

CHURCH OF THE HIGHLANDS

Win Before You Begin

Full Transcript

Rich Wilkerson Jr.
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Duration: 44:53

Introduction and Honoring Leadership

- 0:00 Tonight is gonna be it already again has been special. I am so grateful for tonight We'll have that time of worship later on, but I'm really really grateful for Pastor Rich Wilkerson Junior to be with us tonight He's an unbelievable voice really to an entire generation if you've been around highlands You know, he has been a part of our motion conference really almost since the beginning for over 15 years He has been faithful. This is a really big deal to show up every single year and to preach Jesus in the there have been Thousands of lives that have been changed. He and his wife Donsery are building one of the most phenomenal churches I've ever seen I actually got a chance to preach there last weekend.
- 0:31 It was unbelievable What God is doing in Miami, Florida, but as your pastor I need y'all to hear this He is one of my closest friends in ministry and I'm grateful that he is a friend but more than that He has become a brother and the number of hours we have spent talking about ministry and life and marriage and leadership He is invested in Jill and I so faithfully and I am better in every way because of him We are better because of he and DC and so tonight at every location Would you stand your feet and give a huge come on highlands? Welcome all the way from Miami pass the rich Wilkerson junior Love you hallelujah Come on church of the Highlands It's Wednesday night and you're in church Come on.
- 1:15 Let's do what we came to do. Why don't you go and clap your hands lift your voice? Let's give the King of Kings the Lord of Lords. His name is Jesus. Come on somebody give him praise in the house tonight hallelujah Hallelujah, I Just think church on a Wednesday night just hits different Just feel like you're talking to some saints in the place and I think anybody that goes to church on a Wednesday night is Automatically going to heaven amen But what an honor it is to be here. Why don't you high five a couple of people around you and say I'm happy you're sitting near me Reach for your Bible Turn with me to the Old Testament Want you to turn to Deuteronomy chapter 20 Deuteronomy chapter 20 if you have a Bible as you are turning there Let me greet all of the locations that are tuning in What an amazing amazing ministry in church that this is not just a local church here in Alabama But truly a church that is touching the nation and I've been coming around highlands for I think 15 years now and every time I come into this space I always leave better than how I came and The truth is is that none of this is by accident.
- 2:27 It is God's divine design It truly is his providential plan, but that always involves a man and a woman and it's so fitting for me It's such an honor that I get to be here on the 25 year anniversary weekend in window Because my pastor mentor model hero in the faith Is the man who started this place? I'm so grateful for pastor Chris and Miss Tammy Can we just put our hands going to thank God? I know we've been saying thank you a whole lot this weekend, but Anytime you're in the room. I want to make sure I'm saying thank you I've stolen more of his sermons than any person on the planet and I just I so admire you and I love you and even in this season.
- 3:06 It's so fun for me to watch As a younger man in the faith just watching you as you transition I think that maturity is always seen in the transitions in life And for you to build all this and just give it away We already knew how generous you were, but it's just another another kind of mark on the journey. And so I love you very much I'm committed to you thankful for your life. Thank you for teaching me all that I know and Miss Tammy We're grateful for you and who you are you guys are just two of the finest and it's

so fun for me because you introduced me to Mark Way back then and let us have a friendship and now here.

3:42 We are following in your footsteps and Mark and Jill I can't say enough things. I know maybe you're like the church like why do preachers do this? It's called a culture of honor and what you'll discover about a culture of honor is honor is a key that unlocks the supernatural Everyone Jesus that is in home his own hometown He can't do many miracles because they're familiar with it And so I just think it's important that when you're in somebody else's pulpit on somebody else's platform that you take a moment to place Value on who they are and I want to say publicly how grateful I am for Mark and Jill Pettis They've served they've submitted they've followed and look what the Lord has done Let me say to every young leader out there Submission will take you further than ambition could ever dream You're looking at a couple that didn't strive didn't posture in a position But served and look how the Lord is using them.

Don't Let What You See Shake What You Know

4:39 I love both of you I could take my entire clock just on you. Thank you for being my friend and I believe the next 25 years really The best is yet to come how we all believe the best is yet to come how many are committed to the journey come on Clap your hands every location Oh, I'm gonna preach it like I feel let me give you one verse Deuteronomy chapter 20 There's more verses in this passage. We'll see how much time we have to get into it But I want to give you one verse up front. This is what the scripture says Deuteronomy chapter 20 verse 1 When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours Do not be afraid of them Because the Lord your God who this is good Who brought you up out of Egypt will be with you?

5:29

Deuteronomy 20:1

When you go out to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid of them, for the LORD your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.

6:33

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

7:05 We have to do so with a faith mindset Deuteronomy chapter 20 is very interesting because what's taking place here is that Moses is giving a briefing to the soldiers before the battle He is prescribing to them and describing to them how they are to win and how they should think Before they hold swords in their hands. He wants them to win the war in their head And I think that is we're looking at this passage I just want to this is super simple, but I think that a lot of people miss this as We step out into the Christian journey as we are being formed into the image of Jesus We have to always do so with the mindset that God is for you This is like I know it sounds so basic But people get these different images and pictures of who God is and you need to see God as a loving father who is for you

- 8:03 The other day I had a bit of a briefing of my own it wasn't with soldiers, but it was it was with my kids and In my house. I am the general if you know what I'm talking about and I had gotten a report that My kids were being bad with the babysitter and so I gathered the three bigs. I have four children Wyatt Wild Whalen and Wolfgang The preachers we love alliteration it's all WWW and they're either going to be preachers or bank robbers. We're not sure those names
- 8:33 But I but I gathered all three of them and In particular, I heard that my daughter Whalen that she had had a bad attitude and so I said Whalen I Said were you bad today? And I don't even know how it hit her, but she just like welled up with these princess tears. You said daddy daddy. I don't remember Any other parents out there your kids that you have short-term amnesia. What do you mean? You don't remember, you know? And so I looked over at her younger or older brother wild. I said wild I said was Whalen bad today. He said oh dad It's been such a long day I'm like bro. It's 2 15 in the afternoon.
- 9:14 It's not that late And it made me laugh because I will watch wild and Whalen fight with one another But as soon as my son wild senses Judgment correction or what he perceives to be an attack over his sister Come on, he steps in and he protects. I want to say it this way brothers protect But you ought to know that fathers fight and as we step out into the battles on this journey called faith You got to know there is a good father up in heaven that he stands right in the gap and he will fight For you if you believe it clap your hands make a little bit of noise. There is a good father Who is for you?
- 9:59 And so if we're going to win the battle whatever the challenges were up against I want to make a couple of observations the first observation I want to make is that notice what Moses says here before they go into war He says when you go to war when you see the horses and you see the chariots do not be afraid of them I want to remind you today that you have to be a person that don't let what you see Shake what you know Don't let what you see shake what you know he says when you go to war Which is interesting to me because he's telling you it's not a question of if it's a question of when Battle is not optional.
- 10:40 It's inevitable And so he says when you go to war when you step out into the challenge of life and when you see the horses and the chariots He says man don't be afraid. What's he saying? He's saying that many times fear begins with your eyes That a lot of us were going through things and what we see begins to put a seed of fear in our heart Anyone like me that you can see something and then quickly you can begin to script an entire with this Strange imagination that you have you can script a whole story. It's a whole Netflix series right there It's like you give me one text left on red. I'm like, that's it That's it relationships over.
- 11:19 They're out. I guess I guess I'll never have any friends, right? Some of you it's like you see one bill show up that you weren't expected. That's it. I'm gonna be broke Dave Ramsey was right about me You see one uncomfortable conversation at work that's it I'm getting fired tomorrow Watch this because we don't just see things we tend to script things
- 11:49 Human beings are meaning machines. We see something and then we attach a story do it And so Moses is coming out before they go to the battle and he's like, you know Don't let what you see shake what you know I know you see the bills and I know you see the challenges I know you see the relationship pain and I know you see the transition But you've got to understand just because you see it doesn't negate the fact that God is working last time I check my Bible said we don't walk by sight. Come on somebody. We

walk by Faith. It's not what I see. It's what I know So, yes, I see the chariots, but I know who my God is Yes, I see the battle in front of me, but I know the one who set me free Yes, I see the odds are actually beginning to stack up against me But I know a God who has actually defied every odd in front of him I see some stuff, but I also know some stuff anybody know a God that you've got some confidence today Faith doesn't deny what you see it gives you confidence in what you know And I think this I think fear tends to shake us, but faith gives us stability Notice the very first command that Moses says this is like one of the only commands he gives it.

Let God's Word Be Louder Than Your Worry

13:10

Deuteronomy 20:2-4

And when you draw near to the battle, the priest shall come forward and speak to the people and shall say to them, 'Hear, O Israel, today you are drawing near for battle against your enemies: let not your heart faint. Do not fear or panic or be in dread of them, for the LORD your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory.'

- 13:41 You've got to get good that you don't walk by sight You walk by faith and faith has a sound you got to say it even though you see something different. I will not Fear the Lord is my salvation My light in whom I trust I will not be afraid Yeah, though. I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. I will not fear Is there anybody in this room today that wants to walk in this new year full of faith? And what does he say oh just says to them he says when you see The horses when you see the church when you see these great armies do not be afraid of them and He reminds them for the Lord your God brought you up out of Egypt.
- 14:32 Oh, I like it You might not be able to see what God is doing, but you do know what God has done Some of us we need to step into this year with that calm confidence I can't always see what God is doing, but I know what he's done in my life I can't always see his plan But I do know his power and I can't always see my future But I do know the freedom that he gave me I might not be exactly where it is that I want to be But praise God for Jesus. I am not where I used to be is there anybody in the house today that could say I know what he's done You know enough about God to know he's gonna get you through this thing The God who brought you up out of Egypt if God brought you up out of Egypt He can bring you through this situation If God part of the Red Sea something tells me whatever circumstance is in front of you right now God can move that thing if he was faithful back then he'll be faithful right now If he did it back then does anybody believe he can do it again somebody clap your hands Give God some praise.
- 15:42 I'm a win before I begin I'm gonna get a winning mindset tonight. I'm not gonna let what I see shake What I know You know enough about God to know that he will carry you through Look back on the last 12 months. Look at all the ways that he's blessed you and moved in your life Sure, you've got some challenges in front of you. Sure. You've got some shaking going on But the same God who brought you up out of Egypt. Oh, he's gonna bring you out of this if you believe that somebody said amen Look at what moses says moses. They're not even in the battle yet. He's he just he's just teaching verse two says this when you are about to go into battle the priest Shall come forward and address the army

16:30 He shall say here is real today. You are going into battle against your enemies I love it Do not be faint-hearted or afraid do not panic or be terrified by Them right this down number two Let God's word be louder than your worry Let God's word be louder than your worry. This is a peculiar situation Because they're about to go into battle And moses doesn't call generals Surgents Colonel's or captains. No, he calls the priest He brings the priest forward So before he gives them weapons he gives them a word And I love it because tonight is we're in this space, you know, i'm not just Preaching to spectators. I think i'm preaching to soldiers Is there anybody in this room tonight that you can testify you're fighting for something anybody fighting for peace

17:29 Fighting for joy. Maybe you're fighting for your calling fighting for your purpose Any men in this house fighting for your family any men I got fighting for your children fighting for your spouse. Come on. Where are all the fighters at tonight anybody fighting for something Sometimes people will comment on instagram bro. Why are you always shouting?

17:55 I get excited tonight. I gotta remind myself to be more like pastor crest, you know cool calm and collective I get a little ratchet up here, you know Dude, just you don't need to shout so much I say yeah, I hear you But the reason why i'm shouting is because I only get to look at my church one day a week And when they come into god's house, I know all week long They have been hearing the voices of this world the noise of this worry Algorithms their own inner critic spectators people speaking fear over their life And when they get into god's house, I don't want to do everything I can to get god's word to be louder Than their worry.

18:34 Come on somebody clap your hands. I want god's word to get into your heart tonight Don't let your worry be louder than god's word worry is an anglo-saxon word and it comes from the word strangle It's where you get strangled. That's what worry feels like it feels like pressure all around It feels like fear taking over and it's overbearing at times I firmly believe that if you're here tonight, this is such an important rhythm I love the fact that the first wednesday of the of each month you gather Because what you're doing is you're getting a word before the war

19:14 And god's word is being spoken to you to be louder than whatever it is you're going through whatever it is that you're facing Write this down if you're taking notes What you repeat in peace will become your reflex under pressure You got to get this what's louder in your life right now Worry or god's word because what you repeat in peace. We're in the sanctuary tonight We've come into god's sanctuary. This is a space that we walk in god's peace And so we repeat in peace. That's why we're worshiping. That's why we're We're giving god's word out like what you repeat in peace will become your reflex under pressure I can give you a lot of examples of this but think about the life of jesus matthew chapter three jesus is baptized It's a beautiful moment.

20:04 He goes under the water the heavens open up and then the voice from heaven God the father speaks. This is my son whom I love and I'm well, please The holy spirit descends on him like a dove But matthew three goes right into matthew chapter four and the bible says the spirit of god led him into the wilderness to be tempted Now watch this this is very very important the enemy comes to tempt jesus And notice as the enemy comes to tempt jesus. What does he say he he says to him if you are the son of god Whenever the devil tempts you he's always going to tempt your identity The last thing jesus heard is the first thing

the enemy tempts The last thing jesus heard was this is my son whom I love and well, please The first thing out of the devil's mouth is if you are the son of god And for all the gen ziers out there who I love so much Listen jesus didn't like fight back with vibes

21:06 He fought back with verses What does jesus do jesus responds it is written Pressure hits his life and the thing that's inside of him comes at them. It is written Funny enough, this is very very interesting jesus responds three different times in every time that he responds You don't book the bible he quotes the book of bible that he quotes is dude eronomy

21:32 Dude eronomy is the book of instruction the second law and it's interesting because jesus is doing a whole lot of things there in the wilderness jesus is actually illustrating for all of us what it looks like to win Remember the israelites they too went into a wilderness And they too were tempted but they disobeyed and they failed in the wilderness But jesus is the true and better israel and he says I don't need 40 years all I need is 40 days and I can overcome it And i'm going to use the same book the same command the same instruction that you had way back then But you failed to use and i'm going to show you how to use it You don't need a new preacher.

22:14 You don't need a new church. You don't need a new bible You just got to get back to the good old truth and use it as a weapon

22:23 He said it is written listen to me the word is a weapon is the word in you Do you know the word? Because 2026 is the year that you got to learn this thing We got a mature in the faith It's a dangerous game playing the flip and read game You ever need a word from god like I need a word from god. Oh flip and read

22:53 And juda's hanged himself I need another word go and do likewise no Listen to me We got to get god's word into our heart We got to grow in the word Notice when you go back to the temptation story the enemy knows the word too Meaning it's not enough just to read the word you got to learn the word If you don't train in the word you will never triumph in the wilderness Come on. I wonder is there anybody in this house today that says I want to fight back with the word of god It is written before it is one You got to get god's word to be louder than your own worry. What's what's strangling you?

23:49 What's pressuring you today? What's coming upon you? What you repeat in peace will be your reflex under pressure? It's kind of simple right like we know this if you squeeze an apple sam what comes out of an apple? Apple juice very good. This is your youth pastor by the way. She knows the word of god. Look at that If you squeeze an orange sir, what do you get you get? Orange juice very good. He's not helping me very much, but I but I appreciate it. He looked at me and he's smiling I like that as well Listen to me what I'm trying to show you is that pressure doesn't remove what's inside of you Pressure reveals what's inside of you Right Pressure reveals what's already in you When pressure came against you the word came out what comes out of what comes out of christians when they get squeezed complaining gossip another tick-tock video

Don't Let Your Anxiety Overthrow Your Order

24:47 Fear worry anger resentment No, no when you squeeze a believer you ought to get believer juice Believer juice believer juice believer juice Yeah When you and I get squeezed What should come out of us is believer juice because last time I checked if you're christian you ought to have some fruit Are we allowed to preach on Wednesday? I don't know Yeah, you ought to have a little bit of love a little bit of joy When pain hits your life there ought to be a supernatural peace Philippians four calls it a piece that transcends all Understanding let me make that really modern for you You ought to have a piece that when the pain doesn't make sense come on somebody you got a piece that doesn't make sense It's called believer juice that when I get squeezed something good comes out of me somebody give God some praise in this house How much more for joy goodness and kindness and faithfulness and and self-control it's called believer juice

26:10 Don't let your worry be louder than God's word When pressure hits your life The fruit of the spirit ought to show up because last I might check the fruit of the spirit it can still grow under pressure Under pressure I think we're living the interesting times because you can imagine these men there at this battle like what's going on man like

26:39 They're sending out the preachers Like we need something more than that than a sermon. No, we're gonna give you a sermon then we're gonna go to war Devotions yeah devotions But I think there's a principle going on I think God is trying to get his external word into their internal world And we miss this sometimes I've got a coach back home in Miami great guy And we were talking about the fact that Most people tend to mirror their external world with whatever's going on there on their internal world And don't get me wrong. I want to be very very clear as we're talking tonight. All of gospel change starts inside Out that that's how it works But I do think there's a form of maturity that as you grow in the lord We're talking wens and i at church at night that you would create an environment That is going to be positive triggers to put you into a faith mode

27:33 Too many of us what we do is we're going on in chaos in the inside. So we create an environment full of chaos And something I already know what i'm talking about. It's like you're having a sad day, you know like Alexa play my sad playlist Come on. Some of y'all got some great Alexa play. I want to cry on the show or playlist. You got some Wild ones, okay And so we're full of fear. So we checked the news

28:00 We're feeling insecure so we scroll on instagram All of these are signs of saying man I'm making my external world match my internal world But one of the ways that you get god's word to be louder than your worry is that you start to set up an environment That actually speaks to you and ministers to you I think one of the most basic things we can do and you don't have to take big huge changes I just think sometimes it's it's simple. I've been teaching our church a whole lot Most people put this thing on their nightstand at night, but I heard pastor Chris talking about this Why don't you just like parent your phone?

28:38 Like some of us You need to like parent your phone like put your phone to bed before you go to bed Like get up before you before the phone gets up and some of us maybe put the phone in another room Like parent your phone Sometimes i'm talking to students. It's like man pastor rich. I just I don't know I can't get free man I'm really struggling with loss. I'm like where's your phone at night? They're like I put it on my pillow at night That's like being an alcoholic and putting a bottle of Jack Daniels on your pillow at night My precious, you're not gonna win that way Like We can pray for you all you want But this is like

come on wake up And a level pastor Chris says Why don't you just reverse it if you put this in another room and then put this on your nightstand Why don't you choose to go biblical before you go digital Even if you don't read the word even if it's just on your nightstand as an external trigger To tell your internal world.

29:43 There's God's word last time I checked Faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God What if the first thing you saw when you woke up was God's word? What if the last thing you saw before you went to bed? Was God's word something tells me that the word of God would begin to permeate through your life And I am learning in my life That I need community when I feel like I don't need community I'm learning. I need a word from heaven when I feel like I don't want to get a word In fact, I'm learning when I want to play my sad playlist with Alexa I'm learning that is the exact moment that I got to say something different.

30:24 Hey, Alexa Play my faith filled highlands worship playlist because I got to change the atmosphere around Come on somebody. Come on. No, faith has a sound Hope has a sound Peace has a sound come on somebody. Let's hear the sound of faith in this room for a moment tonight

30:46 It's the word of God Louder than the pressure of this life louder than the worry of my life Don't let what you see shake what you know And don't let your worry be louder than God's word. You're going to win before you begin We've gathered you here tonight because we're sending you back into the world Can we understand that you're going back into challenges? You're going back into All sorts of circumstances that you will have battles that you're facing We can't list out all those battles, but As we step into them, we know that God says you're going to win But it doesn't mean you won't have to fight As we come to a close look at verses five through seven The officers shall say to the army has anyone built a new house and not yet begun to live in it Let him go home or he may die in battle Someone else may begin to live in it has anyone planted a vineyard and not begin to enjoy it Let him go home or he may die in battle and someone else enjoy it has anyone Become pledged to a woman and not married or let him go home or he may die in the battle in someone else marry her There's a lot happening here, but I just want you to write this down and think on this This is so so true.

32:02 I Want you to write it this way. I think they wrote it different on the notes here, but don't let your anxiety overthrow your order Write it that way. Don't let your anxiety overthrow your order Because Moses kind of pivots and he's like been talking about this war and then he says like He talks about a vineyard talks about a house talks about a spouse And I believe what he's showing us is he's showing us order that God's not just raising up Fighters here at highlands. He's also raising up families And how do you build a great church? How do you build a church for 25 years? You build it with great families great moms and dads great Great kids programs great youth programs motion coffins

32:40 That not all of life is meant to be endured parts of life a lot of life is meant to be enjoyed And you got to see that all the way back in the old testament that god wants you to enjoy life What makes you different from the world how you don't conform to the pattern of this world is that you think differently about your blessings That when god blesses you you recognize wow there is one who's giving that blessing And it doesn't terminate and it doesn't stop right here on me But rather it rolls up into praise and to worship and into glory going god you get my praise And so he says If you've planted a vineyard and you haven't

gotten to go check that out go you've built a house and you haven't enjoyed it Go if you just recently got married He literally mentions spouse house and a vineyard

33:32 I think a spouse speaks towards our relationships. I think a house speaks towards our home life I think a vineyard speaks towards our work life And what he's speaking about is is order That we can talk all we want about battles and talk about peace but listen to me If your home is in chaos your peace will always be in confusion

33:57 God says I want you to go deal with that first. I like this is first Wednesday. It's a night of order That we believe in first fruits that if you give god the first he promises to bless the rest And so even for me and my church back home teaching my church that like I want to live a life of order And so what is the order of my life? It's god first It's my spouse Don Shari second I got these four kids Why wild wailing the wolf gang It's my family and friends fourth and watch this. This is what I had to tell my church and then fifth is my church And then sixth is I guess the community and seven maybe the state and then keep going It's a rich.

Fear Cannot Live Here — Protect the Culture

34:39 Why are you saying that because listen to me order is the antidote to anxiety And many of us don't get this today We just walk around anxious feeling thin feeling less than feeling stretched and so much of it is because we are living a life That is out of order And if god's not placed in his proper order your life will always be out of order What does the scripture say? It says that our god is a god of peace not a god of disorder That peace is a result of order I grew up in church. I'm so thankful for The legacy that I grew up in but man I've watched a lot of preachers man get this wrong thinking they were being noble Loving god's bride more than their bride Before I could take care of god shouldn't I gotta take care of my children Jesus says seek first the kingdom and all these things shall be added unto you There's a whole lot of people chasing the added things But god says if you put me first i'll handle all of the additions I'll take care of everything that you need I'm grateful for pastor Chris Miss tammy mark and Jill these are leaders of order.

35:54

Deuteronomy 20:8

And the officers shall speak further to the people, and say, 'Is there any man who is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go back to his house, lest he make the heart of his fellows melt like his own.'

36:08 And they have modeled order for us And so most is like if you got any of these things you go back and take what we're gonna be okay In verse eight as we close he says it this way this is the good one I want to preach it to you tonight as we get ready to close he said is anyone afraid or faint-hearted? Let him go home so that his fellow soldiers will not become disheartened too I love this Because we are in a new season here at highlands And I don't come to be mean or rude, but fear cannot live here

36:39 I'm so grateful for the past. We're gonna build on it. What an amazing 25 years This is a run like none have ever seen before But I believe in a god who's taking us from grace to grace Strength the strength glory to glory the best is in front of us And so I want us to have a mindset reason we're gonna win We're

gonna win before we even begin this next year Because we're making the decision That we're not going to let our anxiety throw off our order And he says there's no one afraid around you You got to go you got to leave you got to go I want to say this way to some people tonight that are struggling.

37:23 We're gonna pray here in just a moment That thing that you're dealing with that fear god didn't give you that You you picked that up on the long the way. I don't know where you got that from Someone betrayed you someone hurts you Someone let you down Someone walked out of your life There was a dad who wasn't there. There was a boyfriend who who bailed there was a girl who said something to you Maybe it was an algorithm. Maybe it was a newsfeed. I don't know But fear is like secondhand smoke You might not have done it, but it still affects you And I want to preach to some people tonight You got to let some people go.

38:00 You got to cut some people out. You cannot handle this fear This fear is contagious and Moses says if anyone's afraid, please leave now Because we're gonna go take that land And God's given us that land but in order for us to step it don't we have to take some stuff We're gonna have to actually move our legs. It's gonna require some work. He's gonna need our backbone He's gonna need our voices. He's gonna need our hands and we cannot tolerate fear in this space Come on somebody clap your hands praise god

38:35 And What I know about battles My own journey is that sometimes you can face a battle and you can convict tourists, but you got to face that battle again I was laying with my little boy Wyatt a couple weeks ago We were accounting Disney World I took my son to Disney World when he was four years of age and I took him on space mountain Didn't really ask for his permission just took him on it Space mountain is this roller coaster in the dark and I thought he would love it He came off and he was traumatized It's four years of therapy, but it's it's gonna be fine Every year we've gone back. I'm like, why you got to go on space now.

39:13 He's like, no, I I hate space mountain And I don't like you know And we just went back this fall And i'm gonna be honest you I bribed him. I was like i'm gonna get you a toy from marvel and a toy from star wars If you'll go on space now, he's like, right dad, you'll do it. Oh We went on space mountain Got done with spacebound. We got done his hands are up in there. I was like, yeah He goes dad again again again I was like son. We can't go again the way my budgeting is set up I only bought one light in round past and so next year we can do it again, you know

The Battle Is Already Won — Closing and Salvation Invitation

39:57 We were laying in bed and I said, why what's your favorite ride At disney one. He said dad space mountain I said, that's so funny You told me you hated it. You were so afraid of it. He said, I know dad But I think they changed the ride I said, no, Wyatt The ride didn't change You changed And I'm not going to tell you the battles are going to get easier what i'm going to tell you is you're getting stronger The circumstances aren't going to get lighter come on somebody. We're getting wiser. We are growing How many can testify it's not one battle after another it's one victory after another And my god said if we'll step out into the land and it will face it.

- 40:52 He promises he will fight For us anybody's faithful for a god who said i'm going to fight for you You're not in this thing alone. You're not by yourself. I promise you. I will never leave you nor forsake you God, what's the plan? Here's the plan. It's a promise. I'm going to be with you I was with you for 25 years and i'll be with you for the next 25 years But you got to change your mindset tonight. This battle is already over. It's a fixed fight You're going to win All you ever do is win because of what jesus christ did Last time i checked i read the end of the book how many oh no we win Come on somebody give praise to jesus Come on somebody stand up on your feet and give glory to god
- 41:48 You're getting stronger. You're getting wiser. Come on and praise him in the house tonight God we magnify you. God we worship you There's nobody like our god There's nobody like our god I want you to close your eyes and I want you to open up your ears We haven't come this far by strategy. We haven't come this far by system We've come this far by faith So speak lord Your servants are listening And if you can use anything lord you can use us We want to be used by you god Give us faith to endure faith to enjoy
- 42:41 Oh god i pray for a new hunger in this house for your word For jesus, you said those that hunger and thirst for righteousness they will be filled So god we desire your word It's got to be louder in our life than i worry And lord tonight we are here on first wednesday getting the order of our life Right We're getting stronger We're getting wiser You're not waiting on answers you're waiting on god And they that wait upon the lord he will renew their strength Before we pray for anyone if you're in this room tonight if you're at one of our locations and you've never met jesus You've never surrendered your life to the king of kings and lord of lords I want to give you an opportunity right now to activate your faith Faith is just as much as an action as it is a confession
- 43:38 And so tonight if that's you if you want to surrender your life to jesus or you want to recommit your life i'm going to ask on the count of that you lift your hand up That's me rich would you pray for me Jesus Christ he came two thousand years ago And because of what he did on the cross we already know we won't win So now we put on a mind set of faith That's you on the count of three You want to surrender your life at one of our locations or right here in this room ready one the bible says today's that day Two don't look at your neighbor it's not about your neighbor it's between you and jesus ready one two three if that's you Shoot it up.
- 44:09 Shoot it up. Shoot it up. That's me rich Thank you god Thank you lord Wednesday night in Birmingham I gave my life to jesus Church can we just all lift our hands towards heaven right where we are pray this first say dear jesus tonight I surrender I give you my life forgive me I repent My eyes have been opened I've heard your call Tonight I boldly confess That you are Who you said that you are I want to follow you Give me grace To fall And jesus mighty net Everybody's dead