

Speaker 1 ([00:18](#)):

Hi,

Speaker 2 ([00:19](#)):

My name is Renza. This is my sign name. I live in Nebraska. Any of you, are you living in or grew up in the Midwest? Any of you out there? I've no idea. I can't see you bummed about that, but really I'm sure some of you are watching this conference from the Midwest and that's exciting, but before I continue, I want to share a little bit about myself. I was not raised in the Midwest. I moved around a lot over 30 times in my lifetime. I was born in Hawaii, then moved to California, then Oregon, Washington, Arizona, DC, and then Iowa, and finally Nebraska. So right now I'm currently back in school. But before I did that, I worked at deaf missions. I worked on Bible translations. I did second Chronicles and Deuteronomy it. Wasn't just me. I had a partner, her name was Mary Alice Gardner, and we worked on that together. And it was a great experience. A wonderful journey at Def missions is really a great place. And I'm excited that they've released the ASL V. Um, the Bible is now accessible in sign language fully, all the way from Genesis to revelations. So if you get a chance, download that app and you can watch the Bible for yourself, the Bible translations into ASL.

Speaker 2 ([01:48](#)):

So my journey at Def missions is now over. And so, like I said, I'm back at school. I go to the university of Nebraska in Lincoln. I'm getting my PhD in interpersonal family and health communications. That is my major. I'm a first year student. I am a newbie as you would call it. I know you think, okay, I'm taking, getting my PhD. There's no way I'm a newbie, but I am. This has been a tough challenge, but it's all worth it in the end. Okay. So just want to share a little bit more of what the kind of person that I am. I'm real. I'm raw. I'm transparent. I say it like it is. And I don't try to, I know this is a conference and I know it's virtual and I don't try to put on a face and follow all these formalities. I mean, of course there's going to be some formalities, but I want you to be yourself and I'm going to be myself. You're learning. I am also learning. I don't think I'm better than you. You're not better than me. We're all learning together.

Speaker 2 ([03:00](#)):

So am I, I'm probably just so you know, I'm not going to try to edit this video and clean it up and make it perfect. I'm just going to say what's on my heart. What the Lord wants me to share with you? Um, the scripture that we're going to be talking about, the themes that we'll be discussing, and hopefully you'll be able to connect somewhat wherever you are, whoever you are. You'll be able to understand God who he is and his character a little bit better. We serve an amazing God, a loving God, a forgiving God.

Speaker 2 ([03:33](#)):

Sometimes I'll go out in nature. For example, maybe going into the mountains and I just I'm in awe, how can anyone deny God, you can't. Some things just can't be explained. We are human, but we don't need to know everything. Some things we do need to know. Um, and sometimes we need to know them for our benefit. But for example, seeing the sunrise, sunset, the stars, the moon, everything that is the creator, God made those. He even made you meet every part of you, your hair, your eyelashes, your lips, your skin, your hair, color, your hands, everything. Every essence of you, your skin pores, you man, arm, hair, beauty marks, moles, everything, you name it. God created you. Who can explain that? We can't. I'm just always constantly in awe of God. He's the only God that forgets.

Speaker 3 ([04:52](#)):

And that is powerful.

Speaker 2 ([04:55](#)):

And we have to learn how to forgive. And I want to emphasize the word learn. We are not born naturally forgiving other people. We have to teach each other. God teaches us how we can forgive. And we have to learn that that's a learned behavior, a learned habit. It's a challenge. And sometimes God will put you in challenging situations. All of us, including myself, um, God himself forgave us first. So what you know, what is the point of forgiveness? Um, it's love, God's love. He's the author of love. The creator of love. The movie director of love. The professor of love. The precedent of love you name it. God is love. And we can't deny that I could talk about this all night. Uh, I could take four hours. I'm not going to do that, but I just wanted to open with that open with thanking God, for who he is, his love, his mercy, his grace, his forgiveness. He's the only God that does that.

Speaker 2 ([06:10](#)):

He doesn't hold grudges against us. He doesn't think that we owe him things, but we humans. We do. I can't even start with us. We feel entitled to other people owing us things. And honestly, and just to, I'll be Frank with you. We, humans are selfish and our daily lives, we experience a lot of challenging things and God teaches us to try to let go of our selfishness. I mean, yourself included. Do I sit here and think that I know how to do all these things? No, I don't not anywhere close. And what I'm saying to you today, I'm saying to myself as well, just the thought of our God, Jesus, the Holy spirit. I'm just, I'm just so grateful. We serve a God of love.

Speaker 2 ([07:06](#)):

So, so part of my other transparency is I have a laptop right over here. I have notes to help me. I'm not a robot. I can't memorize everything. I can't stick a USB into my head and download all the information. I can't do that. So I will look at these notes while I'm giving my message. If I don't, I would go off track. Um, probably get to the point where I'd be talking about back when I was two years old, this happened, but you will see. So that's why I have these notes. You will see me looking over and if you see me doing that, that's what I'm doing. I'm not going to stare down at it, but just want to let you know that. That's why I maybe looking over at my laptop is to look at my notes. So I think I've said enough for now.

Speaker 2 ([07:56](#)):

I think that's a good warmup. So before we start, I want to show you a brief, that video is ridiculous, right? It's one of my favorite videos, cause it's a good visual of how we sometimes have that nail in our lives. So to say, and someone tries to let us know, Hey, you have a nail in your head. And we are in denial about we people try to point out our problems and we say, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. Um, but really we need each other. We need to support each other. We need community.

Speaker 2 ([10:02](#)):

We can't do anything in life on our own. If you are alone right now, I encourage you to find community right now with technology. We have a lot of opportunities to connect online and get community for support. We all need that. We're not designed to be alone. We're not designed to be isolated and we're not designed to try to figure everything out on our own, carry those burdens on our own. If you feel that burden, you can cast that burden onto the Lord. He's there for you. He's there for your support. You can get other people for, to give you counsel tips, insight in that video with the nail. It's a good reminder because sometimes we have things in our own lives that we may be ignorant to we're in pain and we

don't see why, but other people do. And they may try to point it out to us and we can deny it. We can be in denial of it. And so sometimes we need to rethink and reassess that maybe God is sending someone to tell you that you have an issue. But one day at a time when we can't handle all the world's problems in one day, one day at a time, one step at a time, one problem at a time. Right. Amen. Okay. So I'm looking at my notes real quick. Okay.

Speaker 2 ([11:35](#)):

So, so what we're going to be discussing today is Ephesians chapter two, verse one through 10. Some, I'm going to say that again. Ephesians chapter two verses one through 10. So that's the scripture we're going to be discussing today. So I'm not going to go burst by first. Um, I'm going to talk about three themes that I see from the scripture. But before we dive into that, I want to really quickly talk about, um, a phrase in here in verse two, the phrase or wording, the Prince of the power of the air, the Prince of the power of the air.

Speaker 2 ([12:35](#)):

That's how verse two opens is with that phrase, Prince of power of the air. And that's one through three verses one through three talks about that. It talks about this world, our fleshly desires, sin, and who controls that? I'm asking you, who controls that? Satan, there's so much evil in this world. We can't go about wife and be in this world and deny that evil. Isn't it, there is a spiritual world and we can't deny that there's a spiritual world. There's also spiritual warfare and it'll cause you to lose faith. But the power of God is greater. He conquers all and we have to recognize and acknowledge that we can't continue to give into the power of evil.

Speaker 2 ([13:47](#)):

When we do that, we are feeding that I know an old story. It's one of my favorite stories. I think I would call it like a full core. And there was a grandfather and grandson and they had been spending the day together and they sat down by, up on fire in the bonfire, as it was going, smoke started to come up and they saw this two wolves and they were fighting. And the grandson sees that and turns his grandfather and asks which of these wolves are going to win. And the grandfather says, whichever, whichever one that you feed the most.

Speaker 2 ([14:44](#)):

So who are you feeding? Are you allowing, where are you allowing to influence your life, God or evil, that evil world. We have fleshly desires. We sin. And is that of God? No, those are worldly things and evil controls that Prince of the power of the air that's power that's that has some power to it. But there's a key word. Verse four. It's my favorite word out of this whole scripture. It's one little word is three. It's a three letter word B U T. But in verse four, you'll see that verses one through three. Talk about the Prince of the power of air and how it influences this world and our fleshly desires, how it influences our mind, our body and sin in all of this in the world. But start at verse four says, but, but that gives us hope.

Speaker 2 ([16:14](#)):

That's a way that, but gives us away. It gives us hope. It's a complete one 81 80 degrees. It's not just a slight shift. It's a complete one from left to right from in to out. It's a complete one 80 degree shift in a different direction. It's a conjunction, that's a shift. And then after that, it says, but God in his great mercy, his great love. He makes us alive again through Christ. And it just continues in all these amazing

hopeful, positive themes. And it inspires us verses one through three is a little discouraging, but God, through Christ, we have hope again through Christ. We can have that hope.

Speaker 2 ([17:23](#)):

And then verse eight, it says by grace, we've been saved through faith. So remember that part, we're gonna discuss that more later, but I want to emphasize again, the importance of the word, but it's a conjunction word. So in the Bible, there are a lot of conjunction words, but know that those are always very important. Like, but although, however, those are important words because they show a, you know, we can read the Bible and just get so discouraged sometimes. But if we really look at those conjunction words, they give us hope. They show us God's character and what he wants for us, his mercy, his love it's key. Those conjunction words are really important. So like in this scripture, one through three talks about evil and all these discouraging things, but God is great. Mercy is great. Love make us alive. Again. He reigns, he conquers evil Prince of the power of air. Sure. He's there, but we serve an amazing God and almighty God, amen. Now I want to discuss the three themes from the scripture. It's an acronym F a R F stands for faith, a stands for assurance and R stands for relationship. So I'm going to discuss these in more in depth. So F faith

Speaker 3 ([19:17](#)):

First, what is faith?

Speaker 2 ([19:20](#)):

Faith is something that we can't see. We know it's there, but can't see. So hold that thought. I'm going to use a real life situation. I have confidence. All of you have experienced purchase, purchasing a plane ticket. If you never purchased one, you know how it works. You go online Tyack or orbits. One of those websites, you pick a airline, Southwest, whatever airline you pick and you purchase the ticket, you put your credit card information and your, your debit card information, and you put your money in and you purchase it. You pick a C, make the reservation, whatever [inaudible], or when you arrive, you can pick that as well. Um, but you get to the airport the day you leave and you trust that they're going to have a seat ready for you. You trust that the students will be there. You trust that the seat two way or whatever C is, is going to be there.

Speaker 2 ([20:37](#)):

You haven't gone and witnessed it and seen it yet. You don't go to the airport and say, okay, I want to fly to California LA. So we're [inaudible] okay. I need to see it. Okay. And what is, what is the seatbelt look like? Oh, okay. Well, what Stuart is going to be working that day, you don't do that. You just trust that you trust Southwest or whatever airline that you pick, that it's going to go smoothly and they're going to have things ready for you. That's a big deal. Same with Amazon. You purchasing. As on Amazon, you expect them to send it to you. And if Emma's Amazon messes up, they'll either refund your money or send you the order again.

Speaker 2 ([21:25](#)):

But then when we talk about faith in God, we, we, we think, Oh, I don't know. I don't know. Maybe I don't know. There are things in this world that we trust, but we don't have faith in God. So think about that. Faith is something that we know that God is there and he's doing work. Maybe not in the ways that you expect, maybe not in the ways that you plan it to go, but God is doing things. And we have to have

faith in knowing that God knows what's best for you. He knows your heart. He knows your desires. And so that's what F stands for faith.

Speaker 2 ([22:05](#)):

So I want to pull a verse out, um, for this, Oh, I lost my place about it. Verse eight by grace. You've been saved through faith, through faith, through faith, faith. However you want to sign it. Faith by grace, you've been saved through faith. So all of our mistakes, we maybe curse God, maybe we're bitter. Maybe we're angry, but God stays the same. He continues to love us. Values, values us. And he wants us many times. Maybe we feel rejected from other people. And when we feel that way, it's discouraging, but not God bike race. He gives us a gift of salvation. It's a gift, which means it's up to you. He's not forcing you to make that decision. No, this says it's a gift. It means that it's up to you to accept it or not. That is crazy.

Speaker 2 ([23:24](#)):

Give me, do you have the power to decide if you want to take the gift or not? He's the creator of the universe and you have a choice to say yes or no. And through faith, you can believe in him and you can receive that salvation as driven me out. That's our God through all of our bad actions and sin, we, he still gives us a choice. He doesn't coerce us. He wants you to choose to love him. And I'm just happy. We serve a great God and that you have a choice. We have a choice.

Speaker 2 ([24:08](#)):

He's there for you will be. Will you be there for him? So letter F faith, second letter assurance, a God does not waiver. It is a guarantee. So for example, the sunsetting and rising, that's a guarantee. Do you ever miss a day? Do you ever wake up and think, Oh, today's Wednesday, whatever day fifth it is. And where's the sun. The sun's not going to rise. No, it always rises. And always sets. That's a guarantee. We can trust that tomorrow the sun will come up tomorrow night. It will go down and the moon will come out. Sometimes we don't see it. The clouds cover it, but we know it's still there. It's a guarantee.

Speaker 2 ([24:55](#)):

And let that be an example to you. That guarantee that assurance, that God loves us. It's a promise. His love for us is that it's a guarantee, just like the setting and rising. Every time you see the sunset or rise, just be reminded of God's that assurance that God loves us. So how does this apply to the verse we're talking about? Let me pull the verse out that I want to use verse four for again, the verse with the word button. It, but God and his great mercy and love that's assurance right there. A verse four. Again, I want to remind you that word, but is my favorite word. And then the third letter relationship, relationship, relationships are tough. Relationships require a willingness. That's already willing. He's already there. He's already willing. It's on us to be willing to connect with him. God's there. He's already there for us. We are the ones that tend to be resistant and we need to be willing to have a relationship. And it's hard being a Christian is not easy. It doesn't mean that we get to have nice convertible cars and fancy eyelashes. And it's easy. No, being a Christian is hard, but we're not alone. We have community. We have support. We have relationships with others and we have friends and church and even online community.

Speaker 2 ([26:37](#)):

And we have a relationship with Christ. And what does that look like? I mean, spending time with him, reading the Bible, watching the ASL V same as with whenever we have relationships with people, you

have to be there. You can't just say, Oh, I believe. And then have no relationship. It's like being married without love. I can be married to a person, but never talk to them. We live in the same house, but I ignore them. I never talked to them. I go about my own life. What, what kind of marriage would that be? Marriage means communication. And having that relationship. It's the same idea as friendships. If you call someone, your friend never talked to them, what kind of friendship is that?

Speaker 2 ([27:28](#)):

You say that your friends and maybe like, you know, what's their birthday? Oh, well I'm guilty of this too. I don't always remember. People's birthdays, but relationships take time. They take, take investment and the same with a relationship with Christ, we have to read scripture. We have to understand it. We have to study it. We have community to discuss it with, to help us understand it better. And we build that. It's not all about us. If you are thinking about just you and you live in life on your own, it won't work. You won't four-ish, you need other people in your life to bring people in and then you'll grow. So that's F a R faith assurance and relationship far, far. And you will go far with your relationship with God.