

When God Came Into the House

By Dr. Kenny Baldwin

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Crossroads Baptist Church
5811 Hoffmans Lane
Bailey's Crossroads, VA 22041

Website: www.ourcrossroads.org
Online Sermons: www.sermonaudio.com/ourcrossroads

2 Samuel 6, if you would, for the preaching of God's word. 2 Samuel 6 and the message and song will fit with the message from Scripture, amen? 2 Samuel 6. The Bible says in verse 6,

6 And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. 7 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God. 8 And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah to this day. 9 And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me? 10 So David would not remove the ark of the LORD unto him into the city of David: but David carried it aside into the house of Obededom the Gittite. 11 And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Obededom the Gittite three months: and the LORD blessed Obededom, and all his household.

Let the church say amen.

Father, the song says we couldn't even see the sunrise, couldn't find anyone to care, but in our darkest hour, you touched us with your power and all at once your love was everywhere. Only you could do that, God. For the heart that has come here darkened, darkened by the stain of sin, darkened by the misery of life, darkened by the prospect of hell, O God, may you turn the light on today in their hearts so that it feels like it's as bright as a million mornings. For those of us who can remember that day, let our life be a candle that shines for you so that others can know you too. As your vessel today, your manservant, would you cleanse me of sin, empty me of self and fill me with your Spirit? Help me to be a blessing. Hide me behind the cross of Christ. I pray that you'll bless in a special way. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

You may be seated. Thank you for standing.

We've spent a series on the thought, "What shall we do with the ark?" It was a number of people who were trying to figure out how to handle something that represented God. And

by the way, we're living in a world today where people don't know what to do with God; many of them because they don't know what to do, have just dismissed him altogether and amidst confusion, I can assure you, that's not the right choice. Some are trying to take him out of Christmas. Some are trying to equate him with other gods. Some are trying to set him inside of a box of religion. Some are trying to define him, to explain him, to dismiss him, or even to disgrace him. But I want to tell you something, what you can do with God is this" worship him, amen, in spirit and in truth.

The ark of the covenant was a piece of furniture, it was a box that contained the Ten Commandments, contained this rod, contained this bit of manna that served as a representation of what God had done for his people. It was overlaid with gold. On top of it there were two cherubims that faced each other, these are angels, and in between these wings, it was that the presence of God would come down. Now, God was not limited to that instrument but he did designate the ark of the covenant as the place where he would meet with his people, so suffice it to say, that religious artifact was of extreme value.

And yet we find ourselves during the reign of one of the greatest kings of Israel by the name of David who succeeded the reign of a failing predecessor, Saul, he has now been assumed by those in the south and the north as the true king over Israel, they have crowned him king. Remember when he first became king, there was a division in the kingdom: there were those who were of Saul's group, his son Ish-bosheth, who supported Ish-bosheth, and there were those who supported David and for a while, there was unrest amongst God's people until they all came together with one heart to crown David king.

He is freely and purposefully sitting on the throne in Jerusalem but there is no ark. Jerusalem has become the political capital of Israel but in David's mind, he doesn't want Jerusalem to just be a political capital, he wants it also to be a spiritual capital and the only way to do that is to get the ark there. So he decides to move it. The last time we saw the ark was back in 1 Samuel. By the way, it's important to understand that the succession in the book of Samuel is not always chronological so you see one chapter follow the next chapter but that is not exactly explanatory of the order in which the events happened. So we go back to 1 Samuel 7 and we see the last time we've seen the ark, it is resting at Abinadab's house.

Now David is seeking to transport the ark from Abinadab to Jerusalem. What does he do? He makes a new cart. Now, if you understand the book of Numbers, the book of Leviticus, God ordered that the Kohathites, the sons of Levi, were slated and only they were slated by God to carry the ark not on a cart but on staves. Those staves were to rest on their shoulders. They were the only ones that could carry it. I say carry the ark on staves. They carried the ark on staves because although they're carrying the ark and although they are designated priests to carry the ark, they even, priests cannot touch the ark so they've got to carry it on staves. But David adopts some kind of new style of doing an old thing. That's another message, but I'm just going to throw it out there for you to chew on until I decide to preach it. Let me just hit you with this real quick: sometimes the best thing to do is keep doing the old thing the old way. You say, "Is there anything

wrong with change?" Nothing wrong with change but there's a whole lot wrong with change that God does not authorize.

So he puts it on a new cart and so, okay David, you've got going with your bad self. You're going to move it the way you want to move it. He puts it on a new cart and he's got two guys, Ahio and Uzzah who are the sons of Abinadab that are driving the cart and guiding the cart. But on the way, the cart starts to move in an erratic motion because the oxen start to stumble; the oxen that are pulling the cart start to stumble and while the oxen stumble, the cart starts shaking, it's going to fall off of the cart and so it won't fall, Uzzah puts his hand on it. Not a bad thing. I mean, we don't want the ark to fall off, right?

So he's trying to make sure that this important religious artifact is handled properly but in trying to do a good thing, he did it the wrong way and guess what God did? He killed him just like that. By the way, think about this: in 1 Samuel and other chapters of the Scripture, the Philistines stole the ark from the people of God and while they had the ark, they touched all over it and God did nothing to them. So the question in our mind arises: why could the Philistines touch the ark multiple times and Uzzah touch it one time, God killed him and didn't do anything to them? Here is the issue: the closer you get to God, the higher the standards become and when you know God more and God has shown you more and you have seen from God more and experienced more, stuff that people do that's worse than what you do doesn't get judged because judgment always begins at the house of God.

So when you look on your job and see all those people cutting the fool and God never bothers them and you do some undercover, not so bad cutting a fool situation and God takes you out to the woodshed, don't think that God got the candidate mixed up to whom he laid the punishment. I want to tell you, when you're God's child and he has blessed you and done a work in your life, he expects more out of you than he does from those that don't know better.

Uzzah dies and David is troubled. "I can't believe God did this. We lost a good man." Here's the problem: he didn't know what to do with God. He had the opportunity to transport the religious artifact where God's presence would show up and he blew it. So David is terrified. He said, "Bringing this ark up to Jerusalem thing, we'd better put a pause on this." He was nervous. He feared where the ark could go safely to get up to Jerusalem so instead of moving it to Jerusalem, the Bible says the ark arrived at a place in the house of Obededom. Let's all say that name together: Obededom. Say it again: Obededom. Alright, some of you pregnant mothers are looking for a name for your son that will be born in a couple of weeks, there you go right there. Obededom. Alright, that's all the first name, okay? I think you can omit a middle name with that first name. Obededom.

Now, I just want you to just kind of imagine this as I've tried to imagine this this week. Obededom is not looking for the ark, he's not asking for the ark, he's not expecting the ark. God is doing something in the life of the nation of Israel through the rule and reign

of his servant David. David is trying his best to get something to Jerusalem where he's reigning that needs to be there because, after all, the ark represents God and if David is in Jerusalem, David wants God to be there too. Uzzah messes up while transporting the ark and David is afraid of taking the ark to Jerusalem so in between where Uzzah was at Nachon's threshing floor and Jerusalem where David wanted the ark to arrive, it stops all of a sudden in somebody's house who was not expecting God to show up.

Man, I got to thinking about this this week, what it must have been like for out of nowhere, not looking, not searching, not asking, not expecting, not trying, not seeking, not trying to search by way of advertising where all of a sudden out of nowhere, not the king, not the servants, not some famed celebrity that was known during that time, but God Almighty, the matchless presence of God showed up in the house of Obededom. What a day that must have been. What a day that must have been when God – hear me now – when God came into his house.

Boy, I go to thinking about this and I want to tell you something, I was listening to that song a few moments ago as Anita was singing about the light of a million mornings a few moments ago, Cameron and the choir were singing about when Jesus came into this world and God was with...have you ever wondered why the angels lined up with a fanfare? Have you ever wondered why scientists cannot explain why one single star was shining more brightly than all of the stars in the sky? Have you ever wondered why the human king sitting on the throne killed all of the babies of a certain age and younger because he thought this king that was coming would shake things up? Have you ever wondered why when Mary walked into the presence of Elizabeth, that John the Baptist jumped inside of her stomach when he was in the presence of Jesus? I'll tell you why: there is something spectacular, there is something wonderful, there is something amazing, there is something phenomenal when the God of the universe, the King of kings and the Lord of lords comes into your house.

Do you remember the day when God came into your house? Do you remember the day when you didn't look forward, you weren't expecting it, you couldn't even plan on it? But when God by his divine appointment took what would look like a detour or a pause or an unexpected turn in the agenda because there was a house that needed to be touched, there was a family that needed to be changed, there was a man who needed to be cleaned up, there was a lady who needed to learn the love of God, there was a teenager who needed that rebellion out of your life, old Obededom must have been excited when out of nowhere God came into the house.

I want to preach a message today entitled "When God Came Into the House." I said when God came into the house. Notice, if you would, what I call a surprising introduction. A surprising introduction. Now there is great speculation as to who Obededom was. Some believe he was a Jew. Some believe he was perhaps a Gentile Philistine. I tend to believe he was a Jew. But here's my point: Obededom gives us the impression from this passage of Scripture that he was a common person. We've never heard anything about him. He doesn't seem to be a big-wig. He doesn't seem to be somebody special. He doesn't seem to be anybody that should expect the ark to come to his house. He was just a common

person. I want to tell you something I love about the God that I serve: the God that I serve has no problem showing up into the houses of common people. Would you say amen? I don't know about you, you and I, when God showed up into our house, we weren't some spectacular specimens of humanity, we were lost and undone without God or his Son, sinners on the way to a devil's hell. We had no electricity. The fuse box was shut down. The breakers were all turned off. But into your house out of nowhere, God showed up.

He was a common person but notice the Bible says the ark of the Lord not only was there but notice the common person was enjoying the captivating presence. Would you understand that when the ark was there, the ark normally was placed in a place in the tabernacle in the Holy of Holies, and there the high priest would have the glorious opportunity to stand in front of that ark and the presence of God would come down. Please understand that the ark represented the presence of God. Do you think that Obededom had any more spectacular of a visitor show up at his house than the presence of Almighty God? I want to tell you something: I don't take it for granted at Crossroads Baptist Church, listen, there are folks meeting all over the globe today, they're having church, they're having Mass, they're having convocation, they're having conferences, here's the problem, the people are there, the clergy are there, the fans are there, the family is there, the cars are there, but God is not there. I'm glad this morning at 5811 not because we deserve it or could expect it but Jehovah God and his presence is in this place. The captivating presence of God.

The common person where God showed up, and then notice the continued process. Three months. Not three minutes. Not three hours. Not three days. Not three weeks. Three months. God not only showed up but he stayed a while. Wait a minute, don't you miss that. I said God not only showed up but he stayed a while. You see, we don't need God just to pass through, we need God to tabernacle for a while. We don't need God just to show up, we need God to sit down for a while. I'm going to tell you what's wrong with churches all across America: they've got emotion, they've got entertainment, they've got self-exultation, but I'm going to tell you what changes a man, woman, boy or girl, when he gets in his car, arrives through the 95 traffic or the DC area traffic and walks into a building, it's not the choir and thank God we have a good one, it's not the ushers and thank God we have friendly ones, it's not the charisma of the preacher and thank God, well, whatever, but I want to tell you that what changes the life of an individual is when they walk in a place and God doesn't just show up in the opening song, but the next song there is the presence of God and the next song there is the presence of God, and amongst the people there is the presence of God. I mean, when God shows up and stays a while, that's a surprising introduction.

Caught him by surprise, didn't he? Look out the window, here comes God. Here comes God. 2. Not only the surprising introduction but the supernatural impact. So Obededom testified for us, if you would in the service today on this week before Christmas, about what it was like when God came into your house. Well, the first thing I'd like to tell you members of Crossroads Baptist Church and those who are visiting, is that day that God came into my house, I experienced unmerited grace. Wait a minute now, all of a sudden good stuff started happening in my house, happening in my house that didn't happen

where God showed up. Somebody say amen. I mean, there was some stuff happening in the house that had never happened before. When God showed, I mean, the furniture looked better, the food tasted better, the fellowship was better. When God showed up in the house, the marriage got better, the kids got better, the talk got better, the music got better. Unmerited grace, unparalleled glory. I mean, I have no doubt in my mind Obededom with that ark in his house, he was able to witness the very glory of God.

Have you ever seen God's glory? Unmerited grace. The unparalleled glory. The unquestionable gratitude. You don't think he was happy that God was there? You don't think he was enjoying the fact that God was there? I don't know about you, there were no better months in the Obededom house than the three months that God was in the house. I don't know about you, have there ever been some moments in your life where you felt like God was meeting with you in a different way than every before? I don't know about you, when God comes into the house in that fashion, something inside of me wants to lock every door, deadbolt it, put the chain on, put a piece of furniture in front, close the vents, make sure the chimney is shut, make sure there are no special exits that anything can get out of because whatever we're enjoying now, we want it to last permanently. Well, no doubt there was gratitude.

One more point and then I'm going to close somewhat. Surprising introduction. Wow, guess what, family? God's in the house. Supernatural impact. Wow, this house has never felt like this. But thirdly, sustained involvement. Here's what jumped out at me about Obededom. Three months are over and David says, "Ah, hm, so down there at the house of Obededom God is showing up big time and God is blessing, I think I'm ready to move this thing now. I don't want Obededom to get all the good stuff. So we're going to go." And how many of you know that some of those folks in the Bible had some South in them, some Southern in them? I'll tell you why: the Bible said David went up to fetch the ark of God. Amen? David had a little Southern lingo in him. "We've got to go and fetch the ark." Amen?

He says, "We're going to go and get the ark and we're going to take it from the house of Obededom and we're going to bring it to Jerusalem." I want you to take your Bible, hold your place here, 2 Samuel 6, and flip over to the first section of Chronicles, 1 Chronicles 15. We're watching now, if you would, there's a moving situation going on. The ark had settled in a locale for three months and now it is the choice of God's servant, obviously the ultimate choice of God himself, to take this ark that has been sitting in the same place and move it to another place. By the way, if you hang around God long enough, it won't take you long to figure out that God is always on the move. Would you say amen? God's not a sit still, dull, lame, lackadaisical, laissez-faire kind of God. He's always on the offense. He's always on the aggression. And he's always on the move.

Now David says, "Thanks, man, for keeping the ark but it's got to go." 1 Chronicles 15. I was turning there and I got to talking. So we're moving the ark and when they move the ark, now they are moving it and bringing it to Jerusalem. The right way this time. By the way, while those three months was going on, David studied the law and found out how he was supposed to move the ark and this time he ain't about to put it on that new cart. He's

going to move it the way God told him with the staves, with the Kohathites. Somebody say amen. Sometimes you get your head busted by God for him to remind you that, "Even though I had to bust your head for doing it wrong, this time the best thing you can do is do it right the next time."

"So see you later, Obededom. We appreciate you allowing us your house as a place where God's presence could dwell but here we go, we're going to move it from your house up to Jerusalem." Look at verse 18 of 1 Chronicles 15. As they are moving, the Levites are moving, verse 17, "And with them their brethren of the second degree, Zechariah, Ben, and Jaaziel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Unni, Eliab, and Benaiah, and Maaseiah, and Mattithiah, and Elipheleh, and Mikneiah, and," watch this now, "Obededom, and Jeiel, the porters." Look at verse 21, "And Mattithiah, and Elipheleh, and Mikneiah, and Obededom, and Jeiel, and Azaziah, with harps on the Sheminith to excel." Look at verse 24, "And Shebaniah, and Jehoshaphat, and Nethaneel, and Amasai, and Zechariah, and Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, did blow with the trumpets before the ark of God," watch this now, "and Obededom and Jehiah were doorkeepers for the ark." Turn the next page, if you would, chapter 16, verse 5. David is getting himself a choir together, "Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, Jeiel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Mattithiah, and Eliab, and Benaiah, and Obededom: and Jeiel with psalteries and with harps; but Asaph made a sound with cymbals."

Now I want you to get something because if you miss it, you're not going to appreciate it: for three months, God showed up in the house of Obededom and then God said, "I'm moving elsewhere," but Obededom said, "Oh yeah, for three months it's been better in this house than it's ever gone before so wherever God's going, I'm going. Y'all need somebody to usher, I'll usher. You need somebody to play the harp, I'll play the harp. You need somebody to sing in the choir, la, la, la, la, la, I'll sing in the choir." Listen to me: he could have let the presence of God leave the house and say, "It was good while God was here," but God was so good while he was there Obededom said, "I'm going where God's going." My soul.

Look at this passage of Scripture. The moving situation. David said, "Time to go." But there was a motivated spirit in this fellow. The three month experience that he had with God motivated him to follow God wherever God was going. As a dedicated worker, he served as a porter, that was a guard; as a devoted worshiper; he served as a musician playing the harp and singing; and as a diligent waiter. He even stood in front of the ark and guarded it. Could I tell you something? God had blessed Obededom in such a way Obededom said, "Three months and bye-bye God isn't going to fly in this house. Come on, wife, come on, children, we're going where God's going. We're not going to let three months be the max of all the time we enjoy out of the presence of God."

They got up, a moving situation; the ark moved, the motivation is clear, Obededom followed it; and then the maintained service. Chapter 16 of 1 Chronicles, verse 38, "And Obededom with their brethren, threescore and eight," did you see that? Threescore and eight, how much is threescore and eight? Sixty-eight people. "Obededom also the son of Jeduthun and Hosah to be porters." According to the word of God, the Bible says not

only did Obededom get involved but Obededom and his family and his sons found themselves doing the work of God. Exemplary leadership. He got out in front, affected loved ones, they follow him and in an extraordinary legacy long after Obededom was gone, his family was still serving God. Man alive, if somebody doesn't say amen, I'm going to start over and preach it again.

I'll tell you, I got tickled this week thinking about the goodness of God. I got tickled this week thinking about the greatness of God. I got tickled this week thinking about the gratitude inside of me. I got to thinking back down memory lane. I got to looking at the records when on a Thursday night at July 22, 1976, God came in the Baldwin house. There was a man running a business who used to be on the golf course, wasn't looking for God, hadn't been in church ten years but unexpectedly on a surprise visit, God came in the house and saved his soul. He could have gotten saved and said, "I'm going to heaven," but that thing was so good on that Thursday night, he said, "Family, honey, son, kids, let's join the church. Let's go back on Sunday night. Let's get in the bus ministry. Son, you play the piano." And then two years later, God called him to preach. He started training for the ministry, started this church in 1981 and now he's got kids and grandkids that are serving God all because on one surprising night God, I say God came in the house.

I want to ask you a question: when did God come into your house? And was it not good enough for you to follow him wherever he goes? I think about this guy. Three months. Do you know what he could have said? "That was good while it lasted." But instead he said, "God, you're going to Jerusalem, me too." You see, next week we're going to have a Christmas service and the Creaster's are going to attend 50% of their annual church attendance. Creaster's, those are Christmas and Easter attenders. Creaster's. Can I get a witness? Six days after the Creaster's attend Crossroads Baptist Church, there are going to be some other stragglers that are going to sneak in here on New Year's Eve service because somebody told them you can live like the devil for 364.8 days of the year, but if you get into church on the last three hours of the year, play the New Year in, throw some in the offering plate to get credit on your taxes, that maybe God will make the next year go a little bit better for you. Listen to me: I want everybody and their momma to come to church next week on Christmas. I wish to God we'd have standing room only, have them sitting on the steps, sitting in the balcony, sitting on the stage, sitting in the foyer, sitting in the nursery watching it on the video on New Year's Eve. I want the house of God to be packed but if all they're doing is to come in and get a little something-something from God to give them a good luck year, they've missed it. You see, my friend, God needs to come into their house for a little while. They've got to understand that he's not just a show up God on Easter and Christmas. He's not just a stop by God for a few moments of some loud singing and some hooping and hollering. He's a God of glory. He's a God of grace. And he's a God of goodness.

I'd like some of you to travel down memory lane when you were sitting lost. Maybe you were fooling with drugs, fooling with alcohol, fooling with cigarettes or just fooling with trying to fulfill your own life your own way. Perhaps you were religious. You may have served in the church with some kind of glorified position. You may have called yourself pretty religious, better than some of the skunk and the rank-and-file of the world, but the

truth of the matter is, you were in your house trying to do your own thing your own way but somehow, somehow, somehow, somewhere, God without an invitation from you, God without the help of the local navigation services, God came riding down the driveway of your house and said, "Just because I wanted to, I showed up at your house." He didn't just stop in for tea, he settled down for a while and while he was there you experienced unmerited grace, you experienced unparalleled glory. Songs started sounding different. The Bible you were reading started feeling different. Your wife and you started getting along. Your children started coming home singing them songs like they never sang. Those tv shows you used to watch, you turn them off. Those oldies but goodies you used to sing, you shut them down. That language you used to spit out didn't feel right anymore. Why? I don't want to sin while God's in the house.

And then all of a sudden God said, "Hey, I'm starting to move. I'm going in a new direction." And you had to make a choice: will I just say, "Bye-bye God. We enjoyed those three months while we had you. Hope you'll stop back in next year around the same time." Or did you look at your wife and say, "Honey, hasn't God been good?" She says, "Sure has, honey." Honey, wouldn't you like it to be like this all the time? "I sure would, honey." Honey, haven't you enjoyed the way the children have been talking lately? "I sure have, honey." Well, do you know what, honey? Instead of saying bye-bye to God, we ought to say hello to God. We're going to join that church. We're going to get in a ministry. We're going to start reading the Bible every day. We're going to start accepting the call to preach. We're going to start responding to God. And you started following God into the bus ministry, into the jail ministry, into the children's church ministry. You say, "Pastor Mike, can I get in the choir? Brother Tibbs, can I work out in the parking lot? Can I teach in Awana? Can I go to the homeless?" Why? "Because God was so good while he was in my house, I'm going wherever God's going." And the next thing you know, your children say, "Daddy, I kind of like this stuff." They get sniffles and they've got to stay home and they say, "I don't want to stay home." Somebody say amen. When the kids want to come to church and all of a sudden you've got family and you've got kids and you've got grandkids and now all of a sudden you're bringing some of your family to church with you and all of a sudden you start realizing that leadership then produces, if you would, some loyalty and loyalty affects your loved ones and the loved ones give you a legacy and you can go all the way back to the time when God came into the house.

What a story. Yeah, the plan was to go up to Jerusalem but God said, "On the way, there's a man whose house I want to stop by. And for the rest of his life he's going to serve me because of what he experienced when I entered his house."

Maybe you're here today and you have no theological history in your family when it comes to God. The spiritual genes don't run very deep. The Gospel heritage is pretty much nonexistent and you're sitting in this building going, "Can I be an Obededom?" You'd better believe it. Hey, hey, hey, perhaps today God didn't just bring you to church so that you would come to his house, maybe he brought you to church so he could come to yours.

Now listen, in a few moments I'm going to close the service and you're going to make a choice whether you're going to be done with God until we have church again or whether God's been so good today that when the service is over, wherever he's going, you're going with him. Y'all need ushers? Yeah, but I can't usher until I come down from the choir loft, and after I finish ushering, I'm going down to the children's church, and after children's church, I'm getting on the bus ministry, and then after church, somebody said, "Are y'all going to the prisons?" Sign me up for that too. Somebody said something about addictions ministry on Friday. Yeah, I've got some things I'm addicted to. Let me in on that. Bible reading, prayer. Did y'all say you had a building fund? Is God in it? Sign me up. I am not about to experience a period of the grace and glory of God and let it end.

What a glorious day when by surprise for Obededom and his family God came into the house. Our Father, who in the world can choose to not be moved when we think about just how awesome and how amazing you truly are? As your heads are bowed and your eyes are closed, let me ask you a question: has God ever come into your house? How many of you say, "Preacher, I'm sure I know that God has come into my house," would you raise your hand? "Oh, I'm saved. I know I'm going to heaven. I have Bible reasons to prove that." God bless you.

Let me ask you a question: how many of you say, "Pastor, God's presence in my house has been so amazing that I want to be motivated enough to go wherever God's going." If that's you, would you raise your hand? "I want to go where God's going." How about it, young people? Some of you young people have the joy of being a second, third, or fourth generation Christian. Listen to me: if God showed up in the house of granddaddy, then he ought to still be moving in the heart of grandson, granddaughter. Don't stop the legacy. Some of you are first generation. You'd better get in on this thing. God can come into your house.

One more question: how many say, "Pastor, I'm not sure if I died today that I'd go to heaven but I don't want to go to hell. I'm not sure if I died today I'd go to heaven but I don't want to go to hell. Please pray for me. I'm not sure if I died today I'd go to heaven but I'm sure I don't want to go to hell. Please pray for me." Anybody like that? Be honest. Just hold your hand up long enough. Thank you, ma'am. God bless your honesty. Someone else? "I'm not sure if I died today I'd go to heaven but I'm sure I don't want to go to hell. Please pray for me." Anyone else? Just leave your hand up long enough for me to see. I'll not embarrass you. I just want to pray for you.

Let's stand together.

Lord, help me. O God, you're such an awesome God to come into our house. Help us not to miss it we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

How about it? If you need to come to the altar today, why don't you come? Listen to me: if you raised your hand a few minutes ago and said, "I'm not sure I'm going to heaven," listen to me carefully, if you'll come right down this aisle, I'll meet you halfway. I'll let somebody take a Bible and show you how you can know you're going to heaven. You

don't have to stay in your seat. God can come to your house today but you've got to be willing to respond. Would you? There was one hand that went up and said, "Pastor, I'm not sure if I died today I'd go to heaven but I don't want to go to hell." Would you come, ma'am? Would you step out? Don't be embarrassed. Just say to the person beside you, "Would you excuse me? I want to meet God today." Don't be embarrassed. Why in the world should you be embarrassed to meet God? God wants to come to your house.

Let me say to every Christian, look up here just a moment, you and I would do ourselves justice if we'd go back to the day God came into our house. Do you remember when Christianity first hit your family? Can I ask a question? Have you ever gotten a visitor quite like that one? Have your days ever been better than they were with God in the house? Wasn't family time better? Didn't your friendships become stronger? Didn't your faith become surer? It didn't have anything to do with you, if it did, it was doing that before he got there.

Now listen to me, sir: you're going to leave the world one day and people that are kin to you are still going to be here. Do you know what my heart's desire is? That when I'm gone, my grandchildren, great grandchildren, great great grandchildren, will be testifying in a good, old fashioned, New Testament, Baptist church saying, "Let me tell you about the time that God came into our house. We've been standing in the glory every since God first showed up." That's a legacy. Legacies don't come on accident. Legacies are built on purpose.

Father, help us. O God, help us not to miss it. We love you. Thank you for coming into our house. In Jesus' name and for his sake. And all God's children said, Amen.