

January 10, 2016 - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Jonathan Falwell

## Stand Strong: Building Your Life on God's Promises

### Scripture: Psalm 89:1-2

Summary: In this sermon, the first in a series entitled *Stand Strong*, Pastor Jonathan Falwell focuses on and our ability to trust God because of His faithfulness.

There is nobody asleep in here now, is there? How many of you are glad that He is alive today? He has overcome. We sing hallelujah. There is a day that is coming when the clouds will be rolled back, the trumpet will sound, the dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. We sing *hallelujah*, because our God reigns; our God is alive.

Jesus lives, and today the Scripture tells us that He sits at the right hand of the Father. And listen to what it tells us that He does. It says that He ever makes intercession for you and me. You know what that means? That means Jesus is praying for you and for me. Anybody here today really need Jesus to be praying for you? Anybody? Come on, people. Do you need Jesus to be praying for you? I know I do.

And aren't you glad that today Jesus, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, He's got His eyes fixed on what you're facing right now? On what you're going through in this moment? And the heartbreak that you feel right now, the loneliness that you are experiencing, the pain that you've endured, the suffering and the anguish? Jesus knows all about it, and as Taranda shared a few moments ago, cast your cares on Him, for He cares for you.

Today we're talking about the faithfulness of God. I can't think of a better topic to talk about after the worship that we've just experienced of the faithfulness of God, that God can be counted on, no matter what.

During that last song, I looked up in the choir loft, and sitting in the second row there was Jen Berrick. Andy and Linda, did you watch your daughter sing up there? Did you watch her? I was watching her from the front row, and if you guys remember a few years ago the Berricks were in a horrible accident and Jen almost lost her life. In fact,

the doctors on that night and the days to follow said, “There is no hope. She is not going to survive.” And she went through week after week and month after month, not knowing what was going to happen; not knowing if she would survive; not knowing if she would ever wake up.

I couldn't help but, during that song, “He has overcome,” and I looked up at a choir, which normally is full of people singing. You know what Jen was doing? She wasn't singing. She was crying. Big smile on her face. Because she has experienced the overcoming power of Christ, unlike most people in this room.

And I'm going to tell you something: the same faithful God that delivered Jen and allows her to stand before us today is the same God who today will deliver you, no matter what you are going through. He has overcome. We sing *hallelujah*.

We live in a world today that is so full of trouble. We live in a world today, as so many are doing today, marking the fact that in our nation that abortion is legal and the tens of millions of babies that have died legally in our country, and our hearts are broken. But listen: He has overcome.

We live in a world today, in a country today that seems to be more divided than ever, a country that is still full of strife and still full of racial tension. Tomorrow our country marks Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, and yet we live in a time where so many people are still divided over the things that we should not be divided over.

The Bible tells us that we are all created in God's image; every single one of us. That God created us in His own image. That means black, white, red, yellow, green, purple, blue—whatever the color is—we are created in the image of God, and it is time for us to get past the racial tension and divide and to recognize that we are all people for whom Christ died. But He has overcome.

We are in an election year where people are so focused on politics and so focused on elections and so focused on this person and that person and who is going to lead and who is going to win and what's going to happen in primary after primary. Let me tell you what the Bible says in Proverbs chapter 14, verse 34. It says that righteousness exalts a nation. It doesn't say that a politician exalts the nation. It doesn't say the president exalts the nation. It doesn't say the Congress exalts the nation. It doesn't say the Supreme Court exalts the nation. It doesn't even say that the Church exalts the nation. Righteousness exalts a nation, and until we turn our hearts back to Christ and recognize the power and the faithfulness of God, we're going to continue to see the stuff that we see.

God has called us, His Church, His people, to righteousness. And so today, before we spend a few moments talking about the faithfulness of God, I thought it would be important for all of us to do what the scriptures so clearly tell us to do: just come to God and say, “God, we need you.”

You see these cards along the front of the altar here today. All prayer requests. All that people have come and written their prayer requests and left them at the altar. We prayed over these, out loud, every one of them, and we're going to continue to pray over them. And maybe today you've got a prayer request that maybe you need to drop at this altar. I encourage you to come down any time during the sermon, during the

invitation, and write down that prayer request; lay it here and we'll pray for these situations—even if it's unspoken. Wrote *unspoken*. Because we want to be praying.

You know why? Because the Bible tells us that the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man or righteous woman avails much. That means this: in our language, because we don't use the phrase *availeth much* today, do we? No. What we say is this: the prayers of the righteous man, the righteous woman, they are powerful. Why? Because He has overcome.

And so today let's together pray for our country. Let's pray for our world today. Let's pray for the crises that we see at every turn. Let's pray for those that are written on these cards. Let's pray for the sin of abortion to be stopped. Let's pray for the racial tension to be ended. Let's pray for our nation to come together as one. And it doesn't come through an election. It comes through the one who walked out of that empty tomb. Righteousness exalts the nation.

Heavenly Father, today we thank you for your power. God, we thank you for who you are. We thank you that you loved us enough to send your only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. I will never understand why you thought that that would be something that was a good idea. I will never understand why in all of our sin and all of our challenges and all of our problems and our baggage and our hurts and our pains that you loved us anyway and that you sent your Son, Jesus, to provide the way, to provide salvation, to provide forgiveness. God, I'll never understand, but we stand here today in agreement and thank you for that.

And God, I pray that in this moment, as we stand here at a time where we see so many problems in our world, I pray that we what we would do as a people is turn our hearts back to you. And God, we pray for forgiveness. Lord, we pray that you would strengthen us and encourage us and use us to go out and to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world; to let people see that Jesus is the answer. Nothing else.

God, bless our time together here as we open your Word. God, as we hear from you today, I pray that these will be words of encouragement, words that would strengthen, words that would speak directly to the hearts of men and women and young people in this room. And God, if there is somebody here today that doesn't know you as Lord and Savior, I pray that this would be the moment, this would be the hour where they recognize that you have overcome. And God, for that we will give you the praise and the glory. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

I want you to turn in your Bibles with me to the book of Psalms. We're going to go to chapter 89, and today we're going to look at this passage, and I encourage you as we begin this brand-new series called *Stand Strong: Building Your Life on God's Promises*, that you allow this to be a time when you begin to realize what it is that God has promised to you.

Along with what we're doing here in our main services on Sunday morning, we will also be doing, in all of our life groups—and whether the life group meets on Sunday morning like hundreds are right now across this campus, or whether they meet at homes throughout the week—we want you to be plugged in as we continue to talk about it, in a companion way, to walk through this book entitled *Stand Strong: Building Your Life on the Promises of God*.

And if you're not part of a life group, man, there is no better time than right now, getting plugged in and beginning to see that and beginning to be a part of that. In fact, I've asked our team, right after the service today, to be standing right down front to help you understand what it means and how you can get plugged in—whether it's a Sunday morning or whether it's through the week—that you can get plugged into a group.

Maybe you want to lead a group. I've got a lot of people saying, "Listen, I'd like to start something. I want to start something on a Sunday morning. I want to start something at home." Whatever it might be, this is a great time to do it. So right after the service today, as we kick off this brand-new series on what it means to stand on the promises of God, I encourage you to come down and talk with our team right after the service today to find out what that means and how you can do it; how you can get plugged in today. So we encourage you to do that.

Standing strong. Building your life on the promises of God. It's such an important thing to understand, because we do live in a world today that is so full of disappointment. There is not a person in this room that has not gone through a period in your life or somebody you care about, someone that you love, someone that is so very important to you, has let you down. It's happened to all of us.

And in fact, as we look around this room, most of us in this room have also been the source of that disappointment. We've let other people down. In fact, we've gotten to a place in our world today where we are so used to being disappointed and so used to being let down that we almost expect it. We are in an election year, and we hear all the promises and all the politicians are saying how they are going to fix everything and how if we'll just vote for them that on January 20, 2017, when they take the oath of the presidency, by the time the sun goes down that night, all of our problems will be fixed because of what they're going to do.

Hey, let me let you in on a little secret: It ain't gonna happen. We expect all of these promises, and so often we hear these promises and yet we're often so let down because those things that we hear about that are going to be done never get done. Well, let me just tell you today, as we begin this conversation, this talk over the next five or six weeks, what I want you to understand and what today we're going to begin talking about is this: There is One who will never let you down.

There is One that you can count on no matter what. There is one that no matter how disappointed you might be, there is One that no matter how discouraged, One no matter how many times you've hurt, there is One who will never hurt you, who will never disappoint you, who will never discourage you, who will never turn His back on you, who will never walk away from you, who will never walk out when things get tough. There is One who will always stand by you, every step of the way, and His name is Jesus. And today we're going to talk about how we can stand on the promises of God.

Now there's one thing that is absolutely certain, that as we begin talking about the promises of God, how we can build our lives on the promises of God, there is no way that we can cover all of the promises of God. Some theologians sovereignty that in the scriptures there are over 3,500 promises of God found in the scriptures. There are other theologians who say that there are upwards of 7,000 promises that are found in the Word of God.

I'll be honest with you and transparent: I've never gone through and counted them, so I don't know. I have no idea how many promises. But I know this: there are exactly enough. Whatever the number is, whatever the number might be, I can guarantee you that there is not one that is missing. Our God can be counted on.

And while we will not go through every single promise that is found in the Word of God, we will talk about some important ones; we will talk about some essential ones that we need to understand. We will talk about some doctrines that we need to stand on. But the one thing that we've got to do before we ever get to the promises of God is that we have to know that we can depend on the One that is making the promise.

Let me just tell you something: If someone comes up to you today and says, "Listen, I promise you I'm going to do something," unless you absolutely know and believe that that person will never let you down, that promise is really not worth much, is it? That's the culture in which we live.

And so we've got to understand, we have to kind of rehearse for a little bit about the faithfulness of God, of who God is and how God can always be counted on. And so I want to read this passage in a moment out of Psalm 89, but before we do that, I want to give you our memory verse for today. It's found in 2 Thessalonians 3:3, and I want us to read this together out loud here today.

It says this: "But the Lord is faithful who will establish you and guard you from the evil one." Let's read that one more time. "But the Lord is faithful who will establish you and guard you from the evil one." That statement, "The Lord is faithful." No matter what you go through, God is faithful. No matter what phone call you get today telling you the crisis you are about to experience, our God is faithful. No matter what is going on in your marriage that seems to be so difficult, our God is faithful.

And we must recognize and understand and count on the faithfulness of God. And so today what I want to do is I want to begin reading in Psalm 89. And if you're in a life group, which I encourage you to be, this week you'll go through the rest of Psalm 89 in our book, our companion book, *Stand Strong*. But I want to read the first few verses of this passage today, as we begin talking about the faithfulness of God.

It says in Psalm 89:1, "I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever. With my mouth will I make known your faithfulness to all generations. For I have said mercy shall be built up forever. Your faithfulness you shall establish in the very heavens."

In the New Living Translation it says it this way, "I will sing of the Lord's unfailing love forever. Young and old will hear of your faithfulness. Your unfailing love will last forever. Your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens."

What a powerful statement. And so from these first two verses in Psalm 89 I want to just help us clarify a little bit today, understand a little bit today, how we can count on and believe in the faithfulness of God.

And the first thing that we understand about the faithfulness of God is this: The faithfulness of God is something that is worth celebrating. It's worth celebrating. We've done that here this morning in our time of worship. We've celebrated. You looked around this room, there were people who were celebrating. There were very few people

who were sitting there with their arms crossed, wishing they were somewhere else. Why? Because we're celebrating who God is. We're celebrating the faithfulness of God.

And look what it says here in verse 1 of Psalm 89, "I will sing of the Lord's unfailing love forever." Why? Because it is a constant reminder of the faithfulness of God. That's why we worship together in our church services. It's a constant reminder of the faithfulness of God.

The first step for all of us to standing on God's promises is always to remember what He's already done. You see, the more we remember what God has already done in our lives, the more it's going to help us as we move forward, continuing to stand on and to count on the promises of God.

Now let's talk about, for a moment, what are some of the things that God has already done. You say, "You know what? I feel alone. I've gone through some incredible challenges. I feel like nobody cares. What are you talking about 'what God's already done'?"

Let's start with this one. How about this? Salvation. Probably every person in this room—I hope every person in this room, certainly most people in this room—came to a point in your life where you recognized that you were a sinner in desperate need of a Savior, and that God, according to His Word, is the only one who can save you from your sins. And the pathway that He provided for that to happen is through His Son, Jesus Christ. And He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross. He was buried and He rose again the third day, and as a result of that gift that God gives to mankind, if we will believe (Romans 10) if we will believe that Jesus is God's Son, believe that He died and rose again, anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. That is a promise of God that has been fulfilled over and over and over again. Do you think that's worth celebrating? Do you think that's something worth remembering of what God has already done for you?

And here's what's really cool about that gift: When you receive that gift, when Christ comes into your life, when He saves you, here's the cool thing. According to God's Word, it's something that can never be lost. How many of you got Christmas gifts this year for Christmas? Anybody? If you got a Christmas gift, raise your hand. Now put those down. Has anyone here got a Christmas gift and now you've lost it? A few of you. I know there's one. There is one person I know very well. She happens to be the young lady that dates my son, and she got a beautiful necklace for Christmas. She did. A beautiful necklace she got for a Christmas gift. And about three days after Christmas she lost it and it still has not been found. That happens, right? It happens.

But let me just tell you, there is on gift, one gift that you can get, one gift that when you receive that gift, there is nothing that will ever take that gift away. The Bible says nothing will ever separate us from the love of God. The Bible says nothing can pluck us out of His hand. The Bible says that He will never leave us and He will never forsake us.

Let me just tell you something: When God saves you, you are saved now and forever. Isn't that a great thing to celebrate? You see, when we celebrate the faithfulness of God, it helps us to remember for the future when we go through a difficult time—which, by the way, you will.

You see, when we forget to remember the great gifts that God has given to us and the great blessings that God has poured out in our lives before, when we don't remember those, when we don't celebrate those gifts, what happens is when we face difficult times, it's a whole lot easier to get discouraged when we've forgotten what God's already done. Man, if it means we need to make a journal, if it means you need to get your thumbs going and type in on your phone, remember what God has done, because too many people forget.

I've been studying the life of Saul, King Saul, and reading that narrative, that story of Saul's life from the time that he was just a young boy out looking for donkeys for his dad. And he's out there looking for the donkeys and Samuel came along and God said, "That's the one. That's the one I've chosen." And so Samuel went and anointed Saul, and Saul said, "Wait a minute. It can't be me. I'm the least of my family. I don't have what it takes. There is no way. Something is wrong here. Samuel, you've blown it here. Put your glasses on. It ain't me!"

And Saul is just out minding his own business, looking for donkeys, and yet God said, "This is my anointed." And then we read the story of how Saul then became king, and we see the story of how God used Saul and allowed Saul to lead and do some incredible things. But you know what happened? Saul very quickly forgot the power and the blessings and the presence of God. And we know the rest of the story, right? There is a very sad passage that's found just a few chapters over from where Saul was anointed where it says this: "Saul rejected as the king." Why? Because he forgot. Because he forgot.

So the faithfulness of God is something that we are celebrating, but secondly today the faithfulness of God is something worth sharing. It's worth talking about. It's worth sharing with others. Look at what it says in the second part of verse 1, "Young and old will hear of your faithfulness." In other words, I'm going to talk about it wherever I go."

Deuteronomy 6 talks about that. It says that when you get up in the morning, when you go to bed at night, nail it on the door of your house. Whatever it takes, make sure that every generation hears of the faithfulness of God.

When you read through the book of Joshua, one of my favorite books in all of Scripture, you know what they're doing all the way through there? All the way through there they are setting these stones to remember what God has done, because over and over again God delivered on His promises one after the other.

If you've ever sat down and read the entire book of Joshua in one sitting, I encourage you to do that, because the very beginning when they are sitting in the wilderness and they've been wondering is God ever going to bring us into the Promised Land, is God ever going to fulfill His promise, and there is chapter 1, all the way through the end, we see God's deliverance over and over and over again.

And then I love chapter 24, where Joshua takes some time to explain to all of Israel, "Hey, let me take you back and share with you one more time what God has done for you." Telling others about what God has done; sharing that message of the faithfulness of God is critical if we're ever going to experience the power of God in the future. Selfishness is never part of spiritual growth. And when we do not share the faithfulness of God with others, it is nothing short of selfishness. Of saying, "You know what? It's

good for me, but I'm not going to share it with anybody else." That doesn't honor God at all. That is not what God has called us to do.

We spoke a few weeks ago here about how no one thrives in isolation, how no one thrives when they are all by themselves; but when we share the faithfulness of God with others, when we talk about the faithfulness of God with others, you know what ends up happening? What ends up happening is because we are sharing it with others, it helps to fix our hearts on God so that when we face that next crisis, when we run into the wall—which we always will do—that we have fresh on our minds the faithfulness of God that will get us through that situation and then ten times more. Understanding that we've got to share the faithfulness of God.

The third thing we get from this passage is this: the faithfulness of God is something that is guaranteed. Now let me be honest with you: We live in a world today that is not full of guarantees. It's often said the only things certain are death and taxes, right? We've heard that over and over again: death and taxes, death and taxes. Absolutely true.

Well, let me add one more thing to the mix here. There are three things that are certain: Yes, death, right? The Bible says that all of us will die. The second thing that is always certain is taxes. That's not in the Bible really, but you know it ought to be in the Bible but it ought to be a sin. I'm just saying that. I'm against taxes, all taxes. Every tax. I'm going to run for president. I'm against taxes! There we go, okay. Sorry. Not going to run this year, I promise.

So death, taxes, but the third thing: the faithfulness of God is certain. It is guaranteed. Have you ever gone through the bank to make a deposit? I know a lot of people don't do that anymore because everything is online now, but it used to be that when you would go through the bank, you go through the drive-thru there to make a deposit, there is always a sticker there right on the window that says, "FDIC insured."

Now if you've never paid attention, never really noticed what that little sticker means, it means this: It means that as you put your money into this bank, that's a guarantee from the United States government that if something happens to that bank, if that bank burns down today, if that bank shuts down tomorrow, if the president of that bank goes through and fills a suitcase full of all the money that's found in the vault and takes off to Barbados, sitting under a tree for the rest of his life, and takes the money out of the country, the government is saying, "I guarantee you, you will get all that money back."

Now I'm not so sure that we should feel really good about the government saying, "Oh yeah, I'll get you your money back. I'll get that to you next Tuesday, I promise." But it's a guarantee. It says, "I guarantee." The government guarantees you'll get your money back.

Well, let me kind of set that up in comparison to something else. When you go out and go to the stock market and you buy a stock. Anybody see what happened to the stock market on Friday? Not a good day, right? It was down almost 400 points in one day. Down 9 percent since the beginning of the year. I read just yesterday that the richest people in America—listen to this—they lost \$350 billion Friday. That's a bad day, don't you think? Three hundred fifty billion dollars in one day.



Now the one thing about stocks is this: When you buy stocks, they are not guaranteed. You can buy a stock and it could go up and you feel pretty good about yourself, don't you? And then that stock turns and begins to go down and it gets down below what you paid for it, and you feel pretty bad. It's not guaranteed.

When you compare that to the FDIC, your deposits are guaranteed compared to stocks. When you buy stocks, it can go up or it can go down. You see the difference. Let me just tell you something: The faithfulness of God, the promises of God, the guarantee of God is always, always real. It's true. It can be counted on.

Look what it says in verse 2, "Your unfailing love will last forever. Your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens." This is a game-changer, because what this passage really tells you is this: As sure as the sky will be above you when you walk out of your house today, thus is the faithfulness of God. That's a good reminder, isn't it? That's a good statement, isn't it? God is faithful, no matter what.

Hebrews 10:23 says, "Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope that we affirm." Why? "For God can be trusted to keep his promise." All through the Bible we see examples over and over again of God keeping His word, even when unexpected. And yet all through the Bible we see examples of God's people walking away from God, disobeying God, even in the midst of God fulfilling His promises. Why? Because they don't know that they can count on Him.

Second Timothy 2:11 says, "This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful. He cannot deny Himself." I love verse 13, "If we are faithless, He remains faithful."

Let me just tell you something: The entire Old Testament is a picture of that passage. The entire Old Testament is a picture of that passage. Why? Because Israel was faithful, and then they turned their backs on God and then they were faithless. And guess what? All through the Old Testament, you know what was a constant? You know what was absolute? You know what never changed? God. Going all the way back to the book of Genesis, all the way through, God never changed.

We read through the scriptures, we read through Judges and 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, there was a sad phrase that was constantly reiterated over and over again, and it says this: In these days there was not a king in Israel, and so they did everything which was right in their own eyes. Does that sound familiar to you and me today? That's a picture of the world today. It's a picture of America today. It's a picture, sometimes, of the church today. Anything that seems right in our own eyes.

But there is a constant if we are faithless, our God remains faithful. It's an important thing to remember, but it's a sad lesson to learn. You see, the better option, the better choice, the better plan is this: to remain faithful now, because we need to live with Him today. We need to walk with Him now.

Second Thessalonians 3:3, "But the Lord is faithful who will establish you and guard you from the evil one." Why guard? Because let me tell you something: There is another constant. There is another absolute. There is another guarantee. And that's this: Satan is out to destroy you. The Bible says the thief comes to steal and to kill and to destroy. That means he's got a bull's eye right on you.

He is focused on you, and nothing would bring him more joy than to see you crash and burn. Nothing would make him happier than to see you walk away from God. Nothing would make him happier than to see you completely blow it and your life fall apart and your marriage crumble and your family split. Nothing would make Satan happier than to see that.

Satan is a formidable opponent. He is someone that we have no chance against except for the fact that greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world. When we remain faithful, our God will give us victory over and over again, because Satan doesn't have a chance when God is with us. And God is always with us.

And so you see when we start talking about how we can stand strong, how we can build our lives on the promises of God, the first thing we must do is recognize that our God is faithful—believe it, stand on it, walk in it, tell it, share it, celebrate it. Our God is faithful. And when you know that and when you believe that and when you walk in that, all that happens is that we begin to see the truth that our God, indeed, has overcome.

Today there are people in this room that are in the lowest of the valleys. They are in the midst of the most difficult moments in life. There are people gathered in this room right now that are facing one of those challenges where you don't know if you are going to make it through. Right now, sitting in this room—and I don't know who you are—but sitting in this room right now there is a husband and wife sitting side by side right now, and even though you are sitting side by side in this room, there couldn't be a greater divide between the two of you. The marriage is in trouble. One of you or maybe even both of you are sitting here thinking there is no hope. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.

There are people sitting here right now that have been told by the doctor you've got a disease, you've got cancer, you've got a heart problem, you've got a situation and there is no cure, and there is nothing to be done, no pill you can take, no treatment. You are going to die. And you're sitting there with discouragement and depression and you feel hopeless and you feel like there is nothing to hope for. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.

Our God has overcome, and let me tell you something: The miracle-working God that is in the Bible is the same miracle-working God that today we count on. And there are people here today that need to recognize the faithfulness of God.

There are people sitting in this room right now that have never come to a place in your life where you've recognized your need for a Savior. There are people in this room today that have never accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. And you're walking through life, trying to do it all on your own. You're trying to make it on your own, trying to be a good person, trying to do all the right things, showing up at church. You are doing all the things that you think you are supposed to do in order to get the promise of maybe heaven one day.

Let me just tell you: Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, and no man [no woman, no child, no Baptist, no Episcopalian, no Pentecostal, no Catholic, no one] comes to the Father except through me."

And you're sitting here today and you're thinking, "Wait a minute. Are you telling me that without Jesus if I were to die today I'd spend eternity in a place called hell?" Let me tell you something: I'm not saying it; God said it.

But there is hope because of the faithfulness of God. He has overcome. Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world. Today there is hope because our God reigns. Our God lives. And today you can have hope in him.

Heavenly Father, today we thank you. We thank you for all of the promises that you've given to us. We thank you for your thankfulness. We thank you for your love for us. We thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus, who came to this Earth and died for us and was buried and rose again. God, today we thank you, according to Romans chapter 10, that all that we have to do is to believe that Jesus died and rose again, to believe that He is your Son.

And Romans 10:13, to call on the name of the Lord and we will be saved. The greatest promise in all the Scripture. That is we call on your name, we will be saved. God, I pray for that person right now in this room that's never done that. God, save them right now. God, help them to call on your name right now. God, help them to stop depending on being a good person. God, help them to stop depending on trying to be nice to people. God, help them to stop depending on what church they go to. God, recognize that without Jesus there is no hope, but with Jesus there is all the hope that we could ever need. God, save them now.

God, I pray that you would do a great work in our hearts in this place. With our heads bowed and with our eyes closed, in a moment we're going to stand and we're going to sing the words of this song that we sang earlier, "Lord, I need you. Lord, I need you. Every hour I need you. My one defense, you're my righteousness," and we're going to count on the fact and believe in the fact that it is only through Christ that we have hope.

And if you're here today and you've never accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, I've already shared with you several times during this message how you can do that today. Our pastors and counselors are coming; they'll be gathered around the front. In a moment when we stand and sing these words, I encourage you, if you have never trusted Him as your Lord and Savior, I'm going to ask you in a moment when we stand to come down to let us talk with you and share with you what it is that Christ has done for you and what He wants to do in you today.

Maybe you're here and you just want to come and kneel at this altar and pray that God would encourage you. Maybe you're going through a difficult time. Maybe you've got a prayer request that you want to come and lay at the altar. We pray over these cards every week. We lift them up out loud every week. And we've already heard story after story of victory that has come.

Maybe you're got a prayer request. Maybe it's couples, families, or your family is in trouble and you want to come and pray together. Maybe you want to come and join our church. Whatever God is speaking to your heart, when we stand and sing these words, "Lord, I need you, every hour I need you; you're my one defense, my righteousness, oh God, how I need you," I pray that that would be the prayer and the cry of your heart. Let's stand together and let's sing these words, and if God is calling you today, step out right here, right now.

Keywords: Psalm 89:1-2, promises of God, faithfulness of God. celebrating the faithfulness of God, remembering the faithfulness of God, sharing the faithfulness of God, guaranteed faithfulness of God,