

HIGHLANDS CHURCH

Deeds Without Love Are Worthless

Full Transcript

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Introduction: The Most Misquoted Passage

- 0:31 If you've been around for a while, we've been in 1 Corinthians since the start of last fall, and we're in chapter 13 today, which I still argue is maybe one of the most misquoted passages in all of scripture. It's available at any Walgreens during Valentine's Day. You can find it in the card aisle. Also read at a lot of weddings, and it's a beautiful passage. It talks all about love. It's just not talking about romantic love, but we've made it that. That's all right. We're going to get into it today. It's right in the middle of Paul's whole argument about using your gifts to build up God's church, and so he's going to lay into that today with this passage right in the middle of two pretty significant things, and so I'll set it up for you this way, where
- 1:17 Paul's whole argument is, but I think the whole purpose of this passage is all about it. Just an example from the last couple of weeks in the Ewell household. My oldest son, Logan, I've told you about him before, is now playing baseball at Southeast Missouri, which is... is in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Never been there before. Been there now. Interesting place. Great place. He's having a ton of fun, but for Brooke and I, this has been really hard. This is the first child of ours that has left the house and not been a 25 - minute drive away. Everyone else was ASU or GCU, relatively close. He's now way on the other side of the country, and so Brooke and I, a little angsty.

The Bank Illustration: Having Everything Except the One Thing

- 1:52 Brooke especially, concerned about when we got there. We had two days, and there was a list of things that when I looked at Brooke and said, all right, what can I do to help calm your mind as a mom, to make you feel comfortable getting back on the plane to come back? And there was a list. We need to get him moved in. We need to meet his coaches. We need to find this. We need to find that. Okay, there it is. We get there. We land, and within the first eight hours of being in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, I'm checking stuff off of that list to the point where, man, we were way ahead of schedule.
- 2:23 The only thing left for us to do is get him a car, because he needs to drive to work a job. As well as come pick us up in Missouri when we fly in, or in St. Louis, and drive us back down. So we had to get him a car. Not a big deal. I'm the king of Craigslist. I find cars all the time, swap them out. Not a problem. Get some funds moved around here. Got everything set up. I got six cars for us to go look at, all spaced out about an hour. I mean, we're going to make this happen until I get over there, and we finally find the car. We negotiate with the guy on Craigslist, and go, this is perfect.
- 2:55 This is below budget. This is exactly what we need. I'll tell you what. Bank will get this all figured out. Great. What bank? Get on my phone. Certain bank. I won't mention it by name. Oh, there's no branches here. Let me make a phone call. A call said bank. Oh, yeah, sir. I don't know if you're aware of this. There's five states we're not in. Missouri happens to be one of them. OK, that's great. Surely this can't be the first time one of your customers, who's been with you for 30 years, calls you and says they need to access funds.

3:29 How do I get money? Well, there's nothing we can do. There's nothing you can do. Your logo is a horse pulling a wagon cart. You've been around for hundreds of years. How is it that you can't help me out in this day and age? I'm holding my phone up to say, look, guy, look, I have the money. It's right here. I'll transfer it to you. No, cash only. If you don't have cash, you don't have a car. I had everything that I needed except the one thing. I didn't have cash in my hand.

3:58 And Paul's whole argument, the day is not that much different. You can do everything. You can do everything right. You can do everything God asks of you. But if all you're doing is doing it and you are void of love, he's going to say you are nothing. You are as useful as a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And you gain nothing. And yet I think for so many of us, we're sitting there like a frustrated. Love is patient. Love is kind. Your pastor is not in a blocked goal. On the phone with a manager at an unnamed bank, right? I've got everything I need. All I need you to do is do the, just get.

Deeds Without Love Are Worthless: 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

4:38 Yet I didn't have the one thing that I needed in order to get it all done. Now we eventually got it figured out because they led me to an ATM where I could withdraw money from a separate bank and pay \$10 at a whack. And you could only withdraw a couple hundred dollars at a time. So it cost me like \$700 to access my money, which unnamed bank is still sorting out on their end. I have faith they're going to get it figured out.

5:03 You can have everything you want. You can do everything. You can do everything right. But if your heart is not in it and you're not doing it from a place of genuine love and care, you are nothing. You are useless. You gain nothing. So that's the question. You've heard us talk, Thomas, up here two weeks ago. Bob, up here last week. You're going to hear more in the next couple of weeks. God has given you a gift. The moment you put your faith in Jesus Christ, God goes, here is a gift. And I want you to use this gift to love my people and to love my church, to build it up, is the word he's going to use over and over and over again, to build up the church.

5:43 But if you are using your gift because you feel obligated to, you feel guilty when you walk out into the lobby, you feel like, look, Thomas, Kevin, and Bobby keep telling me to, so here I am. What do you need me to do? You're missing it. God wants us to serve. Because we love him and we love the people around us. And if we don't have that as our motivator,

6:06 I think we're missing the whole point. And we're doing the right thing for the wrong reasons. And that is of no value to anyone, certainly not to ourselves or to our God. So let me pray for us. And then we'll dive into this very familiar passage to so many of us. Let me pray. God, thank you for your patience with me. Thank you for your word.

6:27 God, I want to just thank you again for the promise we just got done singing. God, you, through your son, Jesus Christ, paid it all. And it is all to him that we owe everything.

- 6:39 So God, I pray you would speak to our hearts. I pray your Holy Spirit would be at work in a profound way. God, if there are any of us here as your sons or your daughters that are not using what you've given us to build up your church, and I pray you would not relent from convicting us to take that step of faith and to start putting our gift into practice.
- 7:02 But God, at the same time, if there are some of us here, that are using our gift, surely out of duty and obedience, out of guilt, and not from a posture of love, God, I pray that we would not leave this place without doing business with you, without wrestling with what's going on in our heart and our soul. God, do not let us leave here repeating the same error that we have. But God, let us serve because we love you, and we love your church, and we love our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- 7:30 God, your word is powerful. It never returns void. So God, I pray you would speak your word today, and we'll thank you in advance for however you choose to move. We love you. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen. So 1 Corinthians chapter 13, right in between chapter 12 and chapter 14. Last couple weeks, again, chapter 12, all about you have a gift. You are part of this thing called the body of Christ. There are many parts and yet one body. Remember Bob talked last week about, man, you stub your pinky toe, everything gets thrown off. When one of us isn't doing what God has gifted us to do, everyone suffers. Right in the middle of that, we get this passage, the motivation behind doing all of that.

The Corinthian Context: Why Paul Targets Tongues, Prophecy, and Knowledge

- 8:15 And there's a couple of things we need to know before we get into this. He's going to reference three specific gifts, and then he's going to continue on next week when Thomas is up here in chapter 14. The gifts are this, tongues, prophecies, and knowledge are the three that Paul is going to call out. Here's why I believe Paul is calling this out. Contextually, what's going on? The church in Corinth. Remember where Corinth was positioned? This little port city. People would come in from all over the place. What did the people of Corinth love? What did they pride themselves on? We know stuff. We got people traveling from all over the world. They bring new knowledge from the east.
- 8:51 They bring new knowledge from the south. We can come and they would sit in a big amphitheater like this, and they would come in and they would just go, some guy's here from out of town. Tell us all the things we should know. We want to be smart. We want to know things so that when we're in the church, we're going to know things. We're going to know things. When in the church, we're going to know things. We're going to know things. When we walk around the town, we can walk up to somebody and go, hey, did you hear Sosthenes lecture the other day? No. Oh, well, I did. I know things you don't know.
- 9:13 I'm superior to you. This is how they would posture themselves in the culture. And all of a sudden, that culture began to drift its way into the church. And you had certain members of the Corinthian church that had these three gifts, tongues, prophecies, and knowledge. And they would posture themselves in the church. And they would lift their chests up and hold themselves in higher regard than maybe some of those others that had the gifts of hospitality, encouragement, exhortation.

9:45 So there someone might go, hey, I would love to have you over to my house because I have the gift of hospitality. I just want to be a blessing to you. I love having people into my home. Well, I don't know if you know this or not, but I have the gift of knowledge. Kind of a big deal. Who else is going to be there? Is it worth my time hanging out with you, hospitality -like folks? Again, knowledge guy, big deal. I have tongues. I have a big deal. I have prophecies from God. I'm a big deal. And so they're puffing themselves up.

10:11

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

What Love Looks Like: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

10:37 Paul says, What is he saying? Again, hyperbole. Look, if I speak in the tongues of men, I believe the gift of tongues, I believe, argue, it's a known language. See that in Acts chapter 2, they hear human language coming out in a mysterious way. But then he adds this tongue of angels. What is that? Well, that's Paul going, look, the gift of tongues, yes. Tongues of men, yes. But even if you were able to speak in an angelic language, you're doing that. You have even more power than what you currently have, but you don't have love. You're like a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal, completely useless.

11:44 Well, what if I have prophetic gifts? I have the ability to see things. Yeah, if you have the prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, no one on this earth has all knowledge. God and God alone has all knowledge. Not even Jesus knows the day or the hour. In his human form when he was here. Only God is all-knowing. So Paul's going, look, even if you were all-knowing, even if you had the faith to move mountains, Pinnacle Peak looks cool. I'll put that in my backyard. But I don't have love. What does he say? I am nothing.

12:27 Look, you can have all these incredible things. You can do all these incredible things. You're not doing it with love. You are nothing. What if I give away? Everything that I have. Even deliver up my body to be burned. Again, hyperbole. Let me die the most horrific death possible. Give everything over. But you don't do it from a position of love.

12:47 You gain nothing. Go back and read 1 Corinthians 3. I think this is a direct tie into that. Paul begins to speak. No one can build on the foundation or no one can. Christ is the foundation, but then we build on it by what we do here. At the end of all time, all the deeds that we have done, everything that we have done, is put in this illustration, this concrete slab.

13:10 All the things we do from a selfish place, self-glorifying. Look at me. I'm a big deal. Wood, hay, and straw. All the things we do from a genuine posture of love and care. Love for the Lord. Love for others. Gold, precious stones. And so there it all is. One big heap. Our life's work. Everything we have done. And God's going to set it on fire. Whatever's left, we are given as a reward. Paul seems to be, doubling

down on that, saying, look, if you give away everything, even burn your own body, but you're not doing it from a place of love, you get nothing.

- 13:44 You see, we can do all the right things, but if we don't have the right heart, if we're not doing it for the right reasons, we miss it. And this is what so many, for so long, continuing even still to this day, fail to realize.
- 14:01 In fact, if you're here today because you're checking a box. I went to church yesterday. You got to ask, why are you here? Why are you here? To make your spouse happy? So you can feel good about yourself? Or are you here because you love the Lord and you love his church? You want to become more and more like his son, Jesus.
- 14:23 Genuine love for the Lord and love for others is the only motivator that seems to have any worth or merit to the Lord. This goes all the way back. I think I put it in your notes, a bunch of different things to read. Go read Isaiah chapter one.
- 14:36 Israel, they're doing the right thing. They've lost their way, but they're still following the right rules. And God, through the prophet Isaiah says, Israel, stop your new moon Sabbaths, your sacrifices, all the things that you're bringing. They make me sick. I want to vomit because your heart is not right. Your hands are not clean. The people of Israel are going, but we're doing what you told us to do. Yeah, you're doing it, but you're not doing it from a posture of love. You're doing it surely out of obedience. And God cares more about the why than the what. And that's Paul's whole argument here. God cares about your heart. God wants you to do the right thing because you love him and you love his church.
- 15:18 So right in the middle of all of this, Paul says, look, you might be doing all these things and you think you're so great, but you're not doing it from a loving place. And so you're a noisy gong, a clinging cymbal. You are nothing. You gain nothing without love. So the question for us should be, then what is this love? What is the love that God is giving you? What is the love that you're doing? What is the love that you're doing? What is the love that God requires of us? Here we go. Verse four. What
- 15:42 Kind of love? Love is patient and kind. Love does not envy or boast. It is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way. It's not irritable or resentful. It does not rejoice at wrongdoing. Rather, it rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.
- 16:14 So there's the question. God's given us a gift to be a blessing to his church, to love the people sitting right next to us. Does Paul's list of motivations sound like the reason why we are doing what we do? It is patient. It is kind. We're doing it from a patient, kind heart. It doesn't envy or boast. Here you had a group of people with the gift of knowledge, prophecy, tongues, boasting about it. Wow, this church is lucky to have me. Without me, who would give you the great oracles of the Lord?

Love Never Ends: The Temporary vs. the Eternal (13:8-12)

- 16:52 That's not a heart of love. That's arrogance. That's rude in judgment. Does not insist on its own way.
- 17:05 I mean, I'll read it again. Philippians 2. If you know that passage, Paul, again, does not insist on its own way. Writing to the church in Philippi says this. Sometimes we get lost in the next part all about Jesus. But chapter 2, verse 3 says this. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit.
- 17:21 No pride. Rather, in humility, count others more significant than yourselves. And let each one of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. And then he gives the example of Jesus, who gave up his exalted seat in heaven with God and came down here and gave his life for you and me. Do we have that sort of love? When you walk out into a lobby and you see a bunch of people going, man, we would love for you to steward the gift God has given you to be a blessing to everyone that you see sitting around you.
- 17:55 Do you go, man, I do love God and I do love his church. And so how can I serve? Where is it? Oh, man, there's Ed. Ed's going to ask me to be a part of his equipping thing again. So let me walk over here. Oh, no, he got me. Hey, Ed, good to see you. Yeah, what do you need? I'll do it.
- 18:13 Not worth it. Don't serve. In fact, I would argue now if you are doing that, if you're a small group leader, if you're serving in any capacity and there's a party going, man, I'm just doing this because I feel like I have to. Maybe take a deep breath. Be honest with yourself. At the end of service, I'm going to bring a symbol out and put it right up here with a pair of sticks.
- 18:36 *If you're serving out of obligation because you feel like you have to. Take a break. Come up here and bang on that symbol for a half hour. It's way more fun than what you're doing. And it's just as useful.*
- 18:49 Serve because you love God, because you love his church, because you look around and go, God, you've paid it all for me. How could I not love what you love back?
- 19:01 Endures all things. Verse six, doesn't rejoice at wrong and rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things. Steadfast, forgiving, grace, patient. It believes all things. Genuine love looks at the heart of another individual, anyone else, and believes the best in them. Does not assume the worst. It hopes all things. It endures all things. Love never ends. Why would Paul say that? Love never ends. Well, because he's going to humble these folks that puff themselves up with prophecy, knowledge, and tongues by reminding them that those gifts are going to end.
- 19:47 Love will never end. Because when God comes back for us or calls us home and we go spend eternity with him, 1 John 4 uses one word to describe the very essence of God. God is love. And so for eternity, we will spend eternity in the presence of God, who is love. Love never ends. We will be in the presence of love for the end of, it will never end. Eternity. But as for prophecies,

20:20

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

20:51 Verse 12, for right now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. Man, what is this talking about? Again, love never ends. But Paul is telling these puffed up Corinthians, hey, those of you who think you're so great, prophecies, they're going to end. Tongues, they're going to end. They're going to cease. This knowledge that you have, it's going to pass away. When the perfect comes. So I've got to give you both tracks on this idea of the perfect. There are some, many men far smarter than I that would argue this. The perfect that Paul is referring to here is the Bible.

21:35 It's the fulfillment of all scripture. It's the canon of scripture. The moment God gave us everything we needed, according to Peter, everything we need for life and godliness in this thing called the word of God, there is now no longer a need for tongues, prophecy, or greater knowledge. Which I can, from some of their points, I can get that. If someone were to walk in here today and say, hey, we found an ancient manuscript that we think is in line with scripture, so we should adopt it into the Bible. I'm hoping most scholars would hit pause on that and go, hey, let's test this a little bit.

22:09 If someone were to come in here and go, I got knowledge from the Lord and it's this, and it is in direct opposition to the word of God, we should question that and probably go, eh. So many would say, tongues ceased, prophecy ceased, knowledge ceased, the moment this book was finalized. The moment God gave the last inspired word to the last apostle that wrote it, canon is closed. The perfect has come. It's right here.

The Greatest of These Is Love: 1 Corinthians 13:13

22:38 We would take maybe a different position purely based on what I think Paul is referring to here and some other things. I would argue, Thomas and I would talk about this a lot. We would argue that the perfect is the coming of Jesus Christ. We would argue that the perfect is the coming of Jesus Christ. When Jesus Christ returns, when the perfect sacrifice comes back,

22:57

Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

23:10 Why would we say that? When the perfect comes, partial will pass away. Says things like, I will see face to face, though verse 12, though right now I'm known in part, then I will see face to face, though right now I'm known in part, then I will see face to face, I will see face to face, though right now I'm known in part, then I will see face to face, then I shall be fully known. When I see the Lord face to face, when the perfect comes. Here's another reason why I think this is a biblical reason why we land here. Look, when Christ returns, every prophecy is fulfilled. There's no longer a need for prophecy because we're in the presence of God.

The Gospel Call: It's Not About What You Do, It's About Jesus

23:41 If God wants to tell us something, he'll tell us to our face. There's no longer need for tongues because we're in the presence of God for all eternity. And God is going to work it in such a way where we will all be able to speak to one another. And praise God together.

23:55 Every tribe, every tongue, every nation will kneel before the throne of God and profess Jesus Christ. It's going to be something glorious and beautiful. So there's no longer a need for the gift of tongues. And as for knowledge, all this knowledge that we think we know, we're limited by our finite brains and our sinful flesh. And we're going to be in the presence of the perfect God. And all of these things were like, I think it works this way. We're going to see God and go, wow, I was wrong. That's unbelievable. Unbelievable.

24:25 And we will be able to learn for eternity. Right now, we can't get any of those things because we're waiting for the perfect to come, for Christ to return.

24:39 Right now, we see things dimly through a mirror. We do our best through the Holy Spirit anointing us and through reading God's word, but we are still in this sinful thing called our flesh. We're not glorified. We are not perfect, nor can we get there on our own. So we see as dimly through a mirror.

24:59 We are not completely and fully known. We still hide behind so many things. But one day, we will sit in the presence of God, and we will be fully known, and we will be fully known by him, and we will fully know him, and it will be glorious when the perfect comes. Verse 13. So now, Corinthians, for those of you that have puffed yourselves up, please understand that prophecy, tongues, and knowledge are useful things to build up the body of Christ, but they are not superior to anything. And if you're doing anything, you're not superior to anything. And if you're doing anything, you're not from generosity to exhortation to teaching to hospitality, you name it, and you're not doing it from a place of love, you're missing it.

25:40

1 Corinthians 13:8-12

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

25:56 So Paul is going to go on. You're going to hear next week as we lean into tongues and prophecy, what he believes that to be and how that works inside the confines of the church. But all of it is under this umbrella of whatever you do, do it because you love God and you love his church.

26:13 Two things real quick before we close. The perfect is going to come. Jesus Christ is going to come back. I was talking to my grandfather last night over at my parents' house. 91 now, man. Still going. Good stock we've come from. 91 years old. Man, I was listening to all these things. I was listening to everyone that I'm listening to. It seems like Jesus is getting ready to come back soon. Some of the nonsense you saw this last week, just the evil in this world, like God's patience seems to be getting tested pretty significantly. I go, man, I know I can't wait. He goes, yeah, but you got to understand, Kevin, real soon might be a thousand years to God, because he's not bound by our time.

- 26:54 I thought, oh, what a wise 91 -year -old grandfather I have. But he's coming back. That we can agree on. When? Oh, no. But the perfect is going to return. Jesus is going to come back. And there's going to be a reckoning in that moment. And in that moment, what we cannot do is what we see others do and go, God, we did all of these things. God, I went to church every week. I did this. I did this. I did this.
- 27:22 I didn't do any of it from a posture of love for a love for you or love for other people. I did it because you told me to. I got a terrifying sense in my soul that we might hear, depart from me. I never knew you. Sure, you did all these things.
- 27:38 But you didn't do them because you loved me. You did them because you thought you were earning your way to me or you were earning my love. And I offered my love freely through Jesus Christ. Don't give me your list of what you did. I have one question for you. What do you believe about Jesus?
- 27:55 What do you believe about my son? Because God looks down at all of us, myself more than many, and goes, man, you're a sinful mess. God, I know. I'm a sinner. I do all sorts of stupid things. I try my best. I try really hard. But I keep falling. And God watched all of mankind fall over and over and over again until he said, enough. And he sent his son down here to live a perfect life. And at the end of his life, to pay it all for me and for you.
- 28:29 To give his life for mine. To take on the sins of the world. To bear the wrath of God for every dumb, stupid thing I have said, thought, or will do. And because I believe Jesus Christ was the son of God, because I believe Jesus Christ died for my sins, and because I believe Jesus Christ rose from the dead and my faith is solely in him, I am forgiven because
- 28:54 Of what Jesus did and what I know to be true of him. My argument to God will not be, God, I preached this many sermons. God, I served your church this many times. God, I gave this much of my money. God, it would be none of this. God, I gave this much of my money. God, I gave this much of my money. Because none of that matters. What do you believe about Jesus?
- 29:13 And then as a result of my faith in Christ, I'm promised eternity with God and forgiveness for all things. And then there'll be an opportunity for me to go, God, here's all the things that I did. And here's all the things I did for my own glory. And God's going to go, that's worthless. Go bang your cymbal.
- 29:32 But Kevin, here's the things that you did because you loved me. And you love the people I put in front of you. And so I want you to have this as a reward to enjoy for all of eternity because you were motivated by love.
- 29:48 But for any of us that are here thinking we can do enough to get in, you can't. It's only through Jesus Christ. So if you've never put your faith in Jesus Christ, if you're still trying to do it on your own and you find yourself weary and exhausted here this morning, let me tell you, there's incredible news. We just sang about it. Jesus paid it all, all to him. We owe. Sin had left a crimson stain. God, through Jesus Christ, made us white as snow. It's not about us. It's all about Jesus. So if today God's continuing to chase you and you want to put your faith in Jesus Christ, I'm going to ask all of us to bow our heads.

30:28

1 Corinthians 13:13

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

30:43 If you're a son or daughter of God in this room, do me a favor. Would you just pray for the Holy Spirit to move on the lives of anyone that he might be pursuing this morning and let distractions be cast out of this place? But if you want to put your faith in Christ this morning, just say these things to the Lord. God, I understand that I am not perfect,

31:06 That I have done dumb things, and I will keep doing dumb things because I'm a sinner.

31:15 But God, you love me. I believe you loved me enough to send your son Jesus to die for me.

31:25 And God, I believe he rose from the dead. I believe he is with you now. And God, though there are still so many questions I have, so many things I don't understand, I do know this. I'm a sinner, and I believe in your son Jesus.

31:42 So God, right now in this moment, I declare my faith and my trust in you. And God, it is my desire to do everything I can to chase after you with my whole heart.

31:56 God, thank you for loving me. Thank you for forgiving me. Thank you for meeting me right where I'm at.

32:05 As I pray for the rest of us in here, if you desire to put your faith in Christ this morning for the first time, you need to speak with somebody. Just come talk to me or talk to one of my friends up front. Talk to a brother or sister sitting right next to you. We just want to encourage you. For the rest of us, let's

32:24 Take a moment and just ask, God, why do I do what I do? God, you've searched me, and you know my heart. I pray that, God, that you would put to death anything of my flesh, anything that seeks my own glory, anything that desires to, well,

32:48 God, as we looked at, to boast, to be arrogant, to be rude. God, that you would kill those things in me, and that I would love and serve you. God, that I would use my gifts, because I love you and I love your church. God, I pray the same for every brother and sister here. God, if there's anyone serving you surely out of duty and obligation, I pray that you would put to death anything of my flesh, anything that seeks my own glory. God, I pray that you would restore to us the joy of getting to serve you.

33:19 God, if we need to take a break, God, you would not relent from convicting us, because, God, you're after our heart. So chase after our heart with everything that you've got.

33:31 God, this is your church. We want to love it, and we want to serve it well. Thank you for letting us be a part, getting to serve you. So we love you, and we pray all of these things in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen. If you feel like you have to, if you're here on a Sunday because you feel obligated, if you're giving to God's church because you feel like it's a requirement, man, we're missing it. Take a deep breath. Stop doing all those things. Come bang on this for 10 minutes after. It's a lot of fun, trust me. Way more fun than what we're doing. But for all of you that are serving the Lord because you love God and you love his church, you know, as I know, there is no greater joy than operating in the Spirit and using what God has given us to build up those around us.

^{34:17} Man, it fills us with life. It keeps us going because what God created us to do, to love and care for the people sitting right around us, and for all of you that are serving, thank you. Would you do me one other favor? Would you tell some stories of how God has used your gift that he's given you to be a blessing to others, and let that be a way that we love and care for each other, and we brag on Jesus this week. In your small groups, talk about it. In service, talk about it. Love one another. Service isn't over until you love somebody. You guys have a great rest of your week. We'll see you all next weekend.