

## SHEPHERDS, GATEKEEPERS & WALLS

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World Harvest Church  
Lloyd Phillips  
Fellow Laborers' Int'l Network (FLInt Net)  
P.O. Box 113 - Missoula, MT 59803  
www.flintnet.org - (406) 251-5730

Well, praise God. What I have to share hopefully we will all come out of here with more authority and more understanding of what the Lord is doing in these days and these times. I'm going to talk to you today about Shepherds, Gatekeepers and Walls. I want to go to this section of Scripture here in John 10 and look at Jesus as the Shepherd. In verse 7 it says, And Jesus said to them again most assuredly I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All whoever came before Me are thieves and robbers but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

Now, many years I have known that Scripture. Jesus said, I am the door. If you come in through Me you will get saved. I understood that part. But you know sometimes we read the Word over and over and over and we miss other little parts just because we don't understand them. Well, the other part is that will go in and out and find pasture. One day it dawned on me, I understood the part about coming in through the door and receiving my salvation, but what does this mean? Going in and out and finding pasture. Well pasture. What is that? That's where sheep go to feed, isn't it? That's where we go to be fed. That's what the symbolism is.

What has happened is too many of us have come in through the door and we've never gone out and so we're starving to death. We haven't been fed. What does a shepherd do? A shepherd brings us to the food. Correct? Takes the sheep to the food. What has happened is that we have come in through the door and we've stayed there too often, in that sheep fold. In the days in which we live, the Holy Spirit is doing some great works in terms of tearing down walls between us. He's tearing down walls between races. He's tearing down walls between gender. He's tearing down the walls even between clergy and laity. We are seeing the walls come down! That's good!

I saw a movie not that long ago, a war movie, the American platoon had just come through a battle and they got to a section of this town that was all in debris and everything and one of them laying down says, "I'm just going to sit down right here." And when he sat down and leaned against the wall and the wall fell in. Right on the other side was the enemy. Sometimes when we pull down the walls we see things we don't want to see.

We've seen this in the Body of Christ. We've seen the walls come down. They need to come down. But, not always do we find what we want to find on the other side. But, we can't stop the process. We need to keep bringing them down.

In John 10:1 it says, Most assuredly I say to you, "He who does not enter the sheep fold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him, the doorkeeper (or the porter, or the gatekeeper, depending upon which translation you are reading) opens and the sheep hear his voice and he calls his own sheep by name and he leads them out. When he brings out his own sheep he goes before them and the sheep follow him for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger but will flee from him for they do not know the voice of a stranger.

Now what is that picture? The shepherd leads the sheep, right? What does a shepherd do? He leads sheep. In Montana we have what we call cowboys. We also have shepherds. They don't generally get along. What cowboys do is they drive cattle, generally to the butcher. Unfortunately in the Body of Christ we have shepherds who think they are cowboys. But unless the Body of Christ starts growing horns, I think they've got it mixed up. We as shepherds are to lead and the sheep will follow. Why? Because they will hear the voice of their Shepherd, the Lord Jesus and they will follow. If we're walking and we look back and nobody is following then we are not leaders. We're just taking a walk. We need to lead and if there are sheep that can hear the voice of the Lord they will follow. What we've done though is that we have accepted leadership that herd us up and lasso us. You do that to cows. You don't do that to sheep. When you get a cow that runs off, you go lasso them and bring them back or you drive them back. When you find a sheep that has strayed, what do you do? You leave the ninety-nine and go find the one and you carry them back. Do you see a difference? In the Body of Christ if we will just come back to the simplicity of the Word, I'm talking as leaders, if we'll come back to the simplicity, I think people of God will say, "Boy, I can handle that kind of leadership. I can submit to that. That's love, right?" Praise God. That's what we need.

As we lead our sheep, and we come to the sheep fold all of a sudden we realize while we are in the sheep fold, you know I have some control over them while they are in here. What we have done too often is we bring them in there and we leave them in there. What happens is that you over graze then. The sheep start getting hungry and undernourished.

The Body of Christ needs to be strengthened because we have war to do. We need to be strong. We need to be able to go out and that's what the Lord says, "Come in through the door and go in and out and find pasture." A good shepherd will take his sheep to different pasture, not always the same place.

We need a balanced diet from the Word of God. We need a balanced diet of what God is saying to the church, what the Holy Spirit is doing in the church. We need to follow and we need to go to different places. Leaders need not be afraid that we are going to lose some on the way because we need to nourish the body and they will reproduce.

What we have done is that we have herded them in and kept us so undernourished that we are not reproducing because we are just trying to get enough food to live. If we will get out and go into those pastures where there is green grass , what does it say in the Twenty-third Psalm , He leads me, right? He leads me to green pastures. He leads me to the still water. If we will nourish the body will reproduce.

It says here, the shepherd brings the sheep and then he comes to the sheep fold. Here you have what is called a gatekeeper. There is a gate there. Interestingly enough it says, the gatekeeper will open the gate for the shepherd. What we have done is we have made gatekeeper and shepherd synonymous. But it is very clear in the Bible they are different ministries. Actually in function, one is a position and one is a gift. What we have not understood in the Body of Christ, because we have confused our callings, our purpose with our positions. We'll say, "Well he must be this in terms of his gift or calling because of his position."

I sat down this morning and drew some pictures. I thought, "Okay. What kind of a building do we in our culture think of when we think of a pastor?" I drew just a little house with a cross on the top. Now that building must belong to a pastor.

What kind of a building would an evangelist be in? A rented room or a tent. So I drew a little tent.

What kind of a building would a teacher have? A classroom with a blackboard or a markerboard up here with desks out there. Teacher.

Apostle. What do we have? A whole bunch of little buildings with little crosses that he gets started and then gives over to a pastor so he could go on. The Apostle just keeps on going until he falls off the page because he got so old.

Then I thought, "What kind of a building would we put a prophet in?" We don't give them a building , we give them a closet. We say, "Go get in there and pray." Well it is time for the prophets and the people of God to come out of their closets. It is time for us to get out and hit the street. We need to tear down these strongholds.

I painted that picture for you , hopefully you could agree with that. I would say that those are pretty accurate but those are not Biblical. Those are strongholds that we in the American culture have set up because there is no building tied to any ministry except the Temple of God which is made up of Living Stones. That's what the whole five-fold is supposed to be doing. Building it together fitly framed for a dwelling place for the Lord God.

We have limited God because of our own stereotypes about what we think He should do and how we think He should do it. He is not limited to buildings unless we limit him to those buildings. I thank God for a roof over our heads. We have a place to come and to worship , but God is not limited by that. If we limit Him to what kind of a ministry or

what type of a calling we are going to allow to function through this type of building or that type of building we have limited God in our lives. It is time we pulled these things down.

We need to understand that there are gifts in the Body of Christ that are not gatekeepers , that don't have a position such as an eldership in the church , that's fine. There are shepherds in the flock because in the Bible you never see a shepherd, but the Lord Jesus , every other place is plural , shepherds. Why? Because they always went out in pairs or more and took care of the sheep.

They didn't generally own the sheep. Generally they were watching over the flock for their father. We as shepherds need to understand that the flock doesn't belong to us, it belongs to our Father. We would die for the sheep because they belong to our Father, but we get a little possessive sometimes. We say, "Well, look how much labor I've put into this flock. They are mine." We get a little bit possessive when they go over to a different pasture to eat a little bit. We can't have that so all of a sudden that old cowboy anointing comes on us and we start rounding them up, right? We need to change. We need to change and pull down those walls in our minds , our strongholds of what it is that leadership should be and we leaders needs to change and repent for our ways that have been controlling over the Body of Christ.

Now we do need protection. What we have found as we have pulled down these walls between us is that they were only there because they gave us a sense of security. They didn't really protect us. They separated us. By pulling them down we've seen some things that need to be fixed. Another things we have found is there are no walls around the church. They're broken down. That's where the walls should be because those walls bring the blessings of God upon us and the divine protection on the people of God. Those walls have to be around all of us, not between us.

God will never stand between you and me. It says in 1 John, "When we have fellowship with Him then we have fellowship one with another." God is not going to stand between you and me, but He will come and His glory will be around us to protect us and He always comes in a cloud. Sometimes He comes in a cloud of witnesses. When the Body of Christ becomes witnesses that glory will shine forth from us. That's what He wants to do. In Ephesians 3 it says He wants to show forth the manifold wisdom of God unto principalities and powers through the Church , through us.

To Him the doorkeeper opens , the gatekeeper. In the Bible the gatekeepers were the elders of the city. There was some respect that went with that position. They were the elders , they would sit in the gate , that's where decisions would be made for that city. What we have had unfortunately is we have had men and women that want that position of honor of sitting in the gate and making decisions but they've not proven themselves by becoming leaders that people will follow. Rather, they have used the authority that God has given them to hedge in and to control and to keep people in fear so they will stay and not leave this flock. Does this make sense? Yes! I probably could get in trouble for preaching this, but it is pretty simple to see right there in John 10.

I love the name of your church , World Harvest. You have a vision that is much bigger than your town. We in America are so individualistic , we think in terms of "I'm going to do it. I have to do it." We teach people evangelism and we say, "We have to each one reach one." That's all right to have that attitude, but each one reaching one hasn't worked. The Bible doesn't say to get a fishing pole and go catch one. That's our mentality of fishing: get a pole , go out , catch a big one , get our picture taken with it. We go out a do a little evangelism , we come back and tell everybody about our success. That is not the model of harvest in the Bible. Jesus said the Kingdom of God is like a net. The interesting thing about a net is there are a lot of people involved in that. The guy who makes the net shares in the rewards with the guy who has the boat. The guy who has the boat may or may not be the guy that casts the net , but then there is going to be more, depending on the size of the net there are going to be three or four more pulling that net in.

Interestingly enough when you get the harvest in they all share in the rewards of the harvest , the one that built the net, the one that cleaned the net, the one that had the boat, the one that cast the net, the one that pulled in the net , all share in the harvest. We have to break down our Western mentality that "I'm going to go catch the fish for the Lord with a fishing pole." It's not a biblical model but by working together there's a harvest, not just a little catch. A harvest is what we need.

Two thousand years ago Jesus said, the harvest is plenteous, the laborers are few so pray for the laborers. We've been praying for the harvest, He said to pray for the laborers. Jesus said, the harvest is already there. He said I know where the fish are.

Peter says, "No you don't. I'm the fisherman, you're the carpenter." He said, "All right, just because you're the rabbi I'll go ahead and throw out the net on this side of the boat." What happened? The boat sunk!

Jesus knows where the harvest is! He could sink your boat! What He wants you to do is raise up laborers that will build a net , that will cast a net , that will pull in the nets , let us share the harvest with one another. The Bible says, "Those that go forth in the battle and those that stay back with the stuff will both share alike. Praise God. The rewards that come from heaven are enough to share with all. We have rewards (great blessings) that are available to us , all the inheritance that there is in Christ Jesus , not a portion, but because it is spiritual inheritance it can be divided equally if we will be faithful.

There is a harvest. We need to raise up laborers. Not everybody can stay at the gate. If everybody stays at the gate you can't get through. Somebody has to lead the sheep. Somebody has to go out there and find the pasture so we know where to go otherwise the whole flock may fall in the ditch.

We put too many walls around what God tries to do. The Bible says in Ephesians chapter four that there are five ministries: apostles, prophets, evangelists, (I like to say) shepherds and teachers. The reason I say "shepherds" is because that is the Greek word and every

other place in the New Testament it is translated shepherd except that one place in Ephesians 4. Because of that one translation where it says "pastor" now we call leaders in the church "pastor." This has been a hindrance to us, I think, in understanding the Word of God. This very simply and clearly says, "Okay, what does a shepherd do?" He leads, the sheep follow. If he leads and nobody follows he must not be a shepherd, right? He does it with his voice, the blessings of God that he speaks, and where does he take them? To pasture. The word that is translated "shepherd" actually just means "feeder."

In the Old Testament there are two different words for shepherd and pastor, but in the New Testament there is only one. That person's job is to be sure that the sheep are fed. Do you know how a shepherd feeds sheep? He does not put them in a stall and bring hay and stuff it in their face. He takes them to pasture and they feed themselves. It is a different mind-set of what a feeder is than what we think, what a shepherd is. To feed the flock of God is not to shove something down somebody's throat, but to take them to good pasture where there is good grass and let them feed, let them receive what the Holy Spirit has for them.

We draw too many boxes around who can do what. If this person is an apostle then they can't be in that kind of a building. Years ago I had one of our elders who came to me and said, "Lloyd, I'm not sure what you are, but I don't think you're a pastor. You're either an apostle or a prophet and that means you have to go out and so that means somebody else should take over here." Obviously he considered himself to be a shepherd and so therefore that means he could take over that flock. That's what he did, too. He split the church and I pretty much just prayed and within about four months just about everybody had come back because that stereotype of "you're something else Lloyd so you can't be doing this."

Well, can't an apostle be a shepherd? I should say that every apostle needs to be a shepherd, but not every shepherd will be an apostle. We try to put everybody in a box. We do that to ourselves. We need to break out and break down those walls. What we find though is that the walls are all broken down around the people of God.

In Nehemiah it says that the walls were broken down all around Jerusalem. God had to go all the way over to the Babylonian nation and raise up a standard named Nehemiah and bring him over there. It says in Nehemiah 2:13 And I went out by night through the Valley Gate to the Serpent Well and the Refuse Gate, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were burned with fire.

If you want to be a gatekeeper and you want to sit in the gates of God then there need to be walls, not the walls between us, but the walls all the way around us, right? What we've had is people saying they are gate-keepers, but there are no walls. Without a wall you can't have a gate.

Do you remember the story of the Emperor's New Clothes? Do you remember the emperor had these clothes made and the tailor kept telling them they were so wonderful, but he never made any clothes, he just took the money and left. But, he had the emperor

convinced that these were beautiful, beautiful clothes. The emperor couldn't see them, but he didn't want to admit that he couldn't see them so he goes out on the town in his skivvies. Everybody in town is saying, "Oh, isn't that beautiful! Aren't those clothes beautiful." Nobody wanted to be the one to say, "I don't see anything." Because if you're the one, you might be the one they throw stones at because you're different. Finally this little boy spoke up and said, "He's naked." Thankfully they listened to him.

We have to become like a child. Our heart has to become like a child's. I've been looking at the walls of God's protection around the people. I don't see them. So, really until I see those walls out there, I don't really think that anybody has a right to be called a gatekeeper because there is no gate. The walls have been torn down just like in Nehemiah's day. The walls are gone. We've been so long in our own little world with our own little walls we haven't even seen the edge of God's city. We need to come out and understand it is the Body of Christ that He has His arms around. He loves us all, but together it is the Body.

The walls need to be rebuilt, the walls of God's divine protection need to be rebuilt. As we are coming out and we're seeing what was behind our walls that were hidden, it's not very pretty sometimes but that's no reason to go back and put up our walls again. No. No. No. Call on the Holy Spirit. There is a reason He is called "Holy Spirit" because holiness gets all that junk out, but let's take all that rubble and take it out to the edge of the city and let's rebuild those walls of God's protection. Let's take what the devil meant for evil and let's let the Lord use it for good! We have a job to do. The Lord is working in His Church.

I want to tell you a little story. Not that long ago we went out on a prayer day, all the churches in our city participated and we had people going out in their communities around their churches and prayer walking the neighborhoods. The day before this happened, in preparation, I took my discipleship group and we went to the four corners of our city, the four spiritual gates of our city, we went to the east, to the west, to the north, to the south. At each of these stops we would pray, each one of those had had significant events happen there and the Lord has revealed various spiritual strongholds that need to come down, that affect each of these different spiritual gates or portals, Each place we came we would face each other and pray. We'd just stand there and pray, it's natural to get into a circle. We were in a circle and we'd pray and praise. Whatever the Lord would speak prophetically we would speak it out. One prayer would lead to another and we would learn great things from the Holy Spirit.

Then we would move on when the time was right to the next and to the next and to the next. As we were going to the last one on the south end, we went up through a park on the edge of town, kind of a wilderness place that is big with trees and open areas where you could probably get lost. As we drove up there we went to the overlook that overlooks our whole valley. On the way up there at about three in the afternoon at this point, over at the edge of one of the fields there were four deer. Now that's not odd for us to see deer. It's not even odd to see four deer. What was odd was the way they were standing. Here they were, four deer rump to rump; one looking north, one looking south, one looking

east and one looking west. Wow! Interesting! That's a neat picture if you can see it , if that's all it is, it's just a neat picture , it's just a neat thing to see. But, because we were out doing what we were doing, we felt there was something more to this.

We got up there and I was contemplating, "What does that mean, Lord?" We were praying. We had a pretty good sized group. We were at the last point where we were going to pray. We were in a big circle , all praying and I thought, "Wait a minute."

I said, "Everybody stop." The Bible says that when the enemy comes in like a flood, God will raise up a standard. He did it in Nehemiah's day. He raised up a standard. His name was Nehemiah. But that represents apostolic ministry. He raised up a standard and then what does that standard do? It lets all the people who are out there wondering and saying, "What is wrong?" Oh, look. There is a flag , that's what a standard is. It is a rallying point. So they were able to come to that rallying point and begin to be mobilized.

Likewise in the Body of Christ, we need to see a standard raised. We need to raise the standard of the Lord Jesus. He always begins a work through His apostolic ministry. So in raising that standard, we come to that standard. It is kind of like what you see in the school yards now days were they gather around the pole. They meet at the pole and they pray, right? That is a symbol. They are standing there meeting at that standard.

But, what the Lord showed me was a warfare thing. Coming to the standard is good because now we are in a place where we can be mobilized. But through those deer He showed me that we need to turn around and we need to look out. We feel very comfortable when we are sitting around the campfire facing one another. We feel very comfortable then. But in reality our backs are uncovered, aren't they? But, we feel so nice. We know the Armor of God from Ephesians chapter six. You have the breastplate, you have the shield, you have the helmet, you have the sword , everything covers the front. Nothing covers the back. The only thing I can find in the Bible that covers your back is: (it says) the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Praise God for His glory today!

I see the glory of the Lord coming down through prayer. Right in Ephesians six it says praying always with all prayer and supplication always in the Spirit... because once we get that armor on we need the suspenders to hold it all together , that's the prayer. We need to come to that point , but then we need to turn. You cannot turn your back unless you can trust someone. I don't know about you, but my back has some wounds. Most of those have come from friendly fire. We need to come back to that standard , something we can trust and then we need to turn out and look out just like those deer were doing.

Now let me tell you a little story. Last year I was praying with another apostle in our city. We were praying during the time that another church was beginning. They were planting a church in our city and while they were doing some of their first weeks of meetings, there was a time in an other room where we could come and we could pray and bless them. So there was at this point just the two of us in the other room. We were praying and

the Spirit of the Lord really came in me prophetically and I began to really speak a word through that prayer. Just for your information, if you ever wonder if it's okay to go from prayer into prophecy.

I've had prayer meetings in my city and sometimes other pastors have said, "You're doing more than praying down there."

"No we're not."

"Yeah, you're prophesying."

Just for your information, the first verse in the Bible that has the word "prophet" also is the first verse that has the word "pray." So they go hand in hand in God's Kingdom, okay? Because of the Law of First Mention we know that God expects them to go hand in hand.

Anyway we were in there praying and the spirit of prophecy came and I spoke that we needed to raise up an army that would be like dog-soldiers that would stake themselves and would not be moved. Now, that may not mean anything to you. It didn't mean much to him. But, it means a lot to me and I stopped when I was done and explained to him what that meant. In the Indian culture out west they had a group of warriors that were the toughest of the tough. They were called the dog-soldiers. You did not become part of this group of warriors just by being good with a bow and arrow. You had to be good in gorilla warfare. You had to be willing to die for that community. Those dog-soldiers were sworn to, if it came down to it, they would go out to the edge of the village with their weapons in hand and a cord tied around their waist and they would stake a stake in the ground with themselves tied to that stake and they would not move from that piece of ground that they could reach with that cord. Any enemy that would come and try to get to the women and children had to come past them and they would die before they would let an enemy pass. They didn't protect the whole city, each one took a section. They staked their lives on it. We have villages like that now. We don't have the walls like they had in Jerusalem. They're broken down and until we rebuild those walls with Living Stones we need a warrior people that will raise up, that we will train, that we will set at the edge, and we will stake them or they will stake themselves to the ground and they will not let an enemy pass.

Now if you just go out, intercessors listen to me because you've probably done this, you go out with that attitude and you stake yourself. The enemy beats you up. Why? Because he comes in around you. This only works when we start thinking as a body. We need to come back like those deer, back to back, shoulder to shoulder with the standard behind us.

So this is what we did on that mountain. I said, "All right everybody. Let's turn around." I explained what we were doing. I explained why I was thinking of this. As we did that, (so we are in a big circle facing out) I know what everybody felt because I felt it. Wow! There's a big world out there. I don't feel nearly as comfortable as I did as when I was

facing my friends. In reality I was more protected because my back was covered, but it didn't feel that way. There was a big world out there , there could be enemies behind every tree. But in reality I was more protected because my back was covered.

You know when you first step out for God it may seem a little strange. You might want to go back to what was comfortable. Don't go back. As soon as we did that I remembered something else. I don't know if you're aware but up in the far, far north there is a big ol' buffalo looking thing called a muskox. They stand between six and seven feet high at the shoulder with long hair on them. They really don't have any enemies up there but occasionally polar bears and packs of wolves. What the muskox does when it is attacked by a pack of wolves is they gather in a circle with their heads out and down so the horns are forward and the babies in the middle. Those wolves run around and around and around and they can't get in. As long as that herd of muskox doesn't get afraid and run, those wolves can't touch the young.

Here we were in a circle looking out like a whole herd of muskox but not quite as ugly and definitely not as smelly. The Lord was teaching us what we needed to do in the Body of Christ. We need to come back to the standard. When the enemy comes in like a flood the Lord raises up a standard and we come in and we stand there with our weapons in a circle around that standard , that apostolic ministry , we look out. We face the enemy.

I said, "All right now. I want everybody to take a step." Did you notice today that the Lord spoke and you all stood up and held hands. That is what we did. Another step. And another step. We got to the point when we could no longer see who was on our left and who was on our right. It's very important as we mobilize God's army to know who's on your left and you need to know who's on your right. You cannot go forward into the move of the Spirit that God is bringing now unless you know who your fellow soldiers are. You need to know who your fellow laborers are. You need to know who is standing on your left and who is on your right. You might be the greatest Marine in the Marines, but you're not going until you get put with others that will stand with you and fight with you. You could be the best guy in the world, but if you can't work with others, you're staying back at Paris Island. You can tell everybody how great you are, but you'll never show it. No more super stars, but the Lord Jesus Christ.

We're going to do this as an army , as a Body , and we're going to take back the land that the devil has stolen. You see God is going to do it through us. He's always wanted to do it through us. In the Body of Christ we have terminology that we use but a lot of it is modern terminology not Biblical terminology. We talk about God using us. But it never says that in the Bible. It says in the Word that God is going to work with you. He's going to work in you. He's going to work through you. When we use that terminology that's what we mean, but subtly in our minds what we are saying is that God is going to grab you like a toy soldier and get you out there. He isn't going to do that. He's proven that by how patient He's been with us. What He is going to do is work with us, in us, and through us as we allow Him to. Where two or more are gathered in His name He is there. If one can chase a thousand, two can chase ten-thousand. Well, how many can we all chase? I

say, "We can chase all the enemy! That's how many! If we'll come together, we'll chase all the enemy out of the kingdom.

Now back to my story: So now what happens? We get to the point where we no longer can see who is to our left and who is to our right.

I said, "Okay now. Everybody take one step backwards. Now you can see who's there, right?" If the enemy tries to come in we're going to get them. I said, "This is the place. This is as far as we can go, now we need to fill in with evangelism. We need to fill in these gaps. We don't go another step forward until we raise these people up. Not just get them in the holes, but raise them up to be warriors so they can take a step forward and stake it in the ground."

What we have done is making the mistake of going out by ourselves, that shows we are committed, that shows we are zealous, but it also shows we need a little more patience, maybe some wisdom. But, how many of you have done that? I know I have. You get out there a little too far and you're going to fight for the Lord, thank God He's brought you back alive, but with wounds. So we need not go out alone.

But, at the same time what we've done as zealous leaders many times is we've said, "Okay we need to raise up the people." So we fill in those gaps with new converts and then we send them out to battle before we've trained them how to fight and then they are wounded. We need to submit everything we do to the leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ like we heard today. He is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls. He is the Apostle of our hearts.

I was in a meeting once with a number of other pastors, it was a steering committee for a School of Prayer we were bringing in. We each were asked to go around and give in a short sentence what our goal was for the School of Prayer, what were we hoping to see from this School of Prayer for our city? It came to me and I said, "Well, for me I want this School of Prayer to be one more step in the ultimate goal of having one Shepherd and Bishop over our city."

One of the guys looked at me and says, "Lloyd, are you volunteering for the job?"

I said, "I was speaking of "the" Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ as Peter was."

"Oh. Oh." Everybody got a good laugh.

The reason I tell you that story is because in a way it is sad that when we think of the government of the church we often don't think of Jesus. He is the Shepherd. The best we can be is undershepherds. Right? You don't need a position of a gatekeeper to shepherd God's people. If you will gather the flock and bring them to the pasture where they can be fed, then you are doing the job of a shepherd. I know a man who is definitely a shepherd. He has the gift of a shepherd. He has never been in a pulpit to my knowledge. He has his own business in the secular world but everywhere he goes he always has a group of men

that he is encouraging and bringing them to be fed. I ran in to him in Washington, D.C. in "Stand in the Gap." He had fifteen guys with him. I just kind of polled him. I said, "How many of you wouldn't have been here if it wasn't for him?"

More than three-quarters of them were there because of him. He's just a good guy. He's a wonderful man of God. He doesn't have a teaching ministry. He's not apostolic. He's not prophetic. But, he's a shepherd. He doesn't mind doing that job without having a position of sitting in the gate somewhere. Nothing wrong with sitting in the gate once we have walls and gates.

I'll read you something else from Nehemiah 4:11. And our enemies said, "They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease." You can't tell? You're minding your own business. You're doing what you have been sent to do and somebody walks past you. How do you know if that is an enemy or not? So he's gotten into the midst of us.

Many are weak and sick and some have fallen asleep because we've not discerned the Lord's Body. That's you. That's me. We need to come back to the standard. We need to come together. We need to find who we can trust, find who the Lord has put us with, who are our fellow laborers? Then we need to turn our backs on them, only because we can trust them, with our weapons forward and take a step. Don't run ahead of what God is doing, but take a step, take another step. As long as you can see who God has put with you on the left and on the right we can take back the land.

Then we fill it in. We bring in new converts into the Kingdom to fill it in. Then we equip them. The Bible says that He gave five ministries: apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers to equip the saints to do the work. We have tried to do all the work with the gatekeepers. I don't know about you, but every place I go the people of God are saying, "I want to get to work. I want to do something for God. I have gifts." But we have not known how to use the gifts that God has given us because of our stereotypes of how church is supposed to look.

I think "church" changes with time. I think right now it needs to look like a battle plan. I think we need a standard set and we need dog-soldiers staked out around the camp of God. Those that are young and those that are still being taught need to be in the center where they are protected. They can be instructed in that place. Those of us who have been around for a while and have our armor on need to stand firm and watch out for them and not be so concerned about building our own ministry but be concerned about building the Kingdom of God. That Kingdom is built with souls. It is built with Living Stones, with the Holy Spirit indwelling in each one.

Apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers, equipping the saints to do works of service. If you have more workers, you can do more work. What we've lacked either is equipping the saints or coordinating the work. If we will come back and do what I'm saying, come back to that standard then we are going out in an organized manner then the enemy can't come in like a flood. If there's a break and the enemy begins to come in,

do you know what you do? Back back up to the pole. Back to the standard. We always have to come back to Christ the standard. We always have to come back to the Center Line. We always have to come back to the Cross. But, don't camp out there. Get up and go forward.

Remember those lepers at the Gate of Samaria? What did they say? Why sit here until we die? Let's get up and let's go forward and let's take back what the enemy has stolen because I'm going to tell you something. When the Children of Israel they spoiled the Egyptians. They had plenty. What did they do with it? They built the Tabernacle of God. What did David do in his life but spoil the enemy. What did that spoil get used for? Solomon used it to build the Temple of God. Solomon didn't earn that money with his newspaper route. David brought it in. You are called to spoil the enemy. You are called to use those spoils to build the Temple of God. You are called to use that to build that Temple with those Living Stones. Those ministries are to come in and fit those stones in that wall of that Temple where the glory is inside , where the Lord comes and visits His people , where the Lord dwells within us.

In the Old Testament He said, "I want a temple so I can dwell among My people." But Paul said in Corinthians, "He wants a temple now where He can dwell IN His people." It is time for the Church to go back to the standard , to get rid of all the things we've learned and let the Lord bring back the things He wants to bring back. Some of what we have is good, but we're not smart enough sometimes to tell which is and which isn't , what is a stereotype and what is really from heaven. Don't be afraid to go back to the standard. Don't be afraid to just toss it all down at the Lord's feet because it says in the Bible, humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and He will raise you up. It has to be in His sight though. Throw it all down at His feet. Lay it all down at His feet and let Him give you back what He can use through you to build the Kingdom of God.

Let's all go back to Him and say, "Lord Jesus, our lives are Your lives. Raise us up as a warrior-people because You have left us here for a reason , to take back what the enemy has stolen. Through the Church will you show the manifold wisdom of God unto those principalities and powers, for Lord we are yours and we want to work with You. We want to dwell with one another in love and go forward to fulfill His commission which is to reach all the world and make disciples of all the nations." Amen. Thank you.

Another man:

The Lord spoke to me about this service last night that He was going to expand the vision of the church. Now, it doesn't happen to me all the time but you are spirit-beings and your spirits have voices and occasionally the Lord lets me hear what's going on in people's spirits , what they are thinking, what impacts them, and what registers on people. During this service the Lord allowed me to hear the voices of people's spirits and what was impacting. He began to speak to me.

He said, "This message is going to be gasoline on the fire of what burns in people's souls." He says, "there are two fires burning right now because there are two comings , one is going to be the coming of Jesus Christ who was the Law Giver and the other is the coming of the antichrist who is the lawless one and the law breaker." Both of those laws are burning right now in the hearts of God's people. What is being manifested that everyone of us is dealing with is a heart that desires to be everything and do everything that Jesus wants us to be and at the same time there is a fire of lawlessness and iniquity that is burning.

I know by the Spirit that some of you all misjudged the moment and you heard things that was not the full counsel of what was spoken because what this message was designed to do was to liberate you to flow in God's vision for this house and to see this as the sheep-fold and to go out and to come in and to receive and to build what God has to build. That was the heart of the subject. There was in some hearts people heard, "Well, you know I can go do what I want to do. I can just go where I want to go , do what I want to do , I'm not going to be held back."

The Lord told me to speak this word. What this is going to do is to contaminate the effort of the enemy to fuel lawlessness. There is going to be a manifestation of workers and of soldiers that understand the role that the vision has to play and to go out and to do exploits for the Kingdom of God and to be fitly joined together. But, I want you to understand that in those who do not have a heart to follow after the vision of God and are subject to lawlessness , there are individuals that will try to take out bits and pieces of the full counsel and use it to justify , not following the standard of apostolic vision. I just heard that very clearly in the spirit. I want you to understand that what has happened is that God has shown favor and that He is spicing and gracing this church today for you to understand that there is a vision and there is a message for the Church to begin to function according to the divine design in the heavenly pattern.

Do you all bear witness to that? Amen. And Lord God, right now in the Spirit we just join together and we release the anointing here today to call the Church into the path that God has for it. That we most assuredly can go out and we can come in and Lord that we can be fattened and then we can build muscle. That we can flow in function in that design and that pattern and that order and we loose the concept of the Church as a fortress, Lord God and as the stronghold into which there is no entry or exit , but we establish the foundation of the pattern as a center, Lord God, for the glory and the government of God to flow out of and for the blessing of God to go upon people and to come back into us. In Jesus' name. We just bless you Lord. We give you the glory and the honor and the praise in Jesus' name.