

Computer Generated Transcript - So we're going to move into our our message today this is the last series that we're going to be or the last sermon in this series on the Feast of Israel that we're going to be doing I've said it every week that we've done this and I'm going to say again today I am not trying to reinstitute you going through the Old Testament feast as some sort of requirement to meet with God OK that's not why we do this it's not about going back to the Old Covenant we just celebrated communion we are in the New Covenant the old covenant is not required but the reason we're doing this is I love seeing God's plan come together throughout history the Old Testament and the New Testament revealed through what is still yet to come and you can see that in these feasts and it's such a cool thing as as we watch through this and I need to give one point of clarification I've said for the last several weeks as we've gone through this that I believe that Jesus will return in the fall because of the way the calendars of the feasts work out OK and my see my sister Cassie she started sending me some texts I think it was two weeks ago and she's like. What do you mean Jesus is returning in the fall and it took like you know a text you don't hear context and you kind of read what you want to read sometimes and you're trying to go and I'm like why is this difficult you know it's the calendar this shouldn't be that hard and she's sitting there thinking you're telling people Jesus returning in the fall like she thought I meant in September of two thousand and eighteen OK And so we were on two very different wavelengths right there she thought I'd become one of those crazy people who is like trying to predict an exact date of when Jesus returned that's not what I'm trying to do I'm not saying the fall of two thousand and eighteen I'm just saying the fall some time at some point I just believe it because as we talked as we look at these feasts Jesus came to this earth you know and then he died he he did not rot and he rose right according to the feast calendar like we talk. About the first three feast the Spring feasts and then the baptism of the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost that's why we're called Pentecostals right it's not some random name it's because it happened on the day of Pentecost the feast of Pentecost and so I believe the same way that that all of those things foreshadow Jesus's death his burial his resurrection the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost I believe that these last three fall feasts predict Jesus His second coming the judgment and what will happen then afterwards And so I believe that in the fall now listen I am not so vain or arrogant as to say you don't need to worry about it until the fall. OK that's ridiculous I'm just giving you my opinion not trying to say this is what God said nothing like that I'm giving you my opinion based on the pattern that I see in Scripture that does not mean yeah just chill and relax you get in out in August start sharing your faith with your family and make sure you're right with God because you God you know you just it's not going to happen till fall that's ridiculous not saying that not trying to imply that just saying I personally believe it's going to happen in the fall I personally also believe I need to keep my heart ready all year long I also personally believe I need to be sharing my faith with people that I care about some of whom I don't even know all year long because we need to be ready for the moment that Jesus returns all right and listen this is what's coming so we're on the last feast the seventh feast all right and you can turn to Leviticus Chapter twenty three verses thirty three through forty four This is the most mentioned feast in the Bible OK I know some of you probably maybe thought it was Passover or something like that because that is a very important feast or the day of atonement. Which is known as their high holy day but the most often mentioned feast in the entire Bible is this feast we're talking about today and it's the feast of Buddha's or the Feast of Tabernacles OK And that's that's the one we're on to live in a KISS Chapter twenty three we're going to reverse is thirty three through thirty four OK and the Lord said to Moses tell the Israelites to begin the festival of shelters on the fifth day after the Day of Atonement this festival to the Lord will last for seven days it will begin with a sacred assembly on the first day and all your regular work must stop on each of the seven festival days you must present offerings to the Lord by fire on the eighth day you must gather again for the sacred assembly and present another offering to the Lord by fire this will be a solemn closing assembly and no regular work may be done on that day these are the lords appointed annual festivals celebrate them by gathering in sacred assemblies to present all the various offerings to the Lord by fire whole burnt offerings and grain offerings sacrificial meals and drink offerings each on its proper day this will

remind each new generation of his realize that their ancestors had to live in shelters when I rescued them from the land of Egypt I the Lord and your God So Moses gave these instructions regarding annual feast of the Lord to the Israel it's all right so like I said as we're going through this you can look back with these peace and then you can look forward from these feast when you look back what is this feast looking back to remember living in shelters where. Then the wilderness Alright so when you look back at Exodus and you see that the Lord delivered his people from the land of Israel they left slaves they lived in the wilderness they ended up living in the wilderness for forty years all right and they lived in these temporary shelters they did not live in homes they did not live in those they did not set up permanent residence they lived in shelters and so they're remembering that God was with them in the wilderness there remembering that God provided for them in the wilderness all right they're remembering all of these things that what happened so God directs this thing and he does this this is written roughly fifteen hundred years before Jesus comes to this earth and is born in a manger OK roughly fifteen hundred years before that ever happened these words were pinned OK that Moses that Moses through God wrote these things down all right and so we see all of these things these feast that are for telling all of these redemptive works in the growth in the in the feasts and all of the stuff that happens and these fall feasts they point to the events of His second coming we talked about the Feast of Trumpets which is about the show Fars right talking about how Jesus will rapture the church we talk about The Day of Atonement which points to him coming and we see this and there's this day of judgment and then we're talking about this last one these Tabernacles when God will come to this earth and tabernacle among men as we live with him. Let's look at this feast all right this is the most joyful of all the feast a lot of these fees are heavy OK As we've been talking about it you've heard us talk about it a lot of these feast are weighty affairs. You know what I mean they are they are days where it is weeks of preparation to make sure that your heart is OK I mean we talked about diving in and finding all the leaven removing all the sin from your life we talked about the Day of Atonement which is finally a day where the where the high priest goes I mean a lot of them are very very heavy this is a joy full feast all right the word tax tabernacle just means boots are hot that's why some people call it the feast of booze not booze but bood this is OK. This is to be observed after all of the crops are done OK when Jesus sets this out and he looks at all all of this stuff they set it up this is a child a time to look back and now we say thank you Jesus for all the crops that you gave and now they're planting OK and they're putting seed back in the ground and they're looking toward the future and it's an important thing as as they do this. There are three portions of Scripture that talk about what happens on this day OK And there are there to rejoice before the Lord with palm branches and we're going to get to that in just a moment OK there to be daily sacrificial offerings in a sabbatical year they would publicly read the law the entire law OK because of the joy with this feast it becomes one of the most prominent of Israel's holidays a lot of ancient rabbis simply called it the holiday right like they called the other ones the Day of Atonement or whatever but this one simply became known as the holiday OK this is one of the required feasts for Jewish men to travel in back into Jerusalem this is one of the days that they're required to be there so observant Jew Jews even today in Jerusalem will erect little huts or Buddhas. Rushes as a reminder of those houses samples of the crops are all hung during this time can you throw up some of these this is from two thousand and fifteen this is a picture of Jerusalem in two thousand and fifteen. That to me looks like a nightmare I don't know if you can see that real well maybe you could hit that three bank of light so people can see it a little bit better but basically the entire street is flooded with these little temporary shelters right by good luck driving to get groceries. Next one can you throw up the next one that's that's another street you can see some I don't know if you can see some of them are built like above the next one and they've got legs and supports that come down I don't know about you but like if John was going to build the one above mine I feel OK but if I was going to build the one above John's he should be afraid. You know what I'm saying like. It's two and three stories high right there where they have these things built and it goes can you can you do another one then they they have big parties that happen in the same kind of food this is a this is of celebration and they they have these bigger boobs then where they meet and the palm branches are

what they're constructed of and all of these different kind of things and so you can see all right as this happens this goes through so this feast is viewed with great this is the day if you look in Second Chronicles the day the Feast of Tabernacles is the day when they celebrate and they dedicate Solomon's temple in the Old Testament all right if you look at that and you start to study it you start to see all these things we miss all these little pieces when we try and just read the Bible in little snippets instead of as a whole but on this feast the temple is sacrificed and the the physical manifestation of God's presence floods in to the into that old testament temple right into the holy of holies on. On the Feast of Tabernacles and so this day becomes this important celebration this is when he does that during the feast of tabernacles there is an intense anticipation of rain OK And this this comes to be reflected in their services each morning. Of the Feast of Tabernacles there is a water offering that they do they go out and it's a visual prayer for rain now I don't know again I know that we're from all over the place and here I don't want to assume that you all grew up in here but northern Minnesota isn't exactly known for its farmland right I mean we're known for a lot of things up here but farmland isn't really one of them I grew up in an area that was full of farmland and ranches K. I mean gigantic cattle ranches all over the place a huge horse ranch is and then then you know my grandpa was a farmer and rancher and I remember what it was like when the seed went into the ground that anticipation of OK now we need rain. Because we're committed the C S I just talked to one of my I know this is going to sound weird to you but I know who a lot of my third and fourth cousins are on my dad's side because they all lived within like ten miles of each other and they all grew up in this little German community and so I would He was here they came here for a wedding and they were here about a year ago and he told me when they go into the ground at the beginning of a year there one point three million dollars into the ground one point three million dollars into the ground if nothing comes back up how much are they out. One point three million dollars. OK That's how much it costs them to get into the ground they have a huge huge farm out there but listen that's that's money in the ground and if it doesn't come back up. That's money that's gone. OK I again I grew up in eastern Montana some of you may have heard about the fires that raged through there last year it was the drought that was it was they had less rainfall in eastern Montana than some of the deserts in the world last year and things just like literally the crops just didn't come out of the ground they put the seeds in and it didn't come and then the little weak plants that started to grow got burned by fire because there was so much raging fire out there last year we actually had some of their smoke here all the way from Montana last year it came all the way over here I mean hundreds of thousands of acres burned in Montana last summer. Because the rains didn't fall and we're not really an agricultural society for the most part anymore you know I mean obviously we we need food and that's agriculture but most of us don't make a living tilling the earth and planting seeds and harvesting the produce we do that for fun now right I mean you do that because you like to can or you like fresh produce for those three months that it all comes back up and it's still got some of your like I've still got carrots this year you know that's great that's also my MD My wife loves to garden if you have any gardening tips she'd love to have them she didn't grow up gardening so she likes all those little tips but we don't understand this anticipation for water but for an agriculture society. Life in death was based on whether or not rain came. I mean this is this is a big big deal and this became associated with this feast because of the time of year that it's at and so what would happen is during this time shortly after dawn there sacrifice being being prepared the high priest would would be accompanied by this party procession of worshipers this big group of people who would worship with music they go down to the Pool of Siloam some of you may have heard of that from the New Testament and he carries his golden pitcher it carries a little bit more than a quart of water and he would carefully put it in the pool and then bring it back to the Temple Mount the high priest with the water from that pool would go to what has become known as the Watergate if you look at an old and old picture of the of the Temple it became known as the Watergate because of this ceremony OK and as he would enter into this this temple through the Watergate there would blast on the silver trumpets and they would repeat the words of Isaiah from Isaiah twelve three Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of your salvation. You will

draw water from the wells of your salvation and the high priest would pass this great stone altar into the inner court and he would go up the right side of it at the peak he would turn and there would be two silver basins and he would put this water into this feast all right and they would wave their palm branches toward the altar and they would join in singing save us now I pray all Lord I pray now your prosperity which is a direct quote of solve Psalm one eighteen twenty five. The priests with their palm branches and hand would march once around the altar someone eighteen was viewed as a messianic saw meaning a song that told of Jesus OK and they would they would go through this and they would be greeted by the crowd shouting all of these things and so. Listen as you go through this and you hear this picture of salvation I want you to think of another time when you heard a group of Israel lights greet somebody shouting and waving palm branches branches and shouting save us now save us now can you tell us when that was. The triumphal entry OK This did not happen on the Feast of Tabernacles this happened as far as we know the calendar does not line up for that at all but they understood what this was this was a messianic look toward Jesus and when Jesus comes in they they go to him and they offer him the praise that they know they shout their palm branches and they sing save now they knew exactly what they were doing they were declaring Jesus the Messiah All right the same imagery is in view in Revelation Chapter seven and you can see the redeemed Saints will worship palm branches and hand around the throne of God the celebration of the water pouring as opposed to sell supports the ceremony was observed during the evenings OK and it was an impressive light ceremony OK it was known as the rejoicing of the House of water drawing and what would happen was on the second evening of Tabernacles as it came in the crowd they would crowd into the outer court of the temple and on this occasion there's a barrier that's divided that divides the men and the women and in the center of the court there is these towering menorahs which is just a Jewish word for the lamp stands K. there they're huge they're so taht tall you can't get up there except with ladders and they would they would fill them up with oil the wicks for these would come from the worn out garments of the priest each menorah had four long ladders leading up to the lamps and the young priests would be the ones who would carry the oil up their film I'm assuming it's because you know this is how you earn your dues you know kind of you're the one that has to climb the ladder today good luck with that but he came by this this really this really tall thing history says that these these these menorahs were so tall that there wasn't a place in the city where you couldn't see the light OK that they would they would have this this celebration and all over the city of Jerusalem you could see the light that came from this is so it begins this this feast begins in the middle of the lunar month which is how they had their calendar set up so it wasn't you know I mean so the moon was full so you could clearly see you know how it is on a full moon you can look out at night and you can see the landscape and you can see the houses and you can see this and above all of that light is the light that is up there as they are worshipping their God They said it was breath taking according to the histories of these kind of things. And soon after the celebration is underway there's this group that would come through and they would stand and the sound of flutes and trumpets and harps and other instruments they would sing the song. One twenty three thirty four and with each new song they would take a step down and this celebration was repeated every night from the second night to the final night nothing in Israel compared to this light according to the old old priest it was so spectacular that they said he that have not be held the joy of the drawing of water had never seen joy in his life. Direct quote All right the light celebration was reminiscent of the descendant the light of God coming down into this earth and filling the temple that is what they wanted to try and have people remember so John recorded in John Chapter eight that it was the day after the feast of tabernacles on the eighth day which was considered a Sabbath when Jesus returns from the mount of all of us to teach in a temple. OK They've just spent seven days doing this these lights that are up there pouring out these water offerings doing all of this stuff together as they're out there in Jesus comes to the temple and the fairies he's come to trick to trip him up OK Jesus proclaims I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life that's John eight twelve the Farriss didn't question first second what he meant. Right they knew exactly what he meant they knew he was claiming that he was the Messiah they

immediately call him a liar they're familiar with all the titles in scripture that talk about the light of the messiah he's called the Star out of Jacob the light of Israel the light of the nations a refiner's fire a burning lamp the Sun of Righteousness with a you not a no. Later that day the Messiah reinforce the same truth as he heals a blind man and as he did. Can anybody tell me what he says. As long as I am in the world I am the. Light of the world. The fairs these were again angry because they know exactly what he is saying he is not saying I'm a good teacher he is saying I am the Messiah and everything that you're doing at the temple for the last week points at me everything that you've been doing it's all about I could sound arrogant except it's true this time however they don't just get upset with him calling some little self the light they get upset that he heals a blind man like they try and trouble me up with this little thing in the law it's considered a Sabbath and it's there's no Mosaic Law against the act of healing on the Sabbath but their tradition said it's too much work. To heal somebody on that day. So you should A waited till tomorrow to let him stay blind one more day. And then healed him on Sunday sort of on the Sabbath. But they had celebrated for six nights in a row this light celebration. And when Jesus says I am the light for the whole world. They know what he means I need you to understand this and you to hear how this all ties together I need you to understand that that the Bible isn't supposed to be little tiny stories that are all independent from each other. But they all work together and they tell one story the story of God redeeming man. All right. On the seventh and final day of the Feast of Tabernacles the Temple services have reached a climax the anticipation of rain is at its highest point. It was this day Jewish tradition not the Bible this is just the Jewish tradition that they would believe that God declared whether or not they would have a good years reign on this night or not OK So as many people do when they serve a God they try to get his attention. OK. God never acquired that this is just humans being human instead of trusting in God to be guy OK but they go on this final day of the feast the water pouring ritual took on took on a great importance importance waters on the on the on the forefront of everyone's mind the other six days I said They give three blasts of the trumpet on this day the trumpets give three sets of seven blasts all right there like so I see your three blasts and I multiply it by seven OK because we really need to get God's attention today on the six on the other six days of the feast the priest made one circuit around the altar on this day they make seven circuits around the altar as they march around the altar they sing this Hosanna verse and people with palm branches for these reasons the day is known as the great Hosanna right and thoughts of prayer are at their highest somewhere around eighty thirty right again you can see on this last day the Great day of the Feast of Tabernacles there is a bright morning sun. That's warm and there's this huge crowd that's in the temple courts and as the people are intently watching the priest conduct the service a loud voice rings out from the crowd. The priests are obviously upset and the people whip around a great surprise. Seeing who would interrupt the service and what do they see. They see a young carpenter. And his thirties from Galilee from nowhere and he stands up and he says if anyone thirsts. Let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me as the Scripture has said out of his heart will for all flow rivers. Of living water he said. I'm the answer your prayers. You're praying for rain. And I'm telling you. I am the river of living water. Jesus is the fulfillment. Of the priests or of all of the things that they're doing some of them wanted to take him you can see in John seven forty four but none would lay a hand on him this is such an important thing. As you look through who Jesus is and what he does and let's look at future fulfillment for just a second here all these feasts we talk about this represent something the past point or something the future the Bible often speaks about the final judgment as a harvest Hosea six eleven Joel Matthew and Revelation it is a future day of end gathering where the Lord will not only gathers people but he will Tabernacle in their midst it's the word that they the word that they use is exactly the same. During the the Messianic Kingdom my tabernacle also shall be with them indeed I will be their God and they shall be my people the nations also will know that I the LORD sanctify Israel when my sanctuary is in their midst for evermore he zeal and Revelation then the Lord will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion and above her assemblies a cloud and smoke by day the shining of a flaming fire by night for over all the glory there will be a covering and there will be a tabernacle for shade in the daytime from the heat for a

place of refuge and for a shelter from storm and rain Isaiah four five three six These verses are talking about the coming reign of Jesus Christ and we will set up a kingdom here on Earth and reign in our midst familial rain will be awesome. But we don't live for some other day we live right now with Jesus in anticipation of those days. With an eye on today. Not just tomorrow. Jesus gives us teachings associated with this feast when the Messiah speaks of himself as a light of the world your first salvation in forgiveness he offers that anyone who puts their trust in him. I will give you as a light to the Gentiles that you shall be my salvation to the ends of the earth. He offers that lights us to day he who follows me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life John eight twelve we need to accept who Jesus is and that he is their light I'm going to give you one more little piece of history as we're winding down here tonight there were three types of water sources in Israel OK three three types of water sources that they would use the first are these huge rock human collection tanks these cisterns right most of us are familiar with the cistern we're probably not familiar with rock ones but we're familiar with what a cistern is right and they would build these huge rock collection tanks and they would collect rainwater during the rainy months you can actually still go to Israel and you can see that some of these still exist today the Masada stronghold if you go there in Israel you can still see these giant cisterns that they made OK these are the least desirable source of water that they had however for a couple of reasons OK A You can't fill them up only the rain can so if the rain doesn't come they're not full Be you all know what it's like sometimes when you have water that just sits for too long. It's stagnant it gets stale the entire cistern can be corrupted was something of something gets in there that isn't supposed to be in there right it's not that they have no value but they're the least desirable forms of having water. If you're dependent on a cistern for life chances are it will fail you at some point in time during your life. OK The next is a well. This is an incredibly valuable water source fresh replenishable water. We were in Haiti a few years ago and we were at a place where there was a well that was servicing thousands of people in its immediate area and when dry because of drought in times of drought even your wells can dry out a lot of you know what that's like you live on well water. Right and it's a big deal when the well runs dry the most valued water source in Israel is a brook in a river which is fed by springs if you look at an Getty That's a classic example in the Bible they're actually known as living waters. In other words it means waters that move OK the Lord use this truth to illustrate Israel's rebellion and idolatry for my people have committed to evils they for sicken me the fountain of living waters and hewn themselves cisterns broken cisterns that can hold no water and Jeremiah to thirteen God says you have. You've turned your back on me who is always dependable for something that you feel like you can control. And it doesn't work out God uses the point of these water moments throughout Scripture when Jesus address the people in the sanctuary or in the temple we talked about this before he who believes in me as a scripture said out of his heart will flow rivers of. Living Waters. Not waters that you can try and control. The living water of. Will flow out of you this is the purest water the most valuable resource water that will not dry Jesus says right before that if anyone thirst let him come to me and drink. There's only one water that can quench the spiritual thirst of man and is found in the person Jesus. He is the living water he is the light of the world he is the one that the tabernacles have pointed to for the last thirty five hundred years. As they get together and they live in those huts there remembering what God did for them and they're looking forward to when he will come when he will are we ready. Have we drink from the living water. Hope you have and of all you have I hope you have. If not. You can this morning it's not hard. You just choose Jesus. Can take a drink. Once you've done that your job. Is to take that living water and lead other people to it so that as many as possible. Already on that day. When the trump blows and everything that we've been talking about for the last several weeks comes into fulfillment are you ready your family ready your neighbors ready. This is the reason we believe in missions this is why we took a week and we celebrated last Sunday and Wednesday and we talked about our heart beat for missions our heart beat is to reach this community and to impact our world. And that's a big laugh the goal but we believe we can do it because of who Jesus is not because of just who we are. We believe God uses mankind than he has ever since the moment of creation but he's the one who does the finished work we can't lead people

to ourselves we lead people to Jesus. We can't save somebody only Jesus can. We can be the instrument to use that God uses to point somebody to Jesus but you are incapable of saving someone from their sins only the work of Jesus can do that and it's all pointed to through these face his coming his death his resurrection. The fact that we would be empowered to get as many people as ready as possible I want to come back to that fourth feast for just a second. Jesus gave us Pentecost and it's the fees that ties it all together it's the feast that ties Jesus and everything he did to what is still coming he pours out his spirit on the day of Pentecost not to show off. But to empower his followers. To reach people for the sake of the gospel. To give us power to be his witnesses to Judea Jerusalem Samaritan to the ends of the earth. Because as many people as possible need to be ready for these days that we're talking about if you've never been baptized the Holy Spirit would love to pray with you so you can be filled with that power we're going to ask just a few questions here as we wrap this day we would bring this series to a close. Most of them are questions that we ask every week small group leaders are going to be like oh man was one of the questions going to this we've been asking these questions for three weeks first one is Are you ready have you drank from the rivers a living water and I want to make it too confusing so I'm going to be really clear have you chosen Jesus. He is the one where the living waters for the second question. And one that I hope that every single one of us were going to be talking about this in the coming weeks and I want to give away too much are you intentional was sharing your faith or is it just happen on accident when somebody else brings it up. Is there somebody that God has put on your heart that you are praying for day in and day out and you are seeking to share Jesus with that person. Day in and day out. If not I believe God wants to put that face in your and your mind I believe God wants you. To be intentional sharing living water so miscast those questions you know them ask you put your heads down close your eyes I want to talk about Jesus and who he is and how he's living water not give people a chance to respond so if you're in this place and you've never chosen Jesus. You've gone through your life you've done you've done stuff you you know I mean. Living life but Jesus hasn't been a part of it and this morning you know. That you're ready. God has been working on your heart. You're here for a reason and you know this morning you need Jesus to do a work in you you're not. Following him but this morning you're ready like you to raise a hand I'm not going to make you come up here or do a cartwheel in that aisle. I just want to pray with you we're not going away here long that there's nobody in here today that's. Not going to try motivate you to want to pray with you all right and so you can put your hand down or anybody else in here. You know this morning that Jesus. Is necessary in your life. All right you can all look at me because we're going to I don't know you who raised your hands I don't know where you're at and this whole thing I don't know if you know how to pray so I'm going to say a prayer I want you to repeat after me. And as that happens I truly believe as you pray if you are genuine and seeking who Jesus is. He saves us. He becomes that living water our lives. And life doesn't ever have to be the same. It doesn't mean everything's going to be easy. But it means we're forgetting. Someone ask you repeat after me both of you who raise your hand. If you're in this place and you've chosen Jesus. I'd like you to repeat after me as well OK so it's not just two people in a small room. OK We're going to take some of the edge off that way we're going to pray if you're in this place and you haven't chosen Jesus and you're not ready to yet I don't want you to feel pressure to pray something you're not ready to pray. We believe it's the best decision you could possibly make. But we can't force that to happen OK he requires huge choosing. And requires Jesus's drawing I'd love to answer your questions but you don't have to repeat after us if you want to sit there and be quiet that's fine. I want to encourage you to choose Jesus but you're not ready yet you don't want to try and trick you into it. OK so if you raise your hand I want to repeat after me if you're in here you're choosing Jesus you've already chosen Jesus like Repeat after me. Thank you. Thank you for sending your son to die for me I'm a sinner. I can't save myself. I need you Jesus. For give me. I choose you your name I pray a man. That is a great moment right there and I want you as you can clap that's worth clapping for. I want you to know that that is an eternal decision that Jesus Christ has done something inside of you and I'm so excited for you if you have questions please talk to the person who brought you if the person who brought you doesn't know any more than you come

and talk to somebody else OK We would love to answer any questions you have about next steps. Here's the next challenge again and we've been doing this for several weeks. Like I said before if you want to pray to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit we would love to pray for you but right now again I just want to come back to this point if we believe that the Bible is true and we believe that what it says is going to happen. Then we cannot live our lives with a blind eye to the future we don't just get focused on the future but we know that there is coming a day. That these three fall feasts point two and we all know people who aren't ready if you don't you need to go meet somebody your whole world is surrounded by only Christ followers. Some to go shake your neighbor's hand OK. And get to know somebody are you intentional was sharing your faith some of you in here I know as every time I talk about this and I talk about a name the name and face that go screaming through your head is your kid. I mean I get that. And I want you to understand my heart breaks for that. Because I know that you're carrying a heavy weight I can't relate to it and honestly I hope I never can. My kids are still little. OK. But I know that every time we talk about this all you can think of is your kid. And I want you to not lose hope. Continue to pray continue to seek God on behalf of your child. The work that he began in their life would come to completion. Some of you in here I start talking about this and you immediately think of a neighbor or a coworker or a parent or a sibling or cousin or whoever. We need to be people who are intentional about sharing our faith not because I say so. But because God said so and it is important that we make it as hard as possible for people not to choose God live your life in a way that points people to Jesus. Share him with people pray for people your prayers are important to me talking about that two weeks. Let's not be a church that's satisfied. With where we're at. Let's be a people that's constantly seeking more Jesus so here's what I would ask you do not have anybody raise your hand or stand up today just want to take a moment I want to pray Kreg if you could start some music some of you I know it's twelve o six some of you are like well my food alarm already went off fifteen minutes ago. I'm going to ask you just take a moment. When I ask you to genuinely seek God. For who he might have you share your faith with in the calendar year of twenty eighteen. The person you are going to be I'm not talking about waiting to December thirty first I'm talking about Jesus who do you want me to share my faith with right now. Give me a name give me a face. Somebody that I am going to seek your throne on their behalf. That they will choose you can spend eternity with me. And with you. This is our high call. As Christians not to be belligerent not to be jerks and to try and stop the Gospel down somebodies throat. But with grace. And reverence to share a faith that you know that I just was reading through. Titus earlier this week you know first Peter I'm sorry. Earlier this week and first Peter three there's a verse that's often quoted. About being ready at all times with the defense of your faith. And most of us can quote that half of the verse passion maybe say that some of you can quote that half of the verse. But I wonder how many of you know what the back half of that verse says. That would be ready with an answer and in defense of our faith at all times. With grace and reverence. Produce. God did not call you to be a jerk with an answer to your faith. But with the grace and the reverence that is required. To demonstrate the cross to somebody who's life we are called with that attitude to be ready to defend our faith not with Facebook troll attitude. And with grace and reverence. For what we are present you don't believe me go look it up first Peter chapter three. We ready are we intentional. God I pray this morning that you speak to our hearts. I pray this morning that you give us faces and names God If multiple is too much for right now give us a face and give us a name that in this calendar year we are not going to just try and take it for granted that it's going to happen so. Days but we are going to be intentional with our faith. With the people that you put our heart. Not because. I said so. But because that is your calling on every one of our lives. And each one of us to show you. Help us to be people of grace and reverence as we deal with eternal. But help us to be people that deal with eternal. Not just one moment slide but. You are good. You are a man if you're ready to go you can go but I beg you as a pastor in this moment. Not to leave before you've allowed got a chance to put a face in the name. Of a great after.