

Grace Fellowship Church

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Shine

Philippians 2:1-15

Happy New Year! I'm going to sit down. It's going to be a great year. Wow. Yes, it's really good to be here. Like Jon said, we're moving back to our beloved Middle East. It has just been such an amazing time being at Grace. It's even hard to explain. It's been emotional for me and Donna. I'm from Washington DC, so that's where I grew up. There's the community here. Grace is just unbelievable.

I wish we just videoed everything we did everywhere just so you could get an idea of the level, the scale at which this particular church impacts the world. I'm not talking about just that you send money to missionaries and stuff like that. I'm talking about you people impacting communities most churches may not know how to do or be interested in doing. It's just incredible.

Because we travel all over the world and all over the country, we get to see what's here that hasn't been discovered out there yet in some churches. So we get invited all the time to places, and the request is, "Can you just teach us what you guys do at Grace?" The two biggest things they're interested in they hear about that we do...it's not like we advertise or anything...are pray,

or hear from God, as Buddy was saying, and witness to Muslims. To hear from God and share our faith with Muslims. That's what it seems like the places we get invited to have lost their way on, both of those things, where prayer is just a one-way request line and Muslims are not even really important. So we get invited to these things, and that's what they ask us to do.

It's interesting because there's just one group in Portland this year... They hope to have their entire denomination go through the JIQ, 4,000 people in one weekend. That's what they want. I just want to encourage you with this. All of these churches and places we started not even being known.

It's interesting. It's like when the JIQ started, which was kind of a dream of a lot of us, but really Jon did a lot of the initial work on it. It was just started as a Sunday school class, that's all it did, and then it kind of spread out a little bit, and then we kind of just started taking... Anytime anyone invited us, we didn't care where they were, how big the church was, we would just go because we were trying to develop a reputation of a church that knows how to train people in this kind of thing. So we'd go to places we'd never even heard of. "We got an invitation to Ohio." "Okay, are there Muslims there?" "We don't know, but it's an invitation." So it was just like starting out as a band. You just play anywhere you can...anywhere.

It was pretty rugged at first, and we made a lot of mistakes, of course, but then the Lord just really took hold of it. This is what he does that's so amazing. He takes hold of something that's small, and he just keeps making it bigger and better. Then JIQ happened. Now we even get asked

more to talk about prayer even more than the JIQ. You can't win Muslims without prayer, without hearing from God, so they always go together.

So that has been a dream of mine, and when Buddy was talking about being in Amman, and we were walking down the street, I was telling him, "I want to see thousands trained." He was observing what we were doing in Jordan. Buddy is not the kind of guy who just listens to stories. He says, "Anybody can tell a story. I want to see it happen, see it in action," so they came over.

We were working with Muslims, and we were walking down the street together, and Buddy was obviously processing all of this stuff, and we stop in the middle of the street, and he goes, "Jamie, I want to say something to you." This is how Buddy's style of speaking is. "I want to say something to you, and I want you to listen to what I say." "Okay." He goes, "And when I'm done saying it, I want you to say it back to me." How's that for a conversation? "Okay." I felt like I was already in trouble for something.

He knew we were coming back to the States to put one of our kids in college and to see another one of them get married, and so he knew we were coming back. He said, "Where are you going to live in the US when you come back?" I said, "It doesn't really matter to me. We're just going to be here for this and then go right back to the Middle East."

He said, "I want you to pray about spending 12 months at Grace." I'm like, "Okay." This is how Buddy does an incentive package. "We want you to consider coming to Grace. We can't pay you anything." *Wow! Yeah, we'll move tomorrow.* Where do you get benefits like that? Then he said,

"But we'll give you a house and a car. Come spend 12 months with us in Atlanta. Now do you understand what I just said to you?" I said, "I'm fairly certain you just proposed to me." I accepted.

So that 12 months has been three years of bliss, of us being here. It's been amazing, amazing, amazing. Every time we're going into a new year, it's like, "God, what do you want to do now? Can we do more than this?" Yes, always.

Philippians 2: Look at this for a second, and then I want to talk about the New Year. The book of Philippians reminds me of Grace. This is why I'm reading Philippians. I've been pouring into for the last month. We did the series on Acts here, so Acts 16 is where this event occurs, and the church in Philippi. Paul is now in prison, and he's writing letters back to these churches. He loves this church. Do you know why? Because this church is *famous* around the world for what it did. It's famous.

This makes me think of Grace. He starts, "I thank my God every time I even think of you, I'm thankful." Isn't that cool that just when a person thinks of you, they're thankful? That's how Donna and I are with this church. Then he goes on and talks about their love and their works and everything.

Look at chapter 2. We could just basically read straight through Philippians and go watch Atlanta play. We don't have to really even talk about it. It's like, *He said that pretty well! He was divinely inspired.* I don't have that. Here we go.

You have this amazing group of believers. He's encouraging them to not fight or argue or murmur or have factions, stay together, stay close, unified. Look what he says. Philippians 2: "SO BY whatever [appeal to you there is in our mutual dwelling in Christ, by whatever] strengthening and consoling and encouraging [our relationship] in Him [affords], by whatever persuasive incentive there is in love, by whatever participation in the [Holy] Spirit [we share], and by whatever depth of affection and compassionate sympathy, fill up and complete my joy by living in harmony and being of the same mind and one in purpose, having the same love, being in full accord and of one harmonious mind and intention." (Philippians 2:1-2)

He's saying to them, "Anything that has been good about this whole relationship, let's do more. Let's do it more. Let's do it in closer unity. Let's do it at a larger level." Then he goes through and he talks about unity.

Down in verse 12, "Therefore, my dear ones, as you have always obeyed [my suggestions], so now, not only [with the enthusiasm you would show] in my presence but much more because I am absent, work out (cultivate, carry out to the goal, and fully complete) your own salvation with reverence and awe and trembling..." I like this. "... (self-distrust, with serious caution, tenderness of conscience, watchfulness against temptation, timidly shrinking from whatever might offend God and discredit the name of Christ). [Not in your own strength]..." (Philippians 2:12-13)

Everything he has just said, here's the thing: Not in your own strength. "[Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in

you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight. Do all things without grumbling and faultfinding and complaining [against God] and questioning and doubting [among yourselves]..."

This is the result. "...That you may show yourselves to be blameless and guiltless, innocent and uncontaminated, children of God without blemish (faultless, unrebukable) in the midst of a crooked and wicked generation [spiritually perverted and perverse], among whom you are seen as bright lights (stars or beacons shining out clearly) in the [dark] world..." (Philippians 2:13-15)

Here's what I think about 2012, as I've been praying about it: We look back at what has happened. Can you imagine reaching and training 10,000 people just through the JIQ, the scale of what God has done if we just lay these things before him? What can we do this year?

Here's what Paul does. Here's what he says for the Philippians to do: "Pray." Pray what? Pray for more. Isn't that interesting? Pray bigger. Pray more. Whatever you've experienced or found or discovered, ask for it more. "God, last year was a good year, but will you make this year greater, bigger, and more miraculous than last year?" Why? So we can shine like stars in a dark world. Wouldn't that be awesome if that's what we did in 2012, more than we did last year, greater, with deeper love and harmony among ourselves in unity? That's my prayer request. That's what I'm going to pray for this congregation.

As we move, we have Grace Snellville, good. We have Grace Midtown, awesome. We have Grace Monroe, good. We need a Grace Palestine. I mean, it's just the next thing, right? Okay.

Yeah. That's what we're going to do. If you happen to be in Palestine looking for a good church, we'll be there. That's what we're doing. We don't see it as leaving; we just see it as, *Let's expand*. We're not going off to be missionaries somewhere; we're going to be a part of this fellowship *there*. That's what we're doing, and to reach out in that dark world, and to be stars that shine in the universe. That's what I want to talk about a little bit this morning.

Now the reason I'm hobbling around here is because we just went out to Houston, where we've been doing work for a couple of years. It's interesting because when we go into a city, we start at the bottom. This church in Houston had heard about Grace and what it does, what Grace does. They heard this from other churches in Houston. It's really interesting.

The church contacted us and said, "Could you come do a Sunday school class for us?" because they don't really know us. They've heard from pretty weird stories going around about stuff, and so they're smart. They're careful. When Donna and I go the first time, no one picks us up at the airport. They're like, "Ah, you can rent a car, and see you Sunday." That's what it was. It was no reimbursement or anything." So we go and do the Sunday school class.

It's like when you're in these churches, the first group of people we met were ushers. We got friendly with the ushers, and then we moved up to deacons, but never could quite get up to the pastor and the staff. *They're telling some good stories, but they're kind of weird stories.*

Like this, for example, I'm talking to their missions pastor, and he's asking me some theological questions, which is not my strong point. I said, "Talk to Donna. She knows more than I do about

that stuff." He said, "Well what do you believe about God's speaking and this kind of thing?" I said, "Well I just believe what the Bible says about it, that he speaks. I mean, that's what this whole Book is about, him speaking. So I believe it, and I believe it's at a level we just don't believe in anymore."

He said, "Like what?" I said, "Well, for example, we do work in North Africa." Buddy told this story once, but he told it real vague because he wanted to protect us on the Internet, but since it happened to us, I can say it more specifically. We were doing work in North Africa. I'm telling this to the missions pastor. In DC there are two big fellowships up there we work with, and both of those churches were having a hard time agreeing with kind of the stuff we were saying about God speaking, so the way we deal with it is just go up there and say, "Do you want to hear him speak right now?" I mean, that's the fastest way to do it.

We were in an elders meeting at one of them, and they're saying stuff you might talk about if you were getting ordained or something. All I'm talking about is pray and witness. That's what I'm talking about, not all this other stuff. So there are 10 elders in the room, and we were talking about it, and I said, "Well do you just want to hear him speak right now?"

Men here I know, we've done this together a lot. They're like, "Okay, how are we going to know it's him?" I was like, "Who else would it be?" When I read this Book, and you walk into the throne of grace into the presence of God, nobody interrupts him, nobody. He does not tolerate someone coming in and pretending like they're him. Satan would do that all the time if he could. No. He tends to incinerate people who do things like that, for all eternity, actually.

I said, "But let's just see. I'm pretty sure you'll know if it is." So I prayed, and I said, "Lord, what is it you want each man in this room to know?" Then I said, "You, what?" (You have to be authoritative sometimes.) "What did he say to you?" The guy got upset, and he said, "I need to go talk to my daughter." I said, "Okay, do you know what that's about?" He said, "Yep, you. I need to call my wife." She's here this morning! Somebody better call the wife. So we just went down the line like that, and I said, "Who do you think is telling you to go reconcile with your daughter? Because it's not you, or it'd be done." We just went like that.

This missions pastor in Houston is asking me those kinds of questions, and I said, "Okay, so out of this church where the elders were having a hard time, there are two guys, and they both came to me at different times and said, 'We know what you're saying, but we just don't...'" I think they even called Buddy actually. They said, "We just don't understand it." I said, "Well why don't you go with me somewhere and watch it in action? Let's go to the Muslim world together. We can't sit back here and just debate these things. Let's go into the dark night and shine like stars."

They agree, and so we go to North Africa together. We're staying out in the refugee camps and in these tents with the families we're working with. A hundred amazing stories out there. I'm with these two guys, and they're kind of, *Humph!* Checking up. The guy said, "We're going to see if you're for real." I'm like, "I am! Here I am!" "We want to see what you do."

They're both military guys. I don't know what that means, but I'm just telling you. It wasn't like they were looking for warm, fuzzy emotions, these two guys. We're staying in this tent. Well

when you stay with these families, the family serves you every meal in the tent. I don't know if you've had North African Sahara cuisine, but it's... *Eesh!* There's only really, really good camel and really, really bad camel. There's no sort of... You would not believe the number of ways you can eat it. There's an incredible... We were just like, *What part are we on now, because it has to be getting toward the end? We've been here a long time.*

These two guys and me, very serious guys, are staying together with this family. We have a whole team out there, but we're just staying with this one family. What the family does is set the table every meal for you, and then they leave, because it's impolite in their culture to sit and watch you eat, which was a good thing.

This family we were staying with (there were three of us), every meal, they would put out four places in the tent we were staying in. We were just like, *Huh, I wonder why they put four? Because there's only three of us. Well maybe it's just a custom. You put an extra plate or something.* There's like plate, knife, fork, camel, glass...for four people!

The big thing for these guys is...*Is God still this kind of God or not, or is he a theological, argumentative God, or is he this powerful God who wants to take your life and make you do things and show you things you would never even imagine, because every year is more and every year is pray and shine?* It's like, "God, I want to shine!" "All right, come on."

He doesn't go, "Well not you. Those other guys, but not you." No, it's like, "Come on."

Remember, when you say things to God like, "I'd really like to walk on water," here's what he

says: "Come on." Right? He's like, "How many quiet times do you have to have to walk on water?" He's just like, "Okay, come on." You say things to him like that, he's like, "Okay." Only one guy on that boat had the guts to say, "I want to do that too." But this is what the Lord wants to do in the world.

We're sitting at every meal, morning, noon, and night, with four places. One of the guys with us spoke the local language (one of the military guys), and so he said, "This is driving me crazy. I have to figure this custom out.' We're sitting with the family one night after they've cleared away the four places, and my buddy says to them, "Why is it you put out four places at every meal?" They kind of talk among themselves, and they look back at him, and they said, "Because there are *four* of you." We're like... I look at the military guys, and I'm like...

They said, "There are four of you," and my buddy sarcastically goes, "You mean, the big guy?" They go, "Yeah, he's bigger than all three of you, but the thing we don't understand is why he carries a sword everywhere he goes." I look at my friends, "Is that for real? Are you kidding?" Can God allow us to dine with angels? Are angels around us, watching us and protecting us? Yes! You know what that angel did? He shined like a star in the middle of a dark, Muslim refugee camp, and because he did, we did. Because they were like, "The big guy with the sword follows these three guys all over the desert." It was just amazing to them.

That's what I'm saying. Is that the kind of life you want to live? The one guy who said, "Is it the big guy," and they said, "Yeah, the one carrying the sword..." So we're like lying in bed that night, and the one guy falls asleep immediately, and the other guy, the one who could speak the

language, was really wrestling with some stuff in his life, and he really wants to hear from the Lord on it, but he just has never done it.

We're lying there. It's pitch black. The one guy is snoring. Then I get into like, *Do angels snore? Is that him, or is that somebody else?* I don't know. The other guy is awake. I mean, it's totally black out there. He goes, "Jamie," and I said, "What?" He goes, "I'm trying to connect up with God, but I'm not getting anything." I said, "What are you asking him about?" "I'm asking him about my marriage." "What about it?"

Now listen to his question he's asking God. "What can *I* do to make my marriage better?" That is the wrong question. Paul is saying it right here. "Not in your own strength." Can't be done! A life trying to do it, as sincere as it is, is frustrating. "Win Muslims." "Not in your own strength." "Train a thousand people." "That's a lot." "It is in your strength, but not in mine."

I said to him, "That's the wrong question. Ask God what *he* is going to do about your marriage, and you do what he says." Because he's military, he goes, "Roger!" That's it. Every time I'm talking to this guy, he says, "Roger." He goes, "Roger!" Then I wait a second, and he goes, "Okay, I'm in." Got the connection going. It changed his whole life. Shine like a star. Think of how many people long to hear God talk like that about their marriage, about jobs, about discouragement, about frustration?

So I tell that story to the guy in Houston. "Yeah, we spent 10 days in a tent with an angel. It was awesome." That story didn't help our cause one bit. Not one bit. He was like, *Hmm, okay*. So we didn't really make it past that level.

Then the stories start moving around again from like, "Did you hear what happened to these guys in the Islamic center in Houston?" Stalls and Amy were with us then. They're like, "Wow, yeah." So then we get invited back, a little higher-level invitation. We get to the airport, and this young couple picks us up in their old, beat-up car. We're like, *Yeah! A ride!* They take us and put us in this missions house. We do another day of training out there. This is overtime.

Then this last time we went, we got invited to talk to the senior staff, including the pastor. That means, *he* picked us up at the airport, and we had a BMW to drive around all week. We're like, *We're in!* All we want to do is teach them how to shine like stars in a dark world.

We go to speak. I did both services on Sunday morning, and all I did was tell stories and pray in between them. That's all I did for both services. The people were just stunned! People were crying, and all I was saying was, "Lord, where's the place in my heart where I'm most afraid of stuff? Lord, what's the area in my life where I just don't trust you, I just don't think you can do it? What is that place?" I said, "Write it down. When I ask the question, you write it down, because I don't know. Who knows? Only you and God know."

Here's what you're doing: It's called confession and repentance, if you've ever heard us talk on this. Confession in the Bible means to say the same thing again. That's what it means, to say the

same thing again. It's not a big, "Oh, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry. I'm sorry I worry about stuff." *Boy, I wonder if he forgave me for that? Oh, I'm worried about that now.* It's like never ending.

Confession is saying the same thing again. It's saying to God, "Lord, in this particular situation in my life that produces so much anxiety and fear and mere discouragement and depression, in this area of my life, here's what I believe to be true about you: You cannot or will not change it."

That's real confession. "Lord, here's what I believe about you that's not true: I believe in my job situation, in my marriage, you are either unable or unwilling to move, to dramatically change."

Okay?

Then repentance is you telling God what *you* believe to be true about him, which is often wrong, and then repentance is God saying back to you what is true, and that causes your whole life to change. I mean, just practice this. "Why do I feel anxious today, Lord? What do you want me to know about this anxiety feeling? What is it that I believe about you that's not true that's causing me to stress out, like you can't handle my kids, like that?"

Then say to God, "Show me the truth. Tell me the truth." He speaks back, and he shows you the truth through his Word, through circumstances, things like that, and your whole life begins to change. Then you become less and less fearful of things because you become more and more convinced of a God who lets you dine with angels.

That's what I was saying in that church, and it was just an amazing time. Donna taught a packed-out class during the second service, and the people who came to the first service and then went to her class, I don't know if this is a compliment, but they come up to me and go, "Wow, your wife *really* seems to know what she's talking about." I was like, "Yeah, good."

So the pastor was so moved by it (and I know this is Buddy's heart, to see pastors like this rocked), he asked us if we would come back that night and do a two-hour thing. I said, "Yeah, we'll do it." He said, "We're not going to put you in the main auditorium because we don't have a lot of people come when we do things at night, so we're going to put you in a room, but it holds 300 people. It should be plenty of room."

When Donna and I get there, we can't even find a parking space it's so packed. Out into the hallway, up through the balcony... You could not even get in the door. Here's the topic: *How to hear from God*. That's the kind of crowd that came out. The wildest thing is it was a super spiritual battle raging, and we could feel it. When I was walking up the stairs to speak for the two-hour thing...and we had two others, a young couple, with us, doing team stuff with us...right when I started to walk up the stairs, it's like someone hit me with a baseball bat in my leg, and it hurt so bad that I could hardly stand up.

All these people are there. They're waiting. It took us awhile to get in, so they're like, "Come on, let's get this thing going." The pastor's like, "Let's go. Let's do what we did this morning." I'm like, *I don't know. I don't think I can stand up*. Chris, one of the young guys with us... I'm

standing like on the stairway there and he's down on his knees behind me, rubbing my leg like this. I thought, *What do people think? Like, Is this part of it?*

I do the whole thing. We make it through. We survive through the whole thing, but I was in so much pain, and I was really irritated... Like, *What happened?* I came down. People wanted to pray, and I was like, *Ugh!* Our team split up really well, and so I was kind of by myself.

This girl comes walking up to me, and she has something wrong with her that she can't... A beautiful 21-year-old girl, but she can't speak. It's something like it's not processing right, and she's trying really hard to say something to me. I'm frustrated, because I can't understand her. She's frustrated, so her father comes up, and he says, "This is my daughter. She has epilepsy. She has had seizures where she has fallen off her bike and had brain damage. She had brain surgery. This is going to be the rest of her life, like this."

I was like, *You don't know how bad my leg hurts.* This is what the girl wanted. She was crying because she wanted to come up. This is what she asked me, "Can I pray for *you*?" She did. She put her hand on my shoulder, and she prayed. I couldn't even understand it, but her dad was explaining it. Whatever was wrong in my leg would loosen and be okay.

I was pretty sure it was a blood clot. I mean, I just could feel. I could put my finger right on the spot. It just swelled up so instantly, and then I was like, *Oh man, now I have to fly back to DC, and this is super dangerous, and I don't want to just let this thing go, but I don't want to stay in Houston.* We flew back to DC, and I called my doctor friend, and I explained what happened. I

have a bruise that goes all the way down the back of my leg, under my foot. That's why I can hardly walk right now.

I explained it to him, and he's like, "You need to get to a doctor right now." We arrange it. I go to the doctor. He looks at my leg. He goes, "Have you ever had a blood clot before." I said, "No." He goes, "We need to get you into the hospital right now." I'm like, *Awww!* I go over there. They do the test on it to check it. No blood clot. Gone. Yeah!

Here's what they said: The doctor says to me, "You had one. It has vanished." I know exactly when it vanished. When that girl walked up to me and said, "There's more than this." She shined like a star in my dark little discouragement. This is what we want to be like in 2012. We want to be like this, where when we come into a place or a city or a room, it's like someone turned on the light because, *Wow, here comes a person who can hear God speak and who knows how to share their faith. Ah, that's incredible.*

I could sit up here the whole rest of the time and tell you stories just in the last three weeks of things that have happened like this in stuff we've been doing, but it's not exclusive to us. It's for all of us in this room to do in 2012. Last thing. I don't know. This guy might be here. I don't even know. I should have looked. I won't embarrass him, but some guys from this area, from Grace and from another church, had a dinner. The purpose of the dinner was they had a friend who they really wanted to encourage to hear from God. This guy was super important to them. They loved this guy. They wanted to reach out to him.

They hosted a dinner, and Donna and I went. It was really cool because the guy, their friend who they loved, they had told him, "We're having dinner tonight, and at the end, God is going to speak to you." How's that for an invitation? "Yeah, we're going to eat, and then God is next. He's going to speak." The guy came with a sense of expectation, a little bit nervous. While we were eating dinner, we were talking about this kind of thing, and there's some skepticism and stuff. They guy who hosted the dinner would just sit back and go, "You're going to hear him tonight." That's all he ever... "Oh, you'll hear him." Like that. It's just how confident you are when that happens.

They guy is getting kind of nervous, but anyway, so we finish dinner, and we go out into this other room. I sit down next to him on the couch, and the two, one guy from Grace and one from another church, are sitting across. These guys just pull out... I think they had their iPhones to take notes of what God says to the guy.

They get out their iPad like this, and the guy is looking at them like, "What are you going to do?" "We're going to write down what God says to you. Go ahead. We're going to record it." The guy is like, "Okay. All right." I put my hand on the guy's shoulder, and he put his hand on my leg. Then I put my hand on top on his hand. I'm like, *This is enough. I don't have any more hands to put anywhere else.*

I just say, "Lord, what is it you want to say to this guy? What do you want to communicate to him?" I mean, *instantaneously*, the guy bursts into tears, because when the Lord speaks it's so

beautiful. It's not to be feared. The Lord just poured his love out on this guy, who honestly, like a lot of us, thought he didn't deserve it.

I asked. I said, "Lord, what do you see when you look at this man?" The guy says, "Redeemed." So in that process, this amazing spiritual transformation happens. Our guys are going... It's kind of funny looking. Twenty minutes or whatever, the guy says... He's looking at me. He's really moved. He said, "That's the most incredible thing I've ever experienced. The minute you put your hand on me, it's like fire went through my body. I was like just on fire!"

He comes out. He's walking around. He's telling everyone what happened. He goes up to Donna and he said, "When your husband put his hand on me, I was on fire!" He looks at her, and he says, "When he touches you, are you on fire?" Donna says, "Nope!" That's my goal for 2012. I can put my hand on guys, and they're on fire.

Oh, I could go on and on and tell you this stuff, but what we're doing here this morning is for Donna and I to thank you for having us here for 12 months, three years, whatever that offer was, for having us here. When we were invited to Grace, it changed our lives. It changed our lives. We would be in Jordan, and Donna would look at me and go, "Grace just understands us. It's like we're so unified."

I'm just here to thank you and to say, the amazing things that had been done last year, but that in 2012, we would make it a year where no matter what it is, we pray and we say, "More. God, would you just do more than that? I love my wife. Can you show me how to love her more, my

kids more, my neighbors more, so I can shine like a star in a dark universe, where I put my hand on a person and they're on fire, on a community, and it's on fire, on young, next-generation people, fire, and that we would go out in 2012 like that?" Shine. Shine. More. More. Let's pray.

Father, thank you. It's so incredible. We really thank you for your power and your love for us in this fellowship. Lord, would you, just right now in this minute, just speak to us. I know Aaron is going to lead us in some of this, but will you just speak to us, and that, Father, you would really make us people who shine like stars in a world that's so dark and needs it so desperately? Father, make us those kinds of people. We pray in the name of Jesus, amen.