

Refuge Bible Fellowship
1600 Chicago Avenue, Suite R7
Riverside, CA 92507
refugefellowship.org

Series: For the Time is Near
Raul Montano, Sr. Pastor
November 29, 2015

Worthy is the Lord!
Revelation 4:1-11

We're going to continue this morning through the book of Revelation, so please turn in your Bibles with me to Revelation Chapter Four.

The lyrics from one of the songs we sang were: "*Light of the World you stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes let me see...*" This morning as I was studying, something that continually came to mind was the fact that many times there are people even within the church that are worshiping, or maybe not worshiping, because we're singing praises, or maybe not singing praises, to a God that we really don't know. Perhaps we rarely open up the Bible outside of Sunday, or maybe an occasional Wednesday. Therefore, we're worshiping a God that we know very little about, if anything. So this morning, as we go through this chapter, what I'm hoping is that you understand who God is because it's important in your own individual, personal life as you draw near to Him that you know Who you're drawing near to. And that when you worship Him, you worship Him truly in spirit and in truth. As Jesus said, "God is looking for those who worship Him in spirit and in truth.", in John Chapter Four.

The title of this morning's message is: "*Worthy is the Lord!*" I want to start out by reading Revelation, chapter four in verse one:

After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."

[Prayer] *Father, John was exiled to the island of Patmos at the time that he wrote this. We can only imagine what it was like to look and see a door open into heaven. Lord, up to this point You had given him a vision, You were showing and telling him things to write to the seven churches. But now it's in the third period of Revelation. After this the things to come, You were giving Him a glimpse. But the first things that You do is to show Him your throne. To bring him near that he would put into words that were inadequate; what You look like and what Your presence is. Your word says that as we draw near to You that You will draw near to us. I pray this morning that we would certainly do just that; deliberately draw closer to You. And as You draw near to us that we would know You that much better, and understand the worth You have. May we give You the praise that You deserve with complete knowledge, with complete understanding so that we would worship You intelligently. We commit this time into Your hands, Lord. We thank You for what You're doing up to this point. We can't wait to see what comes from this time. We pray for fruit and we pray that You would do a work in our lives, individually, as we come to know You better. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

Worthy is the Lord!

We now come into the third part, the third section of Revelation, that which was outlined for John in Revelation 1:19:

"Write therefore the things that you have seen [that was chapter one], those that are [those were chapters two and three] and those that are to take place after this."

And it's at this point that John hears a *voice like trumpet*. We've heard this before. In chapter one we studied what it was to hear a *voice like a trumpet*. It's like the call to an army and everyone's ears perk up and they know exactly where it's coming from and what it means. He heard it behind him at that point; now he hears it above him.

The first time he was commanded to write the words to the seven churches because they needed to hear this. We understand that after studying these seven letters to the seven churches that it wasn't just individual churches that we need to acknowledge, but one church and one perfect message went out to the church through these seven letters.

And now he was commanded with this voice like a trumpet to "*come up*" to a place where God's throne stands and where the Lord reigns and rules. It's unfathomable! It's something truly that we can only imagine, only sit and ponder, meditate on. We have different words that describe the presence of God throughout the Bible, but that's where John is brought up to. He's called to come up into the presence of the Lord, to where the throne stands in the midst of heaven. So John then enters heaven through "*a door standing open in heaven*" as he hears a voice like a trumpet calling him up.

What is significant is that the letters to the seven churches have been delivered and they were understood. John is now raptured into heaven; he's taken up, snatched up into heaven. And by the way, it's interesting because the word "church" is no longer mentioned in Chapters 4-19 during the time of God's wrath. So maybe those things are sometimes overlooked if you just read through Revelation, you can miss that.

Now John could be seen as being representative of the Church being snatched up, or raptured into heaven, and is now looking down in spirit on God's earth and His wrath being poured out on it. He continues to write everything that he sees, of things to come after this, as we read here.

But before we go into the seven seals, we are going to go through chapters four and five, and we're going to take a look at the throne. In chapter five we're going to see that it speaks of the worth of the Lamb; worthy is the Lamb. Oftentimes our belief needs to first start out in the basics, the things that we see all around us, that God is the Creator of all that we see and know. Beyond that we can then step into that place to where we believe that the Lamb has come and was slain, and has taken all of our sins on Him for our sake, and He's loved us in that manner.

"Throne" is a word in chapter four that is mentioned 14 times, 46 times overall in the book of Revelation. So we would think that it's important and that is our focal point this morning. Why is this important? Why does God emphasize this? Because no matter what happens on earth God is still reigning sovereign. I know sometimes we get all out of sorts and we forget that. We get anxious; we get worried; we get overwhelmed with things. We need to be reminded that God is sovereign! He's still on the throne. That's why it's important.

The emphasis of God's glory and sovereignty would be encouraging to any saint that is experiencing any kind of suffering. I believe that no amount of work can come close to replacing a continuous acknowledgment that God is praiseworthy. Sometimes we get into this place where we believe that if we just stay busy doing things for the Lord then our minds will be occupied and we will no longer be consumed with the cares and worries that have

Worthy is the Lord!

been overwhelming. I believe that that is a wrong approach. I think that if we first understand and surrender to the Lord, that He is sovereign and still on the throne, that so many things will be taken care of in our lives. We'll put things in proper perspective; a continuous acknowledgment that God is praiseworthy. And then we should have an action that follows and reflects that. In singing His praises not only with our lips, but also with our lives in humble posture before Him, we will see how *that* is emphasized this morning.

C.H. Spurgeon said, "*Whenever we have to praise God, what do we do? We simply say what He is! 'You are this and You are that.' There is no other praise. We cannot fetch anything from anywhere else and bring it to God; the praises of God are simply the facts about Himself!*"

That's it! When we're truly praising Him it's not about us. I think oftentimes we want to make it about us, but it's not about us. In the end it's all about Him. Let's see what the Word says about the throne of God.

On the Throne (vv.2-3a)

² At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. ³ And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.

Let's first start out with who's on the throne. Before John was the very throne of God, with God the Father sitting on it. That's the first place that we need to stop. The Spirit was before the throne according to Revelation 4:5, and we know in the next chapter that the Son came before the throne (Revelation 5:7).

But before we continue we see here a description of the Father on the throne. Although incomplete and inadequate, there are two words that describe Him; jasper and carnelian. Do you think that that is adequate for the Father? Absolutely not, right? But that's all that John could say! The One who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. John was in awe.

But we need to understand a few things:

The throne **stood** in heaven - Held above all, none compares nor is elevated above. God's throne stood in heaven! Everything else you go down to, but the throne stood. You go *up* to the Father.

The Lord was **seated** – He was ruling sovereignly with all authority. He commands from His throne and there is none greater.

The Lord's **appearance** – Jasper and carnelian. Again, there are no adequate words that can describe what God is like in His essence. One day we will know, just as we are known. But at this point we just don't have words in our vocabulary that could describe the essence of God.

Now, we know in Revelation 21:11 that jasper is described as having the glory of God:

¹¹ "having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal."

Now, it's clear as crystal for you, right? We just have to take God at His word, that's all that we know.

And carnelian is red, but it must be beautiful!

As the Psalmist said in Psalm 104:1b-2a: "***You are clothed with splendor and majesty, ² covering yourself with light as with a garment...***"

And then Paul describes the Lord, as well, as unapproachable light to Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:16. So really there are no words that can adequately describe the Lord, but John gives us a valiant effort with two words other than His sovereign, complete, perfect ruling authority that comes with ***"a throne that stood in heaven with One seated on the throne."***

So we begin with what we will ultimately end with; a Sovereign God.

Around the Throne (vv. 3b-4; 6b-7)

^{3b} and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. ⁴ Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.

Skip down with me to second part of verse 6:

^{6b} And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: ⁷ the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight."

1. A Rainbow (v. 3b)

Now the rainbow itself represents God's promises to mankind. Specifically the covenant that God made with Noah in Genesis 9:11-17. He promised to never flood the earth again as He once did. It's beautiful because although we're going to see in a moment how awesome, as well as it is awful, being in the presence of God. He is sovereign and He is powerful, but He is also faithful to keep His word. In other words, He is constrained by the very word that He has given to us. If He said that He will never flood the earth again, just know that He has restrained Himself and He will be faithful to never again flood the earth. So we must see all other promises in the same light, understanding that He is faithful to follow through with everything that He has promised.

It's also a rainbow that is not like the rainbows that we see. It's emerald in color. The other day it was raining and I remember seeing a double rainbow, but it was only half because the other part was still dark. The light was only shining on one part of it. These rainbows hit a 180° and that's as far as they can go.

But in heaven there is nothing that's stopping them and this one in Revelation was not a 180°. It was a 360°, a closed circle. What that describes to us is that it's a continuous promise, it's eternal. It doesn't have an expiration date. The covenant that God made with Noah had no expiration date. It wasn't conditional. It was full, and it was perfect, and it was eternal.

It's described as being emerald, a green color. And in the Bible the color green oftentimes refers to being fruitful and eternal. Eternally bearing are the fruitful promises of the Lord. Again, although judgment comes from the throne, mercy surrounds it perfectly and eternally and does not have an expiration date. His promises are kept just as God promised they would be. Those words should be reassuring to us. That picture should be reassuring to us, that which is surrounding, or around God's throne.

2 Timothy 2:13 says, ***"if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself."*** We may go back on our word, but He can never go back on His word.

I love Psalm One. In fact, going through it I'm reminded of the man who isn't given to things which are evil and sinful, hanging out with those that are actually opposed to the Lord, **"*but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.*"** [I need to be reminded of that often.] ³ ***He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.*** [He's an evergreen!] ***"In all that he does, he prospers."***

So we see here this picture of an emerald rainbow, and the picture of a faithful and eternal mercy; a faithful God.

2. **Twenty-Four Thrones and Twenty-Four Elders (v. 4)**

It's interesting when you start studying through some sections of Revelation. Some commentators believe that these are angelic beings. But they're elevated; they're not angels. They have certain characteristics about them that can't possibly be angelic.

First, they would be called angels and not elders. I think the Bible is pretty clear when an elder is an elder, and an angel is an angel. The Bible doesn't confuse us, it clarifies things. So I'm pretty simple. If He says they're elders, then they're elders. And angels... well, they're angels and they can't become elders because they don't really age, do they? I guess one day we'll find out, but I don't think so.

Secondly, in the next chapter their praise includes themselves when they say, ***"for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,..."*** in Revelation 5:9.

And so the language there tells us that they were including themselves. "...and by your blood you ransomed people [including us for God] from every tribe and language and people and nation [including us]..." Now they are clearly representing the redeemed people of God: The 12 tribes of Israel, and the 12 apostles of Jesus, in whole, represent all of the redeemed, perfectly.

Not only that but look how they were clothed; in white garments. It gives us another clue that they were glorified people in their glorified bodies. White is what is representative of the righteousness of Christ, and the crown is representative of our victory in Him. I've never heard of an angel having a crown. But we are promised certain crowns.

Revelation 7:9 says: ***"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands..."***

1 John 5:4-5 says: ***"For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"***

So crowns are promised to those who are victorious in Christ. We have the *imperishable crown* found in 1 Corinthians 9:24-25; the *crown of rejoicing* found in 1 Thessalonians 2:19; the *crown of righteousness* in 2 Timothy 4:8; the *crown of glory* 1 Peter 5:4; and the *crown of life* that we already read about in Revelation 2:10. We'll see in a moment though, that these crowns are not for self-exaltation, it's not to be better than anyone else in heaven. We're going to see what the use of these crowns are for. Crowns are promised to those who are victorious in Christ. That's how we are conquerors!

These 24 elders are representatives of God's redeemed people, and they are stationed around the throne.

3. **Four Living Creatures (vv.6b-7)**

6b "And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: 7 the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight."

Now that would've been odd to see, right? "What is *that?!*" Full of eyes all around; front, back everywhere. It's interesting and something that would be fascinating, something that you would definitely come back talking about. "Oh, what I saw would just blow your mind!" But these are four living creatures that are described in this manner.

These beings can be compared to creatures that Ezekiel describes in Chapters 1, 10, and 28. These are elevated angelic beings whose purpose is singular in heaven - and that is in worshiping the Lord. Now I know that there's different interpretations as far as the descriptions of these beings, these four creatures who are around the throne. There are some who say that they represent the four gospels, that could be so, but we're not told. They could also be representative, I've heard, of creation; of the beast and the fowl and man, but again that's not clear.

They are not quite as far away as the elders around the throne. They're a little bit closer. They surround the throne of God on all four sides. So we do know this one thing; that they were stationed around the throne and that their one singular purpose was to sing God's praises.

From the Throne (v. 5a)

"From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder..." This describes a *repeated* thundering, flashing, and shaking that was coming from the presence of God's throne.

There is an awe associated with the presence of God, of great power that brings fear to those who come near. In fact, I'm reminded of what we read in Exodus, Chapters 19 and 20, which refers to the time when Moses met with God on Mount Sinai. It's interesting because Moses was in His presence, but what was described in a similar manner is that there were thunderings, lightening, and it was powerful.

Here's what happened far, far away at the base of the mountain: The people that were in the camp trembled. This was down below, away from the action. But can you imagine being in the midst of it? It would just knock you down to your face. It is from this place that there is just a continuous thundering. It could be described as the sound of many voices.

From God's throne come both grace and justice. We know that God's wrath will be poured out and He commands it from His throne, but also from that very throne He commanded that grace be delivered to the people. It was on the cross that God brought forth grace towards sinners and His wrath and justice against sin. That's a beautiful picture. That's a perfect God.

We can't take one without the other. Oftentimes we want to talk about grace, we want to talk about His love, but what we should want to talk about are His promises to us. Let's just receive that! But God's wrath; His justice; His judgment; His discipline; all of those things we tend to leave those off to the side. But we can't! God

is good, and in that goodness He is both just and He is merciful. It comes from the same God. He is perfect in that.

Before the Throne (vv. 5b-6a)

The Holy Spirit

^{5b} ***"and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, ^{6a} and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal."***

The Holy Spirit is described in two ways. First of all, it's described as being like *tongues of fire*. Do you remember in the Upper Room on the Day of Pentecost when the disciples had the Holy Spirit come upon them? It was as if they had tongues of fire above their heads.

It's also described *like a dove*. *"As it descended like a dove and came upon the Lord"* [paraphrased]. Now, we've covered this before in chapter one, the number seven being the completeness or the wholeness or perfection found in the presence, the working and the covering of the Holy Spirit within the Church, Who is omnipresent and seen before the Throne of God here.

So we have God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit. Because He is God, He is perfect, and the number seven we know that in biblical terms means completeness, or wholeness, or perfection.

A Sea of Glass, Like Crystal

In Revelation 15:2 we find something described as ***"a sea of glass mingled with fire"***. We see those that had conquered the Beast and it's image are standing next to it singing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb.

In the tabernacle there was the bronze laver that was also called *"The Sea"* in which the priests would be washed clean before entering into the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. We know it was a place of being purified of being made right before entering into the presence of the Lord.

Both *the seven torches of fire* and *the sea of glass* are found before the throne and serve as a reminder that what is present in heaven has to be present on earth in our own lives in order to come near to God. Again, going back to a cheap salvation; something where we just want to receive and not have to give anything up. We first have to go through that washing which comes through the blood of Christ. We have to come through "the sea", through the judgment of our own sins, which by the way we don't have to endure ourselves. It's already been done.

The disciples, the one thing that they did ask Jesus to teach them was how to pray. "Teach us how to pray." He said, ⁹ ***Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*** [Matthew 6] As it's willed in heaven, so let it be here on earth. So what is true eternally, should be true here, for us on earth.

We should understand that before we come into the presence of the Lord, before we can claim the promise..."You said Lord, that we can enter boldly into the throne room of grace and find help in time of need. You tell me that You're going to incline Your ear to me."...before we can demand from the Father, as if He were Daddy, we, ourselves, must surrender to Him everything and allow Him to truly put our sins away from us, as far as the east is from the west, and allow our sins to be judged. We don't want them! Who wants them? They separate us from God eternally. It's not a game!

Worthy is the Lord!

Sometimes we think we can put it off up until the point to where we think, "Ok, this is my last day. I'm going to go home to be with the Lord." At that point, you may have such a hard, calloused heart. You may have seared your heart to the point to where you're no longer feeling a thing. I've seen people denying the Lord all the way to the grave. Maybe at one point, they too were saying, "One day...not today..."

God's Spirit draws us near to God. That's Who we see here, and it's by the Spirit's help that we understand the Word of God that cleanses us, washing us clean before the Lord. As we come to the Lord, we're beginning to get a clear picture of who God is. We are kind of inadequately being told what He looks like, but we are definitely being told what the Person of God is to us.

Praise, Glory and Honor and Thanks to Him on the Throne (vv. 8-11)

⁸ And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

***"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!"***

⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

***¹¹ "Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created."***

The living creatures are further described here as having eyes on the outside, and eyes within, with six wings. Their sole purpose was to praise God without ceasing; day and night they were worshiping God. ***"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty..."*** [They never grew tired of that!] ***"...who was and is and is to come!"***

That's happening right now, by the way! Can you imagine that? If we knew that heaven was doing this right now, if we understood that this is what awaits us, we would be sobered up in so many different instances that we've experienced in our lives. That would be amazing! Think about that! This is what's going on right now in heaven! We have the four living creatures giving God this praise and we have the twenty-four elders falling down before the throne of God in complete and humble and surrendered worship. Because just as the four living creatures never cease to praise God, so also we have the twenty-four elders that never cease to praise God; day and night.

One by the way, is representative of heaven: The four living creatures. The other is representative of God's redeemed people. Think about that for a minute. Heaven is worshiping God. They're present before His throne, but we also have God's redeemed people. You could say our representatives. They're never stopping their worship. What are they giving glory, honor, and thanks to God with?

Heaven says: *God is holy, pure, perfect, and sacred. The Lord God Almighty; the one who has His hand on everything.* We studied that prior in Chapter One. He has His hand on everything – past, present, and future. ***"The One who was and is and is to come"*** speaks of "Hey, you know what? I have it covered. Remember, I'm on the throne. I'm sovereign. My promises are good. I have My hand on everything." ***Be anxious for nothing,***

but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God

[Philippians 4:6]. All will come to pass just as He says.

God's people say: *The Lord God is praiseworthy to receive worship as Creator*. That's who we see here in this chapter. Their posture and action agrees with the praises of the cherubim posted around the throne.

The book of Revelation is filled with hymns. If you guys don't want to lift up your voices now, you will in heaven. That's what we'll be doing and we'll find great joy in doing it. It's filled with hymns.

I tell you, I know personally there is just something about singing God's praises. I haven't done it enough here lately, but I'll grab my guitar and I'll just strum some chords and sing God's praises, and it puts me in the right place. It reminds me of God's worth. It's in the midst of it that I can see everything else kind of dwindling away, not to where it disappears, I'm not saying things disappear, but they are certainly put in their proper perspective. To God what is big? "It's a big problem that I'm going through." But to God, He just says, "Son/Daughter, put your hand in Mine. I'll bring you through."

For those who are going through times of suffering, through times of persecution, there seems to be no better encouragement than to be reminded of our victory in Christ and to sing His praises. To know Who is *on* the throne, as well as *around*, and *before*, and coming *from* the throne will give us a better understanding of God and our worship of Him.

That's why I was praying even before we came together this morning. My hope is that you would understand God just a little bit better, that you would catch a glimpse; just as John is, at this point, giving you a glimpse. This is just scratching the surface. One day we will see all of this and so much more because in knowing Him you will be drawn to worship Him in intelligent worship.

Intelligent Worship

I've mentioned it several times, and I believe that this should get our attention. The four creatures, the cherubim, are described as being full of eyes all around, and within, and day and night they never ceased to worship God. These creatures weren't *beasts* as the King James Version describes them. That's very inadequate and it's not a proper translation because these creatures are extremely intelligent. They have eyes outside, all around, inside. They're extremely intelligent and understanding in their existence is to give glory, honor, and thanks to the Lord so they are *fully* aware of what they're doing.

Failure to genuinely worship the Lord is rooted in a failure to clearly see and understand who God is. I'll repeat that: **Failure to genuinely worship the Lord is rooted in a failure to clearly see and understand who God is.**

If we lack in worshipping the Lord it's because we don't clearly see who He is. We don't know and we're missing something there! That's why earlier I was talking about a work. A work won't get us closer to the Lord. I'm telling you it won't get us there! Work is actually the fruit of (should be) a relationship that we have with the living God. Then we are drawn to the work. The service that we give unto Him, is simply a result of our relationship with Him; the knowledge of who He is. That's what it is.

Our worship of God must be with full knowledge and, therefore, reasonable. It's not this mystical time of worshipping some god. No! It's the living God! The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob! It's the God who 2000 years ago walked this earth for 33 years! He's not unknown; He's known. It's a reasonable, intelligent worship and it ought to be deliberate.

Worthy is the Lord!

I'll finish with this: Do you see and know Whom you are worshiping? Because He's worthy to be known. It's worth your time to open up the Word of God, not just on a Sunday, not just on a Wednesday, not just when you're going through issues. He desires to be known.

He extends to you forgiveness, grace, and mercy. It's from the same throne that He will also extend judgment and wrath, but I tell you it's not reserved for you. That's only reserved for Satan, and those fallen angelic beings that went with him, and for those people who reject the Lord, they'll receive the same condemnation for they are condemned already.

I would rather see *you* understanding the worth of God, an understanding of His grace, and a surrender of your life that you, too, would be as the representatives that we have in heaven with the twenty-four elders and the four creatures, singing God's praises; "*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!*" And that we, too, would understand God's amazing grace and would fall down before Him in complete surrender, knowing Him as not only God; "You are God, but You are a Savior as well." He is worthy to be known. Worthy is the Lord to be praised!

[Prayer] *Father, we thank you for You are worthy to be praised. We see here before the throne, a simple description of You, and yet Your throne is lifted above all else. You are sovereign, You are faithful. You know everything about us, You know our hearts. I pray right now, Lord, that you would reveal those things that perhaps we have been lukewarm about, like the church in Laodicea that we studied a week ago. Perhaps there are things within our hearts that we have not admitted to, things that are just neither here nor there, we're just kind of flippant about things that pertain to You. I ask that You would reveal those things in our lives and help us to repent of them, that we would just simply be truthful, admit them and just be done with it, that we would be in that right place before You and allow You to wash us clean. I pray that Your church would be woken up. Lord, that we would truly see a sleeping giant come to stand up and be effective in homes, and communities, within workplaces, and within our own marriages. That we would stop acting falsely like we know You and then go about our business, but that we would truly come as surrendered people who sing along with heaven, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" May we know and understand that, and may we now worship You truly in spirit and in truth, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as Your redeemed people. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.*