



Sermon – November 14, 2021
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Verses Covered This Week

1 Peter 4:7 - 11

Let me invite you to open your Bibles with me to 1 Peter chapter 4. We're going to start this morning in verse 7. And if you're a guest with us this morning, welcome home. This is our Get in the Game Sunday. That's why we're all swagged out in our different, favorite team apparels. And today is just a focus calling us off the sidelines to get in the game. And if you haven't noticed yet, our stage is in the game this morning. One of our church members is part of the equipment management team up at Texas A&M and set us up with some Aggie things and some stuff from Air Force back where he used to be prior to that. Just to create the feel for this morning. Now think about what we've been doing as we've travelled through this Every Generation Reaching the Next Generation series. Last week we talked about what it looks like for a church to be a next generation church. There are three marks that need to shape us: Gospel, mission, and community. The week prior to that, Luke 10:2, we saw this call to pray for laborers. That God is saying to each one of us in the church that every member should be a missionary. And what we're going to find this morning as we come to 1 Peter chapter 4 is that in addition to God's call that every member is a missionary, he's also calling every member to be a minister. To come off the sidelines and to get in the game for the kind of service that God has called us to. And that type of service has marked our church from its very beginning. I came across a letter from a pastor in Caldwell, just down the road from us, who wrote back in the 1930's to our church and here's what he had to say. This man, W. O. Wright, said this about Central and our spiritual effectiveness as a church in the early days of our congregation. He says: This has been made possible through your loyalty to Christ and His word. As you have been trumpeted out, as you have trumpeted it out as the only hope for a lost and ruined world, now get this, our only wish for you is that in this glorious hour you will rededicate anew all your powers on the altar of service. And like a mighty army, go out to conquer in His dear name. To renew yourself on the altar of service. That's what our focus is this morning in this Get in the Game Sunday. And as we begin the text this morning, I need to say from the outset, the only reason we can even have this conversation today as a church is because of the faithful service of so many of you. So many who have already gotten off the sidelines and gotten in the game. Who are pouring yourself out in the way that 1 Peter is going to model for us this morning. And today, I hope that this is an encouragement to challenge those of you already serving to press on. But there are others of you who may be, for whatever reason, on the sideline. Maybe you're in

the game but you stepped back during COVID. Maybe you're in the game and you stepped back during a pastor transition. Maybe you were in the game but you stepped back because a season of your life was difficult and now things have shifted. I don't know the reason why you may have stepped to the sidelines, but the challenge that Peter is going to lay in front of us today is to call us off the sidelines and into the game. And I want you to notice in the seatback in front of you this morning, there's going to be a card just like this. If you've got one nearby, go ahead and grab it. Because at the end of the message today, during our response time, I'm going to challenge each one of you to take some time to fill out one of these Get in the Game cards as a step towards your involvement here at Central. And what we're going to particularly ask of you is to prayerfully consider during the message and during the response time some areas of the church where the Lord may be leading you to begin serving or continue serving. And we're going to have you fill out your contact info, check as many of those boxes as the Lord would lay on your heart. And at the end of the service, I'm going to challenge you, during the response time after you fill this out, for each one of us to make our way here to the steps and to set these cards on these steps one-by-one as a spiritual first step of our commitment to get in the game.

And the reason we're going to do that is because of what we find here in this text. I want to call your attention to 1 Peter 4, verse 7 on down through 11. Here's what it says:

⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies - in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Let's take a moment to pray together. As we prepare to pray, I know in just a few minutes those 10:02 a.m. alarms will be going off in this room and I'm going to pray for laborers even right now as we start our time in prayer.

Father, as we come to You in this moment, we are coming with open hearts asking You, by Your Spirit, to show us the way. How You would call us to lead. How You would call us to serve. God, for weeks we've been praying for laborers and we pray that today You would produce them on these cards, in our commitments. But even more than that, in our hearts, God. And I pray that the words that Peter declares to us this morning would shake us to the core and reshape the way we spend our time investing for the sake of Your kingdom. We pray all this in Jesus name. Amen.

I still remember the moment. There I was. I was standing on the sidelines like I normally did as a sophomore dressed out for the varsity team. The closest I ever got to the playing field was a few yards off the sideline. I was not in the game. And that's when, all of the sudden, I was shocked to hear my name called out by the coach. He said, "Bethancourt! Get in the game!" Well, I looked up and what I had realized is that one of our best wide receivers had gotten injured. And the coach must have seen something in me in that moment. I'm not sure if it was my mediocre speed, or my average hands, or my lack of ability that I had displayed thus far. I think what he probably saw in me was a warm body. And he just needed someone to put out

there in the moment to deal with things. And I ran out there hardly knowing what to do. Didn't know the next play. I was unsure of what step to take. But finally they started telling me which routes to run and I remember a few plays in a ball whizzing by my head that I probably could have caught if I knew what I was doing. But I had, for the first time, come off the sidelines and gotten in the game. And I remember a similar moment like that right here at Central a little over 15 years ago when I was finishing my time at A&M and moving into leadership in the college ministry staff. And Kyle Hoover, our College Minister, assigned me to teach a discipleship class to our college students. It was my first chance to open God's word and teach the Bible on a consistent basis here at Central. And this church saw something in me I didn't see in myself at that moment. But wisely, Kyle also knew that he needed people around me to invest in me and hold me accountable. That's why he raised up Charlie Burris and Woody Thompson to be my spiritual supervisors in the class. Make sure I didn't say anything heretical. Make me not give up if nobody came back the second week. I was off the sidelines and in the game. I didn't feel prepared. I didn't feel ready for the moment. But here's what I felt. I felt a conviction from God that now was the time to step up. And I felt the encouragement of the church around me calling me off the sidelines into the game. And what I can't help but wonder this morning, might God be stirring some similar passions and desires in the heart of many of you? Some of you are newer to Central than even I am these past 18 months. And you bought into our church and you've been consuming, but now you're ready to contribute. And that's what Peter's passage is going to drive us to this morning. Because what we find right here is that he's writing to these Christians who have been under persecution and who are facing a hardship. And he's offering them hope in the midst of hardship. He's offering them purpose in the midst of persecution. And he's calling them to service in the midst of suffering. What we're going to find today is that if we want to be the type of church that raises people up, to pull them off the sidelines, and call them into the game, there are 4 things that every one of us need to embody according to this passage.

And you're going to notice the first one here at the start in verse 7. The first thing Peter does is he calls us to watch the clock. Which is fitting because we're one minute away from 10:02 and all those alarms will be going off. We'll be watching them as you turn it off. Notice what he says. There it is. Such a beautiful sound.

[7The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.](#)

So where do we see Peter telling us to watch the clock? He tells us there, the end is near. The time is at hand. And this word end in the original language doesn't just mean the completion of time as in the end of a duration; but in terms of the end of a purpose. It's a consummation, a culmination. He's talking about the return of Christ. And he's telling us that that is drawing near. And if that's true, he's telling us what that should mean for our lives. You'll see it there in verse 7. How should we be serving in light of the fact that the end is near? He tells us that we should be self-controlled and sober-minded. These terms both have similar meanings. They call us to a sensibility, a common sense, a clearness of mind, that we can respond to any adversity or challenges or opportunities we face with a maturity that can only come from Jesus Christ. But notice why. Why is it that we need this clear mind in this difficult moment? Well, look at the end of verse 7. He tells us there, for the sake of your prayers. So the reason we need a clear mind is that a clear mind drives us to clear prayers. That's why we've been asking you over the

last several weeks to set that alarm at 10:02 so that it can go off and remind us to continue to pray that Luke 10:2 prayer for laborers. And all I asked of you a few weeks ago was, would you commit to set that alarm through today? We were doing it for this season. But I don't know about you. It's been so meaningful to me. I'm planning to keep it going. I want to keep having that daily reminder. I want to keep having those awkward moments where somebody looks up and says, why is your alarm going off? And I get the chance to share with them about what we're doing. I want to have those moments where people are gathering around. And the reason we want that, the reason we want to continue in that is because of what we see here in verse 7. Peter is telling us we need to watch the clock. The end is near. The harvest is plentiful yet the laborers are few. He's calling us to that reality in a way that fuels our prayer for the laborers that we're asking God to give us today as we prepare to fill out these cards. So the first thing you'll see here is he calls us to watch the clock.

But watch the next thing in verses 8 and 9. We'll see second that Peter tells us we need to know the playbook. So look back at what these verses say.

⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

I remember when my coach called me in off the sidelines. The quarterback was calling plays in the huddle. I just didn't know what they were. I knew where I was supposed to line up but I hadn't been paying all that much attention to the plays during practice in the week leading up to it because I didn't expect to be in. And if you haven't noticed, you can't add much value to your team if you don't know the playbook. You might be out there on the field, but you can't provide the service, you can't provide the success in your position if you don't know how you're called to operate. Well, that's what Peter is reminding us of here. Verses 8 and 9, he's giving us a reminder of the playbook we're called to reflect when we come off the sidelines and into the game to serve the body of Christ. And notice a couple of the plays he mentions there. He tells us we need to get in the game by knowing God's playbook for love. That's what we see him talking about in verse 8. And he says this is above all. This is the most important thing. He says, it's not just enough of a self-controlled mind, we need to have selfless hearts. The kind of hearts that reflect the love that's displayed here. And look at the way he describes this love. He tells us there it's an earnest love. There is an intensity to it; a ferocity, a deep commitment. There's a relentless pursuit in this love. But notice also there, it's not just an earnest love, but also a forgiving love. That's why he says there at the end of verse 8, since love covers a multitude of sins. One of the scholars I came across this week speaking about this verse had this to say. Where love abounds in a fellowship of Christians, many small offenses and even some large ones, are readily overlooked and forgotten. But where love is lacking, every word is viewed with suspicion. Every action is liable to misunderstanding. And conflicts abound to Satan's perverse delight. We've got a key question we need to think about this morning when we talk about this forgiving love. Is this type of forgiving love at Central abounding or lacking? When we look at the failures, the shortcomings, the sins, the mistakes of others, are we able to overlook that or are we not? Are we able to encourage people to press on or are we operating with suspicion, mistrust, misunderstanding? Because when those things happen and the conflict emerges as a result of that, it's showing us that we're not embodying the kind of love that this passage calls us to. We're living in a society right now where if celebrities or political leaders or media types or even prominent leaders in a community get out of step in the community or in the

culture, they'll be cancelled. We call it cancel culture. You can do everything right, you can say the right things, you can do the right stuff, you can support the right causes; but if there's one mistake, one misfire, one wrong word, one way you get out of step with society, it's as if you've committed an unpardonable sin in our culture. And when Peter speaks here of this type of forgiving love, he is reminding us of a danger. There is a warning that that same type of cancel culture that can be so prominent in the culture around us, could take up residence right here in the church. We see someone sin, we see someone make a mistake, we see someone fail, we see someone not live up to our expectations. Even one time and we can look at that failure and forget all the rest of God's grace in their life. They're cancelled. But that's not the way of Christ. That's not the spirit of the text. It's a forgiving love. It's the kind of love that isn't suspicious, but supportive. And it's a kind of love that doesn't cancel, but it covers. And the reason it does that is because we know when we extend forgiveness to others, we are reflecting the forgiveness God has extended to us. That in our sin, in our brokenness, as we turned away from God, what does he do? He doesn't cancel us. He doesn't send us outside the camp. He doesn't condemn us. He offers us the grace that can only be found in Jesus Christ. And if we want to be the type of church that gets off the sidelines and gets in the game, it's only going to happen if we have the type of earnest and forgiving love that we find here in this passage.

Peter speaks here of the play for love. But I want you to see also in verse 9, he speaks about how we are called to get in the game by knowing God's playbook for hospitality. Because right after these words about love, he speaks about hospitality there when he says, show hospitality to one another without grumbling. This word hospitality in the original language takes two words. The word for friend and foreigner and it puts them together. The idea here is that you take someone who is a foreigner to you and treat them as a friend. You take someone who's a stranger to you and treat them as if they're your own son. There's this picture of the family of God, this hospitality. And when you and I think about hospitality we think about the holiday season, don't we? We get out the decorations. We prepare the meals. Often your house, like mine, will get out those crafty towels. And the craftier they are, the better they look, the less value they actually have to drying off your hands. I'm just saying. But we often think of hospitality as a luxury good in our life. Something we do for a short time with people we like doing things we want to do and then we send them home so we can have a breath. But that's not the picture that the people that Peter is writing to would have captured in this moment. Because here's what they knew. Hospitality for the early church was a life and death situation. If there was not hospitality from other believers, you might be in danger. Because as you travel to a new town and they might learn you're a Christian, they wouldn't welcome you in. There were no hotels there. There were no Airbnb's. The only way for you to provide for yourself when on the road is if someone cared for you enough to welcome you in. You talk about taking a stranger and treating them like a son. People that you've never met whose only connection is they have met Jesus just like you and you invite them into your home. You give of your own food. You provide the things that you're almost running out of yourself. That's the kind of hospitality that's on display right here, that 1 Peter 4 is calling us to. The kind of selfless hospitality that overflows in service. Saying all that I have is yours for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And if you called this church your home, your spiritual home, then what that means is we ought to be showing up each week asking ourselves the question, what does it look like to be a man or woman of hospitality in this spiritual home. To embody the playbook that Peter is calling us to here in verse 9.

So notice what's happened so far. He says, watch the clock, know the playbook. But now look at the third thing we see here beginning in verse 10. He also calls us to play your position. Look at how he describes it in verse 10 and the beginning of verse 11.

¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 1 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies

Here's the reality. Even if you know the playbook, you cannot add value to your team unless you fulfil the duties of your position. Unless you carry it out. And Peter is going to tell us what it looks like to play our positions as those serving in the body of Christ. Because right here in verse 10 is one of the most clear summaries of what Christian service should look like in the entire New Testament. And it revolves around what we see at the beginning of verse 10. That each of us has received a gift. He's speaking about spiritual gifts. If you remember what spiritual gifts are, they're those God-provided or God-enhanced capabilities to serve others for the sake of the kingdom. And that's what he's speaking of here. And how is it that we are called to put those gifts to use? Look back at verse 10. To serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. Servants and stewards. That's the picture he's giving us. That we pour out our lives. We use the gifts that God has given to build up the body of Christ and get in the game with our gifts. But I want you to notice something. Because as you look here in verse 10, it might be very easy to overlook a small word that makes a big difference. Look back at the text. He says, as each has received a gift. Do you see that word, each? Peter is reminding us of this reality. That the spiritual gifts that God provides are not limited to the ministers of the church. Not limited to the elite or those with the most experience. Instead, if you've been bought by the blood of Christ, then by definition you have been gifted for service; each one of us. There's not a single person in this room that knows Jesus that can't bring something to the table for the sake of His gospel in this church and in our community. And I imagine there are some of you out here that don't feel like there's any way that God can use you. You're too young or too old. You're too early in your faith or too seasoned. That you're too sinful. That you're too distracted. Peter is telling us, God wants to use all of us. Each one has been given a gift. And the use of that gift doesn't just build the kingdom, it can build our souls. In fact, I've seen that on display even in the last couple of weeks as we've been going through this every generation series. There was a need that came up in the life of our church and the Lord put somebody on my heart in our congregation that I thought was uniquely positioned to meet that need. I got on the phone with him and just said, "Hey! Here's the opportunity. Is that something you would be willing to step up to do?" And I could not tell you how excited he was. And the next day he's texting me about all the ideas about how he's going to carry it out. And at the end of the text, he says to me, "You don't know how much I needed this." So the next time I talked to him, I said, "What do you mean? Why did you say that?" He said, "Well, you're never going to believe it, Phillip. I'm at a crossroads in my work. My job has shifted and it's more stressful now. I'm just trying to seek God. Is this what You want for me? Is this where I'm going? Am I following in Your path? Is there some way You can give me a confirmation?" And he said, "After I started praying that, the next day my 10:02 alarm went off. One of the people that works with me heard about it, asked me what it was, and set his own alarm. And I took that as some indicator from God. And then you reached out and asked me to get off the sidelines and serve in this way and it just seemed like the confirmation I was looking for that God was calling me to stay the course." And here's what I want you to recognize out of verse 10. Is that when we use

our gifts, it doesn't just build the body, it builds our souls. That when we use our gifts, it's not just for the good of the kingdom around us, it's good for the kingdom within us. That maybe the reason you find yourself in complacency, and the lack of commitment you used to have is because you've been off the sidelines and not fanning into flame the kind of gift that Peter calls us to right here in this text. Now look back at the verse though. What type of spiritual gifts does he talk about? Because we can look in other parts of the New Testament and you see several examples of longer lists. But he distils them down into two primary gifts. Look at what it says there in verse 11.

¹¹Whoever speaks, as one who speaks the oracles of God and whoever serves as one who serves by the strength that God provides.

In other words, Peter summarizes all the gifts that God gives into speaking gifts and serving gifts. Gifts that come through our words and gifts that come through our works. And my guess is that when I look around the room here, every one of you is wired in one of those two directions. Where it feels more naturally for you to be in a speaking or encouraging or teaching or challenging environment. Or you're in a serving environment, behind the scenes, off the radar, using your hands more than your mouth, pouring yourself out through the strength that God provides. And what Peter is telling us is whichever way God has gifted you, He's calling you to do it for the sake of Christ. And the way that that happens, we see it there at the end of this portion of verse 11, right in the middle of the verse when it tells us, by the strength that God supplies. In other words, Peter is saying to us that God strengthens us so that we can strengthen others. And perhaps after a season of serving, perhaps even for a long period of time in this church, there are some of you that feel stretched thin. Some of you that feel tired. Some of you that feel even burned out. This verse can encourage you to keep pressing on. Because Peter is reminding us is that if God calls us to serve, He's going to give us the strength we need to do it. And maybe the reason that you are wrestling with those feelings of burn out is because you're trying to do the Lord's work without the Lord's strength. That's one of the reasons I'm challenging us to get off the sidelines today. I want you to start looking at this card. There's one other thing I want you to see in the text but as we do it, I just want you to be able to look over it, start asking God to guide you. Because it could be that some of the reason that people in our church are wrestling with burnout, are weary, is because there are too many of us sitting on the sidelines and not enough of us in the game. And that's why at the end of the message I'm going to challenge you to fill this out and to take a step. What I'm asking you to pray about even now is asking God to show you where the intercession comes between your gifts, your passions, and our opportunities. Because oftentimes where your gifts, your passion, and our opportunities intersect, that's where the Lord can use you best for the sake of His kingdom.

And when that happens, then the fourth thing I want you to see in this text will become a reality in our church. Look at the end of verse 11. You'll see that Peter tells us a fourth thing. Which is that we need to be a team player. Be a team player. And that's what he says there at the end of the verse. He says,

In order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

So remember the life of Peter, the author of this book. He served alongside Jesus for 3 years. But before that happened he was just a common fisherman. And his whole life changed when Jesus called him off the sidelines and into the game. Remember what He said? Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men. And we can see in the New Testament the way that Peter embodies these gifts that are spoken of here. He speaks the words of God. He serves with the strength of God. He is the model that we should be following. And yet even the life of Peter, he doesn't just serve Christ with all his heart, he denies Christ with all his life. Remember that after Jesus died? Our Savior goes to the cross, He's hung on that tree to pay for the penalty of sin that you and I deserve. And as that process is playing out, Peter is confronted 3 times. Do you know this man? Are you one of His people? And each of those times, he denies Him. In other words, Peter goes back to the sidelines. But don't forget happens after that. Because John 21 tells us that even though Peter had disqualified himself through his denial, Jesus met him on the sidelines. He restored Him back to service. And we watch in the book of Acts and beyond, Peter become a centerpiece for the advance of the Gospel. Can't help but wonder if there's some of you this morning who feel like you've disqualified yourself too. That by your sin, by your failure, by your mistakes, you don't have what it takes to get in the game for Jesus. I bet Peter felt the exact same way when Jesus met him on that shore and restored him. What I want you to hear from me this morning is that if you have met Jesus, you are not defined by your failures, you're defined by your Father. You're not defined by your setbacks, you're defined by your Savior. And if that's true, then of each one of us, we can get back in the game just as Peter did. And the reason we're called to do that is because the Gospel is a call to be team players for the sake of the kingdom. That's why it says there at the end of verse 11, so that Jesus may be glorified. To whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Just think about what Peter's saying. The same Jesus that he denied he is now delighting in through this doxology of praise. And in this praise that he offers, he is speaking about how all the kingdom, all the glory, all the dominion is His. Every square inch of this universe is now under the rulership of Jesus. Shouldn't that be true of the way we spend our time? Shouldn't that be true of how we set our priorities? Shouldn't that be true of the way that we serve?

Right here around me on the stage you see a variety of uniforms and equipment. There's some A&M helmets. There's some Air Force helmets. There's different jerseys and balls and bats and other things. But the one that grabbed my attention the most this week when our friend brought it up was this Air Force helmet from back in 2016. They made a replica of the display on the front end of planes that flew in World War II as a part of the group known as the Flying Tigers. The Flying Tigers were American military aircraft set forth to patrol China, to protect it from Japanese danger. And they made these replica helmets, and I'm sure every time one of the Air Force academy cadets put this on to get in the game, it reminded them of the battle they were called to. The kind of battle that by the end of it when their uniform was covered in stains, when this helmet is scarred, would remind them of why it was that they were called in the game. And the reason is because uniforms might look great, equipment might be effective for its purpose, but unless someone puts on that uniform and takes up that equipment, unless they get off the sidelines and get in the game, it is of no value. My deepest fear as we go forward from here and we look at a text like this, is that you might look at it and say, "That's great for others, Phillip, but that's just not for me." And instead, what we find here in 1 Peter is it's calling us to get off the sidelines and get in the game.

If you haven't grabbed one of these cards yet, I'd like for you to grab it now. If you have something to write with, in just a moment I'm going to pray for us. We're going to have not just our normal time of response with one song, we're going to have two songs to give us some time to prayerfully consider how to fill these out. And here's the thing I want to ask you to do. The first thing you can do is it's perforated and I want you to be able to just tear it in two. The top part is for you to keep, the bottom part is for you to turn in. There's two things I want you to do. The first thing is I want you to fill out this card. Mark the boxes where the Lord might be calling you to begin serving or continue serving. And once you're done with that, on the back of this top part, you're going to see a map of our foyer out here. You probably noticed a number of tables that are set up out there. And what each of those are are different ministry areas where you can go right after the service to get more information if you're ready to take a next step. So what I want you to do is check the boxes that you're interested in and then also circle the tables of those ministry areas so that you can find the right spot when the service is over in order to go visit with them.

There's one more step I want to ask you to take. After I pray, as the response song begins, we're going to have our ministers here at the front who can share with you more about what it looks like to follow Jesus or to pray with you or to step into membership with the church just like we normally do, but there's one thing I want to challenge you to do differently. This bottom part here, if the Lord's laid it on your heart to fill it out, just want to challenge you, sometime during these two songs, would you join me up here at the front and just setting it on these steps as a public display of a first step of commitment for you to get in the game or stay in the game. Whether you come up on your own, you walk up with your family, I want to challenge you to come to the steps. I'll be down here with you. And when you set it down there, I'd like to challenge you to just take a moment to pray and say, "God, would You take what You've laid on my heart and use it for the sake of Your Gospel?" Let's take a moment to pray now and as the response song begins, you can begin filling out your cards and as the Lord leads, you can come to the front in this time. I hope to see many of you who prayerfully consider coming to the steps this morning.

Father, we know that in the last several weeks we have been coming to You praying for laborers. And Lord, right now as we fill out these get in the game cards, we bring them forward here to the steps. I pray that the laborers we prayed for You will not produce. You will now raise them up, that we will look back at this Sunday as a turning point in the life of our church where more men and women were renewed to serve you, Lord. If they've been serving for years, Lord, would You sustain them in that calling. If they've been on the sidelines, will You bring them into the game. And will You do it, not for our sake, not even for our church's sake, but for Yours, God. That we might make Your name known in this community and in all the earth. We pray these things in Christ's name. Amen.