



# YOU'RE COMING OUT OF THIS!

GENESIS 8:15-22

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DR. DARRYL T. CANADY  
RODMAN STREET CHURCH  
11.30.25

# **YOU'RE COMING OUT OF THIS!**

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**Title: Coming Out of Your Closed Season: Faith, Obedience, and New Beginnings**

**Sermon Summary:** This powerful sermon centers on the story of Noah in Genesis 8 emerging from the ark as a metaphor for believers coming out of difficult, closed seasons in their lives. Pastor Canady emphasizes that God sometimes closes doors and creates shut-down seasons not to punish us, but to protect us and prepare us for greater things ahead. Just as God shut Noah in the ark during the flood and then opened the door when the time was right, God controls both the closing and opening of seasons in our lives.

The sermon calls believers to maintain faith during closed seasons, understanding that seed time and harvest continue to operate regardless of circumstances. Three critical choices are presented: choosing faith over fear, choosing "can" over "can't," and choosing imagination over memory. The message is particularly relevant for those experiencing financial struggles, emotional hardship, closed opportunities, or uncertainty about the future, reminding them that their closed season does not mean God has abandoned them—rather, their breakthrough is being prepared for something greater.

The sermon unpacks the divine principle that God closes doors to protect us and opens them to promote us. What's striking is the emphasis on the progression: seedtime comes before harvest, night before day, winter

before summer. We're challenged to recognize that our closed seasons aren't endings but divine setups for breakthrough.

Noah built an ark for 120 years without ever seeing rain—that's faith operating beyond familiarity. We're reminded that our obedience in closed seasons positions us for harvest in open seasons. The message confronts our tendency to live in the rearview mirror of past disappointments rather than looking through the windshield of God's promises.

Perhaps most compelling is the revelation that when God finally said 'come out' to Noah, he didn't emerge empty-handed or broken—he came out with thanksgiving, ready to plant seeds in new ground. This speaks directly to anyone feeling stuck, wondering if their situation will ever change, reminding us that our breakthrough isn't dependent on circumstances changing but, on our faith, remaining active even when everything appears shut down.

## **Chapters**

### **Chapter 1: Introduction: Closed Seasons and Open Doors**

We explore how God sometimes closes doors and shuts down seasons in our lives to get our attention and prepare us for what He has planned next.

### **Chapter 2: The Principle of Seed Time and Harvest**

We examine God's eternal principle that seed time and harvest will never cease, meaning our breakthrough is connected to our willingness to sow seeds even in closed seasons.

### **Chapter 3: Choose Faith Over Fear**

We must choose faith over fear to walk through the open doors God has prepared, recognizing that fear locks doors while faith unlocks our future.

### **Chapter 4: Choose Can Over Can't**

We must shift our mindset from 'can't' to 'can' because God never gives suggestions but commands, and He provides everything we need to accomplish what He calls us to do.

## **Chapter 5: Choose Imagination Over Memory**

We must choose imagination over memory because memory focuses on what was while imagination focuses on what can be, liberating us to walk into the new things God is doing.

### **Key Points:**

- God closes doors to protect you and opens doors to promote you; what God closes, no one can open, and what God opens, no one can close
- Closed seasons are tests of faith that determine whether you will continue sowing, trusting, believing, giving, and praising God
- The principle of seed time and harvest never ceases, even during closed seasons; if you plant seeds during the closed season, God will release your harvest in the open season
- You must choose faith over fear—faith sees the future while fear only sees the flood; Noah obeyed God for 120 years despite ridicule and the impossibility of his assignment
- You must choose "can" over "can't"—"can't" is inherited from negative environments, but "can" is chosen; you cannot be a door walker and a door doubter simultaneously
- You must choose imagination over memory—memory focuses on what was, but imagination focuses on what can be; if your memory exceeds your dreams, your life is over, but if your dreams exceed your memories, your future is unlimited

- When God opens your door, come out with thanksgiving, praise, and a testimony, not with complaints or confusion
- The storm cannot stop a seed; what you sowed in the last season is about to produce in the current season
- Your comeback will be greater than your setback because of NBG (Nothing But God)
- Open doors respond to seeds of faith; you must plant before you see the harvest

### **Scripture Reference:**

- Genesis 8:15-22 (primary focus)
- Genesis 6:22
- Genesis 7:5
- 2 Timothy 1:7 (God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind)
- Hebrews 11:6 (without faith it is impossible to please God)
- 2 Corinthians 5:7 (we live by faith, not by sight)
- Matthew 21:22 (if you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer)
- Proverbs 3:5-6 (trust in the Lord with all your heart)
- 1 John 5:4 (this is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith)
- 1 John 5:14 (the confidence we have in approaching God)
- Jeremiah 33:3 (call to me and I will answer you)

- Philippians 4:13 (I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me)
- Isaiah 40:31 (they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength)

### **Stories:**

- Noah's 120-year journey of building the ark despite never having seen rain, enduring public ridicule, and stepping out into a completely new world after the flood
- The testimony of the Drawhorn family whose daughter was born with a terminal diagnosis but is now almost 40 years old, has graduated high school, and earned both college and master's degrees
- The testimony of Sister Bernice who stopped breathing after Thanksgiving, was given a poor prognosis, but is now alive, well, and dancing the electric slide
- Pastor Canady's personal testimony of being called to start LIFE Male STEAM Academy in Pittsburgh on September 11, 2014, despite people saying black people don't do that in Pittsburgh
- The story of Alex Highsmith, who came from a mid-level Division I school (UNC Charlotte) but was given a chance by Pittsburgh and eventually received a major contract
- Pastor Canady's childhood memory of being afraid of baseball despite being a tough football player, but still swinging at every pitch in the bottom of the ninth inning with two outs
- Walt Disney's vision for Disney World, which he saw before it was built, though he died seven months before it opened

- The illustration of passing by a 7-Eleven store in Florida, which is always open, representing how God is always open even when everything else shuts down
- Reference to Karen White's song "I'm Not Your Superwoman" to illustrate that we don't have to pretend to be something we're not
- The footprints poem illustration about how during the hardest times, there was only one set of footprints because God was carrying us

## **Scripture References from the Sermon**

### **Explicitly Mentioned References:**

1. **Genesis 8:15-22** - Primary text about Noah coming out of the ark
2. **Genesis 6:22** - Noah did everything just as God commanded him
3. **Genesis 7:5** - Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him
4. **2 Timothy 1:7** - God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind
5. **Hebrews 11:6** - Without faith it is impossible to please God
6. **2 Corinthians 5:7** - We live by faith and not by sight
7. **Matthew 21:22** - If you believe you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer
8. **Proverbs 3:5-6** - Trust in the Lord with all your heart; lean not to your own understanding
9. **1 John 5:14** - The confidence we have in approaching God
10. **1 John 5:4** - Everyone born of God overcomes the world; this is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith

11. **Jeremiah 33:3** (Amplified Version) - Call to me and I'll answer you and show you great and mighty things
12. **Philippians 4:13** - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me
13. **Isaiah 40:31** - They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength
14. **Psalms 30:5** - Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning
15. **1 Corinthians 2:9** - Eyes have not seen, ears have not heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things God has prepared
16. **Ephesians 3:20** - He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask, think, or imagine
17. **Psalms 34:1** - I will bless the Lord at all times, and His praise shall continually be in my mouth
18. **Psalms 124** (alluded to) - If it had not been for the Lord on our side
19. **Psalms 23:4** - Yea, though I walk through the valley

**Suggested Relevant Verses for Themes Discussed:**

20. **Romans 8:28** - All things work together for good (theme of God's sovereignty)
21. **Isaiah 43:19** - Behold, I will do a new thing (theme of new seasons)
22. **Revelation 3:8** - I have set before you an open door (theme of open doors)



23. **Malachi 3:10** - Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse (theme of seed time and harvest)
24. **Galatians 6:9** - Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap (theme of harvest)
25. **James 1:2-4** - Count it all joy when you face trials (theme of closed seasons/testing)

### QUOTES:

Just because your season may be closed doesn't mean that God is not getting ready to open up the door. God wants to get your attention, and oftentimes the only way that God can get your attention is to allow you to go through a closed season.

God closed the door to protect you and now God is opening the door to promote you. God closed the door to keep the storm out and now He is opening the door to let your future in.

When God closes it nobody can open it and when God opens it nobody can close it. Whatever happens to me is either God allowed or God arranged.

The chill of your last season will not freeze out your future. Stop hanging out in your rear view past and remember that the God who allowed you to make it through the past is the God that would allow you to make it through the future.

If you plant the seed, then God is going to give you the harvest. When God establishes a law, no flood can drown it, no storm can delay it, no devil can stop it.

Fear will lock your door, but faith will unlock the door. Fear shut the ark, faith opened the future. Fear paralyzed, but faith propelled.

You cannot be a door walker and a door doubter at the same time. Can't is inherited, can is chosen.

Memory will preserve your past, but imagination will produce your future. If your memory exceeds your dream, your life is over. But if your dreams exceed your memories, your future is unlimited.

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#### **5-Day Devotional: Coming Out of Your Closed Season**

##### **Day 1: Faith Over Fear**

**Reading:** Genesis 6:13-22

**Devotional:** Noah faced the impossible—build an ark for rain that had never fallen. For 120 years, he chose faith over fear while critics mocked and circumstances made no sense. Like Noah, you may be in a season where God's instructions don't align with your experience. Fear sees obstacles; faith sees God's faithfulness. The same God who closed the ark's door will open your next one. What closed season are you facing today? Remember, God never gives suggestions—He gives commands with provision attached. When you say "yes" to God's instruction, He sends the resources, timing, and protection you need. Choose faith over your feelings today.

**Reflection:** What door has God closed in your life that you're struggling to trust Him about? Write down one area where you'll choose faith over fear this week.

## **Day 2: Seed Time and Harvest**

**Reading:** Genesis 8:15-22

**Devotional:** God's promise to Noah reveals a powerful principle: "As long as the earth endures, seed time and harvest...will never cease." Notice the order—seed time comes before harvest. Many believers want the harvest without planting seeds during their closed seasons. Your current struggle is actually your seed time. What you sow in faith during difficulty determines what you'll reap in deliverance. Noah didn't wait until the flood ended to obey God; he built the ark before the rain came. Your obedience today is planting tomorrow's breakthrough. The economy may shut down, doors may close, but God's harvest cycle remains open. Plant your seed of faith, worship, and obedience now.

**Reflection:** What seed is God asking you to plant during this season? How can you invest in your future harvest today?

## **Day 3: The Power of "Can"**

**Reading:** Philippians 4:13; Hebrews 11:1-7

**Devotional:** Noah's generation said "can't"—you can't build an ark in the desert, can't prepare for something that's never happened, can't survive a flood. But Noah dared to say "can." "Can" is Kingdom vocabulary. The difference between breakthrough and breakdown is often your mindset. "Can't" is inherited from critics, trauma, and past failures. "Can" is chosen through faith in God's power. You cannot be a door-walker and a door-doubter simultaneously. When you change your vocabulary from "can't" to "can," you attract God's provision instead of repelling it. Paul declared,

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." What impossible thing is God calling you to believe you "can" do today?

**Reflection:** List three areas where you've been speaking "can't." Replace each with a faith-filled "can" statement based on God's promises.

#### **Day 4: Imagination Over Memory**

**Reading:** Isaiah 43:18-19; 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Devotional:** When Noah stepped out of the ark, nothing looked familiar. Memory would have paralyzed him, but imagination propelled him forward. Memory focuses on what was; imagination focuses on what can be. Too many believers are drowning in nostalgia, replaying past hurts, failures, and limitations. But God says, "Behold, I am doing a new thing!" If your memory exceeds your dreams, your life is over. If your dreams exceed your memories, your future is unlimited. Stop staring in the rearview mirror at your closed season. Look through the windshield at God's open doors. The chill of your last season will not freeze your future. Imagination prepares you for doors God is about to reveal.

**Reflection:** What memories are keeping you stuck? What new thing is God inviting you to imagine and believe for?

#### **Day 5: Coming Out With Thanksgiving**

**Reading:** Psalm 100:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**Devotional:** Noah didn't exit the ark complaining—he built an altar and worshiped. When God opens your door, come out with thanksgiving. You survived the flood that tried to drown you, the storm that tried to break you, the night you didn't think you'd survive. You're coming out, but not empty-handed—you're coming out with a testimony, a praise, and a seed in your hand. Thank God for closed doors that protected you and open doors that will promote you. Thank Him for provisions, preservation, and

every harvest on the way. Your gratitude positions you for greater blessing. This Thanksgiving season, declare: "I'm coming out!" Not stuck, but stepping out into your new season with praise.

**Reflection:** Write a thanksgiving list of at least ten ways God brought you through this year. Share your testimony with someone who needs hope.

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**Weekly Challenge:** Each morning this week, declare aloud: "I choose faith over fear, 'can' over 'can't,' and imagination over memory. I am coming out of this season with thanksgiving!" Watch how your perspective shifts when you align your words with God's promises.

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**Small Group Guide: "You Are Coming Out of This"**

### **Opening Prayer**

Begin your group time by thanking God for His faithfulness through closed seasons and asking Him to open hearts and minds to receive what He wants to teach through this discussion.

### **Icebreaker**

Share a time when you felt "shut in" or stuck in a situation, but God eventually opened a door for you. What did you learn during that waiting period?

## **Key Scripture**

Genesis 8:15-22

## **Sermon Summary**

Pastor Canady taught that closed seasons don't mean God has closed the door on your future. Using Noah's story, he emphasized that God sometimes shuts doors to protect us and opens them to promote us. The message focused on three key choices we must make to come out of closed seasons: Faith over Fear, Can over Can't, and Imagination over Memory.

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## **Discussion Questions**

### **Part 1: Understanding Closed Seasons**

1. **What does it mean to be in a "closed season"?** Have you ever experienced a time when everything around you felt shut down? How did you respond?
2. **The pastor said, "God wants to get your attention, and oftentimes the only way He can get your attention is to allow you to go through a closed season."** Do you agree? Why might God use closed seasons in our lives?
3. **Read Genesis 8:15-16.** God closed the door of the ark, and God opened it. What does this teach us about God's sovereignty and timing?

## Part 2: Faith Over Fear

4. **Noah had every reason to fear** (the unknown, public ridicule, being the only one, etc.), yet he chose faith. What fears are you currently facing that might be preventing you from stepping into what God has for you?
5. **The sermon stated: "Fear sees the flood, but faith sees the future."** How can we train ourselves to see with eyes of faith rather than eyes of fear?
6. **Noah did everything God commanded him for 120 years before the rain came.** What does this teach us about obedience when we don't see immediate results?
7. **Discuss this statement: "Faith is obedience even when you don't understand."** Share a time when you had to obey God without understanding why.

## Part 3: Can Over Can't

8. **The pastor said, "Can't is inherited. Can is chosen."** Where did you learn to say "can't" in your life? From family, past failures, or circumstances?
9. **Read Philippians 4:13.** How does this verse challenge the "can't" mentality? What specific "can't" in your life needs to become "can"?
10. **"You cannot be a door walker and a door doubter at the same time."** What does this mean practically? How do our words and thoughts affect our ability to walk through open doors?

## **Part 4: Imagination Over Memory**

11. **"Memory focuses on what was. Imagination focuses on what can be."** Are you more focused on your past or your future? How can you tell?
12. **The pastor said, "If your memory exceeds your dream, your life is over. But if your dreams exceed your memories, your future is unlimited."** How does this challenge you personally?
13. **Noah stepped into a world with no familiar landmarks or reference points.** When has God called you to step into something completely new? How did you respond?
14. **Read Isaiah 43:18-19.** How does God's promise to do a "new thing" relate to choosing imagination over memory?

## **Part 5: Seed Time and Harvest**

15. **Genesis 8:22 promises that "seed time and harvest...shall not cease."** What seeds have you planted during your closed season? Do you trust that harvest is coming?
16. **"If you want God to bless you, you got to bless Him."** What does it look like to keep sowing seeds of faith, praise, and obedience during difficult times?
17. **The pastor mentioned that Rodman Street continued serving, feeding families, and making payroll despite economic challenges.** How can we maintain our Kingdom work even during closed seasons?

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## **Key Takeaways**



1. **Closed seasons are preparation seasons** - God closes doors to protect you and opens them to promote you.
  2. **Faith must be chosen over fear** - Fear locks doors; faith unlocks them. Faith is the growth hormone for your spiritual life.
  3. **"Can" is kingdom vocabulary** - We must change our mindset from "can't" to "can" to walk through the doors God opens.
  4. **Imagination creates your future** - Don't let your memories limit what God wants to do in your life.
  5. **Keep sowing in closed seasons** - Seed time comes before harvest. Your obedience during the closed season determines your harvest in the open season.
  6. **Come out with thanksgiving** - When God opens the door, don't come out complaining—come out praising and grateful.
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## **Practical Applications**

### **This Week's Challenge**

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

#### **Option 1: Faith Over Fear**

- Identify one specific fear that's holding you back
- Find three scriptures that speak to that fear
- Declare those scriptures aloud every morning this week
- Take one step of obedience despite the fear

#### **Option 2: Can Over Can't**

- Make a list of "can't" statements you've been speaking over your life

- Replace each one with a "can" statement based on God's Word
- Share your "can" declarations with an accountability partner
- Take action on one thing you previously said you "can't" do

### **Option 3: Imagination Over Memory**

- Spend 30 minutes in prayer asking God to show you His vision for your future
- Write down what God shows you (dreams, ideas, possibilities)
- Identify one memory or past failure that's limiting your imagination
- Declare that you're releasing that memory and choosing to believe God's imagination for your life

### **Option 4: Seed Time**

- Identify one area where you need a harvest (financial, relational, spiritual, etc.)
- Determine what seed you need to plant in that area (giving, serving, praying, etc.)
- Plant that seed this week, even if you don't see how the harvest will come
- Journal about your faith journey as you wait for the harvest

### **Group Accountability**

- Share which option you chose with the group
- Exchange contact information with at least one person to check in during the week
- Commit to sharing testimonies at your next meeting

## Personal Reflection Questions

Take 10-15 minutes of quiet time to journal responses to these questions:

1. What is my current "closed season"? What doors feel shut right now?
  2. Am I choosing faith or fear? Can or can't? Imagination or memory?
  3. What is one specific thing God is asking me to do that I've been afraid to obey?
  4. What seeds do I need to plant during this season?
  5. When God opens the door, will I walk through it with thanksgiving or complaining?
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## Closing Prayer Points

Pray together as a group for:

- **Faith to overcome fear** - That God would strengthen our faith to obey even when we don't understand
- **Changed mindsets** - From "can't" to "can," from limitation to possibility
- **Fresh vision** - That God would give us imagination for what He wants to do in our lives
- **Seed-sowing courage** - Boldness to keep giving, serving, and obeying during closed seasons
- **Grateful hearts** - That we would come out of our closed seasons with thanksgiving and praise

- **Specific needs** - Allow group members to share prayer requests related to their closed seasons
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### **For Next Week**

- Read Genesis 6-9 (the complete story of Noah)
  - Memorize Philippians 4:13 or Genesis 8:22
  - Come prepared to share one testimony of how you applied this week's lesson
  - Bring your journal to share insights from your personal reflection time
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### **Additional Resources**

#### **Recommended Songs for Worship/Reflection:**

- "Way Maker" - Sinach
- "The Blessing" - Kari Jobe
- "Goodness of God" - Bethel Music
- "I'm Coming Out" (as mentioned in sermon)

#### **Recommended Reading:**

- "Faith That Moves Mountains" by various authors
  - Books on Noah's faith and obedience
  - Devotionals on trusting God in difficult seasons
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### **Leader Notes**

- Be sensitive to group members who may be in particularly difficult closed seasons
- Create a safe space for vulnerability and honest sharing
- Don't rush through questions—allow the Holy Spirit to lead the discussion
- Follow up with anyone who shares a significant struggle
- Celebrate testimonies of breakthrough and open doors

### **ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. How does Noah's 120-year journey of obedience despite never having seen rain challenge your understanding of walking by faith when God's promises seem impossible or delayed?
2. In what areas of your life are you allowing fear to lock doors that God might be preparing to open, and what would it look like to choose faith over fear in those specific situations?
3. The sermon emphasizes that God sometimes closes doors to protect us before opening them to promote us. Can you identify a closed door in your past that you now recognize was God's protection rather than rejection?
4. How does the principle of 'seed time and harvest' apply to your current season, and are you planting seeds of faith even when your circumstances appear closed or uncertain?
5. What is the difference between living with a 'can't' mindset inherited from your environment versus choosing a 'can' mindset empowered by God's commands, and which vocabulary dominates your daily thinking?

6. The pastor distinguishes between spectators, speculators, and participators in the Kingdom. Which category honestly describes your current engagement with what God is calling you to do?
7. How does memory of past failures or limitations restrict your imagination for what God wants to do in your future, and what would it take to let imagination exceed your memories?
8. Noah came out of the ark not complaining but with thanksgiving and immediately built an altar. What does your response to deliverance reveal about your heart posture toward God?
9. The sermon states that closed seasons test whether you will keep sowing, trusting, and believing. What seeds is God calling you to plant right now despite your circumstances appearing shut down?
10. If God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind, what specific fears do you need to renounce today to walk through the open doors He has prepared for you?

Your  
obedience and  
*Positivity Inspires*  
faithfulness to  
the LORD will  
NOT go  
unrewarded.