the way, one of the characteristics of emotional maturity is postponing immediate pleasures for the achievement of long-term objectives; therefore, it is very important that you be able to build your house of reach your goals that you have proposed with wisdom.

Where did the secret begin? Recording the vision. Recording the vision begins the secret. Look what Proverbs chapter 4 verse 26 says. The Word of God says this, “Watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established.” What it means, then, is that here is where you demonstrate your intelligence. Watch the path of your feet. The Word of God is clear. So it is not only God that watches you, but *you* watch the path of your feet. You have to be wise to be able, then, to go on walking towards the goal that you have set. I hope you have a goal. You can’t say, “Lord, Lord, please bless my goal” if you’ve never made one. What goal is the Lord going to bless if you haven’t set it? Set yourself a goal. I have one for you. I have an important goal that you could consider right now. Have you evaluated your life right now? How is your life

going right now without Christ? How are you living your life right now if you don't have God as your partner, as the Lord and Owner of your life? Now, if you have not evaluated your life, yes it's true, there are many ungodly people that prosper, it's true, there are many bad people that have a lot and many commodities. But you know something? I'm not talking about that. Don't look at the godless man when he prospers. I want you to look at the prosperity of the righteous man. The righteous prosper and that is what the Lord has promised. The Lord has promised to prosper the righteous man, but it should seem to you that the righteous prosper with peace in the interior of their hearts. When a righteous man prospers that means, then, that that righteous man is receiving blessings. But the best blessing is that of a heart completely opened to the Lord, a heart that worships, a heart given to God. And I don't know if you have started to think. If in this moment you are living without God, I believe that it is a great opportunity sharing the truth so that you know that there is a wonderful God that wants to bless your life. That God is disposed to bless your future for you to reach your goals. And that God is willing to do it not only because He is God, but because He loves you and you are very important for Him at this time. Therefore, record your goal.

But you are going to say, "Pastor, if I had to write my goals there is something that could stop me, there are so many things that can stop me from advancing towards them, towards the goal, the dream that I want to reach." Well, I was saying that if you were to have Christ in your heart things would be different. Think about it: Where would you be within five years if Christ were the owner of your heart? If today you were to decide, for example, to be a child of God, to accept Christ as your Savior and to live under the orientation of His holy, blessed, and divine Word. If you were willing to obey

His law, his commandments, to be an obedient child of God—where would you be in five years? Where? What would your heart be like? Do you know what a blessing you would receive? Joy, peace, benignancy, temperance, goodness, faith... Where would your children be if they were in this moment loving the Lord that you love? What would your home be like if you had, in this moment, the chance of having a Christian home where the center of that home is Christ Jesus? With very high values. Because the world doesn't give values. Values come from the Word of God. And the world has values from the Word of God and they have distorted some, but if you want to have profound values and to have a high goal and to reach a real vision of happiness and of joy, it is only in Christ Jesus, if you give him that opportunity.

Now, my friend, you're going to say, "Ok, Pastor, but there is something that is impeding me from setting really high goals." Yes, there's something that's impeding you. I'm going to tell you something that is true, that is one of the impediments in reaching goals and setting high goals. Do you know what it is? It is living in the past. "What, Pastor?" You aren't going to be able to create a positive future in the Lord if you permanently live in your past. You have to forget the past and start walking forward. And the Word of God has support for this and a very big support. Please, then, don't consume your future feeding off your past. And here I want you to see what St. Luke chapter 9 verse 62 says. Look what the Word of God says, it is very clear: "No one," said Jesus, "after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Did you read that? No one who puts his hand on the plow—if you're going to plow you can't go backwards. One—you are going to damage the furrow, and two—it's impossible that you pull all the weight of the plow backwards. In other words, when you

are going to plow land either you go forward or you go forward. I suggested a goal, you recorded your goal, you perfectly know that if you have it written down you are going to be able to run towards it and not be spinning your tires or losing time in reaching it, all the more if your goal is together with Jesus. When Jesus is in the center of your heart it is possible to reach your goals.

Now, you're going to say, "Pastor, is that success? Is reaching my goal the highest success?" No. Sometimes what one learns along the way is much more successful than reaching the actual goal. But there are things that keep you from reaching your goal. And one of these things is just this: the past. When we speak about the past, I want to tell you that there are terrible things in this world relating to the past. For example, there are people who don't forgive themselves. The advantage of being a Christian is that in Christ Jesus you have forgiveness of sins. The Bible says that God has the power to forget, to forgive and forget all that you did in your past. There are things in one's life that can be an impediment in reaching a goal.

Look, I didn't have a very happy infancy and childhood. A child isn't happy when perhaps the father in the family is an alcoholic, he is a person who doesn't give you affection, who doesn't project love that he should be projecting you from his heart. So sometimes homes divide, like mine divided. I perhaps haven't had a good example, even though my father at the end of the road gave his life to Jesus, but in the last moment, dying of a lung cancer that destroyed him from the tobacco, from the alcohol, from that disorderly life that he led. So, I could say, "Well, I am the child of an alcoholic father and so... there's nothing left for me. I'm the child of an alcoholic father and my future is just that—alcoholism." No! Even though I had a problem with my father and

even though through his genes I might have an inclination to alcoholism. Christ Jesus crossed my path. When I recorded the vision of my life, Christ was there. And I made a decision about the future. And my decision was I am not going to repeat the story. If I am an architect of my own destiny I prefer to walk holding Jesus' hand, to have the Bible, the Word of God, the Truth of Christ be my guide and thus change the story. I'm 45 years old right now. I'm not so old, right? Or am I? No! Forty-five years old, I have three beautiful children, a family made up of my wife (and I would never think of changing wives) and my children. I will keep being happy. Do you know why? Because in my vision I put Christ in first place.

The past doesn't matter. What does matter is that you know that when you put your hand on the plow you set a goal and if God is the One who goes ahead of you, you will reach your goals and objectives—above all, spiritual goals without which, my brother, we are nothing more than, as the Word of God says, “resounding cymbals,” we're hollow inside. Therefore, don't consume your future feeding off the past. The past can exercise great control over our lives. And the more we look back, the less we will be able to look forward. Forget what's behind you. The beautiful thing about the Christian life is just that—it's that God forgives the past, God forgives us and gives the power to walk forwards.

You're going to say, “But Pastor, I'm in this condition, look. My family was like this, they treated me like this as a kid, this is how I began to suffer, this is the way I... And that's why I'm rebellious...” Just a moment, just a moment. You have as many excuses as I had. And do you know one of the problems we have? We love for people to feel sorry for us. “Oh, poor thing, he's the child of an alcoholic. Look, his father did

such-and-such. Look, his mother did such-and-such. Look how they punished him when he was little, poor victim.” Is that what we want for ourselves? Yes! And you can live off of the pity people feel for you, but, my friend, listen closely. You have a God who has died for you. So tell me, what sin is bigger than the Son of God who was made sin for us (2 Cor 5:21- reference added)? Tell me, what part of your past is sadder? What sins have you committed that God can’t forgive? God has power. He forgave me. He can forgive you, too. That’s why it is very important that you point to the future with Christ Jesus. I love the idea of being able to run towards my goal hand-in-hand with Jesus. It isn’t God that is holding us back from reaching the goal. We hold ourselves back. God is ready to bless us in a way that you can run towards your goal without fear because He goes ahead. “I will go before you,” says the Lord. “Do not fear nor be faithless because I am your powerful, strong God and I will bless you.” Isn’t it wonderful? So you can plot out your goal, your future, choose, get focused, be avant-garde not in the back of the pack. Run forwards. Christ has the power to lift us all up and give us blessings.

The past has good things. Not all past is bad. For example, if your past has been guided by the Lord it is a good past. There are many beautiful quotes from Christian writers that we would have liked to share with you. For example, Ellen White is a Christian writer who has clearly written and has said that we are going to fail in the future unless we remember the way—listen to all of it—the way God has guided his people (and when I say “people” I’m speaking of individuals), how God has guided His people in the past. God has power. If God guided the past, you know what? That past is good. So let yourself be led, be carried away by Jesus, be carried away by that God.

If you don't let yourself be led by God, I assure you, the future won't be good. There are many people who "prosper" without God. God is the only One who gives true prosperity. It is wonderful to live spiritually at the feet of our God. That's what it says in Philippians. Look what Apostle Paul says in Philippians chapter 3 verses 13 and 14. Look at what a lovely text: "Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do," says Paul, "forgetting what lies behind..." (note that part, underline it)... "Forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Look. Write that last part down: Press on toward the goal. Do you know what your goal is? You know, there are some really pretty songs out there that say, "The sky's the limit." Ok, Si! The sky's the limit. Christ is in the sky, in Heaven. He is interceding for us, he has gone to prepare a place for us. And He will come, the Bible says and I believe it. Why? Because it's true. It's the truth, we've sharing the truth *contigo*—with you. Christ is preparing a place in Heaven. That's the place. And Paul knew it. That's why he says, "I forget what is behind. What's back there is garbage now." Listen closely to this: the past, my brother and sister, is dead. When I say the past is dead what I'm saying is it already happened. The past is past—it no longer exists. There is a beautiful future that the Lord of Hosts is preparing for us. Are you going to miss it? No, please. Don't miss out.

Now, in order to reach that future, do you know what you need? Take some chances, brother and sister! You have to take chances. You won't get there any old way. You have to take a step of faith. You have to make that decision. That's why if you write down your goal and if your goal is Christ Jesus, look how you will be in five

years, living together with Jesus. But don't wait until then. Now in the next minute is the future. The next minute is the future. And it is the moment in which you have to make a decision. This next minute you can put your hand on your heart and say, "Jesus of Nazareth, I accept you as my Lord and my Savior. I'll risk my life with you." Look how beautiful it is to risk your life with Jesus, brother. It's beautiful to risk your life with Jesus. "I risk my life with you because that's the only way I'll be able to progress." You know, if you don't take chances you can't progress. Do you want to progress in your family life? Do you want to progress in your life as a working man or woman? Do you want to progress as a son or daughter? Do you want to be a good grandpa, a good grandma? Do you want to be a good neighbor? Do you want to be a human being that's mature, or fully grown as they say back home. Do you want to be a child of God? This next minute, this next second, is your future. Please, record it on your heart. Record your vision: "I want to be a child of God. I want to walk with Jesus. I want to progress in my life together with Christ Jesus. The past will no longer torment me, now my vision is for the future."

Here there are beautiful things I could share with you. For example, all the great discoveries of intellectuals, of great discoverers, have been made because they had faith, because they trusted and took a chance even though the world said, "No, no. Impossible." They took a chance and they did it. Of course the scientists say, "Well, afterwards they show off and that means..." No, no, no. Now think a little about men of faith. Have you ever seen a righteous man forsaken and his children begging for bread? Have you ever seen someone who loved Christ Jesus and then on the brink of death they complained about God? Have you in your experience seen a Christian that

in the last moment of their life had to look for some other way out because they forgot about God? No. The Bible says that the righteous will live by faith. You can live like the righteous. You want to reach your goals? You can take huge strides towards your future, towards the challenges that that life has to offer. If you choose what's important, if you choose Jesus, that will be your future—a future full of opportunities with Christ Jesus in your heart.

Someone once said, "If you hunt rabbits in tiger territory you should watch out for tigers, but if you hunt tigers in rabbit territory, ignore the rabbits." You have to keep advancing. Of course, I want to remind you and I read this in a book once that say, "Remember, an army of lions being lead by a sheep can be easily defeated by an army of sheep being lead by a lion." The lion is the tribe of Judah, the Lion, whose name is Christ Jesus. You can. The Lord is waiting for you to make the decision. The next minutes of your future are extremely important. It's a life or death decision. Sometimes Christian writers say that your decision is of eternal consequence. The decision for you today, if the vision that you have of your life is eternity, peace, love—Jesus—make the decision. Don't turn back, write down your decision: "Today I accept Christ Jesus as my Lord and Savior. He will be *my* God, *my* Salvation, *my* refuge, *my* strength. And that God will guide me wherever I go. I am willing to walk with Him. If He changed Pastor Homero, He can change me too. If the pastor had a sad past, today he lives with Jesus." *Por favor*, please—accept Christ as your Lord and record your vision. I hope it's this one of eternal life in the hands of the Almighty. There's no turning back, Jesus is our Savior. We hope to see you again next time to share a little more about this wonderful truth. God bless you. Amen.

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APPENDIX 1—Uña y Carne

El siguiente programa es presentado por la red de canales Esperanza.

“Compartiendo La Verdad”

“Uña y carne”

¿Qué tal mis amigos? Aquí estamos una vez más en “compartiendo la verdad”, y en esta oportunidad quiero mencionarles que este temita, mas otros dos en su momento, estaremos estudiando de la palabra de Dios algunos principios que tienen que ver con el hogar y con la familia. Y entonces, como yo entiendo y sé que es un tema que muchos esperan ver desde sus casas o poder recibir por lo menos este apoyo, esta orientación bíblica, hemos decidido hacer esto a favor de cada uno de ustedes. También queremos mencionarles que en la Biblia tenemos muchísima información con relación al tema del hogar y la familia.

Como es que un hombre y una mujer pueden formar lo que para la palabra del Señor es un matrimonio, una, diría yo, una sagrada familia. Así es que este punto, y otros, serán los que estaremos desarrollando. En este momento me gustaría pedirle a Dios su bendición para que lo que toquemos hoy pueda ser de mucha ayuda para cada uno de ustedes. Vamos a orar por un momento:

Dios todopoderoso, te doy gracias por esta gran oportunidad y permite que podamos llevar un mensaje claro, bíblico al corazón de muchas personas que están buscando respuestas y no hay mejor cosa que encontrar esas respuestas en tu santa y divina palabra. Gracias por la presencia de tu espíritu, en el nombre de Jesucristo oramos. Amén y amén.

Muy bien. Vamos a estudiar la palabra de Dios y yo quisiera explicarles algo con relación a esto. Quiero decirles que si tú estás buscando respuestas con relación al hogar, la familia... y ¿cómo es que comienza el hogar y la familia? Ustedes saben que el hogar y la familia empiezan con dos personas, dos individuos, que en algún momento se conocen por voluntad de Dios (y a veces esta por voluntad del hombre, ¿verdad? o la mujer) pero la familia, los principios generales para aún, la formación de un matrimonio, y luego la familia, se encuentran en este precioso libro.

El mundo no te puede dar ninguna información acertada con relación a lo que es el hogar y la familia como lo hace la sagrada escritura. Por lo tanto quiero mencionarte que si tú estás buscando respuestas para lo que es, cuál es el rol del hombre y la mujer dentro de la formación de su hogar, de su matrimonio, y también su familia, pues la única fuente de información verdadera está aquí en la sagrada escritura.

Quiero mencionarte también que el matrimonio fue de iniciativa divina. Y esto nos dice la palabra de Dios, en génesis capítulo 1:27. Esto es muy importante que lo sepas, dice así, "Y creó Dios al hombre a su imagen, a la imagen de Dios lo creó, varón y hembra, y lo creó." Cuando hoy te digo que es de iniciativa divina, estoy diciéndote que la causa última de la sustancia, quien creó al hombre y lo hizo a su imagen y semejanza fue Dios.

Por lo tanto, si Él es el creador, si es Él que dio la forma al hombre y la mujer, el tiene que tener los principios para que este matrimonio, esta pareja, pueda ser feliz. Desde este punto de vista, es muy importante también que tú sepas, que si es Dios el creador, Él es el sustentador del matrimonio.

De paso, la palabra "matrimonio", para aquellos que les gustaría saber de dónde nace esa palabra, es una palabra compuesta de "matriz" y una palabra, que es una palabra griega, y la palabra "mono" en griego también. "Matriz" y "mono" que significaría "una sola matriz" de ahí es donde entendemos el matrimonio como un matrimonio heterosexual entre un hombre y una mujer.

Dios creó al hombre para, y a la mujer, para que sean felices (Él) y la promesa de Dios era sustentarlos para que ellos puedan vivir felices en esta tierra. Ahora, si el matrimonio es de iniciativa divina, quiere decir entonces que podemos recurrir a él como fuente de información para conocer cuáles son los principios, que es lo que yo debo saber como padre, como esposo, como sacerdote, y eso es lo que personalmente pienso que cada uno de nosotros debería tratar de concentrar esta función en forma muy, muy, este, clara con relación al matrimonio.

Dios lo ha creado y lo ha creado desde un comienzo como una relación heterosexual entre un hombre y una mujer. Lamentablemente, hoy las cosas no funcionan así. Lamentablemente desde ahí 1970, normalmente en estados unidos se ha visto un despertar muy grande al tema de esa palabrita que es el enemigo de los matrimonios, me estoy refiriendo al divorcio. Pero también, en estos últimos años, se ha dado una apertura muy grande a favorecer lo que se conoce como las tendencias o las inclinaciones o las prácticas homosexuales. Bueno, quiero que tú sepas que bíblicamente estas prácticas, estas tendencias, no están registradas como normales dentro del plan divino de la creación. También quiero que tú sepas que es muy importante que entiendas el principio bíblico que prácticamente están registrados en los primeros tres capítulos del libro de génesis.

Quiero mencionarte otra cosa, aparte de conocer que Dios es el principio, Dios es el creador, Dios es El que nos creó a su imagen y semejanza, varón y hembra nos formó. Quiero mencionarte también que Dios, creó al matrimonio, para que no podamos nosotros, este, morir en soledad. Dios ha dado la oportunidad al hombre, porque el hombre es un ser social, de poder ser social en forma muy especial con una persona a quien el hombre elige como esposa. Y ¿qué es lo que dice la palabra de Dios? En Génesis 2:18 -22 mira lo que dice la palabra de Dios: "Y dijo Jehová Dios, no es bueno que el hombre esté solo. Le haré ayuda idónea para él. Jehová Dios formó, entonces, de la tierra toda bestia del campo y toda ave de los cielos y la trajo a Adán para que viese como la sabia de llamar y todo lo que Adán llamo a los animales vivientes ese es su nombre. Y puso Adán nombre a toda bestia y a las aves de los cielos y a todo ganado del campo mas para Adán no se halló ayuda idónea para él." Y la escritura dice "entonces Jehová hizo caer en sueño profundo sobre Adán y mientras éste dormía tomo una de sus costillas y cerro la carne en su lugar. Y de la costilla que Jehová Dios tomó del hombre hizo una mujer y la trajo al hombre." Esto es glorioso. Yo a veces suelo imaginar cómo habrá sido ese momento especial del regalo que Dios le da a Adán. Esto no lo puede contar ni Darwin. Esto no puede contar el evolucionismo. Esto es un relato bíblico, esto es un relato de la verdad bíblica. Para lo uno tienes que creer, y para esto también tienes que creer.

Ahora, esto que está diciéndonos la Biblia, estos textos que hemos leído, son textos que nos ayudan a comprender que Dios de los cielos, que tuvo la iniciativa de crearnos también nos dio la oportunidad de ser felices para que la soledad no nos mate. Y yo digo la soledad no nos mate porque a veces me pasa a mí que cuando mi

esposa viaja o cuando yo viajo por algún compromiso, alguna cruzada evangelística a veces me siento solo. Y esa soledad- claro que estamos con Cristo estamos acompañados de los ángeles y tenemos la protección de Dios, pero aquí en esta tierra el Señor nos dio la posibilidad de tener una mujercita, una ayuda idónea a quien yo amo, en forma muy especial hablo de mi esposa, con todo mi corazón.

Pero entonces quede decir que Dios no solamente crea al hombre como iniciativa de Él, sino que también le soluciona un problema al hombre. "No es bueno que el hombre esté solo." Si tu tuvieses que imaginar ese momento del encuentro entre Adán y Eva, **no** creo que- el relato Bíblico es conciso, claro, porque si no, te imaginas, el relato sería larguísimo y Juan en algún momento escribió diciendo al muchas cosas que hizo Jesús, o que Dios hizo, que si se tuviesen que escribir, no acabarían los libros. Pero Dios nos ha dado (9:44) un tremendo ejemplo de amor y de romance. Yo **quiero**-- si tuviésemos que imaginar el encuentro de Adán y Eva como habrá sido ese momento...

El pobre Adán, seguramente cansado del trabajo poniendo nombres a los animales, siente que no encuentra su pareja. Y entonces, triste seguramente, debajo de un arbolito, el Señor lo encuentra. Y Dios, como un padre amante, lo hace descansar en el sueño porque Dios se da cuenta de que, el hombre no es bueno que esté solo.

¿Y sabes por qué no es bueno que esté solo? Porque Dios lo entendió así. Porque Dios nos ha hecho a nosotros personas sociales, nos ha dado la oportunidad de formar una pareja para poder multiplicarnos en este mundo, para poder ser felices, y para poder ser copartícipes con Dios en la creación. Por eso yo pienso,

definitivamente, que Dios quiere la felicidad del hombre. Y una de esas cosas es que el hombre no esté solo.

Yo no sé si tú ya encontraste tu pareja, si le estoy hablando con un joven, no sé si tú ya encontraste tu pareja, si le estoy hablando con una mujer, si ya te has realizado ese aspecto. O hay algunas personas que estén acostumbrados en vivir en su soltería, y de repente viviendo su soltería están luchando con esa soledad que las está matando. Y hay tantos cantantes hoy que han cantado justamente a esa soledad que muchas veces termina matando la paz.

Pero Dios, Dios, ha creado a la mujer y al hombre, para que sean uno y ya vamos a hablar de eso en su momento, pero quiero que sepas que Dios quiere que encuentres tu pareja. Y es muy importante porque Dios lo ha determinado de esa manera. Cuando Adán encontró a Eva-- ¿se imaginan la belleza? ¿Se imaginan la alegría? Ya cuando Adán encontró a Eva, Dios le dio la felicidad al hombre.

Y aquí hay otro principio interesantísimo que también podemos descubrir en la palabra de Dios: que justamente es eso, Dios ha creado al hombre para que sea feliz. Así lo dice en Génesis 2:23. Mira lo que dice la palabra de Dios: "Dijo entonces Adán, 'Esto es ahora hueso de mis huesos, y carne de mi carne. Ésta será llamada varona porque del varón fue tomada.'" Ahora, tú te imaginas: Adán encuentra a Eva. Yo no sé si se despertó de ese momento, yo no sé como arregló Dios ese momento, el asunto es que se encontraron.

Yo no sé cómo te acuerdas como te encontraste, los que son casados, cuando te enamoraste de tu esposa, de la mujer que iba a ser tu esposa, o tú, mujer, te enamoraste del muchacho-- como fue, cuanta emoción había en el corazón, el corazón

latía y decías "Wow!" Y sueñas con él, lo ves hasta en la sopa, como dicen algunos. Bueno así me pasó a mí también. Yo creo que el momento del encuentro de Adán y Eva también fue algo especial. Ya cuando Adán vio a esa mujer rebosó de alegría. Y entonces dijo: "Esto es hueso de mis huesos, carne de mi carne, esta será llamada varona."

Mira, yo creo que es el primer canto, el primer grito de victoria, de felicidad, de gozo que se escucha en el cielo. O tal vez, hasta puede ser el primer poder especial que se cantó en el cielo. ¿Te imaginas tú? Yo querría imaginar (cantando) "Esto ahora es carne de mi carne, hueso de mis huesos." Bueno, yo no sé como habrá sido la melodía, pero que lindo es el reconocer que ella forma parte de ti. Dios le dio al hombre la posibilidad de ser feliz. El primer canto de amor que se escuchó en el cielo- ¿Cómo se habrá titulado? ¿Hueso de mis huesos? ¿Carne de mi carne? ¿Varona? Bueno, sea lo que sea, Dios los creó. Dios les solucionó la soledad. Y sea como sea, Dios le dio al hombre la posibilidad de ser feliz.

Y aquí en esto voy a hacer un pequeño paréntesis, porque aquí también entra el elemento sexual. El elemento sexual cuando en el santo estado del matrimonio, una persona que ama a otra persona, se complementan, es muy importante, y Dios creó al hombre y le dio el sexo para que el hombre sea feliz- ¡Feliz! Por eso hay muchas personas que sufren y no saben disfrutar dentro de los parámetros y los principios bíblicos la vida sexual. Dios nos dio el sexo para que seamos felices. En primer lugar, es la única manera en que podemos nosotros complementar completamente y unir completamente al hombre y a la mujer. Por eso el sexo nos hace unos- uno. Uno de emociones, uno de espíritu, uno en la parte física. Y Dios nos dio el sexo para que lo

podamos disfrutar. Somos uno, segundo, tenemos placer. Dios puso ese placer santo y puro para que lo podamos disfrutar en el marco del santo estado del matrimonio. Pero también Dios nos dio el sexo para que podamos ser coparticipes con El en la creación. Cuando el esposo pone la semillita y la esposa pone la suya- ¿y qué viene? Viene un bebecito, un hijo, y dice la palabra de Dios que herencia de Jehová son los hijos. Por lo tanto, Dios nos ha dado el matrimonio para que seamos felices. Él lo creó, El nos ha solucionado el problema de la soledad, y El, según su santa palabra, nos ha permitido también el matrimonio para que seamos felices.

Otro punto importante que yo quiero destacar ahora es que para que tú seas feliz, en estos minutos que me quedan, tú tienes que respetar los principios bíblicos con relación al matrimonio. Y no voy a usar muchos textos ahora, **so-** quiero mostrarte un texto bíblico que nos ayuda entender por lo menos tres principios que hacen del matrimonio un matrimonio feliz, y que hacen del matrimonio un matrimonio feliz porque cumplen la voluntad de Dios. Mira lo que dice la palabra de Dios aquí en Génesis capítulo 2 **verso** 24, mira lo que dice: "Por tanto (y subraya la palabra "dejará") el hombre a su padre y a su madre y se unirá (subraya la palabra "unirá") a su mujer y serán una sola carne (subraya la palabra "una sola carne"). Bueno, aquí tú encuentras tres principios importantes que debes tener en cuenta para poder tener un matrimonio feliz.

El primer principio está en la palabra "dejará." "Dejará el hombre a su padre y a su madre." Esto quiere decir, cuando dice "dejará" está diciendo dejará. Quiere decir que tú tienes que cortar, que cortar con, bueno, no con la relación en total, sino la dependencia que tú tienes de tus padres. Hay muchos jóvenes y muchas personas

que inician sus matrimonios y no son capaces de cortar esa relación. Y hay padres tampoco que no están dispuestos a que esa relación se corte. Desde el momento en que el hombre decide casarse, decidir elegir a una mujer como su esposa, pues toda otra relación queda en forma secundaria. Y esto ha traído muchísimas luchas en los matrimonios. Posiblemente hoy alguna persona que me esté escuchando puede estar diciendo "Si, este es el problema que yo tengo, mi esposo sigue dependiendo de su papa y de su mama" o de repente el esposo está diciendo "si, este es el problema que yo tengo- mi esposa está dependiendo todavía y todo lo que dicen ellos eso es lo que se tiene que hacer."

Bueno, ese aspecto es muy delicado. Ha producido tremendas rupturas cuando los padres se meten dentro del matrimonio para poder continuar con su educación, orientación, o manteniendo, fijando, dependiendo a sus hijos de ellos. Cuando tú estás maduro para casarte, lo primero que tienes que pensar es un principio: Dejarás todas relaciones secundarias. Una relación de amistad es secundaria, con tus amigos es secundaria, con tus padres es secundaria, tus padres pasan a ser la familia extendida. Lo principal para ti viene a ser ahora tu esposa. Y si eres esposa, tu esposo. Si tú no has entendido este principio, si uno de estos principios de este solo texto que hemos leído tú no lo cumples, vas a tener tremendos problemas. Dios ha dicho, El que ha creado al hombre y a la mujer, y El que nos ha dado el matrimonio para solucionar la soledad y para que seamos felices, Dios ha dicho: "Dejará el hombre a su padre y a su madre." ¿Tú estás dispuesto a dejar? Por favor, piense en esto. Hay mucho más que yo podría decir con relación a esto, pero el tiempo no es, este, muy bueno ahora. De

todos modos, piensa en esto y autoevalúate para ver si estas realmente haciendo las cosas como deben ser hechas.

El segundo principio que nos aparece es, es imprescindible, imprescindible. Dice "y se unirá a su mujer". Cuando tú escuchas la palabra "unirá", yo estoy tratando de estudiar un poquito esta palabra "unirá" ya en el verbo hebreo. El verbo hebreo es "dabaq" que podría significar lo siguiente, mira lo que yo noté: pegarse o adherirse, permanecer juntos, mantenerse(s) firmes, sobrecoger, proseguir con firmeza, perseverar en, tomar, atrapar mediante persecución. "Dabaq" es el verbo que aparece donde dice "unirá" pero me gusta mucho la idea que aparece en el nuevo testamento de "dabaq" como pegarse, como si fuera cola, pero hay algo más. La expresión podría dar la idea de pegarse, unirse, como la soldadura. ¿Tú sabes lo que es la soldadura? Cuando tú sueldas algo y estos dos hierros se unen, se juntan. Bueno. Eso es "dabaq"- pegarse.

Ahora, fíjate lo que te voy a decir aquí: cuando tú estás "dabaq", cuando tú estás unido, como la soldadura, hay muchas personas (y esto es el problema desde el año 1970 con relación al divorcio en este país de Norteamérica y todo el contagio que Norteamérica nos llevó hacia nuestros países, la moda del divorcio, destruir el matrimonio a través del divorcio...) Te voy a decir, cuando tú hablas de unión, de unión a través del "dabaq" de la unión por soldadura, cuando tu separas un metal del otro, o sea, los divorcias, cuando tu divorcias, tú estás rompiendo el metal. Y sabes una cosa, el metal está unido. Y cuando está roto, el daño es para este lado del metal y para este lado del metal. O sea, el divorcio no es una solución para los problemas matrimoniales. Hay casos en que la Biblia presenta una, este, aceptación del divorcio por causa del

adulterio. Aún así, aún así, es una decisión que toman las personas en forma consciente e individual, pero el divorcio no es solución. Yo creo que el espíritu santo de Dios ha sido dado para que todos nosotros podamos de alguna manera salvar el matrimonio y no provocar ese daño que causa, en ambos casos, el divorcio.

Y ahora mi amigo y mi amiga escucha bien, ahora yo quiero hablarte del tercer principio. El tercer principio... Hay mucho más para hablar del tema unirá, y tu sabes de la unión física, emocional, espiritual donde el esposo y la esposa llegan a una intimidad tal que el esposo jamás se va a burlar de los pensamientos o ideas de su esposa y viceversa. Hay una intimidad, han llegado a un nivel de comunicación. Pero hay una tercera palabrita que en estos últimos minutos que me quedan yo quiero mencionarte que es muy importante. Fíjate lo que dice, el principio es "y se unirá a su mujer y serán" ¿Qué dice? "una sola carne". Y aquí hay muchos hombres que dicen "ay, esa es la parte que más me gusta del matrimonio." Sí, es la parte que más nos gusta del matrimonio, claro que sí. Pero esta parte no solamente implica unión sexual. Esta parte implica unión emocional, unión espiritual. Sabes una cosa, estos principios no los maneja el mundo, hermano. Estos principios son completamente bíblicos.

Si tú tuvieses hoy que pedir consejo del mundo con relación al matrimonio, te van a aplaudir el divorcio, te van a aplaudir la homosexualidad. Hoy el mundo lo que te va a decir, tú si tienes la preferencia sexual con un varón, si eres varón, cástate con el varón, si eres mujer cástate con una mujer y ahora hay clérigos que están casando a las personas de esa manera. En algún momento las leyes van a querer legislar por un lado, por un lado han cambiado el concepto del matrimonio y están diciendo que ahora todas las personas, toda persona que convive bien con otra persona ya puede formar

una familia. Y entonces yo me pregunto los tremendos conflictos cuando dos personas homosexuales adoptan un niño o quieren tener un bebe, yo quiero que tú sepas como viene el problema de la disfuncionalidad de las próximas generaciones.

El problema de esas disfuncionalidades está destrozando los conceptos bíblicos del matrimonio y está destrozando a la humanidad. Hoy no lo ves, hoy no lo entiendes, hoy tú ves a cualquier persona a ese nivel en la televisión. Tú ves cualquier persona de una preferencia sexual "X" promocionándose pero una cosa te voy a decir, no es normal. No es lo que Dios creó.

Sí, tienen derechos, claro que sí, y tienen derecho a la salvación, pero no es normal. No es lo que Dios creó. No entendemos que el pecado ha dañado esta raza y estamos poco a poco destruyendo ese concepto maravilloso, ese principio maravilloso, esa creación maravillosa que Dios hizo que es el ma-tri-monio heterosexual entre un hombre y una mujer. Hoy no podemos ver las consecuencias, más adelante vamos a ver las terribles consecuencias de esta situación de elegir desviarnos de los principios que Dios ha dejado en su santa y su divina palabra.

Te hablo como padre, te hablo como esposo, te hablo como ministro, como pastor, como predicador del evangelio. Amigo mío, el espíritu santo, sea cual fuera tu preferencia sexual, el espíritu santo es el poder de Dios que transforma de adentro hacia afuera las personas y tú tienes la posibilidad de recurrir al espíritu santo. El tiene el poder para transformarte. El ha transformado vidas, prostitutas transformadas, homosexuales transformadas, matrimonios que estaban en el derrumbe que han sido transformados. El espíritu santo tiene el poder para hacerlo. Tú necesitas recurrir a ese espíritu de Dios y necesitas volver a los principios que Dios ha colocado. Entrégale

tus deseos, entrégale tus sentimientos de culpa, entrégale tu vida a Jesucristo y tú vas a entender y vas a poder ver, percibir, que El tiene poder para transformar aún las preferencias sexuales.

Pero cuando el matrimonio fue creado, mi amigo, el matrimonio fue creado por Dios. Dios conoce los principios y Dios sabe que cada matrimonio debe ser un fiel reflejo de esa visión que Dios tuvo para nosotros de ser felices, de bendecir esta sociedad y de hacer que nuestro mundo sea un mundo mejor. No creo que tú estés de acuerdo con que el mundo es mejor porque nos hemos desviado de la voluntad de Dios, si tú piensas que el mundo está mejor porque nos hemos desviado de la voluntad de Dios, estás totalmente equivocado. No conoces la realidad.

Por eso en este momento yo quiero, para ir finalizando, solamente recordarte que Dios es un Dios de amor. Y Él no quiere que el hombre se divorcie, mira lo que dice Proverbios 6:32, mira lo que dice Proverbios: "Mas él que comete adulterio es falto de entendimiento. Corrompe su alma él que tal hace." y quiero terminar con esto, el verso de Efesios 5:31-32 mira lo que dice la palabra de Dios; "por esto dejará el hombre a su padre y a su madre y se unirá a su mujer y los dos serán una sola carne" y que dice "grande es este misterio, mas yo digo esto respecto de Cristo y de la iglesia. Amigo, Dios ha hecho algo especial, ha hecho algo especial por ti. Te ha dado los textos bíblicos que marcan el principio de un matrimonio feliz. Yo te pregunto ¿Vas a volver a los brazos de Dios? Considera esto. Y, por favor, vive feliz cumpliendo la voluntad de Dios. Dios te bendiga.

APPENDIX 2—Madre...Palabra Sagrada

El siguiente programa es presentado por la red de canales esperanza.

"Compartiendo La Verdad"

"Madre... Palabra Sagrada"

¿Como están, mis amigos? Gracias por darnos otra vez más la oportunidad de estar en contacto a través de "compartiendo la verdad". Esta es una gran oportunidad y hoy es un día muy especial, y ya les voy a explicar porque, pero vamos a abrir la Biblia. Vamos a compartir hoy la Palabra de Dios con un tema que estoy seguro que van a disfrutar en forma muy especial: Las Mamitas. Así si es que me permiten me gustaría orar con ustedes antes de abrir la palabra del Señor.

Dios todopoderoso te doy gracias por esta gran oportunidad de estar junto a nuestros amigos, cada uno de ellos, Señor, en su lugar, ya sea en su trabajo o en su hogar escuchando este programa. No solamente los guía si no los inspira a vivir en tu presencia. Gracias por darnos esta gran oportunidad de compartir la verdad con ellos. Bendice el estudio de tu Palabra en esta hora lo pedimos en el nombre poderoso de Jesucristo, amén y amén.

Muy bien. En esta oportunidad yo quiero dedicar tiempo a hablar acerca de esa mujercita que seguramente tu ya viste que pasó por allí caminando, llevando algún plato, o con una escoba, o pasando la ilustradora en la casa. O con un canasto de ropa para llevar a lavar. Estoy hablando específicamente acerca de "mamá". Que linda palabra, ¿verdad? ¿Cómo te sientes tú cuando escuchas la palabra mamá? ¿O madre? ¿O Mama, como dicen algunos? ¿Qué llega a tu mente cuando tú escuchas

esa hermosa palabra? Sabes, a mi mente llega que es una palabra dulce y hasta en cierto modo yo podría decir una palabra sagrada.

Hay un poema por ahí que decía ya que “las madres solo hay una que con besos nos baña, la que nos cantan en la cuna, la que jamás nos engaña. Mujer que es todo dulzura”. Bueno, voy a hablarte hoy acerca de la madre. Obviamente voy a hablar de las mujeres en forma muy especial- la mayoría de ellas o son madres o quieren ser madres. Pero, no es el día de la madre hoy. Pero ¿porqué paso a hablar acerca de la mamá? Porque creo que dentro del hogar, dentro del concepto de ser hogares funcionales y hogares felices, no solamente el padre tiene una gran responsabilidad, también la mamá tiene una gran responsabilidad. Y hay mucho que decir con respecto a esto. Pero el tiempo no nos va a alcanzar para decirlo todo. Pero quiero decirles, mis hermanos y amigos, que Dios ama a las madres y Dios tiene un especial cuidado con ellas. Si tu eres una mamita que estas escuchando ahí y en estos momentos estas pasando por momentos difíciles, sufriendo porque eres incomprendida por tus hijos, eres incomprendida por tu esposo, o estas teniendo una enfermedad que te está consumiendo por dentro, estas, posiblemente, acostada en la cama enfermita... quiero decirte a TI, querida mamita, Dios te ama. Y Dios no ha olvidado que tu existes. Y Dios tiene una respuesta para tus plegarias y tus oraciones.

¿Cuánto poder tiene una madre en la formación de sus hijos? ¿Cuánto poder tiene la dulzura de una madre en la armonía dentro del hogar? ¿Cuántas madres hoy se privan de ese gran privilegio que es proyectar a sus hijos los valores y darles a sus hijos las oportunidades a desarrollarse como personas sanas, sabias, y felices en este mundo? Lamentablemente el rol de la madre se ha perdido por muy lejos, mucho se

ha perdido ese rol. Y yo quiero compartir algunas cosas que pienso que tú deberías tenerlas en cuenta y las voy a compartir de aquí, de la palabra de Dios. Esa madre de alma pura, Madre, palabra sagrada, como decía un poema, es de que yo quiero hablarte ahora.

Y ahora, mujer, prepárate porque el primer texto que voy a utilizar habla cerca de ti. Mira lo que dice la palabra de Dios en Proverbios 14:1, mira lo que dice, "La mujer sabia edifica su casa, mas la necia con sus manos la derriba". A ver, ¿entendiste? "La mujer sabia edifica su casa, mas la necia con sus manos la derriba" Acá te está presentando la Biblia dos tipos de mujeres. Una mujer que usa sabiduría-- y tú te preguntarás '¿y qué es la sabiduría?' Te voy a decir algunas cosas que pueden ser la sabiduría. Ya, sabiduría en sentido común. Sabiduría es madurez emocional. Sabiduría es capacidad para discernir entre lo bueno y lo malo. Hay muchas características de la sabiduría, hay muchas características de la persona que es madura espiritualmente o madura emocionalmente. De paso, la Biblia habla de la inteligencia espiritual. Hoy se habla mucho en la psicología de la inteligencia emocional. Pero no hay inteligencia emocional si no hay inteligencia espiritual. Y una mujer necesita esa sabiduría. Y por supuesto hay muchas mujercitas, como dije un algún programa anterior, hay muchas mujeres que tienen el problema de que no están funcionando correctamente porque los valores que se les proyectaron desde pequeñas no están siendo los valores correctos o porque la sociedad en la que vivió no les transmitió los valores, este, importantes y están sufriendo porque algunas veces no saben qué decidir, cómo hacer, cómo orientar, cómo educar a sus hijos. ¿Pero sabes qué?, la mujer sabia, la mujer que tiene madurez espiritual, que tiene madurez

emocional como resultado de la madurez espiritual, edifica su casa. Pero la mujer que no es sabia, la necia, la destruye.

Y a este aspecto yo quiero decir que hay cosas importantes para la mujer que debe tener en cuenta para la madre. Hubiese titulado el tema de hoy "Esposa, madre, y Sacerdotisa". Podría haberlo hecho así. Porque la mujer, primero, es esposa. La mujer tiene como función primaria al igual que el esposo amar a su marido. Amar a su marido, Y a desligarse- "dejará el hombre a su padre y su madre", dejará la mujer a su padre y su madre, y desligarse—el resto de las relaciones vienen a ser secundarias porque la primera relación para una esposa es su marido.

Y ahora esa esposa que es sabia, esa esposa que ha desarrollado esa sabiduría **(de paso yo no se cree todo)**. La única manera de desarrollar sabiduría es ¿a través de qué? A través de la palabra de dios, es a través de la recepción del espíritu santo en tu corazón, el espíritu santo es el que te da la inteligencia espiritual y la inteligencia emocional. El espíritu santo es el que te va a ayudar entender que tu marido es lo primero para ti. Por supuesto en la escala de valores después de Dios. Y entonces es importante que tu desarrolles esa sabiduría para cumplir tus funciones como esposa primero, luego como madre, y entonces como sacerdotisa de tu casa. La dulzura de una madre es muy importante. La proyección del aprecio, del cariño, del afecto de una madre a sus hijos es muy importante para que esa edificación de su hogar sea una edificación completa, plena, armoniosa. Pero la mujer necia no toma en cuenta estos elementos. Dice el proverbio que la mujer necia destruye prácticamente derriba con sus propias manos su propio hogar.

Quiero decirte, mujer, que la Biblia, cuando habla de ti y habla específicamente de la madre, de la esposa y la madre, la Biblia utiliza muchos hermosos textos que no te los voy a poder compartir hoy, pero que esta palabra "madre" es muy significativa en el contexto Bíblico para que tengas en cuenta, por ejemplo, también a la abuela en la biblia se le llama madre. También se utiliza "madre" para hablar de las madres de las ciudades. Las ciudades principales usaban la palabra "madre". También en el Apocalipsis se utiliza a Jerusalén, Jerusalén la Madre de las ciudades pero a Babilonia la madre de las ciudades perdidas.

Ahora esto es muy importante también para entender con relación a la madre, la madre no solamente cumple una función importante como tal en el hogar, sino que la madre para los hijos y para el esposo es también un elemento esencial. Y esa madre que se mantiene en el camino de Dios, que se mantiene viviendo bajo el señorío de Jesucristo y la sabiduría de Dios. Es una madre que puede, al transmitir sus valores a sus hijos, puede armonizar, puede educar, y puede edificar el carácter de sus hijos para que sus hijos sean también personas funcionales en este mundo.

La madre de la cual estoy hablando, la madre de la biblia, puede llegar a ser una mujer virtuosa. Hay un proverbio que es el Proverbio 31 que empieza diciendo "mujer virtuosa ¿quién la hallará?" Y algunos de ustedes pueden pensar, y algún hermano por ahí, alguna vez me dijo "¡Yo la encontré, pastor!" dice. Bueno, sí, hay esposas virtuosas que se pueden hallar. Y hay unas características preciosas de esas mujeres virtuosas, temerosas de Dios, que no consumen y que no, este, se deleitan en malgastar el tiempo y matar el tiempo sino que están dedicadas a edificarse para proyectar valores a sus hijos. Que están dedicadas a sus hijos para proyectar también

el amor y la dulzura y la ternura necesaria para que esa mente, ese niño, pueda crecer saludable.

¿Cuántas madres virtuosas tenemos nosotros a nuestro alrededor? Y posiblemente tú tengas una mujercita virtuosa en tu casa. Y esta mujercita virtuosa que está en tu casa posiblemente la veas pasar o de repente la tengas que llamar hoy y decirle "mamita, mira, escuche este mensaje del Pastor Homero y estoy llamándote para decirte que estoy feliz de que tú seas mi mamá porque tú me has dado esto, me has dado el otro, valoro este y valoro el otro de ti. Y hay un proverbio, el proverbio 31, en la parte final dice así, cuando una mujer actúa con sabiduría dice, "Se levantan sus hijos y la llaman bienaventurada." Y ¿sabes quién también la alababa? Su marido. Los hijos y el marido se levantan para alabar a esta mujer.

Ahora, mi amiga, tu estás diciendo, "Pero ¿será que a mí me pueden alabar mis hijos y mi esposo? pero si yo tengo este carácter, mira mi carácter que tengo. Mira lo que pasa conmigo. Yo me enojo rápido. No soy la mujer ordenada que mi esposo esperaba que yo sea. Tampoco me prepare, no se cocinar muchos platillos preferidos y no estoy nutriendo bien a mis hijos." Otra mujer puede decir, "pero mira yo estoy trabajando porque el mundo nos exige que los dos salgamos a trabajar y yo no puedo atender mucho tiempo a mis hijos. Otro cría a mis hijos. Y estoy muy triste, tengo muchos cargos de conciencia por esto. ¿Qué puedo hacer?" Mira mujer, la sabiduría de Dios, la sabiduría de Dios, no es algo que es un toque de la noche a la mañana y tú te vuelves sabia. En la carrera de la vida hay muchas cosas que te van enseñando para que puedas ser una mujer sabia.

Recuerda tu primer rol: eres esposa. Este elemento es muy importante. Y como lo explique en alguna oportunidad como esposa tú necesitas darle tiempo a tu esposo. Es importante que tú, con ternura, con amor te dediques a él. Es importante que tú le muestres tu cariño y tu afecto. Es importante que tú seas atenta con tu esposo. Tú no eres una esclava. Tú no fuiste sacada de los pies para que tu esposo te pisotee. Tampoco fuiste sacada de la cabeza para que tú te creas lo máximo, la manda más de la casa- no. Tú fuiste sacada de la costilla para que seas una ayuda idónea para tu marido. Una ayudador es la misma palabra que se utiliza para "eserkeleglo" esa es la palabra, que se utiliza para hablar de Dios como nuestro sustentador y nuestro ayudador. Tú eres una mujer que puedes desarrollar en tu vida esa capacidad de ser compañera de tu esposo.

Yo he encontrado mujeres que dicen "pero es que mi esposo no habla. Es que mi esposo viene a la casa, se sienta en frente del televisor y no conversa. Es que mi esposo- hay que sacarle-- para que diga una palabra hay que sacarle con un, tirabuzón es la palabra." Es verdad. No todos los esposos son iguales. No todos los esposos son extrovertidos. No todos los esposos son cariñosos, este, atentos, y de palabras buenas. Y al repente, hay esposos hasta, como un viejo evangelista decía, esposos que son hombres de una sola palabra "yo le dije que la amo el día que me case" y nunca más te lo volvió a decir. No hay flores, no hay rosas, no hay cariño. Y tú puedes decir, "yo vivo con un hombre así". Mira, el amor verdadero de Dios hace que tú puedas aprender a convivir con él. Es verdad. Hay muchos hombres que ni siquiera van a cambiar de actitud, pero Dios te dice "Hija mía, Yo estoy a tu lado. Yo te puedo a ayudar a que con sabiduría entiendas y aceptes que no todos somos iguales." A veces

dices "pero tiene que cambiar". Claro que puede cambiar, si el hombre también se predispone a recibir el poder de Dios, puede cambiar. Pero tú no puedes sufrir por esto y culparte por esto.

Tú necesitas confiar en Dios y de a poco con ternura, con oración, con intercesión tú vas a ayudar a que tu esposo vaya cambiando su actitud. Pero sobre todas las cosas, ¿sabes?, hay algo especial cuando un esposo ve a la esposa orar. Hay algo especial cuando un esposo ve a su esposa postrarse de rodillas. Hay algo especial ve a la esposa guiando a los hijos, también, hacia las cosas de Dios. Tú no puedes terminar en este mundo contagiándote y siendo una madre permisiva que cuando el esposo pone algún, este, alguna norma tu no la acompañes o cuando tu pones una norma tu esposo no te acompañe- tiene que haber armonía entre los dos. Y tienen que superar la etapa de ser niños porque ya son padres. Y ustedes tienen que ponerse de acuerdo para esto. "Si pero mi esposo ni quiere ponerse de acuerdo conmigo" Tu, ustedes necesitan orientación. La iglesia da orientación. Busquen momentos, busquen lugares donde pueden ir juntos para edificarse, para poder educar mejor a sus hijos. Hay mucha literatura, muchos libros que son muy buenos, que orientan cristianos. Nuestra iglesia produce libros cristianos que te orientan para que tú puedas edificar en este aspecto. Pero por sobre todas las cosas, la Biblia te da la orientación. Yo creo tu puedes considerar esto para superar todas estas cosas. Y entender- muchas veces nuestras frustraciones vienen cuando nosotros queremos que todos tienen que ser igual a nosotros y no es así. Te frustras porque el otro no está viviendo de acuerdo a tu expectativa. Cuando te entiendas que somos diferentes todos y cuando tu recibas este poder del amor de Dios entonces tu vas a poder entender que

tu esposo tal vez tiene esta forma de ser porque su temperamento, porque su carácter, porque ha sufrido de chico y ha proyectado esto, pero el poder de Dios este lo transforma. Con el tiempo y con la ternura y con el cariño y con tu dedicación a Dios, tu marido puede ser transformado por el Señor. Pero, por favor, tienes que actuar con sabiduría. No puedes ser como esa persona necia, esa mujer necia, que con sus propias manos va destruyendo su casa. Yo-- aunque no lo crean, ustedes van a decir, 'Pastor', esto es tan importante que yo quisiera por favor que este programa lo vuelvan a repetir. Tal vez lo repita. Tal vez no. Pero sea como sea tu ya conoces el principio Bíblico- la mujer virtuosa es alabada. El proverbio 31 te lo va a decir completamente pero es alabada por sus hijos y por su marido.

Hay algo más que quiero compartir contigo con respeto a la mujer virtuosa. La mujer virtuosa, que es una mujer responsable, proyecta sus valores a sus hijos. Es una mujer que también, como puedo decirte, produce mujeres virtuosas. Ya hay un texto Bíblico que admiro mucho de la experiencia de uno de los pastores más jóvenes que tenía la Biblia- es el caso de Timoteo. Y yo quiero mostrarte aquí como pasa de generación a generación ese poder de ser mujeres virtuosas. Mira lo que dice la palabra de Dios en 2 Timoteo 1:5, mira lo que dice, "Trayendo a la memoria", dice el apóstalo Pablo, "la fe no fingida que hay en ti, la cual habitó primero en tu abuela Loida y en tu madre Eunice y estoy seguro que en ti también". ¿Lo estás leyendo? Timoteo fue un pastor joven que el apóstalo San Pablo eligió para poder enviar a pastorear unas iglesias. Pero este muchacho desde pequeño fue criado. Pero miren ustedes la conexión: este muchacho fue criado por su madre Eunice. Pero la madre Eunice que le transmitió los valores espirituales de la fe fue criada por una madre que es Loida.

Loida le transmite sus valores a Eunice, Eunice le transmite los valores a Timoteo, y Timoteo es ministro de el Señor, guiado por el espíritu santo. ¿Por qué? Porque estos valores fueron transmitidos de generación a generación. Y aquí hay un principio, aquí hay un principio: La mujer sabia edifica su casa, la mujer necia la destruye con sus manos. La mujer virtuosa es alabada por su marido y por sus hijos. Pero cuando una mujer recibe la bendición y el poder del espíritu santo, esa mujer está proyectando sus valores a las generaciones que vienen. Y esa proyección de valores trae frutos y esos frutos los aprenden, los perciben, una hija o un hijo y serán proyectados de generación en generación.

Ahora, ¿qué pasa cuando una mujer no conoce su rol, cuando una mujer no entiende estos elementos, cuando una mujer se deja llevar por el mundo y sus placeres, por esa costumbre, por esos hábitos que terminan ayudándole a matar el tiempo? ¿Qué pasa cuando una mujer no desarrolla su carácter desde el punto de vista de edificarse para proyectar después? ¿Qué pasa? Es una mujer que es disfuncional. Que no funciona. Y que la proyección de sus valores va a ser más antivalores que valores. Una mujer de esta manera está destruyendo prácticamente la próxima generación. Mi papa, aunque no fue un hombre de muchas luces, digo yo, en el aspecto espiritual, una vez escribió una poema que decía así, empezaba el poema así, decía así, dice: "Perdonen madres, lo que yo les digo, perdonen lo que este polluelo piensa," decía parte del poema, "Pero hay unas madres con **cara de gato** que no dan de mamar para maquillarse." Él decía esto y no sé si terminaba en verso o en prosa esto, pero el punto es que hay muchas cosas que han privado a la madre de proyectar sus valores hacia sus hijos. El tiempo y el maquillaje: hay muchas personas que

dedican demasiado tiempo a maquillarse y muy poco tiempo a orientar y proyectar valores a sus hijos. Las novelas: Las novelas son otra manera de matar el tiempo. La misma cantaleta, la misma historia de siempre. Y una hora, dos horas, tres horas, cuatro horas y no me toquen mi novela porque si me la tocan yo me enojo y me enojo con todo el mundo en la familia. Mujer- la novela no te va a dar de comer. La novela no va a edificar tu carácter. Si tú sigues tomando tu tiempo para ver todos esos programas y esas películas y esas novelas que de repente te van condicionando para actuar como una novela, porque hay mujeres que en una discusión con su esposo o una situación con sus hijos actúan como si las estuviesen filmando. Y de repente están allí, y actúan, se van, se mueven, este y el otro, y no son realistas. ¿Por qué? Porque están viviendo en un mundo surreal, tomando actitudes que les ha enseñado la televisión.

Entonces ¿qué pasa con estas mujeres? Estas mujeres están siendo instrumentos ¿para qué? Para destrozarse la armonía con la que sus hijos deben crecer: La armonía espiritual, la armonía emocional, la armonía física, y a la nutrición física de sus hijos. Y ¿por qué no? No están preparando a sus hijos enfrentar a la sociedad que viene. Entonces, mujer, tú tienes en tus manos la sabiduría de Dios. Tú tienes en tus manos la palabra de Dios que te indica cómo hacer las cosas y cuál es el rol que tú debes cumplir, primero como esposa, luego como madre, como protectora de tus hijos- y, por qué no, como también una mujer espiritual que cumple su sacerdocio dentro del hogar. Yo tuve una madre. Todos tenemos madres. Yo tuve la mía. Mi hogar no fue un hogar tan, este, armonioso que digamos. Tuve un hogar que se destruyó. No fue el divorcio, sino la separación destruyó mi hogar.

Yo soy uno de esos muchachos que hubiese querido ver a mis viejitos envejecer dando vueltas por una plazuela en el barrio o en la ciudad donde vivo, como tantas veces yo vi cuando pasaba por alguna plazuela; veía viejitos de la mano, yo quería, soñaba con esa idea, pero lamentablemente mi hogar se destruyó. Y se destruyó por la necesidad. Por la necesidad. En gran medida mi padre no asumió su responsabilidad. No se proyectó. Entonces prácticamente fuimos niños abandonados por un padre, huérfanos en cierto modo, El estaba vivo. Pero el murió a los cuarenta y siete años y nos dejó huérfanos y a mi madre viuda. Y ella hizo todo, siempre hizo todo lo imposible por ver a sus hijos surgir. Y yo te puedo decir una cosa: si yo tengo que decirte que conocí a una mujer virtuosa- esa mujer se llamaba Clara Luz Elena. Te estoy hablando de mi madre. Mi "**cara Luz Eléctrica**", como yo le decía. Mi viejita amada: dulce, tierna, capaz por la sabiduría divina, por la sabiduría divina, de asumir un rol de padre y madre en los momentos más difíciles cuando nosotros llegamos a la adolescencia y que terrible que fue. Yo he sido terrible--como hijo, la hice sufrir muchísimo. Algún día te voy a contar todas esas historias, pero esa mamita mía, esa viejita mía, esa madre que sufrió mucho pero no amo otra persona aun cuando mi padre no se portó como deberse portado lo amo hasta la final, Y ahí están los dos enterraditos- los dos en el mismo lugar. Porque ella dijo "ni la muerte nos va a separar". Lo amó tanto, tanto, mi amigo, pero ese amor ella también proyectó hacia nosotros. Y ella nos amaba y nos hablaba con ternura, con dulzura. Cuando había que ser firme, era firme. Porque fíjate yo recibí la última que me dio mi mamá a los 19 años. Y yo era militar y todo. Y tú dices "un militar recibiendo..." pero ahí estaba la mamá. Era mamá. Pero también así, era dulce y tierna conmigo. Por eso hoy brindo homenaje a la mía, a mi madre.

Tal vez no tengas la misma experiencia tú, tal vez tú no hayas tenido Mamá, o eres un huérfano desde muy pequeño, o tal vez la madre que tú tienes no está siendo la madre virtuosa de la cual habla la Biblia. Por favor si esa es tu realidad ora al Señor. La mía fue tener una madre maravillosa y la recuerdo y la amo. Tal vez tú no sea tu experiencia, tal vez tú no tengas una madre así. Por favor, ora al Señor. Clama a Dios. Dile, "Señor, dale sabiduría a mi madre que sea una mujer virtuosa, que aprenda." Pero sabes que, sobre todas las cosas yo te recomiendo que de alguna manera, seas cristiano o no, entiendas que hay una sola manera como Dios puede transformar la vida de una persona, la vida de una madre en una madre santa y pura. Si no tienes una madre cristiana, es tu oportunidad. Creo que el próximo mejor regalo que le puedes hacer es comprar una Biblia. Y si tú tienes una madre que es cristiana, por favor llama por teléfono a tu madre y dile "Madre, eres una mujer virtuosa. Yo tengo una mujer virtuosa, es mi madre." Eso es lo que tú puedes decir. Por favor, y si eres una mamá, ojo, no descuides el don que hay en ti. Dios quiere bendecir tu vida. Dios quiere que tú seas una madre sagrada, apartada solamente para él. Que Dios te bendiga.

APPENDIX 3—Señor, Enséñanos a Orar

El siguiente programa es presentado por la red de canales Esperanza.

"Compartiendo La Verdad"

"Señor, Enséñanos a Orar"

¿Qué tal, amigos, cómo están? Una vez más aquí en "Compartiendo La Verdad", para crecer, crecer, eso es lo que hace la verdad de nuestros corazones- crecer en Cristo Jesús. En esta oportunidad, vamos a tocar un tema muy bonito, especial, muy dulce. Así es que me gustaría que iniciemos este momento, como lo acostumbramos hacer, con una oración de bendición. Oremos. Cierra tus ojos donde estas.

Dios todopoderoso y eterno te damos gracias por esta gran oportunidad de estar en tu presencia y de poder compartir la verdad con aquellos que están ansiosos de conocerla. Te suplico, Señor, que tu Espíritu Santo pueda estar con nosotros para que al abrir tu santa y divina Palabra podamos llenarnos de ese pan de vida, de ese alimento espiritual, que fortalece nuestros corazones. Gracias por tu presencia, en el nombre de Jesucristo, Amén y amén.

Muy bien, en esta oportunidad yo quisiera que hagamos un alto para hablar de algo que tiene que ver con la vida cristiana. Hay muchas cosas bellas en la vida cristiana- ustedes se dan cuenta, que la vida cristiana la podemos vivir gozosos, felices, disfrutarla al máximo, porque Cristo nos ha dado esa libertad. La libertad maravillosa de la gracia de Jesús. Pero quisiéramos también hacer un alto para considerar un detalle, un elemento, importante de lo que significa ser un cristiano feliz- lo que hace

que seamos cristianos felices. Y esto que quiero compartir con ustedes es una de las grandes características, ya estoy diciendo mucho, grandes características. ¿Sabes de qué vamos a hablar? Vamos a hablar hoy un poquito acerca de la oración, la comunión con Dios. Y sé que en muchas religiones y en muchos, este, idealistas, o muchos filósofos, han demostrado, han querido mostrar que la mejor forma de poder vivir (y) disfrutar la vida es a través de la meditación, a través de entrar en zonas donde uno puede trascender hacia la metafísica, hacia la ohmmmm, ohmmmm... Ese tipo de cosas. No estoy hablando de eso. Yo quiero hablarte acerca de la sencilla oración. De esto que es tan dulce, que es tan nuestro, como cristianos, que nos ayuda a vivir vida victoriosas y poderosas en el Señor. Así es que vamos a dedicar un tiempito a hablar de esto. Por supuesto, entiendo que tú ya sabes que leer la Palabra de Dios es lo que fortalece nuestra vida espiritual. Y por supuesto compartirla con otros, compartir la verdad con otros, es la proyección, es el resultado de vivir una vida de comunión y de leer la palabra de Dios, de tener una constante entrega en el conocimiento de la palabra de Dios. Pero hoy quisiera hablarte de la oración en una dimensión diferente. Y por eso vamos a abrir la palabra para que ella misma nos enseñe algunas cosas. Vamos a aprender algo hoy.

Por ejemplo, tú **recuerdas**, una vez Jesús llegó al hogar que visitaba con mucha frecuencia porque encontraba amigos queridos en ese hogar. Y seguramente tú te vas a acordar del hogar de Marta, Lázaro, y María. En aquella oportunidad, Jesús hizo cosas preciosas de este hogar. Por esto Jesús era amigo de Marta, de Lázaro, y María. Este pequeña aldeíta de Betania que estaba a pocos kilómetros de Jerusalén y donde Jesús encontraba, si allí encontraba un lugar donde recostar la cabeza. Y ahí

Jesús encontraba también amigos que lo recibían con gozo y alegría. (Muchas veces me he preguntado yo, "¿cómo has recibido a Jesús en tu casa?") Yo me alegro que la Biblia contenga un lugar tan, este, especial como es el hogar de Lázaro, Marta, y María. Lo menciona a ellos, la Biblia solamente a ellos tres. La Biblia no mencionan los padres de Lázaro, Marta, y María que posiblemente los tuvieron. Pero sea como sea, es todo un tema, también, de paso, este punto el y hablar de Lázaro, Marta, y María. Pero hay algo que sucede un día que Jesús va a visitarlos. Y tú sabes que la Biblia dice que Jesús llega, ya era amigo de ellos, y de repente que un momento ellos reciben a Jesús y estando Jesús allí de repente Marta le dice "Maestro, yo quiero prepararte algo rico." Así es que se va a la cocina mientras que María, acostumbrada ya a tocar los pies de Jesús (es otro gran tema este los pies de Jesús), María, acostumbrada, va y busca el recipiente para lavar los pies de Jesús. Y María que queda al lado de Jesús. Y tú te acuerdas que ahí en ese momento Marta y María escuchaban lo que Jesús les estaba explicando, Marta y María escuchaban lo que Jesús estaba contando acerca de como lo estaban tratando los fariseos, los saduceos, los samaritanos, como lo habían rechazado a Él. Y estamos hablando de poco tiempo antes de que Jesús fuera llevado a Calvario. Entonces Jesús necesitaba comunión, necesitaba comunicar lo que sentía a sus amigos.

Y la biblia dice que ahí se sentó Jesús a contarle, María escuchaba, Marta por un tiempo le escuchaba también. Pero Marta estaba afanada con muchas cosas haciendo la masita, el pancito que le había prometido a Jesús y en un momento obviamente, imagino que marta no encontró la sal. Y al no encontrar la sal se puso nerviosa, tu sabes como son las Martas, son muy eléctricas, muy este, enojosas, a

veces, hacen el bien pero después te lo van a cobrar. Y que hizo Marta en ese momento, busco la sal y no la encontraba seguramente y entonces se molesto, dejo de escuchar lo que estaba sucediendo en la otra habitación. Y entonces se molesto y seguramente fue hacia donde estaba Jesús y María, y Jesús y María hablando, y yo creo mas María escuchando a Jesús que otra cosa pero lo importante de este momento es que estaban en comunión. Y este, ese momento es importante ¿por qué? Porque Jesús nos va a enseñar algo que tiene que ver con esto de la oración. Y esto es impresionante, ¿sabes por qué? Porque Marta viene directamente a donde esta Jesús y le dice, "Señor, ¿no te das cuenta?" ¡Le está llamando la atención a Jesús! "¿No te das cuenta que mi hermana me está dejando a mi servir sola? Dile, pues, que me ayude." ¡Qué tremendo! A veces las Martas se les va la mano en algunas de estas cosas. Pero ahora yo quiero que tu veas lo que dice el texto Bíblico aquí en San Lucas el capitulo 10, mira lo que dice el verso 41 y 42, mira lo que dice como respondió Jesús: "Respondiendo Jesús, le dijo, 'Marta, Marta. Afanada y turbada estas con muchas cosas. Pero solo una cosa es necesaria.'" Mira, quiero que subrayes esta parte, "Solo una cosa es necesaria, y María ha escogido la buena parte la cual no le será quitada." Ahora, mi hermano, escúchame, mi amigo, escúchame lo que estoy diciendo... Después de este suceso, donde Jesús está diciendo que esta parte no le será quitada porque ha elegido María la mejor parte es cuando introduce todo este capítulo precioso, el capitulo 11, acerca de la oración.

Y de eso vamos a hablar ahora. Si es de la buena parte que no nos va a quitar ni el mismo Dios nos puede quitar. ¿Qué es lo que podemos aprender? ¿Qué podemos aprender nosotros de Jesús, el experto de la oración, Jesús, Él que se

comunica con su padre "face-to-face", "cara a cara", el experto en la oración? Mira lo que dice el texto Bíblico ahora si de capitulo 11, según san Lucas, versos 1 al 4.

Leamos lo que dice la palabra,

"Aconteció que estaba Jesús orando en un lugar y, cuando terminó, uno de sus discípulos le dijo: 'Señor, enséñanos a orar, como también Juan enseñó a sus discípulos.' Él les dijo: 'Cuando oréis, decid: "Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre. Venga tu Reino. Hágase tu voluntad, como en el cielo, así también en la tierra. El pan nuestro de cada día, dánoslo hoy. Perdónanos nuestros pecados, porque también nosotros perdonamos a todos los que nos deben. Y no nos metas en tentación, mas líbranos del mal.'"

Quiero mostrarte ahora este detalle. Hemos leído estos primeros cuatro versículos, pero quiero que veas este detalle, no termina la oración ahí. En Mateo la oración dice otra cosa. La parte final dice, "Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder, y la gloria." Pero en esta oración de San Lucas donde nos está relatando "el padre nuestro" aparece algo interesantísimo. Se corta la oración. Y ¿saben lo que va a introducir Jesús en esta oración? Va a introducir una parábola. Y este es el detalle que yo quiero destacar de hoy aprendiendo a orar como Jesús nos enseñó. Mira el detalle de esta parábola. Y vamos a ver ahora en los versos 5, 6, 7, y 8, mira lo que dice la palabra:

"Les dijo también: '¿Quién de vosotros que tenga un amigo, va a él a medianoche y le dice: "Amigo, préstame tres panes, porque un amigo mío ha venido a mí de viaje y no tengo qué ponerle delante"; y aquél, respondiendo desde adentro, le dice: "No me molestes; la puerta ya está cerrada y mis niños están conmigo en cama.

No puedo levantarme y dártelos"? Os digo que, aunque no se levante a dárselos por ser su amigo, sin embargo por su importunidad se levantará y le dará todo lo que necesite."

Y hemos visto ahora, hemos leído completamente, ustedes han visto el "Padre Nuestro" tan conocido por todos nosotros, y ahora la parábola que se inserta. ¿Por qué Jesús hace esto? Bueno, los discípulos están inquietos, quieren aprender, son como niños que están buscando una respuesta. Y ¿por qué preguntan? ¿Por qué quieren aprender? Porque lo han visto orar. (11:01) Han visto orar a Jesús, han visto, han oído a sus oraciones y seguramente los discípulos han comparado las oraciones. No son las oraciones tediosas y largas como las de los fariseos. No son las oraciones, este, de los paganos llenas de nerviosismo y balbuceos y gritos que no se entienden. Es la oración de Cristo Jesús con su Padre- momentos de comunión, del experto en la oración, de aquel que nos va a enseñar como tenemos que orar y más que esto, algo que es un secreto al final se los voy a decir con relación a la oración. Verdaderamente seguir a Jesús para los discípulos era algo maravilloso, era como entrar en un cuento de hadas. ¿Cuándo se imaginaron que iban a ver tantos milagros? ¿Cuándo se imaginaron que iban a ver el mar calmarse? ¿Cuándo se imaginaron que iban a ver muertos resucitar? Jesús tenía algo mucho, mucho mejor que el país de las maravillas. Jesús, seguir a Jesús significaba para ellos aprender a vivir la vida cristiana con esa solidez, con ese gozo, con esa alegría que Jesús la vivía.

Mis amigos, en la oración que Cristo nos está enseñando encontramos algo especial. Y yo creo que aquí en este punto, en este detalle que estamos estudiando, nosotros vamos a ver que la intención de Jesús al introducir esta parábola es

especifica. ¿Qué es lo que está queriendo mostrarnos con esta parábola Jesús? Un amigo que recibe la visita de otro amigo y que va a la casa de ese padre. Ahora, ubíquense un poco, vamos a la casa de ese padre. Va a la casa de ese padre y le toca la puerta "tun tun tun tun tun" la puerta y le dice "¡Amigo! Amigo, por favor, ábreme, ayúdeme. Necesito que me des pan porque no tengo que darle a un amigo que me ha venido a mí de viaje." Insiste y llama y llama. Y ¿cuánto de nosotros nos hemos puesto en esa misma posición? Que estamos llamando que como que si Dios no nos escuchara. Y la respuesta que se escucha adentro es tremenda. La acabamos de leer. Dice que el padre de la casa le dice, "¡Mira! No puedo levantarme a darte." ¿Por qué? "Porque estoy con mis niños en la cama. No puedo. No sigas siendo inoportuno." Y a veces en nuestra posición de, claro, hay que orar y orar y clamar y clamar y empezamos a insistir, insistir, insistir, insistir y pensamos que esa es la vida de la oración que tenemos que llevar. Creemos que así es como Dios de alguna manera responde lo que nosotros queremos o le pedimos. Y sabes una cosa, Dios escucha la oración. Dios escuch-Es más, Él sabe tu necesidad antes de que tu se la pidas. Pero en ese escuchar de Dios la oración, Dios se toma un tiempo para pensar lo que tu estas pidiendo. (13:50) Sabes que no siempre, no siempre pedimos lo correcto. Ya a veces no recibimos lo que pedimos, dice la Biblia, porque pedimos mal. Y cuanto de nosotros en nuestra vida de oración en nuestra vida de comunión no ejercitamos, o no tenemos la sabiduría para poder pedirle a Dios realmente lo que Él quiere darnos. Además, además el límite de la fe tú sabes cual es: Hacer, aceptar la voluntad de Dios para nosotros. Pero en la vida cristiana la oración, la comunión, cumple un papel importante. Y ese papel importante lo tenemos que entender en esta parte de la

parábola, parecía ser que orar a Dios es algo así como tratar de sacarle un favor aunque no nos lo quiere dar. Y esa es la posición que muchas veces tomamos nosotros en nuestra calidad de hijos, de cristianos. (14:47) Mira, es como un niño. Ya, el niño pide algo y se pone impaciente cuando tu no le das algo. Y a veces en nuestra impaciencia lo único que logramos hacer es distorsionar, ya, la imagen del padre. Y a veces parecía ser que (en) esta parábola el padre, o la persona que tiene que responder, que este en la casa, que es el padre, ya parece que hasta responda de mala gana. Y ahí en la palabra de Dios encontramos que responde "Mira, ¡no puedo levantar! No te lo puedo dar."

Pero hay un texto que aparece después. Fíjate lo que dice el siguiente versículo. Vamos a leer los versos 9 y 10. Fíjate lo que dice, " Y yo os digo pedir y se los dará, buscad y hallareis, llamad y se os abrirá. Porque todo aquel que pide recibe y el que busca halla y a el que llama se la abrirá." Fíjate, este texto Bíblico dice que a pesar de que, de que el padre no quería levantarse por la importunidad del amigo que viene a tocar la puerta en esa hora de la noche, Él le va a responder. Y ¿sabes una cosa? Muchos de nosotros quedamos en esa parte. Así. Nos quedamos pensando. Y ¿así es cómo se vive la vida cristiana? ¿Resulta que le pedimos al padre y aun a pesar de eso nos va a responder porque hemos sido inoportunos e insistentes? Bueno. En realidad, Lo que nos está queriendo mostrar Jesús es que esta parábola es la manera como nosotros no podemos relacionar con el padre. "¿Cómo, pastor?" Esta parábola ha sido insertada en la oración del Padre Nuestro para mostrarnos como no tiene que ser nuestra relación con el Padre. Y tú vas a decir, "Pero pastor ¿qué es lo que tú estás queriendo decir?" Mira, lo que yo te estoy queriendo decir es que lo que hemos

leído nos está demostrando que no hay relación de padre a hijo. La relación es de amigo a vecino.

¡A ver, a ver, a ver! ¿Cómo es eso? Escucha la posición, y aquí es donde yo quiero que aprendamos algo de esta parábola insertada dentro de la oración. Escucha. ¿Tú recuerdas? ¿Qué es lo que dijo el padre? El padre dijo, "No me molestes" ¿Por qué? "Porque mis niños están conmigo" ¿Dónde? "En la cama." ¿Vas entendiendo? Una persona fuera está tocando. Está tocando desesperadamente. Y ahora resulta que el padre responde diciendo "mis niños están conmigo." En esta parte de la parábola, en esta parte, Jesús nos está mostrando cual es nuestra posición. Los que son amigos, los que están afuera, los impacientes que no son pacientes para esperar una respuesta de Dios, van a clamar, van a tocar, van a interrumpir. Y esa es la sensación que te da cuando tú no eres un hijo. Pero aquí está el detalle, ahí está el detalle: ¿Quiénes están en la casa? Los hijos. Los hijos. ¿Cuál fue la respuesta del padre al vecino que vino? "No me molestes." Yo te pregunto, ¿Cómo respondería Jesús a su niño que está durmiendo con él en la cama? ¿Cómo respondería? ¿Cómo Jesús te trataría? ¿Necesitaría el hijito gritar? ¿Necesitaría el hijito hacer todo un escándalo para que su padre lo escuche? ¿Necesitaría hacer eso? No. El niño basta con un susurro, basta con un susurro. El papa le daría lo que el niño pediría.

Mira, yo tengo tres hijos varones. Uno de ellos, Víctor, es el del medio, Víctor- cuando mi hijo Víctor era más chiquitito él siempre se bajaba de su cunita (ya, ya se podía bajarse, ya caminaba), ya, a veces le daba sed a la noche. Y mi hijito venia hacia donde yo estaba, yo estaba durmiendo, te imaginas, un padre durmiendo, bueno algunos padres dormimos, los peruanos algunos roncamos mucho, ya, un padre

durmiendo **yo venía y yo estaba-** y de repente sentía como un airecito por acá en mi oído. Y ¿sabes quién era? Era mi Víctor. Mi hijito Víctor que se bajaba de su cunita, salía de la cunita, iba hasta mi habitación, y se iba hasta donde estaba su papa, y se acercaba mi oído para decirme, "Papito, papito. Ten-o shed". Vamos a hablar en castellano. "Papito. Papito. Tengo sed." Ahora, el solamente me susurraba al oído. Y ¿tú crees que yo me enojaba con mi hijo? ¿Tú crees que decía a lo "y porque vienes a despertarme justo ahora que estoy en dejar el ronquido?" (19:42) ¿Tú crees? ¡No! Es mi hijo. Lo amo, es mi pequeño, mi criatura que tiene sed, que viene a mi cama a despertarme. Entonces a un susurro yo, ¿qué hacía yo? Obviamente me levantaba, lo abrazaba, lo cargaba, iba a servir un vaso de agua que daba al bebe y lo llevaba a su cunita. ¿Grito? ¿Hizo un escándalo? ¿Balbuceo cosas? No. Mi hijo habló conmigo como hijo a padre. Él sabía que su papa iba a suplir su necesidad. No necesito otra cosa que acercarse a mí y susurrarme a mí su necesidad.

Ahora, mi amigo, este tema, este sencillo tema de oración nos tiene que ayudar (a) entender que esta parábola no está colocada allí para decirnos "¡Insiste, insiste, insiste!" No nos está hablando de (la) insistencia. Cuando tú eres hijo, tú necesitas, lo único que necesitas, es susurrarle a tu Padre cuál es tu necesidad. Susurrarle. Me gusta ver esta parábola desde el punto de vista de que yo no soy un amigo, un conocido para Dios. Yo no soy la persona que muchas personas piensan que son. Cuando tú eres hijo, tu ubicación no es fuera de la casa, tu ubicación es dentro de la casa. Adentro de la casa está tu padre. Él va a suplir todas tus necesidades. Por eso la oración que Jesús nos enseñó no empieza diciendo "Amigo mío, que estas en los

cielos..." No empieza diciendo, "Vecino mío que estas en los cielos..." La oración empieza diciendo, "Padre nuestro."

Y aquí es lo que me sorprende de este, todo este pasaje del capítulo 11. Los últimos versos vuelve(n) a recalcar este pasaje cual es mi condición, también en mateo. También en Mateo cuando nos enseña Jesús otros detalles de la oración, de que debemos entrar en nuestra recamara, debemos hacerlo, en forma privada, tenemos que comunicarnos con el Señor "face-to-face", cara a cara (copo) 22:00, viéndolo con los ojos de la fe pero en privado y el Señor responde ahí en Mateo también capítulo 6 dice "Habla a tu padre que este en secreto. Tu padre que este en secreto. Te oír y te responderá en publico." En esta parte de la oración me encanta saber que soy el hijo que está dentro de la casa junto a mi padre y que puedo susurrar a su oído y decirle "Papito, necesito esto. Papito, por favor ayúdame esto." Y ser lo suficientemente capaz y conocer como trabaja mi padre. Mi padre muchas veces queda en silencio no me responde al instante. A veces mi padre también me da la oportunidad de esperar. Y por favor, no desesperes en esperar. Porque lo único que sucede cuando tu desesperas en espera es que distorsionas la imagen de nuestro Padre. Dios es bueno. Todo el tiempo. Él nos ama. Por eso, los versos finales de este capítulo dicen así, (de) estos dicen así, miremos los versos 11, 12, y 13. Mira lo que dice:

"¿Qué padre de vosotros, si su hijo le pide pan, le dará una piedra? ¿O si le pide pescado, en lugar de pescado, le dará una serpiente? ¿O si le pide un huevo, le dará un escorpión? Pues si vosotros, siendo malos, sabéis dar buenas dádivas a vuestros hijos, ¿cuánto más vuestro Padre celestial dará el Espíritu Santo a los que se lo pidan?"

Sabes mi amigo, hay algo importantísimo en estos versos que acabamos de leer. Lo (23:47) importante de esos versos es que nos vuelve otra vez a conectar con el "Padre Nuestro". No dice "amigo", no dice "vecino." Dice "Padre nuestro." y este padre, el padre de los cielos, sí que sabe dar buenas dádivas a sus hijos. El padre de los cielos tienes cosas maravillosas para darte. Lo más maravilloso del cielo, el regalo más hermoso del cielo, que según cierra esta párrafo que hemos leído, es que el está dispuesto a darte su Espíritu Santo. Y tú vas a decir, "pastor, pero ahora estamos hablando de la oración- ¿qué tiene que ver el Espíritu Santo?" Amigo mío, todo aquel que ha sido llamado por Dios y ha aceptado a Cristo como su Señor y Salvador es sellado con el Espíritu Santo. Una persona sellada con el Espíritu Santo no es cualquier persona. Tú y yo tenemos un poder en el Espíritu Santo que no tiene nadie. Nadie que no acepta a Cristo puede tener este poder. El Espíritu Santo es la mayor bendición que Dios de los cielos nos haya podido dejar. Es el Espíritu Santo, El que nos llena de poder, Es el Espíritu Santo El que nos hace recordar todas las cosas que nos ha enseñado, es por medio del Espíritu Santo que nuestra oración tiene poder. Es por medio del Espíritu Santo que tú y yo podemos llegar a ser personas que gozan de la plenitud, de la alegría, de la paz, de la esperanza en Cristo Jesús. Es el Espíritu Santo, es por medio de Él, que nosotros podemos llegar al trono de nuestro Padre, hablar con nuestro padre, y decirle a nuestro padre todo lo que hay en nuestro corazón. El Espíritu Santo es el mayor regalo, y tú lo puedes recibir a la distancia, a la sencilla distancia, a sencillo susurro de una oración.

Sabes, yo creo que esta es una buena oportunidad para pedirle a Dios que nos dé su Espíritu. Es el Espíritu que despierta en nosotros el reconocimiento de nuestro

pecado y nuestra necesidad de un padre, un Dios todopoderoso que está dispuesto a ayudarnos. Por eso, mi amigo, en "compartiendo la verdad" hemos querido mostrarte esta nueva dimensión a partir de este momento no te mires como un vecino o como un amigo de Dios. Si eres hijo, si eres hijo de Dios, llama a casa, por favor. Habla con tu padre. Él te está esperando.

En este poco tiempo que yo tengo, solo quiero que hagamos una oración. Cierra tus ojos. Ora conmigo. Ora conmigo a nuestro Padre. Vamos a hablar con Él.

Padre Amado, Padre maravilloso, Jehová de los ejércitos, Dios todopoderoso, tu inmenso amor ha llegado a nuestros corazones. Y lo único que nosotros queremos es vivir contigo: Tu- nuestro Dios y nuestro dueño; nosotros- tus hijos. Bendícenos cada día, Señor, y, por favor, escucha nuestra oración siempre. En el nombre de Jesús, Amén.

Por favor, no te pierdas nuestro programa. Cada vez que hablamos (3:15) a ti con la Biblia es para compartir sencillamente esto que el Señor nos ha dejado, que tú también puedes descubrir. La verdad nos hace libres. Y esa verdad nos llena del poder de un Espíritu maravilloso que ha sido el don de Dios que Él nos ha dejado aquí en este mundo caído que pronto recibirá a Cristo Jesús en gloria.

APPENDIX 4—Vivir Confiado

El siguiente programa es presentado por la red de canales Esperanza.

"Compartiendo La Verdad"

"Vivir confiado"

¿Qué tal mis amigos? Una vez más aquí estamos en "Compartiendo La Verdad." Y bueno en esta oportunidad he estado pensando mucho en estos últimos días en un precioso salmo que es conocido como el Salmo Restaurador. Me estoy refiriendo al Salmo 27. Así es que en un momento vamos a abrir la palabra de Dios en este programa especial para ver qué es lo que este salmo tiene para enseñarnos en este momento. ¿Qué les parece hacemos esta sencilla oración pidiendo a Dios su bendición sobre el estudio de su palabra? Oremos:

Te doy gracias, Señor, por esta gran oportunidad. Una vez más, Queremos abrir tu palabra y queremos que nos enseñes. Oh, Señor, cuanto bien nos hace aprender de Ti. Bendícenos para que tu Espíritu Santo guíe y nos de la sabiduría necesaria para entender el mensaje que tienes para nosotros, ese mensaje de verdad poderoso que nos hace libres. Pedimos tu presencia en el nombre de Jesús, Amén y amén.

Muy bien. Vamos a introducirnos al Salmo 27. Es un salmo precioso y van a darse cuenta porque les digo que es un salmo precioso. Quiero que leamos los primeros versículos, 27:1 al 3. Dice la palabra de Dios así:

Jehová es mi luz y mi salvación. ¿De quién temeré? Jehová es la fortaleza de mi vida. ¿De quién he de atemorizarme? Cuando se juntaron contra amigos malignos mis angustiadores y mis enemigos para comer mis carnes, ellos tropezaron y cayeron. Aunque un ejército

acampe contra mí, no temerá mi corazón. Aunque contra mí se levantara guerra, yo estaré confiado.

¿Se dan cuenta? Esta firmándola Rey David. El rey David te está diciendo puedes vivir la vida cristiana confiado. Ustedes van a decir, "Pastor, pero ¿qué es lo que lo motivó a David a escribir esto?" Ja, ¿qué no lo motivó? Sería la pregunta. Vivir confiado ¿te has imaginado tú cuánta gente en este mundo vive con desconfianza? ¿Te has imaginado tú cuántas personas cada día viven su vida destrozados por dentro porque no pueden confiar en nadie- en nada y en nadie? Pues, este salmo es un salmo que nos va a ayudar a entender y también vamos a conocer cómo es que este hombre de Dios llegó a ser un hombre que confió en Jehová. Que tuvo sus caídas, tuvo. Que tuvo sus momentos, como todo ser humano, los tuvo. Que en algún momento su pecado lo alejó de Jehová, lo alejó de Jehová. Que lo llamaron la atención, y algún profeta por ahí le hizo ver el mal camino el aquel estaba- lo hizo, como ser humano.

Pero hay algo que tú tienes que saber. David era un hombre agradable y acorde al corazón de Dios. Vivir confiado- ¿de dónde sacó David tremenda confianza? Dicen que la fe es confianza. ¿De dónde David aprendió a vivir confiado? Mira lo que dice en el verso 13 en la última parte del salmo, dice así, mira lo que dice, "hubiera yo desmayado si no creyese que veré la bondad de Jehová en la tierra de los vivientes." ¿Entendiste? Hubiera yo, o sea, estuviera prácticamente molido, tirado al suelo, me tendría que recoger con una espátula, si no hubiese creído yo en la presencia de Jehová en mi vida, dice David, en esta Tierra de los creyentes. Por lo tanto, mi

pregunta es, ¿de dónde, cómo aprendió a ser un hombre dependiente de Dios David? Esto nos va a ayudar a nosotros a vivir nuestra vida cristiana.

Algunos piensan que este salmo en realidad son dos salmos porque del verso 1 al 6 el Rey David está hablando en tercera persona y del verso 7 a 14 empieza a hablar en segunda persona. De paso, esto es interesante, no, porque habla en tercera persona y como quedaría está presentando a Dios de los cielos que es su amigo y es El que le da seguridad. Y hablar en segunda persona es como la relación que él está teniendo con ese Dios.

Sea como sea, yo voy a analizar el salmo de una manera diferente. Voy a ir lo que he llamado regresión lógica, o sea vamos a analizar de atrás hacia adelante. La pregunta es real: ¿Cómo es que David llegar a tener su confianza? Obviamente hay muchas cosas que podemos hablar acerca de la confianza en el Señor que David tenía, por ejemplo la confianza es la que te ayuda a vencer el miedo y aquí lo dice. En la Biblia dice claramente Jehová es la fortaleza de mi vida, o sea, te ayuda vencer el miedo. La confianza hecha afuera el temor, según David. Por eso también dijo "Mi corazón no temerá" yo estaré siempre confiado. La confianza le da fortaleza y el tiene la fortaleza del Señor y es la que vence a los enemigos de David. Y, por supuesto, la confianza le da fuerza, evita que se canse, evita- en fin, la confianza en Dios le da muchas alternativas de victoria a David en su vida.

Pero vamos a analizar un poquito desde atrás hacia adelante. ¿Qué es lo que produjo esa confianza? Y lo que produce esta confianza lo primero que veo aquí, está en el verso 11. Vamos a leer el verso 11. Dice el verso 11 así, "Enséñame, O Jehová, tu camino. Y guíame por senda de rectitud a causa de mis enemigos." Este es el

primer punto. Yo creo que la fe y la confianza, el vivir confiado de David, primero tuvo una base. El estuvo dispuesto a aprender de Dios. "Enséñame, O Jehová, tu camino. Y guíame por senda de la rectitud." Amigo mío y hermano que me escuchas, David llegó a ser un hombre que confió a vivir confiado, llegó a vivir confiado, porque David basó su confianza en el primer lugar en la palabra de Dios.

Tú puedes buscar cualquier literatura, tú puedes edificarte con muchos libros preciosos que existen en el mundo. Hay libros muy bonitos, hay libros que dan consejos, que ayudan a entender cómo podemos vivir en la familia, como podemos vivir como pareja, como podemos vivir y disfrutar la vida a través de la salud. Todos estos libros, inclusive en muchos libros filosóficos de cantidad de filósofos desde abajo- Platón, Aristóteles, Parímedes (7:58), Hipócrates, y si quieres mas francés ahí lo tienes a Montesquieu, Rousseau, descartes, y toda esa gente. Pero ninguno de ellos te ha mostrado el poder que este libro tiene. La Biblia tiene un poder tremendo para enseñarnos a nosotros a vivir la vida cristiana. Solamente la Biblia. ¿Tú puedes contar historias de personas que han sido transformadas por un librito de Platón? ¿Tú puedes contar historias de personas que han sido transformadas, (8:24) encontraron una vida recta, una vida pura, una vida de plenitud, una vida leyendo un libro de Montesquieu? ¿De los filósofos franceses? Que de paso, en este momento, lo que tenemos es un mundo que ha descartado a Dios prácticamente de su corazón. Esa forma, esos paradigmas científicos de explicar las cosas han querido descartar a Dios de nuestra forma de vivir y justamente a causa de esta gente que ha vivido sin Dios por mucho tiempo. O que siempre vivieron sin Dios.

Ahora, cuando dice David "Enséñame" ahí está el secreto. Vivir confiado significa aprender de Dios. Y ¿aprender de dónde? Directamente de la palabra de Dios. "Lámpara a mis pies es tu palabra" dijo una vez David. "Lumbrera sobre mi camino" en la Biblia encontramos todo lo necesario, los principios eternos de Dios para que tú y yo podamos ser felices. David aprendió del Señor y en ese aprendizaje del Señor en la Biblia exige, dice "Señor, muéstrame tu camino, quiero vivir en rectitud," o sea, quiero ser una persona que hace el bien. Quiero ser una persona que busque el bien por donde quiera que vaya. Y que mis hijos vean en mí una persona de bien. Y que la humanidad vea en mí una persona de bien. Pero por sobre todas las cosas, que tu, O Señor, veas en mí una persona de bien. Enséñame, O Jehová tus caminos. Por lo tanto, la confianza de David necesitó en primer lugar de la disposición para aprender, la disposición para aprender de la palabra de Dios.

Todo el libro de Salmos es un precioso libro con el cual podemos contar nosotros en nuestra vida íntima de comunión. Leer los salmos, nos ayuda a crecer en la fe del Señor. Un hombre que aprende de Jehová, un hombre que es sumiso y obediente a Jehová, un hombre que busca la enseñanza y la dirección de Dios es un hombre que aprende a vivir con sabiduría. La Sabiduría de Dios, la inteligencia espiritual que Dios te da, y esta Sabiduría, mis hermanos, nos da libertad para poder encarar la vida. Sabes, esa sabiduría se impregna tanto en nuestros corazones y en nuestra mente y en nuestro inconsciente esos principios de la enseñanza de Dios están tan arraigados en nuestro inconsciente que cuando nos enfrentamos con cosas donde tenemos que tomar decisiones nuestro consciente va directamente al (in)consciente y busca esos principios eternos de Dios. Y los saca hacia frente y entonces cuando yo

tengo que tomar una decisión frente a la tentación o frente algún mal que de repente se me da la oportunidad de hacer mi consciente busca del inconsciente esos principios eternos de la Biblia, del amor, de la fe, y entonces yo puedo encarar la tentación con poder.

Esta sabiduría la aprendió David- cuántos de nosotros nos hemos sorprendido de leer todos estos salmos preciosos el salmo 23 "Jehová es mi pastor"... Cada uno de estos salmos donde el alaba al Dios de los cielos. ¿Por qué lo alaba? Porque vive confiado. Porque Dios es el centro de su vida. Porque Dios es el eje que mueve su vida. Él aprendió a caminar con Dios. Y aprendió de Dios lo más maravilloso, la ley eterna de Dios, los mandamientos de Dios que el Señor nos lo dio, escritos con su propio dedo, David los tuvo en su corazón. ¿Qué David erro? Sí, como humano. ¿Qué David cayo? Sí. Pero David vivió todo lo que él nos dice en los salmos, es aun cuando escribe salmos donde él explica cómo se sentía cuando caía en alguna situación difícil pero como Dios lo levantaba. Dios lo levantaba y aquí el salmo es clarísimo "El levantará mi cabeza". "El me levantará mi cabeza. Mis enemigos tropezarán, mas yo viviré confiado." Por lo tanto, lo primero que necesitas tu para vivir confiado como David es aprender del Señor, su santa y divina palabra.

Pero hay algo más. No solamente David vivía y aprendía de Dios, aprendía la santa palabra, y escuchaba las enseñanzas de Dios. Sino que también hay un elemento más que hacía de David un hombre de fe. ¿Sabes qué? La comunión. En algún programa ya yo te ensene acerca de como orar, cual es nuestra posición en la oración, pero mira que interesante como lo escribe David. Y vamos a ir por un momento al verso 7 para que tú veas en este verso lo que él dice. Mira lo que dice:

"Oye O Jehová mi voz con que a ti clamo. Ten misericordia de mi y respóndeme."

"Oye O Jehová mi voz con que aquí clamo, con que a Ti clamo. Ten misericordia de mi y respóndeme." ¿Qué está diciéndonos David con esto? Nos está diciendo que él tiene comunión. El habla con Dios *face-to-face*. Lo dije en inglés por si alguien está escuchando en inglés. Él está hablando con Dios, tiene una comunión (13:44), pero no es solamente esto, mira lo que dice más adelante, dice, "Mi corazón ha dicho de Ti, Buscad mi rostro. Tu rostro buscaré O Jehová." ¿Sabes lo que significa la dimensión de buscar el rostro de Jehová? Es a través de la oración. Es, aquí es que donde estamos hablando en segunda persona, donde algunos dicen que el salmo es diferente porque habla en segunda persona. David está hablando de algo personal. Le ha dicho al Señor "enséname," y también le ha dicho "quiero hablar contigo tu y yo de tú a tú". Es una conversación, oración, es eso. Es el tú-a-tú, Jehová y yo, tu y Jehová, a solas-- "Mi corazón a dicho de Ti Buscad mi rostro." En realidad Dios a dicho Busca mi rostro y el corazón de David está diciendo tu rostro buscaré, Señor. Ya. "No escondas tu rostro de mi, Señor, no apartes con ira a tu siervo. Mi ayuda a sido tu. No me dejes ni me desampares... Aunque mi padre y mi madre me dejaran, con todo Jehová me recogerá."

Oye, ¿un ser humano puede tener tal confianza? David nos está mostrando esto. ¿Cuánto de nosotros hemos sido víctimas inclusive del abandono de nuestros padres? Sabes, el abandono de nuestros padres no solamente es un abandono literal y físico- yo te abandoné, papá se fue, mamá se fue, y tú te criaste como un huérfano. ¿Cuántos hay en este mundo que se crían así como huérfanos? Pero sabes, mi amigo, también hay un abandono que aunque está el papa y la mamá ahí no hay

comuni3n. Aunque est1n papa y mama en la casa, no hay dialogo, no hay conversaci3n. Este mundo nos ha hecho tan autom1ticos a todos que pr1cticamente no existe m1s esa comuni3n entre padre y madre. Por eso a veces cuesta entender el tema de la oraci3n porque si t1 no te comunicas con tu papa 2c3mo vas a hacerlo con Dios? Pero hay una cosa que te quiero decir: que aunque tu padre y tu madre te abandonaron, f1sica- o no f1sica-mente, psicol3gicamente puede ser tambi3n, quiero que sepas: Hay un Dios. Hay alguien que te ama profundamente y que quiere tener una comuni3n contigo de "t1" a "t1", as1 como David lo aprendi3. 2Sabes por qu3 David vivi3 confiado? Porque aprendi3 de Jehov1, aprendi3 de la palabra, pero no solamente se quedo con eso sino que David tambi3n, 2qu3 hizo? Vivi3 lo que aprendi3. 2Qu3 es lo primero que aprendi3? Que Jehov1 y t1 tienen que andar juntos. Debemos caminar junto al Se1or. Y la 1nica manera efectiva de hacerlo es cuando hay comuni3n. Cuando hay comuni3n es cuando nosotros podemos vivir confiados porque El es nuestro Padre. Y nosotros sus hijos. La mano de Dios est1 junto a la nuestra.

Tambi3n hay algo que yo voy a destacar ahora en los pr3ximos minutos. No solamente David nos ense1a vivir confiados porque 3l aprendi3 de Jehov1, sino tambi3n porque el mantuvo una comuni3n constante, permanente con su Padre. Pero hay algo m1s. Y este es un detalle que te estoy hablando en serio, ya porque alguno(s) de ustedes que me est1n escuchando est1n- si, viven confiados, si leen la biblia de vez en cuando, y si tienen un poquito de oraci3n por ah1- pero sabes que es lo que tambi3n va a fortalecer tu vida como cristiano es que t1 tienes que dejar de ser un cristiano solitario. T1 necesitas este tercer elemento que en esta regresi3n, en esta aplicaci3n, te estoy mostrando. Mira lo que dice el verso 4, Salmo 27:4, dice as1: "Una cosa he

demandado a Jehová, esta buscaré." Dice una cosa, "Que esté YO en la CASA de Jehová TODOS los días de mi vida para contemplar la hermosura de Jehová y para inquirir en su templo." ¿Te das cuenta? Quiere decir, entonces, que esto también es un elemento importante para que tú puedas vivir confiado. Este punto no solamente termina aquí, mira lo que dice el siguiente texto, pero yo te lo voy a leer para que tú, este, lo vayas aprendiendo. ¿Por qué? ¿Por qué? "Porque Él me esconderá en su tabernáculo en el día del mal. Me ocultará en le reservado de su morada y sobre una roca me pondrá en alto." ¿Qué está diciéndonos David? Está diciéndonos esto: "Luego levantará mi cabeza sobre mis enemigos que me rodean y yo sacrificare en su tabernáculo sacrificios de júbilo. Yo cantare y entonare alabanzas a Jehová."

Todo este segmento que hemos leído nos está mostrando un elemento más que puede ayudarnos para vivir confiados. ¿Hemos aprendido de Jehová? Sí. ¿Hemos aprendido a orar y vivir en comunión? Sí. Pero también para vivir confiado tú necesitas congregarte. Y esto es lo que te decía hace un momento. Alguno de ustedes cree que se puede vivir la vida cristiana sin congregarse. David nos está diciendo que éste fue un pedido, el pedido, tal vez uno de los pedidos más importantes que él está haciendo en este proceso de sus oraciones, en este proceso de su escribir los salmos, él está diciéndonos a nosotros necesitamos congregarnos, estar en la casa de Jehová. Cuando nosotros hablamos de morar en la casa de Jehová tal vez podemos referirnos a vivir en la presencia del Señor, claro que sí. Ya no existen tabernáculos ahora - los tabernáculos- el velo del templo se rasgo de dos- se rasgo en dos. Y ¿dónde vamos ahí? Pues tenemos que congregarnos con los demás creyentes, con aquellos que están alabando, glorificando, adorando el nombre de Dios.

Tenemos que buscar a los que están amando a Dios en espíritu y en verdad. Y el Rey David nos dice que no podemos posponer este punto para poder vivir confiados. No solamente vamos a ver la hermosura de Jehová como dice el salmo, ya dice, para contempl- voy al templo para contemplar la hermosura de Jehová. También dice sino también para inquirir, para investigar, para aprender de Jehová en su templo. Amigos, la iglesia está abierta. Amigos, la iglesia te quiere recibir a ti como un discípulo del Señor. No eres el único discípulo en este mundo. Tenemos muchos discípulos en este mundo que estamos glorificando, noticiando, ponderando, alabando el nombre de Jehová. Pero hay muchos de nosotros que no nos ha puesto esto como una prioridad. Y ahí andamos como ermitaños, andamos como islas de aquí para allá sin identificarnos con los guardadores de, este, de la ley de Dios; sin identificarnos con los obedientes de Dios en esta tierra. Nosotros necesitamos hacer lo que David hizo. Parte de vivir confiados, mis hermanos, es justamente el poder reunirnos cada vez que se-es convocado el pueblo de Dios. Dios tiene muchos pueblos es esta Tierra. Tú puedes formar parte de ese pueblo. El salmo nos dice: debemos vivir sirviendo al Señor.

Hay algo más que quiero decirte con respecto a esto. Ya. ¿Cómo puedes vivir con alguien si no lo conoces? Por eso es importante de que tú puedas aprovechar de estos programas. Que te ayudan a conocer más a cerca de Dios y de lo que El espera de nosotros que somos sus hijos. Yo no podría vivir con Suzy si no la conociera. Bueno, te digo que Suzy es mi esposa. Bueno yo amo a Suzy con todo mi corazón. La amo. Y yo la conozco perfectamente. Y yo camino con ella, es mi ayuda idónea, es mi compañera. No somos, este, perfectos, tenemos cada uno nuestras deficiencias, pero

nos amamos, nos conocemos, y caminamos, y nos gusta estar juntos. Ahora, cuando tú amas a Dios tú también quieres estar con Él en su templo, junto con aquellos que amamos y adoramos el nombre de nuestro Dios. Y el resultado, entonces, ¿cuál es el resultado entonces de aprender de Dios a través de su palabra? ¿Cuál es el resultado de vivir una vida de comunión con el Señor? ¿Cuál es el resultado de poder congregarnos en la congregación donde el Señor está bendiciendo a sus hijos como somos obedientes, fieles, guardadores de sus mandamientos? El resultado es una vida de confianza, es una vida donde tú puedes disfrutarla a plenitud, una vida donde tú vas a encontrar cosas maravillosas no solamente en el estudio de la palabra, en la comunión y en las respuestas que Dios da a las oraciones de los justos, sino también en la convivencia con nuestros amigos y nuestros hermanos de la fe. Que lindo.

A mí me gusta ir a la iglesia, bueno, pues, "¡Tienes que ir a la iglesia, tu eres pastor!" ¡Sí! Pero una cosa es que tú seas pastor en esa iglesia por obligación y otra cosa es que vayas tú a disfrutar de la presencia con tus hermanos. Mira, yo soy músico. Me encanta no solamente hacer lo que hace David, me- bueno, David s- yo me identifico mucho con él porque David ora, estudia la Biblia, va al templo, y dice aquí "quiero alabarte con júbilo, con alabanza" pero al igual que David en este caso, yo también soy músico. Me encanta tocar el piano, tocar la guitarra. Algún día en uno de estos programas yo voy a tocar mi guitarra y voy a cantar alguna canción para que tu veas... he compuesto canciones, le he declarado mi amor al Señor a través de la música. Y eso me da plenitud. Si un sábado no voy al templo, si un culto de adoración yo no voy al templo, yo me siento como que con una necesidad no he completado- mi plenitud y mi gozo. Por eso yo necesito ir a donde están mis hermanos que adoran a

nuestro mismo Padre. Y es un, una alegría y un gozo compartir con cada uno de ellos. Uno aprende tanto en esa interacción, uno aprende tanto en esa vida dinámica de la fe, uno aprende tanto de la experiencia de otros. Por eso, creo definitivamente que el resultado final de poder, eh, aprender del Señor en su Palabra, de orar al Señor, y de congregarnos es una vida de confianza en el Señor.

Y quiero volver a repetir solamente esa última parte porque lo dice con tanto énfasis el rey David. Dice, "aunque un ejército acampe contra mí, no temerá mi corazón, aunque contra mí se levante guerra," David dice, "yo estaré confiado." La confianza en Dios no solamente nos libra de peligros, no solamente nos libra del temor, no solamente nos libra de los diferentes tipos de temor, no solamente nos libra del temor al futuro, del temor a la soledad, del temor a la muerte, sino que la confianza del Señor nos da a nosotros un gozo especial y una plenitud especial. Por eso, mi amigo, esta es una gran oportunidad. ¿Quieres vivir confiado? ¿Así como el Rey David vivió confiado en su Dios? Es en la Palabra de Dios que hemos encontrado este consejo. Es en esta verdad maravillosa de la palabra que hemos aprendido que, así como David, hoy, tu y yo, podemos vivir en confianza, confiado, confiados en nuestro Dios. ¿Qué es lo que te trae pena y tristeza? ¿Qué es lo que te da inseguridad? Estas edificando tu casa sobre la arena, por muchos años has edificado sobre la arena, por mucho tiempo tu corazón ha estado prácticamente viviendo en esa angustia, en ese estrés, en esa depresión severa de saber que, de temer que es lo que pasara con el futuro. Yo te digo algo. El único lugar seguro, la única roca donde hay salvación, el único-la única puerta abierta donde encontraremos seguridad y paz es en Cristo Jesús. Yo creo en Cristo Jesús. Y yo soy tan humano como tú, yo creo que tú también puedes

aceptar a Jesús como tu Señor y tu Salvador. Y bien, empezar a vivir la vida cristiana confiada, confiado plenamente en El, confiando plenamente en El, por favor, abre tu corazón, no descartes el Salmo 27. Recuérdalo siempre. Aunque tus enemigos acampen alrededor de ti, tu declararás, como el Rey David lo declaró, "Yo viviré confiado." ¿No te parece que esta es una gran verdad que no podemos olvidar? Que Dios te bendiga y en una próxima oportunidad a ver si puedo tocar la guitarra para cantar alabanzas a Dios, junto a ti. Que Dios te prospere en todos tus caminos es mi deseo como ministro y como pastor. Y también es el deseo de este tu programa "Compartiendo La Verdad." Hasta la próxima, Dios te bendiga.

APPENDIX 5—Escribe la Visión

El siguiente programa es presentado por la red de canales esperanza.

Compartiendo la Verdad

Escribe la visión

¿Qué tal amigos? Gracias una oportunidad más de estar junto a ustedes con este programa sencillo pero profundo como es "Compartiendo la Verdad." En esta oportunidad pues lo que vamos a hacer es estudiar la Biblia porque ahí está la verdad y ustedes lo saben. Y queremos compartir algo muy especial pero antes de hacerlo tal vez lo que debemos hacer es hablar con el Dueño de la verdad. Si me permiten una sencilla oración antes de abrir Su Palabra y estudiarla en este momento.

Padre, te damos gracias por esta gran oportunidad. Gracias porque nos permites compartir la verdad y queremos hacerlo directamente de este libro maravilloso, Tu santa y divina Palabra. Pedimos Tu presencia y la unción especial de tu Santo Espíritu en el nombre de Jesucristo, Amén.

Muy bien. En esta oportunidad vamos a ir a un texto Bíblico muy poco leído y conocido, pero creo que vamos a sacar una gran enseñanza de este texto. Me estoy refiriendo a Habacuc el capítulo 2 y el verso 2. Dice la Palabra de Dios así: "Y Jehová me respondió, y dijo: Escribe la visión, y declárala en tablas, para que corra el que leyere en ella." Posiblemente tú estés pensando y dij- "Y bueno, que vamos a estudiar hoy profecías." No necesariamente. Aunque Habacuc fue un profeta del Señor. Este texto nos puede ayudar a dar un inicio de lo que queremos compartir hoy. Y esto que queremos compartir hoy tiene que ver mucho con lo que a diario nosotros vivimos con

lo que cotidianamente nosotros enfrentamos en nuestras vidas. Sabes, uno de los grandes temores de las personas, de los seres humanos, es el futuro. La gente tiene miedo al futuro. No estoy hablando específicamente del futuro apocalíptico, del futuro escatológico, estoy hablando del futuro de tu propia vida. Hay personas que viven con temor a la muerte, hay personas que viven con miedo a quedarse solos, hay personas que viven con el temor de que alguna enfermedad los ataque y los empiece a destruir por dentro, y ese temor nos les permite a las personas colocarse metas positivas y buenas para el futuro. Sin embargo aquí la palabra de Dios nos está diciendo a nosotros ya que hay un secreto para poder correr hacia ese futuro que el Señor nos tiene preparados. Y Habacuc decía claramente "Escribe la visión," Le dijo Jehová a Habacuc, "Escribe la visión, y declárala en tablas para que corra todo aquel que creyere o leyere en ella."

Esto también nos puede mostrar un principio que tiene que ver hoy con mucho de que la gente y, en forma especial, los grandes empresarios, hablan. Ese principio es el principio de colocarte una meta, de colocarte un futuro, de colocarte- de tener una visión futura de tu vida. Y aquí es dónde yo quisiera que este texto Bíblico nos **pueda** apoyar con relación a este punto. Sabes, creo personalmente que una meta es un sueño que tú tienes, pero ese sueño, para alcanzarlo, tiene un plazo. Por lo tanto, tú tienes el privilegio de poder escribir tus metas, tus sueños hacia el futuro. Eh, cuando tu escribes tus metas y tus sueños hacia el futuro, estas, de alguna manera, tratando de, de, de ser arquitecto de tu propio destino. Ahora, fíjate si bien Habacuc tenía que escribir lo que Dios le revelaba a través de sueños y visiones, si tuviésemos que aplicar esa idea al sueño, al deseo, a la visión que tú tienes de tu vida para el futuro, ¿dónde

estarías tú, has pensado, dentro de cinco años? ¿Qué quisieras tú ser dentro de cinco años? O al nivel de la profesión, al nivel del hogar, al nivel de tu futuro como eres un hombre sólo que quieres casar y de repente estás buscando una esposa y ¿dónde quieres estar dentro de cinco años? ¿O dentro de diez años? ¿Alguna vez te has puesto a escribir la visión? ¿Alguna vez te has puesto a escribir en una tabla donde quieres estar en los próximos años?

En Habacuc, capítulo 2, hay una palabrita que es importante, por eso es importante este texto. Dice "escribe la visión, y declárala en tablas." ¿Para qué? "Para que CORRA todo aquel que leyere en ella." Hay algo especial cuando tú escribes tus metas. Hay algo especial cuando tú escribes lo que quieres hacer. Saben, es, es bueno. Yo sé que muchas veces uno dice, "pero escribir mis metas..." Es bueno escribir las metas. Y cuando tú escribes tus metas el hecho de que las hayas escrito eso te va hacer correr, como dice la palabra. Correr significa que tú vas a empezar a buscar la manera de no dar vuelta ni perder el tiempo hacia el alcance de tus metas. Hay muchas personas que les encanta matar el tiempo. Hay muchas personas que tienen ese gran problema de que matan el tiempo. Y ¿saben?, no estoy en contra de, pero tampoco estoy a favor. Ya, y me refiero específicamente, por ejemplo hay gente que mata el tiempo viendo novelas. Hay gente que mata el tiempo viendo películas tras películas. Y después cuando llega el momento de apremio en la vida dicen "ay, ay no tuve tiempo." Cuantas personas quisieran aprender a tocar la guitarra, por ejemplo, un instrumento tan sencillo, aprender a tocar la guitarra y dicen "no tengo tiempo, no tengo tiempo." Claro que no tienes tiempo. Uno, no te pusiste la meta. No es un sueño para ti. Pero si tú escribieras esto como una meta para tu vida,

tú correrías hacia allá. Yo siempre hablo acerca del economizador del tiempo que es la capacidad de decir "no" a muchas cosas que te hacen matar el tiempo y decirle "sí" a las cosas que tu quisieras lograr en tu vida: talentos que no has podido desarrollar, profesión que tu hubieses querido alcanzar, que por muchas veces dar vueltas en muchas otras cosas que no son positivas para tu vida la pierdes. Escribe la visión. Declárala en tablas. Sabes, hay un poder especial en escribir algo en el papel. Y eso puede encender un fuego, podemos iniciar un fuego en nuestras vidas, en forma interior con un pedacito de papel. Y esto es muy importante. La palabra clave, entonces, corre cuando escribes algo, esto te hará correr hacia esa meta segura a la que tú debes apuntar cuando te has propuesto algo en tu vida.

Fíjate lo que dice en Proverbios el capítulo 24, versos 3 y 4, Proverbios dice así: "con sabiduría se edificará la casa y con prudencia se afirmará y con ciencia se llenarán las camas de todo bien preciado y agradable." ¿Qué dice? Dice con sabiduría. O sea, tú no puedes correr hacia una meta sin sabiduría. O sea, es necesario que seas inteligente para esto. Es necesario que tu tenga(s) la posibilidad de con madurez emocional (que de paso una de las características de la madurez emocional es postergar placeres inmediatos por el logro de objetivos a largo plazo) por lo tanto es muy importante que tú puedas edificar tu casa o alcanzar la meta que te has propuesto con sabiduría.

¿Dónde empezó el secreto? Escribiendo la visión. Escribiendo la visión empieza el secreto. Mira lo que dice proverbios capítulo cuatro verso 26. La palabra de Dios dice así, "Examina la senda de tus pies y todos tus caminos sean rectos." Quiere decir entonces que aquí es donde tú demuestras la inteligencia. Examina las

sendas de tus pies. La palabra es Dios es clara. Por lo tanto no solamente es Dios El que te examina sino TÚ examinas la senda de tus pies. Tienes que ser sabio para poder entonces ir caminando hacia la meta que tú te has propuesto. Ojala que tengas una meta. Tú no le puedes decir, "Señor, Señor, por favor, bendice mi meta" si nunca te has puesto una. ¿Qué meta va a bendecir el Señor si tú no la has propuesto? Ponte una meta. Yo tengo una para ti: Tengo la meta que es importante que pudieras considerar en esta hora. ¿Has evaluado tu vida en este momento? ¿Cómo está siendo tu vida en este momento sin Cristo? ¿Cómo está viviendo tu vida en este momento si no tienes a Dios como tu socio, como el Señor y el dueño de tu vida? Ahora, si no tienes y has evaluado tu vida, si es verdad, hay muchos impíos que prosperan, es verdad, hay mucha gente mala que tiene mucho y tiene muchas comodidades. Pero ¿sabes una cosa? No estoy hablando de eso. No mires al impío cuando prospera. Quiero que tú veas la prosperidad del justo. Los justos prosperan y es lo que ha prometido el Señor. El Señor ha prometido a prosperar al justo pero que te parece un justo prospera con paz en el interior de su corazón. Cuando un justo prospera, eso quiere decir entonces que ese justo está recibiendo bendiciones pero la mayor bendición es la de un corazón totalmente abierto hacia el Señor. Un corazón que adora un corazón entregado a Dios. Y yo no sé si tú te has puesto a pensar. Si en este momento estás viviendo sin Dios, creo que es una gran oportunidad compartiendo la verdad para que tú sepas que hay un Dios maravilloso que quiere bendecir tu vida. Ese Dios está dispuesto a que alcances tus metas a bendecir tu futuro. Y ese Dios está dispuesto a hacerlo no solamente porque es Dios sino porque te ama y tú eres muy importante para El en este momento. Por lo tanto, escribe tu meta.

Pero tú vas a decir, "Pastor, si yo tuviese que escribir mis metas, ya, hay algo que puede detenerme, hay muchas cosas que me pueden detener para poder avanzar hacia esa, hacia esa meta, ese sueño que yo quiero alcanzar." Bueno, te estaba diciendo que si tú tuvieses a Cristo en tu corazón las cosas serian diferentes. Fíjate tú: ¿Dónde estarías tú dentro de cinco años si Cristo fuese el dueño de tu corazón? Si tú hoy decidieses por ejemplo ser un hijo de Dios, aceptar a Cristo como tu salvador y vivir bajo la orientación de su santa, bendita, y divina palabra... si tú estuvieses dispuesto a obedecer su ley, sus mandamientos, de ser un hijo obediente a Dios... ¿Dónde estarías en cinco años? ¿Dónde? ¿Cómo estaría tu corazón? ¿Sabes qué bendición recibirías? Gozo, Paz, Benignidad (11:28), templanza, bondad, fe... ¿Dónde estarían tus hijos si estuviesen en este momento amando al Señor que tú amas? Como estaría tu hogar si tuvieses en este momento la posibilidad de tener un hogar cristiano donde el centro de ese hogar sea Cristo Jesús con valores muy altos. Porque el mundo no da valores. Los valores vienen de la palabra de Dios. Y el mundo tiene valores de la palabra de Dios y algunos los han tergiversado (11:53) pero si tú quieres tener valores profundos y tener una meta alta y alcanzar una visión real de felicidad de gozo, solamente es en Cristo Jesús, si tú le das esa oportunidad.

Ahora, mi amigo, tu vas a decir, "Bueno pastor, pero hay algo que me impide que me ponga unas metas elevadas." Sí, hay algo que te impide. Te voy a decir algo que es cierto, que es uno de los impedimentos para alcanzar metas y colocarse metas elevadas. ¿Sabes qué es? Es vivir del pasado. "¿Cómo, pastor?" Tu no vas a poder, no vas a poder, crear un futuro positivo y en el Señor si tu permanentemente vives de tu pasado. Tienes que olvidar el pasado y empezar a caminar hacia adelante. Y la

palabra de Dios tiene apoyo para esto, y un apoyo muy grande. Por favor, entonces, no consumas tu futuro ya alimentándote de tu pasado. Y aquí yo quiero que tu veas mira lo que dice San Lucas el capítulo 9 verso 62. Mira lo que dice la palabra de Dios, es muy clara: "Ninguno," dice Jesús, "que poniendo su mano en el arado mira hacia atrás es apto para el reino de Dios." ¿Lo escuchaste? Ninguno que pone la mano en el arado, si tú vas a hacer arar tú no puedes ir para atrás una que vas a dañar el surco, dos que es imposible que tú estés tirando todo el peso del arado para atrás. (13:29) O sea, cuando tu vas a arar la tierra o avanzas o avanzas. Te pusiste una meta, escribiste tu meta, sabes perfectamente que si tú la tienes escrita vas a poder correr hacia ella y no dar vueltas ni perder el tiempo para alcanzarla, mucho más si tu meta es junto a Jesús. Cuando Jesús está en el centro de tu corazón es posible que alcanzas tu meta.

Ahora, tu vas a decir, "Pastor, ¿es ese el éxito? ¿El éxito máximo es alcanzar esa meta?" No. A veces lo que uno aprende en el camino es mucho más exitoso que alcanzar la misma meta. Pero hay cosas que impiden que tú alcances tu meta. Y una de esas cosas es justamente esto: el pasado. Cuando hablamos del pasado yo te quiero decir hay cosas terribles en ese tema del pasado. Por ejemplo hay gente que no se perdona a sí misma. La ventaja de ser un cristiano es que en Cristo Jesús tú tienes perdón de pecados. La Biblia dice que Dios puede, tiene el poder, para olvidar, para perdonar y olvidar todo lo que tú hiciste en el pasado. Hay cosas en la vida de uno mismo que pueden ser un impedimento para alcanzar una meta.

Mira, yo no tuve una vida **de**, una infancia muy feliz. No es, un niño no es feliz cuando de repente el papa en la familia es un alcohólico, es una persona que no te da

el cariño, no te proyecta el amor que debería proyectarte al corazón. Entonces a veces los hogares se dividen como el mío se dividió. Yo no he tenido tal vez un buen ejemplo, aun cuando mi padre al final del camino entregó su vida a Jesús pero ya en el último momento, ya en la muerte de un cáncer del pulmón que lo destrozó. Por el tabaco, por el alcohol, y por esa vida desordenada que llevaba. Entonces, yo podría decir, "bueno, soy un hijo de un padre alcohólico y entonces... no me queda otra. Soy un hijo de padre alcohólico y mi futuro es eso, el alcoholismo." ¡No! aunque yo tuve un problema con mi padre y aunque posiblemente en sus genes yo puedo tener una inclinación a. Cristo Jesús se cruzo por mi camino. Cuando escribí la visión de mi vida, Cristo estaba ahí. Y yo tome una decisión para el futuro. Y mi decisión fue yo no voy a repetir la historia. Si soy un arquitecto de mi propio destino prefiero caminar de la mano de Jesús, hacer que la biblia, que la palabra de Dios, la verdad de Cristo sea mi guía y entonces cambiar mí historia. Tengo 45 años en este momento. No estoy tan viejo, ¿verdad? O ¿sí? ¡No! 45 años, tengo 3 hermosos hijos, una familia constituida (y no pieeeenso cambiar de esposa) con mi esposa y con mis hijos. Yo seguiré siendo feliz. ¿Sabes por qué? Porque en mi visión coloque a Cristo en primer lugar.

No importa el pasado. Lo que importa es que tu sepas que cuando pusiste la mano **de la** arado (16:30), pusiste tu meta y si Dios es El que va delante de ti tu vas a alcanzar tus objetivos y tus metas. Sobre todo la meta espiritual. Sin ella, mi hermano, no somos más que, como dice la palabra de Dios, "címbalos que retinen", somos huecos por dentro. Por eso, no consumas tu futuro alimentándote de tu pasado. El pasado puede ejercer un inmenso dominio sobre nuestras vidas. Y mientras más miremos atrás menos podremos mirar hacia adelante. Olvídate de lo que hay atrás. Lo

hermoso de la vida cristiana es justamente eso es que Dios perdona el pasado, Dios nos perdona, y da el poder para caminar hacia adelante.

Tu vas a decir, "Pero Pastor, yo estoy en esta condición, mire. Así fue mi familia, así me trataron de niño, así es como yo empecé a sufrir, esta es la manera como **mi a**, y por eso soy un rebelde..." Momentito, momentito. Tú tienes tantas excusas como yo las tenía. Y es, ¿sabes uno de los problemas que tenemos nosotros? Es que nos encanta que nos sientan lastima. "Ay pobrecito, es hijo de un alcohólico, mira su padre hizo tal cosa, mira su madre hizo tal cosa, mira como lo castigaron de pequeño, pobre víctima." ¿Esto es lo que queremos para nosotros? ¡Sí! Y tú puedes vivir con el lamento de la gente por ti. Pero amigo mío, escúchame bien, tú tienes un Dios que ha muerto por ti. Sabes, sabes, dime, ¿qué pecado es más grande que el hijo de Dios hecho pecado? Dime ¿qué parte de tu pasado es más triste, que pecados has cometido que Dios no te pueda perdonar? Dios tiene poder. A mí me perdonó. A ti también te puede perdonar. Por eso es muy importante que apuntes hacia el futuro con Cristo Jesús. Me encanta la idea de poder correr hacia mi meta de la mano de Jesús. No es Dios que nos está reteniendo a nosotros para no alcanzar la meta. Es uno mismo que se retiene. Dios está dispuesto a bendecirnos de tal manera que tú puedes correr hacia tu meta sin temor. Porque El va delante. "Yo voy delante tu," dice el Señor. "No temas ni desmayas porque Yo soy tu Dios fuerte, poderoso que te bendigo." ¿No te parece maravilloso? Entonces puedes trazar tu meta, tu futuro, escoger, concentrarte, estar en la vanguardia y no en la retaguardia. Corre hacia adelante. Cristo tiene el poder para levantarnos a todos y darnos la bendición.

El pasado tiene cosas buenas. No todo lo del pasado es malo. Por ejemplo si tu pasado ha sido guiado por el Señor es un pasado bueno. Hay muchos, este, muchas citas bonitas de escritores cristianos que quisiéramos compartir contigo. Por ejemplo, Elena de White es una escritora Cristiana que ha escrito claramente y ha dicho que vamos a fracasar en el futuro a menos que olvidemos (19:39) la manera- escucha toda la manera como Dios ha guiado su pueblo (y cuando digo pueblo hablo de individuos) como Dios ha guiado su pueblo en el pasado. Dios tiene poder. Si el pasado lo guio Dios, sabes una cosa, ese pasado es bueno. Entonces déjate guiar (19:58), déjate llevar por Jesús, déjate llevar por ese Dios. Si tú no te dejas llevar por Dios, te aseguro, el futuro no será bueno. Hay muchos que prosperan sin Dios (entre comillas) Dios es el Único que da la prosperidad verdadera. Que maravilloso es vivir espiritualmente a los pies de nuestro Dios. Así es como dice filipenses, mira lo que dice el apóstalo san Pablo en Filipenses capitulo 3 versos 13 y 14. Mira qué lindo texto: "Hermanos, yo mismo no pretendo haberlo alcanzado, pero una cosa hago," dice Pablo, "olvidando ciertamente lo que queda atrás," (escucha lo que dice, subraya esa parte) dice, "olvidando ciertamente lo que queda atrás y extendiéndome a lo que está delante prosigo a la meta al premio del supremo llamamiento de Dios en Cristo Jesús." Mira, escriba esta ultima parte. Prosigue la meta. ¿Sabes cuál es tu meta? Sabes hay unas canciones muy lindas por ahí que dicen "El cielo es el límite." Ok, yes! El cielo es el límite. Cristo está en el cielo. Él está intercediendo por nosotros, Él ha ido a preparar un lugar para nosotros. Y El volverá la Biblia dice y lo creo ¿por qué? Porque esto es verdad. Esta es la verdad, estamos compartiendo la verdad *with you*, contigo. Cristo está preparando un lugar en el cielo. Ese es el lugar. Y Pablo lo sabía. Por eso

Pablo dice "Yo olvido lo que queda atrás. Lo que queda atrás para mí ya es basura"
 Escucha bien esto, el pasado, mi hermano, está muerto. Cuando digo el pasado está
 muerto lo que estoy diciendo es que ya paso. El pasado es pasado- ya no existe más.
 Hay un futuro precioso que está preparándonos Jehová de los ejércitos. ¿Te lo vas a
 perder? No, por favor. No te lo pierdas.

Ahora, para poder alcanzar ese futuro, ¿sabes qué necesitas? Arriesgarte,
 hermano. Tienes que arriesgarte. No, no, tú no te vas a llegar así no más. (22:02) Tu
 tienes que dar el paso de fe. Tú tienes que tomar esa decisión. Por eso, si tú escribes
 tu meta y si tu meta es Cristo Jesús mírate cómo vas a estar dentro de cinco años,
 viviendo junto a Jesús. Pero no esperes hasta allá. Ya en el próximo minuto es el
 futuro. El próximo minuto es el futuro. Y es el momento en que tú tienes que tomar
 una decisión. Este próximo minuto tú puedes poner tu mano en el corazón y decir
 "Jesús de Nazaret te acepto como mi Señor y mi Salvador. Arriesgo mi vida contigo,"
 Mira qué lindo es arriesgar la vida con Jesús, hermano. Qué lindo es arriesgar la vida
 con Jesús. "Arriesgo mi vida contigo porque solamente así sé que voy a poder
 progresar." Sabes, el que no arriesga no progresa. ¿Quieres progresar en tu vida
 familiar? ¿Quieres progresar en tu vida como hombre de trabajo o mujer de trabajo?
 ¿Quieres progresar como hijo, como hija? ¿Quieres ser un buen abuelo, una buena
 abuela? ¿Quieres ser un buen vecino? ¿Quieres ser un ser humano hecho y derecho
 como dicen en nuestras tierras? ¿Quieres ser un hijo de Dios? Este próximo minuto,
 este próximo segundo, es el futuro tuyo. Por favor escribe (lo) en tu corazón. Escribe tu
 visión: "Yo quiero ser un hijo de Dios. Yo quiero caminar con Jesús. Yo quiero

progresar en mi vida junto a Cristo Jesús. El pasado no me va a atormentar mas; Ahora mi visión es hacia el futuro."

Aquí hay cosas preciosas que yo podría compartir contigo. Por ejemplo todos los grandes descubrimientos de personas intelectuales, de grandes descubridores (23:52) han sido hecho por que tuvieron fe, porque confiaron y se arriesgaron a pesar de que el mundo decía "no, no, imposible." Se arriesgaron y lograron. Claro que los científicos dicen 'bueno después se mandan la parte quieren decir que ellos...' (0:10-12) No, no, no. Ahora piense un poco en los hombres de fe. ¿Tú has visto alguna vez algún justo desamparado y sus hijos que mendigan pan? ¿Has visto alguna vez alguna persona que amó a Cristo Jesús y que en el borde de la muerte haya, se ha quejado de Dios? ¿Has visto a algún cristiano en tu experiencia algún cristiano que en el momento final de su vida haya tenido que buscar otro tipo de **Salvador** (0:45) porque se olvido de Dios? No. La Biblia dice que el justo, por la fe vivirá. Tú puedes vivir como el justo. Tú quieres alcanzar tus metas. Tú puedes a grandes zancadas (0:59) avanzar hacia tu futuro, hacia los desafíos que te has puesto en la vida. Si tú eliges lo importante, si tú eliges a Jesús, ese será tu futuro, un futuro lleno de oportunidades con Cristo Jesús en tu corazón.

Alguien dijo una vez "Si cazas conejos en territorio de tigres debes cuidarte de los tigres, pero si cazas tigres en territorio de conejos, oye, no le hagas caso a los conejos." Tienes que seguir avanzando. Por supuesto, quiero recordarte y esto lo leí (1:37) alguna vez en un libro que decía así: "recuerda un ejército de leones dirigido por una oveja puede ser vencido fácilmente por un ejército de ovejas dirigidos por un león." El León es la tribu de Judá. El León, cuyo nombre es Cristo Jesús. Tú puedes. El

Señor está esperando que tomes la decisión. Los próximos minutos de tu futuro son sumamente importantes. Es una decisión de vida o muerte. Algunas veces dicen escritores Bíblicos, cristianos, perdón, que es de consecuencias eternas tu decisión. La decisión para ti hoy si la visión que tú tienes de tu vida es eternidad, es paz, es amor, es--- Jesús, tome esa decisión. No desuelta, escribe tu decisión: "Hoy acepto a Cristo Jesús como mi Señor y Salvador. Será, para mí, mi Dios, MI salvación, MI refugio, MI fortaleza. Y ese Dios me guiará por donde quiera que yo vaya. Estoy dispuesto a caminar con El. Si Él cambió al Pastor Homero, también me puede cambiar a mí. Si el pastor tuvo un pasado triste, hoy él vive con Jesús." *Please*, por favor, acepta a Cristo como tu Señor y escribe tu visión. Ojalá que sea esta, esta, la vida eterna en las manos del Todopoderoso. No hay vuelta de hoja (3:37), Jesús es nuestro Salvador. Esperamos en la próxima oportunidad vernos para compartir un poco más acerca de esta maravillosa verdad. Que Dios te bendiga. Amén.