

Prestonwood Connection #9

Loving Others: Active Love

1 Corinthians 13:4

Wednesday, October 30, 2002 • Dr. David McKinley

[Dr. McKinley, message, Active Love] **<side 1 @ 325>**

In the book of Nehemiah chapter 9 and verse 17 the Scripture says:

...But You are God, Ready to pardon, Gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, Abundant in kindness,...

and tonight we're gonna be talking about the kindness of God and what the Bible means when it says that love is kind. And I just wanna pause a moment and as an act of kindness and appreciation say thank you to our praise team and this band for leading us in worship every Wednesday night. [applause] You guys do an awesome job and we are thankful for that and a... [applause] Bill Moore where did you go? Are you behind me, did you leave? He's right over there and Bill and Mary we thank God for you guys and for the miracle that God has worked in your life. For a number of years Bill did live with great disability and great incapacitation and God ultimately took him through a significant season of difficulty and suffering in life and I think you heard part of that story, part of it that cut to the heart and yet a... years later after he had come to know Christ, after they had begun to get involved here, he and his wife Mary, in the ministry of Prestonwood, a... Bill picked up the guitar and started playing in our orchestra. And just about every week you'll see his face there and I think that tells you a little bit more about the story behind that face and that sound that you hear every week. But you know as I listen to those words, as I listened to him talking about going in to a church and at that time, as Bill related that he a... was greatly disabled, his face was disfigured, his cloths were disheveled. He said, "I really didn't look like everyone else." But those words, "We have an active group and you probably would be better to find another place." They cut to the heart, didn't they, when you heard them? I church? Yes. Christians? Um hum, yes, because the reality of life for every one of us in this room tonight is that some of the worst injuries that we experience occur in the sphere of the relationships of those who are closest to us and I have been the recipient of those kinds of injuries and I confess tonight that I have been the initiator through actions, words and deeds of those very same kinds of things in the lives of others. And while all of us are ashamed in any way to be aligned with any attitude or disposition that would communicate cruelty and unkindness, the reality is, is that the Bible commands us to love in such a way that love would prove kindness because God knows that it's our spirit to be unkind.

If you have a Bible tonight I want you to take it and open to 1st

Corinthians chapter 13 because here in the heart of the greatest chapter in the Bible on the subject of love we've been learning some lessons about love together. In fact for a series of weeks, we've been looking at, *Looking For Love In All The Right Places* and we've talked about loving God and letting that be supreme in our lives and then we've talked about loving ourselves and understanding who God made us and how He's made us and learning to value ourselves and then ultimately we have learned and are learning what it means to love one another. And a... tonight we wanna look again at this wonderful text and really at one very specific phrase in this text, but a phrase that I think that is all-important to us.

D. L. Moody, a great evangelist, the Billy Graham of the last century said this, actually the 19th Century said this:

"The one great need in our Christian life is love, more love to God and to each other."

And someone has said that the greatest thing that someone can do for their Heavenly Father is to love some of His other children and indeed the Bible encourages the spirit and the action, the attitude and the response of love among fellow believers within the family of faith.

Bill Moore mentioned this Scripture earlier. I've got you in 1st Corinthians 13, do keep your hand there, but I just wanna call attention very quickly to 1st John chapter 3 and verse 16. Now I believe almost everybody in this building knows John 3:16. Let's see if we know it together?

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Now most of you know John 3:16. But how many of you know 1st John 3:16? Let's see what it says, 1st John 3:16 says:

¹⁶*By this we know love, because He...*

That is Jesus.

...laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. ¹⁷But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in...

What?

...in deed and in truth.

And tonight I wanna talk to you about one of the most important deeds, one of the most, one of the greatest truths as it relates to love and it's that which we find here, 1st Corinthians chapter 13 and let me begin reading in verse 1:

¹Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I've become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ²And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

LIFE - LOVE = 0

Life minus love equals nothing! That the equation that we've been trying to embrace and understand. But what is love? Well, the Bible says:

Love suffers long and is... [pause congregation member says kind;]

Hey thank you, that was great. Let's try that one more time.

Love suffers long and is... [pause congregation says kind;]

It is kind. The Bible says love is kind. Now I have to admit to you that, that is a word and that is a concept that flies in the face of so much of what we see in the attitude and the disposition of our world today. In fact I think that if you had to choose a word to describe the culture in which we live that clearly one of the words you would not choose would be the word kindness. To the contrary we live in a cruel world. Our world is marked by cruelty, cruel, inhuman, unthinkable acts are perpetrated against men and women and children everyday. You cannot turn on a newscast or pick up the newspaper in our country without being aware of the incredible cruelty and we simply shake our heads and, and just try to think sometimes, "How can we live in such a cruel world?" And yet every day, every one of us, at times give in to the natural tendency of self-assertion and pride and the natural result of that is being cruel towards others. The Phillips translation, one that is not as popular today but one that I still enjoy referencing simply says it this way:

Love looks for a way of being constructive.

And God wants, in my life and in your life a love that is constructive. Literally tonight, what we're talking about is Active Love. Love in word and love in deed, love that moves us from attack and harsh, a, a... spirit of attack and, and of harshness and insensitivity to a spirit of kindness and to an experience of expression. Literally, a kindness that builds up others and the love of God is a love that builds up and a love that lifts up. You know the amazing thing about kindness is that it is something that can be done in just a moment. It's something that can be ex...exhibited or can be expressed in just a, a very small detail of life. It can be an instantaneous act. It can be a, a brief remembrance of something of value to another person. It's amazing how quickly you can change the atmosphere of a context or a relationship when you exhibit kindness and it's just as true of insult and of injury. It amazingly how quick something can fly off

of the tongue or how we can furrow a brow or how we can express something in a way to create displeasure and resentment and rejection and injury and so it is very important that we understand the need to build one another up according to the will of God, loving one another with kindness. You've got your Bible open here to 1st Corinthians 13, turn back just a few pages to the book of Romans chapter 15 and verse 2, Romans 15 and verse 2. You remember that when we began this series we talked together about the greatest of all commandments and the greatest commandment is that you should love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength and then the next greatest commandment, the second commandment was like it. Love your neighbor as yourself. Well, let's see some more of that neighborly advice here. It says:

Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.

What does the word edification mean? Well, the edifice of a building is the front, the building up, that which rises from the ground. And so the Bible says that we are to love our neighbors, we are to be concerned with our neighbors that we may build them up. And so tonight the nature of my message is an active love that calls us into a building program in the lives of those who are around us.

Now the word kind is actually found 19 times in the New Testament. Each of the times that you find it, it typically means either something that is pleasant, something that is good, something that is serviceable. In many ways it is the opposite of the word patience. When the Bible says love is patience it...patient it literally means that love does not retaliate. But if you flip the coin, when the Bible says love is kind, it means that you do initiate deeds of goodness, deeds of grace, deeds of thoughtfulness toward others. And I would have to challenge you tonight to take time, to examine the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and tell me if indeed it is true that Jesus is the complete embodiment of kindness in the way in which He dealt with people and in the way in which he conducted His life and His ministry. So tonight looking at this passage of Scripture that says love is kind I want to simply take the word "KIND" and do something that I love to do, make it an acrostic and K-I-N-D is going to provide the four basic concepts, the points, the teaching points of this message tonight. And I want it...let it be used as a rule of examination and measure in your life and in mine tonight to ask and to ultimately affirm, what does it take to be kind? Well, let's begin.

K I am kind when I KINDLE the desire of others to become their best through the spark of encouragement. If the Bible says love is kind and when we trace that through the New Testament we find this idea of goodness and of building up, then one of the greatest ways that the Bible teaches us, that we are to build one another up is through the process of encouragement. And so I am kind when I kindle the desire of others to become their best through the spark of my encouragement in their lives. I want to be kind to others because ultimately I wanna challenge them to be their best. And just as on a cold night when you start a fire, the

greatest way to do it is ultimately to begin with some kindling, some small pieces of wood that can begin to catch flame until it turns into a full blaze on those logs in the fireplace. In the same way encouragement can be a spark that begins to ignite the warmth of kindness through my life that fans the flame of encouragement and of heat in the lives of others. I wanna keep people up, not in anger but in goodness by giving them the ministry of encouragement. One of the greatest things that you witness when you read the gospels is how that Jesus would take people who were ordinary people, who were roughhewn people but through His act of kindness would ultimately through His words of encouragement change their lives. You know that He met a fisherman, a young man by the name of Simon Barjona. Simon, literally, son of John, I like to think of him, once He gave him the name Peter as Rock Johnson, Rock, Johns son if you got that all together. But anyway he was a man who was anything but a rock. But Jesus looked at him and said, I'm gonna give you a new name. You've been just a drifter, you've been a man who was just impulsive, a man who was filled with weakness, but Simon I'm going to make you like a rock and He gave him the name Peter. And ultimately that name Peter was as though it were the hallmark of a new character quality to be seen in this man's life and Jesus spoke to him not as he was but as he could be by the grace and the power of God. In the Old Testament we have an incredible picture of a day. The book of Judges, when one spoke to a man by the name of Gideon and when that angel spoke to Gideon he said, "Hail mighty man of valor." And Gideon went, "What? Who are you talkin to?" He said, "I'm talkin to you." Gideon didn't see himself as a mighty man of vaor...valor. Gideon saw himself as a weak man, as a vacillating man, but the word of God was spoken to Gideon and Gideon was called to rise and to lead and to be used mightily of God. And the Word of God is spoken to us not that we would see ourselves in weakness but through the kindness of God's grace to call us to a life and to a lifestyle that is according to His purpose and His glory. Therefore what God wants to do in the church is that God wants to take a group of people like you and like me who through our deeds and acts of kindness spark words of encouragement and challenge calling others to be all that they can be for the glory of God, to build them up. That is the heartbeat of this ministry. It is life impact and life challenge. Whenever we meet with a group of new members we try to speak to them and to share with them that ultimately this place is a place to believe, it is a place to belong, and it is ultimately a place to become what God intends for you to be. And we always tell our new members that, that is the essence of the ministry of Prestonwood to establish a foundation of faith, to believe, to bring you into a community of faith, to belong and then ultimately to engage you in the great ministry of the gospel of Christ so that you might become all what God intends for you to be. Believing, belonging, becoming that's what a church is about and so therefore the greatest thing that we can do is to seek to focus our individual lives on building one another up.

You've read 1st Corinthians 13 let's go to one other passage in the New Testament, 1st Thessalonians chapter 5, 1st Thessalonians, that's back in the 5 T's, Thessalonians, Titus or a...Timothy and Titus. That comes right after General Electric Power Company, GEPC, Galatians, Ephesians,

Philippians, Colossians and then you get to the 5 T's 1st Thessalonians. I hope I've adequately confused you at this point. 1st Thessalonians chapter 5 and verse 11, all of those T books are the...in the same area of the Bible. Listen to... [<turn tape>](#) ... this, it's speaking of the coming of the Lord and how that the Lord will suddenly come as a thief in the night. But how are we to live in light of the coming of the Lord? 1st Thessalonians 5 and verse 11:

Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you are doing.

Literally the word comfort means encourage. The word edify means build up and the Bible says that we are to spend our time encouraging and edifying one another being intentional in building one another up. So how do we do that? How do we do that? Not how do we think that, how do we do that? Well, let me give you some suggestions tonight for offering kind expressions, words of encouragement to other people. How can I encourage others? How can I exhibit kind expressions to them that will ultimately challenge them to be their best for Christ?

Well number one, I need to do it in the lives of others **regularly**. If I'm going to challenge other people to be their best I need to make it a regular habit in my life. Not just a...a few distant moments but on a regular basis to be about the mission and the ministry of encouragement. It was Mark Twain who said:

"I can live for two months on one good compliment."

Heh, 2 months on one good compliment, well, I don't think you ought to have to go 2 months to get a good compliment. I mean he clearly expressed what we all know, we need encouragement but we need to go about life day by day looking for regular windows of opportunity to offer kind expressions of encouragement to others.

Secondly, we need to do it **specifically**, specifically. What I mean by that is that when you want to encourage others and challenge them don't do it in the general cal...categories. Great job! I mean it's good to tell people they're doin a great job. But you know what's even better is to specifically say to someone, "I sure appreciate the way that you pour your heart out when you minister through music." "I sure appreciate the fact that you seem prepared when you lead or teach our Bible class." To one of your Bible teachers. "I sure am thankful that you're here every time I walk in this building to meet and to greet people and to make them feel a part." "I sure am thankful that day by day sweetheart that you give me a cup of coffee or that you think to do something that is of importance to me." You see it's not just, "Great job." "Thanks, no problem." Heh, it's kinda the way we look at life, isn't it? Thanks, no problem. Thanks, no problem. You see we need to be specific in our expression. So number 1 do it regularly, do it specifically.

Number 3, we need to do it **verbally**. We need to learn to speak words verbally that will encourage and inspire others. I have to admit that as a

man I probably have not spent a tremendous amount of time trying to embrace the message of Proverbs 31 in my life. It is about the godly woman. However, I will tell you that one of the greatest phrases found in Proverbs 31 is Proverbs 31, verse 26 describing a woman who follows after God and it says this:

...The law of kindness is on her tongue.

And I believe that God wants the law of kindness on our mouths and that we le...need to learn how to specifically bring compliments and encouragement to others. Now be sure that you choose your words carefully. I'll never forget as a pastor on one occasion somebody ca...came by to me and, and they were trying to encourage me and they said, "Pastor, you are a model pastor." And I felt so great, until I went back to my office and I looked up the word model and it says a cheap, small plastic imitation of the real thing. [pause congregation laughter] Be sure you choose your words carefully. [pause more slight laughter] So kind expression should be done regularly, specifically, verbally.

But let me tell you another way that it needs to be done. Kind expressions need to be done **quietly**, quietly. What do I mean by that? Well, I mean that there need to be times where you're willing to do things that maybe nobody else knows about it just because it's a deed of kindness. Or maybe there's not even an interaction in it, you just simply do it as an expression of kindness. When you get to an elevator you step back and let others step in. When you get to the same spark...parking place with another person, just motion them and say, "You take it." [pause congregation laughter] When you wait in line at the bookstore after church on Sundays, when you have to wait to buy your Dallas Christmas Festival tickets and you say, "No problem, I'll wait, thanks." You know we don't always do that. You know some of the worst experiences that people have with rudeness and lack of consideration can be on a campus of a church? Oh not this church, but other churches, you know they have that problem and you know I'm kidding.

And then do it **creatively**. Creatively thinking of ways, writing notes, finding times and moments where you can ultimately offer kind expressions to others. We all need that and we all long for that in life. And so it is vital that everyone of us sees and knows the importance of kindling the desires of others to become their best by giving them sparks of encouragement, being a person of kindness because love is kind. But let me mention the a second thing that we need to do...

I ...and that is to **INTENTIONALLY** do good to those who have done you wrong. I'm kind not only when I kindle sparks of encouragement to others to be their best but I'm kind when I intentionally do good to those who have done me wrong and that's not easy. Now Jesus said it but *"Love your enemies, do good to those who hurt you."* Now, that goes completely against the grain of everything that we know and think. My most natural tendency when somebody does something wrong to me is to bristle on the inside. But Jesus says, *"Love your enemies."* And the standard by

which we are called to live as believers is a standard of love and that love is described in the Bible as ultimately being a love that does good to those who have done me wrong. Now let me be very careful here, the Bible says Jesus does not say, feel good about those who do you wrong. It says, do good to those who do, do you wrong. Because you see the ultimate objective of the Christian is not to get even it's to get ahead. I can get even with anybody anytime I choose, that's how the world lives, dog eat dog, get even with each other. But God calls us to get ahead and getting ahead means that I am willing to trust God with the offense and that I'm going to do what is good, I'm going to do what is kind and I am going to do what is right. And though it is a natural thing for me to want to retaliate I learn how to initiate a kindness.

In a wonderful new book entitled, *A Love Worth Giving*, Max Lucado, well known Christian author has included a story that I just wanna share with you for a moment tonight. This is a great new book, it's in our bookstore tonight by the way a... I'm excited about it because it's a book on 1st Corinthians 13, *A Love Worth Giving*. But this is what he says, he says:

A friend of mine witnessed a humorous act of kindness at an auction. The purpose of the gathering was to raise money for a school. Someone had do...donated a purebred puppy that melted the heart and opened the checkbooks of many guests, two in particular. They sat on opposite sides of the banquet room, a man and a woman. And as the bidding continued the 2 surfaced as the most determined. Others dropped off, but not this duo. Back and forth they went, one-upped the bid several thousand dollars and this was no longer about the puppy, it was about who was going to win. This was the Wimpleton finals and neither player had any intention of backing off the net.

And he adds.

And don't you know that the school president was drooling. Finally the fellow gave in and didn't return the bid. Going once, going twice, going three times, sold! The place erupted. And the lady was presented with her tail wagging trophy. Her face softened but then it reddened. Maybe she'd forgotten where she was and who she was. She'd never intended to go 12 rounds in a formal dinner dress, certainly never intended for the world to see her pit bull side. So you know what she did? As the applause subsided she walked across the room and presented the puppy to the competition.

That's pretty amazing isn't it? That's understanding that while there could have been injury as a result of competition there ultimately needed to be an act of kindness and God calls us to an intentional act of kindness even when we struggle with others in our lives God has promised that he ultimately will resolve the injuries of life and so He's called me to live according to the standard of love.

A number of years ago I heard a little piece that goes like this:

"He drew a circle that shut me out; heretic, rebel, a thing to flout. But

love and I had a wit to win and we drew a circle and took him in."

God calls us to a love that is kind and that is willing to yield and is ultimately willing to lay down our rights and our lives. A Christian describing kindness wrote these words:

"Able to suffer without complaining, to be misunderstood without explaining, able to view without receiving, to be ignored without grieving. Able to ask without commanding, to love despite misunderstanding. Able to turn to the Lord for guarding, to wait for His own rewarding."

That is a kind love. So kindness in kindling sparks of encouragement for the best in the lives of others. Kindness is intentionally doing good to those who have done us wrong. And then when I am kind, please don't miss this...

N I **NOTICE** and confront areas of needed attention in the lives of others. You see when we hear the word kindness we immediately think something that's soft and something that's easy and something that's nice and it is those things. But sometimes the most kind thing that you can do is to give honest counsel, truth, to other people in need. Because you see when a person is potentially at the risk of dangerous consequence, in error, or who ultimately could be shamed by an act or an attitude in life we need to deal with that with them. It's like having breakfast with a friend who gets egg on their face. And let me ask you what's the kindest thing to do? Is it to be close enough as a friend to look at your friend and say, "You need to use your napkin." Or is it just to let em go about all day with the egg on their face? [pause for slight congregation laughter] Now tell me what's kind? Is it comfortable to look at somebody and say, "Hey, guess what, ha, ha, got a big spot right there on the chin." No, that doesn't feel very good does it? But you know what? You want somebody to do that to you. You surely don't want them to let you go around all day with egg on your face, with your dress unzipped, with your pants...well let's just stop there. [pause for congregation laughter] Ha, oh, [pause for more laughter] if only you knew what public speaking can do to moments like that in your life. Another time, another place. Proverbs 27, verse 17 says:

As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

Iron sharpening iron, the sparks that may fly, but those sparks are ultimately necessary to bring the edge precision and strength. Proverbs 27 and verse 6 says:

Wounds from a friend are better than kisses from an enemy.

And one of the kindest things that I can do is to notice and to confront areas of needed attention in the lives of others. Now let me be very honest with you, correction and confrontation is both a very powerful and a very dangerous thing. It's powerful in a sense that it can help to build

and it can help to forge friendship and love and strength but it can also bring great tension into a relationship. And to be a person who wants to indeed be filled with kindness is to be kind enough at times to tell the truth and to face off with difficulty in order that you might be able to risk the loss of a friendship to improve the friend and to strengthen the love. That's why the Bible teaches us in Ephesians 4:15, that we are to speak the truth in love. And so we confront, we notice and we confront areas of needed attention. Well there's one final thing that is a part of kindness and that is not only that we kindle the sparks of encouragement in others lives to be their best; that we intentionally do good to those who have done us bad; that we notice and ultimately confront areas that need improvement in the lives of others but finally...

D We DELIGHT in giving others credit. Do you know one of the most kind things you can do is to simply bow out and pass the compliment? You know it's such a natural thing to pin our words on our lapels. It's such a natural thing to pat ourselves on the back. It's such a natural thing to say I want you to see how important I am by all the things that I've done. But I believe that one of the things that the Bible teaches is that love when it is kind is a love that is always looking for a way to pass the praise and to pass the compliments to others, focusing on others and on their abilities. I once saw a sign that is so good, it says:

"God can do great things through the person who does not care who gets the credit."

And yet for most of us we like to share the blame and keep the cr...credit don't we? You see I have to be the kind of person who doesn't care who gets the credit. And I've gotta tell you that isn't easy. I've committed my life as a minister of the gospel, the wanting to follow the price pattern of leadership, servant leadership, but I have to tell you as great as that sounds when it comes down to getting credit it's not always easy. But that's what we've been called to do, because love is kind.

So let me just ask you the question tonight; do I kindle the desire of others to become their best through the spark of encouragement? Do I intentionally do good to those who've done me wrong? Do I notice and confront areas of needed attention in the lives of others and do I delight in giving others credit for what they have done? Are you kind? Am I kind? You see we have homebuilders and we have body builders, we have network builders and wealth builders and reputation builders. But you know what I'm asking us to be tonight? To be people builders, because being a people builder is being a person who lives to fulfill the law of love, love that is kind. And of course our model of kindness is ultimately the kindness of God exhibited to us in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I want you to turn to one final text tonight. It's found in the book of Titus, another of those "T" books, Titus chapter 3 and I just wanna take a moment tonight and share with you what the Bible tells us concerning the kindness of God. Titus chapter 3 beginning in verse 4 says:

⁴But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,
⁵then He saved us not because we were good enough to be saved but because
 of His kindness and pity by washing away our sins and giving us the new
 joy of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom He poured out upon us with
 wonderful fullness and all because of what Jesus Christ our Savior did, ⁷so
 that He could declare us good in God's eyes, all because of His great
 kindness.

God is love. God is kind. And when we speak of the kindness of God we
 speak of grace. The Bible says:

*All we like sheep have gone astray turning everyone to his own way. But
 the Lord laid on Him...*

That is on Jesus.

...the iniquity of us all.

And Jesus came in kindness from Heaven to take on human flesh, not in
 anyway to deny His deity but to identify with our humanity and then
 ultimately to suffer and to die on the cross. Jesus on the cross, that's
 the kindness of God for us. And the only one...way that anyone can be saved
 and the only way that anyone can be changed is to receive the gift of
 God's kindness made available in the One and Only Savior; His name is
 Jesus.

And tonight if you've never experienced the kindness of God through our
 Savior Jesus Christ I wanna challenge you and urge you to make a life
 connection with Jesus Christ. I have to tell you for me to stand up here
 tonight and say be kind, be kind, be kind may sound great but if you don't
 have the power of the Holy Spirit living in you, you can't be kind.
 Because it takes Jesus, the One who is the kindness of God living in you
 to change your life from the inside out. And not one of us in this room
 has any hope of ever going to Heaven or ever seeing God apart from the
 kindness that He has shown in Jesus Christ. Kindness is abundant in Christ
 but outside of Christ there is condemnation. So you need to put your faith
 and your trust in Jesus Christ.

Tonight on the back page of your Connection Worship Guide, there's a
 little statement there about how to make a life connection with Jesus
 Christ and if this is something that you yearn to do and need to do I
 wanna encourage you to take a few moments and to read that and then to use
 that card that's there on the inside of that same worship guide and
 tonight before you leave I just wanna encourage you to write on that card,
 "I want to make a life connection with Jesus." It tells you how and
 tonight you can make that connection, you can experience God's kindness in
 your life and maybe that there are other decisions that you need to make
 spiritually in your life tonight. This card is a tool whereby tonight you
 can simply make us aware of what you believe is needing to happen or what
 is the next step in your life spiritually and we want to be aware of that,
 we wanna respond to that. And as you leave tonight there are some boxes at

all the doorways and you can simply drop this card in that box and if you so desire we're be glad to respond to you. If you want to speak with one of our pastors, several of us will be here around a, at the front, at the close of the service, I'll be here and others and if we can talk to you about a life connection with Christ, about becoming a part of the Prestonwood family, whatever it may be we just wanna respond to you. And so tonight I just encourage you to let God express His kindness to you in Christ and that you give your life to Him and yield your life to Him that you can exhibit His kindness to people in the world all around you.