

Craig Groeschel:

Hey and welcome today to all our Life.Church locations, all of our Open Network partners, Church Online, family all over the world, I have a very, very special guest speaker today that I'm incredibly honored to introduce to you. Let me first tell you about Pastor Levy Lusko before I get to go crazy to honor him. Pastor Levi is the pastor of Fresh Life.Church, eight locations, they're actually seven in Montana, one in Utah. Their church totals over three thousand people, which that's like 75% of the state of Montana? About four thousand people there? I think that's almost coming, and his voice is one of my favorite voice in the emerging generation. This guy has a profound love for God, he's a great teacher of God's work. If you haven't read his first book, it's called "Through the Eyes of a Lion", I promise you this is a book that you want to get, it's incredibly well written and it'll impact your life in a massive way. And then he just release a new book called "Swipe Right". If you want to get it right in relationships, this is a phenomenal book.

What I love about Pastor Levi is that he truly loves and honors his wife. He is an incredible dad to his children, and you'll hear more about that and he passionately teaches God's work. He is a good friend of mine. He will be a good friend to you. I love him, I know you will to. Would you help me show honor today to our guest speaker, Pastor Levi Lusko.

Levi Lusko:

Life.Church! How are you doing this weekend? I cannot even possibly tell you how much I've been looking forward to the chance to be with you, I am the biggest fan from across the country of what God is doing through you. It is absolutely amazing, it is absolutely inspiring. I can literally trace, as we look at Fresh Life.Church and what God's done through it, the major moments of God just opening up new doors of helping us to become harder and better and faster and stronger as well, to my path intersecting with Pastor Craig Groeschel at One Day's reading his books, getting to be at events where he's spoken at, getting to meet with him, the way he generously has poured into me and the example that he and Amy have set for Jenny and I and so many other leaders.

I just want ... If I get to give a Bible study, that's great, but I came to say "Thank you, God, for Pastor Craig and Amy Groeschel, their leadership, their example, their integrity, generosity. They're brilliant, there's also that. So good looking, hello! It's not even fair, so much into one package. Just the way that they trust God with that big faith and that generous spirit to pour out into the Kingdom.

The Bible talks in Luke's Gospel, chapter 16 about how it's wise to use worldly resources to benefit you in eternity so that you have people in the Kingdom of God who are eager to invite you into their homes. Think about it! That you should with whatever God has put into your hand on Earth, use it in such a way so that when you're in Heaven one day, there will be people who want to invite you over to their crib to thank you for the way what you did with what you had helped them to get there; and I just want to say to every single person, a part of

every single Life.Church, that you had better clear your calendar after the Mayor's supper of the Lamb is over (cheesy Christian joke), that when you get ...

I mean there's gonna be a full calendar, people from my world, there's gonna be people in places like Salt Lake City, in Hungry Horse, in Kalispell, Whitefish, Missoula, Billings, Bozeman, who are wanting you to come over to their house to thank you for the way that you are a part of a church that did not just exist for itself, but existed to really make it possible for other churches to be benefited by the Church Online platform, so many things with the Open Network and the resources. Thank you, thank you, thank you Pastor Craig, Amy, the entire team, every single person serving, giving, leading, loving, sacrificing so more people could be in Heaven, less of those people could be in Hell at the end of the day or you die trying.

I'm just blessed and grateful to be with you and I cannot way to open up God's word with you and to have the chance to spend a couple of weeks with you is gonna be a great honor and privilege.

Second Timothy, chapter 1 is where we're gonna be this verse, we're gonna depart into our time together from here and just a quick context as you're getting there in your Bible or your mobile device, Paul the Apostle wrote 2 Timothy to this guy he mentored, Timothy, a young man, and it was at the end of Paul's life and he was writing him kinda one last letter to really encourage him; and he was telling him stuff like stir up the gift of God that's in you, and don't be scared, God didn't give you that spirit of fear.

I love that kind of talk, by the way, that if God didn't give it, you don't gotta keep it. So, anytime you're feeling anything that's not love, that's not peace, that's not a conviction that would move you toward holiness, move you toward God's best for your life, it's a spirit that God didn't give therefore you don't gotta keep it. You don't have to keep every thought that shows up in your head?! You don't have to hang on to every spirit you feel?! You don't have to walk in every mood that comes into your heart. Sometimes, you just gotta choose to take thoughts captive and to bow stuff down at the obedience of Jesus Christ; say "yeah, kinda not gonna dwell there, not gonna live there, gonna walk as who God says I am, which is I'm a child of the King, I'm chosen, I'm loved, I'm called, I'm equipped, I got the Holy Spirit. I'm seated in heavenly places. I've been given power from on high and I'm gonna walk out of that."

So he says, you weren't given that spirit of fear, so you don't have to keep it. And he was just reminding him that he didn't save himself by anything he did, but rather it was God's own purposes, which he purposed from before time began #no big deal. Do you realize that God was thinking about you before he even made the world? That you were on Jesus' heart, your name's written on his hand? You might not have a million followers on Instagram, you might not feel like a big deal, but I got news for you. You were appointed and anointed to

take your place and change the world. You are destined for impact! To quote Loki, brother of Thor, "you are burdened with glorious purpose, alright?"

So then he says this to Timothy, right after he says this. Before Christ made the world, this is what was in his mind, and it was a mystery back then, but then in verse 10 of 2 Timothy 1, check it out it's right here on the screen, "But it has now been revealed, through the appearing of our savior Christ Jesus" - notice this part - "who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." Can't miss it, the last part of that verse right up there on the screen says "Jesus Christ has destroyed death." What did you do today, right? He destroyed death! And as a result, or consequently, he has brought life and immortality to life through the gospel.

I remember reading that verse and it jumped off the page of my phone at me. You ever have that happen to you? Where you're reading the Bible and you see something that you didn't see there before? It was always there, only God has a way of speaking something new to you through a verse you read a million times, which is why you never can read the Bible like a John Grisham novel. You can't go cover to cover and go "got it, nailed it, totally got that now!" Because the Bible is alive, it will speak to you a fresh word in season. And who you are changes from day to day, so as you go back into the Bible, you are a different version of yourself than you were last year, so now the story's gonna speak a fresh word to you; you're gonna see something you didn't see before 'cause you're a different version of yourself than you were before, and God's alive who doesn't change and He's gonna speak a fresh word to you.

So I'm reading 2 Timothy and I'm reading it like I've never read it before because technically I haven't, 'cause I'm a different version of me, right? And as I read it, this first jumps off the page of my Uversion reading plan. It was 2012, it was November. I never forget it, because my assistant had told me "Levi, we need to pick out a verse for our Christmas card" we're gonna send our ministry friends and that sort of thing, and I've been trying to figure that out, so I read this verse and it was like "oh my gosh, Jesus destroyed death?!" It was so punk rock, so bad to the bone, I was like "that's a great verse, I love it so much!"

So I sent a note to my assistant, sent note to my wife saying I want this verse on our Christmas card. Now the crazy thing is, my wife and I, we always read the same reading plan on Uversion. Now I don't want to paint a disingenuous picture of what our relationship's like. I hate when pastors do that. "So after my wife and I churned the butter for three hours, and fast for twenty three hours, we then have a quiet time together that lasts nineteen hours." I'm like "okay, great, I'm the worst Christian that's ever been!" Well, what my wife and I do is always pick the same Uversion plan - and while I'm on the subject, thank you so much for the Uversion app! Thanks for sort of giving us the Bible, hello! - so we always pick the same Uversion plan, then we talk about it together here and there. So I say I picked this verse for our Christmas card, love this verse. Crazy thing is my wife texts back, she says this: "Levi, that's the weirdest thing, 'cause

when I read 2 Timothy 1:10, my immediate reaction was that verse should go on our family Christmas card" and I just looked at her, and then we made out.

It's okay, we're married, it's fine, we're good. By the way, my wife and I, we have four girls, we have one son on the way, we're expecting our first boy. Yeah, yeah, yeah! So, you know, we're not at the six Groeschel children level, but we're getting close. You're like, how do you have some many kids, you're still so young? It's called in Montana in the winter, what do you want? You gotta stay warm somehow!

Now hold on, stay with me, class! So my wife and I, we put this verse on our Christmas card. And what's funny about it after the fact, looking back, is that it's not really like a super Christmas-y verse, right? Like you know when you read it, they say some food has mouth feel? Don't you love when they're like "this has the finish of pomegranate" and you're like "what?" I never get any of that stuff. It's like those magic eye posters where you're like, I crossed my eye, I stood on one leg, I never saw the stegosaurus, you know what I'm talking about? So I'd fake it, "oh yeah, love that dinosaur!" Anyhow, but when you read 2 Timothy 1:10 the mouthfeel isn't eggnog, you know what I'm saying? It's not like farump pum pum pah. Like, when was the last time you sent a Christmas card out with the word death on it? Merry Christmas!

And yet, we picked it, and so it went out. But it was November 2012 when we selected the verse, card goes out and that year it not only turned out to be appropriate, but almost prophetic that that was what we sent out as our Christmas card from our family, about Jesus destroying death, because it was that same year in December 2012, five days before Christmas, the 20th of December, and my wife and I were wrapping Christmas presents while on our date night and the girls were with Grandma. After we finished wrapping Christmas presents, we went to go pick them up, and just as we did, my second born daughter, Linea - and I brought a picture, this is Linea here on the screen - Linea was having an asthma attack. Now, I've had asthma since the third grade and I don't know at every Life.Church location if there's any asthmatics in the house - maybe you could raise your hand up. This is your moment! When do you get time to " yeah, asthma and proud!" Right? We'll get together after the service and pop our albuterol! No we won't do that. We will not do that, I don't know why I said that, it's inappropriate. But we have a prescription, so we're good.

My asthma experience has been that you get wheezy when you're running and you get short of breath; and I remember first having that happen in tennis lessons, and then you take your puffer and you breathe better, and that's generally how it was. My oldest daughter Olivia, asthma. Linea experienced asthma. Well, this attack was different, because right there in the kitchen of my mother in law's house, her asthma attack was getting worse with the medicine, not better; and then she stopped breathing and she passed out and she began to turn blue.

As a father, I leapt into action. I had someone call 911 immediately and my wife and I both began to call on the name of Jesus; we were praying fervently and I began to do CPR as best as I can remember from my Red Cross certification class I'd gone to way back when I was a youth pastor. So I'm doing the chest compressions and I'm feeling my air fill up my little girl's lungs. She was just a kindergartner. She's just lying there on the counter. In the back of my mind I'm thinking "this is not happening!" And I'm trying my best to keep cool. My wife is at the edge of almost breaking down and yet we're calling on Christ, we're waiting for the ambulance to come; it took forever, it was snowy and I will never forget the frenzied moments of the defibrillator being put on her little chest, clothes being cut off and us being loaded up into this ambulance. Now we're driving and texting friends "Pray, pray, pray! Linea wasn't breathing, we're on our way to the hospital."

At the ER, they did everything they could do, but the doctor eventually came in to my wife and I and he said words that as a parent you never want to hear. "There's nothing more we can do. I'm so sorry! Would you like to come in while we turn off the equipment, so you could have closure?" We pushed past him, we rushed into the room and we grabbed her hands, and we both of us together begged the God who made the Sun stand still to give us more time on this earth with our little girl. And when it became clear that wasn't what was going to happen, we found ourselves mouthing the words that Job gave to us: "God you've given to us and taken away, oh blessed be your name." And with our hands in the air, we worshiped God and we wept.

And it wasn't too much longer after that, a couple days maybe? The funeral was the day after Christmas. And we were asked one of a series of impossible questions. They said "what would you like us to engrave on her tombstone?" My wife and I, we looked at each other and we knew exactly what we wanted it to say that we would read etched in stone, on top of a granite slab every time we stood at that spot. And the words today read as follows: Christ Jesus has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to life through the gospel. And it is this, and this alone that has buoyed us through these years, through the seasons and the ups and the downs, the ins and the outs, and that allows me to stand before you now with belief in a God who is good, a God who has plans for us. A God who is for us and not against us. And it is that that I want to speak to you about these moments that remain.

The title of my message, if you like to take notes in church, is "turn off the dark." Turn off the dark, because that is precisely what Jesus Christ came to do. He is the light of the world and as long as he is in the world, he is the light of the world and darkness has no choice but to flee from the presence of the light. I didn't get much from science class in high school but I remember this: there's no technical thing as darkness. There's just the absence of light. So where there is light, by definition there cannot be darkness. It might be a funny Christmas verse, 'cause you might go "oh man, turn off the darkness of death, immortality, that feels more Easter than Christmas, right?" But check this out! The reason

there ever was a Christmas was so that there could be an Easter. Jesus Christ came that men no more may die. He came to raise the sons of Earth. He came to give them second birth. And the only way that could happen was for him to go through the events of Passion Week and out the back end to come out triumphant on Easter Sunday.

And that's the power of the gospel. I guess you could say Christ came at Christmas so there could be an Easter, not just for him but for you and for me, so that we could live with home, so that we could die without fear, so that we could face what is our worst enemy on this earth and not be terrified of it. Matter of fact, that's what Hebrews 2:15 says. It says that Jesus came to release those who all their lifetime were subject to bondage because of the fear of death. It is that which unites every single person. We're all different in many ways. We like different music, we like different food, some people are Coke people, some people are Pepsi; some people like the Android device, some people like the Mac; some people like the Samsung so it can blow their plane up. Everyone just has different ways of doing things. Some people like proper types of music. A lot of people where I live like country music. I pray for them all the time that God would deliver them from the spirit of bondage. But what we all have in common is that we're all going to die one day and we're all terrified about it and nothing we can do can stop it. You can run, but you can't hide.

Jesus came to deal with that which is our worst enemy. And it's so needed, because we live in a world full of sorrow. Every single person I'm speaking to, you live in a world not just full of sorrow, it's full of sorrow upon sorrow. That's a technical description that Paul uses in his letters. It's Philippians, I believe it's chapter 2, verse 27. He said, speaking about his friend Epaphroditus. Epaphroditus almost died. He was trying to bring money to Paul in prison. He almost died but he did not die because God mercy on him, but on me also. Look at this phrase: so that I would not experience sorrow upon sorrow. Paul was saying "if my friend that I love died, I would experience sorrow upon sorrow." Come on, can you say that out loud with me? Sorrow upon sorrow. It's a technical phrase in the Greek that speaks of a nautical scene - wave after wave after wave crashing on the shore.

And if you've ever gone through any kind of grief, you know that's an apt description of grief in general. Wave after wave, it doesn't matter if you lost a loved one or if you lost a job, or a dream, or a friendship. There's just this feeling of a wave slamming you down. It can cause you to lose your equilibrium, like a surfer out there trying to get out past the break. Soon you're just being barreled, and you're upside down, you're trying to find up but you find out up is actually down and down is actually up and then just when you finally get a breath, another set comes in. The worst thing you can do is turn your back on the ocean, because you'll feel good one day and then you'll feel bad for feeling good. And then a rogue wave will take you out.

It's been the weirdest things for me. It's not the ones you necessarily ... because you brace for impact on the anniversary of her going to Heaven, or her birthday, but then just randomly, one will come like 4th of July. And you just have the hardest time seeing her sisters with sparklers, knowing that she's not there. And just this wave will take you out and suck you under, and all of a sudden you're gasping for breath and you feel like your lungs are full of saltwater. Sorrow upon sorrow.

Now I wonder if some might feel a bit betrayed. Is this the Apostle Paul we're talking about? Paul! You might say, buddy boy! Why don't you turn that frown upside down? If your friend Epaphroditos should - 'cause Christians say the dumbest things, right? They would write him a letter. They would say "Paul, if your friend Epaphroditos died, he's a Christian. If he's a Christian, he'll go to heaven. You don't need to cry, heaven is for real. He's probably riding his own personal unicorn, moon walking across the sea of glass, he's fine! He's got his own mansion, he's probably got rainbows shooting out of his eyes. Right? So it's cool, because Epaphroditos is in heaven. You should be fine."

Yet why Paul, who knew heaven is for real - how? Because he got to go there one time - 2 Corinthians 12, he's like "I know a guy who went to heaven one time, I'm not gonna mention any names but it was me" right? Biggest humble brag ever! Many people think it was Acts 14 Elystra when he got stoned - with rocks, not weed! I see you there! And many people believe he got to go to Heaven, had to come back, was super bummed about it, complained to the Philippians like "quit praying for me, I want to go back to heaven, but ugh, I guess some of you need to get saved! Whatever, I'll come back. So, I'll stay here for a while, but so help me ..." anyhow, it's just amazing when Paul has attitude, I love it so much!

So, Paul knew heaven is for real, true, and yet he said "if my friend died, I would have sorrow upon sorrow." Prolonged emotional upheaval that would not be easy to get over. Which is true, you'd say? Both. Quit trying to reconcile tension in the Bible that God is comfortable leaving there. Hurting with hope still hurts. And just because you know the sting of death has been removed doesn't mean that it doesn't sting to face it. Here's something you maybe need to know. It hurts like hell even when you know they went to heaven. And we need to, in church circles, quit trying to rush people through something that will not be rushed! You must understand, someone who's gone through something will never get over it. With time, God will get them through it, but they will never get over it. That's like asking someone with an amputated arm "are you over it?" No, they will always carry a sense of that loss.

Now, it can become a source of power; we'll talk more about that next week. I would strongly encourage you to bring some people in your life who've gone through something painful. We'll talk next week about how to look at pain and see power, but I just need you to understand, people need the space to grieve

and it does not mean they don't have faith. It doesn't mean they don't trust God or Jesus didn't trust God.

Now, in John chapter 11, Jesus experienced the death of someone he loved, his BFF, right? He would crash at Lazarus' crib when he's in town, and Lazarus dies. Jesus could have stopped it from happening because he has all the power, but he didn't. Shows up to the funeral, sees Mary and Martha crying, John 11, read it sometime this week. And listen to me: Jesus wept. John 11:35, shortest verse in the Bible, but maybe the most charged of all the Scripture. Jesus wept. He was experiencing our emotions. But he didn't just weep. The Bible says "then he groaned in his spirit." And that word groaned, in the Greek it means to bellow with rage. It's the sound of fury, and I've heard that it's often in Greek literature, used to describe the angry snorting of an agitated horse.

I didn't know what to do with that, because I was in Sunday school learning stuff about gentle Jesus meek and mild. But now his ears are back and he's pawing the ground and he's snorting and saliva is coming out of his mouth. Angry snorting? Jesus was angry. He's furious. I have hope, but I'm not happy about it. But what gives me comfort is knowing God isn't happy about it, either. He's angry. And he wasn't just angry, he was angry enough to do something about it. You go, yeah, raise Lazarus from the dead. No, no, no, no, that was just like in the moment, like here you go. But Lazarus had to die again, that wasn't his endgame. Any physical miracle God gives us not accompanied by a deeply eternal one is only a delaying of the inevitable, you see? If he gives the food or he gives the healing that we crave, but he doesn't do eternal work in the heart, it's a complete failure, because if someone has healing on their body but doesn't go to heaven it's just a thirty year stint, or a fifty year stint, but not forever. God is always focused on the soul, which is why God's Blessing Life Church, because you guys will do anything short of sin to reach people who are in need of salvation through the name of Jesus Christ.

Jesus, what did he do to destroy death? Well, I'll let Hebrews 2:14 answer that, that through death he might destroy him who had the power of death. That is the devil! Jesus defeated death by dying on the cross, because on the third day God raised him from the dead, He's seated at the right hand of the Father, and he can bring salvation and immortality to anyone who believes. Jesus turned off the darkness of death with the light of his life. And if you believe in him this weekend, God will save your soul, give you Heaven when you die and hope while you live. I hope that's what happens to you.

I believe that's why God drew you to church this weekend; that's why your friend invited you, why this building was built for you to sit in, so that you can come to know Jesus and have salvation that lasts forever. But until that day, until that day when Jesus turns off death forever, because He will, our souls when we die are safe in Heaven until Jesus returns and raises our bodies from the ground, the Bible says. Our body is like a seed into the ground, come back out of the ground. We will once again live in these bodies. They will be made

perfect again like Christ's resurrection body, for what the thief has stolen will be returned sevenfold. Because the body we will have taken from death are not susceptible to dying anymore. There will be no more aging, there will be no more cancer, there will be no more sin, there will be no more back pain, there will be no more country music. All these former things will be passed away. Okay, that's the second time, I'll never mention it again. These are the jokes, people.

Okay, so listen. I want to give you just in the few short minutes that remain while we wait for Christ to turn off the darkness of death forever, I want to give you four ways to turn off the darkness in your heart and in your world until that day. I guess that you could say these are four ways to make it through Saturday. You're like, Saturday? What the heck does that mean? It's the day between Friday and Sunday? You're like, Saturday's the best! I think Saturday's the toughest. YOU're like, no, Saturday we ride the jet skis! I get it, I get it; pancakes, wear your robe, it's awesome. But what I'm talking about is Saturday the metaphor. Because Christ died on Friday, rose on Sunday. And in between is the day that doesn't get a lot of play: Saturday.

I think for the disciple, Saturday would have been the toughest part. 'Cause Friday's trauma and Sunday's glory, Saturday there was nothing. No movement of the ball. The stone sat heavy. The body of Jesus was cold and decaying. Saturday would have been the easiest to lose heart. And all of us to some extend could find a way to describe how we experience Saturday today. Saturday is the child that will meet his father in heaven, but right now the dad's just pictures and stories and movies. Maybe newspaper clippings. Saturday could be the pain in your body that the doctors can do nothing about. You have the promise of a new one, and Jesus could heal, but he hasn't. For right now, it's just this one, and it's pain filled and the agony. Saturday is the empty seat at the birthday table; the bed that hasn't been slept in. Saturday could be divorce at fifty, when that was always something that happened to other people. Saturday.

I'm going to give you four ways to make it through Saturday lest you lose heart.

1. Please jot these down. You gotta remember that heaven is nearer than it seems. Remember that heaven is nearer than it seems. It can seem so far away. It can seem distant, opaque and fuzzy. Full of clouds and robes and harps and chubby baby naked angels. None of these things are in the Bible. I read it from front to back. Not a single chubby baby naked angel. I don't know where they came from. But heaven is not distant, not far off, not far off, not fuzzy. It's more real than this world. Heaven is right there, we just can't see it yet. Steven, when he died, Heaven opened up right there, Jesus is at the right hand of the Father to welcome him there. I need you to remember that Heaven is near and we're connected to it. In my darkest moments, my daughter feels so far away, but Hebrew 6 says we have an anchor for the soul. Anchors always have chains; chains connect us to what we're anchored to. So there's a Holy Spirit connecting our hearts to Heaven. My daughter's with Jesus. Jesus has sent his spirit. His

spirit connects to me. I'm connected to the one who's holding hands with her, and the nearer I come to the Holy Spirit, the nearer I am to my daughter. Heaven's near and you're connected to it.

2. How to make it through Saturday? Stick together. That's why is so important you get into a life, that's why it's so important you get into a team and serve together, so you can be a part of the body of Christ, so you can have people holding you up. I'm gonna talk next week a little bit about lions, and I want to tell you something. Lions always roll in a pride. There's power in a pride. One lion by itself, maybe it gets taken out, maybe it doesn't. You get a bunch of lions together, you mess with one of them, oh my gosh! You're getting Nala, Simba, Mufasa, Rakiki, Gamone, Poomba, the whole thing, all up in your face. Crazy ninja monkey, boom! Gotcha! Listen to me, you're loco if you're rolling solo. You need the power that comes from the pride. If you want to make it through Saturday, you had better be in God's house on Sunday. I'm just telling you, we need each other. Amen? All right.

3. There's a third way, jot this down. If you want to make it through Saturday to Sunday ... sorry, you'd think I'd be better at this, I do it for a living! Sorry. If you want to make it through Saturday, you have to run toward the roar. Run toward the roar. You have to be willing to run toward the things that scare you. There's so many parts of grief that I wish I could have run from. I could have run from them to a numbing substance. It would have been easy to lose myself in a bottle. It would have been easy to lose myself in pain medication. It would have been easy to lose myself and to numb the pain away. The problem is, numbing numbs the good feelings as well as the bad ones and soon you'll feel nothing at all. I'm telling you, you have to run towards, open the box of mementos. Not memorialize the clothing. Wash them, they're ready for the next girls, and give away to someone, and not hang on to thing that will be a booby trap in days to come.

One thing for me that was a run towards the roar was going back into the hospital the night my daughter died because my wife said "invite those people to church." That was scary for me, but I went back inside and invited them. There was three people that night that I invited that night my daughter went to heaven, that came to our Christmas Eve services; and the invitation that I gave in my daughter's honor and gave their lives to Jesus. It was scary, but you don't have to live in fear of anything that you face on your terms. So run toward what you want to run away from. David ran toward Goliath. And I just encourage you to live a life powered by the Holy Spirit, where things that you're scared of you run towards. Face them on your terms. Maybe they'll kill you. I said to grief "dip your fangs into my breath, and if it kills me, it'll kill me. But if I don't die, at least I won't have to live in fear." It's just a better way to live.

There's a last thing, and then we're gonna pray. If you want to make it through Saturday, if you want to turn off the dark in your own heart, you have to at times cue the eagle. C u e the eagle. What does that mean? Well, Isaiah talks

about how every time you call on the name of the Lord, God gives you the strength that allows you to run and not grow weary, walk and not faint; like a power of an eagle propelling you forward. In my darkest moment I remember kneeling at my daughter's grave and thinking of that verse. Reading Psalm 73:26 "My heart and flesh fail, but God is the strength of my heart forever." I didn't think I could do it for one more moment, but as I said those words and trusted in the name of Jesus, I looked up and there was a bald eagle circling the cemetery. And it was just a little reminder to me, and what I came to tell you is you can cue the eagle anytime you want.

if you call on the name of Jesus he'll give you new strength, he'll give you new power. You got a second by second, moment by moment, punch by punch, round by round, fight by fight, trust the name of Jesus. Let's pray together. Jesus, give us strength to keep turning off the dark until you turn it off forever. We pray this in the mighty name of Jesus. We all say together, amen. God bless you, Life.Church.

Craig Groeschel:

Thank you, thank you, Pastor Levi. I know at all our churches there are many of you, God just spoke to you in a very powerful way, and I want to just continue and add it to the prayer, so just pray with me. Father, thank you so much for sending a humble servant who knows you intimately and can speak to those who are in the middle of Saturday in a way that would move us closer to your son Jesus. All of our churches, as you're praying right now, nobody looking around, I want to take a moment to ask how many of you right now would say that you're actually in Saturday. All of our churches, there's something going on that's very difficult right now, and you need prayer. Would you lift up your hands right now, all our churches? There's so many of you. I know our family right now is enduring some things that we're really praying for God's grace. I know that so many of you at all of our different churches, there's something significant in your life that you wish were really different right now and it's not. And I want to pray for you.

Father, I thank you that you are here, that you are good, that Heaven is even nearer than we could imagine. And God, I thank you that on this day, you brought a very special message to speak into the hearts of those who need to hear it. God, I pray that we would find comfort in the power of your perfect timing and the truth of your living word, and in the comforts of the indwelling power of your Holy Spirit. God, I ask even now that because you're here and you're always good, even though we may not understand, we would trust God in your love, in your sovereignty, and in your perfect will.

I pray especially, God, for those that may be grieving, those who don't know where to turn or what to do, God, that we would turn completely to you; that we would find healing in your presence, we find comfort in your family as we love one another. And just like Pastor Levi said, hurt's real even when we trust in you and in Heaven. God, we thank you that you are the God of all comforts; that you're here even now and I pray that your presence would be exactly what

we need as you conform us to the image of your Son. God, we choose to trust in you.

As you continue praying at all our different churches, to personally, for me to hear one dad who lost a child talk about the power of death being broken by Jesus, it moves me. Jesus the Son of God was born without sin, never ever sinned, lived a perfect life, died the most brutal death. Why did he do this? Because sin separates us from a holy God. If I sat down with you and we had a casual conversation and I asked you "where do you stand with God?" A lot of you might kinda hem haw around and say "well, I try to do my best, and I kinda try to hep people, and you know, I go to church when I can" or whatever you might say, but if we got really, really honest I know you would say the very same thing that I would have to say. And that is, I have sinned, I am not what I should be, I've let God down, and the problem is that sin separates us from a holy God. The good news is, God doesn't leave us dead in our sin, but in his mercy he sent Jesus, who is perfect, died and rose again, so the power of death, hell, sin and the grave would be broken.

In all of our churches there are those of you, you're not here by accident, God brought you here, and you can sense it. There's something happening, you feel drawn to God. That's the power of the Holy Spirit, and God brought you here because when you call on the name of Jesus, he'll hear your prayer, forgive your sins, make you brand new. All of our churches, there are those you recognize you need it, you need His grace, you need His power, you're not here by accident. It's time to simply turn from your sins and turn toward Jesus. When you call on his name, he'll forgive every sin, you'll become a new person. Your sins are gone, He makes you new. At all of our churches, those who say "yes, I need that. I need His grace. I recognize I'm a sinner and I need a savior. Jesus, I trust my life to you." That's your prayer. Lift your hands high right now all of our churches.