

Computer Generated Transcript - So hey I get to be here this morning and I get to share my heart with you and actually a lot of it kind of stem from when when just spoke last week he talked on on having a life that is long after God right this idea that we need to be people that are desperately long after God and we need to be desperate for God and that as he was sharing that last week I think that hit the nail on the head I'm not not just saying that to suck up or to win brownie points I truly believe that was a word for this church we need to be more desperate for God. We need to long for God and such a way that you know he yelled and that. As we pan to for. And how that was not this delightful you know just kind of fluffy scene but it's a desperation a longing and how that's what we need in our life and and guys people that's that's my prayer for myself for my own life and I think you heard I think you heard Jason say that for himself as well but for me as well I want to be at a place in my faith or a place with God where I am so desperate right so willing God whatever you have for me please I want to be willing I want to be ready to do that I want to be completely sold out I want to be desperate for you and that really is my heart right and I think that that's the heart of many of you as well if you at some point your life if you claim faith in Christ you said yes Jeez I want you in my life I believe I think that it's natural to want more and to be desperate we see that and we've we've had moments of that along the way and so I I know. That as we're going through this is something that we want for Alliance and sometimes we find ourselves in places where we're not as desperate as as we know we we could be or should be. And so it led me to kind of ask this question as I was sitting there processing on Sunday. How right how do we become more desperate for God. Because I think it's true I think we want to be there I want to be there I want for our youth ministry to be there I want to I want to youth ministry be filled with students that are desperate and are longing and are hungry for God I want this church to be a place where we come together and the people that are in this place are desperate for God we want to see God move in a mighty way in a real way. So believe that for my life for my life for this church and I believe that it's possible I believe that it can happen because it's it has happened before but I want to see it continue to happen so how do we become more desperate for God I don't want to I don't want to sound like that these answers that I have here these suggestions that I have here are are you know this is the only way or this is the absolute right way but I really do believe that these are things that if we if we apply these and if we if we think through some of the some of the stuff I think we will find ourselves in a desperate place forgot we will find ourselves longing for more got our lives so this first one it starts with truly believing in God OK I I know that one's not earth shattering but I think we have to start there we have to start there or do we truly believe in God because a lot of times you know we grow up maybe we grew up in the church in our parents you know they process and so we just kind of like by default we're like yeah that's that's what I do I go to church Yeah yeah I kind of yeah god that's right he's a part of my life yes sure. But there's a difference there's a difference between between truly believing and really having it be something that changes you from the inside out and just kind of this religious obligation I do this because I ought to do it. I think a lot of times we can find ourselves in those places where it's something that we ought to do so we do it but I don't want to be people that stay there our level of desperation is going to correlate directly with how deeply we believe and that's why I say it starts with belief and let me say that again are our level of desperation is going to correlate directly with how deeply we believe if you don't believe you you're not going to be desperate for God if you're not truly believing in God. Then you're not going to be desperate for God. So it has to start at that place right each one of us has to ask those questions we have to sit down we have to process through it. We have to think through what does this mean to me Romans ten chapter ten verses nine through ten. It says this. If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved for his by believing in your heart that you were made right with God and is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved if you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved that's that's the equation. That's that's what needs to happen we need to have an understand that Jesus was a real person that God came in flesh and lived a perfect life. Right and was willing to lay that life down he died but there was resurrected he predicted that he would die and he knew that was his mission is

purpose predicted that. And I was raised to life again and what what what God asks of us is to to believe to trust that that's the truth and that's what we have to ask source ask ourselves nobody can force you to work through that decision. Right we can encourage you we could lead you in that way I can tell you from personal experience that it's worth it and that believing in God is the best thing that I've ever done in my life but it's something that you as an individual person have to work through. Because if you don't believe there's actually be a desperation for God and that's obvious right. But it's so true and we have to kind of cover that that first step further or we have to cover that first step. So I would challenge you I mean if you're a person out there today and you're in you're you're not sure the process through that. Begin to spend time seeking out what that means it in the word ask some questions from people that you know maybe are a little further along in the journey than you are but start by truly believing. I think the last part is really important to you even as even as a person that has chosen to believe in Jesus and is living out that life for God This is the second part is important. For it is believing in your heart that you're made right with God and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. Making a habit of of openly declaring your faith in Jesus. You're going to find yourself in a place of desperation for God you're going to find yourself longing for God more as you confess that in your life like when I pray a lot of times God I believe in You Jesus I believe that you came to this earth I believe that you want to heal us got I believe that you want to save us I believe that you want to set us free. I can openly declare that with my mouth my belief to God I talk to him about my belief in him. And taking the opportunity when it when it presents itself to declare that faith openly to people around me as well as we are willing to believe in the truly believe and to confess that openly That's how we that's how we are saved right confessing that faith but I'm saying once you are saved continue to declare that faith in Jesus openly unashamedly and I think that that's there's some truth there too causing desperation our heart for God this that longing grows as we continue to openly declare belief in Jesus so I want to challenge you with that it starts with truly believing. Starts to truly believe in how do you become more desperate for God. We need to be filled up by God. We need to be filled up with filled up by God we need to spend time in God's presence. We need invite the Holy Spirit into our lives into our hearts daily. Constantly I was thinking about this I was thinking about times in my life when when I found myself most desperate for God. When I thought back and in camp. For me you conventions those types of things that are on my mind. And I thought about that for a little while and I thought Why why is why is can't one of those moments were or one of those times those those places in your life where you meet with God in an amazing way and you leave those places desperate for more. Ready to do whatever God asks you to do and I was thinking about that why what is it about Kim. And I and I realize that there's an expectation when we go there but what I really think is is a key factor there is there's a God saturation that happens. When you go to camp it's two to church services a day you're there for the morning you come back in the evening there's there's two times of worship during the day where you come together and express yourself and worship your song writer worshipping alongside of other believers there's fellowship you're going the same direction as a bunch of other people that are hungry and are longing for God as well it's contagious you spent time more time in prayer there than you normally ever spent I can't you're reading the Bible you're hearing the words people are preaching and teaching. There's a god saturation you can't get away from it the distractions are suddenly gone. Right we're just there we're at Camp Director invention and those distractions are gone the business is gone we've carved out time. We've carved out time to be there. And we said we're going to unplug we're going to turn off the devices. And you're in a god saturation and I looked up that word saturation. The state in which something is so full or pact that no more can be added Now I believe that we can always be adding to our faith but this idea of it's soul full or pact was something and then what I'm talking about is a saturation of God in our lives I want to be so full right then starts pouring out in my life that it can't that that it's it starts to overflow because it's so saturated. Right that's the same ideas I want to be so desperate for God. And I bring up this can't point because I think a lot of times we think well camp in N.Y.C. in those moments where we were so desperate for God really counted God we think well that's just that's just

for that time and then we go back to the real world. And we think that that can't happen in our lives we start to believe that we can't have a god saturation in our lives outside of can and yes can't makes it easier when again you have these amazing worship teams that are amazing musicians you've got some top notch speakers from all over the world that come in and speak yeah that kind of stuff makes a difference but we can still have that God saturation we can be filled with God We can be filled with the spirit has been surrounded by his presence every day. And I would argue that that's what we need in our lives it sounds extreme and something like what church two times a day worship Honestly though if you talk to any of the students that have been to camp or you can recall your camp experience your time there. And I can recall times when I was at a youth convention those were some of the best times we've got just spending time as presidents just getting Vost not worrying about what else you have to do is so awesome it's so refreshing. And I would argue that we can have more of that in our life on the in the day today it doesn't have to just be reserved for him James four eight chapter Chapter four verse eight says this come close to God and God will come close to you wash your hands you sinners I'm calling myself a time I can fall in this category of being a sinner. Purify your hearts for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. And doesn't isn't that what it really boils down to a lot of times we don't find ourselves desperate for God because our loyalties are divided between the world in the responsibilities of the things that we have to get done and God. Camp works because we're it's a god saturation because we're drawing near to God God is always there he's there so once his God draws to you it's really on us to say God I want you in my heart in my life I want to make time for you as we draw close to God God just close to us but it's really us drawing close to God I saw this illustration at a youth pastor retreat and I'm not going to I'm not going to physically do the illustration but I'm explaining because I think it's again it describes this saturation it describes being filled with God. And what it is is imagine again imagine that your life is as a cup you're a vessel right you're a container in what I think we normally do this is how we normally operate when it comes to our faith and when it comes to pursuing God as we're this empty vessel we might pray a little bit. And then God fills us up we might spend a little time in our in the in the Bible and in the Word and studying and learning about God and we have filled up a little bit more right we go to church on Sunday we get filled up a little bit more but there were then we don't go to church we go back to the world we were busy doing our day to day stuff that gets poured out it's emptied out we we try love in our family we try ministry so a little bit more gets poured out. But I think what God really wants in our lives he wants us to just continue to pour into that cup pour into our lives pour into us until it's over flowing out of us you know he wants to keep filling that Cup We've got to keep drawing close to God and that Cup begins to overflow and he wants to saturate our lives. But we've got to make a decision to draw close to God and as we draw close to God we're going to we're going to experience that desperation that we're talking about zero zero else do we become more desperate for God. Up on the on the screen there and again there's some overlap in some of these points here but by rejecting apathy. By rejecting complacency in our faith or I mean by that. What does it mean to be apathetic well. The dictionary definition the dictionary definition. Apathy is a Greek word that means the absence or suppression of passion emotion or excitement is the lack of interest in or concern for things that others find moving or exciting so really apathy. Being apathetic is the opposite of being desperate for God What we're talking about right the absence or suppression of passion emotion or excitement. If you like I don't really care it's no big deal it's really easy for us to fall into this place of being apathetic and I don't that's what that's been our that's what we've been trying to talk about last Sunday and today is we don't want to land in this place of being apathetic in our faith or complacent in our faith what what causes what causes us to become apathetic in our faith and I just kind of mentioned some of these things but I really think that business business and distractions and comfort we're so busy today and busy with. It's hard it's hard to see it because you know every well that's that. You don't understand and you don't understand my situation but we're busy a lot of times with the wrong stuff and it's not always bad stuff it's not always bad things. But a lot of time we're just straight up busy with the wrong stuff and we wonder why we're not desperate for God we wonder why we don't long for God

the way that Jesus was talking about it last week is because we're not saturated and God's presence. Because we're so busy and honest people things like work our jobs can become that business in our lives if we're not careful and I know a lot of people are like well I got it I got to provide for my family I got to do that yes you I understand that you do I mean I get that but sometimes we can get caught up in our in our work. We get caught up in meetings being on committees being involved in certain things that don't really have eternal consequences yes you can be intentional OK let me say this you can be intentional at your work and say I'm going to I'm going to work in the Lord I'm going to make this every opportunity that I have to to to shine brightly for God as I'm in these places. I'm going to take opportunities to be intentional in my faith when I'm in these places like work or if I'm on a committee or something like that I get that but sometimes we're so busy kids family. I mean we can start to elevate those things to this this high level where it's like this is I got to do this this is so important and what happens is our faith source of take a back seat we're busy with sports running our kids from from here to there this activity this activity we just don't have time for God and it's just too busy I know Stan I wrestle with the same things. I love a good project I like fixing stuff so I'm always tearing apart my house. And never finishing it I do finish sometimes but even some things like a project that's that's not bad. But it can become business in my life. Distractions it can become a distraction what are some other things that are distractions in our lives and T.V. I don't even consider myself a huge T.V. watcher they like when you know when I compare my you know we do that we compare ourselves to other people like wow those guys they watch way more T.V. than I do. And I'm pretty good really but I think about how much time are ways to us watching T.V. and yes sure it's nice to sometimes sit back and relax or just the. You know get into a show but it's so easy to become distracted so easy again to become busy. Like a smartphone I mean just think about how often I don't know what the latest statistics are but it's like every So I think it's like every six minutes or something like that that people are checking their phone. And that's probably that's probably on the the. The the low end. Because there are some people that know check their phones for days I get it but but we have the you know we have the Internet we have the games that are on we have social media we have all of these things that our fingertips. Is so easy to distract I just think about sometimes the day to day you know like you just kind of go around OK I watch the T.V. You can check and check on the phone we're so busy we're so distracted and then we kind of wonder why aren't we desperate for God you know. And also about stuff to some radical if we're to go we maybe we should get rid of some of this stuff. We got or our tools I put tools in it is that something that you know could be a distraction for me at times maybe not for all of you. Comfort just by the very nature we live in a country where we have so much. As thinking about that we have a nice comfortable bed you know cozy couch. We've got good health care so we know if we get sick we can go into the doctor right we can we can travel really easily it's really easy to become comfortable in just the kind of lean on on on those things you know like I said earlier. For year when I read that James for your loyalty is divided between God in the world that these are the things where our loyalty is are are being tested and tried like where are loyalties. And we do have to check sometimes sometimes our business has to be checked. Are we busy with the right things sometimes are we too comfortable are we too distracted in our lives is the things that we got to look at Romans twelve two says this don't copy the behavior in the customs and we get this the behavior and customs of this world but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think then you will learn to know God's will for you which is good and pleasing and perfect. Isn't it really easy to copy the behaviors and customs of this world like this is this is the norm the norm is to get lost in in your in your business to run from here to there to be and everything to be involved in in this activity or that activity. It's to have the latest gadgets have all the toys the fancy cars the you know the nice the nice house like you said those things aren't bad in and of themselves but I do think we have to look we have to take a good long look at our lives and say Where are they in our in our heart where are we at in our heart towards these things have to become priority in our lives so how do we resist becoming apathetic or how do we reject apathy it's kind of the opposite of what I just said we need to carve out time to make your relationship with Jesus a priority. LYNAS been reading through a book called fervent and

she kind of pare it was this is a paraphrase of what was in a couple of sentences there in the book this is this not allowing the pressure of succeeding in the world the things rob you of the most important thing if fruitful life a life of truly eternal significance right there there is a pressure from the world to succeed right to be a part of it. And just to kind of go on like this is expected this is what we do expect in America this is this is what we do. And there's a pressure to keep up with the Joneses there's a pressure to fit in and to do what the rest of the world is doing isn't robbing us right is it robbing us of the most important thing a fruitful life a truly eternal significance be busy with the right things I want to give an example I will we have a student leadership team A for our student ministry we have a bunch of students that are on our student leadership team and we had a meeting I think on Tuesday and we were kind of talking a few people like maybe we should move the meeting maybe we should move the meeting maybe we should move the meeting to right after school because it would work better for them and then some other people and well known I got I got this and I got that I got this I got that I got sports. And so I threw this out there because it's been on my heart. It's been hard and I know it's weird because you start talking about this stuff and people can look at you funny like what sports are always more important then then church activities and things like that. I said what about this I said what if you went to your coach and you said hey coach. Like I'm on this I'm a student leader in my in my youth group and. This is really important to me my faith is really important to me. And this is something that I want to be a part of this is something that I want to be committed to and once a month we have a meeting and we meet right after school three thirty so I won't be able to make practice. I won't be able to come to practice for that but I promise you when I'm there when I'm there the rest of the week the rest of the month I'll work hard I'll give you my best. But this is something that's important to me. This is something that I believe is something that I need to be a part of right now my life I challenged them with that like what if you talk to your coach and said that I think a lot of people believe and I'm talking a little bit to young people who believe that that that's not even an option well I'll get the bet I'll get off the bench if that's the case. But how did it how did we ever get to that place you know how do we get to that place where sports and things like that automatically Trump growing in our faith and I know I understand that you don't always have to be in the walls of this building on Wednesday or Sunday morning to grow in your faith. But again if we're going to be saturated in God to the point where it's overflowing our life we're desperate for God we're going to have to start thinking and reevaluating some of our priorities. Are we busy with the right things even work for them I said if you want to talk to your boss and you're a hard worker OK this is all in in the Fed and in light of the fact that you're a hard worker and which we should be as Christians we should be a good representation of a hard worker. And I believe that and I think if you go into your church in your job expression as a teenager and you said you know what. I'm going to work you know I work hard you know I'm going to give you my best when I'm here I'm not going to just skip out of work for nothing but this is something that I thought you this is something that's important to me and I want to go I want to do this if you talk I can't even a non-believing employer is going to say you know what that's. That's admirable and if they don't then I would say as a young person that's probably not a good job to be had you don't have to have that I get jobs in and sports they can teach great life lessons they can they teach you to work hard I love sports I worked in in high school I had to work I wanted a car I had to work I understood that. If I wanted if I wanted nice clothes I had to work for that. I'm not saying that those lessons should go by the wayside I think jobs and sports can teach those things but again are we busy with the right things it seems backwards it seems like it should be the other way around. And I know I'm biased I know I'm biased but this desperation that we talk about this longing that we talk about. It's not going to happen if we don't make time. Camp and convention is effective because we make time to be there. We get rid of the distractions we're focused in I want that I don't want to just I don't want to just be the Christian that goes through the motions that's just happy with going to church on Sunday and that's is just doing what I ought to do I really it's a very uncomfortable place to be as as a believer and I think a lot of you can relate to that. It doesn't feel good to be in that place of just trying to go in through the routine how do we reject apathy we spend time in the work

that's one that's got to come up we spent time in the word we fast we pray. That's got to be part of it we've got to be aware of the comforts in our life we've got to be we've got to be aware that we live in a society today that lulls us to sleep spiritually it lulls us to sleep spiritual because we have so much and it's so easy at times that we don't ever feel like we need God because we live like kings and queens and it's often it's out of that time where we need we're dependent on God that we grow when there's a dependence when there's a need that that's there the last thing that to rejecting apathy in our life and I really believe this is important is stepping out right step out and do something be willing to step out and break out of maybe whatever habits and routines that you're in right now. And to do something different to change it up because if we're going to be desperate for God If we're going to really go after God that something is probably got to change something's gotta give including in my own life as well it's got to give I wrote down stop playing it safe right comfortable safe a lot of times that's where we like to be. We like to just play it safe even I was thinking about it with my kids and I've heard this from Joel Gordon who's a missionary and I think I've heard it in other places as well but sometimes honestly as a parent a lot of times our prayer is I keep my kids safe just keep them safe as long as they're alive and they're breathing in their blood pumping through him than I would be the happiest man in the world but sometimes our prayers should be God do something amazing in their life do something crazy in their life that that's going to require them to step out. That's going to require them to step into this dangerous place it's not always meant to be comfortable in our own lives we played the safe card like this job makes the most money so I can have the biggest house I can provide the best for my family with this job because it makes the most money that's safe. Not playing it safe in saying you know what I'm going to take the job that pays five dollars less an hour but it means that I can devote more of my life to Jesus but we don't think that way because we will play it safe for some you. Maybe that's gone on a mission trip stepping out. And you're going to take want I'm busy with this I'm busy with that John it's not going to work out it's not going to happen maybe it's going to be stepping back from an activity or responsibility that has no kingdom benefit. Maybe it's going to be something radical like getting rid of a television and I'm not saying that OK before you guys all throw stuff at me and. I'm not saying that this is this is what you need to do this is what you need this is what you need it but maybe you need to sit back and you need to you need to do some evaluating I need to do some of valuating my own life I'm just saying that maybe that's that's where it's out for somebody maybe you need to get rid of the Internet on your phone maybe something you need to go into ministry full time. Maybe you need to share your faith I was just thinking about this the other day I I really feel like I missed an opportunity. I was I was at a graduation party we were actually talking about the sports thing as was kind of fresh in my mind this idea of you know sometimes sports has become such a huge priority in our lives and young people and as parents we just kind of go along with that we're talking about we're both actually in agreement we were both like this in this striving for excellence that drives this this high level of commitment and sacrifice for the sport there is in the name of excellence which is admirable It's neat but I have this opportunity to share with this person why why is because honestly if you're not a believer then then go for it strive for excellence in sports try to become the professional athlete try to do those things strive for you know nice things and that makes sense. But I feel to say I failed to share. And I really think and I was think about it I fail to share why why is this important me I believe because when when students believe that this is the most important thing in their lives they miss the fact that their faith is way more important that's why I'm passionate about them not being so so plugged into an activity it's not just because I think it's a bad thing for their for them overall which you know that's up for debate because I truly care about their faith I care about them growing in knowing Jesus and I feel like I missed that opportunity and if I would have shared you know I mean that's scary that's where starts to get a little uncomfortable. Right when you start it's like we can agree on this because this is really socially acceptable topic to talk about this is I start you know superstar brain in Jesus of the equation right that's when all of a sudden it's like whoa whoa whoa whoa whoa we just went there. But isn't that where we find ourselves desperate because then all of us and it's a it's uncomfortable we're not playing it safe I'm not simply up noxious

you guys know what I'm saying I'm not saying you got to be obnoxious. But sometimes we do have to share our faith and we actually have to share what we do what we do and why we and what we believe with people around us and when we do that we're going to find ourselves desperate we're going to we're going to need more of God in our lives we're going to be desired more of our God or less because we're going in this places that are scary and uncomfortable. And apathy is in the in the mirror at that point some thoughts maybe it's getting baptized in proclaiming your faith your love for Jesus before people before the church. Maybe it's expressing yourself in worship when we're singing songs to God Last Last Sunday I really felt you know like I know that I can meet with God in my seat I understand that God is in this place and I could be with him in the end and in the back I can be with him in the front. But I think sometimes there's something powerful about us taking a step towards God draw close to God he'll draw close to you. And so as we're praying that we can Jason had invited people up there as kind of stubbornly just sitting in my chair just like I don't I don't need to go front got this right here gotta give me right here and I'm like No John stop humble yourself and take some steps to God take some steps towards God physically get up out of your chair and sometimes that's what it takes you got to physically get up and take steps towards God and that's when the breakthrough is going to happen that's where the desperation comes in that's where we find saturation and God taken steps towards God I remember when I was when I first came to the Lord I remember it was crazy we watched these Browns the revival. Shows were tapes and at the end we were like brought into the altar like a bunch of teenage like no I'm going first or we're running to the altar because we're desperate and I'm not saying we just got to just all get crazy and and do crazy things just for the sake of being crazy but if we're going to break that cycle of just kind of going through the motions and being apathetic in our in our faith. It might require seducing So the last verse to the last little bit of scripture I want to leave you with. Mark Chapter eight persons thirty four thirty six then calling the crowd to join to join his disciples he said this is Jesus if any of you wants to be my follower you must give up your your own way must give up your own way. Take up your cross and follow me if you try to hang on to your life and if we try to hang on to this world and our loyalties or are to the world all the time is that of God. If you try to hang on to your life you will lose it but if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the good news you will save it and what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul you read that that pierces your heart of a bit here's your heart a little bit and should. Pierce my heart. Well can we do to be more more desperate for God I don't want to mandate any one of those things that I just said for want of you specifically that's not my job but I know that God has His has called me to to all of us to live a more desperate life for him so we have to start having these questions and not just say oh well it's OK this is just how how it works I think there's I think something's got to change we've got to get rid of some of the business we've got to get rid of the distractions step outside of our comfort our comfort zone and so the just for the last five minutes Jason if I if I could get you to just play some music I'm going to ask us to do something and if you're not comfortable doing it if you're not comfortable coming to the front that's fine but again like I said there are gods no more here than he is back there and I fully understand that but there's something inside of us that breaks when we make a decision to take steps towards God and so I know like he said last week we'll hole if you're claiming faith in Christ I know that you want more I know that you want to either be all in or you're like what's the point of any of it all at all and so I want to invite you he's going to he's going to play some music here but I want to invite you to just come down and worship take steps towards God. And I'm going to be up here with you I want to I want to worship with you I want this to be a place where we just spend the next five minutes worshipping together in song here in the front taking steps towards God if you're not comfortable with that that's you can sing I don't want to force anybody do anything that they don't want to do because that doesn't work. But I think as a church what what a what a cool thing we can all take a step towards God together let's people individuals that are desperate for God but let's be a church that's desperate for God.