

GOD OUR REWARDER – PART 2

In our last message we acknowledged the tension of following a good God in a broken world.

- We sat with the **psalmists** in their lament,
- we listened to **Heman** in his darkness,
- we remembered **Joseph** in his years of hidden faithfulness,
- and we touched a little on **my own** journey of pain and delay.

Together we saw that God often leads us through long seasons where His reward is not yet visible, because He is more committed to forming Christ in us than simply keeping us comfortable.

Our part is to:

- keep trusting,
- keep obeying,
- and keep showing up—even when we can't yet see the fruit.

Today I want to stand on that foundation and look more closely at what Scripture actually says about God as our Rewarder.

Hebrews 11:6 tells us that faith is not complete until we believe not only that He is, but that He rewards those who diligently seek Him. So we're going to ask:

- What does God reward?
- How does He respond to secret generosity, hidden prayer, quiet fasting?
- How does He weigh our works, our kindness, our service, our endurance, our sacrifice and even our suffering for Christ?
- What can cause us to forfeit heavenly reward?

Let's allow His Word—and the lives of various people we find both in the pages of the Bible and also in more recent history,—to speak to us out of their life stories.

1. GOD IS A REWARDER

(It is His nature, not just His action)

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

This scripture gives us three foundational truths about God:

1. You must believe HE IS – His existence.
2. You must believe HE IS A REWARDER – He is generous, He is good.
 - Faith is incomplete if you believe that God exists but do not believe that He rewards.
3. God rewards those who seek Him diligently.

Diligently seek: to search out, that is, (figuratively) investigate, crave, demand, (by Hebraism) worship: enquire, require, seek after (carefully, diligently).

Example: The Woman With the Issue of Blood – Believing God Will Reward Faith

Mark 5:25–34 (NKJV)

“Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, PAUSE. 12 YEARS. and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse.

Social Isolation & Exclusion from Religious Life

- She would have been **barred from the Temple or synagogue worship** — because the unclean are not permitted to enter sacred spaces.
- She likely faced **social stigma and separation**. The notion of uncleanness carried social consequences: people would avoid physical contact, sharing meals, touching her belongings, even sitting where she sat. She could have been effectively marginalized.
- In effect, her chronic bleeding could have placed her outside of “normal community life,” worship life, and social fellowship.

Household and Family Impact

- If she lived with a husband or family, the ritual laws could have affected **their daily life**: surfaces, household items, water, food, bedding — anything she touched might have been considered unclean, requiring ritual cleansing or avoidance.
- She may have been unable to perform ordinary household tasks (cooking, serving food, preparing meals) out fear that items or people would become ritually defiled. Some sources suggest that a woman with a discharge would avoid cooking or food-preparation to protect others.
- Her ability to participate in close family relations — even marital intimacy — would have been severely restricted. The purity laws prohibited sexual intercourse with an uncleanness status.

Psychological, Emotional, Physical Burden

- Living with constant “uncleanness” for twelve years would carry **heavy emotional burden**: shame, self-isolation, possibly depression or sense of marginalization. While the law didn’t label it “sinful,” the social effect would likely feel deeply shameful. Many scholars note that the Hebrew word translated “unclean” (tumah) is about ritual status, not moral guilt — yet the lived social stigma could still be profound.
- Physically, the continual bleeding itself — possibly a chronic medical condition — would likely have meant weakness, fatigue, pain, medical expenses (as Mark 5 says, she “spent all she had on physicians”), and social marginalization.
- Her isolation would have made typical community support difficult. She may have lacked the usual social or spiritual support — no fellowship in worship, possible physical avoidance, and minimal sympathy because of the taboo of uncleanness.

When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, ‘If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.’

- Her reaching out to touch Jesus' garment was not only an act of personal faith for physical healing — but a deeply risky, stigmatized act. She was “unclean” by religious standards, likely considered untouchable. That she pressed through the crowd shows extraordinary faith and desperation.

*Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, ‘Who touched My clothes?’ But His disciples said to Him, ‘You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, “Who touched Me?”’ And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, ‘**Daughter**, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.’”*

- When Jesus healed her, He not only restored her body — He restored her **place in community and ritual purity**. He moved her from taboo to belonging, from isolation to inclusion.
- Her story illustrates what it feels like to live under a long-term burden of “uncleanness,” shame, social exclusion, and spiritual isolation — and yet to reach out in faith. That makes her story profoundly relevant for anyone who has felt marginalized, forgotten, or unworthy.

Why this fits Hebrews 11:6:

- She didn't just believe Jesus existed.
- She believed He would reward her faith with healing.
- And she was not disappointed.

2. GOD REWARDS WHAT IS DONE IN SECRET

A. Generosity

Matthew 6:3–4 (NKJV)

“But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right

hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.”

Example: Secret Charity – The Widow’s Two Mites (Quiet giving that heaven celebrated)

Mark 12:41-44 (ESV)

And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny (the daily going wage for labourers). And he called his disciples to him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

This poor widow gave the smallest visible offering in the temple—two mites—while wealthy donors gave large public gifts. Jesus exposed that God sees and also heaven’s accounting system for the generosity God sees:

- He looks at the heart, which here is seen in the proportion of what she had she that was willing to give.
- No announcement.
- No applause.
- No visibility.
- Yet Jesus noticed her secret charity and publicly honoured her above everyone else.

She gave quietly.

God noticed and honoured her.

B. Prayer

Matthew 6:6 (NKJV)

“But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray

to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

Secret Prayer – Hannah in the Temple (Silent prayer that changed history)

1 Samuel 1:9-20 (ESV)

After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. And she vowed a vow and said, “O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.”

As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. And Eli said to her, “How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you.” But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation.” Then Eli answered, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him.” And she said, “Let your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, “I have asked for him from the LORD.”

Hannah prayed silently—so quietly that Eli thought she was drunk. No spectacle. No performance. Just raw, hidden desperation before God.

Her reward:

- She conceived Samuel.

- Her son became a prophet who anointed kings.
- Her private prayer shaped Israel's future.

Principle:

She prayed in secret.

God answered in public.

Example: George Müller – Trusting God as Provider and Rewarder (1805–1898)

He cared for over 10,000 orphans during his lifetime

- He founded and ran the orphan houses
- At its peak, the five large orphan houses could house up to 2,050 children at once. So the widely repeated figure “over 10,000 orphans cared for” is not a legend, but rooted in documented records of his ministry.

He operated by faith — “never asked people for money,” trusted God alone for provision

This is perhaps the most distinctive (and controversial) feature of Müller’s legacy: he insisted that his orphan ministry would depend entirely on prayer and faith, not on fundraising, soliciting, loans, or debt. That principle recurs in multiple historical sources:

- According to his biographies and institutional records, he **never made public appeals for funds**.
- He never borrowed money or went into debt, even though the orphan houses cost significant sums to build.
- The funds, food, clothes, and other supplies reportedly came as **unsolicited gifts**, often at the last minute, in direct response to prayer.

Müller himself insisted that this approach was not merely a preference, but a deliberate demonstration: that God is real, answers prayer, and can be trusted to provide — even in what seems like impossible circumstances

Documented “miraculous” provision: when resources failed, God answered:

- There are several well-known stories — many originating in Müller's own journals (published as *A Narrative of Some of the Lord's Dealings with George Müller*) — where the orphanage had no food, but after prayer food arrived unexpectedly. For example: “Children would sit at empty tables; Müller prayed; and soon after a baker knocked at the door with bread, and a milkman with milk.”
- On one occasion in 1853, despite being “very poor” (money almost gone), the orphanage still needed flour, oatmeal, soap, and repairs — yet provision came.
- Over time Müller documented hundreds (some claim thousands) of “answers to prayer,” supplies, buildings, donations — all without traditional fundraising or solicitation

This pattern — prayer and trust followed by provision — became the hallmark of Müller's ministry and a major reason his story continues to inspire many believers.

What George Müller's Life Means (in Light of “God Our Rewarder”)

George Müller's life provides a powerful example:

- He believed not only that God **exists**, but that God **rewards** those who trust Him.
- His orphan ministry was largely hidden (behind closed doors), not a publicity campaign — yet God rewarded it with real provision, shelter, education, and hope for thousands of children.
- The “works” were sustained not by human effort, fundraising savvy, or worldly strategy — but by reliance on God, obedience, and faith.
- His life showed that what seems impossible to human wisdom — caring for thousands of orphans without salary or debt — becomes possible when we trust God as Provider and Rewarder.

He believed God did not just exist.

He believed God would reward trust with provision.

C. Fasting

Matthew 6:17–18 (NKJV)

“But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

Secret Fasting – Esther Before the King (Hidden fasting that saved a nation)

Esther 4:15 - 5:3 (ESV)

Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.” Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king’s palace, in front of the king’s quarters, while the king was sitting on his royal throne inside the throne room opposite the entrance to the palace. And when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, she won favour in his sight, and he held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. Then Esther approached and touched the tip of the sceptre. And the king said to her, “What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given you, even to the half of my kingdom.”

Esther called a secret fast—no religious display, no public recognition. After three days of fasting, she went before the king and was given favour.

Her reward:

- Haman exposed.
- The Jews delivered.
- A national turnaround.

Principle:

She fasted in secret.

God shifted an empire openly.

God sees you:

- Praying at midnight.
- Giving quietly.
- Fasting without announcing.
- Choosing righteousness when no one applauds.

He sees – and He rewards.

3. GOD REWARDS ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS

Matthew 16:27 (NKJV)

“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”

1 Corinthians 3:8 (NKJV)

“Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labour.”

1 Corinthians 3:13–14 (NKJV)

“Each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.”

Not all Christian work is rewardable.

Only what is done:

- In obedience.
- With purity.
- Under the will of God.
- In faith.
- For God’s glory.

Colossians 3:23–24 (NKJV)

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”

EXAMPLE: WILLIAM WILBERFORCE – REWARDED WORK THAT ENDURED

1. Who William Wilberforce Was (1759–1833)

Full name: William Wilberforce

Born: August 24, 1759 – Hull, England

Died: July 29, 1833 – London, England

Age at death: 73

Watch “Amazing Grace” which documents his life and work.

Wilberforce was:

- A British Member of Parliament (MP).
- A gifted speaker.
- A man of high social rank and influence.
- Elected to Parliament at only 21 years old.

Early in life, he lived a:

- Privileged,
- Politically successful,
- Spiritually shallow life.

But everything changed after his conversion to Christ in 1785.

After encountering true Christian faith through friendships with evangelical believers, Wilberforce later wrote:

“God Almighty has set before me two great objects:
the suppression of the Slave Trade and the reformation of manners.”

From that moment on, his wealth, influence, and career were no longer for self-promotion—but for God’s purposes.

2. The Evil He Fought – The British Slave Trade

At the time:

- Britain was the largest slave-trading empire in the world.
- Millions of Africans were being:
 - Kidnapped,
 - Shackled,
 - Transported in horrific conditions,
 - Sold as property.
- The slave trade fueled Britain’s economy:
 - Sugar,
 - Ships,
 - Banks,
 - Plantations.

Challenging slavery meant:

- Challenging the entire economic system.
- Challenging powerful businessmen.
- Challenging government leaders.
- Challenging cultural acceptance of evil.

To oppose it was political suicide.

Yet Wilberforce believed:

- No Christian could remain silent.
- No profit justified human bondage.

3. His 46-Year War Against Slavery

Wilberforce introduced the first abolition bill in 1789.

For 46 years:

- He presented bill after bill.
- He was:
 - Mocked,
 - Threatened,
 - Ridiculed in Parliament,
 - Politically isolated.
- He suffered severe health problems:
 - Chronic pain,
 - Colitis,
 - Severe physical weakness.
- At several points:
 - He collapsed from exhaustion,
 - Could barely stand to speak.

Many times the bill failed by huge margins.

Yet he refused to quit.

4. The Turning Point – Abolition of the Slave Trade (1807)

After 18 years of failure, in 1807 Parliament finally voted to abolish the British slave trade.

This meant:

- No more ships legally transporting slaves.
- No more British involvement in the capture and sale of Africans.

But Wilberforce was not satisfied.

Slavery itself was still legal.

He continued his fight for the total abolition of slavery itself.

5. Final Victory – Slavery Abolished (1833)

In July 1833, Wilberforce was:

- Old,

- Weak,
- Nearly blind,
- No longer serving in Parliament.

He received word on his deathbed that Parliament had finally passed the Slavery Abolition Act—freeing all slaves throughout the British Empire.

Three days later, William Wilberforce died in peace.

He did not live to enjoy the fruit.

But he lived long enough to know his labour was not in vain.

6. His Legacy

Because of Wilberforce:

- Over 800,000 slaves were freed.
- Britain became the global leader in fighting slavery.
- His work laid foundations for:
 - Human rights movements,
 - Modern abolition organisations,
 - Christian social justice missions.

He is buried in Westminster Abbey, next to kings and national heroes.

Yet his true honour is not in Britain.

It is in heaven.

7. Why Wilberforce Fits This Sermon

Wilberforce's work:

- Was tested by:
 - Political fire,
 - Cultural fire,
 - Physical suffering,
 - Time,
 - Repeated failure.

- But it endured.

His work was done:

- In obedience.
- Under God's will.
- With purity of motive.
- In faith.
- For God's glory.

Therefore, he received a reward—some in history, but far greater in eternity.

4. GOD REWARDS KINDNESS, GENEROSITY AND SERVICE

A. Even a Cup of Cold Water

Matthew 10:41–42 (NKJV)

“He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”

Nothing is too small for God to notice.

B. Loving Enemies

Luke 6:35 (NKJV)

“But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.”

C. Good Done to Others

Ephesians 6:8 (NKJV)

“Knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.”

5. GOD REWARDS ENDURANCE, SACRIFICE AND PERSECUTION

A. Endurance

Hebrews 10:35–36 (NKJV)

“Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.”

B. Sacrifice for Christ

Matthew 19:27–30 (NKJV)

“So Jesus answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.’”

C. Suffering or Persecution for Christ

Matthew 5:10–12 (NKJV)

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

EXAMPLE: JIM AND ELISABETH ELLIOT – REWARD BEYOND THIS LIFE

Who Jim Elliot Was (1927–1956)

Full name: Philip James Elliot

Born: October 8, 1927 – Portland, Oregon, USA

Died: January 8, 1956 – Ecuador

Age at death: 28 years old

Jim Elliot grew up in a Christian home and committed his life to Christ as a teenager. He studied at Wheaton College (a prominent evangelical university), where he trained for missionary work. While at Wheaton, he formed close friendships with other young men who also felt called to unreached tribes:

- Nate Saint (pilot),
- Ed McCully,
- Pete Fleming,
- Roger Youderian.

During his university years, Jim wrote extensively in journals about:

- Absolute surrender to Christ,
- Eternal reward vs. earthly comfort,
- Radical obedience.

This is where his most famous quote comes from:

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

That quote is now one of the most cited missionary statements in Christian history.

2. The People They Went to Reach – The Waorani

The tribe Jim and his team sought to reach were known at the time as the Auca people (a term meaning “savages” in Quechua). Their true name is the Waorani.

At the time:

- They were considered one of the most violent and isolated tribes on earth.
- Internal killings were common.
- Outsiders were almost always killed on sight.
- Oil companies and outsiders had been attacked and murdered in the region.

Yet the five missionaries believed:

- No people group was beyond the reach of Christ.
- The gospel was worth the cost.

3. Operation Auca – The Final Mission

In 1955–1956, the five missionaries developed a carefully planned operation to make peaceful contact with the Waorani.

What they did:

- Used a small airplane piloted by Nate Saint.
- Lowered gifts in a bucket to the tribe from the air.
- Built friendly contact slowly over several weeks.
- Eventually landed on a sandbar near the Curaray River (nicknamed “Palm Beach”).

For several days:

- Friendly exchanges took place.
- Laughter, gifts, and curiosity were exchanged.
- It appeared that contact had been peacefully established.

The Deaths – January 8, 1956

Without warning:

- A group of Waorani men attacked the missionaries with spears.
- All five were killed.
- Their bodies were found in the river and on the shore.

The global news media covered it extensively.

The Life magazine article on their deaths became one of the most widely circulated missionary stories of the 20th century.

From a human perspective:

- The mission looked like a complete failure.
- Five young men died without a single recorded convert.

From heaven's perspective:

- The story was only beginning.

4. Elisabeth Elliot – From Widow to Missionary to the Same Tribe

Full name: Elisabeth Howard Elliot

Born: December 21, 1926

Died: June 15, 2015

She and Jim had been married less than two years when he was killed.

After Jim's death, Elisabeth made a decision that stunned the world:

She returned to live with the very people who had killed her husband.

Along with:

- Rachel Saint (Nate Saint's sister),

she moved into the Waorani community, learned their language, lived among them, and shared the gospel peacefully.

5. The Shocking Outcome – The Tribe Converted

Over time:

- Many of the men who had killed the missionaries:
 - Repented,
 - Confessed their violence,

- Put their faith in Christ.
- The cycle of revenge killing in the tribe dramatically decreased.
- Families were restored.
- The tribe's entire culture was permanently changed.

One of the very men who took part in Jim Elliot's killing later became a Christian leader and evangelist.

This is one of the most well-documented and verified cases of radical forgiveness and transformation in modern church history.

6. Elisabeth Elliot's Global Ministry

After years on the mission field, Elisabeth went on to:

- Become a widely respected Bible teacher.
- Write more than 20 books, including:
 - Through Gates of Splendor (the story of Jim and the mission),
 - Shadow of the Almighty.
- Speak internationally on:
 - Suffering,
 - Obedience,
 - God's sovereignty,
 - Costly discipleship.

She never remarried until many years later and continued to teach until late in life.

7. Why Their Story Fits This Sermon

"God Rewards According to Our Works."

From an earthly lens:

- Jim's obedience looked like wasted potential.
- His ministry appeared to end in tragedy.

From heaven's lens:

- His death opened a door for:
 - Tribal conversion,
 - Global missionary inspiration,
 - One of the most powerful testimonies of forgiveness in history,
 - Generations of missionaries to be mobilised.

Jim never lived to see:

- A single convert,
- A transformed village,
- A redeemed murderer,
- A worldwide movement inspired by his life.

Yet Scripture says:

“Each one’s work will become clear... If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.” (1 Cor 3:13–14)

Jim’s reward was not visible on earth—but surely in heaven he had great reward!

CONCLUSION

Family, as we’ve walked through the Word today,

we’ve seen that God is not only the God who exists –
He is the God who rewards.

The woman with the issue of blood didn’t just believe that Jesus was real;
she believed He would reward her faith,
and she was not disappointed.

The widow with two mites,

Hannah in the temple,

and Esther in her hidden fast

all remind us that God sees what others never notice.

He watches the secret place –

the quiet gift,

the whispered prayer,

the unseen sacrifice,
the fast no one knows about –
and He promises, “Your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.”

We’ve also seen that God rewards according to our works – not the busy activity we put on display, but the labour that is done in obedience, in purity, under His will, in faith, and for His glory. One day every work will pass through the fire, and only what endures will be rewarded.

William Wilberforce spent decades labouring under ridicule, sickness, and political opposition, yet his perseverance helped break the back of the slave trade.

Jim Elliot laid down his life without ever seeing one visible convert, yet his death became the seed of revival among the Waorani people and a testimony that has stirred missionaries all over the world.

Heaven sees what earth cannot fully measure.

Scripture tells us that there is great reward for:

endurance,
for sacrifice,
for suffering and persecution for Christ’s sake.
When we choose to keep loving,
keep giving,
keep praying,
keep forgiving,
keep obeying –
even when it costs us –
Jesus says, “Great is your reward in heaven.”

Some rewards we may taste in this life, as Esther did when a nation was delivered or as Wilberforce did on his deathbed when he heard that slavery was abolished. Others, like Jim Elliot’s, may only be fully revealed in eternity. But none of it is wasted. None of it is forgotten.

So as we close, hear this again:

God is a Rewarder.
He sees you praying at midnight,
giving quietly,
serving unnoticed,
forgiving silently,
choosing righteousness when no one applauds.
He sees your long obedience in the same direction.
He sees your hidden yes.
And He will reward – in His way, in His time, for His glory.

Therefore, don't cast away your confidence.

Don't let delay make you careless,
or obscurity make you cynical.
Live for the smile of the Father, not the applause of people.
Like the woman who reached for His garment,
like the widow who dropped in her two coins,
like Wilberforce at his desk
and Jim Elliot on that riverbank,
let's be a people who believe not only that He is,
but that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Altar Call:

Perhaps you have:

grown weary
become disillusioned
felt unseen by God
wanted to give up
stopped fasting and praying, because it has seemed like no answer is coming
stopped believing that God will come through

I want to pray with you today.... With every head bowed and every eye closed, if that is you, raise your hands to heaven as an act of surrender and let's pray together...

