

Set your priorities!

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[0 : 00] Good evening everyone. It's a great honor and privilege for me to be with you in this evening. And I praise the Lord for this wonderful location that the Lord has given us to be in this manner.

I definitely believe that God has a plan and purpose for bringing us this evening here. Let me start with our ministry. Some of the slides I just want to show you, then very briefly share what we are doing.

Then I will... Oh, sorry. Okay. Okay. The ministry is known as an exciting word outreach. That is the ministry is known as, but in India it's known as Christian believers assembly. Exciting ministry is work under the radar because we do not want to be noticed by the government or anything.

But our churches is known as a Christian believers assembly that is registered with the government. And now we are almost registering with each state so that it will be recognized by the state government too.

[1 : 26] This... Okay. India has 2.42 billion people. If you look at the size of India, it will be one third of all USA by the size wise.

But people... 1.2... 42 billion people in... In a small pieces of land maybe. This yellow mark that is what where our ministry is based.

Our missionaries is based in this area. Our challenges. The world's most unreached population. 222 major languages. This language has alphabets. By the grace of God we have Bibles in almost all these 222 languages. Then we have 1,052 dialects which does not have any alphabets but that is commonly spoken.

And each of these dialects have above 75,000 people speaking this dialect. Less than 75,000 that is not counted as a dialect in that.

[2 : 43] Then we have 600,000 villages in India. 2013 unreached people group according to Joshua Project.

That's the one who does all kinds of researches. They say that 2013 people group yet to be reached in India. 33 million God and Goddesses according to Hindu religious belief.

And over 400 million never had a chance to hear the gospel. That too is according to Joshua Project. And they never heard the gospel.

Exciting Bird Outree started in 1998 with a single focus of reaching the unreached at any cost with the message of the gospel.

Our vision is reaching the unreached, telling the untold and touching the untouchable with the love of God.

[3 : 45] The first thing that we do is we have young people, church members or whoever going into every village.

When you go to a village, we will go to every house. Knocking at the door, passing out literature, we have a John the Gospel. That is what we distribute every house when we go.

John the Gospel. So we distribute to every house and every places. This is one of our training center.

Boys and girls, men and women, they were going into outreach before. It is only half of it, half went to the other area. Two by two, they will be going to the villages and sharing the gospel.

And this is yet another group of villages came together because they cannot have it in somebody's meeting. So they were sitting under a tree and sharing the gospel with the people there.

[4 : 57] Okay. Then the outreach team, if they shared the gospel, we will always look, if you are interested, we will come back again to your village. So the first thing we start is on a prayer group.

Once in a week in a village, anyone can come together. Missionary will be going, just singing some song, praying for the people, sharing it.

We call it on a prayer group. But we don't call it till it has ten Baptist members in that prayer group. We will not call it on a house church. Only when it has ten Baptist members, then we will call it on a house church.

Then the prayer group is started, then we will have public meetings. You know, we will invite all these people into one place, maybe in the evening, sometime in the day.

We will have public meetings there, just like this. A small tent will be pitched up and we will have a sound system. We will have a time of worship. Then purely sharing the gospel, the simplest way that these people can understand.

[6 : 09] So that is the main focus. It is not, I would say that, it is not what we learned or what we know, but the going into their way and making them understand, that's what we do.

It's another public meeting. Once they come to know the Lord, we will wait at least six months before giving baptism.

We want to make sure that they understand everything, then we will be giving baptism. It's a large number of people. This morning I was telling, soon after the Covid, we had on a baptism service, I had to stand in the water for almost five hours.

It was in the night we were giving baptism, 492 people were baptized. So I had to stand in the water for almost five hours, you know, to give baptism to those people.

It can be a river, it can be a water tank, anywhere, you know.

[7 : 25] Okay. This is an interesting, we went to give baptism to some people in the river, but there was no enough water in the river. So we had to dig on a well inside the river to make sure that we had enough water.

Our brothers were, you know, digging a well inside the river to make sure that there is enough water. Then, after ten believers are in a house churches, we will call it a house churches.

This is just somebody's house, it is under construction, it is not finished or anything, but we were using it as a church, maybe prayer house.

And then, in one house churches, this many people, the number of people, for example, if this is a house church for us, we will put up to maybe 150 people here.

Okay. So they all will be sitting on the floor, so more people can come into that. This is yet another house church.

[8 : 36] So, if you are a church church, then, you know, training native leaders to lead the house church in their native language. Once the house church is established, we will always be looking for a leader for that.

And the missionary who will be overseeing it, he will be finding the leader. Under his leadership, he will be training him. Then, we also have a training program.

He will go through that training program. Then, once he is ready to take care of that house churches, we will be handing over to him. And the training center, the husband and wife need to come and also young boys and girls can come.

So, this is a training center. It is 40 days of training center, one day a week. This is some of them who completed the training program.

And we will always give a certificate to them who complete. This is yet another one. Then, equipping, supporting, providing resources to the native house church leaders and missionaries to reach the unreached.

[9 : 52] The first thing we do is giving Bible, New Testament, John the Gospel, then all kinds of resources to go into the unreached area.

So, we get this new Bible from the Bible Society of India. So, we buy from them. And one Bible will cost around \$3. But Bible Society of India gives us a special price because they know it goes to the unreached area.

So, they give us for \$2. Then, we have a New Testament. And let me tell you, we are dealing with six different languages.

So, each Bible for each state will be different. So, different languages. Then, the New Testament, with \$1 you can get 10 New Testament.

So, we will, you know, get them from the Bible Society. So, when we join the gospel. And with \$1 you can get 40 John the Gospel.

[11:00] So, when we go to the unreached villages. If somebody gives \$1, with that dollar we can get, go into 40 houses and hand over and join the gospel to all those families.

Then, this one is for missionaries. We will be providing, you know, motorbike to missionaries to go around to, you know, all the house churches and overseas.

Then, we also provide bicycle to the house church leaders who can, you know, go into different villages. Then, most of, another important ministry is among the children.

And we have 9,000 children are enrolled in our Sunday schools. And that includes, you know, slum children who are, you know, from the slum area, poor villages.

All kinds of children are enrolled in there. Last June, we had a special Sunday school for that. We had more than 12,000 children attended that VBS and special Sunday school.

[12:19] That was for a week. And some of the Sunday school in the slum area, we have more than 400 children attending it every Sunday.

Some of the young boys and girls will be going and teaching them. And now, you know, we had another food factory and a bakery owner said that he have a lot of biscuit and other leftovers.

So, he will bring that leftovers to the Sunday afternoon to the Sunday school children will be providing for them. This is a Sunday school in the slum area.

You know, the children from the slum area and they were attending and that young girl with a, what you call her, a green shawl around her.

She is the teacher for this Sunday school. She is the teacher for this Sunday school. This is yet another Sunday school.

[13:24] This, then we train up Sunday school teachers for teaching in this training centers. Then also, some of the, this Sunday school is far away in the villages.

So, we will help them to get a bicycle so that they can ride in the bicycle, go to the village and have the Sunday school. Then the other one thing, showing the love of God to the poor and needy.

One is, this wheelchair distribution. We do it. We get it, wheelchairs from an organization in Florida. They send the containers of wheelchair to India.

We have to pay the transportation. Then some customs, whatever it goes to the customs, we pay. Then we assemble it. It comes in a packet. We assemble it and give it to the poor people, whoever needed it.

We send it to the people, whoever needed it. We send it to the people, whoever needed it. Then tailoring center or a sewing center, we, that is for women, poor women and widows.

[14:40] We started, you know, it started around 15 years ago. So far, we have reached, you know, trained more than 3,000 women to, what you call.

Even today, 75% of the Indian women dress, you know, stitches their dresses. They don't go, especially in the village, they won't get the ready-made one.

They will buy the clothes, take to the tailor and the tailor is the one who stitches. And we have a, you know, every year we have a 10 to 12 of these training centers in there.

To widows and poor girls, we will be giving an ed sewing mission up when they completed the course free of cost. Then the wintertime blanket distribution to the slum people, slum areas.

Okay, this is an interesting feature. That was 2008. All the reds are the unreached villages in India.

[15:49] And this is 2016. So the reds are getting much lesser and lesser and lesser. So all these villages are being reached.

And we have, you know, XIT ministry have reached into more than 60,000 villages in the last 25 years.

Some of them may be, this is not our newsletter or anything. This is a public Christian newsletter.

And they published it in there that 200,000 Tibetan Buddhists came to Christ.

It is all because there was one Buddhist who, more like, who came to know the Lord from our, you know, through our ministry.

And later he had an experience that he died. You know, some of his colleagues or maybe some of the other Buddhists pushed him from a mountain and tried to kill him.

[16:56] But they pushed him down into more than 400 feet down to a place. He fell there and he was there for almost two days.

He had an experience of half-dead going into heaven. And he had a book and he explained everything in it by reading more than 200,000 Buddhists came to the Lord.

That is the positive side. Then the negative side is, this is, this is, used to be one of our church.

The radical Hindus came and destroyed all the churches, broke everything. This used to be our baptism tank and the church was on the other side. They destroyed everything.

This is another church building. They have brought it down. This is two years ago. One of our missionary was killed while returning from Mani after a church meeting.

[18:08] And he was killed by the Hindu radicals. Our goal, reach every village with the gospel. Start a house church in every village.

Train native house church leaders. Okay, this is the conclusion of, we financially support 19 house church leaders training center every month.

That means this year we have 19 training center where we are training house church leaders. And altogether in that, 648 people are going through the training center.

And these are the trainees who will be going for the outreach because this is 40 days of training, then one month of practical evangelism training.

That is what they are called training program. Two weeks during the Christmas time, two weeks in the Easter time. So when you can calculate 148 people going for outreach.

[19:16] And India, the houses are built wall to wall. Not like this maybe. Wall to wall is built. One person if you, they go to 10 houses a day.

And two weeks leave the Sundays, then you will have 12 days. Within that 12 days, they will be reaching more than 70,000-75,000 homes.

Last Christmas, they went around 58,000 homes, unreached homes, giving each one of them, and joined the gospel and sharing.

Then we had 36 public meetings. And each of those of those of those who had public meetings, we had 300 to 600 people attending.

At the end of all that public meetings, we had 3,900 people coming forward to receive Jesus as their personal Savior. Then we financially support 187 native missionaries.

[20:24] We help 12 sowing centers every month. We support 116 Sunday schools in the village and the slums. Then your prayers and sacrificial giving to the Lord's work has been enabled us to reach 12,000 unreached villages with the message of the gospel.

Start thousands of prayer groups. In fact, more than 10,000 prayer groups and house churches in those villages. We have trained more than 10,000.

In fact, 10,392 men and women as a house church leaders. People ask me, when I say 10,000 house churches, who is leading those?

Because we are training that much of people to be the leaders. And through our sowing centers, we have more than 3,000 widows and poor women were trained.

We give out 1034 sowing missions to them. We impacted thousands of economically weaker sections of the family, you know, with this sowing center.

[21:49] We have more than 10,000. I think that is all the slideshow. Before, let me share from God's word.

Let me add to this little bit. Let me raise that up. Let me add to this little bit more if I'm doing this. All of this, you have seen, it is not without a cost. Okay? It is not easy going and sharing with the present situation because our government, our Federal Government wanted India to be a Hindu nation.

So there are every village when we go, our missionaries were attacked, they were arrested. One of them is still in the jail. It's almost 18 months he's in the jail now.

We wanted to bail him out, but they were not giving. Then another one was almost six months in the jail. Today we got on a news, this evening when I got on a news, two of our brothers, husband and wife, were arrested for almost two weeks.

Then later they were released or bailed out from there. But their case has been going on for almost six months. Yesterday the court said that distributing Bible or New Testament or what we call gospel to people is not a crime in India.

[23:36] So the court came and ruled that rule. So it is not only for them, it is going to be all the Christian is much more unarray. The court said that anyone can go to any places.

They can distribute Bible, they can distribute New Testament, they can distribute Christian literature and nobody can stop them. And no police can take a case against them.

Then also the court said that one more thing the court said, if anyone can have a complaint, if anybody wants to make a complaint against a conversion or something, it should be the person

who converted their relatives.

Others cannot file a case against the Christians. That means if I become a Christian, maybe I become a Christian from a Hindu background, my family members can go to the police and make a complaint saying that this pastor had converted my brother or my son to Christianity, take actions. Other than that, no one else is allowed to file a case against them. The police was asked to know to file a case, something like that.

[24 : 53] Otherwise police was using this as an occasion under the pressure of Hindu radicals. They were filing cases against Christians. But from here on, that won't be happening.

But we do not know how they are going to implement that in practical. But we still believe at least it is a great relief for all of us.

Once again, I just want to thank you for this evening. Shall we look unto the Lord and pray. Our Heavenly Father, this evening we just come before you.

You are our Lord and you are our Savior. You saved us from sin and brought us into a... given us a new life that is in you, Lord.

We want to live that life in its fullness. So we just ask you, Lord, this evening, speak to us according to the needs of our hearts.

[26 : 09] Your words may do an accretive work in each one of our hearts. And draw us closer to you, Lord. In Jesus' name we pray. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen. We all are called by God. One way or other way.

You know, every one of us are called by God. God. Some of us are, you know, Bible says, some of us are asked to be...

Just like Jesus said, you are the soul in the world. You are the soul. You are the soul. And we need to be just like a soul to the world. And then Jesus said, I am the light.

Then if Jesus is the light, then we too are the light. Because Jesus lives in us. And we have that because God called us from the darkness, brought us into the light.

[27 : 18] And then we too are in the light. And Bible again says to us, walk in that light. You know, because we are not belong to the darkness once we were there.

But by the grace of God, we are called out into the light. And we need to walk in that light. Then again, in the book of Corinthians, Paul writes that a man is born as a blind.

Spiritually blind. He cannot see the things of God because his eyes are blinded by Satan. He cannot see the things of God.

But it's true that a man is spiritually blind when he is born. He is spiritually blind. Then again, Paul says in the 2nd Corinthians that the things that you and me see with our eyes are temporal.

But the things that we can't see are eternal. That's what Paul says. The things that we see, even as I said earlier, I said we were born as a blind.

[28 : 32] We cannot see the things of God if we are living in this world or spiritual things. But at the same time, when you become spiritual, the Bible says the things you see are not real, but they are temporal.

For maybe for a time being. You can see everything, but it is for a time being. It is temporal. Look at anything that we can see in this world. None of those things are not permanent.

Everything is temporal. You can see on a beautiful mountain. Maybe, you know, as we went to see the mountain this afternoon, a fire comes and burns all the trees and that beauty is lost.

You know, that is not permanent. We do not know when that is going to happen, how that is going to happen, but it is not permanent. So, anything that we see in this world, whether it is our house or whether it is something else, our cars or maybe something, whatever it may be, you see it with your eyes in this world, it is temporal.

But then the Bible says, what you cannot see, the things that you cannot see is eternal, it is permanent and it is imperishable.

[30 : 05] What I am trying to say this evening, the things that you can see is temporal, the things that you cannot see is permanent. And, you know, what we will understand by that, the things that I cannot see is, for example, there are people when you talk about somebody, about heaven or maybe hell, the people will ask, oh, did you see that?

Did you ever experience it? There are so many people ask me, oh, did you ever went to heaven, you are talking about, you know, they don't believe it because, you know, they can't see it.

In other way, let me tell you that. Okay, a few minutes ago, we switched off the light, you know, and then we switched on again, the light came out.

In other way, we didn't see it, all right, we didn't see it, you know, because, you know, the light came out. But we all believe that it is there. You know, in electricity, we can't see it.

But at the same time, we all know that it is there, we are using it every day and almost every time we use it. And it is there, we cannot see it.

[31 : 28] And maybe look at the way, you know, sound waves in the air, we cannot see it. But scientists say that hundreds of years of sound waves still in the air.

You know, if you have special equipments or things like that, you can hear it. You know, we can hear it. But we can't hear it. So we say, I don't know whether it is there or not, but they are claiming that it is there.

What I am trying to say is that, the things that we can see if it is temporal, the things that we cannot see with our naked eye are permanent.

So, our desire should be looking for the things that we can't see. For example, the book of Hebrews, there is an example given about Abraham.

Abraham lived in the tents. We all know that Abraham lived in tents. He was one of the richest man during that time. And he did not build a house for himself.

[32 : 42] He was living in the tent. The reason he was living in the tent, he know everything was, his building is temporal. Then he was hoping for a place, you know, that he never seen it.

But he knew that he was there and he was waiting for that. What I am trying to say this evening is, the temporal things that we see, it is temporal.

What we cannot see today, we need to hope for. That is where we will be drawn to God. Otherwise, we will be drawn away from God.

Let me give an example for that. You know, Jesus asked a question while he was in the world.

What profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul? What profit? You know, then we all know that it is not profitable.

[34 : 05] But at the same time, he does not gain anything. Just like Lazar and the rich man, the story of Lazar and the rich man. Lazar did not have anything, but he was hoping for, which he cannot see it, which he had not seen it.

But the day came, he gained it. But the rich man was seeing everything with his eyes and he was enjoying everything that he could. And, you know, but the day came in his life that he had to lose everything and had to go into hell.

And he was regretting there. My friends, we just want to focus on the things that we have not seen. I am not saying, don't misunderstand me here.

I am not saying that while we are in this world, we do not want to have a house or a car or things.

Those were not the things I am interested.

I mean, those were not the... That is the basic need of a man who lives in this world. I am not talking our heart, our focus. Our heart needs to be focused on the things that we have not seen.

[35 : 27] Today, the Christian world is in a different way to see. You know, they say that, okay, you need to gain everything.

But, the church we don't hear speaking much about the world that is going to come. The olden days, most of the church heard that message.

They give priority to that message. But today, that priority is Lord. We hear about a lot of things. Let me put it in this way.

The story of Martha and Mary. We see that. And, Jesus came to their village. And they went to receive Jesus.

They brought him and his disciples to their house. And, Martha wanted to serve Jesus and his disciples the best way she can.

[36 : 34] Then, Mary was sitting under the feet of Jesus and listening to him. Then, Martha went and complained about Mary saying that, I am working very hard in the kitchen.

And, she is sitting her. Allow her to come and help me. To, you know, to serve them in a better way. There is nothing wrong in that old passage.

When I read it, according to our custom, we will always say that Martha did the best thing. Even though Bible says, you know, Mary chose the best part or the best thing.

But, in our custom, we always say, because somebody comes to home, we need to take care of them. We need to serve them the well. But, when Martha made that complaint there, Jesus did not support her.

Instead, Jesus rebuked her. That is what the Bible says. Jesus rebuked her. Martha did not do anything wrong.

[37 : 43] We all know it. In some way or other way, maybe 50% of us will support Martha saying that she did good thing. And 50% may say other way.

But, she did not do anything wrong. But, still Jesus rebuked her. Why did Jesus ask to rebuke her? When I look at that story, Martha represents today's believers, today's Christian believers.

She loved Jesus. She cared for Him. When she was coming to the village, she went and received Him with great joy, with great respect.

Brought Him to her house. She opened her house for Him. And, she wanted to serve Him the best way she could. And, that's the same way we have received Jesus as our personal Savior into our life.

We opened our heart and invited Him to our heart. And, today, we love Him. We serve Him. We worship Him the best way we can.

[39 : 02] But, here we see that Jesus was still rebuking Martha. And, said to her, Your sister has chosen the best part.

The reason for that, she was worried about so many things and somewhere she lost the focus. You know, Even, I am almost 36 years in the Lord's ministry.

We went to thousands of villages, as I have explained to you later. Thousands of villages, reached hundreds of people groups, shared the Gospel.

I have seen thousands of people coming to the Lord, and given baptism to thousands of people. Everything is well-pleasing to God, if I look at that.

But still, if I am not careful, if my focus is lost, all these things are going to be well.

[40 : 16] And, maybe that is the reason Jesus said, on that day, many will come, and call me Lord and Lord, and they will say that, we prophesied in your name, we healed many in your name, we shared the Gospel to many in your name, maybe hundreds of people came to know the Lord, but, Jesus replied to all those things, I do not know.

Because they were doing great things, but their focus was not in the Lord. as we are here this evening, we should not do that, commit that mistake in our life.

I am not saying that we should not serve the Lord. With all our heart, we need to serve the Lord.

With all our heart, we need to love the Lord. With all our heart, we need to worship the Lord.

With all our heart, we need to respect and reverence, you know, to one another, love one another, do everything. But, in those things, doing those things, we should not lose our focus in the Lord.

Today, it is easy to be focused on the ministry, than losing my personal relationship with the Lord.

[42 : 04] It is easy to go into villages, sharing the Gospel to thousands of people, than personally I lose my relationship with the Lord.

with the Lord. What I am trying to say is that our service is important. But at the same time, our devotion to the Lord, our setting, you see now, Him as our priority, is most important.

Someone said like this, the enemy of good things are not bad things. The enemy of good things are not bad things, but good things itself.

That is what sir. Let me explain that little bit. If you are supposed, if you are doing something good, or, I am focused on making maybe a chair like this.

You know, I am focused on, maybe I am working so hard to make it, that chair. Then someone else comes, you know, think that, oh, this chair looks little bit smaller, why don't you make a bigger one?

[43 : 20] Okay, I heard it, and, I lose my focus on this chair, and I am going into another one, and I focused it, I forgot all about this.

I am going after another one. Then a third person comes and tells me, no, no, this is not good, you make a better one. So, going into that better one, better one, better one, I am losing all my focus and attention.

If I would have focused on this small one, you know, I could have finished it, and I could have used it. Instead of focusing on other things, you know, because they came, they told me the good thing, but, you know, they came, because they said, I lose my focus, and, everything, that's what happened to our life, sometimes.

If we lose our focus, we will not be able to complete what we begin. The Lord wants us to complete what we start.

Our focus. See, in other ways, let me tell you that. Jesus came to this world for us. Let me tell this way, for me.

[44 : 56] He came to this world for me. And He laid down His life for me. He shed His blood for me. He suffered all those pain and agony and shame and everything for me.

Then, I am losing focus on me, and I am going to put that focus on something else. And then, I think, Paul said in one of his epistles, that, I may gain so many people, I may lead so many people, but, if I don't reach there, what profit of me?

the Lord is saying that, that, the Lord is saying that, that, that, our life is so important to the Lord. important to the Lord, individually.

And we don't understand that importance. We focus on other things. I'm not saying that we are focusing on something wrong. No.

We are focusing on things, but in the sight of God, it does not, may not have any value. For example, just like Mary and Martha, she was focusing on serving Jesus and His disciples.

[46 : 20] But just imagine this way, maybe cooking food for them. Nothing wrong in serving a good food to Jesus.

Nothing wrong in that. You and me, how to do it? If Jesus comes to our life, or come to our home, we need to serve Him. Nothing wrong in that. But think in this way, who fed hundreds and thousands of people for forty years in the wilderness, He is looking for your food.

You know, who fed millions of people in the wilderness forty years.

And we, you know, He is not looking for some tasty food in your house or my house. And who took five bread in his hands and two fishes in his hands and blessed it and fed five thousand men.

He is not looking for some food. Don't take me in a wrong way, okay? Somebody comes to your home, please serve a meal to him, okay?

[47 : 42] Don't leave him empty stomach. It is our, you know, responsibility. But, for that, we are going to focus.

This is just an example what I am giving. There are, you know, sometime in our life, food may not be an issue, something else may be. But for those kinds of things, we are wasting our focus and not going to have an, what you call, closer relationship with Jesus.

And that will not help us to be a soul in this world.

And it will not help us to be a light that shines in the darkness. And she, she did everything with all her heart.

But finally Jesus rebuked her. And told her that your sister, even though she is sitting, and he chose the best.

[48 : 57] In our life, in your life and my life, we too need to choose the best. And in a, in another way, let me put it in this way.

The rich man, one of the rich man came to Jesus. And he said, you know, for eternal life, to receive eternal life, what shall I do?

Then Jesus replied to him. You know, there are, you know, he shortened all the commandments, said that respect your father and mother. You know, and you know, do not commit, you know, kill anyone.

All those things he said. Then finally, you know, he said, I am following all these rules from the childhood one ways. I am following it.

So in one way or other way, he was saying, I am a good Christian. You know, I followed everything from my childhood way. I did not go against him.

[50 : 02] Then Jesus looked at him and said, there is something lacking in you. Your focus need to be right. And Jesus said, go and sell everything and give it to the poor.

I am not saying to do that, okay? But saying that, Jesus was telling him that, you are doing alright, everything is okay, but your focus is somewhere else.

Just simply saying that, your focus is diverted. You need to bring back that focus. I don't believe that Jesus was telling him to sell everything, you know, be a poor or something like that.

No, it was not. But he was just in a way, he can understand, the rich man can understand. He was telling that, you are doing alright, you will have maybe, out of 100, you will have 80, but 10, 20, you are lacking.

So that is, straighten your focus. It is diverted. So that is what he was saying.

[51 : 16] And he said to him, one thing you lack in, so that you need to have a focus on the Lord. Today, I believe, that is the same thing.

We may be, you know, very good in many things, but our focus is most important.

Our focus needs to be on the Lord. Anything that comes into our life, in one way or other way, we know what happened when Peter, the disciple were going into the, you know, the storm.

Jesus came and, walking in the water, came closer to them. And then, he calmed down the storm. And, then, Peter said, I want to, if, Lord, if you are there, I want to walk in the water and come to you.

Jesus said, okay, you can come. So he started it. He walked in the water. Then, all of a sudden, he looked at the storm and the wind.

[52 : 35] Then we see that he began to sink. Then, Jesus, then he said to, cried out to the Lord, Lord save me. So he stretched his hands and lifted him up.

You know. But, again, the focus. a brief movement, has changed everything.

He was walking in the, in the water, on the water, and he came, walked and walked and walked, came closer to Jesus.

One movement, maybe few seconds, he lost his concentration, or his focus. that allowed him to sink. But, Jesus in his, you know, mercy, stretched out his hands and lifted him up.

And even, that's, that is the same with our life. We will be walking with Jesus. And then, in, a short time of focus can, cause us to sink.

[53 : 48] And that's the reason, I just, this evening, I just want to share with you. Our focus. There will be storms around us.

There will be wind blowing around us. There, everything seems to be so dark. everything seems to be so frightening. And you won't find any, what you call, any hope or anything.

But still, if our focus is on the Lord, we can stand still, in that wind, in that, you know, storm.

storm. So, this evening, I just want to, encourage each one of you. Put your focus, on the Lord.

Keep your focus, on the Lord.

Keep your focus, on the Lord. There are many things, that will come on the way. As we progress in life, there will be many things, that will come on the way. that can cause us, to divet our thoughts.

[54 : 57] See, in my own experience, if I share my own experience. There was a season in my life, I went through for almost two and a half hours, years. I know the Lord called me, and gave me a vision, to reach the unreason.

I do not want to take it. I refused. It all started in 1988. We were going to similar Queens, in large Queens, para wesungskiota, like the 1938■■■ of Me. Christian■■■■■■■■■ King etc. And, that can help us our arguments, to ■■■■■■ to Monica, have openly in landscape.

Isaac, to himself flowers, or any old■■■■■. He!! I have a place, the Powers growing new nepriced. Heaczego forward ■■■■, does not exfoliator, believe in Puerto Rico, we were six brothers from the Bible College start you know started to go for an outreach program we do not know where we are going we do not know what we are going to do and things like that we do not have any kind of resources to do this outreach but we decided we are going to go for outreach so and we were it's you know in the Bible College studying in the Bible College and we were you know but within one week the Bible College is in the close and every student has to leave the Bible College so we do not be all were together going for an outreach but we have no idea where we are going then one man came and he said he came to the Bible College and he had a problem he had a left hand drive Jeep just like a vehicle here we drive in the right hand our you know steering is in the right hand yours is in the left hand so he had a left hand Jeep and he was driving around and then his wife was going to give birth to a child so he want take his wife to go to his house but he do not have a place to park his Jeep and if somebody park the Jeep for a long time in the road and when he come back the Jeep won't be there someone will take away so he do not know he said to he brought it into our Bible College and the Bible College authorities said no you cannot park the car here because we are going to close everything so you cannot so this man said you know we were talking to him and this man said I do not know where to park this car for three months so then why we just told him okay we are going for an outreach if you can give us this vehicle we will use it we will travel through it he said all of a sudden he said take it you know after three months you need to bring it back so we got to now we got six people to go and we got a one but we don't have any literate or anything on

that I think after two days some people from the Bible Society of India came to the college we talked to them they said bring your one to the Bible Society and fill the your one whatever literature you need to want that take it everything freely you just take it go so we got literature we got a one and six of us ready to go for a outreach and we filled everything we packed our bags and everything then we just put our hands on our pockets and we collected all the money we have it and it was only maybe you can say nine dollar in if it count in dollar it was a nine dollar we all had together we had six people put together nine dollar and we are going for a three month outreach with nine dollar we collected it and we filled the gas no we filled the gas in the one and we were ready to go we do not know where we are going to sleep we do not know what we are going to you know but we were ready we started it wherever we saw people and we got down there and we just passed out literature to everyone shared the gospel then we had a recorder where we sell the cassette during that time it is

the cassette for the cassette we will be charging some money and that was our only income while we are traveling so we went and did it for three months we went through some hard times in our life but at the same time we have seen divine provisions of God everywhere we went and each and every time we had to go through some hard time the next morning we will be seeing some amazing miracles amazing thing that God has doing in now I went that after that during that time the Lord given us a vision to go in to reach out to the outer then in 1995 almost six years later maybe seven years later we started reaching into going into every house and sharing the gospel it was on a single focus that he was the only focus then after it was going on very well and hundreds and thousands of villages we reached it was started house churches and everything going on but then I went through an a two and a half years of an a dry season spiritually on a dry season it was nothing so many people as I said I was you know building this chair then somebody else came and said why don't you build this one so I went after them one another and another and another and that was the dry spell that I experienced all through my life you see no I lost focus on this my focus was diverted into many other things and then almost after two years one night the Lord began to speak to me I saw he given me and I was definitely he was speaking to me and you know I heard that voice in my dream he was definitely speaking to me and after some time he showed me a vision it was me and my wife was standing in a more like a dessert you see no there was no tree or something no water and nothing nothing was like it only son was there we were standing there we were happy and we were standing and talking to there then we saw a huge line of ants what you call it ants the small thing okay they were one by one lining and they were all you know coming and we saw it and we began to follow to see where this is coming so we walked and walked miles we walked to see these ants where from they are coming we could not then we okay said okay we leave it here then we want to know where they are going so we walked back several miles came to the place where were then we began to go ahead of them we walked and walked and walked and walked maybe couple of miles we could not see no then finally we we went there then we saw that there was a lake of fire we went there then we saw that there was a lake of fire huge fire you know we tried we want to cross it we tried to overpass we went to the left side we could not right side we could not then we came back to where we were standing and then we saw this ant in if you count them in numbers maybe millions of them they were walking

walking slow by slowly they were all coming and falling into that fire and we did not really understand what it was I did not understand I shared with my wife and she said she don't understand so we went back to my pastor we know that he was from the Lord but we did not really understood I went back to my pastor and shared with him and he said to him and he said to me he he don't know he clearly said so we were worried and we were thinking about it and we we did not know what is going to happen we know the Lord has shown me this vision but we don't really understand what it is all about so we waited and waited then a old lady came to our house she was living here in New York in USA New York with her children she is from an Indian born she and her husband came to America they become citizen here their children were born here and then she was you know become old and she traveled to India all of a sudden the Lord spoke to her to go to India she came to India go down in Delhi and she was there for there for almost 40 days and she was there for almost 40 days and her children were very upset by because she you know went to India and staying there alone and she was fasting and praying for 14 days then she came to our town the Lord spoke to her to get that taxi she got into the taxi she got into the taxi and the driver she did not say where she want to go or anything she just said that I want to go to a mountain so the driver was driving her she came to our town

[65 : 43] I never met her I never you know had any idea of her she came the early morning around seven o'clock I took my children to the roadside where the school bus to the roadside where the school bus comes to put them in the school bus to put them in the school bus so when I was there she was walking through the street she looked at me and said to me I am staying in this hotel you know last night I came to this place I am staying in this hotel I am staying in this hotel and that's where I am staying in this hotel So, you know, last night I came to this place, I'm staying in this place, bring your wife with you, come and see me within half an hour.

I do not know who she is, I have no clue. Then I asked her, you know, how do you know me? And she said, just come to the room. She said the room number, come to the room, we will discuss that there.

So, I looked at her, she is maybe late 70s, so, you know, I looked at her and I was not sure whether we need to go or not.

So, finally I went back and I told my wife, then she said to me, okay, anyway, you know, we will just go. So, we went to the hotel and we went, knocked at her room and she was there.

She asked us to sit down there and we sat down. Then she explained the dream that we have seen in our life, she was explaining to us.

[67 : 17] We never shared anything, but she was explaining to us the same dream that we have seen. And then she asked me a question, do you know why the Lord has shown you that?

And I said, no, I don't know how, we were just praying, we were asking different people what is the meaning of all these, you know. Then she said to us, she said to me, If all these ants were going into the lake of fire, they were dying there.

She told me, if you would have put your feet on their way, they would have taken on a different direction.

Or maybe that fire, if you put on your feet there, because you are stopping there, you are breaking their line, they would have taken on a different direction.

But she said to me, you did not put your feet there. Then she explained to us, there are thousands and thousands of people every day going into the lake of fire.

[68 : 40] And you need to stand there and give on a direction to them. Then she told us clearly, last two and a half years, you were not seen there.

That's why I said it. I lost my focus. I was building something, something, something, because somebody told me to build a better one.

I should have focused on that. Then she explained to us. Then she said to us, I am living in New York.

The Lord asked me to come to India, I came. And I was fasting for 40 days. Yesterday I finished my fasting. And the Lord told me to come to this place.

She said, I never know, even I was not knowing the name of the place. I asked the driver only to take me to the mountain and he brought me here. And this morning as I was walking through there, and I looked at you, then the Lord asked me to tell you here.

[69 : 55] And she laid her hands on me and my wife. And she prayed for us. Then she asked, told me, don't ever lose your focus.

If you lose your focus, there will be hundreds and thousands of them will go into the fire. But I am trying to say this even.

If we lose our focus. I was called to do that. My attention was devoted to many other things.

I was going with all that. But then the Lord brought me back into that direction. And after coming to India, after she, you know, she telling me this, within one hour, she got her back to the taxi and drive away from there.

Went to the Delhi, took a ticket. She was back to, you know, New York. But what I, you know, she said to us was so true.

[71 : 15] Because that was happening in our life. It happened to me. It can happen to anyone.

It happened to Martha. It happened to Peter. It happened to that rich man. It happened to anyone of us. But if we lose our hope.

We will be taking a different direction. Or maybe we are not setting our priority on the Lord.

That can cause our life. That can cause many other people's lives. That can cause many other people.

Today, people say that, when we go into outreach program and things, people say that, you are getting old.

[72 : 24] In India, people say to me, you are getting old. Maybe you need to start something. I listen to them, but never pay my attention. So many people sell so many things.

We don't pay because that lady put us back into track. And we never want, as long as we leave, we never want to be diverted.

We never want to be diverted. What I am trying to say is, we did not do something wrong or anything.

or anything, but just took the focus out of the Lord, what we are called. I just want to encourage each one of you. I do not know the calling that you have, but I do believe each one of, whether it's a small or bigger, each one had a calling in their life.

The Lord has called you for something. Focus on that. Don't be diverged. Don't be afraid of the storms or the wind or the water or, you know, don't be afraid of that.

[73 : 39] The Lord has given us power to overcome all those things. We can overcome all those things. If He can, you see, ask the wind to stop, they stop, even today we can, He can do that, you see.

But if we lose our focus, as Jesus said, if salt loses His saltness, there is nothing that can make it right.

Nothing can bring that saltness back. If we are called to be, you know, if we are called to be a light to the world, if we become, if you are not becoming bright, you know, bright, so that others can see it.

We are becoming dimmer and dimmer and dimmer and dimmer and one day He is going to lose His light. But if we can be brighter and brighter and dimmer and dimmer and dimmer and dimmer and dimmer, so many people will be able to see it in the right direction.

As a small group. I just want to encourage you to set your focus on the Lord and move on.

[75 : 11] Whatever may come on the way, don't pay attention to those things. It will come on the way, it will come on the way, it will come on the way, it will follow us.

Because Jesus already told those things will follow us. We cannot run away from those things. It will be as long as we are in the world, these things, all things will happen around us.

But instead of focusing on those things, focus on the Lord and He will lead us.

The one thing let me tell you. What was the wrong thing that Israelites who came out of Egypt, what did they do?

The Israel, except Joshua and Caleb, none of them entered into the Promised Land.

[76 : 11] What did they really do wrong? They lost their focus. God was doing all He wanted to do for them.

He divided the Red Sea, He led them, He killed all His enemies, He was providing them in the wilderness, He was giving every protection that He promised, He was caring for them.

And God was doing everything, even though their heart was not straight. But the Bible says, He was with them.

The day as a cloud over them, in the night as a pillar of light. He was right with them. He did not run away, He did not leave them alone or anything.

But they were going, their hearts were getting far away from God. But He still stood with them. He just be there and for them.

[77 : 20] And He took care of them. But when it comes to in reality, He said, none of them will enter into the Promised Land.

Only who is focused on the Lord. We all know that 12 spies went and came back. 10 of them were looking at the giants in the Promised Land.

Their focus was how big, you know, these giants were and how great they are and how... all those things, but they never focused on the Lord.

As this evening, let us focus on the Lord. Our eyes be set on Him alone. We are called for a purpose.

Let our calling focus on that call. And just be faithful to Him.

[78 : 28] To the calling that He has called us. The other day I was telling someone, When I stand before the Lord, I won't be asked, Why did not you go and maybe evangelize planes here?

The Lord is not going to ask me that question. Or why did not you go to each house in the planes and share the Gospel? He will not be asking that question.

But He will definitely ask a question. I have given on a vision to you. Did you remain faithful to that vision?

And every one of us has to answer that. And we cannot tell Him that, Oh, somebody came and diverted my focus from here to there.

No. We can't tell that. Somebody diverted my focus, so I could not do that. Or I wanted to do that but I could not.

[79 : 39] Because this happened, that happened. See no. No. Those excuses will not be. But He can remain faithful to that calling.

I do believe God can do great and mighty things through you and me.

He can do great and mighty things. He can use us to bless so many other people. To transform others' lives.

He can use us. He can use us to do great and mighty things through you and the other people. He can use us to do great and mighty things through you. And we can't do great. But if you remain faithful to that calling. I just want to encourage you to focus.

We do not want the Lord to come and reduce us. Saying, you know, we do not want that. But if we can focus.

[80 : 45] That will be a great blessing for me. We need to be a blessing to the people around us.

Whoever they may be. Especially for me. I don't care who are my neighbors or what they do or things like that.

But I want to be a blessing to them. So I will try to do everything for them to become a blessing in their life. Because I believe that I am called to be a blessing to others.

So I will do my best. And very recently one of my neighbors. His mother passed away. And he was not there.

He was almost two days away from his home. Then he called me on the phone and said, In the hospital my mother passed away. Will you go to the hospital and take care of all the legal papers.

[81 : 55] You have to sign a lot of papers. Will you do that for me? And I said, they will allow me to sign all those papers. And he said, yes, I will let them know that they will.

I went and signed all the legal papers. She is a Hindu lady and they are Hindus. Then I brought the dead body to the mortuary and I kept there.

And I do not know what to do it because I have limitations to do things. So I called another one of my neighbor.

And he said, no, he did not want to do anything. So he did not. I called a third one and he said, no, he is not. Then I called one of our believers who was a Hindu before coming to faith.

I know that he will be knowing everything. So he came and he said, okay, I will help you. So we did within our Christian faith and our, you know, what we can do it.

[83 : 00] We did it. We cleaned up his house and everything. And, you know, we could do and we did it. Then everyone was asking to me, why you are doing?

It was supposed to be her children need to do all those things. And I told them they were not here, so I am doing it. The end of that, the people came for the burial.

And me and my wife was serving them coffee and tea. And they all were part of it and everyone appreciated.

Then his wife and he came after the burial and everything. They came to our house and they said to us, The reason I called you, He said, some of my family members live cross by.

And he said to me, the reason I called you on the phone and go and sign all those papers is that, I can trust you, I cannot trust my own people.

[84 : 06] So, I said, I am, we hardly have a two years of relationship.

He was came to our area two years ago. We did not have much of a talk or anything, close friendship or anything. But, he trusted us.

And he said to me that, if you are not there to help us, I would not have called anyone in my family or anything.

She would have remained in the hospital there till I come here. What I am trying to say is that, When you are focused on the Lord, You will be changed.

Naturally, you will be changed. Your life will be changed. Your lifestyle will be changed. Everything will be changed around you.

[85 : 20] That is my testimony. Even people around you, They will be changed. You will be changed. Because you are focused on the Lord.

If you took a diversion, Or if you are not focused on the Lord, Then your life will remain the same. You will not experience any changes in your life.

And you won't see any changes that is taking place around you. But if you are focused on the Lord, That will change.

One more thing I just want to share and then I will finish here.

When Jesus said, When He was talking to the rich man, He said, There is one thing lacking in you.

[86 : 28] Just to go and do it. In one way or other way He was telling, You are almost complete.

But if you go and do this, You will be complete. One thing is lacking. Rest of them, everything is fine. So go and do it. He could not do it.

Then Jesus said, Because He was a rich man. That was the Bible says. He was a rich man. But He could not do it, Because He could not do it.

He could not completely trust the Lord. He could not completely focus on the Lord. He could not focus on the Lord, Because there was no complete trust in the Lord.

This can happen to anyone. This can happen to anyone. Serving the Lord for so many years.

[87 : 32] Until you cannot have a complete trust in the Lord. I would give you an example and I will finish. One of my trips to America, Maybe nine years ago, I was traveling from India to London.

There was a lady was sitting next to me on the plane. She was a young lady, highly educated. The lady was sitting. And we introduced one another.

She said to me, She is living in South Africa. And you know, she had her own. She and her husband is running her own business. And things like that. Then she said to me that, I am the head of all the operations in African countries.

There is a Hindu god man in India. I am operating all his religious operations there. Then we talked a little bit.

Then, you know, In the plane they served us a meal. And we had the meal. Then I took my Bible. And I opened it. And I was reading it. With the reading light.

[88 : 42] When she saw the Bible, She was so upset. And she won't allow me to read it. She was talking to me. And she was, Her sound changed.

Everything changed. Then she asked me, Why are you all Christian everywhere opening the Bible? You know, You are traveling in a plane. Others are sitting. Why do you need to open the Bible?

I said, In a usual way I told him, From the childhood onward, Before going to the bed, My mother taught me to open the Bible and read the Bible. Then only you need to go to bed.

And I said, If I am grown up, But still that is my habit. You know, I need to read. Maybe one word or two words. I need to read. No. She was accusing and things like that.

You Christians are like that. The public. So, I read two words. Then I closed the Bible. And I put back my Bible in my back. And I was, She was very upset by that.

[89 : 40] Then she began to talk to me, About how they are operating. All their Hindu operation and things. How great it is. How great is this man is.

And all those things. I was listening and listening. I thought, I will get any opportunity, To her to share Jesus with her. So, I was waiting for my turn.

She was talking and talking and talking. Then, it took a couple of hours. She did not finish it. And we were getting closer to London. The flight was going.

Land in London. So, Then, She was slow down little bit. Then I asked her, I have any question for you. She said, What is it? I said, Think in this way.

I told her. She, In between, She told me that, She have two daughters, Sistine and 18 years of age. And I told her, Today you are traveling from India.

[90 : 38] Think in this way. One day, You and your husband had to go, For a business trip or something that came. You had to leave your children. You know.

And you both had to travel. And you have only two options. One option is, You are Hindu god man. Or maybe the holy man that you follow.

The other side is Jesus. And I told her, With whom you will leave your girls? Yes. She looked at me.

And then, She said, You really want an answer? I said, Yes. I need an answer for that. She, After some time, She was thinking after some time, I think she closed her eyes.

She wanted to show me that she is going back to sleep. So, I understood that. She, She is not going to sleep. But, I understood. So, I tried to close my eyes too.

[91 : 38] We landed in London. And we got out of the plane. And we were walking. And, You know. I was walking ahead of us. She came running after me.

And said to me, Do you want to have an answer? I said, You are almost one and half hours. I was waiting for an answer. And you did not give me an answer.

She said, I was thinking about it. I was thinking and thinking and thinking. And I said, What is the answer? She said to me, If I had only this choice.

One side is my, You know, God man. Or maybe the guru. Or maybe the Hindu religious man. The other side is Jesus. I would leave my children to Jesus.

And gladly will go to my trip. And I looked at her face and I said, Do you know what you are talking? And she said, Yes, I know I am talking.

[92 : 38] Again I told her, Do you know that you are worshipping that man? You are a true follower of that man. You trust that man.

You believe in him. You worship him. And you do all kinds of service to him. And then you are telling me that you don't trust him. She said, Yeah, I know.

That's what I was worried about. And on this side, Jesus is on the other side. You do not know him. You are, Sometime before reading the Bible, You are accusing me For reading the Bible.

And you don't want anything to do with this man. But you are willing to trust. Trust him with your daughter.

And she said, Yes, I will do that. Then we walked a couple of, You know, Meter together. Then I asked her, Can we pray for, Can I pray for you?

[93 : 43] She said, I was going to ask me, Ask you to do that for me. So we went and sat in a chair there. And you know, I prayed over her and blessed her.

Today, They are happily living, Leading a Christian life in South Africa. And you know, They came, Almost nine months back, They came to our house.

And they spent, Two days with us. And they said, We were doing all this service for that man. But we never had a real joy in our heart.

But, When I said that, I don't trust that man, I will trust Jesus. From that very day onwards, I felt so peaceful. And I felt comfortable.

This can happen to us, Even Christians. We will be doing all kinds of service, But, Don't trust me.

[94 : 49] I just want this evening, Set our priority on the Lord. All other things, Are temporary. It is not permanent.

The things that we have not seen, Are permanent. Set our priority on the Lord. He has promised us, He will come and take us with Him.

He promised us that He is going to build a place for us. Then if He is finished, He will come back. And the whole world will say that, No, He will not come back.

But still, We need to believe that He will come back. And we need to be ready, Not only to believe, But to be ready, When He comes.

May the Lord bless you this evening. I have some more pictures, And more like what I have shown in Lancaster. Maybe I will show that.

[95 : 49] And see myself, Wait steps. Late steps. Afterien. First is up to the Bar. Now, For the priority is to lift yourself in a moment. And before I am emphasising it. Then as a Andre hoesqué, And his first one is going to make action part, And when he va into this community, Can you meet the best people that some people go up?

Have no spot in online. A question was that?bau irrational. That's all her? Not only to be owl,