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NUMBERS 15

Numbers Series

Open your Bibles with me to Numbers 15. Put your finger there in Numbers 15 and then I want you also to turn to Romans 12:1. So try to put your finger in both places there for a moment.

Let's spend a moment and talk to the Lord about what's going on in our hearts. Okay?

[PRAYER] Lord, our hearts are busy places. We have concerns, challenges, fears, and doubts, uncertainties about various things. Lord, we're grateful that when you come into our hearts you center our lives around you and that you balance those things out. You provide us peace for the fear and anxiety that we might experience. You provide wisdom to handle life challenges. You comfort us when we're in situations that we have to endure or put up with. Through all of that, Lord, you grow us and teach us to be more like you. I pray this morning for those who are tired of the stress and the problems that they're facing in life that you would encourage them and give them hope. Lord, we pause in these moments to remember who you are and what you've done for us. So I pray for those who are here searching about their faith and asking questions about who you are that you would provide answers from your word today. Lord, cause us to leave here as different people than we are now. We ask this in Jesus' name, amen.

I enjoyed this week studying Numbers 15. There's a lot of cultural stuff there and I'm going to have to explain some of the things (because I didn't understand them before I started doing the research) to understand what they're talking about in this passage. But as I did that, I realized that there are three success principles in the passage.

He's giving these three success principles to the next generation that are going in. That's you and me. We can apply this to our lives. We're like the next generation. We're like the Joshuas, the Calebs who are going into the land. We're going to take advantage of God's promises and we need these things that God is saying, "Hey, keep these things in mind. You need to know these things. If you're going to be successful in life in managing this place, you need to know these things, you need to know what they are. And you need to embrace them in your life."

I'll tell you what they are first. They are to put God first, to recognize the seriousness of sin, and to value God's word. Those are the three principles we're going to see in Numbers 15.

Now I'm looking at that and I'm thinking, "Wow, this is really interesting," because it's very close to what we see in Romans 12. In Romans 12:1-2 we have the same three principles. In Romans 12:1-2 (this is New Testament), Paul, who, by the way, was a Pharisee, was a Bible teacher; he was a guy who knew Numbers 15. He understood that. And now in the book of

Romans he's sharing with us something very important about our lives. So there are three things that he says in this passage in Romans 12:1-2, the same three things we see in the passage in Numbers 15.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

See, we're going to look at sacrifices in the Old Testament. You might say, "Well we don't do sacrifices today," but we do. There's a sacrifice right there. In fact the New Testament also talks about giving a *sacrifice of praise from our lips*. We offer sacrifices in the New Testament, they're just different. But here we have a sacrifice and the first part is that it's saying *offer your bodies as a living sacrifice*. Put God first – principle number one.

Next it says, *Do not conform to the pattern of this world*. The pattern of this world is our world system that is putting pressure on us to get involved in it. And when that happens, we end up getting involved in sin. Sin is missing the mark that God designed for us. So we need to take sin seriously.

And the third part – *but be transformed by the renewing of your mind*. Continually we need to be renewing our mind because we get sidetracked and God uses His word to do that. So the third principle is to value God's word. Those are the three principles that we see in Numbers 15.

Now let's go back to Numbers 15. Let me take apart the passage and try to explain it to you so you can understand what's going on. It starts in Numbers 15:1 – *The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'After you enter the land I am giving you as a home...'"*

I'm going to stop right here. Who is he talking to? I want you to see the audience that God is telling Moses to speak to. Is He telling him to speak to all the Israelites that are there, including the ones who are going to die in the wilderness? No. He's talking to the ones who are going into the Promised Land. He's talking to the next generation. See that there? When they go into the land – so he's talking to them, "I want to tell you what's going to help you be successful."

This is for us as we start a new school year. What will help you to be successful as you are in school now? As you start up in the fall, whatever you're doing, what's going to help you be successful? These are principles that are available to us. Three principles for success for the next generation. We can be the Joshuas and Calebs here.

Okay principle number one: Put God first in your life. He's saying don't forget this when you go into the land. You want to put God first. It's easy to forget when school starts again to put God first. It's easy to forget when life get busy and we start getting on our track again to put God first. So that's going to be very important for us, number one.

I'm going to continue reading. It says *when you go into the land and you present to the Lord food offerings from the herd or the flock, as an aroma pleasing to the Lord—whether burnt offerings or sacrifices, for special vows or freewill offerings or festival offerings—then the person who*

brings an offering shall present to the Lord a grain offering of a tenth of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with a quarter of a hin of olive oil.

Alright. What is he saying there? The instruction is this: take the grain offering with it. That's what he's saying. I'm going to go back and look at the passage, but that's the imperative here. When you're doing this, and this, and this, take the grain offering too.

Several offerings are mentioned here or sacrifices we're going to talk about and they are things like this. Notice in the passage – *burnt offering, freewill offering, festival offering, grain offering*. We're going to see the *drink offering* in the next verse. All these different offerings are sacrifices.

You may be confused already. So let's just talk about the sacrifices because these are described and elaborated upon in the book of Leviticus.

The grain offering is different than these other sacrifices, which are animal offerings. So they would bring a bull or a goat or a sheep, a lamb, and they would kill that. In some cases as a burnt offering the whole thing would be burned up before the Lord.

Very clear direction about what to do when it comes to these blood sacrifices, these animal sacrifices. Because they represent something important. They represent that God sees the blood and forgives the sin. In the Old Testament they had a lot of sacrifices they offered continually because it was representing the fact that God sees the sin, sees the sacrifice, and forgives the sin through the blood sacrifice.

By the way, this is very important for us as we come to understand Jesus Christ because He was crucified on Passover. The time when the Israelites would be sacrificing their lambs, Jesus Christ was crucified on that day. And He became our sacrifice so that when God sees the sacrifice He forgives our sin. Beautiful picture.

But in the Old Testament they were bringing these offerings. These animal sacrifices they brought to the Lord represented commitment to God and dealing with sin. That's what it's representing.

Now while you're doing that, he says, while you're bringing these animal sacrifices and you're thinking about your commitment to God and forgiveness of sin, don't forget the grain offering. Well what's the grain offering? The grain offering and the drink offering are worship offerings that they would offer. It's different. It's like he's saying, when you do this part, don't forget the atonement, don't forget the sin part and the commitment. That's important. But also lift your heart before the Lord in worship. So in the grain offering, they would take a peck of the grain and put it on the fire and the rest of it would be eaten. So it was a grain offering.

He's talking here about praising God and lifting up your praise to God in reference to the daily bread of life. Remember when Jesus taught us in the Lord's Prayer He said, *Give us this day our daily bread*. The grain offering was like that. Just a worship before the Lord. "Lord, thank you for what you're doing in my life by providing grain for me, by providing food for me. Thank you

for that. I worship you and I thank you for all that you've done." So when you offer the blood sacrifices, offer the grain sacrifices, that's what he's saying here. Because why? You want to put God first when you go into the land.

Read verse 5 there. *With each lamb for the burnt offering or the sacrifice, prepare a quarter of a hin of wine as a drink offering.* So now we have a grain offering and a drink offering, both offered as praise to the Lord.

If we go into Leviticus 2 and we try to understand what this grain offering is and how it's to be prepared, there's a lot of freedom. Unlike with the burnt offerings. The burnt offering you do it this way. You cut it, you split it, you put it on the altar, and you burn it all up. That was the animal sacrifice that was offered. Commitment to God. Very strict guidelines to how that's handled.

But the grain offering you have a lot of freedom. In Leviticus it talks about cooking it in an oven, on a griddle, or in a pan. There was some freedom you had as to how you wanted to cook this grain offering. Part of it you put on the altar, burn it up; the rest of it would be eaten.

There's some freedom that we have as we come to worship the Lord within the perimeters that He's set that allow us to speak from our hearts. "Lord, I want to give this to you from my heart," and then participate in that at the same time. So he's reiterating this to a whole generation.

To put it in today's terms, if you were going to make the grain offering, you might mix a flour with oil, make bread, you could make pancakes or sweet rolls or doughnuts. Whatever you want, it's that offering they're making to the Lord. It's the grain offering. It's that worship offering.

What's God's point? He's saying put God first. Don't forget me when you go into the land. When you're advancing in life, when things are happening, and new things happen in your life, don't forget the Lord. That's what he's trying to say here.

Verse 6. Let's go on. We're going to have this elaborated on for a bit here. *"With a ram prepare a grain offering of two-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with a third of a hin of olive oil, and a third of a hin of wine as a drink offering. Offer it as an aroma pleasing to the Lord.*

When you prepare a young bull as a burnt offering or sacrifice, for a special vow or a fellowship offering to the Lord, bring with the bull a grain offering of three-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with half a hin of olive oil, and also bring half a hin of wine as a drink offering. This will be a food offering, an aroma pleasing to the Lord. Each bull or ram, each lamb or young goat, is to be prepared in this manner. Do this for each one, for as many as you prepare."

So you've got the blood sacrifices, which determine your relationship and your commitment before God. They deal with your sin and establish who you are before God, just reminding you that it's through the blood that we are saved. And then you also offer this worship sacrifice before God. It says, "God, I'm just giving this to you because I love you. I want to thank you for providing me with my daily bread. I'm making you a priority in my life and I just want you to know that in everything that I do."

Verse 13: *Everyone who is native-born must do these things in this way when they present a food offering as an aroma pleasing to the Lord.* So if you're a Jew, this is how you do it, he's saying.

Verse 14: *For the generations to come, whenever a foreigner or anyone else living among you presents a food offering as an aroma pleasing to the Lord, they must do exactly as you do. The community is to have the same rules for you and for the foreigner residing among you; this is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. You and the foreigner shall be the same before the Lord: The same laws and regulations will apply both to you and to the foreigner residing among you.*

Everybody is the same. There is no people outside of the rules here. Everybody's following the rules here, and don't forget to worship the Lord. Don't forget to acknowledge Him.

Verse 17: *The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'When you enter the land to which I am taking you and you eat the food of the land, present a portion as an offering to the Lord. Present a loaf from the first of your ground meal and present it as an offering from the threshing floor. Throughout the generations to come you are to give this offering to the Lord from the first of your ground meal.'*"

You have to be asking, why is he elaborating on this so much? Why is this so important? We have to realize the people now are seminomadic shepherders. They don't have grain. They don't stay anywhere long enough to grow any grain. They're out in the desert. He's saying when you go into the land there's going to be grain available to you. Something different you didn't have before. And when you have that grain available, then what you want to do is you want to acknowledge the Lord with that grain. You want to give it to the Lord. That's going to be part of your worship experience. So he's teaching them how to be farmers. When you're a farmer, go in and give what you have to the Lord.

The danger that the Israelites have is this: They're going to go into the land and God has spoken to them, God has worked with them in their childhood. Now they're going off to college. Now they're going off to work. Now they're doing their new thing in their business. Whatever it is, will they remember the Lord? That's the question that's being addressed here.

God's saying there are three success principles that will help you be successful when you go into the next stage in your life. Wherever you're going in the next stage in your life, whether that's some major thing (like changing your job or something) or it's just going into the fall here, you can be concerned about these three things and take them into account.

Let me show you the passage in Deuteronomy 6 that illustrates this same idea as they're talking to the Israelites. This is where we get the idea – Deuteronomy 6:10-12. *When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.*

It's very easy for us to forget the Lord. Things get busy. New things happen in our lives. We must take the Lord with us into those new things and experience them because the first success principle is to put God first in our lives. Principle number one is to put God first.

We could stop there. I mean I just think that's a great principle that we all need. But we'll never get through Numbers if we stop there. We've got to keep going here.

Success principle number two is to take sin seriously. We get some real interesting ideas here about sin that we don't see other places in the Bible.

In the New Testament, the word 'sin' means to miss the mark. So when we're teaching parents how to work with their children and do devotions with their kids, we encourage them to use activities to teach kids about exciting things in God's word. Just like when Jesus passed the faith onto His children (disciples), He used stories and illustrations. He used life experience to teach them things.

So we say to parents – when you teach about sin, have a target over there and throw trash at it or wad up balls of newspaper, and when you miss, say, “Sin!” Missed the mark – “Sin!” Because that's what sin is. It's missing the mark. It's when we do the wrong thing. It's when we violate God's standard.

But this is interesting in this passage because here they're talking about unintentional sins. Can you sin and still have it unintentional? The answer is yes. This is going to be interesting I think to see what He does here.

Now we're going to first talk about group sins, which is even more interesting. So the whole group can sin and when they've sinned unintentionally, that is they've drifted somehow away from the truth, then here's what they need to do. So here's God's instruction: Number two – take sin seriously.

Verse 22: “Now if you as a community unintentionally fail to keep any of these commands the Lord gave Moses—any of the Lord's commands to you through him, from the day the Lord gave them and continuing through the generations to come—and if this is done unintentionally without the community being aware of it, then the whole community is to offer a young bull for a burnt offering as an aroma pleasing to the Lord, along with its prescribed grain offering and drink offering, and a male goat for a sin offering.

The priest is to make atonement for the whole Israelite community, and they will be forgiven, for it was not intentional and they have presented to the Lord for their wrong a food offering and a sin offering. The whole Israelite community and the foreigners residing among them will be forgiven, because all the people were involved in the unintentional wrong.”

I just find that fascinating. Here's the reality. Groups tend to drift. The group might be a family. The family gets really excited about what they're doing, good things happening, even in their

relationship with the Lord. And then things start to change and they drift away from Christ being the center of their life.

The group might be a church. There are churches today that started really well. They started proclaiming the gospel and helping people understand who Jesus Christ is and how He needs to come into your life and take over. That's how they started, but then they start to drift and they drift away from the truth that God has established.

When that drift takes place, bad things happen. It's often unintentional. People have good intentions. But it's saying good intentions aren't good enough. There are a number of denominations today that started really well, but they've drifted somehow away from the center truths of the gospel, maybe in a desire to win people to Jesus Christ and become more interested in pleasing people, and left the gospel somewhere outside of the picture or God's truth somewhere. That's really dangerous.

We don't even realize it sometimes. A city can drift, a nation can drift away from its founding truths, can move away from where God wants it to be. So God is saying be careful. If you recognize that the group has drifted, the community has drifted, then get back right with the Lord.

Notice the sacrifices are the burnt offering, the sin offering, and the grain and the drink offering. All the same things we've already talked about. Go back and put God first. Be careful of sin because sin draws us away. It gets very easy to get drifting in our personal lives. But this isn't talking about personal, it's talking about the group. So we have to be careful about group sins. I just find that interesting that it's saying then everybody needs to participate in the sacrifice.

Let's get back on track so we're doing the right thing and putting God first in our lives. Take sin seriously. Because if you drift away from the truth, you're in danger. You're out of God's protection.

Verse 27 now is going to get to the individual sins of our own lives. He says, *“But if just one person sins unintentionally, that person must bring a year-old female goat for a sin offering. The priest is to make atonement before the Lord for the one who erred by sinning unintentionally, and when atonement has been made, that person will be forgiven. One and the same law applies to everyone who sins unintentionally, whether a native-born Israelite or a foreigner residing among you.”* What he's saying here is take responsibility for your mistakes.

Here's what happens. In a family, you're the mom and you hear, “Ah!” somebody scream in the other room. You run in there. The kid's bleeding all over the floor. His brother says, “I don't know what happened. I didn't do anything. I didn't mean to hurt him.”

Now the fact that “I didn't mean to hurt him,” does that mean I'm not guilty? No. I didn't mean to hurt him doesn't mean I'm innocent. That's what He's saying. Sometimes we say that. “I didn't mean to do anything. My intentions were good here.” And he's saying there's sometimes when your intentions are good, but you still sin.

Some people measure sin based on whether the intentions are good and the motivations. That's really dangerous. If sin is determined by your motivation and your intentions, well some people have great intentions in life, yet they're doing the wrong thing. Is sin dependent on intentions?

Well I do think God looks at the motivations of the heart. He talks about that in the New Testament. Intentions are important. But that's not the only thing we look at. Because sometimes we think we're doing something that's okay, but we're really sinning. Because sin isn't defined by intentions, it's defined by a standard that God established in His word.

So if we're doing something wrong, it's because we're violating God's standard, even though we don't intend to do that. We don't realize it. But somehow we have done something unintentionally.

It's very interesting that the passage here is describing here how you would deal with unintentional sins. The first thing you have to do is confess, take responsibility for the mistake that you've made. That's what it is. It's a mistake. But just because it's a mistake doesn't mean that it isn't sin. We can learn from mistakes. They can turn into lessons in our lives. So that's important for us to recognize those and He's saying that it's a sin. Sacrifice the sacrifice when you've sinned unintentionally.

Now we come to verse 30. This is really interesting about sin too. There are sacrifices for unintentional sin, but there's no sacrifice for defiance. Defiance is dangerous. Verse 30: *“But anyone who sins defiantly, whether native-born or foreigner, blasphemes the Lord and must be cut off from the people of Israel. Because they have despised the Lord's word and broken his commands, they must surely be cut off; their guilt remains on them.”*

There's no sacrifice for intentional sins. Unless a person comes to the point of repentance, then they can change their life and come before the Lord. But just defiance like this, there's no sacrifice set up for that. It's serious. It's dangerous.

We can't say, “Abortion is wrong. Killing babies is wrong,” and then turn around the next day and say, “Well I'm going to enjoy a little sexual pleasure outside of marriage.” God's standard is set. We can't be defiant and disregard God's commands and go against what God has designed.

Principle number two is to take sin seriously. We need to know what sin is because otherwise if we don't know what sin is then we're going to sin unintentionally and we're still guilty. So we have to understand that God has some commands. We have to understand what those commands are so that we're obeying them. Because they're not just commands that are dos and don'ts for us. They are principles for success that God wants us to enjoy forever.

It's really exciting because there's a whole generation of young people today that are rising up saying, “I don't want to be like everybody else. I want to be set apart. I want to be different.”

I find it interesting in the health, in the diet area of life that...I don't know if you've noticed, but McDonald's stock has really plummeted. They're closing shops all over the place. Now I don't think McDonald's represents sin, but it does represent a lifestyle that more and more young

people are saying, “I don’t want to be like everybody else eating at McDonald’s and getting sick and damaging my health. I’m going to start eating at other places.” And so Chipotle and Panera and all these other stocks are going up, more shops are opening. Because there are young people today who are saying, “I’m not going to live like everybody else.”

I think the same thing is true today among young people when it comes to spirituality. “I don’t want to be like the rest of people that are playing church. I don’t want to play church. I want it to be real. I want it to be powerful. I want it to impact other people.” And that’s what God wants in our lives. God’s saying if you’re going to be that way, if you’re going to follow me, then take sin seriously. Be separate. Be different than other people. It’s a beautiful thing when someone gets themselves committed to the Lord, sees what the Lord is doing in our world, and wants to be a part of that and embraces God whole-heartedly.

There’s a story in verse 32 now that’s a parenthesis. And notice where it comes. It’s an illustration. Notice it says in verse 32 – *While the Israelites were in the wilderness*. We don’t know exactly when this story took place, but as it’s being written down it’s an illustration of defiance. And so we have the story written here to help us understand the seriousness of sin. If you’re following through the flow of the text, we saw unintentional sins and then we saw defiance, and now we have this illustration of this guy that’s picking up sticks. Okay?

Verse 32: *While the Israelites were in the wilderness a man was found gathering wood on the Sabbath day*. Remember there were rules about the Sabbath day. You don’t go out and work on the Sabbath day. Gather your wood on the day before the Sabbath so you have enough. God set up these guidelines and they’re serious. He’s serious about the rules.

Those who found him gathering wood brought him to Moses and Aaron and the whole assembly, and they kept him in custody, because it was not clear what should be done to him. Then the Lord said to Moses, “The man must die. The whole assembly must stone him outside the camp.” So the assembly took him outside the camp and stoned him to death, as the Lord commanded Moses.

Man. You know that’s a pretty strict sentence of picking up sticks. The point is, though, it’s defiance. It’s an illustration of defying God’s instruction and His laws.

I think we need to take sin seriously. That’s the whole point here. If we think we can get away with sin, we might. The reality is, God is *slow to anger, abounding in love*. He’s very gracious. So it’s very possible that sin could go on for a while. But it’s deadly. There are specific times in scripture where God has taken the sin of someone and made it a very clear indication that this is wrong.

Remember as the church was starting you had Ananias and Sapphira who sold a piece of property and told the leaders, “We’re giving all of it to the Lord.” They didn’t have to give any of it to the Lord. But they said, “We’re going to be like everybody else contributing and helping with the needs around, so we’re going to give our whole profit.” But they kept some back. There’s nothing wrong with them keeping some back. That wasn’t what was wrong. What was

wrong was that they lied and they said, “We’re giving all of it.” That’s what was wrong. *BOOM* they died. Both of them. Ananias was killed, Sapphira was killed. Just very strict judgment.

Wow. I want to be careful. I want to take sin seriously. So as the people are going into the Promised Land here, as they’re getting read to go in in a little way, God is saying, when you go in, take sin seriously. Put God first. Take sin seriously.

And then the third principle now is the one in the last part of the verse, which is value God’s word. Value God’s word. Let’s just read it and then we’ll see why I say that.

Verse 37: The Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘Throughout the generations to come you are to make tassels on the corners of your garments, with a blue cord on each tassel. You will have these tassels to look at and so you will remember all the commands of the Lord, that you may obey them and not prostitute yourselves by chasing after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes. Then you will remember to obey all my commands and will be consecrated to your God. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt to be your God. I am the Lord your God.’”

If you go back to verse 39, you see the contrast. The tassels will help you remember to obey the law, help you remember the commands that I’ve told you, help you remember God’s word.

We should set up ways that we can remember God’s word. Maybe tassels, maybe signs near the mirror. It might be any way that we’re coming to God’s word and we’re saying, “I’m going to look at God’s word and I’m going to apply it in my life today because I know that God has designed His word for me to be successful when I go into the land.”

We take God’s word with us wherever we’re going. Whether we’re going off to a new school term or we’re off to a new job or we’re going to a new business or wherever we’re going, we’re just starting a new fall. Whatever it is, we take God’s word with us wherever we go because hidden within God’s word are the truths that will help us to be successful in life. So don’t forget them. Keep them like tassels on your garments, he says, so you will not forget the truths of God’s word as you go forward. I just love that.

Well I love God’s word because God’s word is so amazing. It speaks to us whenever we open it up. It’s *living and active*, the Bible says, so it’s not just some dry book from the old, ancient times; it’s something that when we open it up today it’s living and gives us instruction and guidance for today. So it’s powerful. We need biblical reminders in our lives. We need those truths to stimulate our hearts and say live the right way, do the right thing.

The Bible is not just a book of wise sayings. God gave us His word so we can understand who He is and how big He is, so we can understand ourselves and how small we are, and we can understand the process that He wants to work in our lives, the plan that He has. When we look at that, not only does He show us the plan of the ages, but He reveals to us the plans that He has for us, for this next period of time in our lives.

God is saying, “I want to raise up another generation to go into the land.” We just saw in the last chapter that the current generation is going to die in the land. They’re all going to die. Now He says, “I want to talk to the next generation. Guys, keep these three things in mind. Put God first, take sin seriously, and value God’s word as you go into the land. That is going to help you to be successful.” Not just for those guys back there, the Israelites, but for us as we continue on in our lives.

I think we want to come before the Lord and we want to say, “Lord, I want to give you my heart. I want to give you my soul. I want to give you my life. I want to give you everything that I am. I want to rest on you. I want to trust you. I want to acknowledge you in my life. And when we do that, God does that renewing thing inside of us.

I encourage you as you move forward through this next week, this next month, this next year that you keep those three principles in mind. Put God first, take sin seriously, and value God’s word.

Of course that doesn’t mean a lot to you if you’ve never accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. So you’ve got to understand this: Jesus Christ died on the cross for us so that we could have a personal relationship with Him, so we could have the success in life. But it starts with that relationship with God. So if you haven’t trusted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, that’s your first choice. That’s what you want to do as you’re moving forward.

We’re going to pray in just a moment. If God’s speaking to your heart, there are prayer counselors on the side who will pray with you. We’re just going to ask that the Lord speak again to us as we pray together. Would you stand with me? Let’s pray.

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, we come before you recognizing that you hold the instruction manual for life. When we do follow you, then we can experience success. When we drift away from your direction, then we end up in error or in problem with our lives. We are thankful and grateful, Lord, that you’ve given us a way back. In the Old Testament they have the sacrifices. In the New Testament we have Jesus saying, “*I am the way, the truth, and the light.*” So we are grateful, Father, for that truth that we can enjoy, that life that we have through you. Lord, now as we worship you we ask that you would be honored in our hearts and our lives. We dedicate ourselves to you. Speak to us as we sing this song. We ask in Jesus name, amen.