

# 1-11-26 Mind To Work

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Nehemiah, prayer, apathy, compassion, ambassador, reconciliation, Holy Spirit, leadership, planning, delegation, vision, gospel, salvation, community.

## SPEAKERS

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Well, I'm excited to kind of continue to talk a little bit, especially in this topic of Nehemiah and building, because right now, probably most of your New Year's resolutions are still intact. So in February, I meant to preach about grace and forgiveness. It sounds like so, but the encouragement is, for all of us, we're thinking about what's next. You know, it's there's no real magic behind the calendar. It's just something about another year. And so people feel motivated to make a decision. And really, we should be making a decision every day, right? But for some reason, January rolls around and we set some goals. We want to read the Bible. We want to get more involved at church. Want to give more of our time treasure and talents, whatever it is we set goals. And so we want to talk last week a little bit about this. And it was that prayer of Nehemiah in chapter one, and it was the then bringing that full circle with Paul's mentality as well. And some things that we talked about was the fact that with Nehemiah. He was asking for a report. He was proactively concerned for other people, you know, and I wanted to kind of tie that in with us today, that my fear is that there's just widespread apathy. I feel like a lot of us can recite what's on the wall, but very few of us actually do anything about it. And Nehemiah got a report, and he had a choice Do something about it. Just scroll on by till the next story comes, right. And so we see that he began to pray. His burden would not go away. And he prayed to God. And then eventually you see the end of chapter one, he's like, Well, show me mercy, because I'm going to go talk to the king. He's going to lay it out to the king what the burden of his heart was. We talked about how Paul, even you think about the compassion that Paul had, where he says, I'm willing to be all things to all men that I might see some saved. And at no point was he saying, I'm willing to sin or compromise that, but he was willing. He even took a vow, right and shaved his head. That's not why I did it, but it's why he did he took a vow. He wanted to reach people. In fact, in Romans nine, it actually says that, if I could, I would be accursed, that Israel would be saved. We should be burdened for the lost. It's why you were left here to be an ambassador, to see all men saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. You've been given the ministry of reconciliation so that people could be brought far from God, near to him, by the cross, by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and they're going to stand before him one day. And I believe that is one of the main things you're going to give an account for. And I read through here, and I'm like, why are some people so passionate about it, but others are like, that's somebody else's job. Or I get little stirred on a Sunday morning, but by Sunday night, my favorite binge watching is taking place. My favorite games on, you know, whatever it is, by Sunday night, he done lost the burden, it's gone. And so we talked about the importance of praying for these opportunities, because prayer will start putting things into action and will start defeating apathy. When the more and more more you pray for somebody, the more burdened you become. I remember there was a thing in pure Life

Ministries and and a drill that they would help young men who are struggling with pornography and and sexual sin and whatnot. And they knew that part of the problem that they got into this part was not only their selfishness, but is now how they have objectified women, right? And so they came up with this Mercy prayer. And the idea was when a thought or an image came in about a woman to start passionately praying for her soul, for it to to pray that the Lord would protect her and bring bring the gospel, even these women that maybe were just on a picture that they would never see. And I'll tell you, it's really hard to be selfish and objectify a woman when you are praying that God would move in her life, and it starts sobering them up right? Start giving them a burden for these women and seeing them in prison instead of a means to their satisfaction. Prayer changes things. It definitely, I would say that the people you struggle with the most start consistently praying for the most. I beg your heart's going to start turning. But more often than not, it's like the people that made the naughty list for us, they don't get to enter the prayer journal because they've wounded us, and we never have a burden for them. We start get the point we really don't care about their well being. We almost rejoice when bad things happen to them, our heart has grown cold to them. We no longer see them as a soul that was saved, or that a soul that needs to be saved. And I think we need to be really careful about that. For example, this past week. I mean, I I try to stay out of things. As much as I can, because it's hard to know what's true. And it is. It's really it's a tough one out there. There's a lot of poison. But the thing that happened in Minnesota, the way people talk to each other, the the fierceness, the desire to see other people hurt or even die for believing differently than you, or posting differently than you there doesn't seem like there's a real concern for the soul of humanity, but instead rallying support for your political causes, and that's shameful to me. I mean, it's like we're saying that the cross only works for people that we think deserve to hear it, but Christ shed his blood for the most despicable. And I know because I am that person, but we seem to not care if somebody posts differently, voted differently, viewed a circumstance differently. We have lost touch with their soul, and we're just angry at them because they can't see things the way that we do. And so I want us to continue to look at seeing all men saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, because that's God's overarching will, and that will be some people that don't look like you, that don't vote like you, that don't live like you live if you don't reach them, who does? It's not a country club. It's not a place for people that just look like you. We have minimized the glorious cross that's available to all when we do that. And I think when we hear Nehemiah, he's responding to a report it was he's under a covenant relationship with Israel. He understands it was the Jews. I get that, but I think there's some principles with his leadership that we can apply today. So starting in one three this is from last week that says the remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem also is broken down and the gates thereof are burned with fire. That was the report. That was the report that put Nehemiah on a journey of fasting, mourning, praying for certain days, and that was going to put him into movement, into action with the Holy Spirit's prompting, or really, with God's prompting. Today, we will be led by this Holy Spirit who is indwelling us. They were waiting on things back then, but by four six, listen to what he says here. Three chapters later, so built we the wall, and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof, for the people had a mind to work. And that's really the title of the lesson today, mind to work. What we want to investigate is, how do you, in chapter one, sit in your situation of poor, poor, pitiful me, not doing any work to by chapter four, having a mind to work, and that should encourage each and every one of us. That means, if we're in one camp or we're doing nothing, that there's hope for you, it can change, and it did change for them, and I'm hoping it'll change for us as a community here. What happened between the walls broken down, the people in affliction, the people beat down, left to giving up hope, to now having the mind to work. What happened in between those chapters that put them to work, and what can we learn from it today in the body of Christ, knowing we're not under the law, and I think it's fascinating anytime we see change in somebody's life. I've I've shared before how I've sat at a concert, and here comes Steve Saint coming out and talking about the guy who murdered his dad. You know this, this Indian, this savage Indian, who murdered his dad, and how now this same man who murdered his dad is called grandpa to his children, and I sat there, and I'll never forget that. I'll probably mention it from

the pulpit till the day I'm done, because it was one of the most extreme examples of what somebody was and what they could be, how change is possible. And I think a lot of us just give up, and we just think I just am, the way that I am. This is just who I am. But if we have the Holy Spirit of God today, it's one of the real benefits of being the body Christ, the Holy Spirit of God, is indwelling us, and we have the complete word of God. We're not waiting for the next Prophet. We have everything we need, because God says, I want you to be changed, but that happens by the renewing of your mind, through the word of God. God and will happen, making sure that you understand what was written directly to you about what it means to be saved today and what it means to walk in this dispensation of grace through the word of God that you're studying. He wants us to not be conformed to this world. He wants us to be transformed by the renewing of our mind, that we be different, so that we can be an ambassador to see all men saved. Alright? So I wanted to go back and I want to say, Where's the gap? How do we get to we're building. We're sitting and crying. What changed? We know that in chapter two, verses 17 and 18, it says, Then said, I unto them, you see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste and the gates thereof are burned with fire. Come and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem that we be no more a reproach. Then I told them of the Hand of My God, which was good upon me, as also the King's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build so they strengthen their hands for this good work. There's a couple things here. Nehemiah didn't say, You go build the wall. You go do it. I'm the leader. You go do it. He says, Let us build the wall. And just like if I were to say you're to be an ambassador, not my job, I'm just the guy that tells you to go be an ambassador, that would be wrong. Why would you follow that leadership? I'm I'm not doing it, but I'm telling you you need to do it. Nehemiah says I'm going to get in the trenches with you. Let us build the wall plural us, I'm part of this process. And then he gave them confidence, because he said, God has sent me to do this, and the king has allowed it. So two of the big barriers that were probably keeping them from moving forward was, will God be with us, and will we lose our lives for trying to build these walls? Nehemiah concisely removed their two biggest objections and the result we will build. Let us rise, and let's build. So let's see chapter two. Let's see how we got here. Verse one says it came to pass in the month Nissan, in the 20th year of Artaxerxes, the king, that wine was before him, and I took up the wine and I gave it into the king. Now I had not been before time, sad in His presence. Now what's interesting is, when you do the math between kisleu and now Nissan, we've got about four months of him praying, him preparing for this day. It wasn't a rash decision. It's one chapter in your Bible, but it was four months before this interaction was going to take place, probably March or April. At this point, kids lose December. Verse two, Wherefore, the king said unto me, why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou are not sick. This is nothing else but sorrow of the heart. Now listen to what he says next, after, after the king perceived that this was sorrow of heart, and he had not been sad before him, he says, I was sorely afraid. And this, right here, usually, is the stopping point. I've been praying about it. I'm excited. I want to change things. I want to do something. But when fear creeps in, it's usually the thing that paralyzes us. It's the thing that keeps us from moving forward right. And it could have been right here for him, it says, Here's where it goes, though, said unto the king, let the king live forever. Why should not my countenance be sad when the city, the place of my father's sepulchers, it lieth waste and the gates thereof are consumed with fire? Why should I not be sad? This is the report that I received. Then the king said unto me, for what does thou make this request? And even before he began to make the request, so I prayed. And this isn't something that was just under the law. Paul continually talks about prayer. He's constantly communing with God, for others, for direction. And I feel like it gets lost a lot. I'm great. I'm so grateful that Bev gave us a like a whole section this fall on prayer, because I feel like it's needed. He had this fear, but we're told Second Timothy, one seven, God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. You know we have that, you know, promise today, fear didn't just stop him in his track. He said, I'm going to move forward, and I'm still going to keep praying. And when you get afraid and when you start worrying and you get anxious, that's exactly what you should do. In fact, we're told in Philippians chapter four, it says, Be careful for None. Nothing, Be anxious for nothing. Stop worrying, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your request be made known unto

God. That's awesome. And as a result, it says the peace of God, which keepeth which which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ, Jesus, and he tells us in First Thessalonians, 5:17, pray without ceasing. Every letter says, I pray for you always, as often as you come to my mind, I'm praying for you. Prayer is such a vehicle, and I pray it's not neglected in you. Starting in verse five, though he says, I said unto the king, if it please the king, and if thy servant have found favor in thy sight that thou would ascend unto me, me unto Judah, unto the city of my father's sepulchers, that I may build it. So here's the request. I mean, what would have happened if the fear would have overwhelmed him to the point where he just kept it hidden inside, he just buried it because of his fear. What would have happened? The wall wouldn't have got built when the leader is too afraid to lead, the people never follow. But he makes the request. Now listen to this request. By the way, four you can tell four months of preparation was already going on before this conversation ever happened. He says, that I may build it. The king said unto me, and the Queen also sitting by him, how long shall thy journey be? And when will I return? So it pleased the king to send me, and I set him a time. Now listen to this. This is great. He says. Moreover, I said unto the king, if it please the king, I mean, he's already like I'm I'm on positive I'm kind of on positive footing. Now I was afraid. I didn't even I knew it could cost my life by even coming in with this request. But now he seems open to it, so let me just keep pushing the envelope a little bit. So he says, If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river that they may convey me over till I come into Judah. And how about a letter unto Asaph, the keeper of the king's force, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace, which appertain to the house and to the wall the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me according to the good hand my God upon me. There was planning before he ever was going to tell the people, this is how we're going to do it. He had prayed for months. He had planned for months. He knew what was going to be take, what it was going to take in order to do the job. Am I? I'm thinking that has become kind of a lost art, and that's something you find quite a bit in the Bible too, this whole idea of planning. Luke 14:28, which of you intending to build a tower? Sitteth not down first and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it, lest haply, after he had laid the foundation, is not able to finish it. And all that behold it, begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build and was not able to finish or Proverbs, 24:27 prepare thy work without make it fit for thyself in the field and afterward, build thine house. Proverbs, 21:5, the thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness, but of everyone that is hasty, only to one. Proverbs, 15:22, without counsel, purposes are disappointed, but in the multitude of counselors, they are established. Or lastly, in Proverbs, six, six through eight, Go to the ant thou sluggard, consider her ways and be wise which the ant, having no guide, overseer or ruler provided her meat in the summer and gathereth her food in the harvest. That sounds like our Grace giving challenge, doesn't it? It's interesting. You got ASAP with his wood. You got Noah with gopher wood, and even Solomon. When you start reading about Hiram and First Kings chapter five, you have cedar trees, he talks about. So Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees, according to all his desire, this idea of wood, over and over and over again, the necessity of it. So after he asked for these requests, verse nine, Nehemiah says, I came to the governors beyond the river and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me, man the progress he had made. And I always reminded of this, even from a young child, right? It's like, ask You have not because you ask not. Sometimes we're afraid to ask for something, but look what happened as a result. Sorry, guys, look what happened as a result of him asking. He was able to have soldiers help him get through he was able to have the governor write letters. He was able to get wood for the wall. He was prepared. So now when he. Was going to come to Israel and say, This is what we're going to do. He had answered all their objections. He had told them why we can do it. He prepared, knowing that they were going to say, we have no wood. The King's going to kill us. God's not with us. He had an answer for every one of those intended objections, and that's why, going back to verse 17, he did all that planning, and he didn't bother them with all the details. Sometimes the best thing you can do is give somebody a concise vision, just a concise, clear vision that they can repeat, where they don't have to know every step that led up to that point. That's why I'm constantly pointing to the wall. It's real

simple. We want to see people come to this gospel of grace message and be saved, and then we want to see them grow in this gospel of grace message. That's real simple. Now there's a lot of work that happens behind the scenes to make that happen, but it's really simple, similar to what he says to them, what we were talking about earlier in verse 17 and 18. Of chapter two, he said, We know our condition. The walls are burned down, everything like that. But in verse 18, what did he tell him? Did he give him all the details? He said, The Hand of My God was good upon me, and the King's words which he had spoken to me, and the people said, Let us rise and build. There was many layers of preparation, but yet him being able to communicate to the people. It was concise and simple and repeatable. It's interesting when the Bible says in Proverbs that where there is no vision, the people perish. People want to know that there's a plan and that will get people motivated to work if they know where you're going. And I think that was so important. We look at the walls. And this is, I point to it all the time. Pastor put it up on the wall first before me. This is God's will today, in this dispensation of grace, to see all men saved and come to knowledge of the truth. So what we do here should be attached or driven by that. If it's not, we have to step back and say, Does it meet the vision? Why are we doing it? Is it doing anything to see people saved and come to knowledge of the truth? And some things we do as a means of bringing the church together in unity and things like that. And I understand that, but ultimately, we want to see that happen. Now, when you read chapter three, you see all these people in these different gates, up in these different places. They're building this wall, part of the wall, this part of the wall. So it took a ton of the people who weren't willing to work previously, to now all bind together in this vision of building the wall in order for it to happen. And that took Nehemiah being willing to delegate. Imagine if Nehemiah just said, I have the wood, I've got the letters. You all just sit back there. I'm going to do this and you watch. It wouldn't be very effective for me to lead that way either, right? Y'all just come on a Sunday enjoy yourself. Wednesdays, whatever. Give a little bit. Throw into the grace giving challenge. Come to our events when we have them, but don't worry, I'm going to do all the work. I'm not going to last very long if that happens. And if you like the process of selecting a new pastor every year, by all means, that's what you're going to have. That's what's going to happen, right? It's important that Nehemiah knew the only way to put this together was a bunch of people working together in alignment with the vision. And this is very biblical in a lot of different ways. We remember Jethro coming to Moses. Moses was trying to solve everything. How'd that work out for him? Not real good. When your father in law comes and talks, you listen. It's what I've learned. I don't call I call him my stand in law. I mean, this is the bottom line. But anyway, in Exodus 18, starting in verse 17, it says Moses's father in law said unto him, the thing that thou doest is not good. And you never want to hear that from your father in law, what you're doing is not good. And I'm sure at that point he's like, Wait a second. Do you realize all that I've been through with God? Do you realize all these miracles that have happened? Do you see this staff, right? But you're telling me there's something not good happening, and this is what he says. He says, Thou will surely wear away both thou and this people that is with thee, for this thing is too heavy for thee and thou are not able to perform it by thyself alone. He says, hearken now unto my voice, and I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with you. Be thou, for the people to God, word that thou mayest bring the causes unto God, and thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shall and shall show them the way wherein they must walk in, the work that they must do. Two Moreover, thou shalt provide out of all the people able men such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness, and place such over them to be rulers of 1000s and rulers of hundreds and rulers of 50s and rulers of 10s. And let them judge the people at all seasons. And it shall be that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge. So shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee. If thou shalt do this thing and God command and God command thee, so then shall thou be able to endure which is the goal, and all these people shall be able to go to their place in peace. So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law and did all that he had said. And by the way, this is exactly how things are going to run in the kingdom. When you read Matthew 18, really, when it's talking, when Jesus says, where two or more gathered there I am in the midst, it means that there was a larger issue. And the 12 didn't just judge that by

themselves. Jesus comes in on the larger matters as he's sitting on the throne, this same principle is going to apply in the kingdom. It's not just some old school advice that Jethro received. In fact, Jesus was doing a little delegating himself. Remember Matthew chapter 10? These 12, Jesus sent forth and commanded them, saying, Go not to the way of the Gentiles and into any city of the Samaritans. Enter you not, but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Very important verse, especially understanding that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John was written in the context of the lost sheep of the house of Israel, preparing them for their kingdom. Very important part of scripture there Luke 9:12, and two. Says. Then he called his 12 disciples together and gave them power and authority over all devils and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. Delegation. What about in Acts? Chapter Six. I mean, you read the early Kingdom church, and it's like there's 1000s being added here, 1000s being added here, and they're selling everything they have. They're living in one accord. It's a communal living process. However, the first major problem the church had required some delegation. Here's what happened in verse one of Acts chapter six. In those days when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecian widows, or the Grecians, against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations why aren't we getting the food? We're proselytes. We've come into this. Why are we not getting the food? Why is it always the Hebrews who are getting it? The 12 then called the multitude of the disciples unto them and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word or sorry, leave the Word of God and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look you out among you, seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business, but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word delegation, Solomon. You read first Kings chapter four. This whole passage really is about the process and the results of Solomon's delegation. But in verse one, it says, King Solomon was king over all Israel, and these were the princes which he had, Azariah, the son of Zadok, the priest. And there's a list. Or in verse seven, it says he had 12 officers over all Israel. He couldn't be everywhere, 12 officers which provided victuals for the king in his household. Each man this month in a year, made provision. Towards the end of the chapter, he says, there's 40,000 stalls of horses for 12,000 horsemen, officers, according to Solomon's charge, delegation, and even in the body of Christ. We know this that Paul says in Second Timothy, two, one and two, thou, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ, Jesus and the things that thou has heard of me among many witnesses the same. These things, this dispensation of grace, this doctrine of grace, He says, commit thou to faithful men, delegation who shall be able to teach others also. It wasn't just about Paul. Come listen to Paul. You always see Paul even at the end of one of his letters, or sometimes even at the beginning, talking about who's with him. Paul was constantly mentoring, delegating and sending people out, even though it was him that was getting these direct revelations from Jesus, he was finding other men to faithfully pour into who could take the word out Titus one five for this cause, left. I left. I thee in Crete that thou shouldst set in order the things that are wanting and ordained elders in every city as I had appointed thee so in both First Timothy, second Tim. The antitus. It's these instructions of how to raise people up and delegate and continue to see all men saved and come to knowledge of the truth. It's going to take workers reminded in Scripture, where it says it's required of a steward to be found faithful. Now when I look at this, I see a clear vision. Took people from sitting in the waste, crying about things not going their way, seeing the walls in rubbish and rubble, right, seeing that, but a clear vision and a faithful leader, not a perfect man, because there's none that exists in the Bible, but that this person was hearing from God and giving clear instructions and said, We will build the wall. And so the people built the wall. Now. It wasn't without issues, and we'll talk about that in the next couple of weeks. They had their challenges, but they kept building. Now, what's interesting for me is last week, when I was talking, you never know when you come home or later that day. You kind of never know the impact or how God's going to use whatever words you say on a Sunday, um, anybody who's ever taught or communicated you understand that, right? You prepare, you present. But really it's up to the people to do something with it. I was really encouraged last week, because here's what happened, there's somebody in this church

who sent me on Facebook Messenger. Was so excited that said I shared the gospel today. Made a point to tell me that because of what we talked about last week, was looking in their sphere to share the gospel. Wasn't waiting on me. He wasn't meeting, waiting to bring him here and for me to do it, but they shared the gospel. And then I was reminded over and over, all week long, even right after service, even the furs right now being pent up in their house, every worker that's coming, they're ministering to. They're telling about this church. They're sharing the good news of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, I'm like, they can't even get out of their house. What's your excuse? I remember Monday night after choir, I was talking to somebody whose husband was getting ready to have a serious surgery the very next morning, and they were talking about, they were out talking to some couple, and they were inviting them to church, and they're like, the best thing we could find was the bulletin to hand them. And I was like, well, then that's on me, because I need to give you an invitation card or something if you're trying to get him here. I talked to somebody else who saw somebody who used to go to church, and they and this was on a Monday night also, and they were talking about how they've been watching online, and that they're so excited about what's going on. And I was like, well, well, where are they? They live in this area. And so they encouraged them to come back. It was people having the mind to work. We can do what's on these walls. We each individually, have to see that you are an ambassador. It's not just the person that's in front of you who's up at the pulpit. And if you have no desire to see people saved, you need to start praying. There's something broken us if we don't care about people, if we don't care about people, if we don't care about where they're going to spend eternity, that should be the thing that keeps us up at night, not the water pill. Oh, I know I hear you laughing. I know who you are, but that's seriously that should be the thing that should be the thing that motivates us to get up and do something. I think in this dispensation of grace, we've been given a very clear vision by God to see all men saved and come to knowledge of the truth. We're not building a physical wall today. We are building the body of Christ, right? In fact, we're going to keep building it until the fullness of the gentiles comes in. When I read Romans nine through 11, right? You really want to see the rapture happen and get busy sharing the gospel, because it ain't happening until the fullness of the gentiles come in. So let that motivate you to get up and share the gospel with somebody. It's not just about sharing the gospel, man. We need help in a food pantry. We've been trying to get drivers back there if we want to continue to do that? We still the over the the funerals, the last couple of weeks, is still the same two or three people that doing all the heavy lifting. We need help. We need people to have the mind to work, and we need that knowledge to be passed on to. Younger generations, so that, if the Lord tarries in 10 years, that we have grace point, and that is still flourishing, or even after my time is gone, we still have grace point, and it's still flourishing. But it starts with the people having a mind to work. Part of being a member of grace point isn't just coming and soaking it in. There should be some sort of work that you're doing, and if you live far away, then there should be a lot of prayer and encouraging that you're doing. There are things you can do even if you live far away. And we are blessed in that way, most people are like, Oh, well, people don't want to drive farther than five minutes. We're going to open up another campus. I got people driving an hour to get here because you can't find the message. It's hard to find a Rightly dividing church. So I understand our culture is a little different that way, but I believe that we need to really be praying about having the mind to work. We want to see all men saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, and that is for all of us today. So get busy. It's January. You made some commitments. Let's work. Let's do this thing. Let's reach this community with the one message that can change their eternity, because there are other people working really hard to give them a message that won't save them. Who's working harder than anybody right now? It's the Catholic Church, and that isn't gonna bring anybody. That message isn't gonna bring anybody to to Christ. It'll make you a hard worker. That's about it. So I don't want us to just be a church that talks about seeing people saved. I want us to do it, and it comes to everyone of us in our spectrum of people that we cross being very disciplined in the fact that we're praying and looking for opportunities to tell people about the only message that can give them eternal hope, and that's that Jesus died on a cross for their sins and was buried, and three days later, rose again. That's it. They have to receive that gift by

faith, and they are saved. They don't have to join Grace point, although you would hope that they would want to sit under the right message after they do right? They don't have to clean their life up first, right? They don't have to recite the 66 books of the Bible, which most of us can't. They don't have to stack their good deeds against their bad deeds and hope that there's more good than bad. We trust and receive that death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ alone, we receive that that gift was for us, and they will have eternal life. People need to hear that message, and it's my heart. 2026 we're going to have a mind to work. We're going to build the body of Christ. We're going to build off Paul's foundation in First Corinthians, chapter three. And we want to see people saved. We want to do something about the souls of people that are headed to hell. So Imma have everybody standing and I'm going to pray for you. We'll have Stan come up at this time as well. Let's pray, Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for this day, and thank you for Grace point, Lord, thank You for Pastor and his vision. Lord, wanting to start Grace point, I pray Lord, that if you Terry, that I leave it that I leave it in great hands for whoever's next. Lord, this is not about a person. Lord, this is about this is about the body of Christ moving forward. Lord, it's about this dispensation of grace doctrine showing us how to live today. And we find primarily that through Romans, through Philemon. Lord, it is about getting that message out. It's about letting people know the true gospel that will see all men saved and come to knowledge of the truth and taking a stand against other gospels. Lord, as as Paul talks about in Galatians, Lord, I'm excited to be opening up Galatians this Wednesday for that this kind of little side note. But Lord, we just pray that you just be at the people. Give us a mind to work. Give us a burden for the lost in our lives, Lord, and not just the lost, Lord, but those who are maybe believers, but they are confused, or they're under bad doctrine, or or they're just kind of gone astray. Lord, I pray that you give us a heart to not only push people to the gospel. Lord, so for redemption sake, but Lord also for restoration for the believer, that's not doing what you've left them here to do. So Lord, I pray that you just be with the people now. Lord be with the marriages in this place. Lord be with the singles in this place. Lord be with our our saints who have built this Lord, I pray that wherever they're at and any any state of life, Lord that we will have the mind to work and Lord, just be with us as we move forward. We give you all the honor and praise.