

Machine generated transcript - So we're going to continue on in our service this morning we're going to continue and actually we're going to be finishing up this series on James we've been going through the letter of James in the New Testament for I don't know it's been 2 and a half months or so that we've been going through this letter it's been an encouragement to me even though sometimes James is just punched me in the mouth I hope that you have learned something about this letter and I pray that you have have him apply what you've been reading in this letter to your lives James is not a simple text it is not something that is just a really easy thing to read James as weighty and it's heavy and and we're we're finishing it up this weekend so again I want to encourage you with this thought when James was writing this letter it was a letter K A wasn't a letter it wasn't a book of the Bible when he was writing it all right he was writing a letter to the churches that had been to just 1st because of persecution all right he was writing to Jews who became Christians and as a result of that people wanted their heads all right and so they dispersed throughout. The Roman Empire and he writes this letter trying to guide these churches into into maturity into being mature followers of Jesus James again if you don't know this again James was the brother of Jesus right James was the son of Mary and Joseph is so he was raised in the house that Jesus was raised in case he was Jesus's little brother right again how many of you were the little brother or the little sister in your house. Only 4 of you all the rest of you are all those children OK you're the you you were the youngest child in your house how many of you heard why don't you be more like fill in the Blake right some of you are like I'm so glad you're not like. But. But can you imagine being a little brother Jesus. Right I mean this sin lists Jesus the one who never sinned. That's the one that mom and dad are like oh man we have so easy with the 1st one what's wrong with you. Little brother of Jesus and he didn't follow Jesus he didn't believe Jesus was the Messiah until Jesus died and rose again when he was confronted with his resurrected brother all of a sudden he believed what Jesus taught and he becomes the leader of the church in Jerusalem if you study through when you read Acts in the Council of Jerusalem even Peter and Paul come to James for his council he becomes this leader in the church and so he's writing this letter telling all of these churches about what mature faith looks like and we've talked about all kinds of things about managing our tongues about not being people who are always worried about what everyone else is doing while we're not watching our inner lives about being people of prayer about being people who are looking to help those who can't help themselves James has given us this huge list of things that mature Christian and Christianity looks like about things that they should be doing about ways they should be living it's really practical and he gets into this last section and this last section causes a great amount of concern for some people and world will get into some of that as we go through that James has been talking about about the tongue and how important it is to be master over what comes out of his mouth and in this this chapter he finishes up his letter this way he mentions a book for some of the lowest uses of the time complaining gossiping. All of these other things these and then but he's also talked about. You know how the tongue can be used to blast God into encourage people and in this when he talks about praying and praising and he eventually talks about talking to people about Jesus and so still the tongue isn't all negative there's lots of good that comes from and I enjoy being able to speak to other. And and so there are some good uses too so we're going to dive into a James Chapter 5 we're going to start in verse 13 if you have an electronic version of the Bible you use Lagasse or you version or something like that on your phone I'm going to read out of the New Living Translation the N.L.C. And if you've got your own favorite that's fine too but that's where we're going to be reading and the translation going to be reading out of OK James Chapter 5 I'm going to start in verse 13 are any of you suffering hardships you should pray for any of you happy you should sing praises are any of you sick you should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you annoying to new with oil in the name of the Lord such a prayer offered in phase will heal the sick and the Lord will make you well and if you have committed any sins you will be forgiven confess your sins each other or confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you will be healed the earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results Elijah was a human just as we are and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall none fell for 3 and a half

years then when he prayed again the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops and we're going to stop right there. Right now still in stark contrast to how much immaturity we've seen in the middle of J. C his simple mature approach handling good and bad it's not rocket science here and now again I don't want to make light of anybody's struggle or anybody's joy but James just. Lays it out on the line instead of grumbling and complaining instead of judging instead of trusting in our money like he did like he talked about in the last one instead of allowing ourselves to be prideful when we're suffering should. Things are going well our response as a mature Christian isn't to. One from God. To run to him. To pray. That's what mature Christianity looks like. It's not this isn't like deep theology here it is really simple when things go wrong turn to God. And when things are going good. Not supposed to get self-reliant and forget about God and start thinking that we can do everything on our own and then only remember God again when things are bad. Things are going good we're too. Prays. So when things are bad should turn to God when things are good we should turn to God. This is not complicated. This is tough to live. Really easy concept it's tough to live. In this way in and day out through the good through the back you know hard through the phone yet James says you want to know what maturity looks like. Things are tough. Things are good. Always keep. This in always keep God in the middle of your life everything should be pointing toward him. And then we do not drop into the next section and this is where we get. Into some differing interpretations let's just say that of these verses. I'm going to kind of talk a little bit about the 2 main interpretations of this I am going to be giving you my opinion on how these go some of this is tough right we as we go through it you'll never hear me try and pretend to know something that I don't know as we go through these things I'm the 1st to admit that some of these things are difficult to interpret So what is James saying I mean he talks about it this sickness in prayer and faith in all of these different things right and so what what should our mature response be to these things what should our response be when we are sick when a believer contracts an illness right what what is our response when we get sick what does James say the 1st step should be. Over the church elders right go to the elders now he's not talking about age here OK that's not that's not the word that he uses he doesn't mean the elders as in the older people he means the leaders that. That's what he is saying go to the church leaders and receive prayer. Now some of the leaders in our church are older some of the church leaders in the church are younger and that's not unique of our church that's most churches around around the globe but when you come we're s'posed our response should be when we're sick to go on and get prayer right and the elders are supposed to respond to the sick person in 2 ways what are they. Going with oil lay on hands that's all one what's the other one. Pray. To pray when we're going most of us get the 1st one that we're supposed to pray that we pray is annoying with oil that can sometimes be a little weird is I mean literally when people come we're supposed to take a bucket of oil and like poured over on like the Old Testament you know everybody loves that right we wear your nice clothes in church and somebody takes a bucket of oil and dumps it already you in the wrecked right everybody wants that day OK what is James saying when he talks about annoying of oil or annoyed with oil here are we talking about medicinal oil in nature you can see that that is how a lot of these oils were used in there in the in the in the New Testament the Good Samaritan treats a wounded man with oil and wine and wanted to soothe one is to cleanse OK if this is the correct understanding James is telling people to ask for prayer. And to not reject medical help. Ask for prayer. To be people who are OK with medical help if that's your if your understanding of annoying with oil OK And then the other one would be like the Old Testament term or worse the were supposed to look at the oil as a symbol of divine grace and so James would say pray and just trust in God don't ever go to a doctor you don't need those kind of things just pray and trust and if you do that hard enough you never need to die. And that's how people those are the 2 ways that people tend to interpret these verses I diffidently tend to lean toward the 1st Kim all right because the Greek word that's translated anoint in here is actually a medical term OK I don't know how many of you know that another translation that would be just as easily used in this is to massage with oil. I mean it was a medical term that James is using here so I think what James is saying here is go to the good of the church and pray. If you need some medical help get it. Done or stand that healing comes

from God right now I'm going to be careful here because there's this whole oil craze out there and if you're into the whole oil thing Ah Tsong OK that's not what James is talking about just go take your essential oil and everything's going to be good OK he is using medical terms of his day at this time all right if you can't just make this don't make a bumper sticker out of this and be like James said by you my essential oils that's that's not what James is saying here all right it's I just want to make that clear I almost didn't even say it because I know there are people who are like. Crazy on both sides let's just say it that way OK but what I want you to hear from this is what you know what I believe James is saying to us is go to the elders and receive prayer. It's OK to go to a doctor. It's OK. Understand. Who brings about the healing. It's going to be. Such an important thing for us to understand that God is always going to be a part of any of this right so having laid out. The procedure then James promise is healing it looks like he's absolutely promising healing for the sick and for the the forgiveness of sins right and dealing with the forgiveness of sins here is no big deal in this section James is saying that James is not saying that every time we get sick it's the result of sin OK That is absolutely not what James is saying OK but I think it's important for us to be honest and say sometimes we are sick because of sin. If that's the case and we go and we receive prayer. We ask for forgiveness. Our sins are forgiven we can trust in that it would be foolish to say that never ever is any sickness related to sin. That would be foolish people are sick because of sin all the time. It's what happens and when we go and we pray. You can be forgiven people a lot of times are like well I sin I guess I can never go to church again. And I just got to get my life cleaned up 1st. And then I'll go to church. I just get enough good things going for me and I'll go to church once I got a more good than bad going listen that is nowhere in the Bible if you're feeling that way about things you're just doing your own way you're not really paying attention to what the Bible says because the Bible talks about the church as a place of healing a place of restoration a place that anybody should be welcomed and I want you to understand here we believe that that is an important thing James is talking not about every sickness is a result of sin but sometimes there is and so along with the prayer you know along with those things forgiveness is possible in any situation no matter what the sin is God promises. Forgiveness the promise of healing as the result of the prayer of faith is much more calm. Plax and I know some of you like this is maybe your 1st time in church in a long time and I'm about to go really deep here and so I want you to just take a deep breath I don't believe that there's any way to give an appropriate reading of this without really kind of diving deep into here so if you're new to church and if you just take a deep breath. And if you're not in the church you might need to take a deep breath and brace yourselves. Because because this is about to get deep it's not going to stay here for the whole time but we are definitely going to go there what is the prayer of faith in the Bible right this sounds just some people as as people have interpreted this like if I just believe hard enough but will always be he'll I can just work myself up into a novel of faith frenzy. No matter what. Will be healed. And some of you have been interred just like that some of you have seen the faith frenzy in full bore in all of its craziness you watch people whip themselves up and do all kinds of things to build themselves up in prayer and then they're like they're mad when somebody doesn't get healed and they're usually not of the person they're praying for because what's going on in your life that you don't have enough prove that you can be healed because obviously I've got enough in my. Mind and so like all of this stuff becomes this kind of nasty ugly perc full thing and when people aren't healed it's somehow our fault. As if we can bring about the healing in the 1st place that's where our 1st error in judgment comes you're not healing anybody. Or praying for God to heal. Right and it's so important as we as we get into this to understand what is happening here it's not healing pealing doesn't come it's not our fault right there is I read well I'll get to that in just a 2nd the problem with this thought is we're just understanding it we're lacking in understanding what's says in every single commentary that I read and I read like 15 commentaries this week looking at this one verse. And over some of you you think that's why overkill but when I'm going to read something that can be this this hard to understand I'm going to go to lots of different sources there's all kinds of different denominations I read commentaries from people of all kinds of of denominational backgrounds all kinds of different things and you know what it's like one of the only

things that they all agree are amazing as you look at this I mean it's it's almost universal in scholarship what James is referring to here when he talks about the prayer of faith and what what these people believe he is saying and I look at some commentaries just so you know some commentaries that are brand new with people who are looking at all kinds of scholarship and I look at commentaries that are 3 and 400 years old and they still said the same thing. So scholarship has had no problem with this. It's just people who read it at a service level and then try to make it say something that I don't think it was ever meant to say. James is saying prayer of faith you're what I think he's referring to and the reason I believe that is because if this many people who have studied it for this long all say the same thing I'm going to say they're probably right. Point to this as the gift of faith. We see in the fusions chapter 2 verse 8. All in the fusions is laying out all these gifts right and he's laying out all of these different things that God be Stolz upon people and one of those gifts is the gift of faith. So when we're looking at this thing what I believe that James is saying is when you're praying for the sick. God lines up his gift of faith. Is his gift of healing and we pray for people in his will. Will. Begin. I think even in the whole way the scriptures it makes more sense than I just don't have enough faith because when I talk about I don't have enough faith that puts the onus for healing on me. And on God. That is always going to be backwards. That's always going to be about how in the world can I be so arrogant as to think that I'm going to be responsible for healing somebody. My mind that is the height of arrogance. I can just say and I'm responsible for that cancer leaving or not. I'm responsible for a broken bone being mended or not. Giving me way too much credit. That's giving yourself way too much going on I want to tell you I have been a part of praying for things. Seen some things happen at there is no answer for other than God I will tell you that time and time again people in this room been prayed for and you have seen the miraculous. I mean I mention cancer specifically because I know that there are people in this room they have been given diagnoses that look like there is no more treatment and they have received prayer and all of a sudden the cancer is gone. And we seen that here in our church. We've seen things I've prayed I was telling you for someone that I'm not saying that was just me I was part of a group of people and I've shared this story before we prayed for a person in our church in their hips were like this right like one leg seemed like it was like 4 inches longer than the other one their hips were all all sideways like this the spine was all messed up and we prayed and I'll tell you what I've never heard a sound like it before and honestly I hope to never hear a sound like it to get. Those hips were aligned in that person walk. Out of there without their special lift in their shoe and you would never have known that there was any problem with their back in their hip. Prayed with people that needed glasses from the time they were 6 years old and now they're in their fifty's and we've parade in all this and they don't need them and they go to the doctor and they're like I don't get it. You need glasses. Your eyes are telling me you don't need glasses anymore I've seen big things I've seen things that seem small and you know what the the common denominator and all those things it's not me. God. I believe that God still heals. I believe that God is the one that heals. Me. For us to try and make this verse about us. Believe is a giant disservice to get. This such an important thing one commentary says OK One of them says the prayer of faith is not something we can manufacture by saying I believe I believe I believe I really believe I truly believe I double believe. The gift of God I like as I'm reading this and as I was studying this I kind of had how many of you like the movie A Christmas Story one of my favorite movies of all time Ralphie like this is this is one of the movies of like my childhood you know like he turns in the paper and Ralphie he's imagining that he's being carried around the class you know and like that's every little boy's imagination it's just it's an amazing thing but there's a famous scene in this movie where the boys are standing around a flagpole. And some of you are laughing because you already know what I'm talking about right flick is standing there and he doesn't believe that if you stick your tongue to a flagpole in the middle of winter it's going to stick in the other kid doesn't flicks like no you're crazy because I dare you oh no no that's stupid you know I don't have all of their you in this they start running down this thing and eventually gets to the triple. Dogberry you are right. Like you there was a slight breach of etiquette by slipping a triple there and going right for the throat. But initially there was enough power there to where flick had this stick his tongue on

that pole or else you have to look like. A loser. I feel like it's funny is that is to relate that to got to feel like that's how we think when we think that we can somehow make God do we feeling by just believing hard enough. Like we're going to somehow back God into doing something. Trying to twist his promises into our own version of what they should say. Now God's got to do it because. I just made it but I will say something I never said. And this is not complicated I don't believe I believe when you look at this and you see it in its correct light and when God is going to heal it is going to heal. He still can I do not I wish I had an answer why sometimes we prayed with people they've been healed and sometimes we pray with people and they have this side of heaven I prayed for people in the hospital and they've died. That was that was it here I believe they went to heaven and they were absolutely healed. I don't understand why sometimes God does and doesn't here wish I did I don't. So I can't tell you that I know some of you have prayed your hearts out people and they didn't get better. It's hard to deal with. In our pain we can't somehow blame the scriptures because we're trying to make it say something that it doesn't say. I don't understand I can tell you I have seen God bring people to a point of repentance as a result of healing. There was it with this kid. Can't one time that that I mean he was almost blind Hugh His eyesight was so bad he was almost blind we prayed for him in junior high camp there he was a little your higher. Than I kid can do way like 80 pounds away you know he was like no how when he was and you're. Just so you have a picture you know and no one were good he was tiny He's filled out since there. Was a tiny Do you know you go just like this kid. He prayed in his eyes started to hurt. He took off his big old Coke bottle glasses. You could see. In between the camps he went to an eye doctor is I doctor the doctor said I have no medical explanation what I'm seeing right now. That I doctor came in Jesus as a result of having no explanation other than there is a god. Seen that happen. I've also seen. And not feel. People come to Jesus. Because there is no time like a funeral. Being confronted with what's next. There's no time like a funeral for having to wade through one of the deepest things of life of saying if I die what happens after this. I've seen people come to Jesus. Because God doesn't. Side of him. Do not have answers for why. I do know. God as. God can be trust if someone wasn't healed it doesn't mean your faith is broken. Just means we have to trust. Who Jesus is. We. Believe. Dive down a couple verses lower than that. To get to the next section here versus these next group of sentences I believe will be its own paragraph when we read. It reminds us that people who know Jesus still say. More we completely free of sin until we are in eternity I don't know about you. I still say maybe I should say we I do. Probably do too. Even if you know Jesus. Sometimes we sin against each other. In times just like we were talking about last week guilty of grumbling against each other. All of you spouses have done this. Some spouses I know. You know they grumble against each other and complain about each other when the other one's not there. None of you have ever done that I'm sure. Other people in this room just like we talked about last week some of the people in this room are really easy for you to get along. Some of these people the people in this room they just. Bother you. It's human. Just that's normal. Don't all have to be best friends according to scripture but we have to treat each other with love and respect. Tongues going to some trouble a lot of times maybe something completely unrelated to the. We were harboring unforgiveness. There is an addiction. Or whatever fill in the blank. Still mess. And James tells us what to do he tells us to go to each other and confess our sins and pray for each other and we'll be healed but is James talking about are we supposed to go into a booth and sit with somebody and confess our sins that way as well is that what James is saying I don't believe that's what he's saying at all we don't have the power to can to forgive sins God does. But here is where I believe the power of a confession lies all right and this is what I believe that James is talking about right here I cannot tell you how many times I've seen people struggle with sin for sometimes days sometimes decades. They've kept it in the dark. Secret. It consumes their thoughts even when it's not happening because they're always worried about hiding that sin. And then they go to somebody and they confess. And that hold is broken. Because now it's in the daylight now I'm not going to sit here and say they never struggled with it again. The hold is broken. You. Forgive it. She. Broke it. Because of superhumans but just. Sins in the dark. Into the light. Huge part. Getting over. This doesn't mean I am telling you that you need to go on to Facebook or Twitter

and tell the whole world what's going on in your life. Doesn't mean that I expect you to come up here and tell everybody everything that's going on in your life. Is again one of the reasons why having relationships is so important. Going to people that you trust going to people that you respect going to people that you know has your best raised interest at heart and sharing with them what's going on in your life and knowing that they're going to pray for you and be they're going to help hold you accountable of those things. So much power. That. So much freedom in that. They cannot overstate it. It's such an amazing thing again I want to encourage you I think what James is saying is going confess. You mess up did our. Fans just deal with that for this thing snowball store relationships. Healed in that way forgiven by God be healed and now like get it out of the dark. Get it dealt with some of you in this room have been dealing with something for a long time that you know was wrong. You're OK with. You know it's not just wrong you know it's it. You're good with it. Just one of those things that you're like I just got to deal with and I'm going to trust in God's grace Listen God is gracious. And trust in God's grace. Just a few verses before this James wrote that for us to know what we're supposed to do and not do it is. Sin that's of the end of chapter 4 if you're wondering where that verse and. These are not small issues. These are big things we need to take to God deal with them as such so that we can be healed and want you know why because that's what maturity looks like. Say it all the time right I mean you see these things in leadership charts and all all these different. Growth things everything you want you can only go as high as your weakest point right if they use the example of a barrel right you can have a 50 gallon barrel but if there's a giant hole at the one gallon mark all that barrels ever going to hold is one gallon. If you want to grow past those things some of you need to just get real with the fact that what you're doing is wrong and get it out of your life. Because that's what mature people do. It's not just Christian that's just life. When you bring Christ into the picture there's a whole nother thing. These is once more for you now since there is more of this life than sitting in worry about that one thing you hope no one ever finds it. Better for you than that. Because cares greatly about she. Allowed him to come through allow him to bring you this allow him to bring. 2 more verses the end of this chapter. James closes his practical book on mature faith that. Goes like this my brothers and sisters or dear brother. Someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back. Can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back from wandering will say that person from. Bring about the forgiveness of many. Is not complicated but it's in for. James is writing this practical letter. About what mature faith looks like. And he says you know what on this journey of faith in life sometimes there are going to be people who walk away. Going to reject it they're going to walk away from their faith in a walk away from the church. Going to go do their own thing for a while. What James is saying. Go get. Get on not talk bad about them until they decide to make things right and then pretend like you did. That's not being mature we just read about that a few verses before this. James is saying. Pray for. Share Christ with. Bring them back because eternity. Balance. Some will walk away. Don't be satisfied. Them walking away from their faith and being like we try to. Get a. Person. Integrity like he said earlier. A person of prayer like he said earlier be a person of compassion like he said earlier be a person who lives your faith out loud for people to see like he said earlier and live that way in front of people who will walk away so we can restore them back. Tens will be forgiven. I will be said. Because Christ people act in the life price. Not a complicated ending to a complicated letter. From. Him says pray and. Seek to give the guy praying for. Him says pray when things are back. Praise when things are good. Says go good people James says Guard Your Tongue. Game says don't be people who are blown about. By circumstances in life the people who are steady Yes you are going to go through difficulties and it's possible to come out on the other side. Greater faith. In the church he looks. And writes this whole letter. Been talking about I think it was I think it was 10 messages maybe 11 these 5 chapters. James just tells us really simple. I want you to be mature followers of Jesus. I don't want you to just stay in the. Years some of the ways that. It's more for us to stay. We're going in this service I'm going to I'm going to say one thing here again the kids are back there and just like a couple weeks ago. They're back there doing lessons in learning about Jesus and doing all those things but one of the things that they're also doing back there is just one of the things but

they're they're practicing their Christmas program and they're doing that at the end of the time right so you can look back at the clock I know somebody's been wanting to do that anyway. 1145. Don't want you to go get your kids till noon. Officially have 15 minutes. Before you have to go get kids. In our services the same way most weeks right and it goes like this I don't know who you all are I don't know where you're all that in your faith journey I don't know where you're at in your relationship with Jesus. You know that Jesus knows that and so I don't want to just assume. In this place today when I talk about people being followers of Jesus that you've all made that decision. The Bible tells us that becoming a follower of Jesus is really really easy it's really simple to be. Given as we've talked about this before given the Bible teaches us that we acknowledge that we're sinners that's just means we we own the fact that we've messed up. Believe that Jesus is who he says he is and we confess our sins them and we will be say. It's not hard not complicated it's that simple. I want to take a moment. To make sure that if you have never done that. You want to that you have that option or maybe you chose Jesus a long time ago. You've been doing life your own way and Jesus hasn't really been a part of. This morning you want to give your life back to Jesus and you want to to to to start this process with him again going to give you a chance to and here's the other thing I love you this is the only message you heard in here because you're here for the 1st time in this full series and that's that's great We're glad you're here. But you've been hearing us talk about this for months. Some of these things have been really weighty lots of them have been these of then maybe the most weighty messages I've ever preached in a row because I just I don't want to sugarcoat the words of the Bible. This is just where the letter of James is that maybe you're in here today. To people pray with you because. You. Can't promise healing but I can promise that we will. Can promise that God is able. Seek Him for healing just like the Bible said. The some of you in here. Lation ships. Time to get that. Out of the dark and in the light. Restore some relationships in this place some of you just need to be the bigger people. To say you know what I'm going to give up my right to get even and we're just going to move ahead from. When you in this place things are going good. People. I ask leadership seem to come back up here you know there's. A simple idea this morning I'm like I said I'm going to pray if you don't know all these us want to pray if you we're going to be chance to respond not going to call you up here embarrass you I just want a. Baby you need prayer for one of these other things maybe it has nothing to do with anything I've talked about today but you just want to pray with some but. People up here to pray maybe you want to pray but you don't want somebody in your face. I'm up here in prayer the altar turn around in your seat pray no one's going to come get your business. Let's be people like James of mature faith. People or. People of praise and I ask Craig to turn on some soft music back there. Asking about your heads and close your eyes I just want to ask these questions this morning. Talking about it before. Maybe you're in this place and you've never chosen Jesus. And this morning you're ready you're ready to make that decision follow Jesus for the 1st time you're ready to be forgiven. Just want to pray with you this morning we don't like to motivate out of guilt and manipulation in this place just want to give people a chance response I'm not going to wait long but if that's you you've not chosen Jesus but this morning you're ready I'd like you to raise your hand not going to call you off we just want to praise or anybody out there today not children Jesus before this morning you're ready for anybody at all. Or I'm going to move that 2nd section that maybe you're here and you've chosen Jesus in the past but lately it's been about you. Lately it has not been about Jesus your life has. Reflected Rice it's just been full of your stuff. And this morning you just want to say sorry for that and you want to start over with Jesus again. There anybody out there that's you I want you to raise your hand there is I just will not we're going with everybody. Everywhere. Arrestors we're going to ask you to look at me for just a 2nd. I'm so excited. For those of you that raise your hand. And I want to pray with you from I don't know how you guys know how to raise on a prayer but I ask you you know after me if you're a follower of Jesus I want to ask you. To pray with me all right just to take the edge off for the few who raise their hand so it's not just a couple of people enjoying a mascot or Pete after me as well if you're in here and you haven't chosen Jesus and you're not ready yet. I guess but this is a little weird. OK I understand that this is probably a strange thing to you and we don't want you to feel like you need to promise anything you're not

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ready to promise right so if you're not a follower of Jesus and you have no intention of being right now then you have our permission to just sit and be quiet just let us work through this part of service all right if you don't want to we don't want to force people to do things and honestly like I said I'm more comfortable with you not promising something to God that you have no intention of keeping. K. But if you raise your hand if you're ready for this or you're a follower of Jesus I'd like you to just repeat after me there are right Jesus. Here I am again. I know better. Have been living for me. My life hasn't looked like you. It's full of me. Forgive me Jesus. I'm sorry I missed that mark. I want to be forgiven I. Want to be restored. Only to live for. Your name I'm. A man. I believe it's that simple guys and I'm so excited for those that raise their hands if you have more questions about what next talk to the person who brought you don't go in there then you come and talk to me I would love to have conversations with you were just going in the service this way I'm going to want to pray again some of you in here you need to do some business this morning. You need to pray through some things. And I ask you do that when I ask you to pray for 1152 you. Can pick up your kids for at least 8 more minutes. OK. So one encourage you. Just pray and be honest with God and work through some things if you don't need to do this if you're not in a place where you need to or you want to and you need to go when I ask you to go and talk there's a big open hallway out there that's called a boy or we've built that So big specifically for these times for you to chat and hang out out there but people are trying to pray in here don't go get your kids yet. When you go get them. And you guys are smart. All right. I'm going to pray if you need to go I guess I would like you to keep your hands or your conversation out there in the foyer. And I want to encourage you not. To leave this place. About doing business that's what you need to do you got. Good I think you. You inspired James to write this letter. Thank you Jesus that that your. Ways and your message. On the mountains all over the slab. Thank you for your forgiveness can I thank you for your desire to see me grow as a human being to grow as a follower of you. Not to stay still. As hard sometime. Pray for everyone here. To work in their lives God for those who miracles I pray for me are. Those for me forgiveness I pray for him. Those who need relationships restored I pray for that as. For them the myriad of others. Trust that you are in. Essence you. And I.