



Why Do We Worry? ... And Go to War?

HAVE you been worrying about so many things lately?

Have you been overthinking?

Are you being weighed down by many problems?

AND are you going through conflicts with specific people?

Today's message is for you.

We're going to go deep into the reason we end up worrying and warring—and how we can stop doing both.

Here's a hint: If we see a world of scarcity, it's easy to be afraid.
Pray that we see what Jesus saw—a universe of abundance.

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez

Welcome
to our brand-new series
PLENTY: How To Live
in God's Radical Generosity
Talk 1: *Your Father Knows*
What You Need



Unlimited Choices

“HEAVEN is a choice.”

That’s the gist of the sermon of Fr. Bob McConaghy in last Sunday’s Feast. It was October 29, just a couple of days before November 1, All Saints Day, and November 2, All Souls’ Day. So, Fr. Bob talked about what the Church teaches about Death, Heaven,

Purgatory, and Hell, *page 3*.

The topic of Death is quite disturbing. But what’s more worrisome is *Living* – especially if you don’t have everything you need for a good life. Well, stay on for today’s Feast and learn why Bro. Bo Sanchez titled our new Talk series *Plenty*, *page 1*.



Yes, in this Life, we do have limitations. But last Sunday’s Feast talk was about *Glorious Living*—about how to live with and love our limitations. *Flashback* by Bro. Bo and Bro. Audee Villaraza is worth checking out, *page 21*.



Life may at times be dark with burdens. Bro. Lep Sumera, in our *Love Offering* section, honored Bro. Narcing Reyes who passed on recently. Bro. Lep recalled Bro. Narcing gave him a flashlight. It was a symbol of Bro. Narcing’s service for us, *page 12*.



One who has heard so much about scarcity in life is Bro. Hermie Morelos who, as chair of our Mercy Ministries, listens well to the stories of those he serves. Last Sunday, he didn’t just listen. He celebrated his birthday with them, *page 44*.

All for God’s Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director



Yes, we have unlimited choices.
Pray you choose the best.



FLASHBACK!

OCTOBER 29, 2023

Holy Mass



THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Homily

FR. BOB McCONAGHY

on the Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

The Greatest Commandment

Excerpts...

TODAY, I'm going to give a sermon instead of a homily.

Now, a sermon is different because a sermon is on a specific subject.

Last year, over at the *tent* (the Forum, a multipurpose facility next to the Philippine International Convention Center which we use when (PICC) is not available for The Feast)-- but not nearly as large of a crowd today, I spoke about this, and I think that since we speak about it only once a year, it would be good for me to address it today on Wednesday and Thursday, more likely Wednesday.

You will go to the cemetery, and there you will be for perhaps many hours, remembering those you love that have gone on before us.

And the question arises: Where do they go?

They're not there at the cemetery. It reminds you of them, but they're not there.

So, today, I want to speak about where they may have gone.

The FEAST FAMILY November 5, 2023 **3**

Hell, Purgatory, Heaven

In our *Bibliakonia* (The Feast Bay Area Liturgical Bible Study) every Thursday night, very often, we get a lot of questions about this. So, I thought it's important that I raise it this morning.

Today, we're going to speak about Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven.

Now, we usually don't speak about Hell-- unless in anger, we invite somebody to go there. But Hell is not a place that God sends us.

Often, we think about the *Judgment* -- because at the moment of death, we have what is called *our* particular Judgment.

At the moment of death, you will see the beatific vision. You will see Jesus, God, who is Love. And then you have a choice.

The first choice is Hell.

Why do I say it's a *choice* rather than somewhere you're sent? Because the Catholic Catechism of the Church defines Hell this way: *a definitive state, that means forever, of self-separation from God and His love.*

Hell is chosen. If some persons are totally evil, they are going to be drawn toward evil in the guise of good. Because anyone who does evil really believes in some way, they are doing good, probably just for themselves.

Now, on the other hand, the beautiful thing about the unfathomable mercy of Jesus in the Divine Mercy is a message from St. Faustina. And if she says *anything* that is not what the Church would teach-- she wouldn't be a saint.

This is especially true if you're worried about somebody whom you knew was really bad, and you think, "Oh, they must have gone to hell..." This is what she says, and I'm quoting: "*The soul on its way to Hell, Jesus comes and enters into a dialogue with that soul. And if that soul shows the slightest movement towards sorrow and repentance, God's mercy takes care of the rest.*"

Well then, why not eat, drink, and be merry? Have a good time, do anything you want. I mean, hey, Jesus is going to try and talk you out of it anyway.

Aha: *Sorrow*-- and what else?

Repentance-- especially if someone is that evil and chooses at that moment to accept the mercy, but not ready for Heaven yet. Now, this person is ready for what the Church defines as the final stage of our purification before we enter into Heaven: That is Purgatory.





An Image of Purgatory

Now, I don't know what your image is of Purgatory—or what you've been told. I'm going to give you a Church teaching today...

But I know what my image was when I was in Third Grade. I remember exactly where I was sitting-- first row, second seat. And that day, the nuns, Sister Ruth Dolores, brought out this big parchment that filled half of the board. And on that parchment was an artist's rendition of Purgatory:

There was a lake of fire in which there were men, women, and children like this, (mouth open, agonizing) reaching out and getting burned up at the same time.

Now, that was the second of November-- All Souls Day-- and I was going like this with my hands (rubbing hands together) because my hands were cold. They didn't turn the heat on that morning.

And Sister said to me, “Robert...” That's why I hate to be called Robert.

She said, “Robert, are your hands cold?”

I said, “Yes, Sister.”

She said, “Well, you'd better store some of it up. You're going to need it when you go *there*.”

And that was my image of Purgatory-- a place where my sins were going to be burned out of me.

Only one problem: You're not going to be physically in Purgatory. It's your soul, which is totally spiritual. You cannot burn a soul.

So then, what is Purgatory?



Reading I: Exodus 22:20-26

²⁰ You will not molest or oppress aliens, for you yourselves were once aliens in Egypt. ²¹ You will not ill-treat widows or orphans; ²² if you ill-treat them in any way and they make an appeal to me for help, I shall certainly hear their appeal,

²³ my anger will be roused and I shall put you to the sword; then your own wives will be widows and your own children orphans.

²⁴ If you lend money to any of my people,

to anyone poor among you, you will not play the usurer with him: you will not demand interest from him.²⁵ If you take someone's cloak in pledge,

you will return it to him at sunset.²⁶ It is all the covering he has;

it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else will he sleep in? If he appeals to me, I shall listen. At least with me, he will find compassion.

‘Heaven Is a Choice’

Well, there's another Saint, a Mystic of the Church-- and again, if she says anything that's not consistent with Church teaching, she would not be a saint.

And she said something very surprising... And I'm quoting: “*As for Heaven, there are no gates, there are no doors. Anyone who wishes to enter does so. Heaven is a choice...*”

She says, however: “*The divine essence is so pure and light-filled.*”

And by the way, how about St. Peter? Isn't he supposed to be outside the gates, kind of like a bouncer at a discotheque, saying who gets in and who doesn't?

I thought to myself, “Why would St. Peter want to be outside of Heaven?”

So again, that's a myth. It's not true. It's an artist's rendition.

She says that the Divine Essence is so pure and light-filled... Those who have had near-death experiences will tell you that they went through a tunnel and they came in contact with Jesus, who was *light, pure light*. And in that moment, they felt loved as if they had never been loved before.

The divine light, however, is so pure that the soul that has the slightest sin would rather throw itself into a thousand hells than appear before the Divine Essence. Tongue cannot express nor the heart understands Purgatory-- which the soul willingly accepts as a penance.

So, how does the Church define Purgatory? Again, *the final stage of our purification before we enter Heaven.*

And you know what St. Catherine said? St. Catherine of Siena said: “*The greatest pain of the souls in purgatory is the resistance the soul feels within itself toward God, who is bent on nothing but drawing them to himself.*”

So, it'd be kind of like: If you went to a five-star hotel, and you passed by, and there was a big, beautiful hall where everybody was dancing, there was an orchestra, everybody dressed in their finest clothes, and they all knew you, and they all loved you. And they say, “Come on in, we're having a great time.”

But you're dressed kind of like in ordinary clothes? You would probably look at them and then look at yourself and say, “Let me go change first.”

That's what Purgatory is: *going through that final stage of purification.*

And what should we do?



Detachment

Bro. Bo Sanchez's book--I think it's the best book that he's ever written—*Find Your Surrender Place* speaks about *detachment*.

Because the truth is before we die or after, we need to detach really from everything and everyone. Not that we don't like them or don't want that, but when we detach, then we're free. That's what Purgatory is about-- detaching from all of those sinful ways, *chismis* (gossiping) among others, that we hold onto.



How long does it take?
We don't know. But all we know is that you and I will see the beatific vision. And, at that moment, people who have experienced near-death experiences will tell you that every question they ever wanted to ask God is immediately answered. Instantaneously.

Maybe that's why Paul says, “Eye has not seen, nor is ear heard, nor has it occurred to the mind of man what God has in store for those who love him.”

That's you. That's me.

If I ever-- because I have a bad heart condition-- if I ever drop dead suddenly, don't say, “Oh, Father Bob, he must be up there looking down on us right now.”

Don't you dare do that. Pray for me-- as we will pray for each other.

And you know what? When you pray for the souls in Purgatory-- they know it's you who's praying for them-- whether it's a relative or just the souls in general. They know it's you. The souls in Purgatory cannot pray for themselves. But they pray for you-- individually.

So, when you say your Rosary, your Chaplet of Divine Mercy, pray for those you have known who have died. And then at that moment, they know it's you, and they pray for you.

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A True Story

Finally, let me share with you a true story about what happened to me.

I had my valve replaced in the United States in 2019. And afterward, I was in Intensive Care. And after a day or two, they had me sitting up in Intensive Care.

But the doctor came to me. He said, “Fr. Bob, you're having a problem with the electricity in your heart. We're going to have to put a pacemaker in.”

I said, “Okay.”

Because I knew that wasn't very painful, especially after this other one, which was very painful.

I said, “Fine, okay.”

So, I was sitting up in the Intensive Care Unit on a chair, and Fr. Hans Burkard came in. He's the chaplain-- has been for many years--of the hospital, St. Luke's Hospital.

And he gave me Holy Communion. I took time to pray, and then we had a conversation.

This was in the morning.

At night, he came and visited me. And he said, “Fr. Bob, never do that to me again.”

I said, “What?”

He said, “You were right in the middle of a sentence, and your eyes went back to your head... I went out to get them (the nurses) quickly, but they called a code.”

You know, that's when my heart stopped.

And last night, I asked my cardiologist, “How long was I gone?”

He said, “No more than two minutes. They were able to bring you back.”

Now, I never remember my dreams ever. Usually, ten minutes after I wake up, I couldn't tell you what I dreamt. But this, I remember. I remember that I didn't feel *going out*. I didn't feel it. It just happened.

I remember that I saw the most gorgeous, beautiful scene: A little blue, a little purple. And I was back. I didn't get to go through the tunnel.

I didn't get to see Jesus.



At the Moment of Death...

But I'll tell you this: when they woke me up, there was still another going through me, you know, the electricity.

I said, "Whoa, that hurts."

But then the doctor behind me said, "The external pacemaker is not working. We have to get him up to surgery very quickly."

Now, normally, if you say that, and I hear it, I'm going to panic, "Huh? What's going on? What do you mean it's not working?"

No. I was absolutely peaceful. And they're flying on up to the surgery.

And I went in there, and the anesthesiologist said, "Oh, you were in here two days, three days ago."

I said, "Yeah. Hi, how are you?"

Absolutely no fear at all-- which, for me, was highly unusual.

What I mean to tell you by that is maybe, leading up to death, it will be painful. Maybe it will be instant. A third of us will die after a long illness, and a third of us will die after an illness of about four days. And the rest of us, like Narcing (member of the Feast Security Ministry) who suddenly passed away Friday, will die without warning.

But one thing we know is that the moment of death-- I can tell you from experience-- the moment of death is extremely peaceful. And I got to see only a glimpse.



Reading II: *First Thessalonians 1:5-10*

⁵ because our gospel came to you not only in words, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with great effect. And you observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your sake.

⁶ You took us and the Lord as your model, welcoming the word with the joy of the Holy Spirit in spite of great hardship. ⁷ And so you became an example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia ⁸ since it was from you that the word of the Lord rang out -- and not only

throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: ⁹ other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with the worship of false gods when you were converted to God and became servants of the living and true God; ¹⁰ and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven. It is he who saves us from the Retribution which is coming.



Realities

So, when it comes to Heaven, Hell, Purgatory, those realities are chosen because God has given us the gift of freedom. He cannot force His love on us. But He loves you beyond anything your imagination can conceive. You are known and loved before anyone thought of you -- before anyone knew your name.

Remember that at the cemetery when you go.

And this I asked about Heaven...

I asked Eileen George, an ordinary with supernatural gifts. She had the same gifts as Padre Pio. She could read souls, and she had the authentic gift of healing.

She came to my parish, and I had a chance to ask her questions because she has a book called *Conversations in Heaven*.

Right at the moment, she's being put up for sainthood.

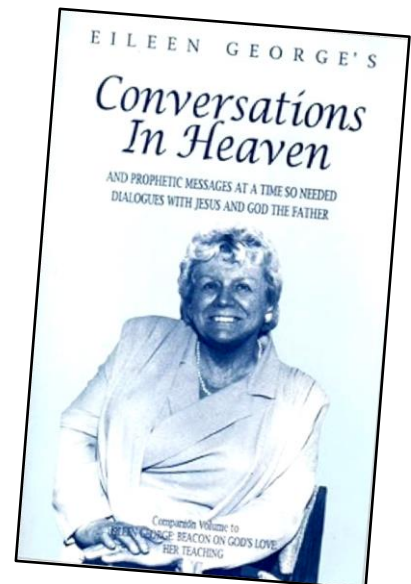
So, I asked her questions.

I said, "Those who have died, our loved ones, do they miss us?"

And she said, "No, they don't miss us at all because there's no time in eternity."

"So that when you die, Fr. Bob," she said to me, "it will seem to your mother and father and sister as though they just left."

And I said, "Do they see us?"



"Report of private revelations purported to have been made by God to a Catholic lay woman in Massachusetts."

--Amazon.com



Be Not Afraid

This is important. Remember this when you go to the cemetery: “Do they ever see us?”

“Yes,” Eileen said, “...the Heavenly Father draws back the curtain and allows them to see us-- but only when we're laughing, only when we're smiling.”

I said, “Why?”

She said, “There's no sadness in Heaven.”

So, when you go to the cemetery, you mourn the loss-- but think of some of the funny times and allow yourself to laugh. And at that moment, they are able to see you.

Finally, I asked her this question: “If they were given the chance, would they want to come back because they love us?”

And she said, 'Well, Father, you loved your mother, right?’

I said, “Yes.” “

"As much as you loved your mother, would you want to go back to her womb?’

And I said, “Of course, not.”

“No more with those who have loved us and that we have lost and have died want to come back anymore”, she said “...than you would want to go back to your mother’s womb.”

I'll end this with a joke that I asked her.

I said, "Okay, one thing everybody's always asked me: In our resurrected body in Heaven, how old will we look?"

Did you ever ask that question of yourself? Yeah, and she didn't hesitate to answer.

"Oh," she said, "33, same as our Lord. There are no old people in Heaven. So, if you want to know what you're going to look like in Heaven-- if you haven't reached 33-- wait till then. Take a selfie. If you've already reached 33 and above, like many of us, take a look. That's what you'll look like in eternity. No defects.

So, what I wanted to do this morning-- and talking about what happens after here-- is found in three words, when it comes to Heaven, Hell, Purgatory: *Be not afraid.*

Happy All Saints! Happy All Souls!



Responsorial Psalm:

Psalms 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51

² *Yahweh is my rock and my fortress, my deliverer is my God. I take refuge in him, my rock, my shield, my saving strength, my stronghold, my place of refuge.*



BRO. LEP SUMERA:

Good Morning, Good Morning, Everybody! It's so good to be back here in The Feast Bay Area. Can you high-five 7 to 10 people around you? Just greet them, "Good Morning," please.

Come on. Good morning. All right. Very good. Good morning. Good morning. Good morning. Good morning. Hallelujah!

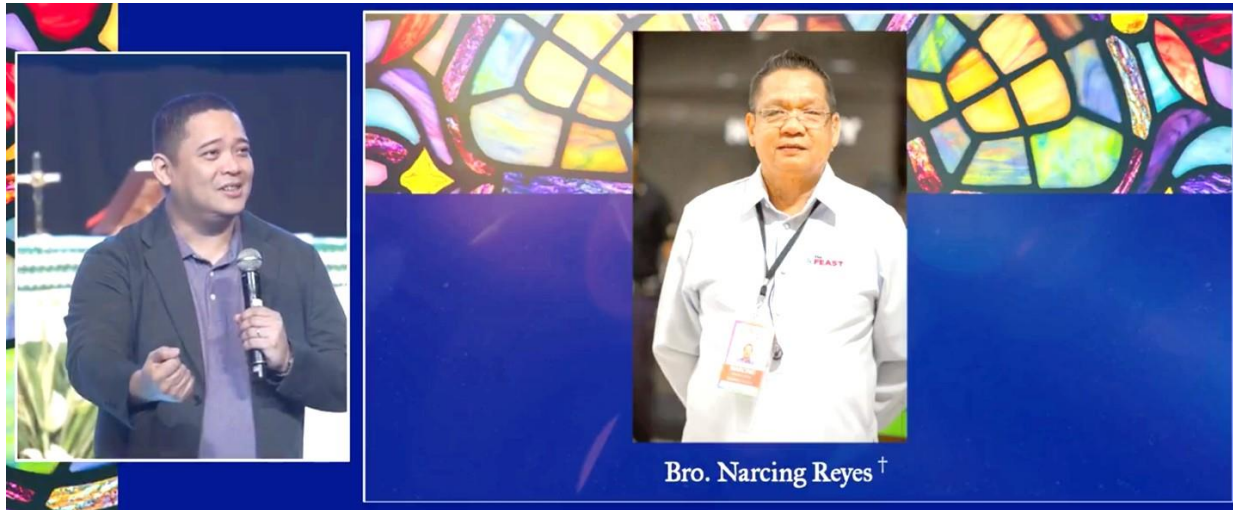
I always believe that mornings are good, right? Yes.

Because our good God decided, "Sige may opportunity pa 'to. Sige mamahalin ko pa 'to.-- All right, this one still has opportunities. All right, I will still love this one..."

So, can you look at the good-looking person beside you? Buhay pa, di ba?-- Still alive, right?"

So, there's a reason for you to rejoice, to be grateful, and to praise God. Amen. Hallelujah! Thank You, Lord. Thank You, Jesus.

And please, if you see some servants around you, can you thank them? Can you say, "Thank you" to them? To all our servants here in this session, thank you so much for your love, for your generosity.



You know what? I realize that our servants here in The Feast, all servants here, they are light-bringers. I was just reflecting. They are light-bringers.

And as I talk about being grateful and being a light-bringer, I remember one person: Bro. Narcing.

Last, Friday, I was preparing for our Feast SM Manila, and suddenly, we had a problem with our electricity. So, I grabbed this flashlight, and it's a multifunction flashlight. It's really bright, really, really bright. That's why I love it. And then I realized that the one who sold me that flashlight was none other than Bro. Narcing. And I was holding that light that morning-- not knowing something would happen in the evening...

After our Feast, on the way home, I read on our GC (online Group Chat of Feast Bay Area builders) that Bro. Narcing had already gone home--up there in Heaven. And while driving, I was just reflecting and thanking God for Bro. Narcing.

I said, "Lord, what if Bro. Narcing did not sell me that flashlight? I would be struggling in that darkness inside our home. Lord, thank you for that light-giver I encountered in my life journey.

And you know what? Bro. Narcing was someone who served with so much love. Nagagalit siya sa akin kasi hindi ako mahilig kumain bago mag-preach.— He always reprimanded me when I did not eat before I preached.

He would always tell me to eat. He wanted me to eat.

Sometimes, I would tell him, "I'm okay, Bro. Narcing. I won't eat anymore. I need to leave."

And he would insist, "Then just take out (the packed meal)."



Mission Accomplished

Gusto ni Narcing kumakain ako kaya kasalanan niya ito.-- He wanted me to eat. So, this (pointing to his tummy) is his fault.

Kidding aside, I want to honor Bro. Narcing for his service— with so much love, so much passion, so much heart-- continuing to give light to someone.

You know what? We relaunched The Feast SM Manila sometime in July this year. He was there.

He was there. The cinema was overflowing. But he was lining up, waiting to get in.

When I saw him, I told our Security, “You've got to let him in because he's a VIP. Don't you know him?”

And then I just hugged him, “Bakit ka nandito?-- Why are you in line? You don't have to line up.”

He just smiled and said, “I love The Feast.”

And it really hit me that when you really serve, you go all out-- because you will never know when is the last time that you could serve Him here.

So, I don't know about you. I just have a few minutes here, but I'm going to serve you today with so much love.

And I pray, I really pray, that as we serve someone, we're all serving *someone*. We're serving our family, right? Lagyan mo ng puso-- Serve me with a heart. Always serve with so much love.

And my prayer, Bro. Narcing, is for you to rest in peace, rest in the Presence of the King of Peace.

Thank you for your life, Bro. Narcing-- for that *mission accomplished*.

Love Offering

Be a Light-Bringer

And one good way for us to serve with so much love is through our giving, right? That as you continue to give generously, you are becoming a light-giver.

Quickly, let me share this with you...

Last Friday, I was with the young people who attended The Feast SM Manila, and I told them: "I have good news for you."

They said, "What?"

I said, "Wala na tayong pondo-- We have no more funds."

And they were like, "Paano naging good news yun?-- How is that *good news*?"

I told them, "Wala na.-- Really, no more. This is going to be our last Feast, because we have no more savings. We can no longer afford the expenses."

So, they were wondering, "Why is it *good news*?"

Because I believe that when we're empty, that's the time the Lord will continue to provide, will continue to give, will show to you His miracles, will show to you that "I am an abundant God, and I am taking care of you."

So, when they realize that, "Hey, ubos na kami.--We're already empty..." they will now know that it's already the Lord stepping in, taking charge, saying, "*I am in control.*"

That's why it's *good news*. Dahil magpapakitang gilas na ang langit.-- Because Heaven will already demonstrate its power.

And you know what? That night, somebody-- a friend-- sent a screenshot of this GCash she gave me: in five digits It's not P10,000, it's not P20,000-- I leave it to you to guess how much... But it's something that will allow us to restart our Feast.

I texted her, "Bakit? Ang laki nito. --Why? This is a big amount."

She said, "Because I believe in The Feast. I believe in what you're doing for the young people-- and I don't want it to end."

Light-giver.

She added, "Kasi ako, Kuya Lep, binago din ng Feast.-- The Feast also changed me."

Now, you don't know the story of that person beside you, of that person back there, or that person over here. But what you're doing is changing that person's life. What you're giving is giving hope to that person. What you're giving is transforming that person's heart.





Go All Out

May I ask you to go all out today? Go all out as you can-- because you will never know whose life you are extending because of your generosity.

Please don't forget to write your prayer requests on your Love Offering envelope.



Repeat after me:

Jesus, this is Yours. You can see my heart here. But Lord, my prayer, is for you to bless me more. Bless me because I want to give more. I want to love more. I want also to be a Light-giver. Bless me, Jesus. And so that I could give more. More in Your Mighty Name."

Everybody say: "Amen."

And with smiles, let's give to God.

Help the Feast Mercy Ministries. Help them all.



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Worship!

EXHORTATIONS



SIS. VANYA CASTOR:

“Good Morning, Feast!

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.

As we go into Worship, I invite you to rejoice in God, our Lord-- our God who is our source of strength.

I invite you to proclaim His goodness from season to season, from grace to grace, from glory to glory. We sing!”



BRO. NICO CAUNCA:

We acknowledge, Lord, that Your grace is not a one-time gift-- but a continuous outpouring. You have shown us Your goodness, Your grace, time and again, and we humbly ask, Lord, that you do it again.

Pour out Your grace upon us, refreshing us with Your Presence.



BRO. BO SANCHEZ:

Father in Heaven, we don't want this just to be another event. We don't want this to be just another activity.

We want You to come and visit us, and we want You to move. Oh, yes! Walk through the aisles, walk through the avenues of each one's heart that need healing, that need Your touch, that need Your miracle.

Father God, this place is special because miracles will happen right here, right now. And we know that miracles will happen because the Miracle Worker is here. You are here, and so we say, Yes!

Everybody, from the front row to the back row, say, "Yes, Lord!" "Yes, Lord!" "Yes, Lord!" Amen.





YOUR PROMISE STILL STANDS

GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS

I'M STILL IN YOUR HANDS

THIS IS MY CONFIDENCE

YOU'VE NEVER FAILED ME YET

I'VE SEEN YOU MOVE THE MOUNTAINS

AND I BELIEVE

I'LL SEE YOU DO IT AGAIN



DO IT AGAIN

FEAST BAY AREA WORSHIP
 HILLSONG WORSHIP
 WORDS & MUSIC BY: JORIS BROWN, MACK BROCK, MATT REED, STEVEN FURTTICK
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NOVENA TO GOD'S LOVE DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE



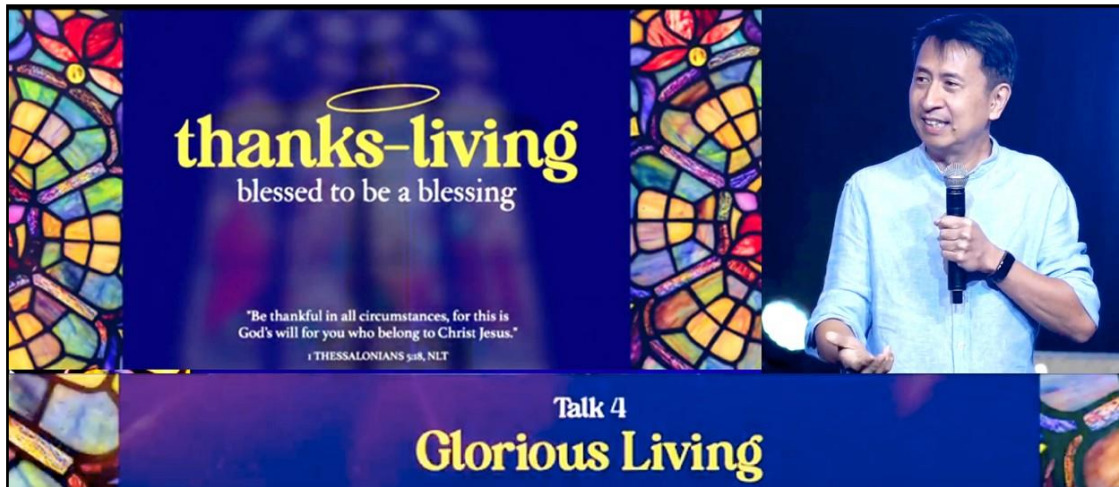
Today, I receive all of God's love for me.
Today, I open myself to the unbounded, limitless, overflowing abundance of God's universe.
Today, I open myself to God's blessings, healing, and miracles.



Today, I open myself to God's Word so I become more like Jesus every day.
Today, I proclaim that I am God's beloved.
I am God's servant. I am God's powerful champion.

And because I am blessed, I am blessing the world.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

Talk



INTRODUCTION

BRO. BO SANCHEZ:

THERE'S one thing I realized about why we need to be in Church.

Are you happy that you are in Church? You are in Community, you are at The Feast? You know why you need to be here every Sunday? Because sometimes we are in a rut, and we need to reset.

Last week my wife Marowe and I, went to He Cares Center in Bulacan. They have a new center there-- it's a street kids ministry, and it's a beautiful, beautiful center, a beautiful church.

The problem was that morning, it rained so hard, and you had to go there on dirt roads. It would have been fine, but it rained so hard. And so, our van got stuck-- the wheel went into a big hole on that dirt road. So, my driver would keep on pressing the gas pedal, and the tire would just revolve and rotate, and would go through that hole, and we wouldn't budge.

My dear friends, have you ever experienced that you press the gas pedal in your life, and you're still stuck? No matter how much power you put in, you know, and the engine of your life, and you struggle to move, but it doesn't move because you're in a rut.

Have you ever experienced that? Your anxiety is revolving there in your brain, and you just can't get rid of it? You can't shake it, you can't stop the overthinking, and you're in a rut.

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Reset

So, what do you need to do? You need to reset. One of the best ways to reset is to get out of your environment-- that's one. There are many ways of resetting, but one of them is that you need to get out of that situation that you're in. Sometimes, you're in your room, and you are so focused on your struggle, and you are overthinking, and anxiety is just eating up your mind, and there's this nagging thought, and you cannot stop.

What you need to do is get out of that room, get out of that dark place, go to the sunlight, you know, get a walk, you know, pray there outdoors.

And the church is that place, that place where you go. And all of a sudden, people are smiling at you, and people are looking at you, and they mean the best. They're not perfect-- no one is perfect-- but look at you, look at the persons around you, aren't they wonderful? Aren't they smiling at you?

You see that there, there. And there's Worship, and then there's the Word of God. Sometimes, we just need to get out into a better place, into a place where God is there.

And He wants to reach you. This is what Church is-- and this is the reason you're here. You're here because God is here, and He wants to give that to you.

So, are you ready for the Word today?

I don't want to lengthen this. But Narcing is somebody who, you know, he's been my security for the longest time. I remember, he used to serve, you know, 20-plus years ago. We started a Feast in a place called Camp Aguinaldo-- and he was already there.

Narcing had a special role. He was Mr. Tough Guy. You know, if I was all smiles and everybody could come to me, he was the guy beside me who would not smile at anybody.

You know, his whole message was, "Don't you dare mess up with Bro. Bo. I'm here."

That's his role. He's the Mr. Tough Guy-- and he would not smile.

And this was his home, and this was his home for many, many, many years.





We Need Church

You know, I just thank God. Narcing died on a Friday. You know what he was doing on Thursday night? Serving at The Feast in Makati-- he was that kind of a guy.

We're going to miss him, we're going to miss him. He just kept on going to The Feast, because he loved The Feast-- and he believed that he needed it.

My dear friends, the moment you think you don't need Church, you're in a very dangerous place. The moment you think that you don't need this weekly dose of resetting up your soul, you're in a very dangerous place.

So, I want us to all be humble. Raise your right hand if you can, and say this after me: "I need Church. I need Church. I need Community. I need this room. I need this house. I need Jesus." Amen, amen.

You know, one day, we're going to be like Narcing, and we're going to pass on. But while we're not yet there in the Kingdom of God in Heaven, and we're still here on Earth, we need Church. Amen.

We need a reset, and I pray that this preacher is going to bring in God's reset for our life: the one and only, Audee Villaraza.



BRO. AUDEE VILLARAZA:

May I invite everybody to stand up to receive the powerful Word of the Lord? Everybody, lift your hands and join me in singing:

*Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet
and a Light unto my path.*

Today, we're going to take a page from the book of St. Mark. Before I give you our Scripture, may I just ask this simple question: **Do you have limitations?**




Limitations in life. You've got limitations.

Can you do this with me? If you've got physical limitations, keep your right hand up. Physical limitations. You're not the tallest, you're not the biggest, you're not the strongest, you're not the healthiest. You've got physical limitations, yeah?

Okay. Now, keep your right hand raised. Lift your left hand now-- if you've got financial limitations. You have to live on a budget-- can't keep on spending. Otherwise, you're going to go broke. That's you. You've got to work. That's you.

Keep your both hands raised. Now, lift your right leg-- if you've got emotional limitations. As best as you can, come on, you've got emotional limitations. Yeah, sometimes you're moody, sometimes people can't talk to you before you've had your first cup of coffee. That's you? Okay.

Now, lift your left leg if you've got... if you can do all of that, may I just say this: You don't belong in this world anymore. You've got to follow the Light. It's time for you to go to the Lord.



Mark 2: 1-12 NLT

When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. ¹ Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to them,

² four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. ³ They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus.

This story from Mark talks about a man who was limited-- he was paralyzed. And I hope you can walk with me...

I wonder how many people here suffer paralysis. Maybe not a physical one. A spiritual paralysis. A relational paralysis. This Word is going to speak to you.

⁴ Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven."

⁵ But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, ⁶ "What is he saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!"

⁷ Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? ⁸ Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk'?"

⁹ So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, ¹⁰ "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

¹¹ And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, "We've never seen anything like this before!"

Key Message

Here is the message I want you to take home today:

God wants to remove your roof.

Let me say that again:

God wants to remove your roof.

Let's pray:

Father in Heaven, this is Your Word. It's alive and it's active, but until we put this into our heart, nothing will happen. And we don't want that. We want us to be changed, transformed, by Your grace this morning. For it is only through You that we can live a full life. We pray, Lord, for every limitation in our life. That You would remove it and replace it with a brand-new roof. Thank You so much, Jesus, for what You are doing in our life. This is our prayer in Jesus' Name. Amen.



One more time: *Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet
and a Light unto my path.*

All of Us Have Limitations

God wants to remove your roof.

You know, when I was preparing this message, God spoke it to me directly-- talking about how limited we are in terms of being humans.

I mean, we are human beings with limited capacities. But you see, sometimes, do you have people in your life who are so good at hiding their limitations-- that they seem like their life is so blessed and everything in their life is working well? You have people like that? Yung parang wala silang problema. May kilala kayong ganyan? They're so good at hiding their limitations.

But make no mistake, all of us have limitations-- even the people who don't seem to have limitations.



I'll give you proof that nobody is perfect.

Take, for instance, Bro. Bo Sanchez. I mean, look at him. He's tall, he's handsome, he's multi-talented, he's a best-selling author, he's a successful businessman, a wonderful husband. But why is it that he cannot dance even to save his life? He can't. Why? Because God is fair and just. Thank You, Lord. Thank You, Lord.

You don't even have to look for other examples. Look at your preacher today. I'm not perfect. Contrary to what my wife thinks, I'm not.

We're not perfect. I mean, you might look at me and say, "Bro. Audee doesn't have problems.

Wow, he has such an exciting life."

But you know what? Ito Tatagalugin ko, ha: Mabuti lang akong tingnan. In English, I'm just good-looking.

May I share with you what my daily prayer is? I always tell the Lord: "Lord, pwede bang gawin mo akong gwapo kahit isang araw lang?-- May I be handsome for just one day?"

Why do I ask that? Kasi ang hirap ng araw-araw. Nakakapagod.-- Because it's difficult to be handsome every day. It's so tiring. ☺

A True Story

You know what?

This is a true story.

When I was in Grade School, I had a dream. I always wanted to be the class president or the class vice president. But for some reason, I do not know why, my classmates just kept on voting me to be the escort. I don't know why.

Yeah, *at right* are my receipts:

So, when I was young, and my schoolmates kept voting for me to be the escort, what do you think? I have potential to be a success, right?

You have potential. God sees potential in you. That's the truth.

I mean, I'm sure that some of you, when you woke up this morning, you did not realize that you were going to see old photos of mine and that I'd be talking about this. But I just wanted to prove to you that nobody is perfect, and the person in front of you is a testimony that nothing is perfect.

I'll share with you a lot of my weaknesses today, to be vulnerable to you.

But you see, a question that came into my head when I was preparing for this talk is that when God created you and me, did He fashion us to have all of these limitations?

Like, when He was creating you, Louie, did God imagine you to have these handicaps in your life, these limitations that you would be carrying?

I guess if we think about that for a moment... You know when you are born into this world, you start as a baby. And as a baby, you realize that you've got so many limitations. I mean, you are limited by what you can do. You depend on your parents for everything that you need to do. You are limited, and the more that you learn about life, the more that you learn that life also has limitations, more limitations.

Like, life has rules: Hot water will burn you. Sharp objects can injure you. Falling from great heights can kill you. Falling in love sometimes can break you.

May I get an "Amen" from all those people who were brokenhearted once?

Amen, amen. Right: Life has rules.



Fake News

You see, thinking about it...
The more that we grow up, and we see all of these limitations, the more we realize that God created us to have all of these limitations.

And you see, here's the thing: Some of the limitations that you learn in life were passed on to you by your family, your parents, your peers, your influences.

Some of the earliest limitations I've learned in life, I learned through my parents-- my dad and my mom.

But see, here's the problem: Most of the limitations, if you're not careful, are all that you're loyal to. And you're not realizing that most of them could be based on lies.

I mean, just think about all of the limiting beliefs in our own culture.

Filipinos have a rich culture of limiting beliefs. We call them *pamahiin*, superstitions-- what your grandfather or grandmother told you.

Your grandma said it's forbidden to open your umbrella inside the house-- because it's bad luck.

What else did Lola say? Do not clear up the table while someone single is still eating. Why? Because the person will stay single forever.

What else? When you're eating, and a spoon falls to the floor, a visitor will arrive.

One more: When someone gifts you with an expensive pair of shoes, give him some coins in return. Why? So that people would not step on you, and you would not walk out.

These are all limiting beliefs. The Bible doesn't say anything about them. The Bible doesn't say, you know, if you point to a tree, that's bad because the elements there will harm you. The Bible doesn't say anything about that. The Bible doesn't say that if you're going outside, make sure you're not cross-eyed -- because if the wind blows on you, you will remain cross-eyed forever.

Newsflash: These are limiting beliefs, and they're all lies. They are fake news.





Limitations in the Bible

Actually, the Bible has a few of these limiting beliefs...

You see, on the Sabbath Day, the ancient Jews had a lot of limitations. You could not carry something heavy that had a specific weight requirement. You could not go out and work in the field or go fishing. There were so many rules...And you could not perform healing rituals on a Sabbath day.

But Jesus healed a man with a deformed hand on a Sabbath day. So, what did the Pharisees do? Instead of praising Jesus for it, they plotted against Him.

But are those limitations really what God intended the Sabbath for?

I want you to listen to what Jesus says in Mark 2:27:

Mark 2:27 NLT



The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath.

So, what Jesus is saying is that God designed the Sabbath to be a gift for you. It's a gift for you to enjoy so that you can rest, you can relax, you can have purpose, you can have love.

But sometimes, what God designed to be used as a gift, we turn into a limitation. God meant that gift to be used to preserve life. The people used it to prevent life.

So, again, the question: When God created you, did He create you and fashion you with limitations? Did He have those in mind?

You want to know the truth? Okay, I'll give it to you. It's actually in Genesis 1:27: "So God created human beings in His image."

Genesis 1:27 NLT



So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them.

What Sin Means

What does it mean to be created in the image and likeness of God? Does it mean that you look exactly like God? Physically? Not exactly-- because the verse says *image*-- it's a representation. Something that you work for. It's an ideal.

And when I was reading this, it made complete sense to me...

Because, take note: A lot of people think the Garden of Eden was a place of perfection. It's not. Eden wasn't a place of *perfection*-- it was a place of *potential*.

If Adam and Eve would choose to walk and work with God every day, God would help unlock their fullest potential. But the sad reality is that they chose otherwise. You know, they stopped working with God.

That's what happens when you don't work with God in your garden. God is unable to unlock your fullest potential.

Again, tell your neighbor right now: *God sees potential in you.*

So, Adam and Eve started sinning against God. Did you know the literal definition of sin?

You're going to be blessed by this: The word *sin* is another way of saying *to miss the mark*.

Sin means "to miss the mark."


Sinning means missing the mark. So, each time you sin, you're missing the potential of who you could be-- if only you choose to work with the Lord.

How many of you believe that God wants you to break through your own limitations-- especially the ones that the world has placed over you?

I believe that God wants to remove your roof right now, my friend.

I'm going to teach you four ways just to get practical. Four ways how you don't just learn how to love your limitations but also learn how to live with them, to learn to live with them and then love them.





1. Love Your Limits

Love your limitations.

May I confess something? I have a medical condition, and this is my first

limitation that I'll share with you today. I've got a medical condition that's called hyperhidrosis. Hyperhidrosis is when you have an excess supply of sweat glands in your body. And I'm more than just the average Juan de la Cruz. I've got a lot of sweat glands in my body. So, it means I sweat on my hands, I sweat in my underarms, I sweat on my feet, and my entire body is full of sweat. Not right now because it's cold-- but I sweat more than other people do.

And, you know, growing up, I felt this very hard. I can't even remember how many times I detested this because I know some of you might be thinking, "Hmm, 'yan lang yung limitation mo? -- That's *only* your limitation?"

Well, I'm not here to compare limitations with you. Okay, I'm just here to tell you that this was a limitation of mine because it made me so insecure. Because, you know, growing up as a child, you want to be able to hold hands with people, right? Especially if it's your crush. During the Mass, during the *Our Father* part, every single time that part would come, I would have to take a, quote unquote, "bathroom break." I vanish into thin air, and I go back only during the *Cordero ng Diyos* part.

That's why I love Community. Because in Community, you can just hug people -- you don't just shake their hands. So, growing up, I struggled with my limitation. I could not hold the hands of my crush. I could not write on my test paper without the paper evaporating into thin air. And I could not wear single footwear without wearing socks because can you imagine dust and water mixing together? The result? Mud, right? I'm like Peter walking on water. I'm a miracle.

‘Why Me?’

So, for the longest time, I kept on asking the Lord, “Why? Why? Why did You give me this, Lord?”

You know, it takes a lot of spiritual maturity to stop asking God, “Why did you give this to me?” And then start asking God instead, “What do you want me to do with this thing? How do you want me to use it for Your glory?”

Do you know how I was able to solve my hyperhidrosis? I met somebody who had no arms. I realized, here I am, complaining about my wet fingers-- and here's somebody who's not even complaining about having no arms.

I wonder how many of you here would meet somebody who has more limitations than you, and you start praising God for the actual handicap that you have.

Two ways why I believe you need to love your limits-- or love your handicaps:

No. 1: Your handicap humbles you.

See, imagine if God never gave you that handicap, and you're walking around with a bloated ego-- you can't even fit through the door because your head is so big. Because every time, you think that it's all about you. But that handicap simply means that now you're more reliant on the strength of the Lord.

St. Paul says, “The grace of God is sufficient for me; therefore, I will boast all the more about my weaknesses so that the power of Christ may rest in me.”

Your handicap humbles you.

No. 2: Your handicap also makes you more human.

Your handicap makes you connect with other human beings.

Have you ever met somebody who had the same limitation as you have? And now you're sharing tips on how to solve it?

You are like, “Ikaw din? -- You too? Inihian mo din yung kamay mo?-- You also urinated on your hands?” (Superstitious belief has it that urinating on your hands will get rid of the sweat.)

Yeah, I did that. I told you I'm going to share my weaknesses.

You came from a broken family and you meet somebody who also came from a broken home. And now, you're sharing about your brokenness and how the Lord has healed you. Your handicap makes you more human.

That's why I stand in front of you, and I'm revealing myself that I've got a handicap.

Because a handicap is how the Lord will work through you.





May I ask you this now:
I'm sure you've got a handicap.

What's your handicap?

You're smiling at me right now, thinking like, "I'm perfect."

No, you're not. You've got a limitation.

Maybe some of you have a speech impediment, growing up, you couldn't speak right. Or maybe some of you are missing some limbs. Or maybe you can't see too well.

What is your handicap? Whatever it is, love it, embrace it, and the Lord will use that for His glory. Clap your hands and praise God for your handicap.

The Second Way to live with and love your limitations is to let your ceiling be somebody else's floor.

I love this part. I need you to listen to me, okay?

We're going to go to the story now. The Scripture doesn't say how long it took for the paralyzed man to be healed because Mark doesn't mention it. Matthew doesn't mention it. Luke doesn't mention it, either.

So, we don't know how long this person was sick. But I'd like to imagine-- because the verse is open to interpretation-- that this person had been sick for a while, for a long time. Why? Because of the desperate way that his friends brought him to Jesus.

I mean, if they weren't that desperate, they wouldn't have carried him, torn a hole in the roof, and lowered him down to Jesus.

So, to me, it means like he's been through some doctors, he's been through some procedures-- and these did not work.

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How Miracles Happen

But you see, I believe there's something that sets a miracle in motion. Two miracles:

The second miracle was Jesus healing the person-- that much you probably already know.

But the first miracle is this: The first miracle happened the moment his friends went out of their way to bring their friend to Jesus. Because I truly believe this: That miracles happen when somebody cares enough to carry another person to Christ.

Do you believe that? That's when miracles happen. But you know, they did something insane. This person had been sick for quite some time. So, you can probably say this person probably wasn't dreaming of getting healed anymore.

He had no plans -- because, I mean, you're paralyzed, you can't do anything. So, because this person couldn't dream anymore, you know what his friends did? They were the ones who dreamed for their friend.

May I share with you one story as an analogy to this...

I have a friend-- his name is Fred. That's not his real name, by the way— I cannot reveal his identity.


Fred is in his 30s, and, like everybody here, Fred has dreams. But Fred has a hindrance. Fred has a limitation. The limitation is this: Fred's boss is no longer dreaming about being promoted-- he's happy where he is.

So, the problem is that Fred cannot be promoted unless his boss is promoted. I don't know the story of Fred's boss-- I don't know him personally. But I do know the story of Fred. And if I could talk to the boss of Fred-- and I would say this to every leader out there, I pray you're listening-- I would say this:

"If you have reached the ceiling of your dream, if you've already reached the mountaintop of your dream, congratulations. But please don't forget that there are other people also under you who are still dreaming, who are still chasing dreams."

So, maybe this is the season now of your life where you help people run their race. You know, don't be the one who becomes the reason the person is getting blocked from the blessing and the anointing of God. Don't be someone else's limit. Because a real leader, a great leader will recognize when it's time to step aside so that others can step in. Because God wants to bless them as well. I mean, we all need to be just like Moses who passed on his leadership to Joshua. He stepped aside so that Joshua could lead the Israelites.



 Miracles happen when you care enough to carry another to Christ.



3. You Need Friends With Limitless Faith

Third Point: You need to have friends who have limitless faith.

Amen. I mean, part of the reason this person was even healed, to begin with, was his friends bringing him to Jesus. Did they bring their friend because they love him? Yes, right.

But I've got another theory: They brought their friend to Jesus not only because they love their friend-- but also because they had *limitless faith in Jesus*.

Let me show you the proof in Mark 2:4:

Mark 2: 4-5 NLT



'They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. 'Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven."

Let me say that again: *Then they lowered the man on his mat right down in front of Jesus.*

You see, I'm not an expert when it comes to Physics. You can correct me after this session if I'm wrong. But this is how I imagined it: The friends broke a hole in the roof, and they lowered their friend to Jesus.

Now, here's a question: Why in the world would I lower my friend to a crowd? Because I've got to think about how to get him back up... Because isn't it true that it's harder to pull somebody up than to lower the person down? You agree? Yes.

Who Will Remove Your Roof?

So, maybe, the friends were thinking, "When we lower this person to Jesus, it means that we don't have to pull him back up."

Why? Because they truly believed that Jesus would heal this person-- and this person would already be walking out the door.

My goodness! Praise God for friends who have limitless faith!

May I share about my two friends-- very quickly:

For the longest time, my wife and I had a dream. We wanted to put up our own commissary and our own kitchen because my wife is into baking, and we've always had that dream. But we always also had excuses-- valid excuses.

Until one night, we were having a little chit-chat dinner with Bro. Bo and Sis. Marowe over hot ramen in a Japanese restaurant. We happened to share the dream with them. And Bro. Bo simply launched three questions that ultimately changed the trajectory of our life...

Bro. Bo said, "Why not now? Why don't you do it now?"

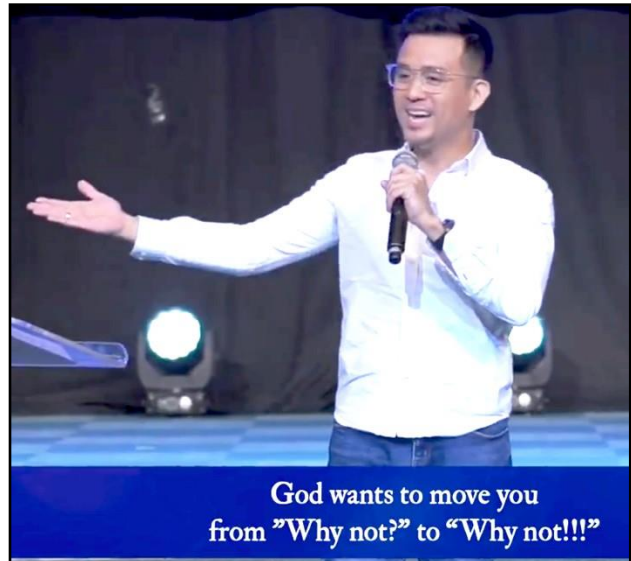
So, as usual, we gave our excuses: "Well, because we're so busy, the kids are growing up, Ethan is going to school. I'm so busy with ministry, with work, with family life, and everything is not perfect right now in terms of timing. We'll do it after we build our dream house."

And Bro. Bo just kept on saying, "Why not now?"

So, when we went home, those words just kept on echoing and echoing in our ears. And suddenly, we realized, the kids are okay, we're okay, the family is okay. So, finally, we asked, "Oo nga no? Why not?"

What limitations are preventing you from achieving that dream? God wants to move you from "*Why not?*" to "*Why not?!!*"

Can you shout that with me right now? "*Why not!*"



Surround yourself with people who have the faith to remove your roof.

You need to surround yourself with friends who have the faith to remove your roof. Can you clap your hands if you've got people like that in your life? Amen.



Last Point: You are limited, but praise God that He is not limited.
God isn't limited. How does this story end?

The Verse says: “And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. And they were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, “We've never seen anything like this before.”

One last story before we worship the Lord...

You know, when I was growing up, I had a very good childhood, a wonderful, glorious childhood.

I grew up in a rural town in Taytay, Rizal. Life was simple. Small village, small families, growing up. It was a kind of community where you could go to a neighbor's house, open their fridge, get a snack, leave without getting reported to the barangay.

And it was so safe on the streets because the average number of vehicles per person or per family was just one. Some of them didn't even have vehicles, so the streets were safe. So, parents were always assured that the kids would be safe on the streets.

So, when Kristel and I were deciding to buy our residential lot to put up our dream house, I was looking for the same community in my mind. I wanted a small village to raise my family.

But, you know, we went around. We went to Quezon City, we went to Pasig, we went to Rizal, we went to Antipolo, we went to all different places. And, sadly, I could not find any more of that same community. So, what did I do? I went to my old village, thinking in my heart, maybe because I wanted to relive the old days, you know.

The Glorious Life

When I went there, went to my neighbor's house, and I got to talk to him, we got to chitchat. Didn't take long for us to reminisce about the glory days.

Then all of a sudden, the conversation took a different turn when he said, "You know, Bro, ibang iba na yung village natin. The people we grew up with, some of them are no longer here-- just like your family."



In the old lots where we used to play, you know-- patintero, Frisbee-- there is no more space. And there are so many vehicles that children are no longer safe in this community.

That broke my heart. It broke my dream. And while I was driving home, I was asking the Lord to comfort me: *Lord, where are you going to send us to purchase our property?*

But you know, when I arrived home, the Lord answered that quickly. Because I saw my wife, my son, and my daughter just happily playing at home. They were joyful at home.

And you know, God spoke this truth over my life, and I pray that He speaks it over you right now...

Here, I was trying to replicate the glory days. Do you know what that means? The glory days? The good old days, the days when you still had a set of thick hair. The days when you could still run up and down without panting. The days when life was good. I wanted to just replicate those days. But God told me that just because you could not replicate the good old days doesn't mean that you're not living a glorious life anymore.

Because the truth is, who says that just because you're not married by age 25, or just because you don't have kids by 30, or just because you don't have a certain amount of money in the bank by 40, your life is a failure? Because the story that I read here in the Bible says that *no eye has seen and no ear has heard what the Lord has prepared for the children that He loves so much.*

1 Corinthians 2:9 NLT



No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him."

God Can Exceed Our Expectations

I hope that you're receiving this right now: That God can exceed our every expectation. We've put ceilings over our life... Thinking, "This is my life already, the glory days have passed."

But I truly believe this: That your best days are not behind you. They are still ahead of you. That God's plans are still there for you, waiting for you.

Because I've seen the glory of God through this message here today: That when God starts changing you, when God starts affecting you and transforming you, people will come up and they'll say, *"We've never seen anything like this. We've never seen anything like this before."*



"We've never seen anything like this before!"

People who are breaking their limitations. I've met a high school student who graduated at the age of 60 broke that ceiling.

There are people here who had stage-5 cancer who were healed by the grace of the Lord. I truly believe in the miracle of the Lord.

People among us here who came from broken families but are now living with happy families, building happy families.

People who were abused when they were young but are now effective pastors, effective ministers.

Because until the Lord starts working in your life, my goodness, Jesus said, "With man, this is impossible, but with God, with God, with God, all things are possible."

Matthew 10: 26 NIV

"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Amen.

Starting Point

That's what Jesus did on the Cross. He showed us.

It's ironic that when Jesus was on the Cross, He said, "It is finished."

What did He mean by that? It means that His ceiling can now be your floor.

His achievements can be your starting point.

Today, Jesus says, "Just continue what I already finished."

"Just continue what I already finished."

Hallelujah! Thank You, Jesus!

Thank you, Jesus, that you are removing every limitation that the world has placed over Your child.

And that You are replacing that with Your grace.

Thank You for strengthening all of us.

God's not done yet! God's not done yet.





Everybody, keep your focus on Jesus. He's doing something new right now. Feel His Presence in this room.

Whatever history or past that you've been through, your old glory days, I want you to believe right now and declare this with a full heart, with full conviction that the Lord is doing something glorious in your life. And He's just starting.

Believe with me today that our best days are not behind us-- but they're still ahead of us. Because we are with Jesus.

And life with Jesus means that He would unlock your potential day by day— as you walk with Him.

Put your hand over your chest and say this with me:

Jesus I believe that You came into the world to rescue me and You live to give me new life.

So, today, I declare that You are my Savior. Work on me. Change me. And transform me Today, I walk out of this place brand new. Thank You for how You will use me for Your glory. Thank You, Jesus, for never giving up on me. Amen.



MERCY MINISTRIES

*God blesses those who are merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*

--Matthew 5:7

ANAWIM YEAR 28 SPECIAL



Bountiful Birthday Blessings!

WHAT'S the happiest way can you celebrate your special day?

Fantastic fun in a five-star hotel? A beach bash? A terrific treat on a tourist turf?
Great, right?

But a faithful few have chosen an amazing way: Celebrating with our lolos and lolas in our Anawim Home for Abandoned Elderly!

Yes! Instead of celebrating their special day—birthday, anniversary—
in those fancy venues, some Feasters wisely, kindly choose to party
with our lolos and lolas.

That's exactly what our Bro. Hermie Morelos, chairman of our Light of Jesus
Mercy Ministries and Anawim Board of Trustees, happily did October 29, 2023.

How happy? What's happier than receiving Bountiful Birthday Blessings
for making our elderly happiest?

Here, *The FEAST FAMILY Special*, sharing with you the happiness...

Thanksgiving!



Fr. Joseph Pumihic, CICM, celebrates Thanksgiving Mass and leads Pray-over for Birthday celebrators: Bro. Hermie, October 20; and his sisters -- Marilyn 'Len' Galang, October 1; Sylvia Panganiban, November 3.

<< Bro. Hermie leads Pray-over for Fr. Joseph also celebrating his birthday exactly on October 29!



Yes, Thank You, Lord, for the blessings of our Thanksgiving Mass and key participants, *from top*: Fr. Joseph Pumihic; Altar boys Raphael Angelo A. Apao and Prince Youhan T. Romarate; Liturgy readers, *from left*: Stella Marie Josefa A. Apao, commentator; Jonnie B. Vasquez, First Reading; Elven Fortaliza, Second Reading; Joanne A. Apao, Responsorial Psalms; Mahalin M. Montaner, Prayer of the Faithful; Offertory; Receiving Holy Communion: Bro. Hermie; his wife Sis Reng; Feaster Meann Tee; and Lolás; Lay Ministers Boyet Cruz and Emerson B. Solis (*with eyeglasses*).

Greetings!



Joyfully inspiring our grannies, *from top*: Bro. Hermie; Sis. Arcie Binohhi, Anawim Center Administrator; and Bro. Carlos Dimson, Anawim Lay Missions Executive Director.

Singing!



Serenading our elderly, *clockwise from left*: Ernest Joy Panganiban; Bro. Jerome de Leon, Feast Ortigas District builder; Angelo Banatao, social worker.

Lola Ruth belts out a love song with fun support by Bro. Hermie.

Dancing!



Lolo Boy and Miguela Hipona shake and roll!

Singing and Dancing!

Irrepressible Lola Felisa with her exciting action song and dance-- and Bro. Hermie and other guests gamely show off they can, yes, sing and dance too!



Loving!



Yes, it's all about Love! Family and other relatives come in full force just to express to Bro. Hermie, Len, and Sylvia that they are deeply loved!



Meet the Morelos sibs, *from left*: Hermie, Pedro (Boy), Sylvia, Rusty, Myrla, Marilou, and Lenlen.



The Feast Ortigas District members led by Builder Bro. Jerome De Leon come with generous donations to Anawim! Thank you for the Love, Feast Ortigas!

Elven Fortaliza, aspirant for a post as Sangguniang Kabataan (Barangay Youth Council) Chairman, and Joanne Apao, as Kagawad (Council Member), take time out from their busy, busy campaign to be present for Bro. Hermie and the other birthday celebrators.

Bro. Hermie thanks for their Love, praying for reward for their noble cause.



Birthday Feast!



We said the happiest way you can celebrate your special day is to hold your Birthday Feast in Anawim.

Why? Because when you share your blessings, you receive back the blessings!

Like, CAKES! from well-wishers!

And, as you can see, in Anawim, what's happiest is you can have your cake and eat it too!

***HAPPY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
FR. JOSEPH, BRO. HERMIE,
LEN-LEN, SYLVIA!***

Photography by Ed L. Santiago



Thank You!

The Feast Family, now organized as the Feast Mercy Ministries, is a spin-off ministry of the Light of Jesus Family founded by Bro. Bo Sanchez. Earlier named as Kerygma Family, The Feast Family is a unique online, non-physical, borderless, international community of friends who support each other's personal growth.

Partner beneficiaries of the Feast Mercy Ministries flourish because of your generous support.

Thank you for being with us. We pray that you find your daily source of inspiration from the resources that we send to you. We pray too that you may consider giving to The Feast Mercy Ministries. No gift is too small.

Thank you very much in advance for your gift. Our prayer is that God will continue to reward you as you give.

FOR EXISTING DONORS:

Thank you for the Love. Your monthly donation helps us continue extending support to our Light of Jesus spin-off organizations, including our partner beneficiaries. Your gift will sustain our operations and, we hope, help us reach out to the persons our Lord has called us to make disciples and give them renewed hope.

Be a Feast Family member. Write or call us. Now.

Email Address: jocelyn@kerygmfamily.com

Website: <https://kerygmfamily.com>

Telephone Numbers: 8725-9999/

Fax 725-1230

Our Partner Beneficiaries

Jeremiah 33 Foundation
is a shelter for minor girls particularly victims of sexual abuse.



Grace To Be Born
is a halfway home for pregnant women in crisis.



He Cares Mission
provides shelter and pastoral care for street children.



Pag-asa ng Pamilya Foundation
grants scholarships to indigent students.



Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer
provides financial assistance and pastoral care for indigent cancer patients.



The Light of Jesus Pastoral Care Center
ministers to those who are emotionally and spiritually wounded.



H.A.I.L. MARY is acronym for Healthcare Assistance for Indigents and Lepers of Mary, adopting the Blessed Mother as the patroness of its mission to eradicate leprosy in Abra within 8–10 years.



The Light of Jesus Disaster Recovery Ministry
provides evacuation assistance, relief goods, financial aid, and other needs of calamity victims.

The Light of Jesus Prison Ministry
brings Jesus to the Correctional Institution for Women to give them hope for a new life of dignity.



Anawim Lay Missions Foundation provides a home for poor elderly who have been abandoned by their family and have nowhere else to go.

CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO GIVE

1. Donate ONLINE (through credit card) Go to www.kerygmfamily.com and click 'DONATE' box Paypal I US Donations.

2. Pick Up from Your House or Office (Metro Manila Only) Cash or Checks Address Checks to Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation Inc. and call Joy at (+632) 725 -9999 loc 112 or text (+63) 922-828-9890 and we'll pick them up from your home or office.

3. Mail 12 Post-Dated Checks to Our Office for US and CANADA: Address Checks to Kerygma Family, 848 Rainbow Blvd # 1937, Las Vegas, NV 89107. For Other Countries/Philippines: Address Check to Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation Inc. and mail (registered mail) to Shepherd's Voice, 60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines 1109.

4. Directly Deposit to Our Bank Accounts. Deposit to Shepherd's Voice Account in any branch of these banks:

Account name: Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation Inc.

BPI: Savings Account no: 0123-4849-67 Cubao Aurora Branch

Banco de Oro Savings Account no: 003970019804 General Araneta, Cubao

Branch Banco de Oro - Savings Account no. 000160506123 SM Cubao Branch

PNB - Current Account no. 108410089566 SSS branch

Metrobank-Savings Account no. 265-3-26509112-2 e Rodriguez Branch

Allied Bank Savings Account no. 3160-12345-1 E Rodriguez Branch

Union Bank Savings Account no. 00-206-000940-1 Tektite Branch

Note: Text, Fax, or email us your name, date and amount of deposit, and the branch of the bank where you deposited your donation, or fax the deposit slip to us. Email us at support@kerygmfamily.com or text us at (63) 922-828-9890/ (63) 998-968-4416 or Fax to (+632) 725-1230



FAMILY ONLINE NEWSMAGAZINE

***The Feast Family* online newsmagazine is produced
by the Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation,
which is also our partner beneficiary, with editorial services
by the Light of Jesus Family Library Ministry.**

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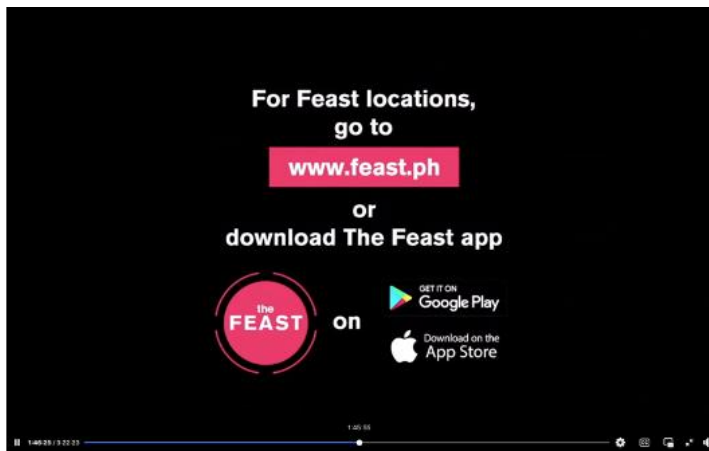
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Go and make disciples of all men.
— Matthew 28:19

