

Tug and Chain – Sermon Transcript

June 7, 2026

All right, so I'm going to just pray a prayer before I give you this word. And so Father, we just thank You for Your presence and we thank You that You are faithful and true. And I ask that You will give us spiritual ears to hear and eyes to see, and that You'll give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation and the knowledge of You, Lord, that You would open up our understanding more and more.

And that, Lord, as I release what You brought to me to give today, as always, that, Lord, we would give heed to Your word and that we would meditate upon Your word, Lord, and that we would be changed from glory to glory, faith to faith. I thank You for releasing just the spirit of understanding today and hope and blessings in Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

The Lord woke me up early this morning and He gave me a very vivid dream, and I'm going to, by His grace, unfold that dream and bring the word to you from that dream. And I'm looking very intently with my notes to make sure I stay on point.

In the dream I was talking with a couple as if I was interviewing them. They came to me. They approached me. And you have to understand that I interview folks all the time in ministry. I'm always listening to people, hearing their stories, seeing where they're at in life, not just in times of trouble, but in good times, glorious times, encounters with God, amen.

We get to talk to the saints of God, the family of God. And I do a lot of this. Perhaps some come for counsel. Some may come to me for healing. Some may come to me for the deliverance ministry, and perhaps to see them launched into ministry that the Lord has for them. They literally will tell me their life stories and personal testimonies. They will really open their heart because all things are confidential, yes.

And in a dream, it was like I was interviewing them for a little job position. So in the dream, there was a man and a woman, a couple, and the man presented to me his book. And it had a name on it, and the title of it was Tug and Chain.

Tug and Chain. You've probably heard of the term ball and chain. This has literally been used in the history of mankind for prisoners. It implies slavery. Today in our modern prisons, I don't believe that they put balls and chains on individuals anymore. You

understand? But they are still nonetheless imprisoned for their evil doing or sin, yes, where they've broken the law.

So this couple comes to me and they hand this to me. He had a large journal, or what looked like one, maybe even a book, that he himself had composed. I quote, knew in the dream that this book was living. It moved. When I opened it up, it was like a real life, tangible, not just words or pictures, illustrations, but actual things in this life.

Like the good old-fashioned pop-up books, if you know what a pop-up book is for children. It was like that. It was a book, a huge journal. And as he opened it up, it was literally living. This book was real-life stories. Each page was like an old-fashioned scrapbook.

All of this, of course, is very impossible in the natural, truth? Yet it was a picture of our journeys in this life. So they came to me with this book, they opened it up to me, and it was living, it was moving.

Another example I want to give you is if you just had a baby and inside a picture book or album are not just pictures of the baby, but inside your album would be a blanket, the baby, a rocker maybe, or a couch in the room. Yes? If you were to just do that, and all was written, yet each page held the actual lives and stories within those lives. You understand? It's like that.

So we have photo albums. I still do photo albums, okay? Tangible books with pictures, memories. Some do scrapbooks and such. They keep records, they keep trophies, they keep pictures, they keep testimonies, they keep letters. They keep special rewards or they write down special things that God and they are experiencing day-to-day. Many here journal, yes?

But in this, the name of his book was Tug and Chain. So I'd like for you to go to *Psalm 139:13–18*, and we're going to read verses 13 through 18. We love Psalm 139. The whole thing is glorious.

Tug. Does He tug at our hearts? Have you ever felt what you would call a tug, a pull, a drawing? Something's pulling, something's drawing you, yes?

But sometimes if you're a parent and you have a child, you're used to them coming when your arms are down and they come up and they, they pull your arm, yes? They tug at you. They tug at your garment, your dress, your shirt, your pants. They're tugging at Mama. Yes, they're tugging. They want your attention. Truth?

Does He tug at our hearts? How does He draw us? How does He inspire us? Does He speak loud or in a still small voice? Does He draw us? How does He have to quote, pull us along with Him? What does He want?

Is it a story about our lives and all the stuff in life? What is really important and necessary? What really matters? What has our affections? Really, what has won us over in this life? What could this life really offer us?

I subtitled this part Beauty and Life in the Book. As I sat there in front of this couple and they opened this book that was literally living and breathing and moving, I looked and I read this book and I was overcome by the beauty.

I saw the treasure on each page. Each page was living. And then I began to weep in the dream. Weep. And God literally knows every details of our lives. Yes.

I just read to you *Hebrews 4:12-13*, of the Word of God is living, active. Yes, nothing is hidden from God. He knows us, yes, beloved? He knows us. He's created us, He's formed us, He's fashioned us.

And I'm looking at this and being transformed as I'm looking at the details of our lives, of their lives. God knows every detail, the good, the bad, the ugly, the joy, the victories, the pain, and the sufferings, yes? He sees it all.

And we are a living, breathing book. The Apostle Paul spoke about how you are living letters written on my heart. Yes? (*2 Corinthians 3:2-3*)

I saw the reality of our journeys of love and how each day/page seemed to be recorded with everything, every detail of our lives, because all these details matter to God. And all was living and everything was moving.

There was nothing stagnant. There was nothing, there was no statue, no heart idol, yes. It was moving, living, breathing. God wants to be our Lord both in our heart and our lives.

The Lord wants to bring us into revelation of His perfect will and plans for us every day. God is not just interviewing us for a job. Amen. He knows us, He bought us, He owns us, and we are His.

Will we allow the Lord our God to have the dominion in our lives and all that pertains to us? There's our open heart. Is following Him a drudgery? He is Lord over everyday life and all that pertains to life and godliness. Truth?

In looking at this amazing picture that the Lord is showing me of tug and chain, and that the Lord has set us free. He has set us free. He has set us free from the law of sin and death

(*Romans 8:2*), and our lives literally are open and laid bare before Him with whom we have to do.

And as the Lord allowed me to see, taste, feel, touch, and encounter the story of this couple, and there were so many things in this book I just gave you examples. It went on what seemed like forever. And the more I saw of each page, I wept and I wept and I wept over the goodness of the Lord.

The goodness of the Lord and every detail of our lives, even when we're in sin, yes? And how He calls us out of it. Even if you're in pride, even if you're in the, you get off and you're in the flesh.

And we, in that place that I just read out of *Galatians 5* of the works of the flesh, because the Spirit yearns jealously for us (*James 4:5*). The Spirit is jealous for us.

He does not want us to be in a ball and chain. He does not want us to live our lives because we have to. He wants no legalism. He hates it, yes? He hates the form of religion that denies the power of God, yes? (*2 Timothy 3:5*)

He hates a form of godliness that denies the power of God. He hates it. He wants life and life more abundant. He is real, yes? And there is beauty in our lives.

And the ultimate goal, of course, is that we would be born again from above and have our names written in the book of life, yes? Tug and chain. Jesus proclaims over us, individually and corporately, you are mine (*Isaiah 43:1*).

And that's scriptural. And we sang all about it beautifully this morning. He is so marvelous. And that is a love song over us, and it always will be. You are mine. Yes? You are mine. We belong to Jesus.

And the Spirit ever lives to make intercession for us. And the beauty that is on every page and chapter, the beauty that is in every part of our life, is overcoming the have-tos. Yes, the legalism, the flesh, the lust of the world, the pride of life.

Everything that pulls and tugs at our hearts when the Lord wants the sovereignty, He wants the communion, He wants the intimacy, He wants to set us free. Amen. Look at *1 Peter 2:9-10*.

He says that you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light. Verse 10, who once were not a people even, but now are the people of God, who had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

That's truth. Yes? We are a chosen generation. He called us. He chose us. He died for each and every one of us, and He gives us opportunity to believe in Him. Yes, and for our hearts to be given to Him wholly.

He doesn't want us to walk even once born again with a ball and chain. He doesn't want a tug and chain. He doesn't want the work of the flesh trying to perfect your flesh. He doesn't want you striving in the flesh to overcome your flesh. He wants you to live and really live.

In 2020, the Lord said, live, really live, don't just survive. That is the call and the purpose of the destiny of God in Christ, in His Church. We are a royal priesthood, holy. We are being perfected, amen.

A holy nation, His own very special people, that we can proclaim praises of Him, knowing He called us out of darkness and into this marvelous light. Don't grow dull. Don't grow cold. Don't grow asleep. Don't slumber.

Don't forget who you are, where you've come from, your story, yes? And when you presented your step, yourself to God in Christ, it is ugly. Our book was ugly, born in sin, yes, from conception.

The Psalm 139, that He was with me, He saw me birth, He created and formed us in our mother's womb, knowing we would be born in sin in this world. And He's longing for the day where the breath of God comes into the womb, into the womb of our heart and breathes on us and gives us the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

He knew the moment that He has conceived us in the mother's womb, which we had nothing to do with. God creates life, yes. And in that life, He gives life. And from that point, He is seeing us for who He sees us to be in Him.

He sees us with Him. He also sees those that will not be with Him. He knows those that are not His by their own choosing, because Jesus said He desires that none should perish, but that all would come, yes, into saving faith (*2 Peter 3:9*).

You see this? Is the story. This is the journey, and He's called us. And we will proclaim the praises because He called us out of darkness, hallelujah, from conception. He called us out of darkness and there is a time and a moment in our journey, in our book, where we said yes.

We weren't even a people. We weren't even a nation. We were nobody, yes? But now as the Church of Jesus Christ, we are His, kings and priests, His nation, His holy people. Amen. Go to *Colossians 3:1-4*.

We don't just go to church. He is cutting every chain of half tear. He is cutting every chain of drudgery, of slavery. He is destroying every tug and chain.

Colossians 3, verse 1, hallelujah. He says, so if then you were raised with Christ, we are included in the resurrection. You're like, why wasn't even there? If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above. Where Christ is, where He is, I am.

Sitting at the right hand of God, set your mind on the things above, not on the things on the earth. Because you died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. So when Christ who is our life appears, then you also appear with Him in glory. It's going to get physical one day. Amen?

We have to look for the gold and allow His glory to have the dominion in our everyday lives and our heart. We have to look for the gold. We have to look for the gold and allow the glory. Because when we look for the gold, it will bring us into the glory of God.

He transforms us. Yes? He purifies us. Create in me a clean heart, O God (*Psalm 51:10*). Yes? He's making us like pure gold.

Let us look for the gold and allow His glory to have the dominion in every area of our lives and heart. Go to *Revelation 20:11–15*. These passages are very powerful. A hope and a future.

Revelation 20, I'm going to start on verse 11. Wow, Jesus. It says, then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. Then there was no, and there was found no place for them.

And then I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and the books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works by the things that were written in the books. Yes?

Go to *Revelation 21:22–27*. My subtitle says, The Glory of the New Jerusalem.

He says, I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light, and the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory and honor into it.

Its gates shall not be shut at all by day there shall be no night there. 26, and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Yes?

Our names have been written in the Lamb's Book of Life, now and forever more. There is a book of remembrance, yes, that God knows. He knows from the very beginning our story.

And because of the Word of God that was sent to us, Jesus Christ, because He sent His word and healed them (*Psalms 107:20*). Because the scripture says the word of God is alive and powerful.

The scripture says it is sharper than any two-edged sword, cutting between soul and our spirit, our mind, will, and emotions, our body. Yes, it will split and cut between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

He knows me. Say, He knows me. He sent His word and healed me. And He has given us His desire. Nothing in all of creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before His eyes. You cannot hide from God.

He is the one to whom we are accountable to this day. We are bought by the blood of Jesus, but we are still held accountable. And as a body of Christ, there is a great call of accountability.

Yes, the thief comes but to steal, kill, and destroy. But Jesus, I've come to give you life and life more abundant (*John 10:10*).

But we are responsible and accountable for God Almighty for the word of the Lord sent to save us, to host Him, to obey Him, to follow Him, to allow Him to read our book. Yes? And take the tug, the chain, the ***** the have-tos out of our journey towards living and breathing.

I have never seen anything like this in my dreams. And now I won't ever see it the same again.

And the beauty, because our great high priest has entered heaven (*Hebrews 4:14*), yes, He has gone before us to take our sin and put it once and for all and cover it by the blood, yes, so we could have grace, so that we would no longer live by ball and chain, that we will no longer live according to the flesh, and that we know that our lives are really living written epistles.

We are literally living, moving, breathing every part of our life, yes. God sees that. And there is such beauty in that book, even through the most difficult, horrific, hard times, as well as the most glorious. All is beautiful to the Lord, and all will be beautiful to the saints of the Most High who see it in a different way.

Say it was for freedom that Christ set me free (*Galatians 5:1*).

So let's stand up. And if you need prayer over any of this, carpet's here. It's always here. You can get on your face in your chair or come up here on the floor or come and get prayer. But if He's speaking to your heart, don't deny Him.

So Father, we honor Your revelation today and Your perfect timing. We thank You for how beautiful and glorious You are. We thank You, Jesus, that You are more precious than gold or silver, and yet You told us to look at the gold, go for the gold, because that's where the glory of the Lord is.

And we will continue to submit our lives to you, the living gospel, the living word, the grace of Jesus. We receive forgiveness, we receive healing, we receive deliverance, we receive the grace, the strength to walk in this dark world is not our home until you make it our home, until we see you.

Until we see you face to face, Lord, may we be found faithful. May we be called true. And as we are anointed to be free, to be healed, to walk with you, may you anoint us with a fresh anointing to save, heal, and deliver others.

And as we hear their stories, Lord, may we be anointed with such love, passion, compassion, and fire and zeal an anointing to get them on the path of life. Jesus, we love you. We trust you. We thank you for working all things for our good. In Jesus' mighty name.

Amen. Amen.

All right. You guys be blessed.