

## THREE THINGS YOU CONTROL

By Don Krider

I want to share three things that you have total strength, total authority over in your life. You are going to use those three things to develop your life if you do them right. If you do them wrong, you will be a loser. Do you want to be a winner? We have to know what the word of God says about every situation in our lives, then we have to take the word of God and apply it, not what our physical or natural carnal man thinks, but what God says.

I truly believe that we are living in the last days; the greatest move of God is yet to come. It is imperative in these hours that we live in to be ready for that. We need to be prepared.

Let's look at 2 Peter 2: 7-8. This is the deliverance of Lot.

*(2 Pet 2:7 KJV) And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (8) (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)*

I want you to see what the Amplified Bible says:

*(Amp. Bible 2 Peter 2:7) And He rescued righteous Lot, greatly worn out and distressed by the wanton ways of the ungodly and lawless. (8) For that just man, living there among them, tortured his righteous soul every day with what he saw and heard of their unlawful and wicked deeds.*

I thought there are three things here that we need to look at: where am I living, what am I looking at, and what am I hearing. These are three things that I have absolute control over.

The world has no control over those things. They live where they live because they are dead. They hear what they hear because they have only natural hearing, and they see what they see because they have only natural eyes. But we have the ability to move into the presence of God and live and dwell in the presence of God.

There are too many Christians whose souls are vexed. They are worn out, absolutely worn out. They are afraid and fearful. They are full of doubt and unbelief. There is all kinds of stuff going on in their

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lives and I believe one of these three areas in their lives is not being controlled. I believe they are not taking control of their life and pressing into the Kingdom of God (Luke 16:16).

We can talk about moving into things, but we need to move into the presence of God. We need to dwell in the presence of God. David's desire was that he might dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23:6). I want to begin to dwell in the land of the living. I want to dwell in the land of the presence of the Lord.

Lot was worn out, distressed, vexed. Vexed means to irritate or annoy, to build physical discomfort, to baffle, to talk about or debate at length, to toss about, to shake up. There are a lot of shaken up Christians. There are a lot of Christians who are tossed to and fro. There are a lot of Christians who have no peace in life. They are vexed in their soul. They are worn out and distressed. It is mainly

because they are still living in a natural thinking mind, instead of the mind of Christ. When they look at something, they see in the natural.

The Bible says that men's hearts would fail them for the looking of things that are coming upon the earth.

***(Luke 21:26 KJV) Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things that are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. (27) And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. (28) And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.***

We should be looking unto God, the author and finisher of our faith. We need to have our vision on things that are pure and lovely, honest, and of a good report.

***(Phil 4:8 KJV) Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.***

We should be a people who dictate to our ears and to our hearts, and to our minds and to our spirits, what we are going to look at and what we are going to hear. We have selective hearing if we want to use it. In Rev. chaps. 2 and 3 there are 13 scriptures that say: ***“he who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.”***

We are not to be hearing what everybody is saying about the church. That will distress you. Listen to what the Lord is saying about the Church. He says we are altogether lovely. In His sight we are all lovely individuals, but in the sight of men we are fanatical, we are crazy, we are out of our minds.

I don't listen to that kind of stuff. I listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Church. That brings peace. It brings peace of mind and peace of heart into my very spirit. It is where I dwell. I need to dwell in the Kingdom of God. I need to walk in the spirit, live in the spirit, think in the spirit, speak in the spirit. The words we speak should be spirit and they should be life. It is up to you where you dwell. I want to dwell right in the middle of God's heart.

What happened to Lot? He began to pitch his tent toward Sodom, didn't he? He picked the direction where he wanted to live. Abraham did not pick his direction. Lot picked the direction; he saw the

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grass was green and there was a city. I could just hear him saying to his wife, "Honey, we should move over there where we are close to shopping centers, and all kinds of entertainment and programs going on. We have dwelled out in the wilderness long enough in these tents. Let's move into something a little more acceptable, a little more solid, and a little more comfortable."

A lot of Christians are doing that. They are moving into compromise. Instead of paying the price to follow the Lord, they compromise in their walk with God. Instead of standing up for righteousness, they compromise their stand with God. Many of them sell out to have the comfort of flesh, and the comfort of ease. Lot did the same thing. He must have attained some kind of authority in that town, because he sat in the gate with the elders. That meant he was there long enough to gain understanding and knowledge. He had to be one who was compromising to stay there.

That is what happens when we move next door to sin and it isn't long until we are in it. The Lord says we must come out and separate ourselves.

***(2 Cor. 6:17 KJV) Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,***

We need to be people who are not living by the world's standard, but living by the standard of the Holy Spirit. Living by the standards of the word of God. So number one is where I dwell.

"I have made my choice to move over there toward Sodom. There are a lot of people over there. There are social nightclubs. There are all kinds of things. Look at this honey. Every night you can go somewhere different." That was Lot's first mistake.

The direction you are going may be the greatest mistake you made, or it may be the best decision you ever made. If everything about your life is fixed toward heaven, everything about your heart, everything about your choice is fixed toward heaven, you are going to live in the land of joy, peace, and righteousness in the Holy Ghost.

The Kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17), so there should be out of us three things; righteousness, peace and joy. But if I am living too close to sin and I hear and listen to all the bad reports people are saying, it distresses me. It vexes me.

Lot vexed his righteous soul by seeing and hearing the things that they did. It pays to live godly. When he went to warn his family, he told them the city was going to be destroyed, and they had better come and go with him or they would die, but he had no credibility. Why did he lose it? Because he had moved in and compromised and had become just like them.

To many Christians are like the world. They lose all credibility; their aye is not aye, and their nay is not nay. It is "it may be so, or it might be, or possibly could be." We need to make decisions that mean something. Lot lost his entire family except for his two daughters, and they had children by incest. They both laid with him and got ungodly people, Moabites and Ammonites, which were a thorn in the sight of Israel and still are today. Even his descendants were no good.

I want my life to mean something, and I want to live in such a way that my word is worth something. Evil communications corrupt good manners (1 Cor. 15:33). You can act nice all you want to, but it is what comes out of your mouth that comes from your heart. We need a communication that is right, and to do that I have to have ears to hear what is right.

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God still called Lot, righteous Lot, didn't He. But what did Lot do to himself and to his family. He got them all vexed and destroyed. Your testimony is not worth anything if your word doesn't line up with your life, and your life doesn't line up with your word. I am sure that Lot didn't intend to go down there and lose everything. He may have even had this kind of heart. He may have said to his wife, "Honey, we'll go down there and I will evangelize the city."

We should stay home until we have enough strength and enough help to do what God wants us to do. We have too many Lone Ranger Christians. Lot should have let Abraham have that city. Abraham was old enough and mature enough and in love with God enough, not to come into it. But Lot chose. He said, "I am going to go where the grass is green." It is always greener on the other side of the fence, isn't it? He vexed his righteous soul by hearing and seeing what they were doing. I am sure that

he never intended to end up like he did. Even his wife didn't believe him. He had to jerk her out of town, and she looked back and turned into a pillar of salt. All that was left was him and his two daughters.

I want my family to follow after my life, but if it is making choices to compromise and live like the world so I can live an easier life and have a softer time for me, it doesn't mean anything to them. I can act like everything I want to act like, but the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart had better be acceptable in the sight of God.

David's desire was to live and to dwell in the presence of God, and Lot's desire was to live and dwell in the presence of sin. It is like saying to somebody, "Well, I just had one beer down at the bar, because it is more acceptable that way, and I am going to win the guys to Jesus." First thing you know the guy is a drunk and laying in the gutter.

You don't compromise. You don't look like and act like the world to win the world. You look like Christ. You speak like Christ. And you listen to things that Christ would listen to. People know what you are listening to by what comes out of your mouth. That is how they know what you are looking at. When you are under pressure, the abundance of your heart speaks and talks about crazy things. I can just see old Lot. "Okay, Uncle Abraham. I thank you, and I appreciate the choice. I am going to be careful. I am going to live a righteous life just like you want me to. I am going to live godly just like you told me."

When people get out of the influence of their home and out of the Church and the influence of the Church, they are in trouble. Lot began to run his life like he wanted to. The first thing you know, he is in authority. The next thing you know, his daughters are in danger. The next thing is the city is burned down, being destroyed and he is standing out on the mountainside with just his daughters.

Everything you gather you will lose unless it is the Lord's stuff. We spend a lot of effort and a lot of time on getting things, and we put a great emphasis on it, and when we talk we talk about stuff instead of Christ.

A Christian has to make choices every day of his life. Three things you have the power in your life to determine are where you live, what you look at, and what you hear. You have to be selective. Does this glorify God? Does this bring honor to God? Will it edify my children and my grandchildren? If they see you compromise, you have lost your witness.

Look at 2 Peter 2:7 Amp. Bible again: "***And He rescued righteous Lot, greatly worn out and***

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***distressed by the wanton ways of the ungodly and lawless.***" He got that way by the wanton ways of the ungodly and lawless. He rubbed elbows with them. He made decisions and took authority in their country. It wore him out, didn't it?

A lot of us don't understand this, but to argue with the ungodly will wear you out. I came to a place years ago where I found out how not to let that happen. I just say, "Thou sayest." I haven't time to argue with them. I don't want to wear my soul out or vex it. I have better things to think on than to debate them on their theology.

We have to get bold. If you want people to follow you, you had better have something to follow. They are not going to follow chickens. They are following lions. They are following eagles. They are

following somebody whose life lines up with their word and their mouth, and the word that they speak lines up with their life.

Lot's life didn't line up. He came from a godly lineage, but he came down into this land and became a part of it. Compromised it. God had to come and rescue him. It is terrible when the Lord has to rescue Christians. He will do it, but today we have to make up our mind where we are going to dwell. Am I going to dwell in the presence of the Lord, or am I going to compromise my life with people so they won't think I am a heretic, or a lunatic, Fanatical or some religious nut.

Look at the life of Jesus. He never compromised. He told them like it was. He never tried to get popular. He knew who He was. When you know who you are, you don't have to try to get popular. When you really know who you are in Christ, you don't try to gain new positions of authority.

Lot had forgotten who he was and where he had come from, and he let down the standards, and the ungodliness of that nation and the lawlessness of that nation began to come in on him. Instead of him moving out of that town, he stayed right there until he was vexed and shook up, and had no more power to leave. He had no more desire to leave, because his wife had become part of the PTA club.

"Honey, I can't leave here. I get my gold star tomorrow for perfect attendance in the PTA club. Besides, I want to stay to hear the next course because they are teaching on devils and demons and I need to hear that. It is so much more exciting being here than just running around in the wilderness with you, Lot. The bright lights are so pretty, and things are really exciting here. I think I will stay, Lot." He had to drag her out of town.

Lot didn't seem all that anxious to leave either, when you think about it. His two daughters weren't too happy about it, but that is all he ended up with. Why? Because of where he lived, what he looked at, and what he heard. He vexed his righteous soul. God rescued him, but He gave him an inheritance that I don't want. I do not want any Moabites or Ammonites in my lineage.

You have control over three things: where you dwell, what you look at, and what you hear. You should judge those things in your own life. "Why don't I have any joy?" Probably because of where you live. Joy comes from strength in the Lord when you are strong enough in Christ to make a decision to live godly in this present world. When you made the decision that you didn't care how popular it is, you are not going that way. When you made the decision that if it is wrong, it isn't going to change and become right.

Christians are sometimes like people waiting at the stoplight, waiting for the red light to change to

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green, so they can make a decision to go any way they want to go. This is a very serious hour we are living in. It is a joyful hour, but it is the most serious hour the Church has ever lived. We are being bombarded on all sides. There are wars and rumors of wars, and famine and pestilence everywhere you go. All over the world there are things going on like never before.

Jesus said the end is not yet; it is the beginning of sorrows.

***(Mat 24:3-8 KJV) And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see***

***that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.***

No one ever preaches that. They say the end is close. Jesus didn't say that. He said it is the beginning of sorrows. The Church should be a happy people when they see these things come to pass, because Jesus said to look up and lift your heads and rejoice because your redemption draweth nigh (Luke 21:28). But what do we do? We worry about the next day. We worry about how we are going to get enough money for a year from now. We worry about how our security is going to be. We worry about how we can put enough away to have something when we get older.

We are living at the end of an age. The word of God is true, and it says to take no thought of tomorrow, but seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these other things will be added unto you (Matt 6:31-34). That is what gives me happiness and I want to pass that on to my children and my grandchildren. But I can't just pass it on in word; I have to pass it on in life style. If I am always worried about money and I say to my grandson, "Don't worry about a thing," he will say, "Why not? You are worried about everything."

Our word and our life style have to line up. Somebody is watching you, and you are going to leave behind the lineage if the Lord doesn't come right away. I would like people to think, "That is one of those Krider kids. They don't worry about anything."

These three areas of your life are so important, and you are the only one who can guard it. It is so important that we guard where we live. Do we live in the land of grumbling, mumbling, complaining, and griping? I want to live right over in the middle of this thing in righteousness, peace, and joy. I can if I want to, but not everybody is going to go with me.

Not everybody is going to go with you. When you start talking about pressing into the Kingdom of God a lot of people start thinking, "What is it going to cost me." The closer you get, the more it costs so eventually you don't have anything left except everything, because then everything is transferred to you and you enjoy it.

It sounds backwards to live in the world, doesn't it? The world says be popular. Socialize. Grab and get, snatch and grab. That is the way the world is. It breaks my heart when I see Christians caught up in that same thing. They say, "Well, I'm powerless."

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No, you are the only one who has the power to break it. You are the only one who can move out of that situation. You don't have to live there. You don't have to live in the lawless land. You don't have to live in an ungodly place. You can move out of that, because God delivered you out of the power of darkness and translated you into the Kingdom of His dear Son. Your rightful place is to live in the Kingdom. Righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. That is where a Christian is supposed to live, and we are supposed to live godly in this present world.

This thrills my heart. I have the choice whether I want to be vexed or blessed. How about you? Do you want to be vexed or blessed? Christians should not worry. You can't trust God and worry at the same time. He has not designed us to be a fearful people, but a people who have peace, love, and joy. A lot of that comes from what I read. I am told to study the scriptures. We are to study to show ourselves approved unto God (2 Tim. 2:15). That is where the joy is, when you know God is saying,

"That's my son. That's my daughter. I am pleased in them." So I should keep my eyes in the word of God, keep my eyes off the things that bring fear and cause my heart to fail, keep my eyes on the good report and my ears open to the good report.

***(Phil 4:8 KJV) Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.***

If people want to dump bad reports on you, just tell them to go talk to God about it. They won't go talk to God, but they sure dump on you if you will listen. So we have the authority in these three things: (1) Where you dwell. (2) What you look at. (3) What you are hearing.

What are you moving toward? If you dwell where God wants you to dwell, you are moving toward heaven and the journey gets sweeter every day. The light shines brighter and brighter. You have a choice; I can feel sorry for myself. Nobody understands me. Nobody likes me. I never do anything right. Poor little me. First thing you know, you are knocking on the gates of Sodom. The next thing you know, all of your mumbling and grumbling and complaining got you exalted. You vexed your righteous soul.

It's what you bring into your heart through your eyes. What you bring into your heart through your hearing. Jesus told his disciples to be careful how you hear, for with what judgment ye judge, shall be judged again unto you (Matt 7:2). You are judged by what you hear. If you are hearing righteous things, you have righteous judgment in your heart. If your ear is opened to unrighteousness, you are going to vex your soul, and there is nothing you can do about it.

Nobody can make you go toward Sodom. You have to make the choice. People can yell at you, they can talk bad about you, they can scream at you, but that doesn't mean you have to move that way. In fact, if you move in closer to the Lord, you will find out those voices become very insignificant. They won't mean a thing to you. Pretty soon you will get far enough away, and they get tired of yelling at you because they can't yell enough to get you. Peace begins to radiate in your heart. Dwelling in the presence of the Lord, versus dwelling in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

You may be popular for a season, but when judgment comes you will wish you were living in the right place, and looking at the right thing, and hearing the right thing. We have charge over where we live, what we hear, and what we see. Faith comes by hearing, and doubt and unbelief come that way too. Don't listen to bad news. Listen to good news. Quit moving toward Sodom.

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I thank God for the children and grandchildren God gave me, and every Christian should be thankful for theirs too; but you must live in such a way that they will not want to move to Sodom. The world lives in Sodom because they are dead. They can take self-improvement courses, and pay thousands of dollars to improve their speech, have plastic surgery so they will look better, and they still live in Sodom. When judgment comes, they will lose everything. Or they can be a person who has moved over into the presence of the Lord, where the blessings of God are forever more.

I am excited because the Church is coming into some powerful, beautiful things, and I believe the reason the falling away is going to come, is because people are going the way of Sodom. People are choosing that because it is the popular way. It is a more entertaining way. Who wants to live in the desert, when you can live in Sodom? Now it is a sulfur pit under the water.

I can see old Lot saying, "Man, oh man, I lost it all." When his daughters told him they were pregnant with children, I don't think it made him happy. These were children of incest. These were going to be his future. The seed of the righteous, those who do righteous things, are blessed of the earth.

Let me put a choice to you. Where do you really want to live? Either way you go, it is going to cost you everything. But the one way you go, you get everything. You can leave behind you a tremendous, tremendous, monument of faith to your children, your grandchildren, and generations afar off. If you choose Sodom, you are going to lose it all.

Who are you going to follow? Are you going to follow Christ? Are you going to take up your cross daily and follow Him? I am talking to Christians. Every day you have to make up your mind who you are going to follow. We get the idea that we are robots, and no matter what we do, God is going to produce it all in us. We think He will produce righteousness, and we will go right on. That is not true. Blessed people are those who do righteous, those who follow Christ.

Do you think Christ would have gone to Sodom and Gomorrah, or would He have gone to the presence of God the Father? One day He had to make a choice. He said, "I can call my Father and He would send legions of angels to deliver me, but I am going to make a choice and go the way my Father wants me to go" (Matt 26:53).

God's way for us is to go the way He wants us to go. How do I know the way? How can I possibly know the way? You read the Bible. If I gave you a road map and told you that if you can get down to Mexico there is a 50 billion dollar paycheck there for you, and you can have it in gold, silver, or diamonds, what would you do? Would you say, "Well, I know a short cut"?

Isn't that the way many think? Entering into their eyes and mind is a road that they believe will make a short cut. Some guy will come along who has already lost out (and we don't want to listen to losers), and he says, "Yeah, man, you are right. I was going to take that road."

Well, now there you are. You saw it and you heard it. What the guy didn't tell you is that the map was upside down. You were going south when you should be going north. You spend your whole life trying to find that short cut out there, and you die out there in the wilderness.

On the other hand, some guy comes along and says, "Here is a road map. All you have to do is read it, listen to it, and apply it." I don't have to get somebody to expound on it, I don't have to get somebody to read it to me, I can read it. I want that 50 billion dollars, and I want half of it in diamonds, and half

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in gold.

God says, "Here is the map." If I go His way, if I see what He is saying, if I hear in my heart what He wants to speak to my life, and I am obedient to it, guess what happens. I get the 50 billion dollars. This game is going to be over before long. I believe in Rev. 22.

***(Rev 22:7 KJV) Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.***

***(Rev 22:12 KJV) And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.***

***(Rev 22:17 KJV) And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. (18) For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: (19) And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. (20) He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.***

The Spirit and the Bride say "Come," but the only thing about that is the Spirit is not saying, "I want to get rich," and the Bride is not saying, "I want to get wealthy too." They want the Bridegroom to come. They want to see Him. But when I see Him I want Him to say, "Well done."

What do you think He is going to say to me if I am sitting in the high places of Sodom? "That was really shrewd of you, Don. Did you get this high post by yourself?" That sounds funny, but think about it for a minute. The Lord is coming, and it is a lot nearer now than when you first believed. Where is He going to find you? Watching for His appearing? Not if you are in Sodom. You will be too busy caught up in the things of the world.

He is coming no matter where you live, or whether you are ready or not. There is a time for His return, but do you think He is going to say, "Well done" if you are down compromising with the world. Do you think He is going to say "Well done" just because you have reached a high pinnacle by world standards and forsaken what God has called you to do? NO! The Lord is only going to say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" if you are doing what He told you to do, and that is to follow Him. Lot made a bad choice.

These are basic choices, aren't they? Where I will live daily, what I will see daily, and what I will hear daily. If you truly want to be ready for His coming, then inspect these three areas faithfully in your life every day.

Father, in the wonderful name of Jesus, the Spirit is moving all over America, challenging men and women to make right choices. Lord, we can look at Lot's life as an example. He was the one who made the choice. Abraham did not force him into it. We can see the greed that was already in his heart when it begins, but Lord you sent a rescue team to rescue him, and yet his family would not believe him. He had lost all of his influence in his family. He had lost all of his standing where men and women would believe that he knew the Lord.

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I believe in these great days, we need to be able to stand up. We need to be able to speak the words of Christ with authority. We need to live a life without compromise. We need to live a life, God, that will shine forth to a darkened world. We need to be sure that we are pressing into the presence of God daily. Not just pressing into activities, not just pressing into religious things, but pressing into the Lord Jesus Christ daily, that we might dwell in Your presence, not just today and tomorrow, but forever more. Then, God, we would keep our mind in such a way that what we look at, if it was offensive to You we let it go.

God, what we listen to, if it didn't bring a good report, we would not listen to it, because when we open our mouth, out of the abundance of our mouth the heart speaks. If it is filled with love, and filled with the greatness of God, great things come forth.

I pray for everyone reading this little book, that they will truly be aware of where they dwell, what they see, and what they hear. I pray they will be a chosen people, chosen unto good works, chosen to be the light of the world. Chosen to shine forth. Chosen to bring the knowledge of the Lord into this darkened earth. I pray they might be blessed all the days of their life. In Jesus' mighty name. Amen!