

“Let God Be God”
By Ken Avellino
Sunday, October 29th, 2017

Jesse, good job. Would you come back a second and just have a prayer with me, for God’s anointing on the service?

Jesse: Holy and righteous Father, as Brother Ken prepares to deliver this message, Lord, you've already been preparing him all week, Lord God. God, give him calmness and peace in his mind, and his heart. Let the words flow through, to our hearts. And, let us be not only hearers but doers of your Word. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Well, I first want to start out with a praise report. I want to thank everybody. Some of you know, some don't. But, I got a letter from Lake County, saying to vacate the premises of my shop within 90 days. And, I immediately mentioned to a lot of brothers, called brothers and said, “I need prayer.” The attorney for the lady that owns the building said, “You'll be lucky if they give you until summertime.” So, I wrote a letter and I sought God, and God answered prayer, and they gave me three years. Because moving a business is a very large operation. So, they gave me three years. And, even people that were just friends of mine, I would send them texts and I'd say, “God did this for me.” They didn't go to church or anything, but God did this for me. And, I just wanted to tell everybody thank you for your prayers.

My wife and I have two grandsons, I think they're six and eight; I always get it wrong, but that's close enough. Anyway, the other day, Daniel says to me, “Papa, I love you.” And I said, “I love you, too, Bub,” I call him Bub, in that way, Bub. And he says, “You know what? I love grandma, too,” and I said, “Well, that's great. That's good.” But what really surprised me, what really got me, he goes, “But most of all, I love God.” You know, with two boys in the house, there’s always a big wind up for that big high five, and they love it. They'll even climb up on the chair to reach up, and it's whack; that big high five. I was very impressed, and I said, “I'm very happy to hear that from you, Daniel.” You know, we're talking about the love of Christ. Then the first Scripture today will be from Deuteronomy, chapter six, verse four:

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Now, if you think about that, God loved us first. Well, how do we know that? Because, that's where it starts, right there, that Scripture, where it starts. And, where does it end? I don't even know if it does end. But, when Jesus said, “It is finished,” this whole book, this whole Bible, from start to finish, is what shows where God loves us; He mapped it out for us. He made a plan. Now, what if the whole thing was turned around? What if our God was an evil God, and a hateful God? What would this world be like? We would have no opportunity to get back to Him, to be saved from our sin. If we were just like our God and we served an evil God, we would have no way to get back, no way to be saved, no forgiveness of sins, nothing. So, by following God, and loving God, and allowing God to love us, it’s reciprocating back and forth. What if one day, out of the blue, for no reason at all, we say, one day, “God, I love you. God, I thank you,” I do that all the time. You know there are days, and even last week, was one of them, you know, it can get pretty rough out there, it can get pretty depressing. You know when I go to the VA, one of the first

questions they ask, is, "Any thoughts of suicide or depression?" And I say, "Yeah, every Friday, when I look at my check, I get that for a few minutes." But, anything that goes wrong in life, and when things get tough, I have learned to reach out to God, to start praising God, to start thanking God for what He has done, and, all that depression and all that anxiety just melts right there in front of us, in front of me. I have another Scripture here, you know, this talks about: They will know that we are His disciples because we have love, one for another (John 13:35). And Second Timothy, three, and one, I'm going to read a little passage of Scripture here.

2 Timothy 3:1-4 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

You know, for my family, for my children, I have to live a testimony, my wife and I have to live a testimony. We have to speak to them in love. We have to show them that they need to fall in love with God for themselves; we can only take them so far. Now, we have daughters, and maybe some of you have sons or daughters, and they like to argue. And, this Scripture here, we cannot argue with the world, we're going to lose. The world is going to outdo us, the world is going to out-lie, out-cheat, out-steal all of us. There's only one way to combat it, and that's through the love of God, via Scripture. I told my wife, especially with my oldest daughter, she always says, "God, God, God everything with you is always God, God, God." Yeah, exactly, because, if you put a Scripture out there, a Scripture in love—Not to fight or to combat it—put a Scripture in love. You know, one day I said to my dad—It's very emotional—because, I said to him one day, I was fighting with him, and I said, "I wish you were dead." I'll never forget this. And, he goes, "I'll gladly die the day that you straighten up." I never forgot that. I am very thankful that I still have my dad with me, today. And, somebody told me not too long ago—You know, I was frustrated with my dad and I was shaking my head. If you know my dad, you know we go, him and I, we go around and around. Two ants will be crawling up a wall, and he and I will argue over which one is going to get to the top first—and, he said, "You know you need to respect your dad, even if you don't like what he's doing. And, you need to be thankful to God that he's still here." He said, "I lost my dad, you know, and I've known a lot of people that have lost their dads. It's a very tough time. It's very emotional. It's like a piece of your life goes with him when he goes."

So, anyway, I have another Scripture here, and we're talking about family, and the love of the family, and, I want to talk about the prodigal son. Now, if you don't know who the prodigal son is, there was a father, and he had two sons, and one of his two sons said, "Father give me of my inheritance." And, he sat down and gave both of his sons at the same time—even though only one asked for it—He gave both of his sons the inheritance. And, then, it was a few days later that the one son got up and left. Now my children—and I've said it to my family, too—"I can't wait until the day that I'm eighteen, because I'm leaving home." So, the day came when I was eighteen, my dad said, "Well, you're eighteen today; you leavin'?" And I thought, "Well..." and, I said, "Well, just give me a few more days; I'll be out of school, then I'll go." Then, that day came, too. My dad said, "Are you leaving?" Well, you know, but God had a better plan, so he drove me to the recruiter. So, I got another six months, but I'm still leaving. Well, this son left, and, he went and wasted his substance among the world. And then he came back, but when he came back, he said to his father, "I am not worthy to be called your son." Now, the thing is, we think in our mind, that, when we come back, that we have to do something, that we have to measure up, I guess for lack of better words. So, the son said, "I am not worthy to be your son, so just let me be as one of your servants." And the father had love and compassion for him, and, he put the robe on him, put a ring on his finger, shoes was on his feet, you know, killed the fatted calf. Jesus loves us so much, it is so highly above

our comprehension how much He loves us, because He mapped it out, He gave us the Word, He gave us His Spirit, and His love, His Holy Ghost. You know, it's like a map, a GPS, you know. I don't use my GPS as much to get somewhere; I use it more for when I go off track. So, God's GPS, His prophets, His Scriptures, God's GPS enables us to get back to Him. And we think it's because we have to earn our way back, but we don't earn our way back. We get back to God because it is His love. His love is greater than anything we could ever imagine. God loves us. We hear this saying all the time, well, Jesus loves you. I know a lot of people that say, "God can't love me, I have done all this." The two brothers that received the inheritance in the prodigal son story; one was there all the time, and one left. But they received both the inheritance. Some people think, "Well, I've done so much, I've gone so far." But God's love is outstanding, it's everlasting, it is always there for us. No matter what we think, what we try to achieve, to get our way back, it's because of God's goodness; God loves us through all our mistakes, all our failures. And, when we receive that love from God, we are not perfect, but, we receive that love from God, and we keep trying we keep going, because it's God's love in us that saves us, we can't save ourselves, we can't do anything to earn that love back. It's God's love.

So, this is what I've really been thinking about: we know that if we're going to be a disciple of God, we have to follow God, but we have to let God be God instead of us trying to do it ourselves. That's really the thing that I'm trying to relay is that they will know, people will know that your disciple of God because through all things you love Him and He loves you, He loves you first, and He gave His Word, and we can receive strength. We can do the impossible. We can do things that we never thought we'd be able to do. I tried so many times to quit the things that I was doing. I would wake up in the morning, feeling guilty and I didn't know why, but it was God calling me because God loved me first. In closing, I just want to say, don't give up. If you want your family to be saved, you have to love God, and let God work through you, and let God change you, let God do the impossible in your life. Nothing else matters. That's the truth, and I just want to thank God for the opportunity. You know, I'm learning, I'm learning every day. And, I appreciate the opportunity—Parrish, Andrew—for the opportunity because, I just want to be saved, and that's all it was, and I just want to be saved. So, thank you and God bless.