

# GOD, WILL YOU RESCUE ME? + + +

PASTOR GREG GRIFFITH

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Good morning, church. Good morning, King of Kings. And it is such a great joy to be with you today. I want to ask you a question. How many of you right now, and I'm going to answer this question for myself, and I want to invite you to answer it with me. How many of you across all campuses right now are just feeling overwhelmed? Go ahead, raise your hand. I've heard about it. I'm feeling it. This is my hand up going, me, me.

Now, for those of us that didn't raise their hand, let me just ask this question. How many of us have ever been overwhelmed? Yeah, right? I don't think I ever have gotten up and said, you know what, today I want to be overwhelmed. Like, I've never enjoyed the feeling of being overwhelmed. And let me tell you right now why I just feel overwhelmed.

And over the last 30 days, I'm just being fully transparent and candid with you. It's been overwhelming. It's been overwhelming for me. It's been overwhelming for my wife. I believe it's probably been a little bit overwhelming for my oldest daughter. And I think it's just because we're in a season where these last 45 days, we've had so many firsts, right? First time that I've had a daughter graduate. First time that we've had to throw a graduation party. And Nebraska, let me, like, what is, I have never been in a state that has more graduation parties. Like, it is crazy how many graduation parties.

So we had to throw our own graduation party, right? And so it was like, first time doing that. First time, first time for us just having my parents in from France to Omaha, all at this time. First time that we had to sit there and say, okay, we've got all the graduation things and fill out all the college things and the FAFSA, which the FAFSA wasn't a big deal, but it still felt super overwhelming. And then it was the first time for us to sit there and say, okay, we've got some vacation plans to different cities and doing different things because it's that April, May time, and now you've got to figure out what the whole summer looks like.

And then even the overwhelming feeling of just saying, yeah, we've got new staff coming onto our team at King of Kings. We've got staff exiting our team due to retirements at King of Kings. We've got three campuses and then a summer of trying to relaunch a campus. And it's going to be amazing out of Fremont. But I was like, I've never, never pastored three campuses before. And it's like just wave after wave after wave of being overwhelmed.

And today, I think when we get overwhelmed, it just feels like we're asking the question, where's God? And I don't know, it's kind of like, God, where are you in my overwhelmed? It's almost like, like another thing, like, how do I stay with God in the midst of my overwhelming? And can you solve this overwhelming? And can this peace just come? And can I have peace? And what do I have so much to do and so many things to take care of? Like, what do I hold on to? And it feels like, where's God? And where am I? Is this just another thing? Like, is it adding to my overwhelming feelings? Because it's that.

And I find myself when I'm overwhelmed, I find myself having to be reminded that God knows my name. And he sees my struggle. And he sees my struggle. And it's seen because I'll tell you when I'm overwhelmed, like everything in me when it like gets to the point and I don't have much where stress pushes me, but when it gets to the point of overwhelming, my default is to go to a corner, close my ears, shut my eyes and say, this will all go away. This will all go away. When I open it up, everyone's gone. And then it's all still there.

And then I even find myself of like, I'm overwhelmed. I've got all these things that I have to do just in this little brief moment. And then I go, well, but also I've, I need to pray. I need to read my scripture. I need to do. And it's like, where is that? And here's what I'm reminded that God, God knows my name and he sees my struggle.

And this is my first piece that I'm reminded of when I'm overwhelmed and I'm overwhelmed right now that God comes with grace. He comes with grace and meets me where I'm at in the middle of my struggle. And he meets me with the grace to go. I know you, Greg, I see the struggle with you and let's do this. Let's walk this journey together. And I think that's an important voice from God. And I'm going to share in a second why that is there, but, but it's important to know that God sees us, knows our struggle and says, let's do this. I'm going to walk with you in this.

Isaiah in Isaiah 43, it says, and again, across all campuses, please read the words in red with me. When you see them, it says this, but now this is what the Lord says. He who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel, do not fear for. I have redeemed you. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

Notice this. It doesn't say when you pass through the waters, like you will drown. It feels like we are, but I will be with you. And it doesn't say when you pass through the waters, like you'll skip over them. It doesn't say you'll walk on the waters. It doesn't say I will build a bridge for you. It says, you're going to pass through them. That's still hard, but I will be with you.

And when you pass through the river rivers, right? They will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned. The flames will not set you ablaze for I am the Lord, your God, the Holy one of Israel, your savior. Wow.

So, so we're going to pass through the waters, the river, the fire, but he's going to walk with us. And it's a reminder to us that our God is the God that he's not just aware of the world's pain. He knows your pain. He knows your overwhelming feelings. He knows you personally. I think this is so important for me.

This is really important for me because it's easier for me to look around when I get into the overwhelmed filming and I'm sitting in my little corner by myself right there and I've got my ears plugged and I've got my eyes closed and I think to myself, well, yeah, God, God's got everyone else taken care of, but me, like I'm going through this.

And it's a reminder that he knows the world's pain, but he also knows mine. He knows yours. And that's so important for me to remember in my overwhelming feeling because I truly feel when I'm overwhelmed, I feel like no one gets me. I feel like no one understands all my feelings. No one

understands what I'm going through. No one understands how hard this is, but God does. And it's a reminder to me that he does.

That's how individual your God is because he's looking at it and he's going, Greg, I'm going to throw you a lifeline. I'm going to throw you the rope like you're going to be OK. It's going to be all right. And I've got you. I've got you in this. Right. And so then he throws it to us and he throws us that lifeline and he throws it out to us and he says, it's yours. Grab on. Hold the rope. Hold the rope. Right.

And so there he is and he throws us that rope, he throws us that lifeline. He says, I've got you. I've got you. And in the middle of my struggle, in the middle of my overwhelming feeling, I'm reminded that I'm not going to succumb to the storm or to the waves or to the river or to the fire. That we're going to get through this. Because I'm a disciple of his.

And just like the disciples in John 6, 16 through 21, decided to set out into the lake, as evening came, his disciples went down by the lake where they got into the boat and they set off across the lake for Capernaum. But now it was dark and Jesus had not yet joined them.

A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. And look at this. They had rowed for three or four miles. And then they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking to them. And they were frightened. And he said to them, it is I, don't be afraid.

And then they were willing to take him into the boat and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were headed. And you know, that's a reminder that they're in that boat and they are, they are three to four miles out. And Jesus walked to them on the water. And he says to them, it is I. And he gets into the boat with them. And he tells them not to fear.

They're not alone. They have him with them. And they immediately get to where they're going. You see, in the midst of our storm of overwhelming feelings, we can feel like we're too far away or it's too inconsequential for God to see, but he walks the journey on the water to meet you in your boat.

But notice also, once they recognized it was Jesus, what they did, they welcomed him into the boat. Are you welcoming God into your storm of overwhelming life? Are you saying, where are you, God? Here I am. And where are you? Or are you saying, God, I've got it. Later on, I'm going to get through this storm by myself. I can do that sometimes. I've got it. But he wants to throw us the rope and he wants to say, grab on and hold on.

Now, the trouble that we experience in these overwhelming feelings, it's very real, but it's a reminder to us so that the victory with Jesus is much greater than the trouble we have. But I don't want to dismiss your trouble. Don't dismiss that your overwhelming feelings are real.

And trust me, this is why it's so important, right? When someone says to you, I'm overwhelmed, don't say, oh, it'll be okay. Don't worry about it. Why do you feel that way? That's the worst thing to say to someone. And trust me as a husband who said that to his wife. It's not like, oh, but it is pretty up there. It was bad. Right?

But the truth of the matter is these are real feelings. And actually, they're fine feelings because we're humans. And so they're valid feelings. It is normal to be overwhelmed in this world. And so we have

them. So please, when you're overwhelmed, don't dismiss it. Don't go, oh, I shouldn't feel this way. Don't say this isn't right. Don't say, ah, this is not that big of a deal.

The same thing that I say where I say, I say there's no comparison in pain. There's also no comparison in anxiety. Like what makes me overwhelmed and nervous and like, this is too much. That is for me. And you can sit there and go, oh, I've handled a million. Great. But you're not me. That's fine.

So, so we don't need to dismiss our own overwhelmed feelings. We don't need to compare ourselves and be like, how can they get that? You, again, we don't know everyone else's internal struggles. Also, we don't dismiss each other's. They are real.

And by the way, if you want to sit there and go, well, I don't think they should be real for me or anybody else, then you got a problem with Jesus. I'll let you talk to him and figure that out. Because John 16, 33 says, I told you these things that you will have peace in me because in this world, you will have trouble, right? And take heart. I have overcome the world.

In this world, you will have trouble. And I think we sometimes say, oh, we'll have trouble. What that means is like, I, there will be hurts and heartaches and there will be people that are, are, are, are innocent lives taken and that we're going to have things that happen to us that we don't want to happen to us. But those are all physical troubles and they will happen.

But we're also going to have emotional troubles. We're going to have overwhelmed feelings. We're going to have anxieties. We're going to have concerns, right? Jesus also said today has enough troubles of its own. He didn't say like, just ignore it and it will be fine. It will happen. And so we are going to have these troubles, right? And that that's going to be a part of our life.

But, but Jesus says to us, right? He says in this world, you will have trouble, but take heart. I have overcome the world. Right? And so you may not always see the rescue yet, but the rescuers already on his way.

So, so think about this. Let's just backtrack for a second in, in, in John 16, right there on the boat and they were traveling. Remember that three or four miles that that's a, that's a pretty long distance and journey, right? And the storms are coming. They knew they needed to be rescued and a rescuer. Jesus is walking on the water. So he's walking that three or four miles.

They may not have seen him because it is also dark until he got near, but the rescuer was on the way. And sometimes we get into our trouble, right? And we're sitting there and we're saying, okay, Jesus has thrown me a lifeline. Then sometimes we need to feel the line go tight.

And what happens when the line goes tight is that we're reminded that he is on the other side, holding it and we can grab on and we can begin to pull on that tight rope and rescue be rescued because our lifeline has been given to us. The rescuers on the way in the midst of your overwhelmed feelings, in the midst of your hurts, in the midst of your heartaches, in the midst of the anxieties, in the midst of like, I just want everything to go away. The rescue is near. And when it holds tight, we hold on.

But sometimes we get a rescue that isn't what we expected, right? But it's the one you needed. Sometimes you get a rescue that isn't expected, but it's the one you needed.

So this grad party thing in Nebraska is really real. Like it's not, it's way different. It's way different. So in, I mean, like my parents are here right now visiting us and, and they're like, you know, my mom keeps telling us like she didn't have grad parties when she was, was going to school and when she graduated high school and then she forgot that we had a grad party at our house, at my house.

And she's like, I don't think you had a grad party. I said, yeah, you actually threw it for me. It was great. But, but it was smaller. Right. And it was like, I went to like three or four of our thing.

When we got here, I remember when Macy entered into high school and it was at this time, she says to us, she says, Hey, I'm going over to so-and-so's grad party. And I was like, who's so-and-so? And what do you mean? Like you're a freshmen freshmen. Don't go to grad party. She's like, no here. Like we were invited, like they let us go. And I was like, Oh, crazy. And so she's at grad parties and she's been doing that for all four years.

And so when we got to this year where Macy was graduating in the fall, Lori looks at me and she goes, we don't, we don't have to throw a grad party. Do we? I was like, I think we do. I was like, I, I don't like, this seems to be the thing. Like, I think we do. And then, and then of course, all the anxiety for my wife who was like, okay, here's what I want to do. Like, we're going to do what Macy wants.

And we asked Macy and she wanted a nighttime grad party and all this stuff. And she wanted desserts. And Lori's like, well, I'm going to bake all the desserts. I'm going to do it all myself. Right. And it's not an RSVP. So we're like, how many people are coming to this? We don't even really know. And all this stuff.

And then like at her, at our kid's school, like you put your grad party date on this Excel sheet and then the entire school is invited and has access to this Excel sheet, which is why there's freshmen and sophomores, because like, they're just eating all this food and they don't even know that. I'm like, I'm sitting there at the grad party for Macy. And I'm like, I don't even know any of these kids. Like, who are these people eating all my food?

So, um, you know, but, but we got to the point where it was like, like Lori was overwhelmed because we didn't know the number of people that were coming. I was overwhelmed because I kept getting this to-do list of all these things that I needed to get for this party. And I was like, how am I going to get all these things here? And what are we going to do? And then, and then it was like, what, you know, how do we do everything that we're trying to do? And what do we need to move and all this stuff?

And, and I mean, I could go into a long counseling session with you, but that won't be there. But, but we're sitting there and a month ago, my mother-in-law says, Hey, I'm going to come in for the grad party because I can't be there for graduation.

And then on the day of the grad party, my mother-in-law, like just quietly in the background served. She refilled dessert plates. She refilled cheese trays. She went and cleaned things up. She gathered and made sure that the gift box was whatever it needed to be. She went around and picked up trash and she fixed up things and she ensured that everything went smoothly.

And Lori was able to visit with people. I was able to visit with people. Macy was able to have a great time. And afterwards, I just looked at her and said, mom, thank you. Like you rescued us.

And a week ago I said to Lori, I said, I said, you know, I, I am so thankful that your mom came. Like I didn't even know what a blessing she would be. And Lori said, I don't think we could have done it without her. Like it wasn't the rescue we were expecting, but it was a rescue we absolutely needed.

And that's the thing. A lot of times when we're overwhelmed, we just want a quick fix, right? I want to just be able to open my eyes and uncover my ears and everything's fine. But, but here's the deal.

God gives us something even deeper that goes a lot farther. He brings a peace that surpasses all understanding. He surrounds us with a community that says to us, I've always got you and I'll be there. He gives us an endurance that we go, we can get through this.

Like I'm sitting there going, yeah, we'll, we'll survive Tessa's grad party in five years, right? Thank God it's five years from now. And he gives us a transformation, a transformation to where we can look and go, yeah, God, you do have this. You do walk through this with us, right? But also you transform us to see others differently.

And so real rescue by God is not a removal of, of the situation. It's actually a redemption. And that comes in so many ways. I mean, when we think about our anxiety and our, our struggles and our hurts and our pains, like it's a redemption that happens to us.

We have a redemption from our God that, that he redeems us to, to get through this. And that's why I think it's so important that we don't say it's going to be okay. And God doesn't look at us and go, it'll be fine. God says, you will get through this. You will walk this journey through this, and I will be with you.

Right? And so, so sometimes we like, we want where we say, okay, you know what? Like God just fix this. Right? And we say, God, just rescue us now. But here's the truth.

Sometimes the rescue from God, isn't going to change our situation. Even though we want it to be, even though we say, do we have to do this? Do we have to go through this? Sometimes the situation doesn't change, but what does change is you.

I have a deeper love. I have a great love for my mother-in-law, but now I have an even deeper love for her. It changed me.

And so, so sometimes we look at that and, and sometimes we want God, we think, God, just yank me, yank me out of this situation right now. But sometimes he just lets the rope go and he's there holding it with us on the other end.

But notice he's always got us. Even when it doesn't feel like he's connected to us. He's there. He's there. He's with you. Even though we're out there and we're thinking, oh, I'm just on my own. He's there.

And I think Paul felt this and understood this in second Corinthians four, when he said we are hard pressed on every side.

And I mean, think about this. I think Paul was overwhelmed. I think there are times where Paul is overwhelmed. And when you're overwhelmed, when I'm overwhelmed this verse, I'm like, yep, that's me.

But remember this, this rescuer who is your redeemer says you are hard pressed on every side, but you're not going to get crushed. You're going to be perplexed, but you're not going to be a despair. You're going to be persecuted, but you're not going to be abandoned. You may be struck down, but you're not going to be destroyed.

And in an overwhelming times for me, those words remind me that I've got my God that yeah, like it's hard pressed. And I feel like I am perplexed and persecuted and struck down, but I'm never going to get crushed because my redeemer's got me. He's holding the other side of the rope.

I'm never going to be in despair. It's never going to be hopeless because he's got the other side of the rope. I'm not abandoned. He's not letting go. I'm not going to be destroyed because he's already won.

And so I'm reminded that, that, that is always the rescue that I maybe don't expect, but it's definitely what I need. I need that to grow closer to him and even sometimes closer to each other and closer to those who we love the most. Now in our overwhelming feelings, feelings, I also am reminded that there is a rescue that has changed everything.

And this is where it's a reminder for you and for me that even when we're overwhelmed, we're not alone and we won't stay there. You and I will never be overwhelmed forever. Your destiny, your determination, your eternity is not to be overwhelmed forever.

That we have a God who is our redeemer and that changed everything.

But before we get to the truth that we know of the cross and the victory of the empty tomb, let's go back. Let's go back to a woman in the Old Testament named Rahab. And if you remember Rahab, she was a prostitute in the city of Jericho. And she was charged to hide the spies and plead for their rescue.

And so they told her, they told her in return for this, what we need you to do is we need you to hang a scarlet rope outside your window. And we will use that to come in and to know that that is your place.

And she was rescued because she tied her hope to this rope.

Now in the scriptures, this rope is called Tikvah in Hebrew, and it's translated hope as the rope. And it's not this like flimsy hope. It's not this rope that may hold or may not hold. It's the Tikvah hope that is strong and firm and will hold and will not break. And she tied her hope, her Tikvah to the very promise of God that she will be rescued, she will be saved. And on the scarlet cord, her salvation came.

Now for you and for me, I just look at this and I think what an amazing and beautiful foreshadowing of our Tikvah. We don't have a Tikvah of a rope that we hold on to that's scarlet. Instead, we have the hope of the scarlet of the blood that was poured out through Jesus Christ.

And so the scarlet blood of Christ is what we hold on to, because Jesus is our Tikvah. He's our hope. And from the rope of his life, we have salvation. It is not a maybe. It is not a you might get through this.



It's the cord that holds and a hope that saves and a Savior who's secure. It's our hope. It's who we have.

And we know that no matter what, this is ours. And we hold on to that as we hold on to him.

Romans 8, 38, 39, Paul wrote about this. I'm convinced that neither death nor life will be able to ever separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus, our Savior, our Savior, our Savior, our Savior. Our Lord.

Because you and I know that we have the God who has said that no storm is greater than the one who overcame the grave. No matter what my overwhelming feelings, my anxieties, my worries, my concerns, whatever's happening in this life, Christ can handle it. He's got it.

His victory over the grave is a reminder that as I hold on to the hope, the scarlet rope, that Jesus is my Tikvah, whose hope and the scarlet rope is where I see that he is with me. And I seize with me through one another that we never let go of the rope, the hope of Jesus Christ.

You know, as we think about this hope that we have, we're reminded, I want to invite you to go ahead and take this and pass it down, pass it down, pass the rope down all the way through, all the way down and hold on to it. Go ahead. Here. Hold on. Hold on to it.

Yeah. Don't let, don't let go. Hold on to it. Right.

And I want you to think about this, right? When we ask ourselves the question, where's God? Where's God? First of all, we never let go of the rope. We hold on to it because we hold on to the hope of Jesus Christ that he has overcome everything for us in our, in our overwhelming feelings and our anxieties.

And we're not, he's there and he's thrown us his rope of hope in Christ.

But also when we ask ourselves the question, where's God? Look next to you. He's right next to you. He's next to you through the people that he's surrounded you with that are holding on to Christ as well.

He's there and he's with us.

You know, as we think about this series and we have asked the question, where's God? It's a reminder that he's here and he's near no matter what we go through. And when we're going through it, we hold on to him wherever we may be because he's always with us.

Even when it doesn't feel like he's near us, he is, he's there. He's there through the people he's entrusted you to sit next to, to walk in life with.

He's there when you feel alone and we hold on to the hope and we cling to the scarlet blood of Christ for us.

You see, where's God says that he's where you are and he's using you to be there for others as well.



So you may see that God is wherever you will be. And we hold on to that hope.

I want to invite all campuses to stand right now.

I want to invite you to just pray with me.

Just pray with me.

Father God, we've asked the question, where are you? You are here. You are with us. Let us always cling to you as our Tikvah. Let us cling to you as our hope that is strong and steady and will never fail.

So God, as we cling to you today, tomorrow and forever, may we also see that you are next to us, shoulder to shoulder through those who you've gathered around us, that we are never alone and that we walk together holding on to the rope of hope, the cord of your glory, the light of your salvation.

You are our God.

You are our Tikvah.

You are our savior.

You are our friend.

We pray all of us in the great name of Jesus.

And everyone said amen.