

## **Pastor Jon Engler – May 17, 2026 for EAG Church**

### **TITLE: The Tension of Trust**

### **TEXT: Isaiah 36-37**

I invite you to turn with me to **Isaiah 36**...as we learn this morning about the **Tension of Trust**. You can read along in your Bible or follow along on the screen behind me.

### **TEXT INTRO: Isaiah 36:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> In the 14<sup>th</sup> year of King Hezekiah's reign, King Sennacherib of Assyria came to attack the fortified towns of Judah and conquered them. <sup>2a</sup> Then the king of Assyria sent his chief of staff from Lachish with a huge army to confront King Hezekiah in Jerusalem... <sup>3</sup> These are the officials who went out to meet with them: Eliakim son of Hilkiyah, the palace administrator; Shebna the court secretary; and Joah son of Asaph, the royal historian.

<sup>4</sup> Then the Assyrian king's chief of staff told them to give this message to Hezekiah:

“This is what the great king of Assyria says: What are you trusting in that makes you so confident? <sup>5</sup> Do you think that mere words can substitute for military skill and strength? Who are you counting on, that you have rebelled against me? <sup>6</sup> On Egypt? If you lean on Egypt, it will be like a reed that splinters beneath your weight and pierces your hand. Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, is completely unreliable.”

(NLT)

## PRAY

### STORY INTRO: Flying home from RDU in 2018

On **November 13, 2018**, I was flying back to Canada after interviewing here for the worship pastor role at Englewood.

The day I flew home, I had to fly first from **RDU → MSP**, and then **MSP → YEG**. Usually when I fly, I think flying is a lot of fun; there's the excitement of going to the airport...and then the relaxation of watching the clouds out the window and falling asleep...

But that first flight leaving **RDU** was anything but relaxing; in fact, it was one of the most *surreal* and *nerve-wracking* flights I've ever flown on.

- WiFi wasn't working, so I couldn't see where I was on the map.
- There was a whole bunch of turbulence going on; the plane was shaking and bouncing for most of the flight; I felt like a wet sock in a clothes dryer.
- And then on top of that, because of the crazy weather...and because this particular aircraft was only approved to fly at a certain height...**90%** of the flight took place in *zero visibility*.
- All flight long...no *blue sky*...no *ground*...not even *distinct 3D clouds*. All I could see out the window was a *swirling gray mass of nothing*.
- And I remember staring out the window into the *literal void*, and thinking, "*What in the world am I doing here?*"

- “I’ve got *no idea* where I am...*no clue* how to get where I’m going...  
*no frame of reference*...no end to the *turbulence*...*what in the world am I doing here?*”

## TRUSTING THE CAPTAIN

That’s the one question that every nervous flier wrestles with: “*What in the world am I doing here?*” And the answer to that question is the Tension of Trust...the tension that reminds us *who’s actually flying the airplane*— ‘cause it’s *not the passengers in charge. It’s the captain.*

Every commercial flight has a *captain* who is *primarily responsible* for the *well-being* of the *passengers* and *crew*.

- You can’t *see* the captain from your passenger seat...
- You can’t *know* the *buttons he’s pushing*, the *instruments he’s reading*, or the *decisions he’s making*...
- And outside of the few times that he *speaks on the PA*...you can’t always *hear* him either.

*But just because you can’t see the captain...that does not negate the reality of his presence on that airplane.*

## TIE-IN to TRUSTING IN GOD

Now we might not be on a *physical airplane* here today...but *all* of us *are* on some kind of *life journey*.

And how many of you know that the journey of our life is **actively being led** by the **Perfect Captain**...Captain with a **capital "C"**?

***The Bible says that we serve a God who created us, who loves us, who holds the whole world in the palm of His hand, and He is the captain on this airplane ride called "life".***

- We don't often **know** what God's doing
- We can't always **see** what He's up to behind the scenes
- But we **do** know on the authority of His Word that God is **good**, **righteous**, **loving**, and **He knows the story He's writing**.

Listen to the Captain's "**PA announcement**" from **Isaiah 55:8-9**:

<sup>8</sup> "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the LORD. "And My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.

<sup>9</sup> For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts higher than your thoughts."  
(NLT)

So when it comes to the Tension of Trust...trust is simply "**taking matters into God's hands**." And that's not always easy, is it? If we're honest, oftentimes we wish that we could take matters into our **own** hands instead...

But as we've already seen from **Isaiah 55**...and as we're **about** to see from **Isaiah 36-37**... **God never designed us to take matters into our own**

**hands.** Instead, He invites us to the **Tension of Trust**...the invitation to take matters into **His** hands.

## TRANSITION to POINT 1

Of course, taking matters into God's hands is often easier said than done. And that's the first part of this text from Isaiah that I want us to notice: **The Attack on Trust.**

## PART 1 – THE ATTACK ON TRUST

In **Isaiah 36:1**, we read about a wicked king, Sennacherib of Assyria, who sets out to conquer King Hezekiah and the nation of Judah.

**PART 1 CONTEXT / MAP:** To give you some backstory...at this time in biblical history, Hezekiah is in a **really rough spot.**

- Under King David, the nation of Israel had been a **strong, unified kingdom** made up of **12 tribes**.
- But in the years after David died (over **200 years before** Hezekiah), Israel experienced **political / spiritual turmoil** and ended up dividing into **two separate kingdoms** that you can see here on the map.
- The **northern kingdom had 10 tribes** and held onto the name **Israel** (think of them as **Israel 2.0**) and the tribes of **Benjamin** and **Judah** joined forces under the single name of **Judah** in the **south** where Jerusalem was.

- That smaller kingdom of **Judah** is the kingdom that **Hezekiah** is ***responsible for***.
- They're already ***small***; already ***under-resourced***; they've already ***lost a few small towns***, the Bible tells us...
- ...and now the capital Jerusalem is being ***directly threatened by Sennacherib***, who's come down from the northeast.

So Sennacherib sends this giant army and his chief of staff to Jerusalem. Hezekiah's ***officials*** are there; there are ***common people*** from Jerusalem there as well, watching on the wall of the city. ***Right in the open***, the Assyrian chief of staff, on behalf of Sennacherib, ***publicly threatens Judah***.

As you look at the language of this threat...I want you to notice **4 Tactics** that Sennacherib uses to ***directly challenge*** Hezekiah's trust in God. In the same way Sennacherib challenged Hezekiah, ***Satan*** will use these ***exact same tactics*** to challenge you and me.

The first tactic is ***doubt***.

### **1A – DOUBT (36:4-6)**

<sup>4b</sup> “What are you trusting in that makes you so confident? <sup>5</sup> Do you think that mere words can substitute for military skill and strength? Who are you counting on, that you have rebelled against me? <sup>6</sup> On Egypt? If you lean on Egypt, it will be like a reed that splinters beneath your weight and pierces your hand. Pharaoh, the king of

Egypt, is completely unreliable!” (NLT)

Right out of the gate, Sennacherib is trying to make Hezekiah **doubt** the source of his trust. And what’s **tricky** is that the part about Egypt **is** true.

In Bible times, **smaller nations** (like Judah) would **create alliances** with **bigger nations** (like Egypt) to **better fend off attackers**. It was a very common practice...but **God** told His people all over the Old Testament, “**Don’t go making alliances with other nations**; whenever you go into battle, the **only alliance that matters** is the alliance you have with **Me**.” So in that sense, yes, Egypt **is** unreliable.

But then Sennacherib takes it a step **further**; he claims that **God** is **just as unreliable** as **Egypt**. “Hezekiah, you’re cooked! You can’t rely on **Egypt**; you can’t rely on **God**. You’re **out of options**. What are you trusting in that makes you so confident?”

## 1A – APPLICATION

The **very first words** that Satan ever spoke in Scripture were words intended to **sow doubt**. **Genesis 3:1: “Did God really say...? Are you really sure that God is worth trusting?”**

Think of that **lie** and that **doubt** in our own lives...

- “Did God **really speak** to you in that prayer time at the altar?”

- “Are you sure that wasn’t just **emotion**...or **coincidence**...or **peer pressure**?”
- “Do you **really think** God is **enough** to save you from this crisis? ‘Cause you’re **stuck!**”
- “**This** won’t work; **that** won’t work. You’re **out of options**.”
- “What are you trusting in that makes you so confident?”

Sennacherib starts with **doubt**, and then he moves to **distortion**.

## 1B – DISTORTION (36:7)

<sup>7</sup> “But perhaps you will say to me, ‘We are trusting in the LORD our God!’ [Notice the word “LORD” is in all-caps...anytime you see that, that’s referring to not just *any* lord, or *any* god, but that’s referring to **Yahweh**, the Hebrew name for the one, true, triune God of the Bible] But isn’t He the one who was insulted by Hezekiah? Didn’t Hezekiah tear down His shrines and altars and make everyone in Judah and Jerusalem worship only at the altar here in Jerusalem?” (NLT)

Some of your Bibles may use the term “**high places**” instead of “shrines”. That language is **foreign** to us today, but I want to unpack why it’s so important here.

## HIGH PLACES EXPLANATION

When it came to the **relationship** between **Yahweh God** and His people **Israel**, God expected His people to **worship Him on His terms**. One of

those terms was that **public worship of God was supposed to happen** in an **official, centralized location**.

- At first, that location was the **tabernacle**—the set-up, tear-down “**mobile church**” that Moses, Aaron, and the Israelites lugged through the wilderness.
- Then later on, the official worship location **changed** from the **portable tabernacle** to the **permanent temple** that Solomon built.

The **reason** God wanted His people to worship in a designated spot was not because God was trying to be **difficult** or **unreasonable**. It was mainly because **the pagan nations around Israel** were **already** worshipping their **idols & false gods** at “high places”—these **outdoor pop-up shrines** that were all over the place.

God was **very clear** to His people: “You guys are **different**; you’re **chosen**; you’re **Mine**. I don’t want your worship of Me to get **mixed in** with these pagan nations. I want your worship to happen at **our sacred temple** that is **specifically designated** for you and Me to meet together.”

**At first**, God’s people were more or less obedient to that.

But **over time**, they got **distracted / lazy**, and they said, “You know...the temple in Jerusalem is a **pretty long drive** for most of us. If we could just build **our own versions** of ‘high places’ and **slap Yahweh’s name** on it...kind of like a ‘**temple-to-go**’...**that would make relationship with God a lot more convenient**.” And ultimately, this **shift away** from the temple and **towards** “high places” caused God’s people to **stray** in their

relationship with Him. The worship of Yahweh got ***mixed in*** with worship of other gods.

So when Hezekiah ***tore down*** these high places (you can read about that in **2 Kings 18**), and when he ***restricted worship*** to happening only at the ***temple***, Hezekiah had been ***obeying*** God, ***not*** insulting Him. But here, Sennacherib ***distorts*** Hezekiah's obedience to attack his trust.

## 1B – APPLICATION

You ever had your obedience get ***distorted*** by Satan?

- You ***make a tough call***...
- You ***pull the trigger***...
- You ***go all in*** and ***commit to whatever it is*** that God's placed on your heart...

...and then the voice of the accuser ***slithers into your ear*** and says:

- "Did you *really* think you ***got this right?***"
- "You thought you were being ***so spiritual*** trying to follow God and obey Him..."
- "But You weren't ***really obeying*** God when you ***took that job offer***...or ***ended that relationship***...when you said 'yes' to this, or 'no' to that..."
- "You didn't ***really hear*** from God; you were just ***being the failure*** you've always been."

- “And look at the mess you’re in **now**...”

Once Sennacherib uses **doubt** and **distortion**, he then goes a different route and tries to use a **deal**:

### 1C – A DEAL (36:16-17)

<sup>16</sup> “Don’t listen to Hezekiah! These are the terms the king of Assyria is offering: Make peace with me—open the gates and come out. Then each of you can continue eating from your own grapevine and fig tree and drinking from your own well. <sup>17</sup> Then I will arrange to take you to another land like this one—a land of grain and new wine, bread and vineyards.” (NLT)

Sennacherib promised that things would go better for Judah if they **stopped trusting in God** and **started trusting in their own instinct** to make an alliance with Assyria. “Trusting God has never gotten you **anywhere**; why don’t you **trust in somebody else for once?**”

### 1C – APPLICATION

Consider how Satan does that... “You got **burned real bad** trying to trust to God last time; why not trust **me** this time?”

- “Why not ***come out of the closet?*** You’ll feel a lot happier and freer.”
- “Why not ***deconstruct***...why not ***reject God, reject the Bible***, and **break free** from the **toxicity of religion?**”

- “If you come to ***my side***, I’ll give you everything you’ve ever wanted.”
- “Whatever good you think you’ve found in Jesus, I can give you ***all of that*** and ***so much more!***”

It’s ***tempting***...it’s ***enticing***...and it’s all a ***façade***.

Deep down, Sennacherib only had ***evil intentions*** for ***Judah***...and Satan only has ***evil intentions*** for ***us***.

There’s ***doubt***...there’s ***distortion***...there’s a ***deal***...and finally, there’s the fourth tactic of ***discouragement***.

## 1D – DISCOURAGEMENT (37:10-11)

Go over now to **Isaiah 37**. By this point, the kingdom of Judah is distraught. Hezekiah and his staff are desperate for answers; and God ***does*** tell Hezekiah, through a prophetic word, that He will ***intervene on Judah’s behalf*** by ***enticing Sennacherib*** into a divine trap.

But even as God is about to unalive him, Sennacherib is ***still running his mouth***. This time, instead of a ***verbal threat***, he fires off a ***written threat***...a letter...to Hezekiah...and watch the tactic of ***discouragement***:

<sup>10</sup> “This message is for King Hezekiah of Judah. Don’t let your God, in whom you trust, deceive you with promises that Jerusalem will not be captured by the king of Assyria. <sup>11</sup> You know perfectly well what the kings of Assyria have done wherever they have gone. They have

completely destroyed everyone who stood in their way! Why should you be any different?” (NLT)

Look at that last line: “***Why should you be any different?***”

## 1D – APPLICATION

So often, Satan tries to use that exact same line on us.

Just like Sennacherib, he ***discourages us*** and ***intimidates us with his resume***...all the ***horror stories*** of people who couldn't withstand him...

- “You watched your ***dad*** get destroyed by ***alcohol***...why should ***you*** be any different?”
- “You watched your ***coworker’s marriage fall apart***...why should ***your marriage*** be any different?”
- “You watched that ***church kid rebel***... The same kid who was absolutely on fire for God as a teenager...and then did a ***total-180*** into ***atheism*** after they graduated from high school...why should ***your child*** be any different?”

## TRANSITION to POINT 2

Hezekiah's trust is being ***attacked on all sides***. But even in this attack, he ***leans in*** to the tension of trust...the tension of taking matters into God's hands.

Now that we've seen how the enemy tries to **attack** our trust...I want to look at the **Response of Trust**. What does Godly trust **look like?** What does it **actually mean** to take matters into God's hands?

We find the answer from the words and actions of Hezekiah in **Isaiah 37:14-20**:

<sup>14</sup> After Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it, he went up to the LORD's Temple and spread it out before the LORD. <sup>15</sup> And Hezekiah prayed this prayer before the LORD: <sup>16</sup> "O LORD of Heaven's Armies, God of Israel, You are enthroned between the mighty cherubim! [cherubim are the angels that surround God's throne] You alone are God of all the kingdoms of the earth. You alone created the heavens and the earth. <sup>17</sup> Bend down, O LORD, and listen! Open Your eyes, O LORD, and see! Listen to Sennacherib's words of defiance against the living God. <sup>18</sup> It is true, LORD, that the kings of Assyria have destroyed all these nations. <sup>19</sup> And they have thrown the gods of these nations into the fire and burned them. But of course the Assyrians could destroy them! They were not gods at all—only idols of wood and stone shaped by human hands. <sup>20</sup> Now, O LORD our God, rescue us from his power; then all the kingdoms of the earth will know that You alone, O LORD, are God." (NLT)

Just as there were **4 Tactics** that the enemy uses to attack trust...I now want to look at **4 Actions** that Hezekiah displays here in response to that attack... These **4 Actions** are what will help us **navigate the tension of trust, and take matters into God's hands**.

Here we go! Number one, to take matters into God's hands...be ***intentional***.

## **2A – To take matters into God's hands...Be INTENTIONAL (37:14)**

<sup>14</sup> After Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it, he went up to the LORD's Temple and spread it out before the LORD.

***Out of all the places*** that Hezekiah could've gone, he went to the ***temple***—the ***one place*** where he knew he could ***engage in meaningful connection*** with God's presence. And God was the ***very first audience*** where Hezekiah took that threatening letter. He "***spread it out before the LORD.***"

Think about that:

- He didn't spread it out to his ***friends***...or his ***staff***...
- He didn't spread it out on ***social media***...
- Before Hezekiah took that letter ***anywhere else***...he took it to ***God's presence*** and spread it out before the LORD.

## **2A – APPLICATION**

What does that look like for us?

- How ***intentional*** are ***you and I*** to enter God's presence when we're threatened by the enemy?

- How **quick** are we to “spread out our problems” to the One who cares about them?

***Our ability to trust in God is directly proportionate to our proximity with God. Ability is proportionate to proximity.***

If you're lacking in your **ability** to trust God, look at your **proximity** with God.

- When was the last time you **prayed** for more than just saying grace?
- When was the last time you ***turned off the phone*** and ***dug deep into the Bible***?
- Even with church... When was the last time you went to church to ***be still in God's presence?***
- So often, we go to church to **serve**, to be **needed**, or to **drown ourselves in busyness**...but when was the last time you came here just to be still? And to ***quiet yourself*** in God's presence?

If we want to take matters into God's hands, and walk out the Tension of Trust, we start by ***being intentional***...but then we also need to ***be mindful***.

**2B – To take matters into God's hands...Be MINDFUL (37:16)**

Look at how **mindful** Hezekiah is of the God to whom he prays:

<sup>16</sup> “O LORD of Heaven's Armies, God of Israel, You are enthroned

between the mighty cherubim! You alone are God of all the kingdoms of the earth. You alone created the heavens and the earth.”

You ever heard somebody pray a **mindless prayer?**

- There's no ***grounding***...
- ...no ***purpose***...
- ...no ***direction***...
- They're just ***spouting off religious frou-frou*** and hoping they can ***butter God up*** with the ***right spiritual buzzwords?***

That's ***not*** what **this** prayer is.

Hezekiah grounded his prayer in the **rock-solid reality** of who God was—***and still is!*** He ***mindfully*** honored God as **King**, as **Lord**, and **Creator**.

Hezekiah didn't pray this to ***remind God who God was***; Hezekiah prayed this to ***remind himself who God was***.

## **2B – APPLICATION**

Do ***we*** do that today? Are we ***mindful*** of who God really is? Do we ***realize*** how **strong** He is? How **majestic** He is? Are we reminding ourselves of His **unlimited glory** and **endless capacity?**

When we pray ***according to who God is***, this gives us ***new boldness*** and ***new perspective***, so that we're not praying “mind-**less** prayers”, but **mind-**

**FULL** prayers! In the **tension of trust**, it's a lot easier to "take matters into God's hands" when you are **mindful** of how **powerful** and **mighty those hands really are**.

Hezekiah was **intentional...mindful**...notice also how he took matters into God's hands by being **vulnerable**.

## **2C – To take matters into God's hands...Be VULNERABLE (37:17-18)**

<sup>17</sup> "Bend down, O LORD, and listen! Open your eyes, O LORD, and see! Listen to Sennacherib's words of defiance against the living God.

<sup>18</sup> It is **true**, LORD, that the kings of Assyria have destroyed all these nations."

Hezekiah knew that Sennacherib's threat was not **empty**.

- **Blasphemous?** Yes...
- **Scary?** Yes...
- **Demonic?** Yes...

...empty? **No**...

Outside of the **intervention** of God, the Assyrians **really did** pose a **serious threat** to the kingdom of Judah. This is a **legitimately bad** situation.

**But watch Hezekiah's response:**

He does not resort to **denial, ignorance, mind-over-matter, manifesting,** or **empty, self-help philosophy.** Instead, he says, "It is **true**, LORD..." Hezekiah **owns the problem** and is **vulnerable with God** in regards to **how serious** this threat is.

**2C – APPLICATION**

Can I get in trouble today? We in the AG can sometimes get **way too cozy** with **denial.**

A **legitimate** problem comes our way...a problem that's **too big** for us to handle...and instead **owning** the problem...and being **vulnerable** about it...

- ...we **deny** the problem...
- ...we **ignore** it...
- ...and we **resort** to a whole bunch of New Age, wacka-doodle, "name it and claim it" garbage...in the hope that all that denial can sort things out.

**There is a world of difference between foolish denial and vulnerable trust.**

Trust is not about **denial**; trust is about **declaration**...

***Trust is a declaration that the problem really is big, but God really is bigger!***

Only when we come to the ***end of ourselves***...

...only when we're ***humble*** and ***broken*** enough before the Lord to be ***vulnerable***...

...only ***then*** are we ***truly able*** to trust God on the level that He wants us to, and take matters into His hands.

Hezekiah took matters into God's hands by being ***intentional***, ***mindful***, ***vulnerable***, and last one...***worshipful***.

**2D – To take matters into God's hands...Be WORSHIPFUL (37:19b-20)**

Look at **v.19-20**:

<sup>19</sup> “And they have thrown the gods of these nations into the fire and burned them. But of course the Assyrians could destroy them! They were not gods at all—only idols of wood and stone shaped by human hands. <sup>20</sup> Now, O LORD our God, rescue us from [Sennacherib's] power; ***then*** all the kingdoms of the earth will ***know*** that You alone, O LORD, are God.”

Watch Hezekiah's **motivation** in praying for rescue.

- It's not, "Rescue us so that we can ***get out this...***"
- It's not, "Rescue us so that things can ***get back to normal...***"
- It's, "Rescue us so that ***everyone will know that You alone, O LORD, are God.***"

## 2D – APPLICATION

Worship is the ***ultimate act*** of taking matters into God's hands.

I told our youth students one time: If you've ever wanted to know the ***difference*** between praise and worship...

- ***Praise*** is a personal response **about** God ("God ***is*** great!")...
- ...while ***worship*** is a personal response **to** God ("God, **You're** great!").

In the case of trust, worship is a ***declaration of dependence and allegiance***, which says, "God, I trust You...I trust Your ***character***, I trust Your ***power***, I trust ***who You say You are...***

"...and **no matter how this battle turns out**, I choose right now to ***declare my allegiance*** to You, to ***hold on tight*** to You, and to ***take matters not*** into my hands, but ***into Yours.***"

As Hezekiah **continually chose** to take matters into God's hands, through being intentional, mindful, vulnerable, and worshipful...***look what God did.***

### Isaiah 37:36-38:

<sup>36</sup> That night the angel of the LORD went out to the Assyrian camp and killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. When the surviving Assyrians woke up the next morning, they found corpses everywhere. <sup>37a</sup> Then King Sennacherib of Assyria broke camp and returned to his own land... <sup>38</sup> One day while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer killed him with their swords.

Hezekiah was **powerless** in and of ***himself*** to ***stop Sennacherib*** and the Assyrian army.

- He didn't have the ***firepower***
- He didn't have the ***resources***.
- All he could do was ***take matters into God's hands...***

...and **in God's hands**, the ***overwhelming threat*** of the Assyrian army was **supernaturally** taken care of.

That invitation to walk in the tension of trust and take matters into God's hands...that's not just for Hezekiah ***back then***; that's for you and me ***right now*** in 2026.

## CONCLUSION

Today is our third Sunday without the man who would normally be standing here behind this pulpit.

- The **first** Sunday, everything was just precautionary. Both **he** and **we** were fully convinced that: “This is just a **one-off**; he’ll be back next week.”
- Then by the **second** Sunday, we were **wrestling** with words we never thought we’d ever encounter. Words like: “**Heart attack.**” “**Bypass.**” “**Surgery.**”
- Now it’s the **third** Sunday... And unlike the first two, there’s ***no bake sale, no Mother’s Day, no special guest speaker or exciting novelty*** to take our minds off things.
- Instead, it’s kind of like, “Okay, God... We’re **here**; he’s **there**. **What do we do now?**”

For all of us—Pastor Gerry, his family, our church—**we all find ourselves in new territory where we’ve never been before.**

And I believe the LORD would say to all of us: “**Will you trust Me with your pastor? Will you take Pastor Gerry and take this church and surrender those matters into My hands?”**

I have full faith that God wants to do something **supernatural** and **amazing** out of all of this...but the **only way for us to really see that** will be to

**obediently walk through the tension of trust** and take matters into God's hands.

We're going to close today by doing **exactly that...**

## APPEAL

I'd like for all of us as we're physically able to come up to this altar. And we're going to spend the next several moments **engaging in a time of trust.**

I want to be very clear:

- This is ***not*** a time of "name-it-and-claim-it"...where we try to "***twist God's arm***" by being ***religious enough...***
- This is ***not*** about trying to "**conjure up a moment**" where if there's enough ***tears***, and enough ***emotion***, we can make God feel sorry for us and give us the outcome we want.
- This is going to be a time of **surrender**... A moment to be ***honest*** with God about our circumstances, and a moment to ***surrender*** those circumstances into His hands.

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