[00:00:00] So, can you hear me now? Yeah. Good. So all that I've just said is a waste of time now! But yeah, just very much, just to say about myself, I was brought up in a business family, Christian family. I'm fourth generation, which I do thank God for. 'cause there's some things I do now that I did not do out my own discipline.

[00:00:20] It's a seed of blessings down the generations and we need to thank God for that, for those of us that have been down the generations. And then, left business when I was, 24 and, went into youth ministry and was a youth pastor for a number of years. And then 26 our senior minister left the church.

[00:00:39] Just wanted to move on and, we had one of these moments, I was actually on the leadership, but only as 26, just a young lad avenue go, as they say. And, through a number of things, I was chose to be the senior minister at 26th of a church. It was really throwing me in the deep end. I remember making the decision and thinking, God, I don't wanna do this.

[00:00:59] I'd rather stay with youth. It's a lot more fun. If I've got a pastor, adults, this is gonna be a nightmare. I'm a young man, but in the midst of it, we took on the church and I would say the first couple of years are really, difficult. Just being honest. So many times I nearly quit and I dunno about you.

[00:01:14] When you stretch yourself, there's many times you just feel, I'm gonna quit. God might have asked me, but I can't do this. This is one step too far. Anyway, continued and pastored the church for actually 18 years. God bless the church and grew it. And it was in those moments actually that I met Cameron. And I'll tell you about the boat in the moment, how we got hold of that, but just God really just blessed and when he blesses you, 'cause you couldn't have done it by yourself.

[00:01:39] And I know many of us don't like the impossibilities in our lives, but it really proves that God's with us. When the answer comes and we go there, it's like, I didn't get myself here. God got me here. And I'm sure many of you sitting here today, you're kinda like, I dunno how I got here, but God got me here.

[00:01:53] That's a wonderful thing that God is on our side. Amen. And so we pastored the church for 18 years and, then, in a mean, took a bit of a break for a couple of years and then pioneered another church. well it's that first pioneering church called Mosaic Church, and that was in the city of Coventry.

[00:02:12] and we just felt Mosaic, actually the name Mosaic came out of really like a prophetic journey we'd been on where, brokenness was part of the journey, being honest. Making mistakes was part of the journey, but somehow God took the broken pieces and put them back together again. And each of us in this room today, we may come from different backgrounds.

[00:02:32] We may have had different journeys, all of us would. Some of it's good, some of it's bad, some of it's ugly. But God takes every piece and whatever shape we are today and puts us in his picture, and that's a mosaic. And so we don't have to be all the same people. We don't have to be robots, thank God. But in our individualism, we need God and we need community.

[00:02:51] That's why you're here. And in that community puts us together. And so we started Mosaic Church and that is still going in, three years ago we handed it over to another pastor because I felt that, I'd done my deal in pastoring. it leased me, particularly Helen and others to just then go and be really apostolic pioneering mission training entrepreneurs and pioneers and, just leasing people into that God dip given destiny.

[00:03:22] I've always, as a pastor, got frustrated with pastoring, if I'm honest. 'cause I sometimes think it's just looking after the sheep. And I'm not that great at that. But what I've always felt is when I look at a congregation, whatever background, I see a group of ministers and I'm there to equip and release.

[00:03:43] And the main thing is to release into the marketplace. And each of you guys, I want to affirm you in your calling today, right at the start, because God calls more and more people to the marketplace into all different areas from yourself in maritime ministry. it's a legitimate ministry and sometimes churches don't legitimize that sort of ministry.

[00:04:04] And I wanna affirm you today because in today's kingdom, we've gotta reach all people. And all people isn't just nations, it's people groups. it's cultures, it's tribes, it's people that have different, backgrounds and different coming. And sometimes people won't walk into church, many won't. So we have to take church to them, and we have to meet them where they are.

[00:04:27] I'm so pleased to be here today because I feel I'm amongst a group of people that are going where the people are, and your heart is to touch people that others won't ever touch. they may not walk into church. And so for me, that really, excites me. And, that's important. And so what, right now I head up a, mission and a ministry called ITD, and that stands for Imagine the Day.

[00:04:53] Imagine the day when everyone's heard the gospel in clarity. And can make a choice whether to receive Christ or not. Imagine a day when all of us are reaching all different peoples with a language that they understand and not just a religious language. Imagine the day when we can go to all parts of the world in different ways, using different forms of transport, of carriage to meet people where they're at.

[00:05:16] That's what imagine the day's about, and we have three visions with imagine, well, one vision, but three pillars with Imagine the day. First of all, we're into. Inspiring and reaching pioneers and entrepreneurs for the kingdom of God. And we run a whole thing called Lions. You can look on the website and actually shell, she heads up the Lions program for us.

[00:05:36] She's a product of the Lions as well. So came through the Whole Lions program and now leads it because we believe in raising people up of our own and appointed. And we've got George with us who's, again, a product of Alliance but actually works for us as well, part-time, but actually also meets young people right where they're at with gaming.

[00:05:55] And he runs gaming competitions, which young people really relate to and also helps write and create good games that take people to a place of light, not darkness. And George is really reaching a generation there, which is really great creative. And he speaks a language that I do not understand.

[00:06:16] the feeling, don't you? When you meet people, you go, yeah. When he came on the Lions, he was telling me all about it. I'm going, yeah, not having a clue, but reaching a. A tribe that I would never reach through my background or understand, but there is, he reaches that and we've got Helen, obviously he's my wife, 40 years, been married.

[00:06:34] We have three children and we have seven grandchildren. And so, they are all in the church that we pastored and we still attend and we attend as founders of that church with no portfolio, but just to go and worship Jesus and fellowship of being part of a community. And, so, but our kids are serving, loving God, and they now tell me, dad, it's time you stood aside.

[00:06:55] And we get on with it, when your son says that it's time to move aside. But, so that, that's us. And as I said, it's great to be with you today. And, I just want to pray right now if I can, because I want people not just to have a good time this weekend, who be transformed by the Holy Spirit.

[00:07:14] And encounter with Jesus again, I dunno about you, I got saved a lot of years ago, 40 years ago, but I still need an encounter with Jesus. I don't need to tell the story of 40 years ago. I need to tell the story of today. Amen. New every day of his blessings, new every day of his mercies. Amen.

[00:07:30] And we need to tap into that to what he's called us to. And so, why don't we just pray right now and just open our hearts and say, God, whatever you've got for me, speak to me. Whenever you've got to me to challenge me, channel me, inspire me. Holy Spirit, have your way amongst me now, Lord, we thank you

[00:07:55] Lord. We just pray right now. We should have sent you in this place and as we worship you, we sent you Holy Spirit here. Will we invite you through every activity, every conversation, every time of ministry, Lord. You will just open our hearts and speak to us. Lord, can we have whispers from you today into our hearts and minds if we dry?

[00:08:18] Lord, I just pray that you'll water the seed in people's lives today. If they're weary. Lord, you renew their strength like the eagle and Lord, today, it just a misunderstanding. Will you bring clarity? If this hurt, will you bring healing? And Lord, whatever we carry today that isn't of you or from you. Help us today to get into our darkness, into light.

[00:08:41] In Jesus' name, amen. Amen. So that's a little bit Genevieve. I should just tell you about Genevieve 'cause I am not a boatman. I live in the Midlands of England, the furthest away from the sea or the ocean. Thank you. You might think it's water

[00:09:01] as you get to know me, I'm a little naughty as well. Okay.

[00:09:07] I live in the Midlands, always lived in the Midlands, Coventry and Warwick around that area, if any of you know it. And, but I've always been a mission. I'm a missionary Wherever I go, I wanna be a missionary for Jesus. Amen. And so, I created, it actually happened when I was youth pastoring and, I started to see the young people wanted to go on holidays that I didn't want 'em to go on, with young people where secular holidays, where things would happen that just are not righteous.

[00:09:36] And as a pastor it's very tempting as a leader to get very legalistic, very quick. You're not doing that, but God and Jesus, a lot of it, he did say, don't do. He gave an alternative a better way. And so, I actually out of it many years ago, I created short term missions and, gave the young people opportunity to go and experience Christ on the mission field for short terms, two weeks, three weeks, sometimes longer, and, created a whole mission spirit in the church through that.

[00:10:04] That we realized we weren't there to just gather on Sunday, but we needed to go out Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. So our mission field near us, but then our mission field of far. And so we did that. And, one time I was on mission in Zimbabwe and we had a missionary out there, and you might think as, maritime people, Zimbabwe, where's a sea there?

[00:10:25] Well, it's not there, it's landlocked. But God told a man and his name was Tony Turner to build a boat. Sounds like no distance. Oh, and he said build a boat. So he built a 90 foot scooter, which some of you would know as encounter now, or Genevieve. And he built it in Zimbabwe. He did not even know it was gonna float.

[00:10:49] And then after he built it, he took it by land all the way to the ocean and, put it in the water. And then he felt God was calling him to missions and he would sail it. And so he sailed it for a year and it was a disaster. He had problem after problem and towards the end of the year he felt God's say to him, I told you to build the boat, not sail it.

[00:11:11] sometimes God's really specific. And so he said, I told you to build it. Anyway, I was coming to town, I was coming to Zimbabwe to do some ministry and this missionary I was doing ministry with knew this boat builder. And he said to him, he said, he said, what are you gonna do? And this Tony turned and said, I've gotta give the boat away.

[00:11:27] God's told me. So this missionary crazily said. Well, I've got a Gary Spicer coming to town and you should give it him. I'm on the plane flying in not knowing a thing about this, and I'm being honest. The only thing I knew about was boats on a river that you row really experienced. And anyway, the longest story is that while I was there, met Tony and just really challenged us and I was really challenged that this boat was for the Lord and needed to be used in mission and, As a pioneer, but not a vote person or shipper. It was like very much, okay, let's go back. And I'd been warned when I left the church for the mission not to get any more vision.

[00:12:10] They all said, you've, we've got enough vision. Just make sure you don't get any more. And the first thing I saw, this is true. The first thing I saw was children with aids and my heart thought I've gotta do something. And ringing in this ear, it was like, no more vision. I. And ringing in this ear, I've gotta do something.

[00:12:30] The tension of sometimes what people say and what God is saying to you, but also sense does come from people as well. Anyway, the long and short it was, I decided to build an orphanage, which we did, and it still stands today and still has children and orphans in it. About 50 being looked after. And that was, many years ago also the boat.

[00:12:51] I was, I remember flying back and I said to Tony Turner, I'll let you know in two weeks. I thought, who do I tell first when I get back? And I talked with, Helen, I talked with my leaders and they all go, you've got too much vision. There was something building. And then one leader who's very wise said to me, Gary, if you are thinking of raising some money for this mission, you're not raising it outta the church.

[00:13:15] That what they said to me. We've already been given commissions. And I thought, oh yeah, but people love a bit of vision to give to, anyway, the long and short of this, is what happened. I thought, okay, I'm not gonna ask the people for a penny, but what I'm gonna do, myself and two other guys, I asked, I said, and some of you who wanna raise finance, this is quite corrective.

[00:13:34] But I said to them, could you give a thousand pound? So they said, yeah. I said, I'll put a thousand pound in. It was many years ago. Was quite a bit of money then. And they said, what you gonna do with it? I said, I'm gonna give it to people. I said, we're not gonna take an offering. We're gonna give them some money.

[00:13:49] Now, not many churches do that, do they? You haven't been to any churches where they say, come forward and we'll give you money. Well, that's what I did. So I set up about 250 envelopes, 200 envelopes, and with an invitation in it. Would you join me in being entrepreneurial and turn this 20 pound into a lot more money?

[00:14:10] You can sell cakes, you can do whatever you want, but in two months time, you need to bring the money back in your idea. And I said, if you need this to buy lunch, 'cause you've got no money, buy lunch. If you don't wanna take up this task, then put the money back in the bucket. But if you can stand with me and I'll just give you some seed and you can plant this with your ideas and multiply it, then come back in two months time with the finance.

[00:14:39] Oh, they came back, they got hold of it. They loved it. They loved the idea. It's the best offering I ever took off. Yeah, because I gave them money Anyway, what happened was they came back and this is 25 years ago, they brought back 35,000 back, and all we gave away was two and a half thousand. That's good multiplication, huh?

[00:15:03] What it did, it invited people into a vision, giving them some money, gave them some seed so no one could say, I've got no money. 'cause I gave them some money. But the whole thing was, let your idea. Be multiplied by the Holy Spirit. Use your creativity. And it's not for me, it's not for the church, it's for the broken as Isaiah 61.

[00:15:25] And so that's what we did and that's how we got financed to build the orphanage and also start Genevieve ministry. And it was just an idea. In fact, in Lions now the program we run, any of you applied? Remember I didn't tell you this, but on the second week, we now give them all 20 pound and we tell 'em to go and multiply.

[00:15:45] We don't take the money in for ourselves. We've always got a cause outside of ourselves that we give that money to. And out about 15 people, it generally averages about six and half thousand pound that they bring back out of 20 pound. Don't tell me there's not people sitting in churches today that aren't entrepreneurs.

[00:16:01] It's amazing what we could do with Seaborn. We put it in God hands. Amen. And so that's, so Genevieve, we got, we sailed up to the Mediterranean and to Greece. this is how much I didn't know about sailing. I didn't realize I was importing the boat illegally. I hadn't filled any forms in it. Then in Greece we got the boat impounded.

[00:16:23] Hallelujah. The Cameron remembers all that journey. we laughed and cried on the way Cameron, but then we had to get it valued and we had to get it to Turkey very quick and we sold it to Turkey while we sorted out the paperwork and on the way up. And I wanna say this 'cause this is really God.

[00:16:40] I got a crew together within two months. A captain and, volunteers and they said, well, say it. Sail it up to there and they got off from, as many of you would know, off the east coast of Africa. It's pretty dangerous. And it was then, and I remember the captain ringing me and saying to me, you know what, we're just about to sail off Somalia.

[00:17:03] And I said to him, I said, go as far out as you can. Just go as far out as you can. And this again, was 20 odd years ago that, the, there's a lot more publicity now. He said, okay, we'll do that. I'm driving my car three days later down the motorway in England and the radio news came on and said, ship off Somalia gram sack, captain killed.

[00:17:27] Well, I wanna tell you, at that moment where I thought of great vision, I suddenly felt the whole weight and responsibility of what on earth have I done, what is happening? And it was 24 hours after that. But actually one other crew called me, they'd arrived in the port. And they said, we just need to tell you.

[00:17:43] We've arrived in port. I know what's been broadcast, but it was not our boat. I said, what happened? They said, well, what happened was we checked the weather. The weather was good, so we decided now we sail. But a boat went four hours before us and there's a boat four hours behind us on the same route, and the one ahead of us got sacked and the captain killed the one behind us got sacked and people were vet badly injured.

[00:18:10] We never got touched. And I said, why did that happen? They said, well, halfway through the journey, a storm blew up. It was one of the worst storms we've ever been in, in the boat, and we thought we were gonna die. We now realize it was our savior because the pirates couldn't get to us in the storm. True story.

[00:18:32] And I always look at that. Sometimes I think, God, I'm not ever gonna criticize a storm. I know some of you would haven't. You bow, it's what Earth's blowing up. Well, I'm What about in life? Sometimes we say the storm's there to distract us and sometimes it is. But other times it can be actually our savior.

[00:18:48] God's always got a bigger plan. Amen. He always sees before us and he sees afterwards and he sees us in the situation that we're in right now. And the point is, the testament of gene vie it survived. You had a, was it a bent bounce for it? That's right. Cameron's telling me, I've gotta ask Cameron 'cause I haven't got a clue what I'm about, but he had the Fed master for it.

[00:19:07] That was it. Everyone was fine. And we got it up there in the Red Sea and we got it to, into, the Mediterranean, Greece. And then we sold it for 10 years on missions around Paul's journeys. we did the dads and kids thing and we did a moms and kids thing. We did pastors and their kids and we just did, used it as discipleship and experience teaching them how to sail, but also getting them out of every day.

[00:19:31] Get them some space to find themselves and find Christ in their lives, even with their children. And then after 10 years, we gave it to torch bearers. Some of you would know them. And then, it's now just been given on again. But the great thing is it's a tool that's been used for the kingdom. Amen.

[00:19:49] And there'll be stories told of life transformed. That's what I'm about. It's about, but Life's transformed is what I'm about. So that just gives you a little bit, I've spent quite a bit of time there, but it's just important you know some of my background and where I come from. If you've got your Bibles today, 'cause I'm gonna go to the Bible.

[00:20:13] Okay, I will. I need another half an hour 'cause I'm gonna speak a lot slower. I will. So one Corinthians 16, nine. One Corinthians, it's on there. I just wanna read this to you. 16, eight, and nine. I want to talk today to you about building for breakthrough. We are living in exciting times. I dunno what you think is happening around the nations.

[00:20:43] We see chaos, we see difficulty, we see economic challenge. We see cultures that are breaking up, good cultures, absolutes are going out the window. We can feel very down about what's happening, but I just read a report. Some of you may have read it just in the last couple of weeks. Church attendance in the UK has gone up 4%, gone up 4% in the last three years.

[00:21:09] 85% more sales of the Bible has happened in the UK in the last three years, mainly since Covid, the Gen Z, which is your sixteens to 24 year olds. Has doubled in attendance in churches across the uk. They call it The Silent Revival because no one's talking about it yet, but now it's starting to come out in the public domain.

[00:21:37] See, when we don't think God's on the move he is and we just sang there. the Now Revival. I so believe that it's already happening, even if we don't see it or feel it. It won't be long till you see it and feel it more. And it's right across the mainstream public, sorry, media, this statistic.

[00:22:00] I can send it any of you. The graph and everything of different ages of the Bible and just the whole thing is, see, we have taught for many years about post Christianity. I believe we're pre. In other words, we have a generation now that don't know anything about Jesus. Don't have an argument with church 'cause they don't think church are relevant.

[00:22:25] They don't think it's relevant and what they are, they're so open because they see the systems of the world breaking down, not delivering anything better. They've put their trust in different cultures, in different idols, from, superstars who just as broken as anybody else. And they're starting to say, where is the truth?

[00:22:46] And I, I'm so excited. I'm in my sixties now, obviously. I know you can't believe that, but it's true.

[00:22:55] I've been through a lot of seasons of Christianity, but I've never been more excited than I'm now, not by what's happening now, but what the undercurrent of what God is doing. These are great days. I work in schools. One of the other things I do, I work in day schools in Great Britain and, set a whole thing up called Grace Foundation.

[00:23:14] And we've got, 45 staff. Working in 15 schools, the worst schools in Britain, and I go to the government now, comes to me and says, can you go into this school? I say, yeah. They say, well, we've got a nice, I said, I don't want nice schools. I want the worst schools you can give me. And they're like, are you mad?

[00:23:29] I said, yeah. The thing is those schools are so desperate and the children in them for some truth, some for some understanding that life is more important than they've seen. We are seeing lives transformed in government paid day schools. We do Christian assemblies. We teach about Christ. We put a family worker into each school, a youth worker into each school, and then what we call a Christian ethos leader.

[00:23:58] And the principles of the schools who are not Christians are queing up for us to come in because we're transforming culture. And how do we film that? Well, quite simply, Christian businessman. Or women who've got a bit of money and they need a bit of kingdom vision, like, and I love putting Kingdom vision on people's money.

[00:24:24] You've got some great Christian business people that can make a lot of money, but they don't know where to put it. And I can tell 'em,

[00:24:35] and it's wonderful 'cause they, their face lights up and my face lights up and we have combustion. There are lots of people out there. You might, and I know you try and fund some of your ministers and we're gonna talk a bit about that within the workshops and question time of how you do that, how you envision people to give.

[00:24:54] But the whole thing is in the schools, we're seeing lives transformed. We're in the marketplace. We go to the worst scores, and I've, every one of my workers is a born again Christian spirit filled, I won't hire anyone else. Like I've had, I've been down to main government in Britain, the Secretary of States, chancellor, they've called me now to go and meet them and they go and meet and they go, could you do this in every school?

[00:25:17] I said, yeah, but could you just take Jesus out of it? No. They say, yeah, but you've got great people. Yeah, because they're called by Jesus, Mr. Secretary of State. They go the extra mile. Yes. 'cause of Jesus, Mr. Secretary of State. So we're not taking Jesus out and It's okay. We've got credibility. We now teach into these schools.

[00:25:41] We're teaching about, 15,000 kids every day to 20,000 every day. And we head up the curriculum, which we call in Britain, PHSC, which is all about sex and relationships. Well, we know where the confusion lies there, and we go in, change what the Bible says and we're allowed to. And there's a whole, yeah, it's absolutely.

[00:26:00] We need to give God a clap for that. He's opened the doors.

[00:26:06] But in the midst of that, what happens is that we have a government, those who are British now, that's called oted. If you've been a teacher, you hate them. But Osted come in and set the standard and check it all out. And we have got outstanding every time for the way we teach sex and relationships.

[00:26:24] Christian, see, we're invading again the devil's territory. And it's what God is calling people to do. Let's get in the marketplace with our message because our message, we don't have to apologize for amen. And we're touching people's lives. And these people, why I say it's pre-Christian, they know nothing about God.

[00:26:43] They know nothing about Jesus. They've got no argument with the church. 'cause they don't even know the church, but they're seeking. We have a generation today that is seeking, and even in government sometimes, they go, well what you gonna do about that? So I'm gonna pray. I said, do you want me to pray for you?

[00:27:01] They're not Christians. And do you know what the amazing thing is? People will not be offended if you ask. Pray for them. They don't want the gospel thrown down their neck. They don't wanna be Bible bashed. You say, you know what? I'm gonna pray for you. Could I pray for you now? And it's amazing how the doors are open.

[00:27:15] You bring the spirit of God in. Amen. It's the start. It's the now revival. It's the silent revival that's going on, and the silence will turn into a noise very soon. Amen. Well, you can see I'm excited. I haven't even started preaching yet, but I can see how excited. Just wanna get you fired up. Amen. Yeah, because it's the fire of God in you that lights fires in other people.

[00:27:37] If we're apologetic, oh, I'm sorry. I just need to tell you about Jesus. I don't wanna offend you. That is not a gospel. People want to hear. They want to hear a passionate gospel. You are convicted, you're convinced that Jesus is the answer. Amen. Why would anyone be convinced if you are not? Why would anyone so here in this scripture, Paul writes one Corinthians 16, eight to nine says, in the meantime, I will be staying here at Ephesus until the Festival of Pentecost.

[00:28:07] There is a wide open door for a great work here, although there are many that oppose me. I just wanna leave it there for a second. It's a very interesting scripture. So it talks about opportunity, but it says, as those that oppose me. Now we could have a meeting for hours about all the opposition we've got, all the disappointments we've had.

[00:28:28] But the thing here is Paul is saying there's a door of opportunity, I believe in 2025 in whatever nation you represent, there is doors of opportunity for you, but as soon as you start walking through them, it's true that there is opposition. And opposition from the devil, from wherever it comes, always hits us where it hurts.

[00:28:49] What might hurt me might not hurt you, but what hurts you may not hurt me. We're all different, but somehow we get hit at our vulnerable points, right? And then we go through this storm, we're just about to go and go, whoa, I didn't know that giant. I didn't know that opposition. No thank, don't wanna fight.

[00:29:06] And we walk back. The door never closes, but we've gotta be prepared to walk through it. Our story, our testimony comes not since you're seeing that open door, but walking through it of the God opportunity that he puts before you sitting in this room today. I'm sure you are full of opportunities. I'm sure you're full of dreams, but also I'm sure you say, yeah, but haven't got enough resource, haven't got people, haven't got finance.

[00:29:33] People have said it's not a good idea. Don't let discouragement stop you walking through the door. God's opened that door. It's a door for you to walk through and God is waiting for you to walk through it. See, I believe we're living in momentous days, both challenge and opportunity. When we go through those challenges and those doors, we become a living testimony.

[00:29:56] Amen. And God hopes that helps us within that. We've talked about revival this morning, but too many Christians live in survival, not revival. They become weary in doing good. And I really, and I know the guys as they teach later, we wanna encourage you over these days that, let's walk into that revival.

[00:30:15] Let's be revival in our hearts. See what you carry and what's in your heart. You reflected with us if you are disappointed today. And I, we've all had disappointments. I'll tell you some stories in the moment. We've had massive disappointments. it was only a few years ago that our son, who's now 35, but he was, 30, 29 At the time, just I'd been married a little while, got two young kids, was on holiday in Thailand, never been ill. And two days after New Year's Day, we were in England and we got a phone call. Your son's fighting for his life. He said what he got out of the swimming pool collapsed. And he's got two brain tumors, malignant brain tumors.

[00:31:01] And in a moment, as when you get news like that, your life is turned around. And we either run to God or we run away from God, hear me, we blame God. Or we say God in you. We trust, and it's a fight that goes on inside us. And it's those moments that people see how legitimate our faith is or isn't.

[00:31:21] Bad things happened to good people, and in that means our response is our story. We flew out to Thailand. I've gotta tell you, it was a traumatic time. I don't cry a lot. Well, I cried. It's my boy. he thought he was dying. We thought he was, we're in a place, strange place. He's in a hospital, which, okay, well this is my boy's life.

[00:31:50] And he had seizures going on all the time. So they had to put him on drugs to stop having seizures while he is there, while we decided what we'd do in a sense, because he needed brain surgery and we know how dangerous that was. And as he was having these seizures, there was twice, he was there in the hospital and he to all of his wires out and just screamed.

[00:32:15] My boy's, quite a laid back boy, but he was screaming, I'm dying. I'm dying. And moments like that, you draw on such a depth of faith if you've got it and you speak life into death. I remember lying on him, literally lying on him and saying, God, I dunno what to do but I'm gonna keep speaking life and hope and healing over him.

[00:32:37] I can't even tell you the prayers I prayed 'cause they were probably all mumbled up, but they were full of God, if you don't turn up, we've had it. I know you can do it. Lord. I was lying on him. I was crying, praying, and had a couple of those times. Once I wented to another room where he was and it's all in a matter of three or four days, and he was there crying.

[00:32:59] His wife was there crying and he just kept saying, goodbye, dad. Goodbye. I'm going. Moments like that, you've gotta have a depth of a well of God in you to draw upon. See, we are called to bring light into darkness, life into death, but if we don't carry life and light what we're gonna bring, see ministry mission work is not just about doing something, it's what we carry in that.

[00:33:27] It's when you witness on your boats or you, go to places to do a mission or you get groups on your boat. Whatever you do. What are you bringing as you speak? Oh, we love your boat. It's just a vehicle. You know that? Yeah. The message changed people's lives. No vehicle does. And so the whole thing this morning, I'm getting right at the stage.

[00:33:46] God is a God of preparation and he doesn't prepare a boat. He prepares you first. Because the message is what changes people's lives. Man, if you're even surfing in Iceland in the freezing cold, and you're crazy mad, it's what are you carrying when you get out of that water and someone says, you're a crazy boy.

[00:34:07] I went to bed last night thinking he's a crazy mad. Yeah, he is. you carry something. As you led worship this morning, you were carrying something that wasn't just experience, it was the depth of God in you. When you come outta that cold water if I was standing there, well I think you're crazy, but I would listen to you.

[00:34:27] You got me? Yeah. And every one of us. So God prepares you and I to carry something of his life. 'cause it's, that's what we carry, that transforms people's lives and whatever we represent here today, whatever ministry, I wanna encourage you you might say, well we're struggling in this, we're struggling in that first thing is he's preparing you to carry something his supernatural life in you.

[00:34:49] 'cause it's, that's what changes people's lives. My boy. We had to get him to America. Actually, that's a miracle. We got him to America to actually one of the best hospitals. Cost us a lot of money. But I didn't care. We prayed. I went to the hospital, had to fly back to uk, then fly on to America. We got him a doctor down from Canada, got him on a plane and we decided we'd take him to the best place.

[00:35:15] So I believe God uses surgeons. God uses medicine to heal people. Amen. It's part of his healing process sometimes, and so we got there. We waited three days, and then they said they'll operate. I'm gonna tell you that I had to know God in those times, but knowing God in those times helped me carry something to other people afterwards.

[00:35:41] I didn't know if he was gonna live or die. He was in the theater for 12 hours, the longest 12 hours of my life. Praying in the middle of those 12 hours, you know when you're down and then you get kicked again. I got a message, text message from a lady that was in my church and her daughter worked for me.

[00:36:01] She was actually my executive assistant. She was my pa. We knew that she had not been well. She was only 40 years of age, and the text said, sorry to tell you, Nikki's died in the Mets while I'm fighting for my son's life.

[00:36:17] The mystery of God. All of us have to live with the mystery too. You sit here today with unanswered questions, but don't let them questions rule your faith. I've got a thing called a why shelf. Why God, I go to it quite a lot. Why God, why does that happen? Why do you do and God's taught me. He says, when you bring your whys, leave them there.

[00:36:38] Leave them on the shelf. Because if you don't leave them on the shelf, they're gonna rule your faith and your spirit for every, for the rest of your life. Now I've got some whys right now. But in the midst of those whys, I've gotta leave 'em on the shelf and say, God, you know best. I don't even in disappointment.

[00:36:57] Well, my son, he came to the operation and the doctor surgeon called me and said, he's in recovery room. You might wanna go and see him. He's just coming round. We'd been threatened about brain damage. We've been told that this is very serious, and me and his young wife, his wife was only 25, 24 at the time.

[00:37:17] We went into that room and I started seeing his eyes flicker. It was a mess. Bandaged. He had, he'd had one tumor there, removed one tumor at the back deep. And he looked at me and I looked at him. It's a moment that will never leave me. I thought, Josh, his name's Joshua. I said, Josh, you okay? He never answered.

[00:37:38] I said, Josh, you all right? And he looked at me, he said, dad, I love you. Do you know what? It didn't matter. He loved me. He remembered me. Just hear me tears came into my eye. 'cause he knew I was dad. That means his brain's working. His memory's still there. And then from that moment, he went into a lot of healing.

[00:37:59] Today he was told he wouldn't father any more children. Well, the boys were father. Two more, two more daughters. And he's not lost any memory. He works in a great career. Loves God serves God got a great family and just every year we have to go for MRI. Just to check that they're not coming back. And you know what?

[00:38:21] That puts fear in us 'cause we haven't got the all clear. So we have a shadow of fear. And I'm gonna say this, so many of us in this room have to live with a shadow of fear. But don't let it overshadow you. Don't let it overshadow. You've got things that you carry perhaps about your kids or about your ministry or your past.

[00:38:41] It's place to visit, not a place to live. Hurt, disappointment, sin are all things, places to visit, but not to live. But too many Christians remain living in those places, in their mind and in their heart. The cross is enough. Amen. And the cross is enough for you. It's a door of opportunity.

[00:39:06] See, we need to come out of our caves. Live a faith openly in our daily lives. The world is waiting for open missionaries under the power of the Holy Spirit to speak up. We don't have to apologize for our faith. We don't have to even give every answer when we're asked a question 'cause we don't know every answer.

[00:39:32] A foolish man or woman tries to answer everything because see, I dunno about you. I dunno everything. I don't understand God in everything, but I trust him. I built my life around him and we need to do the same. Amen. And as God prepares you in this way, and I know when we talk about the whole passage and everything and you know the whole ministry that you are carrying, he's preparing you for a bigger and greater day.

[00:39:55] But it's not that your boat will be better, it's the message will be stronger. Amen. It's that the message will, people will draw people to your ministry because of what you carry, not what you sail. Just hear me. Nothing wrong with great boats. I love boats. Nothing. One with great vehicles or whatever we minister in, but it's a message strong in you today.

[00:40:16] Are you seizing? Every opportunity God is calling us to be a people of faith, not fear, a people of passion, not passivity, a people of purpose, not procrastination, A people of peace, not chaos. The world carries all the seconds we need to be the opposite. Carrying all the first. Amen. Remember that some of the battles that you walk belong to the Lord.

[00:40:45] Sometimes we've got a bowel, but other times just gotta sleep and say, Lord, this one's yours. And he goes, good. You ready to trust me? So just very, quickly, I know time, but I wanted to just build this with you this morning. Four challenges for breakthrough on the screen here Firstly. You gotta focus on God's word.

[00:41:10] My boy, I knew what was true. He got tumors. Okay, just hear me right here. You start to see where I come from in theology. I'm a faith man and I wanna be faithful, full of faith and faithful, right? So what God calls us to, he requires that we walk in faith, but also be faithful to the call. Right? It's very important both those things go on, but in the sense of trusted God's word.

[00:41:36] I knew my boy had two tumors. That's true. Now what am I gonna apply to? What is true? The truth. The truth of God's word always trumps what is true. We don't have to deny my boy's got two tumors 'cause he has, we haven't gonna deny what you are going through that's hurting you at the moment. It is. But how do you come through that and not remain there is by applying his truth, his word, his promises to that situation.

[00:42:07] Amen. And sometimes we get lost in what is true and we don't apply the truth to it. And so we wander, we stay in this situation of, oh, it's terrible. We have a pity party. South pity party, God turned up for him and he hasn't turned up for me. God's blessed them, but he is not blessing me. Well, if you can be blessed.

[00:42:30] 'cause they're blessed, yours is just on the way. Bless it. And we've gotta keep it that way. So here the first point for breakthrough is that we've gotta remind us of his promises over his our lives. We've gotta know that his word is a living word. Amen. That when we read scripture, it's not for history, but it's for today.

[00:42:50] I may be a product to my parents. Both my parents are in heaven now. And, They're good People loved God to the end and they suffered. My mom suffered with motor neuro disease. Some of you would know that. And it's a very terrible disease. And it wasn't that she died. It was the way she died. Didn't like it.

[00:43:11] Went to God a few times. That's not fair. God, she's loved you all her life. Now she's suffered. And the thing was though, but to the moment, my mom took a last breath. She couldn't speak in the end. She just made a. Noise. You know what motor neuro is? If you know the disease, it's terrible. But she put headphones on her and she played worship songs.

[00:43:31] And I'd sit in the living room, and I'm not taking any disrespect here, and she'd be going, ah, terrible singing, but beautiful singing. She was touching heaven that I wasn't touching. She was seeing things I wasn't seeing. I was there in picture, oh mom, you're suffering. I don't like this. Ah, worshiping to the moment she took her last breath.

[00:43:58] What was that an example? To me, she knew that the truth was stronger than what was true. She was living in the truth and going, I'm on my way to heaven. I can see things going. You can't see. I'm experiencing heaven worshiping. Yeah. We've gotta have that trust in the mystery. Did I like the way my mom died?

[00:44:20] No. Was it fair? No. But she trusted God to the end and she was seeing something I wasn't seeing. And do you know what? That's been an example to me since my mom passed. She's now been gone 15 years. But I always remember that 'cause I thought, mom, you sang to the end. You saw something I wasn't seeing. You were teaching me how to worship your way into heaven, not complain yourself into heaven.

[00:44:47] Yeah. Get better, not bitter. So true. See, for breakthrough, we have to trust God's word and his promises over our lives. We've gotta speak to, we've gotta allow his spirit in us to speak to our soul. David did that. Oh, shut up. You told yourself to shut up. David did because his soulish feelings, his, emotions were starting to get into a place that wasn't a victory.

[00:45:16] Sometimes just hear me, I'm into positive talk. You gotta tell your soul to shut up and allow the Holy Spirit to drink you with that hope and faith. Amen. For breaks here, we've gotta trust God's word. Secondly, we've gotta keep walking. What did I say about the open door? One Corinthians 16, nine, there's an open door.

[00:45:37] You've gotta walk through it. Not to it. Some of you right now in your vision and in your ministry, you might be right at that open door. Shall I? Shall I? People are complaining it's not that good if God said it, walk through it, walk right through it. Amen. But there's those that oppose me. Well, that's part of your story, isn't it?

[00:45:58] What you overcome is part of your story. Keep walking. So I've already said disappointment hurts sin. Failure is a place to visit, not to live. And perhaps over these few days, you're gonna have to lay down some of those things and go, God, they're not gonna rule me anymore. I'm gonna now walk through the door and I'm gonna walk through a lot lighter than I can.

[00:46:24] in posture, in our lives, God sometimes takes us into a seat, a season of, kneeling. We have to go before God. We have to just kneel and not do anything. Say God speak to me. There's a season then of standing and sometimes we're not moving forward, but we've gotta keep standing. There's a season of walking and there's a season of running.

[00:46:48] I want to run all the time. It's my personality. I'm a visionary. Excuse me. I wanna keep running, but sometimes God says, Neil. Sometimes he says stand, sometimes he says, get up, start walking. And we, God knows what season we're in. Each one of those seasons is legitimate, but if you stay there too long, it's illegitimate.

[00:47:15] 'cause God always lifts you and I to a better place. Nothing wrong with kneeling, but God says, come before me so I can lift you. So you can stand, then you can walk. Then you can run. And after running, we might go back to kneeling. It's a, rhythm that God uses, keeps bringing us back to him so that our ministry, our mission is not our God.

[00:47:40] He's our God who's called us into that. Amen. He's Jehovah Jarah our provider. Thirdly, if we want breakthrough, we've gotta expect the unexpected. We need to start believing for miracles, supernatural opportunities. When our outer space slows down, our inner space opens up. Think about it. I just am not a great person for resting and slowing down.

[00:48:09] That's my personality. But God slows me down. Sometimes he grabs me, says, Gary, time, I need to feed you inner space. I, you've been given out a lot. I'm sure you're the same. Work can become a God in itself. I wanna tell you this just story and I'm going to just go on to the final point. Now I'm finished.

[00:48:29] I've got a good friend who I've known for about 20 years, and, he got a job with, B-B-B-A-E Aerospace in Saudi Arabia. Now, I dunno if any of you've been to Saudi Arabia, but it's a very close country to the gospel and, he went there with his wife and two children. Got a fantastic job. But his wife's a, he's a godly mom.

[00:48:54] She's a really godly woman. And she kept saying to him, she said, we are not here for your job. We're here to do something for the kingdom. And he said, we can't do anything in Saudi Arabia for the kingdom. We'll get arrested, we'll get put in prison. And she kept on him. We're here for a greater purpose.

[00:49:09] So after being there about three years, they decided to start a church, which you're not supposed to do, and they got people flocking to it and Saudi Arabians. Just expats, not just, they started getting on flock and one day his bosses called him in and said, we need to talk with you. He said, what for? He says, secret police have informed us you're leading the church.

[00:49:37] You need to stop the church. You'll get outta the country. They're giving you a pleasant warning, and we are gonna have to take you off the job, send you back to UK if you don't stop right now. Well, he went back to his wife, told her the story and she said, we're gonna pray. We're going on our knees. 'cause God's brought us here for this purpose, not for your job.

[00:49:57] He goes, we're gonna be arrested. We've got kids. He said, no, he's called us here. So she's praying and he's gotta go back to his bosses within a week. Absolute true story. Anyway, she's praying and she went to this like coffee place and she's sitting there and a woman walked in. With about five dogs and sat next to her and they started talking and she said, oh, you live in Saudi Arabia.

[00:50:24] And this one with the dog said, you live in Saudi? He said, yeah, my husband works here, but we're gonna need to go back. She says, why are you gonna need to go back? And she felt so courageous. She told her, why? Well, you actually leave at church and we're not allowed to do that stranger, this woman said.

[00:50:42] Really? That's very interested. Could you come and meet me in two days in this coffee bar again? She said, yeah, sure. So my friend's wife went home and told her, he said, you shouldn't have said that. We're gonna be arrested. Now, he's a godly man, we'll get a bit fearful, don't we? And anyway, he basically, she went back two days later and the dog walker was there.

[00:51:02] Dogs sat down and had a coffee. She says, what do you do? She said, I'm an English teacher. She said, good. She said, I think I've got a job for you. Really what we've gotta leave. No, I've got a job for you. Would you tomorrow come and meet me in the same place and I wanna take you to the palace? She said, palace.

[00:51:23] She said, yeah, I'm the dog walker for the king. It's absolutely truth. Let's talk about divine appointments. Of course, she got really nervous. She sticks. What's my husband gonna say? I've just met the dog walker with the kink.

[00:51:40] Anyway, she goes back, tells my friend and he goes, oh no, we're finished full of faith. She, he said, I don't want you to go back tomorrow. You're gonna be arrested if you get in that palace because it's very strict, as Well, she went back, sure enough, the dog walker turned up, but this time with three black men limousines bigger than And she said, I wanna take you to the palace. So my friend's wife got in and was taken to the palace, took her into the palace. She said, just sit here for a little while. And then this beautiful princess walked out who was the king's daughter, and she said, oh, my dog walker's told me all about you and what's happening.

[00:52:21] She thought we're finished 'cause the dog walker were told about the church we're finished. She said, interestingly, she said, my children need a really good English teacher. Would you take the wall? So she thought. And she said, I know your story, but could you take the role and come back tomorrow? Start? And all I'll tell you is all will be well.

[00:52:48] So anyway, she goes back home, tells my friend, he goes, we're finished. You've now finished us. We're going in prison. We're not gonna be seen again. Our kids, is just like full of faith. Yeah. So anyway, she went back and on the day she went back to teach, he was called in by his bosses. They said the week's up, what are you doing?

[00:53:10] He said, I dunno. They said, we know what you're doing. You're staying. I've just had this piece of paper from the palace you can carry on with your church.

[00:53:21] Don't tell me God can't move. Don't tell me you've got an impossibility. Incredible story. He stayed for another four years. He actually ended up with 10 churches across Saudi Arabia. He's now back in England, but he's raised up pastors, Saudi Arabians and locals, and the church has been growing and when our son, we thought was dying, he got in touch with me.

[00:53:45] He said, I just wanna let you know Gary. He said, all of our churches in Saudi Arabia prayed for the life of your son. I said, you joking? He said, no. This about, I think it was about 5,000. We've had a prayer meeting, 5,000 people praying for the son and the life of him out of a place of death. God was using to bring life guys this morning.

[00:54:06] Whatever you were, God's preparing you for something big, but it's the message you carry that counts. Amen. Final thing,

[00:54:17] you gotta sow seeds with eternity in mind. Whatever you do is not about now, it's about eternity. It's about leaving a legacy, not just a memory. A memory is about you. Legacy is about him living in others. I finished with this final story. I got a lot more to say, but we'll do it another day. Time's up. I know.

[00:54:41] Well, my grandfather was a Christian. Good man. He was a gentleman. He's the sort of guy that when I was walking a young lady down the road, if he saw me, he'd stop his car, walk across and he'd say, Gary, can I have a quiet word? Yeah, of course you can. He said you walk on the roadside, not the path side. Some of you were a little bit older and know that's really important.

[00:55:07] You don't put your young lady next to the road. You put her on that side. You are on the side of the road. Now look, I'm ignorant. I wasn't doing anything to them. He said that's that sort of man, gentleman, love God tremendously. Love God. One day, this is, he died in 1989. My grandfather. My dad died in 2 0 20 18, but my grandfather died in two, 1989 and we just started Mosaic Church.

[00:55:36] So this is now about eight years ago. So my grandfather had been dead 30 years, and I wanted to buy a building next door to the church to expand the church. Couldn't afford it, but I wanted to buy it. So I met the owners, and this is the absolute truth. Her name was Mr. Or Mrs. Lazarus.

[00:55:57] And they came to the office and I, well, I said to 'em, I wanna buy it. And they said, we're not gonna sell it. You, we don't wanna sell this. It's a business. And, church doesn't pay its bills anyway. 'cause what we'd taken over was a church with a bad reputation, just gonna say it. And we needed to turn that reputation into credibility in the area.

[00:56:14] So said, we're not gonna sell it. Anyway, about four months later, they rang me, said, can we meet you? Go. I said, yeah, sure. I've got one of my leaders of the church with me. We met in a room and there's Mr. And Mrs. Lazarus. And they said, we're ready to lease it. You the building. I said, I'm not interested.

[00:56:31] They said, what? I said, now God's told me I've gotta buy it. I don't wanna lease. They said, but we're ready to lease it. And I said, no. God's told me I wanna buy it. They're not Christians. They said, you're really convinced. I said, I'm totally convinced. I said, if you're gonna sell it, then I'll buy it. So she looked at her husband, she was more the spokes lady of the couple, and she said, okay, we'll think about selling it.

[00:56:52] What price could you offer? Well, the building was worth about 400,000 pounds at that point. And I said, I've got 160,000. You've gotta tell the truth, haven't you? She said, that's a lot less. I said, yes or no. And then she looked at me and this is why I wanna tell you this story. She looked at me and she said, Gary Spicer.

[00:57:14] When people say that quietly, I'm always worried what someone told them about me. And what I said was, I said, yeah. She said, Don and Tom, that's my dad. That's my grandfather. My grandfather's been dead 30 years. I said, that's my dad. That's my grandfather. She said, yeah, I wondered if it was, she said they were good men in the city.

[00:57:38] They ran a business. I said, yeah. They said they ran it with integrity. They were Christians, weren't they? I said, yeah. She said there were always people that kept to their word. She said, it's so interesting. I now sit with the grandson and son 30 years later. She said, could you go out the room? So I said, yeah.

[00:57:54] So I went out in the room, came back 10 minutes later, she said, we'll sell at you for 160. That had nothing to do with me that had to do with the past generations doing the right thing, going to heaven, not believing that the seed was ever gonna reach. But it reaped 30 years later that we could have a new church building where we could gather people.

[00:58:17] Why do I say that? Never, ever criticize the seed that you've sow that hasn't been reaped yet. It may be the next generation, or it may be before Jesus comes, who knows? But I wanna say, you've gotta be legacy sowers, not just now Reapers. That's pray.

[00:58:42] Lord May, everything that's been said this morning, not just be of me, but of you, may Your Holy Spirit water seed in people's hearts. You are a God of preparation for every passage that you intend to take these great people on. And so, Lord, today, prepare the hearts because we know it's the message we carry that changes people's lives.

[00:59:01] Thank you, Lord for this morning, we bless the word to you. It's your words in Jesus name, amen.