

2024-09-08 Elder Thoric Smith – Song and Worship Service Notes

<https://youtube.com/live/PUqb4zwRVjM>

<https://www.livinghopebranch.org/sermons/2024-09-08-elder-thoric-smith-hard-to-love-song-and-worship-service/>

Clickable Time Stamps

08:19 Family Sharing - Stilwell Family

42:40 Special Music - "I Am In God's Hands" - Wyatt Fears

47:40 Welcome and Call to Worship - Elder Zach Wilson

01:02:22 Special Music - "The Spirit of God" - Wyatt Fears

01:07:07 Sermon - "Hard To Love" - Elder Thoric Smith

Summary

Elder Thoric Smith reflects on the nature of love, emphasizing that love is not merely a feeling but a choice and an action, often requiring effort and sacrifice. Through personal anecdotes and biblical references, the speaker encourages listeners to respond to challenges with love and to seek God's guidance rather than relying on fluctuating emotions. Ultimately, love is portrayed as a steadfast commitment that fosters stronger relationships, rooted in faith and action.

Highlights

1. **Angelic Voice:** Wyatt's beautiful voice contrasts with his brawny appearance, highlighting unexpected gifts.
2. **Response to Love:** Loving someone can be easy or hard, depending on circumstances.
3. **God's Prompting:** Our responses should align with God's guidance, not just our feelings.
4. **Love as a Choice:** Love is an action, not merely a feeling; it requires intentionality.
5. **Focus on God:** Instead of following our hearts, we should look to God for direction.
6. **Walking in Love:** Active love leads to growth in relationships.
7. **Faith in Action:** True faith manifests in actions, not just beliefs.

Key Insights

1. **Contrasting Appearances:** Wyatt's voice exemplifies how true beauty can be found in unexpected places, reminding us not to judge solely based on appearances. This teaches us the importance of looking deeper into people and situations.
2. **Complexity of Love:** Love is not just about mutual feelings; it involves commitment and effort, especially in challenging times. This highlights the necessity for resilience in relationships and the understanding that love requires work.
3. **Divine Guidance:** The emphasis on responding to God's will rather than our feelings illustrates the need for spiritual grounding in decision-making. This promotes the idea that our actions should reflect our faith, leading to better outcomes in relationships.
4. **Intentional Love:** Love as a choice reinforces that we must actively work to express love, especially when it's difficult. This insight encourages individuals to be proactive in nurturing their relationships rather than reactive.
5. **Focus Shift:** The shift from self-focus to God-focus encourages a broader perspective that can foster healthier interpersonal dynamics. It suggests that looking outward can lead to a more fulfilling life.
6. **Growth Through Action:** Walking in love is akin to exercising a muscle—consistent practice leads to growth and strength in relationships. This insight underscores the importance of ongoing effort in cultivating love.
7. **Faith as a Catalyst:** The speaker's assertion that faith leads to action emphasizes that genuine belief results in tangible expressions of love and support. This insight encourages believers to act on their faith for transformative relationships.